

Persevere

HOPE, FAITH & JOY

238th Session of Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church

WELCOME & BLESSINGS

Welcome to the 238th session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, a sacred time of holy conferencing and attending to the life of the church. Your presence, prayers and participation enrich our time together.

We lament that we are unable to meet this year in-person. However, as always, we want to continue to privilege your health and wellbeing. These precautions for safely gathering feel prudent. We have also, over the past two years, proven that amazing worship and effective and transformative business can be conducted virtually. We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work among us as we gather online and claim God's promises for God's church.

This year's theme is "Persevering: in Hope, Faith and Joy." From the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, to the halls of power in Washington, D.C., to the mountains of West Virginia, we are a connected people who are running with perseverance and grace the race that is before us. Our denomination and our communities face significant challenges. We are mindful of the hardships that face each of us every day. But, as people of God, let us not grow weary in our well-doing. Together, we claim the boldness of United Methodism as we embrace the witness of those who have served before us, set out in joy, and fix our eyes upon Jesus.

In all we do, to God be the glory!



BISHOP LATRELLE EASTERLING
Presiding Bishop of the Baltimore-
Washington Conference
& Peninsula-Delaware Conference



DELORES MARTIN
Lay Leader of the Baltimore-
Washington Conference

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AC 2022 Agenda

Subject to change

Wednesday, June 1 - "Persevere in Hope"

9 a.m.	Clergy Session
1 p.m.	Break
2 p.m.	Opening Worship with Bishop Easterling preaching
3 p.m.	Call to Order and Plenary Session
5:40 p.m.	Consent Calendar Approved – Order of the Day
6 p.m.	Dinner Break
7 p.m.	Laity Session with Kay Wolfinger (on the Sex Trafficking of Young People) and Chris Wilterdink (on Inclusion of Young People in Church's Mission and Ministry)

Thursday, June 2 - "Persevere in Faith"

8:30 a.m.	Morning Centering Moment
8:45 a.m.	Plenary Session, including Laity address and stewardship reports
Noon	Lunch
1 p.m.	Memorial: Service of Remembrance with Rev. Frankie Revell preaching
2:30 p.m.	Plenary Session
5 p.m.	Adjournment
7 p.m.	An Evening of Celebration

Friday, June 3 - "Persevere in Joy"

8:45 a.m.	Centering Moment
9 a.m.	Discipleship Ministries: "Living into Vitality"
1 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m.	Ordination and Commissioning Service Rehearsal
6 p.m.	Ordination and Commissioning Service with Bishop Peter Weaver preaching



Worship, including the memorial service and the service of commissioning and ordination, will take place at Glen Mar UMC, at 4701 New Cut Road in Ellicott City, by invitation only. <https://glenmarumc.org/>

Premieres
May 19

THE UNFINISHED CHURCH PODCAST

is for all who are ready to unite and build a world in which racial prejudice has no power. Hosted by United Methodist Bishops LaTrelle Easterling, Michael McKee, and Gregory Palmer, this podcast is a place for discussion, learning, and transformation.

Hosted by:



Bishop LaTrelle Easterling



Bishop Michael McKee



Bishop Gregory Palmer

*Join us as we move from conversation to action.
God is not done with us. Our work is unfinished.*

NEW EPISODES EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

Learn more about The Unfinished Church Podcast by scanning the QR code below or visit: <https://qrco.de/unfinished>



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VISIT: theunfinishedchurch.org

THE
**UNFINISHED
CHURCH**
PODCAST

Conversations that transform.

**Episode 1:
Respecting Differences,
with Nadia Bolz-Weber**

The bishops engage this mold-breaking author and theologian in a brave and authentic conversation about responding to cultural differences with humility, grace, and fearlessness.

**Episode 3:
Choosing a Path Forward,
with Opal Lee**

The “Grandmother of Juneteenth,” shares her wisdom with the bishops about how God prepares, redeems, and restores us to be the people we were created to be and how we can create communities of dignity and hope.

**Episode 5:
Listening for Understanding, with
Brian McLaren**

This best-selling author and theologian joins the bishops in a conversation about choosing curiosity of certainty, fostering a climate for seeing and telling hard truths, and nurturing the gifts can create deep and genuine friendships.

**Episode 2:
Examining Our Perceptions,
with Eboo Patel**

The founder and president of the Interfaith Youth Core joins the bishops in examining the dangers of projecting one's values onto others and the sacred work of building intercultural relationships.

**Episode 4:
Seeking Relationships,
with Fred Shaw**

A Shawnee storyteller who chairs the United Methodist Native American Comprehensive Plan shares insights with the bishops about embracing the gifts and perspectives of indigenous peoples and building transformative relationships.

**Episode 6:
Growing in Cultural Humility,
with Willie Jennings**

This Yale professor, poet and prophet joins with the bishops in exploring the idea of decentering whiteness and how a posture of justice, mercy and humility compel us to dismantle systems of oppression so that all may be free.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RULES

The rules governing this unique session of Annual Conference [are online](#). Or visit bwcumc.org/events/2022-annual-conference and click on Parliamentary Procedures in the sidebar.

Members should remember:

- When desiring to speak, members should note what kind of speech they wish to make, such as: a motion, amendment, speech for or speech against, move or call the previous question, point of order, point of personal privilege, or point of information. When recognized, they should announce their name, church, and district.
- All motions and amendments must be submitted in writing.
- Speeches should be no longer than two minutes, unless the Conference votes, by a two-thirds majority, to change this rule.
- After four speeches for and four speeches against a motion, the matter will be voted on.
- The presiding officer will give priority in the queue to a point of order.
- Any proposals requesting funding shall be referred to the Council on Finance and Administration for consideration and recommendation before final action is taken by the Conference.

COVENANT TO CREATE BELOVED COMMUNITY

I WILL:



SEEK
RELATIONSHIP



RESPECT
DIFFERENCES



EXAMINE
MY OWN
PERCEPTIONS



ASSUME
POSITIVE INTENT



LISTEN FOR
UNDERSTANDING



PRACTICE
CULTURAL
HUMILITY

The people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference are invited to join in an intercultural competency covenant to create Beloved Community. You and your church are encouraged to live this covenant.

Signature:

Consent Calendar 2022

Pursuant to our Rules, the reports from all program and administrative committees have been placed on the consent calendar. These reports can be [found online](#). (No action item, resolution or petition is included on the consent calendar.) These items do not require Conference action and will be received for inclusion in the Conference Journal without further reference.

An item may be removed from the consent calendar by submitting an email request to the Conference Secretary. When the secretary receives 10 written requests to remove an item, it will be taken off the Consent Calendar and brought to the Conference plenary session for debate and a vote.

These requests must be made to the Conference Secretary, Kevin Silberzahn, before 5:40 p.m. on June 1. Contact him at bwcsecretary@bwcumc.org.

Items on this year's consent calendar include reports from:

DISCIPLESHIP

- Overview of Discipleship Ministries
- Leadership Development Board
- Certified Lay Ministry
- New Faith Expressions Board
- Action and Advocacy Board
- Wellness and Missions Board
 - Quality of Life Retreats
- Young People's Ministry Board
 - Campus Ministries
 - Retreat and Camping
- Committee on Hispanic-Latino Ministries
- Commission on Archives and History, Historical Society and Strawbridge Shrine

STEWARDSHIP

- Board of Trustees
- Moving Committee
- Communications

LEADERSHIP

- Discipleship Council
- BOOM
- General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation
- We Rise United

Speaker Bios



Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

[Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling](#), the episcopal leader of the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences, will preside over the annual conference session and preach at Opening Worship on June 1. Ordained in 1995, Easterling served as a pastor and district superintendent in the New England Conference. She was elected to the episcopacy 2016 and plays a significant role as a leader on the global stage, known for her gifts in teaching and preaching and her profound advocacy for justice. She is married to the Rev. Marion Easterling, pastor of Locust UMC. They have two sons.



Bishop Peter Weaver

[Bishop Peter Weaver](#), a retired bishop, will preach at the Ordination Service on June 3. Elected to the episcopacy in 1996, Weaver led the Philadelphia Area (Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula Delaware Conferences) from 1996-2004 and the Boston Area following that until his retirement in 2012. He served as president of the denomination's Council of Bishops, on the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and the General Board of Global Ministries.



Rev. Frankie Revell

The Rev. Frankie Revell, pastor of [LaVale UMC](#) in the Cumberland-Hagerstown District, will preach at the Service of Remembrance on June 2. Revell began his ministry in 2003 as a peer minister for United Campus Ministry in Frostburg. Ordained in 2012, he has served four different congregations ranging in membership from 12 to more than 1,000. When not spending time with his wife Kerry and their four children, Rev. Frankie enjoys collecting, repairing, and playing multiple stringed instruments.

Recommendations

FROM THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. The proposed budget of \$18,223,006 shall be adopted for 2023, including a mission share income budget of \$12,484,383. This represents a decrease of \$621,000 or 4.7% in the mission share asking compared to the 2022 budget.
2. The Benevolence Factor (BF) for 2023 remains unchanged at 17.55%. The collection rate assumption for 2023 is set at 90.0%, which is 1.0% higher than the 2022 rate.
3. As required by The Book of Discipline, the ratio for World Service and Conference Benevolences shall be set as follows: 33% for World Services and 67% for Conference Benevolences.
4. The firm of Ellin & Tucker is approved as independent auditors to audit the Conference Treasurer's financial records for 2022.
5. The date for closing the 2022 Conference financial books shall be set at January 10, 2023, with all payments to be received by the Treasurer's Office no later than that date.
6. The Baltimore-Washington Conference grants authority to the Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Bishop, the Cabinet, and the Discipleship Council to act on financial matters between sessions of the Annual Conference.

Submitted by:

Phil Potter, President

Paul J. Eichelberger, Chief Financial Office and Treasurer

FROM THE COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The Commission on Equitable Compensation is recommending that the base salary for the 2023 Clergy Salary Table be increased 3.0%, or \$1,398, which will make the base salary \$47,990. The Commission is also proposing an increase in the recommended housing allowance of 3.0% or \$623, which will make the recommended housing allowance \$21,394.

Submitted by:

Kim Ayres, Chair, Commission on Equitable Compensation

BPHB RECOMMENDATIONS

The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits requests that the Annual Conference adopt the following recommendations:

1. That BWC continue to provide retiree medical to all eligible participants.
2. That in accordance with paragraph (e) of Supplement One (Pre-1982), the surviving spouse pension benefit shall continue to be 85% of the participant’s formula.
3. **Pre-1982 Service – Past Service Rate (PSR):** That the Annual Conference shall approve the following pre-1982 prior service funding plan in compliance with the Disciplinary requirement listed in ¶1506.8: The Past Service Rate (PSR) for 2022 is confirmed at \$787. The PSR for 2023 will be set at \$807.
4. That the Annual Conference shall approve the following funding plans based on the receipt of a favorable opinion from Wespath Benefits and Investments in compliance with the Disciplinary requirement listed in ¶1506.6.

Funded status and contributions are based on actuarial valuations as of January 1, 2021,

Pre-82 Plan: Baltimore-Washington Conference is fully funded, with its Pre-82 Plan assets equal to 116% of its liabilities.

Corridor Funding: Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) and Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities. The funded Ratio for this funding is the same for all Conferences

Plan	Assets	Liabilities	Funded Ratio
CRSP-DB	\$2.521B	\$2.135B	118%
MPP Annuities	\$4.440B	\$3.631B	122%

Post-Retirement Medical: Based on the biennial actuarial report received in April 2022, the Post-Retirement Medical plan is reported to have a current view funding ratio of 106.7%. The ongoing view funding ratio is 174.8%. These funding ratios are lower than the 146.6% and 214.4 values that were respectively reported in the previous report. An increased liability in the valuation caused the change as the assumed annual increase in the HRA was increased from 2%/yr to a new value of 4%/yr. The 4%/yr assumption is more consistent with the actual increases in recent years and the new funding ratio of 106.7% is a good indication that the fund is properly funded to support that new assumption. The next actuarial report will be based on December 31, 2023 funding levels.

The funding plan as of December 31, 2021 is summarized below.

	Current View	Ongoing View
Discount Rate	2.80%	6.50%
Plan Liability	\$44,318,165	\$27,062,578
Plan Funding	\$47,300,000	\$47,300,000
Funded Status	\$2,981,835	\$20,237,422
Funded Ratio	106.7%	174.8%

5. That the following resolution, as required for IRS compliance, shall be approved:

Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Baltimore-Washington Conference

The Baltimore-Washington Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the Discipline), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the years 2022-2023 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

SUMMARY	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET
Benevolence Factor	17.550%	17.550%	17.550%
Collection Rate	87.50%	89.00%	90.00%
INCOME			
MISSION SHARES***	13,515,334	13,104,912	12,484,383
NON-MISSION SHARES INCOME			
Grants	85,470	267,300	253,470
Event Income	705,175	2,265,106	2,399,027
Publications	0	4,100	3,500
Individual Gifts	4,195	0	0
Reimbursements	77,781	210,235	229,181
Other Income/Sources of Funds	1,362,195	2,235,544	2,786,945
Interest	90,938	58,500	66,500
TOTAL NON-MISSION SHARES INCOME	2,325,754	5,040,785	5,738,623
TOTAL INCOME	15,841,088	18,145,697	18,223,006
EXPENSE			
<u>DISCIPLESHIP</u>			
REGIONS			
Southern Region	501,935	574,422	585,686
Baltimore Region	497,259	573,672	584,936
Washington Region	519,261	574,422	585,686
Western Region	517,659	575,627	586,891
TOTAL REGIONS	2,036,114	2,298,143	2,343,199
MINISTRY TEAMS			
Discipleship Ministries	4,026,339	4,231,994	4,235,363
<i>Note: General Church Mission Shares</i>	2,882,915	2,882,915	2,882,915
Leadership Development	304,016	819,753	819,753
New Faith Expressions	331,740	760,000	760,000
Young People's Ministry	1,766,277	2,344,006	2,446,427
Advocacy and Action	564,475	655,374	655,374
Abundant Health	155,943	213,446	266,946
TOTAL MINISTRY TEAMS	7,148,790	9,024,573	9,183,863
TOTAL DISCIPLESHIP	9,184,904	11,322,716	11,527,062
<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>			
Operations	2,773,630	3,245,944	2,987,745
Communications	478,213	468,466	469,929
Finance	574,511	561,064	572,935
HR/Benefits	1,610,481	2,018,150	2,033,595
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP	5,436,835	6,293,624	6,064,204
<u>EPISCOPAL OFFICE</u>	486,371	529,357	631,740
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	15,108,110	18,145,697	18,223,006
	732,978	0	0

- Denotes items funded from Non-Mission Share sources
 Indicates percent non-mission share if less than 100%

***Used to be Apportionments

The above is a summary of the 2023 proposed budget. To view/download the entire 14-page proposed budget, visit <https://www.bwcumc.org/events/2022-annual-conference/stewardship-budget-2022/>

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE 2023 PROPOSED CONFERENCE BUDGET

BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

Benevolence Factor – Proposed 2023: 17.550%

The benevolence factor is the percentage churches are apportioned based on their operating expenditures less exclusions. The percentage for 2023 is the same as the percentage used in 2022 (17.550%).

