



wisconsin conference
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REPORTS
OF
BOARDS AND AGENCIES
TO THE
2010 WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Give Wholeheartedly
- 2010 -

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BOARD OF CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

2009 was a year of transition for the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries. Following approval by the 2009 Annual Conference that we divest of Whispering Pines Camp and Byron Center we have consolidated our ministries at our two large camps, Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne.

Following the Annual Conference decision, and with much care and concern, the BCRM appointed Brad Sherman to facilitate the orderly closure and sale of Whispering Pines Camp and Byron Center, and to represent the Board on a real estate task force that began to meet to make procedural decisions regarding the listing and sales. The task force also included Rev. Steve Zekoff, Trustees president; Rev. Craig Conklin, Trustees member and liaison to the BCRM Facilities Committee; Nancy M. Deaner, Camping and Retreat Ministries Coordinator; and Bill White, Conference Chancellor.

Services of celebration and worship were held at each camp in the fall facilitated by local circuit clergy and camp friends, with Rev. Steve Polster preaching at each service. Byron Center – September 13, 2009 and Whispering Pines – November 14, 2009.

Whispering Pines - A full camp appraisal was completed August 3, 2009 and came in at \$535,000 - \$770,000. Numerous calls had been received regarding the sale of Whispering Pines and an offer was made and accepted without the use of a real estate agent. On December 22, 2009 the camp was sold to Peaceful Woods & Water, LLC for \$970,000. The net sale proceeds of \$954,472.94 were deposited into a United Methodist Foundation account.

The last guest group served at Whispering Pines was the Clear Lake United Methodist Women's Retreat from November 6 – 8, 2009. Camp furniture and supplies were distributed to Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne camps, with some items going to the Archives. Then on December 12, 2009, an auction was held for the remaining items at the camp by Robbie Kobs Auction Service.

Byron Center – A full camp appraisal was completed August 3, 2009 and came in at \$313,000 - \$496,000. While numerous calls had also been received for Byron Center, no reasonable offers had been proffered, so the Trustees contracted with First Weber Realty with offices in Madison and Fond du Lac. On March 30, 2010 the camp was sold to Ronald E. Boda for \$472,000 with net proceeds deposited into a United Methodist Foundation account.

The last guest group at Byron Center was the Schmitz Family Christmas party on December 24, 2009. The purchaser wanted all camp contents, so only United Methodist related hymnals, plaques, and objects were retrieved in addition to items that went to the Archives.

The BCRM would like to thank the Conference Trustees, under the leadership of Rev. Steve Zekoff with assistance by Rev. Craig Conklin, Bill White, and Lisa King, for their assistance and support during this difficult transitional time.

These activities did not stop our on-going programs and our retreat planning. With our purpose to “provide camps and retreat centers to enhance the mission of the Wisconsin Annual Conference” and our mission to “provide outdoor settings for Christian education and faith formation in Christian community,” the Board spent much time in discussion of

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the future of our programs and how to best meet the needs of the Annual Conference for outdoor Christian Education. We provide summer camp programs to support local church Christian education and places for churches, as well as Boards and Agencies, to come to provide their own times of spiritual enrichment, education, support, visioning, and work for the common good.

In October 2009 the BCRM appointed the BCRM Study Group with Rev. Charles Strong (BCRM Facilities Committee Chair) as the chair to meet over the ensuing months to study all aspects of our camp and retreat ministries in Wisconsin with a vision for the future and to make a recommendation to the Board. The Study Group met at Pine Lake in December, January, February, and March with future meetings planned. Study areas include: Administration/Stewardship, Program/Evangelism, Facilities, and Financial Impacts.

Part of our Conference vision is to “Live Enthusiastically” and comments from our 2009 Summer Campers show that they lived enthusiastically at camp:

- What do you like about worship at camp?
“That worship wasn’t always serious, that is definitely what I don’t like about other worships.”
- I was so impressed with the camp staff. The director and staff went above and beyond to make our stay enjoyable... What a terrific camp! Two thumbs up.
- I spent quality time (in abundance) with daughter. We grew closer as a family unit, by laughing at each other and with each other. Loving each other more and more.
- I made new friends and had fun the whole week.
- We got to do many fun activities all week and learn about God too.

The Focus Areas of the United Methodist Church are supported by the camps in many ways. We help to “develop principled spiritual leaders for the church and for the world” through Christian education, our international staff, mission studies at YoMiCa Camp, using a spiritual and values based curriculum, community building, and our Leaders-in-Training Camp. We “engage in ministry with the poor” through our camp scholarships. We “create new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations” by providing places for family camps and retreats, as well as providing places for conference or local congregational seminars/retreats/events.

Our Site personnel during 2009 included: Byron Pegram at Byron Center, Chip Hutler at Lake Lucerne and Pine Lake, Laura Hutler at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne, Nick Coenen at Pine Lake, and Julie Pemble-Peterson as the Whispering Pines caretaker.

Visit the Camp and Retreat Ministries website at www.WisconsinUMC.org/camps Pages for Lake Lucerne and Pine Lake camps, as well as the camping catalog can be viewed.

Jeff Killey, Chairperson

Nancy M. Deaner, Camping and Retreat Ministries Coordinator

BOARD OF CONGREGATION AND CIRCUIT DEVELOPMENT

Our Purpose/Mission Statement for the Board of Congregational and Circuit Development is to transform our entire Annual Conference's culture from one of maintenance and fear to one of bold action to reach others outside of the church and to equip local churches, mission churches, new faith communities and circuits with training, tools, and asset-based partial funding for revitalization of existing churches and New Faith Starts (New churches or non-traditional ideas for spreading faith).

We have accomplished this purpose in the following ways:

- We provided financial and technical support for 39 Mission Churches, New Church Starts, and Revisioning Churches in 2009.
- We handled several Apportionment Reduction Requests and provided consultation for churches needing help with paying apportionments.
- We continue to use MissionInsite and Claritas iMark, to provide more detailed demographic reports for local churches.
- We continue to work collaboratively with the Cabinet as the Coordinator is a member of the Extended Cabinet.
- We worked with congregations to gain a clear picture of their progress in meeting benchmarks.

We have identified many challenges in our efforts to live, give, and love beyond all expectation and to accomplish our purpose:

- To change the culture of the conference so that more churches create bold action in reaching out.
- As the culture changes, more churches will want funding to assist in their ministry plan for developing new ministries and new faith communities.
- To come up with effective alternative options for multi-cultural outreach and new starts
- To counteract the attitudes in our conference of mistrust and fear of the future.
- To assist Mission Churches that are in a survival or hospice mode to thrive and become self-supporting with other healthy church mission partnerships.
- Provide adequate scholarship assistance for leadership training.

In 2011, our funding will enable us to live out our mission, vision, and purpose, making disciples; living, giving, and loving beyond all expectations; and equipping local churches for ministry and connecting us for the greater ministry of The United Methodist Church in the following ways:

- We will create a culture of bold action to reach others outside the church. We will do this by launching New Church Starts and New Faith Communities with partner churches and circuits. We want to support the Bishop's Vision of Starting New Churches in the next quadrennium.

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- We will assist Mission Churches to thrive by effectively reaching new persons in their community, assimilating and discipling them. We will monitor the healthy development of mission churches as they become self-supporting and mission-sending.
- We will provide the best up-to-date demographic tools for churches and circuits to know their communities and develop appropriate ministry plans to reach their population.
- We will provide training experiences for clergy and lay leaders for starting new churches, for healthy revitalization, and for assessment of local church potential.

The following story describes how we have seen lives transformed because of our work:

- The Beloit River of Life congregation is the result of a merger of four churches with the vision to become a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-language congregation. They had a wonderful opportunity last March, 2009 to bring Pastor Eduardo De la Cruz on their ministry staff to develop the Hispanic Ministry Outreach. With the funding help of BCCD and the Capital District, they have been reaching many Hispanic families through a Sunday evening service that has grown from 12 to 152 in one year. On the Sunday of their 1st Anniversary since the start of the new Spanish language service, they confirmed 19 new members of The River of Life and received 29 new members on Affirmation of Faith, for a total of 48 new members of the congregation. The congregation also shared in communion as a part of the celebration of the union of multiple campuses and multiple ethnic/language groups represented in The River of Life UMC.

We will continue to ensure the efficient, effective, and wise stewardship of the Conference funding we receive.

- At every meeting, BCCD leaders review our budget expenditures and income sources throughout the year to monitor our wise use of conference funds.
- We ask each congregation requesting funds to develop an asset-based ministry plan with specific benchmarks before funding is committed.
- Even though the total requests we receive are much more than what our annual budget is, we review each request for the results they hope for, how confident we are in their intended results, and whether this is a wise use of our funds. Then we monitor the measurable results in the coming year to hold recipients accountable.

*Michael Weigand, Chairperson
Board of Congregation and Circuit Development*

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The essential work of the Board includes:

- Creating plans and programs that challenge conference and local church members toward personal, social and civic righteousness;
- Analyzing the social and justice issues that confront persons, communities, nations and the world; and
- Encouraging Christian lines of action that assist humankind to move toward a world where peace and justice are achieved.

The Board meets six times annually at the conference office. The Board is heavily dependent on the United Methodist Social Principles adopted

by the 2008 General Conference for guidance on the direction of its social justice ministries. The theme selected for 2009 was Economic Justice. This fits well with the General Church quadrennial emphasis on Engaging in ministry with the poor. One of two resolutions to be presented to the 2010 Annual Conference for action deals with this emphasis. A second resolution to be presented to the Annual Conference concerns Health Care Reform which fits well with another quadrennial emphasis which is Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

At the 2009 session of the Annual Conference a display table provided information on the activities of the Board. Copies of the UMC Social Principles were available and literature on social issues was provided by the General Board of Church and Society. One of the directions adopted by the Board was Fair Trade product usage and the use of Fair Trade coffee in the conference office building was encouraged. The use of recycled paper by conference staff was promoted as an ecological issue. “Blessed Paper Beads” provided a participatory activity at the display table to encourage in a visual manner the issue of recycling. A Letter to the 2009 Annual Conference on social justice concerns was included in preconference materials.

During the year the Board also had a display table at the conference Youth Convo.

The Board continues its annual support of the Rising Sun Camp, a restorative justice ministry. Peace with Justice programs are funded by the annual general church offering held in local churches. Monies are retained in Wisconsin as well as making other money available to support national programs. Worker justice was supported last year through grants to the Interfaith Coalition of Worker Justice. A hunger program of the Wisconsin Council of Churches has been supported through these funds for several years and added money has supported other aspects of the Wisconsin Council of Churches programming. Each local church is encouraged to participate in the Peace with Justice offering and name a liaison person related to the Peace with Justice ministry.

Leigh M. Roberts, Chairperson

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Introductory Comments

The Board of Global Ministries is the missional instrument of the United Methodist Church. According to the Discipline, “The church in mission is a sign of God’s presence in the world.” Mission channels the love of all disciples, whether they contribute time, money or other resources. As disciples of Christ, we follow his lead of helping those in poverty, those who are ill, those who are in crisis and those in the midst of disaster. We seek to help those in need.