Mission Shares Collection Rate - Proposed 2023: 90.0%

The projected collection of the amount apportioned to churches in the 2023 Budget is 90.0%. The percentage for 2023 is 1.0% more than the budgeted Collection Rate for 2022 (89.0%).

REVENUE

Mission Shares: \$12,484,383

A church's share of the local and global mission work and operating expenses of the Annual Conference as determined by the mission shares formula.

Grants: \$253,470

This represents grants given directly to the conference for ministry and mission. For example, General Church grants to operate the Episcopal Office and residence.

Event Registration: \$2,399,027

This includes Annual Conference registration, workshop registrations, Retreat and Camping Ministries registrations (majority of line item) and other conference events.

Publications: \$3,500

This includes sales or rentals of publications, DVDs, paid UMConnection subscriptions, and other materials.

Individual Gifts:

Gifts from individuals for specific programs. These are for the conference, specifically, rather than for ministries outside of the conference. No such gifts are anticipated in 2023.

Reimbursements: \$229,181

The conference receives reimbursements from denominational agencies for specific operating programs. The Mission Center tenant leases are also captured in this revenue category.

Other Income/Sources of Funds: \$2,786,945

Miscellaneous income or sources of funds, such as the funding from agency reserve funds. For example, Retiree Medical expenses (majority of line item) are 100% paid from the Board of Pension Reserves. The funds from the sale of discontinued churches are used to fund a portion of the New Faith Expressions. Starting in 2023, the Conference Center mortgage payments in the Operations budget are fully paid from the debt reserves established during the accelerated debt payoff initiative.

Interest: \$66,500

An estimate of the interest the conference will earn on operating funds in investment vehicles.

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE: \$ 18,223,006

EXPENSES

I. DISCIPLESHIP EXPENSES

Regional Ministry Teams: \$2,343,199

Funds to operate the ministries and administrative support of the Regions. The Regional Teams include:

- a. Southern Region (Annapolis and Washington East Districts)
- b. Baltimore Region (Baltimore Metro and Baltimore Suburban Districts)
- c. Washington Region (Greater Washington and Central Maryland Districts)
- d. Western Region (Frederick and Cumberland-Hagerstown Districts)

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE 2022 PROPOSED CONFERENCE BUDGET

Discipleship Ministry Teams

Discipleship Ministries

a. Discipleship Ministries: \$1,373,983

Funds to operate the ministries and administrative aspects of the Discipleship Ministries and Congregation/Leadership Development Teams. Funds are also allocated for Discipleship Council, Connectional Table and Board of Laity.

b. General and Jurisdictional Missional Shares: \$2,861,380

The funds that the General Church and Northeast Jurisdiction request for ministry and programs from each conference. The conference celebrates its track record of paying 100% of these missional shares since 1998. General Church funds include:

World Service

To help our denomination strengthen its evangelism efforts, stimulate church growth, expand Bible studies, and enrich spiritual commitment. This fund allows us to share in a worldwide ministry, including support for missionaries.

Interdenominational Cooperation

This fund allows United Methodists to have an effective presence in the activities of ecumenical organizations.

Africa University

This fund supports the further development of the first private university for men and women in Africa.

Black College Fund

This fund represents the denomination's support of the operation and capital funding of historically black colleges and medical schools.

Ministerial Education Fund

This fund provides our church support for the recruitment and education of future pastors and bishops.

Episcopal Fund

This fund pays the salaries and benefits of active bishops in the denomination and supports retired bishops.

General Administration

This fund supports administrative areas of the church, such as the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Conference session, and Archives and History.

Jurisdictional Administration

This fund supports mission and ministry through the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Leadership Development and New Faith Expressions: \$1,579,753

- a. *Grants to local churches and ministries to grow congregations and expand ministry in the community.*
- b. *Start new churches*
- c. *Board of Ordained Ministry*
- d. *Certified Lay Ministry*

Young People's Ministry: \$2,446,427

Ministries funded by Young People's Ministry include Children, Youth, Young Adults, Campus Ministries, and Retreat and Camping ministries.

- a. *Youth Ministries engage and support young disciples of Jesus Christ.*
- b. *Retreat and Camping Ministries provide opportunities for spiritual growth and formation for children and adults.*
- c. *Campus Ministries support staffing and programs on four area college campuses.*

Advocacy & Action; Abundant Health: \$922,320

Social Justice Ministries such as Justice for our Neighbors, NEJ Call to Action, and Hope for the City are funded through Advocacy and Action. Funds are also devoted to Deaf Ministries. Abundant Health includes funds for our partnership ministries with other conferences, such as Zimbabwe, South Korea, Latin America, and Eurasia.

Total Discipleship Ministry Teams: \$9,183,863

TOTAL DISCIPLESHIP EXPENSES: \$11,527,062

II. STEWARDSHIP EXPENSES

Communications: \$469,929

The publications produced by this area are tools for implementing the ministries of the Conference, such as the UMConnection newspaper, the Web site and e-connection.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE 2022 PROPOSED CONFERENCE BUDGET

Operations: \$2,987,745

This area is responsible for overall operations of the conference facilities, and IT systems and infrastructure.

Property Ministries

The Conference Trustees oversee all property owned by the conference, to include the Conference Mission Center, three Retreat and Camping facilities, the Episcopal Residence and the leased offices in Frederick and on Capitol Hill.

Archives and History

The conference provides support for the preservation of our United Methodist Heritage.

Conference Chancellor

Provides legal resources to the Trustees and other conference leadership.

Annual Conference – Commission on Sessions

The commission prepares all aspects of the annual conference session including program and logistics.

Finance: \$572,935

This area is responsible for maintaining and administering comprehensive fiscal and administrative policies and services. The office of the treasurer provides support and information for clergy and laity in local churches.

HR/Benefits Administration: \$2,033,595

This office administers all active and retired benefit plans for clergy and laity. They also provide personnel and HR support for Conference staff.

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP EXPENSES: \$6,064,204

Episcopal Leadership Ministry: \$631,740

Ministries that lead our mission and develop the leadership to lead congregations, ministries, and staff.

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: \$18,223,006

OPERATING NET: \$0

OFFERINGS

UKRAINIAN RELIEF MINISTRIES

Providing assistance to war-torn Ukraine will be the focus on the offering at the Opening Worship Service on June 1 at 2 p.m. The funds will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which is doing extensive work with refugees and people still in Ukraine. If you are interested in this ministry, visit the BWC's In Mission Together Eurasia Committee.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

This year, Africa University celebrates 30 years as a prestigious pan-African institution in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. Created and supported, in large part by apportionment funds from United Methodists, Africa University is ranked #1 in Zimbabwe and 39th among the top 200 universities in Zimbabwe. The anniversary celebration is scheduled for Oct. 22-24, 2022. Learn more. An offering for the school will be taken at the Service of Celebration on June 2 at 7 p.m.

CLERGY WELLNESS

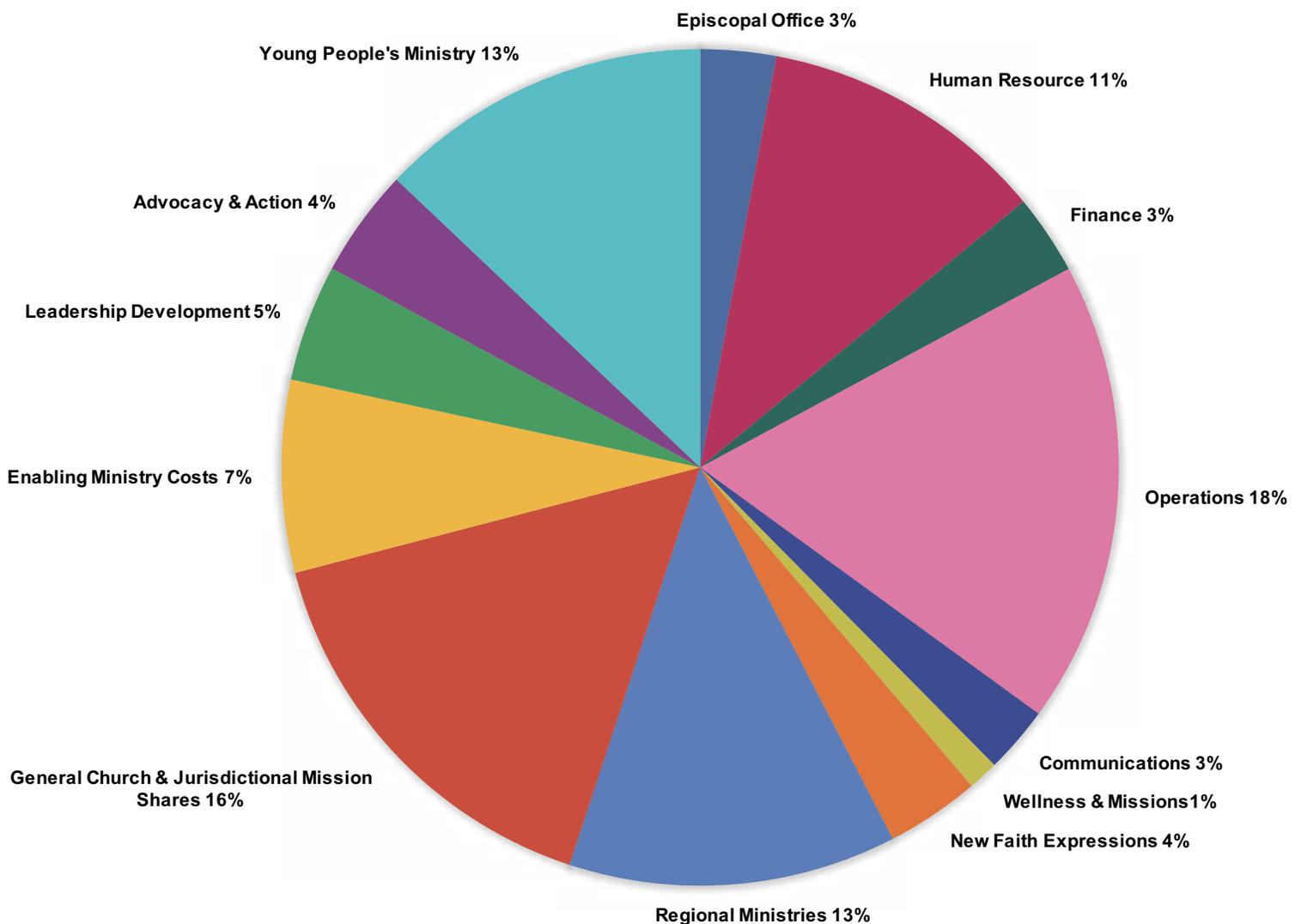
During the past two years of the pandemic, persistence, adaptability and resilience have been in the lifeblood of the pastors of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. But constantly rising to new challenges has presented challenges to some of the people leading our churches. An offering at Ordination, on June 3 at 6 p.m., will go to provide healing and wellness opportunities for pastors in need.

You and your congregation can donate electronically now: www.bwcumc.org/offering

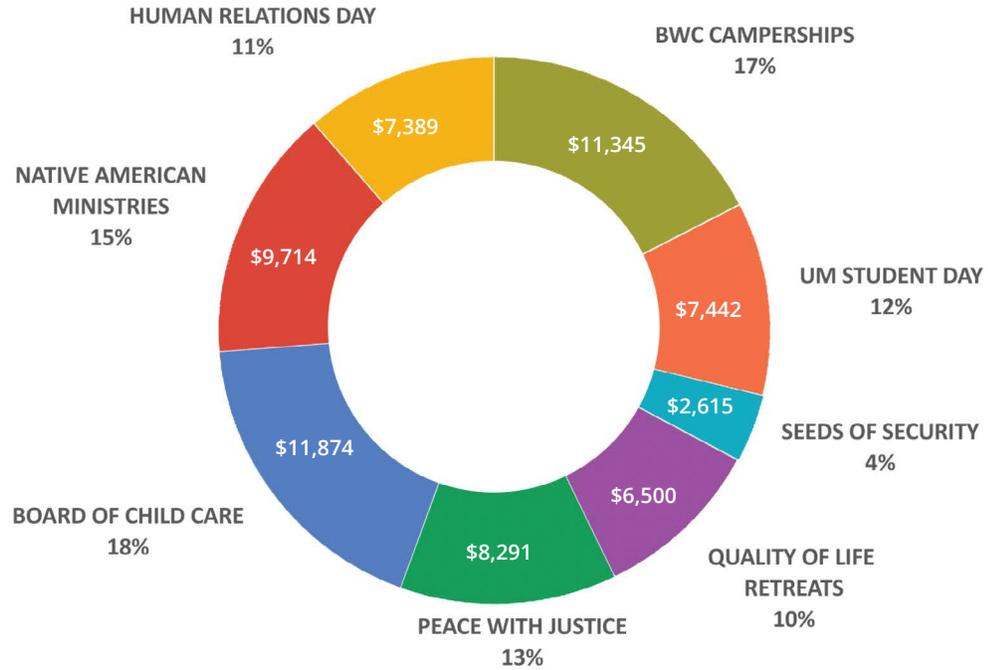
YOUR MISSION SHARES IN ACTION

Connectional giving – all of us giving together – allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone. Through the spiritual act of giving in response to what God has done in our lives and our world, the people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference fund mission and ministry around the corner and across the world.

2022 BWC BUDGET-\$18,145,697



BWC SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS AND CAMPAIGNS BLESSED THESE MINISTRIES IN 2021 - \$65,169



For every hundred dollars put in a collection plate or through other means of giving at the local church:

89% Stays with Local Church

11% Goes Toward Mission Shares as follows:

\$3.50 GOES TOWARD BWC MINISTRIES

\$2.50 SUPPORTS THE GENERAL CHURCH*

*Your \$2.50 that support the General Church goes toward the World Service Fund, Africa University Fund, Black College Fund, General Administration Fund, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, Ministerial Education Fund and Northeast Jurisdictional Mission Shares.

\$3.50 GOES TOWARD BWC OPERATIONS & FINANCE

\$0.80 GOES TOWARD BWC ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATIONS

\$0.70 GOES TOWARD BWC DEBT REDUCTION

RESOLUTIONS

bwcumc.org/events/2022-annual-conference/2022-resolutions/

1 **Title:** Resolution to Designate Salem Baltimore Hispanic UMC, Baltimore, MD as a Mission of
2 the Baltimore-Washington Conference and Congregation in Transformation

3
4 **Budget Implications:** N/A

5 **Rationale:** Salem Baltimore Hispanic UMC is a beacon of light in the Highlandtown community
6 of Baltimore. This small congregation of faithful English-speaking and Spanish-speaking
7 worshippers and disciples provides vital ministry to the community surrounding the church.
8 However, they have been challenged to sustain the financial viability and the scope of lay and
9 clergy leadership needed to bear the rich potential fruit in their ripe and developing mission field.
10 This is due in large part to the very systems and circumstances that make their ministry and
11 context unique, significant, and essential to the community. The socio-economic realities of the
12 transient community they serve, and injustices in the areas of immigration, employment,
13 gentrification, and education continue to plague the community. Yet these challenges also
14 provide exciting opportunities for transformation in the lives of individuals, families, and
15 children.

16 The Baltimore-Washington Conference has recognized the power and potential of a majority
17 Spanish-speaking faith community that is not a ministry within a larger congregation. In past
18 years the conference has provided financial support through the traditional grant process,
19 including repeated re-application. While that support is appreciated, without a more
20 institutionalized approach to this mission, the congregation will cease to be able to minister to its
21 members and constituents, both current and future. This projection is not based on a lack of will
22 to engage in mission and ministry on the part of the congregation or the conference. Nor is it
23 based on any sense that the church is not located in a ripe vineyard for making disciples of Jesus
24 Christ. This context requires the capacity building to attract, compensate, and retain leadership
25 with the unique skillset necessary to help the church reach its fullest potential for disciple-
26 making and transformative ministry. Challenges and opportunities related to this vision have
27 been:

- 28
- 29 • Salem’s geographic and relational distance from other Hispanic ministries in the BWC,
 - 30 • Her identity as a solo congregation versus a ministry within an anchor church,
 - 31 • A high rate of transience in the neighborhood and attrition among leadership, both lay and
32 clergy,
 - 33 • Issues around immigration and documentation of members and constituents,
 - 34 • Potential to serve as a hub for apostolic, multi-cultural ministry in the Baltimore area,
35 leading the movement on advocacy and immigration rights in Baltimore,
 - 36 • Partnership opportunities with other English- and Spanish-speaking churches,
 - 37 • A new vision of proactively responding to the gentrification taking place around the
38 immediate neighborhood as a pathway to more diverse disciple-making,
 - 39 • Fertile ground for the identification and deployment of new strategic leadership to help this
40 church take its next faithful step(s) into the future.

41 **Submitted by:** Rev. Wanda Duckett, Baltimore Metropolitan District Superintendent

42
43 **RESOLUTION:**

44 **Whereas** in the Baltimore Metropolitan District, Salem Baltimore Hispanic continues to be a
45 center for ministry with the potential for greater impact in the Baltimore area;

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46 **Whereas** the conundrum between the high potential for this ministry, and the dismal outlook of
47 its success in its current configuration, is not beyond our ability to address;

48

49 **Whereas** a strategic re-launch of this church over the next four years as a congregation in
50 transformation is the most promising and powerful way forward;

51

52 **Whereas** Salem meets ALL of the requirements for designation as a mission church as set forth
53 in paragraph 259.1.a) of the 2016 UM Book of Discipline, which says that *“When any of these*
54 *conditions exist, the cabinet, in consultation with the congregational development area of the*
55 *annual conference, may designate an entity a mission congregation. The mission congregation*
56 *may be organized in the same manner and have the same rights and powers as any local church”*,
57 specifically:

58

59 1) Membership opportunities and resources are limited and not likely to result in a
60 chartered congregation for an extended period of time,

61 2) A strategic demographic, cultural, or language opportunity for serving a limited
62 population is present,

63 3) It is expected that long-term sustaining funding from sources outside the congregation
64 will be necessary to enable the congregation to exist, and the assumption of full
65 connectional support items by the congregation is unlikely,

66 4) It is probable that the annual conference will need to provide long-term administrative
67 guidance, including attention to the distinctive property needs of the congregation;

68

69 **Whereas** Salem also meets the BWC policy criteria for designation as a congregation in
70 transformation (Ref para 4044.2.c. which defines a Redeveloping Church (congregation in
71 transformation) as a congregation in areas undergoing significant demographic, environmental or
72 visional refocusing which has resulted in the temporary loss of ability for self support;

73

74 **Whereas** the faithful members of Salem have been meeting within the congregation and with
75 stakeholders in the community to reshape their vision for transformative ministry in these
76 challenging times, and mission church designation and support will allow the conference to walk
77 alongside them on this continued journey; and

78

79 **Whereas** Salem will continue to report to the District Superintendent, cabinet, and Innovative
80 Evangelism with respect to its discipleship goals, vitality, and fruitfulness; now

81

82 Therefore, be it

83

84 **Resolved**, that the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference supports the designation of Salem
85 Baltimore Hispanic UMC as a mission of the annual conference and a Congregation in
86 Transformation.

87

88

89 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2022

90

91 *As per Baltimore-Washington Conference Rule Para. 3006.2.c., this resolution was reviewed by*
92 *the Conference Secretary and found consistent with the current Book of Discipline.*

93

94

95 **Title:** Establish a Conference team to assess the disposition of proceeds from the sale of closed
96 Black church property

97 **Budget Implications:** None

98 **Rationale:** Since 1968 Black United Methodist churches (both urban and rural) have been
99 significantly impacted by transitioning communities resulting in closure and/or realignment and
100 assignment to church properties that have been abandoned by predominantly White
101 congregations. There is a need to create a Conference team to formulate a plan for how proceeds
102 from the sale of Black Church property will be allocated.

103 **Submitted by:** Baltimore-Washington Conference Caucus, Black Methodists for Church
104 Renewal (BWC-BMCR). **Primary Contact:** Rev. Valerie A. Barnes, Coordinator

105

106 **RESOLUTION:**

107 Whereas church facilities assigned to Black congregations often require substantial maintenance,
108 renovation and upkeep coupled with increased apportionment giving and compensation costs
109 required for full-time ministry presence presents an undue hardship resulting in these
110 congregations falling behind financially;

111 Whereas Black churches are often encouraged to enter a forbearance lien by the Annual
112 Conference because of debts incurred;

113 Whereas these properties are often sold and neither the congregation nor the Black constituency
114 of the Conference receives any benefit from the proceeds of the sale;

115 Whereas unlike an individual who purchases a home and through payment of their mortgage and
116 other expenses builds equity in their property which is capital should they want to take a loan for
117 improvement or move from one home to another, many Black congregations receive no credit
118 for their financial investment in church facilities;

119 Whereas it must be taken into consideration that Black congregations have invested their time,
120 talents, service, and finances in frequently economically marginalized communities and that
121 community reinvestment should be a priority to revitalize Black United Methodist Churches and
122 Black neighborhoods; and

123 Whereas the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶2549 details the process for the Disposition of Property of
124 a Closed Local Church; now

125 Therefore, be it

126 **Resolved,** that before any determination is made regarding proceeds from the sale of Black
127 church property a team will be formed that will include Conference Trustees, Finance,
128 representatives from BWC-BMCR and Strengthening Black Churches for the 21st Century
129 (SBC21) to formulate a plan for how these monies accrued from church sale will be allocated;

130 **Be it further Resolved,** that this group will formulate strategies on how monies can best be
131 utilized for the equitable revitalization of existing Black congregations and the establishment of
132 new Black faith communities in areas with significant Black community presence; and

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133 **Be it further Resolved,** that this plan will be brought before the 2023 Annual Conference
134 session for discussion and action.

135 **Effective date:** July 1, 2022

136

137 *As per Baltimore-Washington Conference Rule Para. 3006.2.c., this resolution was reviewed by the*
138 *Conference Secretary and found consistent with the current Book of Discipline.*

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164 **Title:** Endorsing the Christmas Covenant

165 **Budget Implications:** None

166 **Rationale:** The United Methodist Church stands at a crossroads of determining what comes next.
167 As we seek to dismantle old structures embedded with Colonialism and white supremacy, this
168 resolution envisions new equitable relationships among our world connections that allow the
169 UMC to continue to be a witness in the world of God’s love. Central Conference leaders from
170 Africa, Europe, and the Philippines have proposed the “Christmas Covenant” legislation for
171 adoption by the delayed 2020 General Conference and ratification by annual conferences. The
172 Christmas Covenant would transform the existing Central Conferences into Regional
173 Conferences and create a United States Regional Conference. It would increase the ability of
174 each Regional Conference to adapt the Book of Discipline to fit its missional context. The
175 Connectional Table has also endorsed the Christmas Covenant framework for a U.S. Regional
176 Conference. We, the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference’s delegates to General and
177 Jurisdictional Conferences, urge the members of the Baltimore Washington conference to
178 endorse the Christmas Covenant, as we believe it is the best proposal for the United Methodist
179 Church to move toward becoming a church that is in ministry with all people while maintaining
180 the relationships between U.S. United Methodists and those in other countries. An endorsement
181 from the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference will show delegates to General Conference
182 that there is broad support for the Christmas Covenant and that the BWAC would intend to ratify
183 the amendments to the UMC Constitution that the Covenant would require.

184 **Submitted by:** Rev. Ianther Mills and Cynthia Taylor, on behalf of the 2020 General and
185 Jurisdictional Conference Delegates from the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference

186 **RESOLUTION:**

187 **Whereas** the delayed 2020 General Conference presents an opportunity to envision a new future
188 for the United Methodist Church;

189 **Whereas** the United Methodist Church, through its seven Central Conferences and five U.S.
190 Jurisdictions, ministers to persons in countries throughout the world;

191 **Whereas** the current unequal structure of the global United Methodist Church hinders its ability
192 to adapt its ministry to diverse contexts and stems from a colonialist mindset;

193 **Whereas** the Christmas Covenant proposal presents an anti-colonialist vision of a United
194 Methodist Church that places the United States and the Central Conferences in an equal position
195 by creating Regional Conferences, including a United States Regional Conference;

196 **Whereas** the Christmas Covenant is the only legislative proposal for the future of the United
197 Methodist Church that was created by leaders from the Central Conferences; and

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198 **Whereas** the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference will create the governance structures
199 necessary for the church to adapt to the needs of people in various contexts, including in the
200 United States; now

201 Therefore, be it

202 **Resolved**, that the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference support the adoption of the
203 Christmas Covenant in full, including the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference;

204 **Be it further Resolved**, that we recognize and support the leadership of the Central Conferences
205 in presenting the Christmas Covenant; and

206 **Be it further Resolved**, that the Conference Secretary shall send copies of this resolution to the
207 Commission on the General Conference and urge them to take such action as is necessary for the
208 full consideration of legislation related to the Christmas Covenant by a Committee of the Whole,
209 and the General Conference.

210 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediate

211 *As per Baltimore-Washington Conference Rule Para. 3006.2.c., this resolution was reviewed by*
212 *the Conference Secretary and found consistent with the current Book of Discipline. BWC*
213 *Connectional Table members, meeting Feb. 26, voted concurrence with this resolution. BWC*
214 *Connectional Table members, meeting Feb. 26, voted concurrence with this resolution.*

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230 **Title:** In Celebration of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church’s 250th Anniversary

231 **Budget Implications:** None

232 **Rationale:** The Mother Church of American Methodism is celebrating 250 years of continuous
233 ministry in 2022

234 **Submitter:** Rev. Deborah L. Scott, Full Elder BWC Lovely Lane UMC, and John Strawbridge,
235 Lay Leader Lovely Lane UMC

236 **RESOLUTION:**

237 **Whereas** the congregation of **Lovely Lane United Methodist Church**, formerly known as **First**
238 **Methodist Episcopal Church**, and earlier as **Lovely Lane Chapel** was founded in 1772 and
239 continues its ministry in 2022 after 250 continuous years;

240 **Whereas** Lovely Lane's first pastor, Francis Asbury, was elected the first bishop of the
241 Methodist Episcopal Church in America at the “Christmas Conference”, which was held
242 starting December 24, 1784, at Lovely Lane Meeting House thus why Lovely Lane UMC is
243 considered the Mother Church of American Methodism;

244 **Whereas** the present church, located at 2200 St. Paul Street, is the fifth building of the
245 congregation that began meeting in 1772, and was begun in 1884 by the congregation and Rev.
246 Dr. John Goucher and at the urging of the Council of Bishops as the Centennial Monument to
247 the founding of American Methodism, and;

248 **Whereas** the current building was designed by Stanford White and is listed as an architectural
249 gem on the National Registry of Historic Places, and was built at a time when we were not
250 together as a denomination, when we were divided into the Methodist Protestant, the Methodist
251 Episcopal and the Methodist Episcopal South, and this ambitious construction was an
252 opportunity to remind these branches of our common heritage as Methodists and as Christians
253 and to bring the denomination back together; now

254 Therefore, be it

255 **Resolved**, that at this moment in time, when our denomination faces division once again, that
256 the Baltimore-Washington Conference and all the churches of our conference congratulate
257 Lovely Lane UMC for 250 years of continuous ministry and pray that they will continue to be
258 a beacon of hope and promise as we all look to the future of the United Methodist Church.

259 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediate

260 *As per Baltimore-Washington Conference Rule Para. 3006.2.c., this resolution was reviewed by the*
261 *Conference Secretary and found consistent with the current Book of Discipline.*

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266 **Title:** Increasing Housing Security for All

267 **Budget Implications:** None

268 **Rationale:** Everyone deserves the right to stable, safe, accessible, and affordable housing. Yet,
269 policies across our nation and this region have not made this a reality for everyone, particularly
270 for people of color, women, poor people, immigrants, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+
271 people. We need to address these discriminatory policies so housing is a human right for all.

272 **Submitted by:** Sarah Hassmer, reserve lay member to Annual Conference, Foundry UMC

273

274 **RESOLUTION:**

275 **Whereas** we are called, as Christians and United Methodists, to love our neighbor,¹ and Isaiah
276 32:18 states, “My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet
277 resting places;”

278 **Whereas** fair access to housing impacts every aspect of our lives. It is a social determinant of
279 physical and mental health, which became even more clear with the stay-at-home requirements
280 in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic and is a vital aspect of quarantining, isolating,
281 and/or recovering from COVID. For those who are housing insecure, the stay-at-home
282 requirements have revealed the magnitude of this crisis. Further, housing impacts access to
283 quality childcare, education, nutrition, and employment;²

284 **Whereas** there is a nationwide shortage of accessible and affordable homes for low-income
285 renters;³

286 **Whereas** over 10.1 million people across the United States were behind on rent in late January
287 2022, including over 279,000 people in Maryland, West Virginia, and Washington, DC;⁴

¹ Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27-37; Leviticus 19:18.

² National Women’s Law Center and National Low Income Housing Coalition, “Gender and Racial Justice in Housing,” National Women’s Law Center, last updated October 2021, <https://nwlcc.org/resource/gender-and-racial-justice-in-housing-2/>.

³ Economic Systems Inc., “Accessibility of America’s Housing Stock: Analysis of the 2011 American Housing Survey (AHS),” U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, March 19, 2015, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/accessibility-america-housingStock.pdf>; National Low Income Housing Coalition, “The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Rental Homes,” accessed February 20, 2022, <https://reports.nlihc.org/gap>.