The Conference Board of Global Ministries must oversee and coordinate the mission work of the Annual Conference. Membership of the Board reflects the diversity of the Annual Conference with members from each of the districts and elected at-large members. The Board meets three times annually (two face-to-face and one phone conference). All Board members are also encouraged to participate in one of the Board’s committees.

Members of the Board of Global Ministries and its committees are challenged to inspire and educate districts, circuits, local churches and individuals about the many mission opportunities available. The Board also recommends ministries to be funded through Conference apportionment dollars and designated funds, and has oversight responsibilities for segregated funds from gifts and bequests designated to be used for missions.

The Board of Global Ministries helps to make disciples of both those persons who are able to act out their faith through a myriad of opportunities at our various agencies/VIM trips and those persons to whom we are reaching out who are hurting and impoverished. VIM trips provide a venue for working with others who can share their faith stories while also encouraging participants to help others. In addition, those whose lives have been turned upside-down are able to see Christ’s love in the actions of these volunteers.

The Board of Global Ministries supports a variety of ministries throughout the state which offer opportunities for members in local churches to give of themselves through their time and money. Whether volunteering at Northcott, sending money to Harbor House, participating in VIM teams at United Methodist Children’s Services or in Louisiana, or helping with Disaster Response after flooding, members and friends of the Wisconsin Annual Conference can live out their faith, giving to help others and showing their love in great and astonishing ways.

In 2010 the Board of Global Ministries approved a new *Application for Funding or Endorsement*. This new form requests not only descriptive information, including history of the ministry and personnel involved, but also descriptions of accomplishments and goals as well as questions as to how the agencies support the Mission of Wisconsin Annual Conference and the four areas of focus. Financial information including a summary of revenue and expenses from the previous year, the current year and the year for which funds are requested are also a part of the application. It is our intention to send these to all agencies, organizations and committees so that they will be returned by August 15th for review by the appropriate committee and the Board as a whole. Indeed, we have already utilized the form with one organization applying for an Advance number.

Our goals for 2010-11 are:

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1. We will be better advocates for the various agencies, trips, teams and partnerships that fall under the umbrella of Global Ministries in Wisconsin. We will communicate the achievements of our conference and General Board committees and agencies.
2. We will be more responsible and accountable for the monies in our budget as we implement our Ministry Accountability plan, utilizing the newly approved *Application for Funding or Endorsement*.
3. We will strengthen the link between the Board and the Disaster Response Team. Non-staff clergy and laity must be found to act as chairperson and coordinators for this very important team.
4. We will explore communication via Adobe Connect and other means of reducing administrative expenses.

Health and Welfare Ministries Committee

- A. Health and Welfare Ministries – 13 Ministries are related to the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church:**

Bellin Health – Green Bay

Cedar Crest - Janesville

Christian Community Home - Hudson

Evergreen Retirement Community - Oshkosh

Harbor House Crisis Shelters - Superior

Morrow Memorial Home - Sparta

Northcott Neighborhood House - Milwaukee

Parish Nurse Ministries – Conference-wide

Schmitt Woodland Hills – Richland Center

Sheboygan Senior Community - Sheboygan

United Methodist Children's Services - Milwaukee

United Methodist Hospitals Ministry - Madison

Village at Manor Park – West Allis

- B. Purpose of H&WM Committee** – To be the connecting link between the Wisconsin Conference and each H&W Ministry based upon a Covenant of Affiliation that identifies mutually agreeable expectations for both parties.
- C. Financial support** - The Committee is the channel through which Conference related sources of financial support are provided to the Ministries:
1. **Apportionment funds** – Four of the Ministries are recipients of Apportionment funds provided through the Conference Board of Global Ministries. A substantial majority of the persons served by the following Ministries have great needs and few resources:
 - Harbor House Crisis Shelters
 - Northcott Neighborhood House
 - United Methodist Children's Services
 - United Methodist Hospitals Ministry

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While these Ministries raise the funds needed to support their work from many sources, the Apportionment funds provided by Conference provide an important foundation upon which these Ministries can build their appeals to other sources of funds. Donors outside the church want to know that the Ministries receiving their assistance have a solid base of support within the church that assures continuity of service.

2. **Golden Cross Offering** - All congregations within the Conference are encouraged to annually take a special Golden Cross Offering which is distributed equally among the Ministries. Golden Cross contributions are used by the Ministries to support persons who are unable to pay the full cost of services. In 2009, Golden Cross offerings provided over \$21,000 in support for the work of the Ministries.
 3. **Grants from Lakeside Fund** income – The Lakeside Fund was established in 1976 with \$100,000 of the proceeds from the sale of the Lakeside Hospital in Rice Lake, WI. Up to 85% of the annual income may be used by the H&WM Committee to provide grants to the Ministries.
- D. Covenants of Affiliation** - The Committee is responsible for working with the governing body of each Ministry to maintain a current Covenant of Affiliation with the Conference. In 2009, the Wisconsin Conference approved a Covenant of Affiliation with The Village at Manor Park. In 2010, the Annual Conference Session will be asked to approve a Covenant with Hillcrest Family Services of Dubuque, IA, a Ministry related to the Iowa Conference of the UMC. Hillcrest has been accepted as a member of the H&WM Committee with the expectation that it will provide services on behalf of the Wisconsin Conference in southwest Wisconsin.
- E. Relationship strengthening** - In 2006, the H&WM Committee began a long-term effort to strengthen the relationship between the governing bodies of the Ministries and the leadership of the Conference. In November 2006, Bishop Lee and the H&WM Committee held an invitational event for representatives of the governing bodies and the chief executive officers to reexamine the purpose and nature of the relationship.

This event resulted in the decision by the Bishop, her Cabinet and the H&WM Committee to have the Assistant to the Bishop and the Chair of the H&WM Committee meet with the governing body of each Ministry. This process will be completed in 2010 by a meeting with the Hillcrest Family Services Board of Directors.

Key findings from these meetings are the importance of 1) regular face-to-face communication between Conference leadership and the governing bodies of the Ministries, and 2) regular review and updating of the Covenants of Affiliation. To provide a means for meeting these objectives, Bishop Lee is hosting an annual dinner with a governing body representative and the CEO from each of the Ministries. The 2009 dinner was held October 19, and the 2010 dinner will be October 12 in Sun Prairie.

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In addition, every four years a formal review and renewal of the Covenants is to be completed by each governing body, the H&WM Committee, and the Bishop's office. This will maintain the viability of the Covenants for both the Ministries and the Conference.

- F. Disability Awareness** - Another responsibility of the H&WM Committee is to increase awareness within local churches about what they can do to assist and support persons with disabilities through facilities, programs, and services.
- G. Committee membership** - The membership is the CEO and/or designee and a liaison from the governing body of each Ministry, a liaison from the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries, the Committee chair, and the Mission Coordinator of the Conference who provides staff support.
- H. Committee plans for 2010-2011**

- 1) Continue the collaboration with the Bishop and her cabinet to strengthen the relationship between the Conference and the governing bodies of the Health and Welfare Ministries.
- 2) Integrate Hillcrest Family Services as a H&W Ministry of the Wisconsin Conference.
- 3) Increase the number of churches participating in the annual Golden Cross offering, and the amount of support provided by each congregation.
- 4) Increase the knowledge of the Ministries among the members of the churches, and the importance of Conference support through Apportionment funds to the four Ministries receiving those funds.
- 5) Inform churches about how they can respond to persons with disabilities.

David Green, Chair, Health and Welfare Ministries Committee

Community Ministries (Formerly Reconciling Ministries)

The Community Ministries has been established to assist local churches, cooperative ministries and community and faith-based organizations in developing and strengthening programs that bring peace and justice to their communities and in accompanying persons on their journeys toward social, economic, cultural and spiritual wholeness. Through training and leadership development, networking, funding, and technical assistance, human suffering is alleviated, models of ministry are shared, collaboration is enhanced, congregations and communities are transformed, and "the least of these" are affirmed as equal partners in God's mission. (GMGM #5574)

The Hmong House of Good News in Milwaukee is one of the ministries within the area of Community Ministries. The Immigration Task Force also has been incorporated into this area of ministries.

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Volunteers in Mission

This committee is an active one with 14 work camps conducted in 2009 including Wisconsin and some national trips as well. That involved 350 volunteers and achieved \$165,100 of value in donated labor. We expect to have 10 trips state and 4 national trips in 2010.

This does not include the emergency response facet of our committee activity. Nor does it consider the Nomads VIM activity done by some of our members.

There were also 2 DNR chainsaw certification trainings conducted this year.

During the year there was training for leadership in both VIM leaders training and emergency response training.

We have been receiving an unprecedented number of scholarship requests in the past 2 years.

One of the major efforts was to create the wisvim.org website to begin an effort to have a central site for volunteers and the public to visit for information about the VIM group. Along with that we are hoping to reduce the number of brochures we mail by incorporating the use of email communication for much of our information.

National VIM – Bruce Koch, chair

Mission Motivation

The Mission Motivation Committee includes the Conference Mission Secretary, the District Mission Secretaries and representatives from the Conference Partnerships, the Ambassador Program, Immigration Task Force, Hunger Task Force and United Methodist Women. This committee is in need of a chairperson and currently lacks two of the District Mission Secretaries.

Those ministries currently having Advance numbers through Mission Motivation will need to reapply using the new Application for Funding or Endorsement in order to be included in the 2012 People Touching People guide.

Conference Partnerships

The East Angola Partnership (Chair - Lamarr Gibson) and the Native American Partnership committees continue to explore ways in which we can work with these partners, offering assistance and meeting together. The East Angolan Bishop visited in 2009 and a group will be returning to East Angola in 2010.

Disaster Preparedness

The 2008 Flood Recovery Program (FRP) was established in September 2009 when \$15.9 million in federal money was granted to the State of Wisconsin's Department of Health Services by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Service through a Federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Wisconsin was one of twenty states and one territory to receive part

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of the \$600 million Supplemental SSBG funds for the 2008 floods. The WI Conference of The United Methodist Church, working in partnership with Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters. (WIVOAD) was chosen to administer \$6 million of the SSBG to help homeowners in 30 counties of Wisconsin designated as a disaster area after the flooding and storms of 2008.

The goal of the FRP is to find and help homeowners who have unmet needs remaining from the devastating floods and storms that occurred during the summer of 2008. The Program provides financial and other resources to qualified homeowners. Project Recovery, administered by Lutheran Social Services, works closely with the FRP identifying eligible homeowners and assisting with their emotional needs.

To date, April 2010, the Program has assisted hundreds of homeowners throughout the 30 county area and will continue to assist others until the Program ends on September 30, 2010. The Program has been featured in more than 150 print and online articles, radio and TV interviews, Native American newsletters, corporate and association employee and member internal communications, social media channels (Facebook and Twitter), Letters to the Editor, in a PSA produced and disseminated to television stations across the area, and a video posted on YouTube and the Program's website. The FRP website (www.2008floodrecovery.org) has detailed information about the Program and provides ways for homeowners to request assistance.

Steve Zekoff served as Project Director for the program. Deborah Thompson was the Grant Administrator; Lisa King served as the project's treasurer; and Michele Virnig was the communication's officer. Case managers, supervisors and a project assistant were hired using grant funds to work with FRP client cases.