⁴ Sarah Hassmer calculations of U.S. Census Bureau, “Week 42 Household Pulse Survey: January 26 - February 7, 2022,” Census.gov, accessed February 20, 2022, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2022/demo/hhp/hhp42.html>. “Weeks” is the term used by the Census Bureau to define separate data collections in all phases, but “weeks” are currently longer than a 7-day period.

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288 **Whereas** there were over 580,000 unhoused people across the United States in January 2020,⁵
289 including over 14,000 unhoused people in Washington, DC, Maryland, and West Virginia;⁶

290 **Whereas** the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have increased housing insecurity,
291 particularly for people of color, women, immigrants, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+
292 people who already faced increased rates of housing insecurity before the pandemic;⁷

293 **Whereas** Paragraph 162 of the Book of Discipline states, “We affirm all persons as equally
294 valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person’s value is
295 recognized, maintained, and strengthened. We support the basic rights of all persons to equal
296 access to housing...”; and

297 **Whereas** Paragraph 163(E) of the Book of Discipline states, “In spite of general affluence in the
298 industrialized nations, the majority of persons in the world live in poverty. In order to provide
299 basic needs such as...shelter..., ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the
300 world. . . To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as adequate income
301 maintenance, ...decent housing, ...humanization and radical revisions of welfare programs...
302 Poverty most often has systemic causes, and therefore we do not hold poor people morally
303 responsible for their economic state.”; now

304 Therefore, be it

305 **Resolved**, that the Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC) build on the housing work of the
306 Wealth Equity team and add a seat focused on Housing Security Justice and Advocacy to the
307 BWC Advocacy and Action Board;⁸ and

308 **Be if further Resolved**, that the person holding this seat, and any team they may build, will
309 examine housing security from a number of angles, such as direct service to meet human needs,
310 accompaniment and relationship building with directly impacted individuals, creating
311 opportunities for transitional and permanent housing, legislative advocacy for the rights of
312 people who are unhoused and underhoused, and legislative advocacy to create equitable
313 economic conditions to include affordable housing. The person filling the new Housing Security
314 Justice and Advocacy seat will collaborate with the existing Wealth Equity team and members of
315 the Advocacy and Action Board.

316

317 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 1, 2022

⁵ National Alliance to End Homelessness, “State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition,” accessed February 20, 2022, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-2021/>.

⁶ Sarah Hassmer calculations based on National Alliance to End Homelessness, “State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition.”

⁷ National Women’s Law Center and National Low Income Housing Coalition, “Gender and Racial Justice in Housing,” National Women’s Law Center, last updated October 2021, <https://nwlcc.org/resource/gender-and-racial-justice-in-housing-2/>.

⁸ Baltimore-Washington Conference, “Advocacy & Action,” accessed February 20, 2022, <https://www.bwcumc.org/ministries/advocacy-action/>.

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318 **CO-SPONSOR(S):**

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320 Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills, Senior Pastor of Asbury UMC

321 Mittie Quinn, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Dumbarton UMC

322 Gladys B. Baxley, Lay Member to Annual Conference (on behalf of the Silver Spring UMC
323 Racial Justice Ministry & LGBTQ+ Justice Ministry)

324 Rev. Debbie Scott, Pastor of Lovely Lane UMC

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326

327 *As per Baltimore-Washington Conference Rule Para. 3006.2.c., this resolution was reviewed by the*
328 *Conference Secretary and found consistent with the current Book of Discipline.*

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350 **Title:** Encouraging a More Robust Discussion of the Science Related to Global Warming

351 **Budget Implications:** None

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353 **Rationale:** God has called us to be good stewards of creation. God also tells us to encourage
354 each other in well doing. Thus, we should encourage each other to study carefully the science
355 related to global warming so we can better understand and respond.

356

357 **Submitted by:** Dr. Roger C. Kuhn, rckuhn@verizon.net, Lay Member of the BWC from Morgan
358 Chapel UMC, Woodbine, MD.

359

360 **RESOLUTION:**

361 **Whereas** the climate is warming, it is not warming at the alarming rates often suggested. Heroic
362 efforts to counter this warming trend have been predicted to have only a small effect in reducing
363 the increase in temperature. Also, climate related disasters, although very significant locally, are
364 not, in general, increasing in intensity worldwide;

365

366 **Whereas** there are benefits for human health as a result of this warming trend (for example, less
367 deaths are related to hot weather than are related to cold weather). We are also benefiting from
368 increased atmospheric carbon dioxide through increased crop yields;

369

370 **Whereas** developing countries need inexpensive, available energy to develop;

371

372 **Whereas** the scientific basis of these points has been established in papers by many scientists
373 from both developing and developed countries. Useful introductions to this literature are: S. Fred
374 Singer, David R. Legates and Anthony R. Lupo. 2021. Hot Talk, Cold Science: Global
375 Warming's Unfinished Debate. Third edition. Independent Institute, Oakland, CA, USA; and the
376 resources on the website of the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation; and

377

378 **Whereas** climate change is addressed in the Book of Discipline in paragraphs 160 D and 717;
379 and in the Book of Resolutions, in Resolutions 1001 and 1035 ; now

380

381 Therefore, be it

382 **Resolved**, that in order to better understand the science related to global warming, individuals
383 and congregations in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church are
384 encouraged to study the above noted scientific resources, along with any other resources they
385 may already be studying on being good stewards of God's creation. They are also encouraged to
386 prayerfully reflect on and discuss the implications of this better understanding.

387

388 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective immediately upon successful passage of the resolution.

389

390 *As per Baltimore-Washington Conference Rule Para. 3006.2.c., this resolution was reviewed by*
391 *the Conference Secretary and found consistent with the current Book of Discipline. This*
392 *resolution was revised after the Connectional Table meeting to bring it into alignment with the*
393 *Book of Discipline. Connectional Table members did not review this version of the resolution.*

394

The Discipleship Council is a team of skilled servant leaders that (a) functions, as necessary, on behalf of the Annual Conference in between sessions; (b) ensures that Conference resources align to our vision, mission, and critical issues; and (c) discerns, develops, reviews, and evaluates the strategic direction of the Conference toward its vision and goals. The Baltimore-Washington Conference started the Discipleship Council in 2006 and it serves some of the functions that a local church's church council plays.

We persevere in faith, hope and joy as part of this beautiful, imperfect connectional church. We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses – no church or individual is an island unto itself but rather is connected in mission and ministry with other United Methodist churches, campus ministries, retreat & camping and other entities.

We continue to take seriously our responsibility to ensure that Conference resources align to its vision, mission, and critical issues as we discern, develop, review, and evaluate the strategic direction of the Conference toward its vision and goals.

As we shared with you at the last Annual Conference Session, our goals for 2021 included:

1. Alignment of Discipleship Agency work to the output of the Discipleship Ministries report.
2. At least 60 more churches are on a pathway toward racial justice.
3. Annual Conference Leaders learn and are practicing interculturally competent behaviors for the creation of beloved community.
4. Create and share a clear dashboard of ministry vitality.

We are grateful for the faithful work that has been done toward realizing these goals and our report will share updates on progress made as well as areas where we will continue to focus our attention in the upcoming year.

The Discipleship Council continues to measure progress on board goals as related to the Discipleship Ministries Report which are essential to the mission of inspiring and equipping local faith communities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The development and implementation of the 2021 Discipleship Ministries Report is the result of a two-year process.

Beginning with the 2019 church conference season, the Pastor's Report included questions regarding the congregation's commitment to racial justice as well as questions regarding the congregation's development of an intentional discipleship process.

During the 2020 church conference season, churches responded to these questions via the Church Profile and last Annual Conference, we shared the results of the 2020 Church Profile form which is typically completed by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and is not a report shared at Church Conference.

DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL REPORT

In 2021, the questions were migrated to a new Discipleship Ministries Report with additional questions added. The Discipleship Ministries Report was seen by more church leaders as it was on the church conference agenda.

The Discipleship Council celebrates the time and diligence that went into developing and implementing the Discipleship Ministries Report. We also recognize the benefit of using this data to align the work of the Discipleship boards and Annual Conference resources to support the vitality of local churches and tracking progress year over year to see if our activities and interventions are yielding fruit. All of this helps us to better live into our vision of more transformed lives transforming lives. We also celebrate that over 90 percent of churches submitted their forms!

We continue to reclaim our Wesleyan discipleship even as we respond to the changing ministry and social landscape. John Wesley's Rule of Discipleship provides a holistic understanding of discipleship: "to witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow His teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

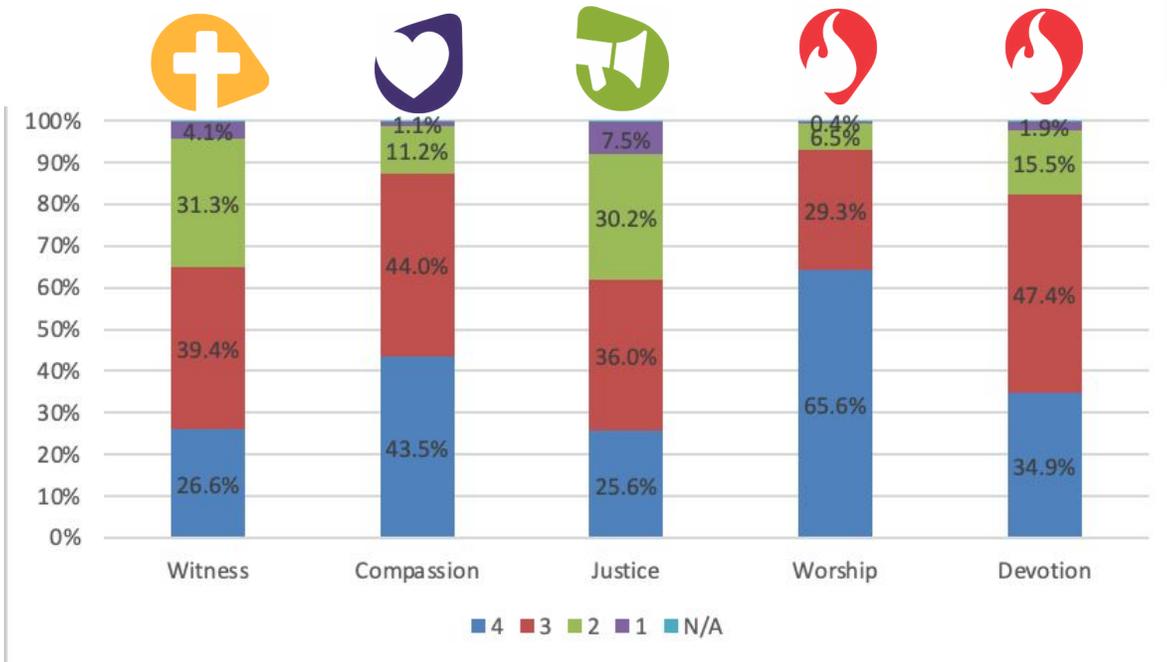
Deepening discipleship continues to be at the heart of all that we do and is one of the four pillars of vitality.

Within this context, churches were asked to rate each dimension by answering questions like Members witness to Jesus often, more often than not, sometimes, rarely or N/A.

This chart stacks answers from most frequent to least frequent behaviors. Ideally, we'd like to see the combination of blue and red (representing most or many type answers) reach at least the 90 percent mark. Worship is just over this mark with compassion and devotion almost there but neither practiced as consistently as worship. Both the spiritual practices of witnessing and justice are not yet practiced enough across all our churches.



DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL REPORT



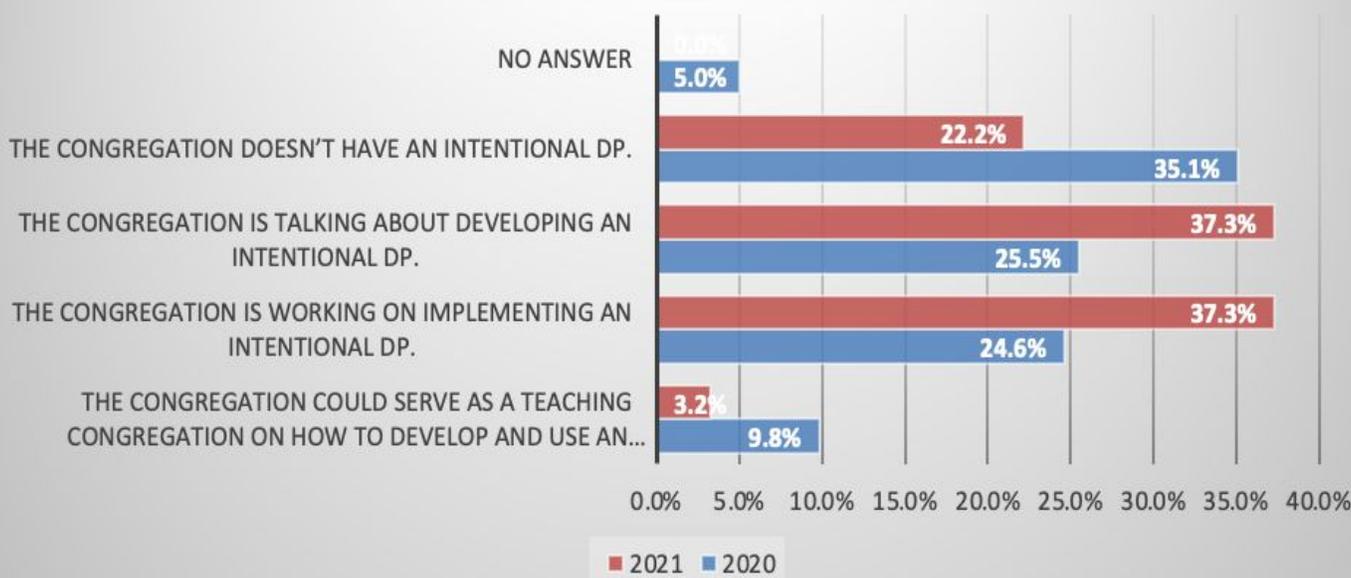
The lightest color is N/A which sits at the very top of each stack. Thankfully, there were fewer N/A responses across the discipleship dimensions, which suggests that more congregations are working to deepen discipleship through practicing the means of grace.

We have had an intentional focus on increasing the spiritual discipline of justice and celebrate an increase in the number of churches that are engaging in the discipline of justice when compared with last year.

The symbols at the top of the stack represent which of the five different Conference boards leads the work which includes analyzing and shepherding that data. Board chairs have expressed just how much overlap there is within the work of the boards and a desire to work more collaboratively.

It is difficult to deepen discipleship without an intentional discipleship process. This next chart illustrates the status of local congregations in the development of an intentional discipleship process.

Q2: What is the current state of the congregation's intentional discipleship process (DP)?



In this year over year comparison, with blue representing 2020 responses and red representing 2021 responses, we celebrate the diminishing number of congregations without a plan, with an increase to 75 percent of our congregations either talking about it or implementing it.

We **celebrate** this information as it affirms for us that in the midst of uncertain and challenging times within the life of our denomination, congregations within our annual conference are remaining focused on one the core tenets of our faith – Wesleyan discipleship.

We also recognize the need for supporting those congregations that have not yet implemented an intentional discipleship process. And this is being supported by both our Leadership Development Board and Congregational Vitality Pathways.

Furthermore, it is important we continue to deepen discipleship to live into our commitments to the NEJ Call to Action and make real our United Methodist Constitution.

Since its inclusion in the UMC Constitution in 1968, “The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person as a unique child of God and **commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons**. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church *shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large*. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places.” (Para 5. Article V. Racial Justice, *Book of Discipline*.)

For the second year, we invited congregations to tell us where the congregation is on the path toward racial justice. People could--and did--select more than one response.

2021 Discipleship Ministry Report Q4: Advocacy & Action/Racial Justice Team



4. We invite you to describe where the congregation is with regards to racial justice. Check all that apply:
- a. → The congregation is on a pathway toward racial justice. Yes; No
 - b. → The pastor preaches on racial justice at least once a month as a part of our spiritual discipline of justice for all God's people. Yes; No
 - c. → There are monthly opportunities for dialogue and learning. Yes; No
 - d. → Leadership is having conversations in hopes of being able to meaningfully sign the antiracism commitment form. Yes; No
 - e. → The congregation has made a formal commitment to antiracism. Yes; No
 - f. → The congregation is engaged in all dimensions specified in the antiracism commitment framework. Yes; No
 - g. → The congregation has been on a journey toward racial justice for a long time. Yes; No
 - h. → The congregation is in agreement that we should be working toward racial justice. Yes; No
 - a. → If you answered "No" to items A or H, how is this congregation furthering antiracism based on Article 5 of our United Methodist Constitution.

More than one statement could be selected.

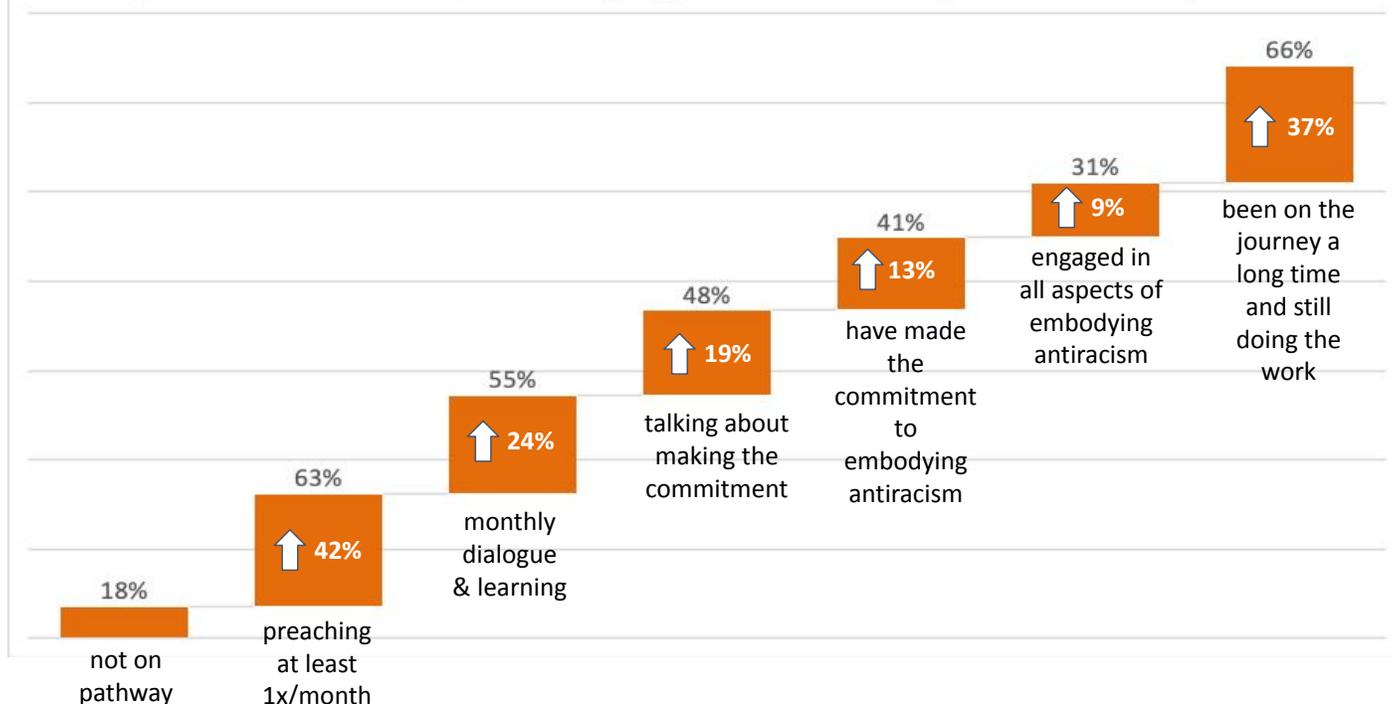
We thank God that 82 percent of our congregations are in agreement that we should be working toward racial justice and we are praying that the 18 percent of our congregation who haven't yet begun the journey will take a step forward in the coming year.

As you look at this diagram, please note two things:

1. The numbers above the blocks represent the answers of congregations in 2021. The answers from 2020 are in white text within the block. An up or down arrow indicates whether there was an increase or decrease from last year to this year. All aspects increased this year except those who aren't on a pathway.
2. While we did NOT see at least 60 more churches on a pathway toward racial justice, (which was our 2nd goal for the year) we did see growth of those who were on the path.

DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL REPORT

Q4 Describe where your congregation is with regards to racial justice



One of the Discipleship Council’s roles is to keep this on the dashboard, ensuring the conference is providing adequate support for congregations to do this work and that the appropriate conference groups are helping lead, resource, and monitor progress on the We Rise United project. We thank staff and the Racial Justice Team for their consistent, diligent work for making this happen. We also thank lay and clergy leadership for your hopeful, brave faith and conversations that also support this work.

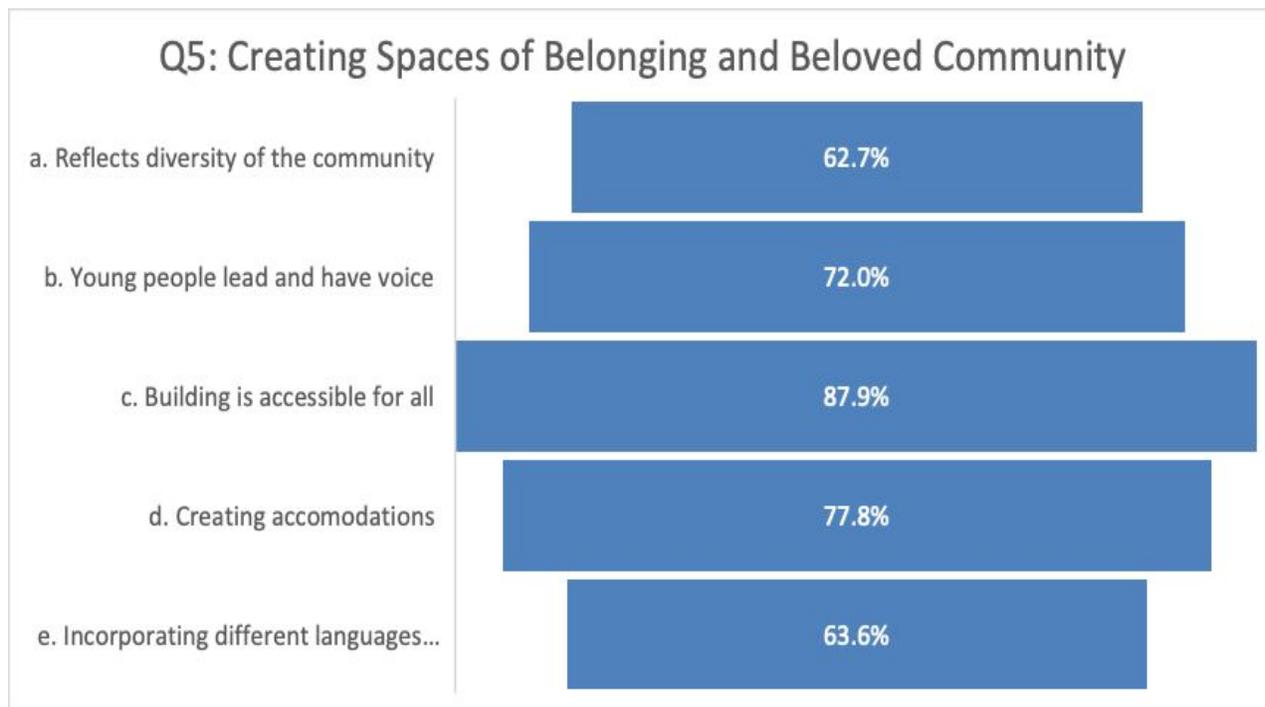
This year, a new question set was added to gain information about the degree to which congregations are intentionally creating spaces of belonging and community.

Congregations were invited to respond to questions regarding whether their demographics were reflective of the diversity of the surrounding community; whether young people were fully included in the life of the church; accessibility of the church building and the inclusion of diverse cultural expression within the life of the church.

DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL REPORT

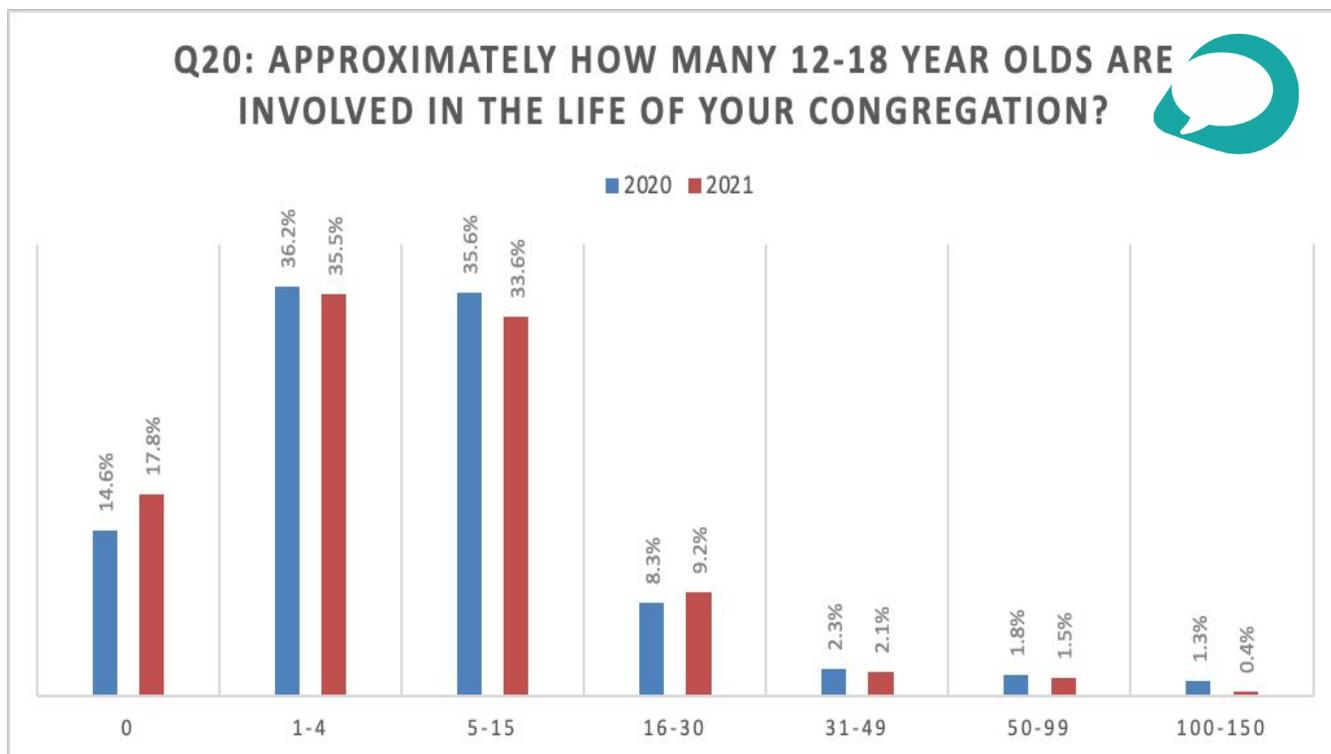
- a. → Our congregation is shaped by the community in all of its dimensions of diversity (age, color, disability, economic condition, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, immigration status, intellectual differences, national origin, racial identity, and sexual orientation). Yes; No
- b. → Young people have leadership positions and voice as well as others. Yes; No
- c. → Our church building is accessible to people of a variety of physical abilities. Yes; No
- d. → We are working with participants, members and persons who use the space to create accommodations that enable them to fully engage in the life of the congregation. Yes; No
- e. → If we have different languages and/or nations represented in our congregation we find ways to incorporate all participant's cultures into our common, collective culture. Yes; No
- f. → What ministries and accommodations do you offer so that it reflects an increased diversity of people in the community and congregation? ←

The picture below captures the responses provided by congregations. We continue to analyze this data so we may better interpret and articulate its meaning, as well as address some inconsistencies in responses.