***Gail Burgess, Chairperson
Board of Global Ministries***

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT MINISTRY (BHESM)

A. Introductory Comments

The Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry seeks to provide for “ministry beyond the local church” by supporting the ministry of United Methodist related campus ministries financially and by providing training opportunities for campus ministers. In addition, we seek to assist young women and men in the United Methodist Church who need financial assistance in obtaining a college degree. We oversee the work of the Wesley Foundations in our conference and hold them accountable to support their student ministries. We are also charged to hold the relationship of our conference with North Central and Wiley College. In all areas we are supporting efforts to reach out to college students and “to make disciples of Jesus Christ” and “spiritual leaders for the church and for the world” for those who journey in the mission field of higher education.

The main focus of our work is to support United Methodist related campus ministries to do their work of reaching college students and equipping them to start and/or grow in their discipleship of Jesus Christ. *Discipling* students leads to the transformation of a) the students’ lives, b) campus-life and lives of the students’ peers, c) their local church and circuit and ultimately d) the world to become more the way God wants it to be. We are pleased that in past years we have been an agency of our Conference that gave more financial support than most other protestant mainline denomination towards campus ministry and have indeed lived and loved beyond the expectation of some of our campus ministers. By having regular meetings with our campus ministers we hold each other accountable that our living, giving and loving will be directed towards transforming this world into a better place by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

B. Highlights and Accomplishments of the Past Year

- During the 2009 year, our Board used our apportioned dollars to grant eight campus ministries a total of \$ 93,100 including Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Menomonie, Milwaukee, Platteville, River Falls, and Whitewater.
- Financially, the Board continued our support of North Central College with \$1,000 and Wiley College with \$ 3,000.
- We used \$ 1,600 to fund two Merit Awards to students in Wisconsin. This money is a portion of the UM Student Day offerings that many Wisconsin congregations observe in November.
- The Board gathered with campus ministers for the purpose of networking, sharing ideas and talking about how the Board can best be of support to our campus ministries in Wisconsin.
- In addition to financial support our board has worked on the promotion and awareness of UM Student Day Offering.
- We have promoted and raised awareness of our campus ministries, scholarship programs and United Methodist schools. Our webpage provides access to information of scholarship possibilities, helpful links to campus ministries in Wisconsin and to UM schools. The webpage can be found by clicking “education”

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on our conferences web site (www.wisconsinumc.org) and choosing “higher ed & student ministry.”

- We worked towards encouraging congregations with inactive Wesley Foundations to re-launch viable student ministries in their communities.
- We have hosted a training event for our campus ministers on the art of finding appropriate grants and writing grant applications successfully.

C. How we relate to our the United Methodist Church’s mission and the vision of the Wisconsin Conference

1. It is our desire to continue to provide the means of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” on college campuses in order to encourage young men and women to “Live, Give, Love ... Beyond All Expectation.”
2. The same is true when more support is given toward UM Student Day and other scholarships and loans, since it furthers the chance to make disciples and live, give and love beyond all expectation. It is our privilege to support those in need as they seek to become better “disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”
3. Our conferences vision needs accountability! It is our responsibility to hold Wesley Foundations accountable to use their resources for the purposes they are meant for.
4. Transforming the world does not happen over night! We have to ensure long term solutions. Our board’s role in this is to provide training for campus ministers to find more funding resources that ensure long term financial sustainability to be in the transformation business.
5. “Beyond all expectation” means also to go beyond the borders of our conference. While in times of decreasing financial resources it is tempting to hold on to them we feel called to hold our commitment towards these two out-of-state colleges.

D. How we relate to the four focus areas

Our group is actively involved in the first and second focus area. We are hosting free training events for our campus ministers and thus work towards developing leaders. In years when enough money was available to us we supported campus ministers AND students to go to larger student leadership training events. It is our desire for 2011 to continue this as enough funding is available. We are also involved in places like Oshkosh, Stevens Point and Eau Claire where there is potential for new and renewed campus ministry programs to emerge and have provided advisory support on how to start a campus ministry and hold the Wesley Foundation there accountable to support them. Most, if not all, campus ministry programs we support engage in ministry with the poor - some locally, some nationally, some internationally. Many campus ministries are great in organizing mission trips that are focusing on ministry with the poor and some even with improving health.

E. Plans for the Coming Year

1. Supporting United Methodist related campus ministries in Wisconsin by funding up to 20% of their needs and by providing opportunities for networking and continuing education for campus ministers.
2. Intentionally promote UM Student Day offering with local churches, our Wisconsin Conference Merit Award and other UM student loans and scholarships. Reviewing and granting those awards, loans and scholarships.
3. To encourage those who hold Wesley Foundation funds to be accountable as true stewards of Jesus Christ in pursuing the ministries for which the funds were established.
4. In light of restrictions in funding at the conference level, we are seeking alternative ways to fund the ministries under our care and provide training for campus ministers to find more resources for funding.
5. Offer some level of funding support to Wiley College and North Central College.

Markus Wegenast, Chairperson, Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

Report Not Yet Submitted -Expected 6/1/2010

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Ordained Ministry

The Board of Ordained Ministry is responsible for the recruitment, credentialing and nurture of the clergy of the Annual Conference. *The work of the Board is an integral part of the development of principled spiritual leaders for the church and the world.* The Board relates to everyone who experiences God's call to professional ministry in the Wisconsin Conference in order to help them clarify that call and understand the opportunities available within The United Methodist Church to respond to that call, and acts on behalf of the church to determine how the church can best affirm each person's call to ministry. These primary responsibilities are defined in the twenty-six specific tasks identified in ¶635.2 a through 635.2z of the 2008 Book of Discipline, as well as the responsibilities of the Registrar of the Board found in ¶635.3a through 635.3e of the 2008 Discipline.

United Methodist Christians are called to transform the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ. In Wisconsin we have said that we will do that by living, giving and loving beyond expectation. In order to turn that vision into reality, leaders are needed to show the way. The Board of Ordained Ministry identifies, recruits, credentials, and provides opportunities for the nurture and growth of clergy leadership for the Annual Conference.

Effective clergy leadership is one of the keys to equipping local churches for ministry. Working together with the District Committees on Ordained Ministry, which by Discipline are sub-committees of the Board, the Board of Ordained Ministry determines on behalf of the annual conference whether those who offer themselves in service as clergypersons meet the qualifications, ethical standards, and high expectations of The United Methodist Church for its clergy, so that the churches of the annual conference may have competent, effective, and skilled clergy leadership. The Board then makes its recommendations to the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference for their consideration.

Highlights of the Past Year

The Board of Ordained Ministry meets twice each year at the Bishop Rader Retreat Center at Pine Lake Camp. The Board interviews candidates for Provisional and Associate Membership in February, and candidates for Full Membership and Ordination in November. Beginning in the fall of 2008 the Board changed its interview process. Candidates now come to Pine Lake overnight to meet with the Board over a two-day period. In addition to three formal interviews, board members get to know candidates informally over meals, in shared worship and communion, and in other unstructured settings. The Board continued this interview process in 2009-2010. **This change has resulted in a significant improvement in the credentialing process.** One of the consequences of this change, however, is that the Board's meetings are lengthened, because it takes longer to interview each group of candidates, and candidates are at camp overnight. At the February-March, 2010 meeting the Board interviewed the largest number of candidates for Provisional Membership that we have seen in many years. This change in the interview process has increased the cost of the Board's meetings. While the Board does everything it can to hold down costs, we believe that this improved interview process is a long-term investment in the future clergy leadership of the annual conference.

At any given moment the Board is caring for 150 to 200 individuals who are exploring a call to ministry, enrolled in the candidacy certification process, serving as Licensed

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Local Pastors, moving towards commissioning and Provisional Membership, serving as Provisional Members while moving towards ordination, or seeking to transfer their credentials into the Wisconsin Annual Conference from other Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church or other Christian denominations. In 2009, 26 people attended Inquiring Candidates Retreats, 12 persons became Certified Candidates for Ministry, 26 persons (including some who attended Inquiring Candidates Retreats in 2008) enrolled in the Candidacy Certification process, 6 persons were commissioned as Provisional Members of the Annual Conference, and 6 persons were Ordained as Elders in the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. 5 clergy persons transferred into the Wisconsin Annual Conference. 12 clergy members of the Annual Conference retired, and 9 clergy members of the Annual Conference died.

In the course of shepherding people through all of these processes, thirty-nine persons completed psychological assessments at North Central Ministry Development Center, and the Board conducted over 50 background checks on individuals seeking a clergy relationship with the annual conference. Both of these measures are required by The Book of Discipline.

There are currently 21 Provisional Members of the Annual Conference who are moving towards Ordination under the direct supervision of the Board of Ordained Ministry. 94 Licensed Local Pastors are supervised by the eight District Committees on Ordained Ministry, which are sub-committees of the Board. As we prepare for the 2010 Annual Conference Session, the Board has interviewed or will interview more than 20 individuals who have applied for Commissioning and Provisional Membership or Ordination and Full Membership.

During 2009 62 persons were trained as candidacy mentors. Over 40 members of the eight District Committees on Ordained Ministry received training on their responsibilities. Resources have been provided to both clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference to assist them in identifying persons in their congregations who may be experiencing a call to ministry, and in the steps to take when someone comes to them indicating a desire to explore ministry in The United Methodist Church.

Through the Ministerial Education Fund 32 individuals received Seminary Scholarship assistance, and 35 Licensed Local Pastors received scholarship assistance for their required Course of Study Classes.

The Board has developed “Guidelines for Continuing Education” for the clergy of the Annual Conference, and co-sponsored legislation at the 2009 Annual Conference session which established a minimum standard for financial support of continuing education that local churches are required to provide for clergy under appointment to their congregation.

The Board consults with the cabinet when clergy from other Annual Conferences or denominations are being considered for transfer into the conference or appointment to serve Wisconsin United Methodist churches. Whenever clergy members of the Annual Conference request a change in their relationship (retirement, various kinds of leave, honorable location, etc.) with the Annual Conference or approval of an extension ministry setting, the Board of Ordained Ministry has a role in that process.

Each August the Board sponsors a two-day “New Clergy Orientation” program. Through 2009 the program was held at Byron Center. In 2009 18 clergy persons serving their first

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appointment in Wisconsin received orientation to the ministries of the Annual Conference and training in ethics and boundaries. Beginning in August, 2010, the program will be held at the Rader Retreat Center at Pine Lake Camp. The Board, Cabinet, Conference Staff, the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, and other agencies share information about the work of the Annual Conference with persons who are serving their first appointment in Wisconsin or who are returning to parish ministry from leave or an extension ministry appointment. The retreat also includes intensive training in sexual ethics and the maintenance of proper boundaries.

The work of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Committees on Ordained Ministry requires thousands of hours of time each year on the part of the 31 Board members, the 70 District Committee members, and the 4 District Superintendents. These dedicated people willingly give of their time because they believe in the importance of the work of Clergy Leadership Development in the Annual Conference.

The Board of Ordained Ministry depends heavily upon the staff support provided by the Executive Secretary of the Board, who functions as the registrar and maintains the personnel records for the nearly 200 people who are under the care of the Board. He provides guidance for those who are entering ministry, which is an incredibly lengthy and complex process, as well as training for mentors, District Committees on Ordained Ministry, and District Superintendents. The Executive Secretary prepares materials submitted by candidates for commissioning and ordination for review by the Board, as well as the Board's report to the Clergy Session (also known as "The Business of the Annual Conference.") He also conducts background investigations on all candidates for any clergy position in the Wisconsin Conference, and is responsible for the preliminary evaluation of all psychological assessments for candidates.