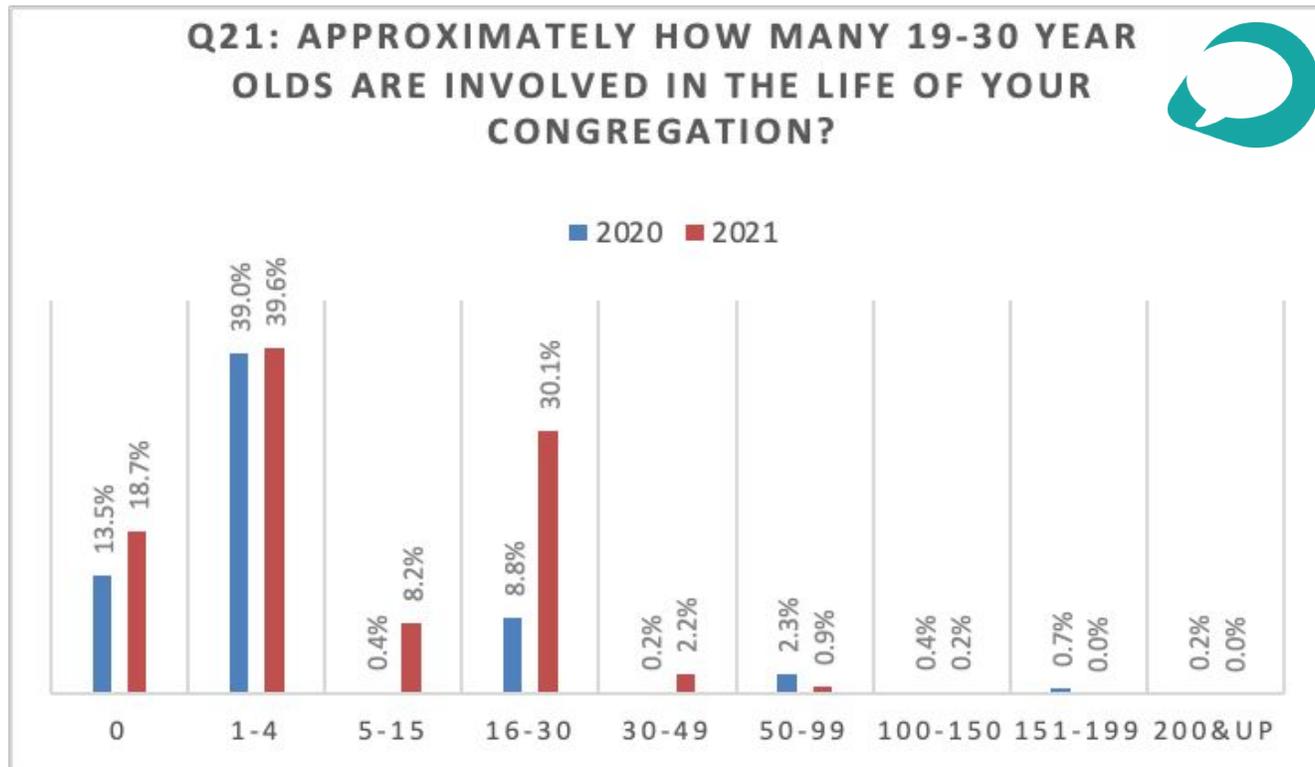


For example, while more than 70 percent of our congregations report inclusive behavior regarding youth, more churches reported having no youth involved in the life of the congregation

at all, as reflected in the diagram below. The impact of Covid-19 is significant on young people's ministry as families try to stay safe and young people may not be interested in engaging through more virtual activities.



The picture for young adults seems even more dramatic as the top four size groups have diminished significantly and we see a rise in the number of young adults who have disconnected from the church. The Young People's Ministry board and staff are responding to this trend and they have made significant strides in connecting with many different populations of young adults and creating spaces of belonging, expression and innovation.



Effectively measuring ministry vitality remains of critical importance. This year we separated out some of the statements within this section to have a better sense of what is going on within our congregations. The highlighted rows are true year over year comparisons.

Which Best Describes Congregation's Level of Vitality

	2020	2021	Difference
a. No professions of faith for the past 3 or more years.	3.7%	13.1%	9.40%
Struggling to pay our bills and don't have the energy to maintain ministry.	0.7%		
b. Struggling to pay our bills.		16.0%	
c. Don't have the energy to maintain ministry.		7.8%	
d. In decline and have tried many things but none of them have worked.	4.6%	14.2%	9.60%
e. Stagnant or in decline but are hopeful our current initiatives will bear fruit.	18.8%	53.2%	34.40%
f. Stagnant in terms of number of persons engaged.		47.2%	
Stagnant in terms of number of persons engaged but growing as disciples.	28.4%		
We are growing in our discipleship and engagement of persons	39.2%		
g. Growing in discipleship		72.4%	
h. Growing # of people engaged		62.1%	

DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL REPORT

We **celebrate** that:

- 72.4 percent report that they are growing in their discipleship *and*
- 62.1 percent report a growing number of people engaged.

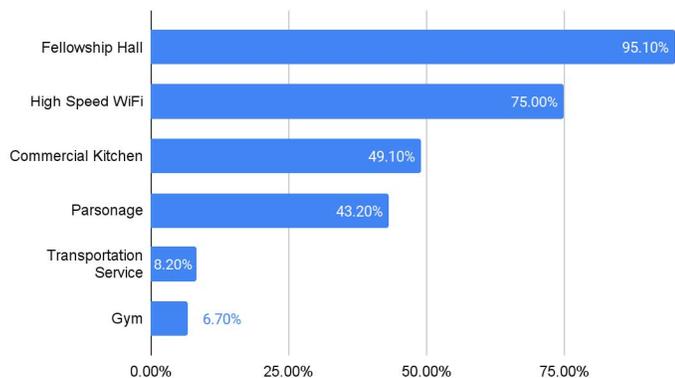
During our time of discussion and discernment around this data, robust conversations were had around the following aspects:

- an increase in the percentage of churches with no professions of faith in the past 3 years.
- while there was a reported increase in churches experiencing decline, there was also a 34 percent increase in churches reporting a sense of hope that their current initiatives will bear fruit.

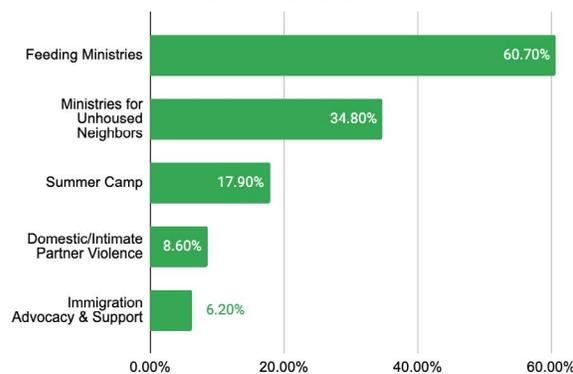
Discipleship Council members acknowledged how hopeful and powerful this is during these challenging times. We celebrate and are grateful that churches and ministries are willing to try new things.

This year we also asked congregations to share with us information regarding God-given assets within their physical plant and partnerships within the local community. Some of this information is illustrated in the charts below. This valuable information helps to provide a snapshot of the potential for community impact. We are grateful for the faithful stewardship of congregations within the Annual Conference and we look forward to seeing how these assets and resources will be used to bear fruit within the communities they serve.

Opportunities for Doing Good with Our Buildings



BWC Churches Report Engaging in These Ministries



We also acknowledge the opportunity that this provides the Discipleship Council to resource our Discipleship Agencies as they continue to support, equip and walk alongside congregations that are *taking risks* and envisioning new ways to engage in impactful ministry.

Our third goal is that Annual Conference Leaders learn and are practicing interculturally competent behaviors for the creation of beloved community, so that by 2026, 100 percent of our churches are doing work to grow in practicing interculturally competent behaviors needed for beloved community throughout the conference.

We are pleased to report that progress is being made toward this goal as you will read in the We Rise United report. The eight-session Journey to Beloved Community course is structured around the intercultural maturity covenant to create beloved community that embodies inclusion, diversity, equity and antiracism. Not only will it be used to orient new leaders and staff, but it will also be available for local churches to use as an eight week study.

Our fourth and final goal is to create and share a clear dashboard of ministry vitality. We have made progress on this goal through the development and implementation of the Discipleship Ministries Report. The data from this report enables us to establish a clear picture of ministry strengths and weaknesses and helps us to inform the work of our Discipleship agencies as they set priorities for supporting and equipping our congregations for ministry vitality.

In conclusion, we are excited to see how our Episcopal leader's vision of 100 percent of our churches operating at 100 percent vitality might provide a shared focus and vocabulary of thriving for conference ministries and local churches alike.

Submitted By:

Rev. Jessica Hayden, Discipleship Council Chair

Christie Latona, Director of Connectional Ministries

NOMINATIONS REPORT

YELLOW NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

BLUE CABINET OR OTHER GROUP

THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP REPORT DRAFT 2022

*“...The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”
Ephesians 4:2-8; 11-13 (NRSV)*

In an effort to honor these gifts and our diversity, we seek to engage all in building up the body of Christ. The Conference Commission on Nominations seeks¹ to have regional, racial, gender, age and lay/clergy inclusiveness in all committees, commissions, boards and agencies (hereinafter “agencies”) and chairpersons. This includes working toward having 20-30% of all agencies composed of persons under 40.

We recommend that agencies identify their meeting dates for the year no later than September 1 of the current year. Care should be given to scheduling meetings at times when most laity are available to increase lay participation. If a member of an agency is absent from two consecutive meetings without an acceptable reason, that person shall cease to be a member.

The terms of office for a particular agency are as follows per Book of Discipline (hereinafter “BOD”) and Baltimore-Washington Conference (hereinafter “BWC”) policies:

1. The quadrennial system is an established part of The United Methodist structure. All members of agencies shall be elected for a quadrennial unless restricted by Discipline, charter, or some other requirement. In the event of such legal restrictions, the Tenure Limitation is still to be observed.
 - a. All quadrennial terms shall commence on July 1 following the adjournment of the first Annual Conference (hereinafter “AC”) session following General Conference, except the Conference Treasurer, whose term shall begin on January 1 of the following year.³
 - b. When persons are elected quadrennially, they serve a maximum of two terms, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry members which may serve a maximum of 3 terms (BOD, ¶635.a).
2. All other terms shall commence on July 1 following the AC Session in which persons are elected or announcement of election is made.

Each agency member’s name is followed by numbers in parentheses and letters:

1. Numbers indicate when a term is up and how many terms have been served on³ that particular agency.
 - a. Quadrennial terms have one number that represents how many quadrennium a person has served; e.g., (1)-elected quadrennially and in first quadrennium; (2)-elected quadrennially and in second quadrennium.
 - b. Other terms have two numbers: “when the term expires”-“how many terms served”; e.g., (22-1)³ means term expires in 2022³ and person is serving in the first term, (22-2)³ means term expires in 2022³ and the person serving is in their second term.
2. Letters indicate the region in which a member’s church³ is located:
 - a. BA-Baltimore Region, SO-Southern Region, WA-Washington Region, WS-Western Region
 - b. Agency members are urged to immediately contact the chairperson of the agency to which they have been elected, if they are appointed to or transfer membership to a church outside the region identified, in order to allow replacement by a regional representative.
3. Chair of each Committee is designated by a * before their name.

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

President: Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
Vice President & Lay Leader: Delores Martin
Secretary: Kevin Silberzahn
Treasurer/ CFO: Paul Eichelberger
Statistician: Rev. Daryl L. Williams
Director of Connectional Ministries: Christie Latona
Chancellor: Thomas Starnes

NOMINATIONS REPORT

DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

There are 14 voting members of the Discipleship Council including the Conference Lay Leader, a youth, a young adult and 11 other persons nominated by the Conference Commission on Nominations.

Elected members of the Discipleship Council shall serve four years in two classes.

The Chairperson shall be nominated by the Commission on Nominations and elected by the Conference.

The Secretary shall be elected from the voting members of the Discipleship Council.

Class of 2022

Hazel Jackson (22-2) BA

Joshua Chinagorom (22-1) SO

*Rev. Jessica Hayden (22-2) WA

Rev. Bob Kells (22-1) WS

Carol Travis (22-2) WA

Rev. Donna Claycomb-Sokol (26-1) WA

Class of 2025

Barbara Parrish (25-2) WS

Joe White (25-2) WS

Pam Durbin (25-1) SO

Pastor Delonta Hicks (25-2) SO

Rev. David Jacobson (25-1) BA

Rev. Andre Briscoe (25-2) BA

Lay Leader: Delores Martin

Young Adult Rep: Rev. Shemaiah Strickland

Youth Rep: Cayleigh Martin BS

Ex officio (without vote):

Conference President: Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

Dean of the Cabinet: Rev. Dawn Hand

Director of Connectional Ministries: Christie Latona

Treasurer/CFO: Paul Eichelberger

Director of Communications: Melissa Lauber

MINISTRY RELATIONSHIP OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

A Standing Committee of the Discipleship Council (2014 Conference Journal, p. 597)

Membership on the MROC shall include seven voting members: one representative each from the Discipleship Council on Finance and Administration, and the Board of Trustees; plus, four-at-large members recommended by the Commission on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference.

The committee will elect the chair.⁴

*Rev. Jessica Hayden, WA

Rev. Jim Johnson, WS

Jamarri Bright, SO

Daphne Hurd, BA

Rev. Sheridan Allmond (Trustees)

Rick Miller (CFA)

Hazel Jackson (Discipleship Council)

Ex officio (without vote):

Director of Connectional Ministries or designee: Rev. Bill Brown

Dean of the Cabinet: Rev. Dawn Hand

THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE

Members of the Connectional Table are identified by Annual Conference position. The full list of those positions is available on pages 566-567 of the 2014 Baltimore-Washington Conference Journal (see page 328 for the addition of Deaf Ministry representative).

Chairperson Conference Lay Leader: Delores Martin

Conference Secretary (serves as recording secretary): Kevin Silberzahn

CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS

¶6001 Conference Policy & Procedures Manual

(2016-2020+) Selected quadrennially

Chairperson: Sarah Ford

Secretary: Kevin Silberzahn

Conference Lay Leader: Delores Martin

Director of Connectional Ministries: Christie Latona

President: United Women in Faith: Linda S. Yost

President UMM: Ceferino Epps, Interim

Young Adult Representative: Rev. Michael Carrington

Youth Representative: Syanne Thorpe GW

Lay Person Disability Concerns: Yvonne Caughman

At-Large Laity: Arletta Boston (WA) & Lillian Parks (SO)

NOMINATIONS REPORT

District Lay Leaders

TBD, AN
Rosalind Pinkney (2), WE
Richard Willson (2), CH
Thea Becton (2), BS

TBD (2), CM
Amelia Duroska (2), GW
George Pittinger (1), F
Chuck Conjar and Darrell Taylor (1), BM

Ex officio (without vote):

Past Conference Lay Leaders: Tom Flinn, Delores Oden
Conference Rep: Christie Latona

NEW FAITH EXPRESSIONS BOARD

*At least one person per district with experience in launching new faith expressions, in start-up enterprises, or with other capacities deemed valuable to the task of supporting new faith expressions
(no more than 12 persons in all)*

Conference person(s) responsible for New Faith Expressions

Class of 2022

Rev. Danny Breidenbaugh (22-1) BS
Ben Rigsby, AN

OPEN (22-1) CM

Rev. Meredith Wilkins (22-1) BM

Class of 2023

*Deborah Johnson (23-2) WE
Geoffrey Hart, (23-1) BM

Pastor Raimon Jackson (23-2) GW
Mike Myers, FR

Rev. Kyle Durbin (23-2) CH

Ex officio (without vote):

Hispanic/Latino Ministries Coordinator: Emma Escobar
Conference Rep: Rev. Bill Brown

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY BOARD

(Caring for the functions of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries ¶634, and some functions of Council on Youth Ministries ¶649, and Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶650).