Plans for the Coming Year

The Board has identified four challenges in its ministry:

- a. Recruiting high quality, talented young people (under age 35) into the ministry of The United Methodist Church
- b. Finding ways to reduce the financial costs/burdens that must be assumed by those who do respond to a call to enter United Methodist Ministry
- c. Streamlining the process of entering ministry while at the same time meeting all of the requirements of the Book of Discipline related to the candidacy/ordination process.
- d. Educating current clergy about the importance of continued growth in their knowledge and skills in order to improve the overall effectiveness of the clergy of the Annual Conference.

The Board's goal is to provide the congregations of the Wisconsin Annual Conference with the most qualified, competent and capable clergy leadership possible. As the Board guides candidates through the journey from fitness to readiness to effectiveness in ministry, we are always mindful that the people under our care will have a direct impact upon every United Methodist in Wisconsin for generations to come.

Richard Strait, Chairperson

Kevin Rice Myers, Executive Secretary

**JOINT BOARD OF PENSIONS,
INSURANCE & EQUITABLE COMPENSATION**

Introductory Comments

The Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance & Equitable Compensation (Joint Board) has administrative and stewardship responsibility for the following:

Pensions, death and disability benefits for 1) active and retired clergy under appointment to the Wisconsin Conference, and 2) active and retired laity employed by the Wisconsin Conference.

Group health insurance for 1) active and retired clergy under appointment to the Wisconsin Conference, 2) active and retired laity employed by the Wisconsin Conference, and 3) active and retired laity employed by Wisconsin United Methodist churches.

Equitable Compensation support to local churches to ensure that pastors under appointment are provided at least minimum salary compensation at churches that may need financial assistance.

Highlights and Accomplishments of the Past Year

The Joint Board met all pension obligations of the Wisconsin Conference by paying the Pre-82 Pension Plan obligation at the rate approved by the Wisconsin Conference. Fourteen congregations were provided Equitable Compensation support. This amount is double the number in the previous year and doubtless echoes the economic downturn. The Joint Board continues our attempt to balance premium costs with health insurance benefits through our participation in HealthFlex, the United Methodist denomination's health insurance plan, to active clergy and lay personnel of the Wisconsin Conference. Our participants have had to shoulder more of the cost of their medical care through increased deductibles and co-pays in order to reduce the total cost of health insurance. Our retirees, who are age 65 and older, continue to be insured through the HealthFlex Medicare supplemental health insurance plan.

When the West Wisconsin and East Wisconsin Conferences of the Methodist Church merged along with the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren, the West Wisconsin Pension Trust Fund and the East Wisconsin Pension Trust Fund were established. The East Wisconsin Pension Trust is administered by a separate Board, and its audited financial statements are provided elsewhere in the Conference Yearbook and Journal. The West Wisconsin Pension Trust is administered by the Joint Board. Its assets are invested in a separate fund in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Financial information for the West Wisconsin Pension Trust is as follows:

1/1/2009 beginning balance	\$374,876
Less benefits paid in 2009	(46,879)
Less administrative expenses	(2,785)
Plus earnings	6,405
Plus unrealized gain	45,596
12/31/2009 ending balance	\$377,213

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As is customary, the Joint Board sponsored a Retirement Seminar for those clergy planning to retire in the current year.

The Task Force on Future Retiree Health Insurance Benefits made their report to the Joint Board in 2008. The task force used actuarial data to look at how to fund current and future retiree health insurance benefits and reduce a significant projected funding liability in this area. The task force recommended changes in the shared funding of these benefits based on the unfunded liability figure. The Annual Conference of 2008 approved the necessary changes related to these benefit. Our submitted budget to the Council on Finance and Administration for 2011 reflected the action of the Annual Conference and followed our planned course of action. CF&A is submitting a budget that reflects \$100,000 less than the plan required. This may necessitate another actuarial study and a readjustment of the plan if this amount is not restored in the 2012 Annual Conference Budget.

The Joint Board has been diligently working through the Health Insurance Subcommittee to continue to focus on the wellness of our participants. As a result, we have continued to sponsor an incentive program through HealthFlex. We have continued in a walking fitness program through Virgin Health Miles. This program encourages all enrollees in the Conference active health insurance plan (HealthFlex) to participate in the walking program by using a special pedometer. The participant then downloads his/her steps to a website in order to monitor his/her progress. HealthFlex financial incentives are provided to the participants dependent upon various levels achieved. In addition, we continue to highly recommend completion of the WebMD "HealthQuotient" assessment, a health assessment tool. "HealthQuotient" provides a personalized report and a prioritized list of health concerns and recommends actions to help design a wellness plan. There is no cost to the participant to take the "HealthQuotient" assessment. Last year 216 of our participants took the HealthQuotient. If our participants do not complete the HealthQuotient assessment prior to the end of August of this year their deductible will increase an additional \$250 for the year 2011. Research by HealthFlex shows that those who complete the assessment have fewer claims. Last year 116 of our active participants took advantage of the Pro-Check Screening blood draw at the Annual Conference session.

Plans for the Coming Year

Our Health Insurance subcommittee will be carefully monitoring, with assistance from HealthFlex, what changes will be necessary as a result of the new Healthcare Reform Law. As of this report it is too soon to know all the ramifications of the law for our plans.

The Joint Board will continue our wellness initiative. Eligible enrollees will be strongly encouraged to once again complete the WebMD "HealthQuotient" assessment and also to complete an annual wellness exam. We are also again sponsoring Pro-Check screening at the site of Annual Conference this year. Group rates are also offered for Weight Watchers participation for eligible enrollees.

We hope to continue our ongoing efforts of monitoring our rates within reasonable percentage increases while offering competitive benefit levels for our actives and retirees. We are, however, aware that this is becoming increasingly more difficult as the cost of health insurance increases at a rate higher than inflation. Our recent claims experience has not been favorable in the last few years and this also drives our renewal costs higher.

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The higher average age of our participants also increases our costs. We are looking at a more consumer driven model of health insurance through HealthFlex as an option for the future.

The significant changes in the stock market and the general economy have continued to affect the holdings of the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits. This has resulted in a decrease in the value of funds held by the General Board in the various pension plans. As a result, the General Board has indicated that additional funds are necessary to recover from this once every seventy-year economic condition. These needed funds have required an increase in our budget for pension obligations in the years ahead and an increase in the percentage charged to the local church. While the market has been good to us so far, its recovery has not yet been sufficient to cover these previous losses. We have been able to reduce the necessary amount significantly by dollar shifting of CPP funds at the suggestion of the General Board. We remain in constant communication with the General Board about this situation. All Pension participants received a letter about this situation from the General Board. This letter stated, "You want assurance that the benefits you have worked so hard to earn will be available when you need them. The General Board remains committed to helping you achieve your retirement goals."

Please know that your Joint Board also shares this same commitment.

Fran Deaner, Chairperson

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Conference Board of Trustees is responsible for conference-owned real and personal property, property and liability insurance, certain conference investments, and certain legal matters. *The Book of Discipline*, state statutes, and Wisconsin Annual Conference actions direct the work of the Trustees. We are an administrative Conference Support Ministry.

Highlights and Accomplishments

United Methodist Center, Sun Prairie

The United Methodist Center at 750 Windsor Street, Sun Prairie, experienced some changes in its configuration and tenants in this past year. The suite occupied by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation was expanded to include an unoccupied office on the north side of the third floor. The Foundation made a one-time lump sum payment to the Wisconsin Conference to cover maintenance costs and potential lost rental revenue from other tenants. Renovation of the additional space was paid for by the Foundation. Suite 207 underwent minor renovation to accommodate the 2008 Flood Recovery Program for the period of October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010. After being housed in the United Methodist Center for the past quarter century, the Western District Office of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church closed its office in Suite 209 the end of December.

The Trustees are anticipating that the roof on the United Methodist Center, which is now three decades old, will need to be replaced in 2011.

Rental income received from space in the United Methodist Center is offset against the cost of operating the center in the Board of Trustees' budget.

Episcopal Residence

The Episcopal Residence Committee monitors the condition of our bishop's residence, works with its residents to correct building problems, and keeps the Trustees informed of needs and actions taken.

Camps and Retreat Centers

The Trustees worked with the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries to implement the action of the 2009 Annual Conference session authorizing the sale of Whispering Pines Camp and Byron Center. The sale of Whispering Pines was completed on December 22, 2009, and Byron Center in March 30, 2010.

Other Property

The Lark: Emmanuel church and parsonage was sold to a private party. A cemetery association is being established to oversee the long-term care of the church-owned cemetery.

The Bay City church was sold to the American Legion Post in Bay City.

The vacant land in the Town of Ledgeview, Brown County, originally purchased for a new church development, remains unsold. Ownership of the property is being transferred to the DePere: New Hope congregation, who will assume responsibility for selling the property. As the most recent new church start in metro Green Bay, the congregation was previously designated to be the beneficiary of the proceeds of the land sale.

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As of early April, the Paris Corners church in western Kenosha County continues to be listed for sale.

The Conference Trustees have been kept informed of the plans by the Wesley Foundation at University of Wisconsin-Madison to sell a portion of its property to the university, and use the proceeds for renovation of the foundation's building.

Conference-wide Insurance

A Safety Group was implemented with Church Mutual Insurance Company, carrier for our conference-wide property and liability insurance program. The effort promotes risk management and loss control actions at the local churches and conference properties/programs covered by the insurance policy. Conversations continue with Church Mutual about ways to modify the basis for the property insurance premiums charged churches in our program. We are also exploring possible ways to reduce the cost of Workers Compensation Insurance coverage for our local churches through a combined program.

The Trustees have established a task group to review the current coverage provided under the conference-wide program, and explore the advisability of continuing coverage into the future through Church Mutual or another insurance carrier.

Investments

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation holds three investment accounts for the Trustees.

The Parsonage Fund came from the sale of conference staff and district superintendent parsonages. Earnings from the fund help cover the costs of the annual housing allowances for the district superintendents and conference staff. Because of a drop in market value, the amounts provided from the fund earnings for the 2010 and 2011 conference budgets were significantly reduced.

The invested bequest from Eva and Alice Stearns in the name of their father, William Stearns, is to provide loans to United Methodist students attending the University of Wisconsin.

The lump-sum payment from the Foundation for the additional space it is now using, which will be used to help cover future building maintenance costs of the Conference Center.

Bequests

Acting upon a recommendation from the Conference Board of Global Ministries, \$30,500 of the \$48,844 proceeds from the Estate of Stan Mauermann were distributed as follows: \$4,500 for Harbor House shelter in Superior; \$10,000 for the Hmong House of Good News in Milwaukee; \$10,000 for United Methodist Children's Services in Milwaukee; and \$6,000 for the East Angola Conference Partnership.

The Trustees designated the \$50,000 proceeds from the A.D. Robertson Revocable Trust to be available to assist churches needing to meet the church facilities minimum standards established under the Wisconsin Conference Rules and Policies.

Steve Zekoff, president

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

No Report Submitted

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

No Report Submitted

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The purpose of the Communications and Technology Committee is to advise and provide support for the Communications and Information Technology Office, whose primary responsibilities are to:

- Provide a connective link between the Conference staff and ministries, the churches, lay leaders and clergy, congregations, other agencies of the General Conference, and future disciples of The United Methodist Church.
- Provide a source for information, news, ideas, joys and concerns, tools, training and more for Wisconsin United Methodist clergy, lay leaders and members.
- Provide a primary point of access to Wisconsin United Methodists for persons/agencies on the General Conference level.
- Direct, administer and provide maintenance for the Conference's multi-level communications network. Provide technical support and consultation in conjunction with other conference agencies/boards/committees for our Annual Conference sessions and other Conference events, and integration of communication resources throughout the Annual Conference.
- Provide a primary point of access to the workings of the Wisconsin Conference UMC for secular news and other religious media, and organizations.
- Provide multiple avenues of outreach to the wider Wisconsin community.

In 2009, we ensured the timely communication of the messages, inspiration, tools, and training that support the mission and vision:

- Developed a new brand strategy for the Wisconsin Conference to ensure consistent, professional communications efforts
- Developed ongoing communications through Enews, the website, PR, and other social media and publications
- Developed a variety of print, PowerPoint, and video tools for use by staff and churches
- Helped several boards and agencies upgrade their website presence and effectiveness
- Led 2008 Flood Recovery Program communications efforts to help homeowners in 30 counties of Wisconsin
- Generated ongoing publicity for the Wisconsin Conference through United Methodist, other religious and secular media
- Provided ongoing personal consultation and training for clergy and lay leaders
- Conducted IT audit and began effort to streamline equipment and reduce servers housed internally

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- Upgraded software, virus protection, and spam filtering, and deployed a reliable backup solution for network and websites
- Documented all passwords, procedures and inventory
- Researched and began implementation of new online conferencing alternative to our outdated/expensive Polycom equipment
- Deploying new database upgrade so churches can update their own information
- Combined T1 lines to help improve internet bandwidth utilization/performance.
- Met ongoing needs of internal and external customers for email, web and computers
- Continued to provide audiovisual resources for Conference events
- Recycled computers and provided reclaimed systems to churches and organizations.
- Researched and tested emerging technologies, products, and services to maintain a state-of-the art communications and information technology (IT) system for the Conference.

To meet our mission for the greater ministry of The United Methodist Church, we have established many goals and strategies for 2010 and beyond. Many of these began in 2009 and are ongoing:

- Plan and implement an ongoing communications strategy and tactics to promote our mission and vision, and provide a connective link with the Conference, clergy, lay leaders, congregations and potential disciples. Tactics will include our website, e-news, direct mail, literature, social media, public relations, displays, audio visual presentations, face-to-face meetings, and more. These efforts will ensure that we continually connect in a meaningful way; provide service, tools and information; and add value to all our churches and ministries. A major focus of all efforts will be to ensure the voice of the Episcopal leadership can be heard within the Conference, denomination, the ecumenical and secular community, and the media.
- Continue to promote several key initiatives for the Wisconsin Conference to ensure success and support, including Annual Conference, 2008 Flood Recovery Program, East Angola Fund, White Privilege Conference, as well as the numerous other ministries and missions for which we provide resources and funding.
- Continue to launch/upgrade key communications strategies and media aimed at specific targets and needs, including a quarterly print and online newsletter; social media, such as Blogs, Facebook and Twitter; and an enhanced, user-friendly website. We specifically need to focus efforts on the youth and young adults who are the future of the Wisconsin Conference.

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- Continue to provide research and training as needed for UMC initiatives like Rethink Church and Giving Enthusiastically, and new technology like our new online conferencing/webinar system.
- Develop and promote tools (both those created by the Wisconsin Conference and the general church boards and agencies) to help clergy and lay leaders in their ministry.
- Continue to provide Help Desk IT consulting for clergy and lay leaders. We will also continue to recycle computers when possible for use by churches and organizations.
- Maintain appropriate level of computer and IT infrastructure and support for Conference staff and regional offices. Determine best means to integrate list servs and database on an ongoing basis. Improve staff productivity and workplace satisfaction as well as streamline processes and reduce costs by continuing the standardizing of desktop equipment and software and upgrading/replacing necessary servers and systems. We will continue to communicate policies and procedures to ensure centralized purchasing of computers and software. Standardization reduces legal exposure due to use of unlicensed software. It also reduces the time and cost to maintain/troubleshoot computers and software upgrades, and simplifies the administration of licenses, warranties and service agreements. We will also continue to stay abreast of emerging technologies and launch/invest in them as appropriate.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Introductory Comments

The Conference Personnel Committee is responsible for establishing and implementing policies and procedures, salary scales and criteria for all Conference staff positions. The Committee provides oversight and delegation of the search process, employment and supervision of most conference staff positions other than District Superintendents. The committee works in consultation with the Bishop (for those positions she supervises), and with appropriate programmatic and administrative groups during a search process, and provides general oversight and coordination for those positions.

Highlights and Accomplishments

The Personnel Committee met three times during 2009 and held two conference calls. The following transitions took place this year:

Michel Virnig was hired as the Director of Communications, effective January 1. Allen Kahl resigned as the Information Technology Manager, effective January 2, to take a position was another organization. Dan Dick was appointed as Director of Connectional Ministries, effective July 1, after Sue D'Alessio received an appointment in the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Tina Itson, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, left the Conference's employment effective July 31. Timyra Cowling worked as the part-time Interim Youth Ministries Coordinator from June 29 through December 31. The position of Service Department Assistant, held by Audree Hostetler, was eliminated November 1 due to budget cuts. In addition, several temporary employees worked part-time for the Information Technology and Communications Office at various times during the year.

Under the oversight of the Personnel Committee, starting in October, several dozen temporary employees were hired to provide case management and other services under the Social Services Block Grant for Disaster Emergency Services being administered by the Conference. The wages, benefits, and other expenses for all these employees are being fully funded by the \$6 million federal grant the Conference has received from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for the period ending September 30, 2010.

We are grateful to these individuals for their service and their leadership in the life of this conference.

The committee provided oversight to and support for the staff of the Wisconsin Annual Conference as staff provided leadership to the conference in implementation of the Vision, "Live, Give, Love ... Beyond All Expectation, and the focus areas of The United Methodist Church.

The committee provided oversight and support to insure there is appropriate and sufficient staff to do the work of ministry and to coordinate lay/clergy leadership in its work through various boards and agencies.

Plans for the Coming Year

The committee will work to support the vision of the Annual Conference through oversight for appropriate staffing configurations and positions that address established priorities.

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The committee will continue to provide input and feedback for proposed adjustments in staffing, and to regularly review all policies/procedures that are our responsibility and continue to monitor the budget.

The committee will periodically review its charter of primary roles/responsibilities and will work with key staff leaders to communicate the roles/functions for which Personnel is responsible and insure appropriate avenues exist for addressing specific personnel issues/concerns, particularly as new priorities emerge. The committee will work to provide oversight, support and resourcing needed to empower key staff to plan, lead and supervise within their areas of responsibility.

Chris Bethke, Chairperson

COMMISSION ON RELIGION & RACE

Our commission supports the ministry of all of our ethnic caucuses, each of which receiving funding through our commission. Here are some highlights from the past year from each of our caucuses;

Hispanic Caucus

- A. Sponsored a summer family camp program the theme of which was “Healthy Families, Healthy Congregations.”
- B. Sent two delegates to the National Caucus Assembly (MARCHA). This is a great opportunity for leadership development within the caucus.
- C. Held a youth event in December celebrating their respective ministries around our Conference.

Asian Caucus

- A. Supported the participation of three pastors at the Southern Asian Caucus meeting in Chicago and another pastor attended a Korean pastors gathering in Chicago.
- B. Because of the distances between clergy this caucus was not able to meet together in 2009.

Black Methodists for Church Renewal

- A. Welcomed Bishop Linda Lee who spoke at the Pan Methodist celebration at Solomon Community Temple UMC on March 29, 2009.
- B. Held special worship services on Good Friday and also a candlelight service on December 20th featuring Pastor John Greene of Greater Clement Memorial AME Zion.

Native American Caucus

- A. Rev. Anita Phillips conducted a “Listening Circle” at the CONAM Fall Gathering in Milwaukee for the Native American Comprehensive Plan which was recorded. The information gathered will be consolidated and published. The participants were from the Oneida, Milwaukee, and Odanah UMC and communities.
- B. Rev. Robert Odum & Alex Dickerson were guest speakers and participants at the National CONAM Training in Nashville, TN in November. CONAM representatives from all 50 States had been invited. The “Listening Circle” was also incorporated into the training.

Korean Caucus

- A. Held a 2-day retreat over Memorial Day weekend at Pine Lake Camp.
- B. Sponsored a 2-day Christmas gathering of clergy and families in Kenosha.

Hmong Caucus

- A. The last weekend of July, Hmong Caucus hosted a Family and a Children Camp at Camp Lucerne and there were about 40 adults and 50 or more children participated.

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B. Hmong Caucus was also assisting Capital District to propose our Hmong Ministry in Madison as a new church start and hopefully Conference will recognize this New Ministry at Annual Conference this coming June.

Our Commission is also charged with monitoring our Annual Conference sessions as well as the racial-ethnic makeup of all our many commissions, boards and agencies. We did monitor last year's Annual Conference and the results of that monitoring will serve as a benchmark for us as we move forward. We did not have statistics from previous years to compare to.

As chair of this Commission I attended a national gathering in Nashville in March of 2009 sponsored by the General Commission on Religion & Race and I also attended a Immigration Reform workshop at Riverside Church in New York City. I also, along with Rev. Deborah Thompson, attended the annual North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Religion & Race Learning Event in Minneapolis last October.

Our Wisconsin Conference will be hosting that same Learning Event here in Milwaukee this coming October. Full information will be provided at our Annual Conference in June.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Andrew Oren, Chair, CORR

ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee seeks to advocate for, encourage and empower local ethnic ministries and leaders throughout the Wisconsin United Methodist Conference.

We have accomplished our purpose in the following ways:

- We provided training for the Summer Developers last April, 2010, with an excellent attendance and positive feedback.
- We provided funding in 2009 to 19 ethnic churches for Summer Developer ministries. We exceeded our goal.
- We gave scholarships to three ethnic pastors in the Advanced Course of Study.

We have identified several challenges in our efforts to live, give, and love beyond all expectation and to accomplish our purpose:

- To get all ethnic congregations, especially Hmong and Korean, to apply for Summer Developer funds and launch outreach ministries in their communities.
- To get information and communication out sooner, better, and in more indigenous languages.
- To find ways to support other ethnic leaders to attend training events instead of the same people.
- To assist Ethnic Congregations to apply for General Church Grants to expand their ministries.
- To strengthen our relationship with the Ethnic Caucuses in the conference.