10 voting members at least 4 are youth, 2 campus ministry student leaders, 2 Young Adult Ministry, 2 Retreat & Camping Ministry

*Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Young Adult SO
Rev. Michael Carrington, Young Adult BA
Amanda Stanley Campus Ministry (FSU) WS
Victoria Pannullo, Campus Ministry (UMD) WA
Briyanna Bergen, Youth SO
Ryan Taylor, Youth BA

TJ Putney, Youth WA
Angeline Daniels, Youth WA
OPEN, RCM
OPEN, RCM

Ex officio:

Rev. Elizabeth Jackson (WS), Advisor
OPEN, Advisor
Rev. Jenna Johnson, Resource Team Rep
Michael Armstrong, Campus Ministry Task Force Rep
Conference Representative: Rev. Neal Christie

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Helps plan WAVE, annual youth leadership retreat, district mission days and engage at annual conference session.

District Youth Coordinators and up to 3 Youth per District

District Youth Coordinators

Annapolis: **TBD**
Cumberland-Hagerstown: **TBD**
Washington East: DaMali Goings and Katie Letts
Baltimore Suburban: Susan Harry
Greater Washington: Sharon Milton
Baltimore Metropolitan: Wendy Johnson
Central Maryland: **TBD**

Frederick District: **TBD**

Conference Representative: Jenna Johnson

NOMINATIONS REPORT

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

*Book of Discipline recommends membership include one young adult selected by each district.
Members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms all members are between 18-35 years old.
(report provided for information only)*

Class of 2022

Rev. Michael Carrington (22-1) BM Maeci Curtis (22-2) WE Rev. Katie O'Hern Hamilton (22-1) F
Pastor Marjorie Hurder-Buhrman (22-1) CH

Class of 2023

OPEN (23-1) AN **OPEN** (23-1) GW **OPEN** (23-1) CM
Stephanie Cooper (23-1) BS Cassandra Nunez (23-1) BM
Conference Representative: Rev. Neal Christie

ADVOCACY & ACTION BOARD

*(8 Chairs of Social Action Teams, 3 annual forum CONVENERS, 1 Legislative Advocacy Team lead,
5 persons with gifts in grants admin, project mgmt and/or data analysis and a youth ambassador)*

Class of 2022

James Wills (22-1) BA *Tracy Collins (22-1) WA

Class of 2023

Tom Contee (23-3) SO Carmen Collette (23-1) WA Rev. Becki Wessinger WS

Legislative Advocacy Team Co-Leads: Beth Reilly and Will Newton

Social Action Team Leaders

Chair Creation Care – Alan Ward
Chair Gender Equity (COSROW) – **OPEN**
Chair Gun Violence Prevention – Susan Bender (WA)
Chair Immigration Reform – Amy Caruso (WA)
Chair LGBTQIA+ - Rev. Bryant Oskvig (WA) and Rev. Deb Scott (BA)
Chair Racial Justice (CCORR) – Rev. William Carpenter (WA) and Rev. Jenn Fenner
Chair Criminal/Restorative Justice (CJAMM) – (BA) Margie Wise Matthews (CM)
Chair Wealth Equity – Rev. Dana Jones (SO)

Annual Forum Conveners

Forum Leader: Ethnic Local Church Opportunities and Concerns: Ophelia Brown-Carter (BA)
Forum Leader: Christian Unity and Interfaith Relationships: Rev. Dellyn Hinton (BA)
Forum Leader: Small Membership Churches: Pastor Rick Oursler (SO)

Ex officio:

United Women in Faith Representative: **TBD**
UMM Representative: **TBD**
Peace with Justice Coordinator: Rev. Diane Dixon-Proctor
Parish and Community Development: Rev. Eric King
Deaf Ministries Representative: Lisa Harvey
Committee on Disability Concerns Representative: Yvonne Caughman
Just Neighbors Representative: Rev. Ken Hawes
Committee on Native American Ministries: Richard Church & Jill Maisch
Committee on Hispanic-Latino Ministries: Alfredo Santiago
Grow Asian Ministry: Rev. Myungha Baek
Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century: Rev. Ron Triplett
Conference Representative: Rev. Stacey Cole Wilson

NOMINATIONS REPORT

GENDER EQUITY (COSROW) ¶644

Conference rules apply – 7 members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms

Class of 2022

Rev. Martin Brooks (22-1) SO
Jan Taylor (22-1) BA

Rev. Angela Kittrell (22-1) SO

Rebecca Watkins (22-1) WS

Class of 2023

Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton (WA)

Rev. Cynthia Belt (23-2) SO

Rev. Nancy Webb (BA)

Conference Representative: Rev. Stacey Cole Wilson

RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM (COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE ¶643)

Conference rules apply – 7 members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms

Class of 2022

Moorosi Mokuena (22-3) WA

*Rev. Jen Fenner (22-3) WA

Ebony Roach (22-2) BA

Class of 2023

*Rev. William Carpenter (23-2) WS
Barbara Suffecool (22-1) WS

Rev. Ramon McDonald (23-2) SO

Angelic Worsley-Edwards (23-1) BA

Ex officio:

Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, Jen Ihlo

Conference Representative: Fathima Rifkey

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS ¶653

Conference rules apply – 7 members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms

Class of 2022

* Yvonne Caughman (22-1) WA

Kevin Welker (22-3) WS

Rev. Lisa Wirkus (22-3) BA

Class of 2023

Blairlee Owens (23-2) SO
Kellye Payne (23-1) SO

James Ellis (23-1) WA

Qawi Robinson (23-1) WA

Ex officio:

Deaf Ministry: Lisa Harvey

Rev. Nancy Webb

Conference Representative: Rev. Wanda Bynum Duckett

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES ¶654

Conference rules apply – 7 members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms

Class of 2022

*Jill Maisch (22-1) WA

Rev. Walter Jackson, (22-1) BA

Richard Church (22-1) WA

Class of 2023

Ronnette Cook (23-3) SO
Rev. Arthur Dan Gleckler (23-1) BA

Tavonya Dyson (23-2) SO

OPEN (22-1) WS

Conference Representative: Rev. Stacey Cole Wilson

NOMINATIONS REPORT

WELLNESS & MISSIONS BOARD (AKA BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES ¶633)

13 voting members (at least one youth/young adult, Conf. Sec. of Global Ministries, VIM Coordinator, Disaster Response Coordinator, 9 others)

*Rev. Laurie Tingley, BA
Sherita Gaskins-Tillett, SO
Rev. Katie Bishop, WS

Megan Wood, BA
Sheila Milbourne, SO
Marci Matthews, WA

Rev. Patrick Hurder Buhrman, WS
Rev. Twanda Prioleau, SO
Richard Gillum, WA

Conference Global Ministries Secretary: Jane Grays
UMVIM Coordinator: Mikele Haskins Delmore
Disaster Response Coordinator: Danny Pembomoto
Older Adult Ministries – Rev. Malcolm Frazier

Ex officio:

United Women in Faith Education & Interpretation: **TBD**

UMM Rep: **TBD**

Conference Representative: Thea Becton

DISCIPLESHIP: OTHER

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ¶647

For information only. Elected by United Women in Faith

President: Linda Yost
Vice President: Ruthella Lievers
Secretary: Janice Crowe
Treasurer: Dorothy Medley

Spiritual Growth: Wendy Johnson
Chairperson Committee on Nominations: Daphne Hurd
Communications Coordinator: Kim Marie Walker
Secretary of Program Resources: OPEN

Missions Coordinators are listed below:

Education & Interpretation: OPEN

Social Action: Jeannie Panesi

Membership Nurture & Outreach: Hilda James

Conference Representative: Rev. Stacey Cole Wilson

UNITED METHODIST MEN ¶648

For information only. Elected by UMM

President: Ceferino Epps (acting)

Vice President: **Vacant**

Secretary: Barney Putnam

Treasurer: Alwyn Taylor

Prayer Advocate: Tony Brzecko

Program Chairperson: Malcolm Clory, Sr.

Conference Representative: Rev. John Wunderlich

Mission Coordinator: **Vacant**

Scholarship Coordinator: **Vacant**

Communications: Richard Campbell

Conf. Scouting Coordinator: Rev. Ken Lyons & Joseph Vicek

Evangelism, Mission & Spiritual Life: James Gainey

COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS ¶646

Conference rules apply – 7 members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms

Class of 2022

Rev. Terri Cofiell (22-3) BA
Mittie Quinn (22-3) WA

Rev. Michael Fauconnet (22-2) SO

BreSean Jenkins (22-2) GW

Class of 2023

*Rev. Jerome Jones (23-1) SO

Brian Nelson (23-3) WA

Karmalita Contee (23-2) SO

Pastor Christine Kumar (23-3) BA

Rev. Beth Hutton (23-2) WS

Conference Representative: Melissa Lauber

NOMINATIONS REPORT

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY ¶641

Conference rules apply – 7 members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms

Class of 2022

Pamela Coleman (22-2) BA

Pastor Richard Baker (22-2) WS

Paul Hurlburt (22-1) WA

Class of 2023

*Rev. Emora Brannan (23-3) BA

OPEN (23-1) WS

Dolores Greene (22-1) WA

Ava Morton, SO

Conference Historian: Rev. Emora Brannan

Conference Representative: Melissa Lauber and Rev. Bonnie McCubbin

Ex officio: representing UMC Heritage Landmarks

- Helen Kemp, Strawbridge House (Strawbridge Shrine Assn., New Windsor, MD)
- Daniel Fisher, Old Otterbein Church (Old Otterbein UMC, Baltimore, MD)
- Rev. Deb Scott, Lovely Lane Meetinghouse Site (Lovely Lane UMC, Baltimore, MD)
- Representative, Greeting Meetinghouse Site (Salem UMC, Keedysville, MD)
- Representative, Cokesbury College Site (Cokesbury Mem. UMC, Abingdon, MD)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC-LATINO MINISTRIES

For information only: selected by HLM Congregations

Executive Committee:

*Rev. Dr. Miguel Balderas

Marcela Uberhuaga (Vice Chair)

Lucy Torres (Secretary)

Connectional Commitment: Rev. DaeHwa Park

Education and Advocacy: Alfredo Santiago

Faithful Discipleship: Rev. Jen Fenner

At-Large: Rev. Diana Wingeier-Rayo, Lauren Busky

Connectional Commitment: Cory Slack, Raimon Jackson, Lucy Torres, Rev. DaeHwa Park, Rev. Edgardo Rivera

Faithful Discipleship: Lauren Busky, Henry Welcome, and Rev. F. Douglas Powe, Jr.

Education & Advocacy: Mike Dean, Pastor Cassie Nunez, Rev. Wanda Duckett, and Rebecca Cole.

Conference Representative: Emma Escobar

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION ¶611-618 (2016-2020+)

Per conference rules - 12 members who do not serve more than two terms and, per BOD, individuals are elected quadrennially

FOR THE NEVER ENDING QUADRENNIUM

2016-202x? (The Never Ending Quadrennium) **as of January 1, 2022**

Phil Potter, WA (1)

Henrietta Lease, WS (0)

Larry Haynes, WA (0)

Betty Henderson, SO (1)

Rick Miller, WS (2)

Charles Moore, SO (1)

Rev. Jean Lee, BA (0)

Rev. Carol Pazdersky, BA (0)

Rev. Lem Dominquez, BA (0)

Rev. Daryl Williams, SO (1)

Rev. David Norton WA (0)

OPEN, WS

Ex officio:

GCFA Board Member Ken Ow

Cabinet Representative: Rev. John Wunderlich

NOMINATIONS REPORT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ¶640 and 2512

Per BOD, "shall have 12 members elected in staggered 4-year terms" and, per conference rules, may serve a maximum of two terms

Class of 2022

Sonja Brown-Jenkins, WS (1) Rev. Sherwyn Benjamin, BA (1) Rev. Diane Dixon-Proctor, WA (2)

Class of 2023

*Rev. Sheridan Allmond, BA (2) John Strawbridge, BA (2) Pastor Lucinda Kent, WA (1)

Class of 2024

Rev. Bob Ruggieri, WS (2) Dick Findley, SO (2)

Class of 2025

Delila Parham, SO (2) Barbara Hutchinson, SO (2) Rev. Randy Reid, WS (0)
Gary Cole, BA (1)

Ex officio:

Bishop Easterling, Paul Eichelberger, Pier McPayten
Cabinet Representative: Rev. Johnsie Cogman

BOARD OF PENSIONS ¶639

Per BOD, "shall have 12 members elected in staggered 4-year terms" and, per conference rules may serve a maximum of two terms. In order to stagger the classes, some members may serve fewer years than others.

Class of 2022

Rev. Curtis Ehr Gott, WA (2) Rev. Daniel Montague, BA (2) Carl Eichenwald, WA (1)

Class of 2023

Doreen Bass, WS (1) Rev. Chris Serufusa, WS (2) Rev. Ken Valentine, SO (2)

Class of 2024

*Rev. Cary James, WA (2) Alice Jackson, SO (2) Patsy Baker Blackshear, SO (2)

Class of 2025

Tariah Carrington, BA (1) Rev. Jerry Lowans, WS (1) Rev. Marlon Tilghman, BA (0)

Ex officio:

Conference Representative: Paul Eichelberger
Director of Human Resources & Benefits: Francess Tagoe
Cabinet Representative: Rev. Ann Laprade

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION ¶625.1

Conference rules apply – 7 members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms

Class of 2022

*Kim Ayres (22-3) BA Rev. Kathy Altman (22-2) WS JoAnne Poole (22-2) SO

Class of 2023

Scott Harper (23-2) WA Gregory Kernan (23-3) SO David Rudland (23-1) WS
Pastor LaTaska Nelson (23-1) WA

Ex officio: NEJ, Representative to National Assoc. of Equitable Compensation Committee: Deborah Tocknell

Conference Representatives: Paul Eichelberger and Francess Tagoe

Cabinet Representative: Rev. Johnsie Cogman

NOMINATIONS REPORT

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CLERGY MEDICAL LEAVE ¶652 (2017-2020)

Per BOD, 2 persons from the Board of Ordained Ministry, 2 persons from Board of Pensions, 1 Member from the Commission on Disability Concerns and a representative from the Cabinet appointed by the Bishop

Rev. Cary James (Board of Pensions)
Rev. Alicia Vanisko (Board of Ordained Ministry)
Rev. Lisa Wirkus (Commission on Disability Concerns)
Cabinet Representative: Rev. Wanda Bynum Duckett

Ray Moseley (Board of Ordained Ministry)
Patsy Blackshear (Board of Pensions)

COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL & POLICY

Conference rules apply – 7 members in 2 classes of 2 year terms, maximum 3 terms

Class of 2022

Rev. Robert Hunter (22-3) WS
Rev. Donna Renn (22-3) WS

Rev. David Cooney (22-3) WA
Pastor Scheherazade West Forman (22-1) BA

Theodore Garrett, Jr. (22-3) SO

Class of 2023

Pastor Patricia Turnage (23-3) SO
Daphne Hurd (23) BA

Ex officio:

Director of Human Resources & Benefits: Francess Tagoe
Rosalind Pinkney
Cabinet Representative: Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

MID-ATLANTIC FOUNDATION

*The Mid Atlantic Board is an independent and self-perpetuating board.
It shall have 6 voting members from each Conference serving
4 year terms with the terms being staggered*

Paul Eichelberger, WS
Thea Becton, BA

Clarence White, BA
Jamie Waldren, WA

George Monk, WA
Rev. Karin Walker, BA

Ex officio: Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

RULES COMMITTEE

*Term of office shall be four years, with one-half of the regional representatives being elected in two classes.
Chair person elected by the committee; Secretary is the Conference Secretary.*

Class of 2023

*Rev. Mark Gorman (23-3) WA
Rev. Kenneth Moore (23-1) SO

Class of 2025

Justice Randolph (25-2) WA
Dawn Brooks (25-2) WA

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
Chair of Discipleship Council: Rev. Jessica Hayden
Conference Secretary: Kevin Silberzahn

NOMINATIONS REPORT

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY ¶637

Per the BOD, Lay and clergy members from the jurisdictional episcopacy committee, 2 members appointed by the Bishop and 5 members elected by the Annual Conference quadrennially for a maximum of 2 terms.