In 2011, our funding will enable us to live out our mission in the following ways:

- We are a strong advocate for the 30 Ethnic Local Churches in the conference through our funding.
- We can encourage and empower leadership training and development through scholarships, attendance at national training events, and Summer Developer grants.
- We want to sponsor local church revitalization training in the Metro Region for a minimum of 20 churches to revitalize our urban ministries and create a healthy environment for fruitful congregations in the urban setting.
- In 2009, we greatly appreciated the donations of \$2,136 given for the Summer Developers program. If we had an increased level of funding through donations, we could expand the Summer Developer grants to more of the 30 ethnic local churches. Also, we could send additional ethnic pastors and lay leaders to training events.

From the following stories we know that lives have been transformed because of our work on your behalf in the Annual Conference:

- From the 2009 evaluations, we heard many stories of the how the summer developers reached out and found many children in the community to include last

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summer, how many of the families became involved in the church because of the positive experiences. Many children wanted the program to last longer.

We will continue to ensure the efficient, effective, and wise stewardship of the Conference funding we receive:

- We require an application and an evaluation for every Summer Developer grant. We offer training to help them make an impact on the community.
- We encourage more full participation from the ELCC committee members.
- We make people accountable for the training funds they receive through follow-up reporting after events.

Rafael Cubilette, O.S.L., Chair of ELCC

COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

Our Purpose/Mission Statement for the Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministry is found in the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry:

1. Interpreting and Advocating for Hispanic/Latino Ministries
2. Planning, Developing and Implementing a Strategic, Comprehensive Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry
3. Training Lay and Clergy Leadership for Hispanic/Latino Ministry
4. Securing and Providing Resources
5. Monitoring, Supporting and Evaluating the Wisconsin Annual Conference Hispanic/Latino Ministries

We have accomplished these purposes in the following ways:

- We have provided training for Congregational Mobilization for 8 Congregations to revitalize their ministries.
- In 2008, we launched 2 new faith communities in Reedsburg and Palmyra.
- In 2009, we developed a new faith community in Beloit: River of Life.
- We have additional opportunities to begin new faith communities in Sun Prairie, Colby, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan.
- We have started work on updating the Comprehensive Plan.

We have identified many challenges in our efforts to live, give, and love beyond all expectation and to accomplish our purposes:

- Tracking the new and existing Hispanic ministries according to their benchmarks of fruitful ministry.
- Need a time to bring the people together to update and revise the Comprehensive Plan for 2009 to 2012 to bring a common direction to the conference plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry.
- Having the evaluation tools in place to assess our plan.
- Recruiting people for training and track how they are using their training.

In 2011, our funding will enable us to live out our mission, vision, and purpose, making disciples; living, giving, and loving beyond all expectations; and equipping local churches for ministry and connecting us for the greater ministry of The United Methodist Church in the following ways:

- To train pastors in the Congregational Mobilization process to revitalize our existing chartered congregations.
- Continue and expand training Lay Missioners and Pastor/Mentors to launch new faith communities and new community ministries.

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- To spread the Gospel with a growing population in our conference by promoting the National Plan.
- To bring consultations and training to develop new Hispanic/Latino ministries and congregations among non-Hispanic congregations in Wisconsin.

The following stories describe how we have seen lives transformed because of our committee's work:

- The Beloit River of Life congregation is the result of a merger of four churches with the vision to become a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-language congregation. They had a wonderful opportunity last March, 2009 to bring Pastor Eduardo De la Cruz on their ministry staff to develop the Hispanic Ministry Outreach. With the funding help of BCCD and the Capital District, they have been reaching many Hispanic families through a Sunday evening service that has grown from 12 to 152 in one year. On the Sunday of their 1st Anniversary since the start of the new Spanish language service, they confirmed 19 new members of The River of Life and received 29 new members on Affirmation of Faith, for a total of 48 new members of the congregation. The congregation also shared in communion as a part of the celebration of the union of multiple campuses and multiple ethnic/language groups represented in The River of Life UMC.

We will continue to ensure the efficient, effective, and wise stewardship of the Conference funding we receive.

- Better communication to promote the training.
- Better accountability after the training.

Rev. Lucas Hernandez Miranda, Chair, Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries

PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Introductory Comments

The 2009 session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference was held at the Radisson Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin June 14 - 17. The purpose of the Program and Arrangements Committee is to plan, organize and present an Annual Conference session where God's Spirit can be experienced, decisions can be made, friendships can be renewed or made anew, and the church of Jesus Christ, as witnessed through United Methodism, can be celebrated.

Highlights and Accomplishments of the Past Year

The theme of the 2009 Annual Conference session was "Live Enthusiastically". The general focus was on Christian Conferencing, with a specific focus aimed at hearing each other's ideas and opinions on the proposed Constitutional Amendments with a focus of creating regional conferences as a uniform global structure for the church. The conference members voted in favor of all 32 Constitutional Amendments submitted for ratification by the 2008 General Conference.

Highlights of the year included: welcoming The Rev. Dan Dick, who recently worked at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, as the new director of connectional ministries; and participation in the conference by 21 delegates from the Dongbu Conference in Korea, including current and former bishops. The question What If from the Rethink Church campaign was another theme communicated throughout the session in presentations, skits, as well as the cabinet is and lay leader's addresses.

Significant action taken by the conference included the approval of the sale of two beloved camps and the closing of three churches. The Conference also celebrated two new church charters, including Sugar River in Verona and Family Church in Menasha.

Our guest speakers during this year included Timyra Cowling, Speaker and Workshop Facilitator in partnership with The Crossing Campus Ministries at UW Madison, and Rosalind Dryver-Scott who helped conference attendees understand the framework for Holy Conferencing; Bishop James A. Justman from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America preaching at the ordination service; and Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, who gave an inspiring message at the commissioning service.

Worship services were led by musician Grace Cajiua, First United Methodist Church, Appleton. Music for the Monday evening worship in the park was provided by Sheltered Reality, a dynamic percussion group.

During the various plenary and worship sessions we were blessed to recognize the following: The Denman Evangelism Award was presented to Jay Hamann of New Hope UMC in DePere, Gerald and Beverly Fosdal of Willerup UMC in Cambridge, and Gary Holmes of Sugar River UMC in Verona. The Commission on Archives and History's Ministry of Memory Award was given to Lois Olsen, a long-time missionary to Africa and a leading force in the Conference's Museum Committee. The COSROW Bridge Builder Award was bestowed on Julio Alvarado from St. Paul's UMC in Green Bay and Zion UMC in Denmark. The Thelma W. Gregg Award for commitment to mission was given to LuAnn

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(posthumously) and Roger Jones of Emmanuel Community UMC in Menomonee Falls. The Perry Saito Award for social action was given to Barbara Certa-Werner, executive director at Harbor House; and Craig Myrbo, a labor activist and lay member at Sherman Avenue UMC in Madison.

The members of Annual Conference conducted important business and took action on several items that came before them. There were many greetings extended to the Annual Conference members as well as special recognitions and presentations.

Plans for the Coming Conference Year

The 2010 Wisconsin Annual Conference will meet June 13 - 16 at the La Crosse Convention Center in La Crosse, WI. During this Annual Conference session the theme will be "Give Wholeheartedly". The scripture chosen to guide our time together this year is Matthew 6: 19 - 21. The focus will be on Christian Conferencing, with a specific focus aimed at hearing each other's stories and experiences.

This year the Ordination service will be held at the La Crosse Center at 7:30 P.M. on Sunday, June 13th. The Commissioning service will be held on Tuesday, June 15th at 7:30 P.M. also at the La Crosse Center. Retiree Recognition will take place at the La Crosse Center in the afternoon of Tuesday, June 15th.

The 2010 Annual Conference musicians will come from the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Again this year there will be a focus on healthy living as persons will be encouraged to participate in a Procheck Health Screening.

In the midst of much worship and celebration there will also be a great deal of business before the Annual Conference as the members consider the action items that will be presented from various committees, churches, and individuals. It is the continued prayer of the Program and Arrangements Committee that the members of Annual Conference may come together June 13 - 16 as neighbors in Christ to not only conduct the business of the Conference but also to share our stories and journeys with each other.

Claudia Deede, Chairperson

VISION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM

The Vision and Quality Improvement Team (VQIT) is charged with the responsibility of general oversight of the alignment of the mission of the Boards, Councils, Agencies, Committees, staff, and other resources of the Annual Conference with the wider vision and purpose of the Annual Conference and United Methodist Church.

As requested each year by the Council on Finance and Administration, again in 2010, VQIT met together to evaluate and discuss each of the Plans for Ministry submitted in the Conference budget process. This year, three representatives of the “Quad Group”, young clergy and laity who attended our Quadrennial Denominational Training in early 2009, met with the VQIT team. These young leaders continue to be inspired to partner with various constituencies of our conference as we continue to seek ways to fulfill our mission as the Wisconsin Annual Conference

As a result, budget recommendations were made and submitted to the Cabinet for review and then to the Council on Finance and Administration.

With much enthusiasm the Vision Quality Improvement Team affirms the concept and plan for the creation of the Discipleship Leadership Team for the Annual Conference. It is our hope and expectation that the result will provide a needed framework for oversight of mission with ministry.

It is our hope that by 2011 Annual Conference the oversight and alignment work will be the responsibility of the Disciple Leadership Team. As a new visioning team is formed the role of VQIT will no longer be needed. Visioning will continue in a new and innovative form that will continue to move our Conference into the future with Christ and for the sake of Christ in the world.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of VQIT
Bishop Linda Lee

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Introductory comments:

The CF&A's purpose "shall be to develop, maintain and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures and management services for the Annual Conference." (Book of Discipline, paragraph 610)

Highlights and accomplishments of the 2008 year:

First and foremost, CF&A would like to thank the following churches for going beyond all expectation to pay more than 100 percent of their 2009 apportionments, for paying 100 percent of their 2009 apportionments, or for moving toward full apportionment payment by paying a higher percentage of their apportionments in 2009 than in 2008:

(See list printed in the Pre-Conference Workbook

CF&A's primary focus has been on reviewing, approving and monitoring the Annual Conference budget. This process includes

1. reviewing Plans for Ministry and Budget Proposals submitted by the Conference boards, agencies and committees;
2. reviewing recommendations regarding the budget from the Vision and Quality Improvement Team and the Cabinet;
3. discussing the Plans for Ministry and budget with the Conference boards, agencies and committees and
4. evaluating current apportionment receipts for the current year along with economic conditions affecting our local churches
5. using all of this input to propose a budget to the Annual Conference.

The process is designed to assure that the budget is coordinated with the overall mission and plan for ministry of the Conference. CF&A meets periodically to review financial results against budget and to direct and approve the annual audit and to approve changes in administrative policy. CF&A also reviews financial operations of the Conference to assure adequate internal controls are in place and suggests ways to improve finances both from an efficiency and a control perspective.

As of December 31, 2009, the Wisconsin Annual Conference had indebtedness of \$285,116, incurred to fund improvements to the Sun Prairie Conference Center building. Although the Conference has a \$500,000 operating line of credit, it did not draw on that line of credit during the 2009 fiscal year.

For 2009, the Wisconsin Annual Conference paid in full the General Conference apportionments for the 20th consecutive year. In addition to apportionments, Wisconsin United Methodists gave over \$170,000 to the special Sunday offerings and another \$813,000 to Advances and other benevolent giving through the Conference.