1/3 lay women, 1/3 lay men, 1/3 clergy

*Rev. James Miller (2)
Rev. Yvonne Wallace Penn (1)
Cynthia Taylor (1)

Charlie Moore (1)
Ella Curry (2)

Ianther Mills (1)
Stephanie Johnson Pettaway (2)

Ex officio with vote:

NEJ Representative: Delores Martin and Terri Rae Chattin

CONFERENCE MOVING COMMITTEE

The committee includes the chair plus a representative from each District. Contact information for District Representatives may be found in the Conference Journal or through the Conference Website.

*Rev. Jeff Paulson (GW)
Sharon Skinner (WA)
Deborah Johnson (WE)

Rev. Amanda McMurtrey (A)
Rev. Bob Snyder (CH)
TBD (CM)

Rev. Christopher Dembeck (BM)
Pastor John Lewis (F)

CONFERENCE SESSIONS COMMITTEE

(2016-2020+) Selected by Bishop for quadrennium

Chairperson: Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
Vice Chair: Delores Martin, Conference Lay Leader
Conference Secretary: Kevin Silberzahn
Treasurer: Paul Eichelberger
Director of Connectional Ministries: Christie Latona
Dean of the Cabinet: Dawn Hand
Host District Superintendent: Rev. Wanda Duckett
Director of Communications: Melissa Lauber
Rules Chair: Rev. Mark Gorman

Worship Team Chair: Rev. Sherri Wood-Powe
Conference United Women in Faith President: Linda Yost
Conference UMM President: Ceferino Epps, Interim
Administrative Assistant to Bishop: Joyce King
BOOM Chair: Rev. Amy McCullough
BOOM Ordination Service Coord: Rev. Alicia Vanisko
Youth Rep: TBD
Host District Lay Leader: Ophelia Brown-Carter
Arrangements Committee Coordinator: Debbie Albrecht

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY ¶635

(Quadrennially 2016-2020+)

(BOD -- BOOM Members nominated by the Bishop for 4 year term in the same year as General Conference. Members may serve maximum of 3 consecutive four year terms)

Western Region

* FR Rev. Rudolph Bropleh (2)
Rev. Robert Wellman (2)

TBD clergy
Don Zetterberg (2)

TBD clergy
Rev. Malcolm Stranathan (2)

* CH Rev. Donna Renn (1)
TBD clergy

Rev. Elizabeth Jackson (2)
Richard Willson (2)

Rev. Michael Beiber (2)
Rev. Kyle Durbin (1)

Washington Region

* GW Rev. Patricia Allen (1)
Amelia Duroska (1)
Katie Weston (2)

Rev. Stephanie Vader (3)
Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli (2)
Rev. HiRho Park (1)

Rev. Yvonne Mercer-Staten (2)
Rev. Paul Johnson (2)

*CM Rev. James Miller (2)
Geoff Kaiser (2)
Rev. Jalene Chase (1)

Rev. Mandy Sayers (3)
Rev. Tim Dowell (2)

Rev. Andrew Cooney (2)
Rev. Jennifer Smith (2)

Southern Region

WE Rev. Susan Boehl, Chair (3)
Rev. Dana Jones (1)

Rev. Patricia Watson (2)
Rev. Chris Owens (1)

Kathy Rodeffer (2)
TBD clergy

A Rev. Amanda McMurtrey, Chair (2)
Rev. Elizabeth LeMaster (1)

Rev. Ron Foster (3)
Rev. Walter Beaudwin (1)

TBD clergy
Kathy Swain (1)

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Baltimore Region

* BM Rev. Jason Jordan-Griffin (3) Rev. Amy McCullough (3)
Rev. George Winkfield (2) Ray Moseley (3)

TBD laity

Rev. Denise Norfleet-Walker (1)

BS Rev. Andrew Greenwood, Chair (1) Rev. Alicia Vanisko (2)
Rev. Laurie Tingley (2) Rev. Braulio Torres (1)

Dorothy Presbury

Caroline Pritney

Devonna Rowe

Additional Members:

Regional Representatives of the Laity: Debby Haskins (Baltimore) (2); TBD (Southern laity) (1);

Katie Weston (Washington) (2); George Pittinger (Western) (2)

Associate Member and/or Local Pastor: TBD

Extension Ministers: TBD

Deacon: TBD AND TBD (NEED TWO)

Chair of the Order of Elders: Rev. Melissa Rudolph

Chair of the Order of Deacons: Rev. Leo Yates (1)

Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members: Pastor S. Jerry Colbert (2)

Retired Person: TBD

Conference Representatives: Rev. Gerard Green/Hilary Ann Golden (Ministerial Services Coordinator)

*Indicates Chair of District Committee on Ordained Ministry

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW ¶636 (2016-2020+)

Per BOD, nominated by Bishop quadrennially

Clergy in Full Connection

Rev. Marlon Tilghman

Rev. Steve Larsen

Rev. Mary Kay Totty

Alternate Clergy in Full Connection

Rev. Clark Carr

Rev. Loretta Johnson

COMMITTEE ON CLERGY INVESTIGATION ¶2703.2 (2016-2020+)

Per BOD, nominated by Bishop quadrennially

Clergy Members:

Rev. LaReesa Smith-Horn (BA)

Rev. Terri Cofiell (BA)

Rev. David Cooney (WA)

Professing members:

Maxine Jenkins (WA)

Norwood Bentley (WS)

Alternate clergy:

TBD

Rev. Alfreda Wiggins (BA)

Rev. Michael Bennett (WS)

Alternate professing members:

Griff Hall (SO)

Kirsten Gullickson (WA)

Bryon Gould (BA)

COMMITTEE ON DIACONAL MINISTRY INVESTIGATION ¶2703.3 (2016-2020+)

Per BOD, nominated by Bishop quadrennially

Donnalee Sanderson (2016)

CONFERENCE DISTRICT COMMITTEES ON ORDAINED MINISTRY ¶666

Annapolis

Rev. Amanda McMutrey, Chair

Rev. James Bishop

Rev. Lee Ferrell

Rev. Michael Fauconnet

Rev. Ramon McDonald

Rev. Robert Walker

Rev. Phil Tocknell

Delores Oden

Rev. Clark Carr

Yolanda Perry

Bob Ettinger

Rev. Lena Marie Dennis

Baltimore Metropolitan

Rev. Jason Jordan-Griffin, Chair

Rev. Sandi Johnson

Rev. Katie Grover

Rev. Twanda Prioleau

Rev. Alfreda Wiggins

Rev. George Winkfield

George Kahl

Elizabeth M. Stemley

Darrell Taylor

Rev. Bonnie McCubbin

Rev. Emora Brannan

Millie Rice

Ray Moseley

Denise Norfleet Walker

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Baltimore Suburban

Rev. Andrew Greenwood, Chair
Rev. Braulio Torres
Rev. Carol Pazdersky
Rev. Sheridan Allmond
Rev. Lisa Bandel
Rev. Melissa Rudolph

Rev. Scott Shumaker
Rev. Andrew Greenwood
Rev. Laurie Tingley
Norman Smith
Rev. Melissa McDade
Rev. Jen Eschliman

Devonna Rowe
Rev. Stacey Nickerson
Thea Becton
Leslie McGlothlin
Rev. Daniel Montague

Central Maryland

TBD

Rev. Jim Miller, Chair
Rev. Dae Sung Park
Bettye Ames
Rev. Phil Ayers
Rod Fry
Joyce Shelton

Rev. Esther Holimon
Carolyn Taylor
Geoff Kaiser
Rev. Bonnie Scott

Janet Fujikawa
Rev. Claire Matheny
Rev. Alice Ford
Rev. Lynn Nulton
Rev. Myungha Baek

Cumberland-Hagerstown

Pastor Charles Riggleman
Rev. Donna Renn, Chair
Pastor Sharon Gibson

Tom Dalton
Pastor Patricia Bittner
Rev. Barbara Suffecool
Richard Willson

Rev. Doug Hoffman
Rev. Michael Bieber

Frederick

Rev. Rudy Bropleh, Chair
Rev. Dee Ann Dixon
Pastor Lynn Wilson
Pastor Bill Lawson

Don Zetterburg
Sherie Koob
Rev. Ken Walker
Rev. Chris Suerdieck

Rev. Bob Wellman
Barbara Shew
Rev. Malcolm Stranathan

Greater Washington

Rev. Michael Armstrong
Delores Martin
Les Mobray
Rev. Loretta Johnson
Carol Travis

Judy Jones
Rev. Kathleen Kohl
Rev. Arthuree Wright
Rev. Stephanie Vader
Dane Smith

Rev. Patricia Allen, Chair
Rev. Miguel Balderas
Rev. Rachel Cornwell
Rev. John Nupp
Amelia Duroska

Washington East

Rev. Susan Boehl, Chair
Lillian Parks
Rev. William Butler
Chris Stelloh-Garner

Rev. Mark Venson
Rev. Robert Barnes
Rev. Stephen Humphrey

Rev. Constance Smith
Pastor Kermit Moore

CONFERENCE DISTRICT BOARDS OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDING ¶2519

Annapolis

Rev. James Stutler, Chair
Scott Karsner

Vince Leggett
Chris Broadwell

Cynthia Clark
Bill Prehn

Baltimore Metropolitan

Rev. Dane Wood, Chair
Jan Hayden
Jesse McCurdy

Kathy Robertson
Warren Hobbs

Rev. Mark Mooney
Darrell Taylor

Baltimore Suburban

Rev. Sheridan Allmond, Chair
Rev. Victor Harner

Rev. Jarrett Wicklein
Paul Krebs

Bob Frisch

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Cumberland-Hagerstown

Rev. Michael Leedom, Chair

Rev. William Warehime

Rev. Robert Ruggieri

Frederick

Pastor Richard Baker, Chair
Carl Haines

Bill Wivell
Pastor Ed Hall

Magda Morales

Central Maryland & Greater Washington

Dayle Walden Hall, Chair
Marc Loud
Charles Daye
Rev. Gerald Elston
Pastor Sandi Phillips

Rev. Loretta Johnson
Pastor Lucinda Kent
Will McKinzie
John Nyarku

Sharon Skinner
Rev. Jane Wood
Don Woodrow
Sherman Harris

Washington East

Rev. Laurie Gates-Ward, Chair
Rev. Doug Hays

Pastor Irvin Beverly
Guffrie Smith, Jr.

Rev. Dana Jones

ORDINATION:

We Celebrate this Year's Ordinands and Commissioned Members

THE 2022 CLASS OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

DEACONS

Marjorie Hurder Buhrman
Matthew Sichel
Kristin Weschler

ELDERS

Charles Anderson-Gray
Dawn Brooks-Tharp
Jonathan Rikard Brown
Joshua Gillen
Dionne Therese Hall
YouJung Jung
Bernardo Lourenco
Darryl Mason
Daein Park

THE 2021 CLASS OF FULL MEMBERS

DEACON

Megan Blanchard
Kathleen Grace Charters
Tara C. Morrow

ELDERS

Sherwyn Benjamin
Ian Christopher Collier
Lynne Humphries-Russ
Heerak Kim
Dong Eun Lee
Jean H. Lee
Isaiah Redd, Sr.
Matthew Paul Tate
Jeffrey J. Zalatoris

An Honor To Serve

A prayer by Rev. Dr. Rodney Thomas Smothers

Loving and gracious God we give thanks today for the privilege of life, health, strength and clarity of mind. It is an honor to serve the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church and gather with colleagues as we move from active to retired status. Though our status is changing our love of God, the church and the people whom we have been privileged to serve, are not diminished in this season of transition. Our fellowship and service have been punctuated with seasons of joyous beginnings and hope-filled endings. Though at the time, we did not always enjoy receiving that phone call during the appointment season, through it all, we learned to listen, love, lead and lift congregations and ministry settings to the best of our abilities.

Retirement impacts not only us but also our families in ways that are too numerous to mention. We thank God for our spouses, children, grandchildren and friends who became our unofficial families along the way. We remember with fond memories the kindness of people on the pews who went out of their way to make us feel like we were at home. Each ministry appointment brought challenges and joys, new opportunities to grow and sow and know the ever-expanding breadth and depth of God’s call on our lives. From those first examinations by our peers to test our fitness for ministry, and our competency to remain in ministry, it has been a journey of self-examination and spiritual stamina. We learned how to navigate the political landscape of ministry and mission, and sometimes we received the short end of the stick, only to have a colleague remind us that ministry is not a sprint but a marathon; so stay in the race. That race has been enriched by the many who have joined us on this journey. God, only you could have brought into our midst the men and women, lay and clergy who discerned their call to ministry, served alongside us, reverse mentored us, and continue to lead a courageous, diverse and spirit-filled church. Might we find in this new relationship with the church a revival of the passion that called us, a dedication that kept us, and a vision that renewed in us a daily promise found in our vows of ordination that kept us mounting the pulpit, visiting the sick, baptizing new believers, burying the dead and navigating daily tasks of being called to ministry? Might your Holy Spirit continue to direct our paths in the days ahead, in Jesus Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

We Honor this Year’s Clergy Retirees

Eighteen pastors, representing 541 years of service, retired July 1. We honor these men and women for their exceptional and faithful contributions to building the Kingdom of God.

Retiree	Years of Service	Retiree	Years of Service
William D. “Chip” Aldridge, Jr.	39	Sonja Penny	6
Cheryl Anderson	32	Patricia K. Robinson	2
David A. Coakley	20	John Rudisill	41
Vicki J. Cubbage	5	Patricia Sebring	24
Lena Marie Dennis	17	Rodney T. Smothers	41
Sarah B. Dorrance	13	Yvonne Mercer-Staton	23
Eric King	23	Philip Tocknell	34
Brenda Lewis	15	Eileen Washington	2
William Maisch	20	Herbert W. Watson, Jr.	44

HEBREWS 12: 1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.