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Apportionment receipts in 2009 were \$610,272 less than budgeted in the revised budget. At the same time expenses were also \$407,657 less than budgeted, resulting in a net excess of expenses over revenue of \$202,615. This deficit was taken out of our cash reserves, which at year end 2009 stood at \$578,822, which is \$103,219 below the Conference goal of having cash reserve equal to 10% of the Annual Conference Budget.

CFA wishes to thank all those churches that paid 100 percent or more of their apportionments and those churches that have made significant improvement toward 100 percent giving. We encourage those churches that did not achieve 100 percent payment or improvement in their apportionment giving to work hard at increasing their connectional giving.

Plans for the coming year:

Our most important task is to continue to monitor apportionment receipts and expenses to mitigate financial deficits and maintain a positive cash flow. We will continue to work with the Cabinet to increase apportionment giving.

In conjunction with the Communications office, CF&A is working to better tell the story of the ministries of our Wisconsin Annual Conference.

We will continue to review various areas of financial operation to assure sound internal controls are in place.

We will continue to oversee the Conference Finance Office to assure that the financial duties of the Conference are carried out in an efficient and effective manner.

Mark Geisthardt, Chairperson

Lisa King, Director of Finance and Administration

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Wisconsin Annual Conference is experiencing a time of transition related to youth and young adult ministries. We are revisiting the CCYM and looking at ways to increase involvement and engagement in the coming year. Four young people serve as Co Chairs, with specialized focus on Spiritual Development (Krissy Follman), Resourcing (Nick Pea), Mission Advocacy (Stephanie Chojnacki), and Communication (Melissa Olsan). The purpose of the CCYM is “to connect youth to God and Jesus Christ; to resource equip, and encourage youth in the local church; and to be in mission and ministry.” We will seek to strengthen and develop ministries, programs and projects in these areas. Yvonne Chojnacki has served well as the adult contact with the CCYM.

Much excellent work is being done by youth leaders, young adult leaders, and adult leader with youth and young adults to provide a strong and vital ministry to young people in the Wisconsin Annual Conference. The Junior and Senior High Convos are a highlight of each year, and are among the denomination’s premiere gatherings for youth nationwide. A great deal of thanks and appreciation goes out to all the youth and adult leaders who comprise the Design Teams for these events. Jill Quilling Connery shepherds both Junior and Senior High Design Teams, with the support of wonderful clergy and laity volunteer support. We also give special thanks to Timyra Cowling, the interim youth director (June – December 2009) for her leadership and support. And, of course, these events could not happen as they do without the administrative support and guidance of Diane Williams and Karen Lamoree at the Conference office.

The excellent clergy and laity leadership in this Conference shows just how important youth ministry is. We are grateful to all the young men and women and their adult sponsors who work so hard to make our youth ministry great.

It is our hope and intention to strengthen our ministry in two ways in the coming year. First, we are looking at a very different set of skills and competencies for the Coordinator of Youth and Young Adults. It is our hope that we can find someone to help Wisconsin move fully into the 21st century with skills in communications technology and social networking – better able to connect youth across our whole conference and United Methodist connection. We want to move to the forefront of modern media and communication technology to build our ministries to both youth and young adults.

Second, we are giving special attention and focus to building a viable and successful ministry with young adults. The potential for strong, life changing ministry for young adults is great, and we want to do everything in our power to respond in effective and valuable ways.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Report Not Yet Submitted - Anticipated by June 1, 2010

UNITED METHODIST MEN

No Report Submitted

WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.

A. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is an adjunct ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Foundation seeks to provide specialized services to the Wisconsin United Methodist Congregations and Institutions, Laity and Clergy, and the ministries and missions of our Church.

1. Accountability

INVESTMENT: The Foundation provides options for church-related entities to pool their funds for the purpose of professionally managed investment. Our investment policies are designed specifically to serve the long-term investment strategies of United Methodist ministries, endowments, trustees' funds and other permanent funds. We seek to provide maximum benefits of investment growth and earnings while maintaining a conservative investment strategy and minimizing risk levels. In addition, our funds investment policy operates under the United Methodist Social Principles. While January and February 2009 were still negative returns in the equity markets, the last 10 months of the calendar year produced a major stock market rebound allowing us to regain most of the loss experienced in the 2008 recession. Our primary investment option (50% equity/50% fixed Common Fund) now has a 32-year performance record with an annual average net return of 8.83%. **The 50/50 Common Fund option net return for 2009 was +15.13%. The 2009 net earnings on our Fixed Income Fund were 2.49%. The 2009 net earnings on our Church Loan Pool Fund were 2.91%.** At the end of 2009 funds under management at the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation totaled \$73,991,342.

During 2009 we provided investment services to the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation. We are grateful that we have an opportunity to provide this collegial service to our neighboring Foundation and believe this provides an ideal program of funds management designed for "church monies" with appropriate risk/return levels for a variety of situations and allows the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation to focus on growth and development of additional services.

PLANNED GIFTS: The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation provides an ongoing educational program available to all church-related groups at no charge. We offer charitable giving seminars and workshops, individual consultation with clergy, laity, and local church groups about charitable giving options and assistance in the technical aspects of completing charitable gifts. Our staff is continuously updated in the specialized areas of charitable giving, related tax matters and current trends. We work with other professionals such as lawyers, accountants, and financial planners to complete charitable gifts to the church and its related ministries. Upon request, we also provide counsel in the area of planned giving to local churches. To assist the Wisconsin Conference in charitable giving goals, we have established and operate a Charitable Gift Annuity Program that is certified by the State of Wisconsin. We also serve as Trustee for individually created Charitable Remainder Trusts. The Foundation has planned giving software to assist individuals in charitable gift planning. Through continuous promotion, education, and awareness, we now see significant gifts being received by Wisconsin United Methodist Churches and related institutions.

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STEWARDSHIP: In August of 2009 the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation staff and board members led the second annual Stewardship Retreat at Pine Lake Camp. This event was again co-sponsored by the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries. We served a total of 22 participants and 8 leaders from 16 churches/charges. Our focus this year was on helping participants develop a 3-year stewardship ministry plan for their congregation. Our leadership team included Dan Dick and Ric Olson from the Ministry and Outreach team of the Conference Staff, as well as Dave Busker, Melissa Freiberg and Martha Walton from the Foundation Board of Directors.

In September, we co-sponsored the second annual Stewardship Seminars. David Bell, our colleague who serves as Vice President of Stewardship for the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, was the keynote speaker. David was very well received in all three locations: Black River Falls UMC, Appleton: Emmanuel UMC, and Community UMC in Elm Grove. A total of 140 persons from 60 different churches or charges attended this year.

In addition, Foundation staff led stewardship seminars for three circuits and a regional leadership training event in 2009. These four larger events were attended by lay members and clergy from another 49 churches. This means that in 2009, the Foundation has provided stewardship resources and consultations with members of over 125 different churches throughout the annual conference.

Our staff is available to help organize, train and provide resources to Wills, Memorials and Estate Committees in the local church. We also provide guidance in the development of local church Endowment Funds, and encouragement to on-going program efforts at the local level. We meet with Church Councils, Trustees and Finance Committees to explain the investment options we provide local churches through our Common Fund and Fixed Income Fund. Increasingly we are working with cluster gatherings in Stewardship and Planned Giving educational programs.

In 2010 the Foundation will again be working with the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries to sponsor a Financial Stewardship retreat for clergy and lay leaders at Pine Lake Camp from noon on August 18 through 5:30 pm on August 19. The focus of this retreat will be developing a 3-5 year stewardship plan for their congregations.

CLERGY: We provided our annual “Clergy Tax Seminar” for Wisconsin clergy, at no cost to the Conference. Also, each year at the New Clergy Orientation, we meet with newly appointed clergy serving the Wisconsin Conference to update them on Foundation services. We also provided funding for three 3-month Sabbatical/Study Leaves.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GIFTS: The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation continues to invite applications and award grants throughout Wisconsin. In 2009 these grants and other gifts totaled \$163,268. We hope to encourage innovative and creative ministries, provide scholarship assistance, provide resources for United Methodist missions, and assist a variety of projects in Wisconsin churches. A real highlight in 2009 was being able to award 35 scholarships to promising young United Methodist college students and adults returning for additional education, or persons working towards vocations in church-related fields of ministry. In 2009, the Foundation also doubled the size of our scholarship grants to Wisconsin UM students attending seminary in preparation for service in the Wisconsin Conference awarding 21 seminary scholarship grants for the 2009-2010 academic year.

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Through our Year-End Gifts program, \$171,402 was given to the Bishop's Relief Fund, Minister's Insurance Memorial Fund, Central Conference Pension Initiative, Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries projects and scholarship funds, UM Hospitals Ministry Fund, Licensed Local Pastor Endowment Fund, Scholars Award Program, WUMF Permanent Administration Fund, United Methodist Children's Services, Northcott Neighborhood House, Samaritan Fund, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), and other ministries. For the year 2009, we processed 96 stock gifts for a total of \$475,870. Of this total, \$408,548 was passed through to local churches and church ministries per the donor's instruction. Through our special arrangement with our broker, we are able to process gifts of appreciated stock for local churches at no cost, leaving higher net proceeds for the church.

2. Philosophy and Priorities

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation wants to serve the "connectional church" and seeks to fulfill its underlying mission of teaching, resourcing, and serving throughout our Wisconsin Annual Conference. The Foundation is a totally self-funded ministry, continually increasing our level of services and grants to the life and ministry of the Wisconsin United Methodist Church. Through careful administration and planning, we strive to provide programming, resources and consultation to all United Methodist individuals and congregations in the state, regardless of their distance from our offices. We have an expanded conference room/display area at the Foundation office. In addition to displaying planned giving materials and brochures that are available through our offices, we also have a display of over 20 current financial "stewardship" programs and resources. This is intended to provide lay and clergy with a hands-on opportunity to review annual campaign programs, video and study materials, and other ideas for revitalizing stewardship in the congregation. A brochure summarizing each of these campaigns, ordering information and cost is also available through our office. We exist to serve the entire church!

As of December 31, 2009, our Church Mortgage Loan Program has 35 active loans for churches, including one for the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Loans total \$9.8 million and are often at better interest rates for the congregations, leaving more funds available for programs and other local church expenses. The corresponding Church Loan Pooled Fund is providing other congregations with enhanced investment return over our traditional Fixed Income Fund. Last year, 210 church accounts, and 35 Conference accounts took advantage of the enhanced return available with our Church Loan Pooled Fund. This is a wonderful example of churches assisting other churches.

Three capital campaigns were completed in 2009 for Tomah, Mequon and Delavan UMC's raising a total of \$1.06 million for these building and remodeling projects. Pre-campaign Evaluation Studies was held at one church. Presentations were made about the capital campaign service to two churches in 2009.

Charitable Gift Annuities, available through the Foundation to all Wisconsin United Methodists, continue to be the most popular way for donors to make a gift to the church. Donors establishing Charitable Gift Annuities receive an income payment for the remainder of their lifetime. For donors making "life income" gifts exceeding \$50,000, a Charitable Remainder Trust is still the most frequently used gift vehicle. We take seriously the need for our staff to be current in the regulations and opportunities impacting the area of planned giving, for the benefit of our donors and the church.

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3. Up Date Information

Common Fund - a balanced investment fund for churches and church related agencies 37 new accounts established in 2009. The December 31, 2009 Market Value totaled \$61,359,397 as compared to \$51,999,432 on 12/31/08.

Pooled Income Fund - 32 accounts. Total earnings in 2009 amounted to \$10,545. December 31, 2009 Market Value was \$417,050 compared to \$425,213 on December 31, 2008.

Fixed Income Fund - an investment fund for churches and church related agencies that does not include equities. Of the total 37 accounts, one was established in 2009. Market Value as of December 31, 2009 was \$2,115,698 compared to \$2,189,791 as of December 31, 2008.

Charitable Gift Annuities – 106 accounts. Market Value as of 12/31/2009 was \$1,618,526.

Charitable Remainder Unitrusts – 18 accounts. Market Value as of 12/31/2009 was \$3,614,747.

Grant Awards

Twenty-five Grants Made by the Foundation

Appleton: Zion Korean UMC Language School	\$1,500
Baraboo Ecumenical – Mission Gathering	\$2,500
Bloomington: Faith Alive Charge Family Church.....	\$1,500
Chetek UMC – Junior Youth Fellowship.....	\$4,350
Dodgeville UMC Stephen Ministries.....	\$2,700
Eagle UMC Youth Ministry Program	\$650
Green Bay: First UMC Reusable Tote bags.....	\$750
Jackson: Still Waters Making Disciples in the 21st Century	\$2,250
Kenosha: First UMC Youth and Young Adult Ministries	\$436
Lake Geneva: La Resurreccion Tutoring/Citizenship.....	\$2,500
Lake Geneva: Neighborhood Radio Program.....	\$950
Manitowoc: St. Paul’s UMC Rocking Chairs	\$1,200
Menomonie: The Place Campus Ministry	\$2,200
Milwaukee: Luz a las Naciones Arts/Liturgical Dance	\$2,400
Mineral Point: Parish of the Hills UMC Bright Spots Radio.....	\$2,405
Neenah: First UMC Broadcasting Ministry.....	\$4,900
New Berlin: Our Lord’s Rotation Sunday School	\$2,605
Oak Creek: Stephen Ministries	\$2,700
Onalaska UMC Community Dinner	\$1,000
Reedsburg UMC Hispanic Outreach.....	\$7,400
Rhineland UMC Personal Essentials Pantry.....	\$1,000
St. Croix Falls UMC Chime Choir	\$2,125
Sun Prairie UMC Stephen Ministries	\$2,700
UMW Hmong House of Good News.....	\$3,500
Wisconsin Rapids UMC Shot of Grace	\$1,542
TOTAL.....	\$57,763

g. Report of Gifts to the Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund

The Market Value of the Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund as of 12/31/09 was \$965,341. In 2009, the Ministerial Pension Memorial Fund provided \$15,706 in earnings that are available to the Wisconsin Conference Board of Pensions. The total contributions in 2009 were \$78.

h. Report of Gifts to the Ministerial Insurance Memorial Fund

The Market Value of the Ministerial Insurance Memorial Fund as of 12/31/09 was \$125,257. In 2009, the Ministerial Insurance Memorial Fund provided \$1,861 in earnings. The total contributions in 2009 were \$19,440.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

REV. WILLIAM STEVENS

Stan and Phyllis Strosahl

YEAR END GIFTS:

Darrell and Michelle Behnke
Paul Foulke
Patrick and Kathy Green
Rosemary Groves
David and Ann Harsh
Richard Hinkelman
Virgil and Lorna Holmes
David Johnson
Chomingwen Pond
Philip and Elaine Pudleiner
Paul and Ellen Simensted
Stan and Phyllis Strosahl
David and Hope Warren

i. Foundation Staff

Our President:..... **Rev. William F. Helwig**
Our Vice-President of Finance: **Tom Schaefer**
Our Vice-President of Programs and Resources: **Rev. Jean E. Nicholas**
Our Loan Officer: **Ellen LaWall**
Our Capital Campaign Coordinator: **Lenore Geisthardt**
Our Administrative Associate: **Karen Woods**
Our Treasurer: **Mark E. Perschbacher**

B. HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Continued growth in the number of Investment Fund accounts established by churches, church-related agencies, and individuals setting up charitable gifts for the church. **The number of new accounts established in 2009 was 38. The dollar amount of additions to the Investment Funds was \$10,060,080!**

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2. The Foundation operating budget and program ministries were entirely self-supported in 2009.
3. The Foundation Church Mortgage Loan Program continues to serve the Conference. As of February 28, 2010, 210 church accounts and 35 Conference related accounts were designated to be available to provide low-cost first mortgages to qualified Wisconsin United Methodist Congregations. The Conference and these churches are now partners in mission with other congregations and investing in church growth as well as receiving higher investment returns.

Dan Drew, Chairman of the Board

William F. Helwig, President

MOVING DIRECTOR

Introductory Comments

Purpose Statement: To pay the moving expenses of pastors and laypersons employed by the Conference from the Moving Expense Fund according to the rules of the Conference.

Accountability: The Conference Moving Director (an unpaid volunteer) is appointed by, and accountable to, the Cabinet. Bob Miller was appointed Moving Director starting January 1, 2008 and continues to serve.

Philosophy and Priorities: We use weight and packing allowances as incentives to keep moving costs low as possible. These limits are intended to promote sorting and discarding, and do-it-yourself packing as the normal practice. Conference policies minimize the burden on parishes and individual pastors to plan and coordinate the simultaneous and sequential moves needed to maintain itinerancy. Most moves are billed directly to the Conference, so neither local parishes nor pastors are required to pay large amounts on moving day.

Information

1. The Conference Moving Policy (Section 20.0.0 of the Conference Rules) describes our support of household moves for pastors and Conference staff. Important limitations and cautions are included (Sec. 20.2.3, ff.) to clarify the extent and financial limits of the Moving Expense Fund. The policy and current information are provided to persons who are moving. The Moving Director also advises those who request an alternate professional mover, support for a self-move, or have unusual circumstances.

2. Budget & Expenses.

Budget: At the beginning of each calendar year when the Moving Director is expected to submit a budget to the Commission on Finance & Administration (CF&A) for the moves needed for the next calendar year, at least six months before the current moves are tallied and a year before the number of retirements can be counted. As a substitute, conference moving data have been compiled and are used to make 20, 10, and 5 year statistical projections for the number of moves 2 years in the future. Average costs for the most recent year, current trends and moving industry information (such as fuel surcharges, increasing service and packing costs) are used to arrive at the estimated cost submitted to CF&A.

Expenses: The Moving Director receives all estimates and invoices from professional movers and the reimbursement requests from individual pastors. The estimates are reviewed for unusual and questionable charges. Whenever possible, they are pursued with the movers and/or person moving. Requests for reimbursement of the cost of packing materials, self-move rentals, etc. are reviewed. Once questionable items are clarified, vouchers are prepared and sent to the Conference Treasurer for payment.

Based on the cost of our professional moves within the Conference during 2009, the excess weight charge-back rate for 2010 will be \$36.00 per CWT (36¢ per pound).

3. Moving Costs. Although the trend for a decreasing number of moves continued in 2007 and 2008, the fuel cost and the average weight per move increased significantly. As a result, the Moving Expense Fund budget for 2009 was originally set at \$221,365 but later revised to \$168,365. Due to a reduction in the price of fuel in 2009 and significantly fewer

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number moves the actual cost was \$135,823. Although the total cost was significantly less, the average cost and weight per move continued to increase.

Data for the most recent five years are shown in this table.

Year	Nr. Moved	Avg. Move Cost	Total Cost
2005	64	\$ 2,333	\$ 149,280
2006	56	\$ 2,666	\$ 149,322
2007	77	\$ 3,117	\$ 239,981
2008	62	\$ 3,732	\$ 231,359
2009	36	\$3,773	\$135,823

4. Household Move Load Weights. The weight allowance for household goods and professional materials for a clergy household is 12,000 pounds; two-clergy households are allowed 15,000 pounds. In the following table the average weight for all moves and details on overweight loads for each of the past five years are shown.

Year	Avg. Weight	Nr.	Avg. Excess	Rate/Lb.	Total Charge-Back
2005	8,809 Lbs	9	1,507 Lbs	29¢	\$ 3,932.40
2006	9,337 Lbs	7	2,454 Lbs	29¢	\$ 4,115.87
2007	10,175 Lbs	19	2,873 Lbs	31¢	\$16,919.80
2008	10,254 Lbs	16	2,225 Lbs	36¢	\$13,884.00
2009	10,339 Lbs	11	2,627 Lbs	36¢	\$8,553.60

5. Packing Materials and Labor Costs. Conference Moving Policy says a packing allowance of \$200 is available for each pastor. Hence, starting in 2004, it has been understood that when two pastors in a household are under active appointment the total allowance is \$400. The average, number and total amount of excess and/or unauthorized (e.g. bulky item) packing costs for each of the past five years are shown in this table.

Year	Avg. Cost	Nr. Over Limit	Packing Charge-Back
2005	\$ 97	8	\$1,610.17
2006	\$178	5	\$1,753.93
2007	\$174	10	\$1,914.30
2008	\$181	8	\$3,156.91
2009	\$181	4	\$1,360.18

6. Excess Weight & Packing Charge-backs. When the scale weight of a particular load of household goods (HHG) exceeds the Conference allowance, the unused portion of an individual's packing allowance may be applied to the excess-weight charge. In order to provide further incentive for reducing the weight of household goods, the Moving Director obtained permission of the Cabinet to reinstitute the rule permitting their unused weight allowance pounds to be converted into "dollar credits" at the current charge-back rate ONLY for the specific purpose of offsetting movers' packing & loading costs moves after 2007. There is no circumstance that allows it as cash payment to a pastor.

The following data shows the number of moves and the total charge-back billings greater than \$10 for each of the past five years.

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Year	Nr.	Net charge-back
		Total Billings
2005	9	\$ 4,930.66
2006	13	\$ 8,367.24
2007	23	\$23,970.51
2008	18	\$15,932.05
2009	11	\$12,597.54

7. Administrative Cost. Due to donated resources and postage, there were no expenses submitted. Minimal amount was budgeted for 2010.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Transition Workshop: The 2009 Transition Workshop, led by Rev. Dr. Mark Fowler, Director of Field Education at GETS, was held at Lake Lucerne. This daylong workshop is sponsored and arranged by the Cabinet for all pastors & spouses moving to a new parish appointment and for the Chair of the receiving SPRC. It covers personal, family, and professional concerns that arise when leaving one parish and entering another. The Moving Director is on hand to meet the folks who are moving and answer their questions. Once again, representatives from Graebel Moving & Storage in Wausau attended.

The time of one or two experienced drivers is donated to provide advice, answer questions on moving, and demonstrate ways to pack various household items. They also bring packing supplies that pastors may charge to their move account and take with them.

Moving Director's Survey and Pastor's Moving Report

The Moving Director is required to conduct a Moving Evaluation Survey (§ 20.2.3.g.). Survey Design: The 2009 Evaluation Survey was sent to the households that received professional moves. 50% of the surveys were returned. The current Moving Director's Evaluation is a one-page survey constructed in 2001 to elicit information on topics previously reported in the Conference Journal. Five initial items allow classification of respondents by situation/origin/status (e.g. continuing active pastor/ retiring pastor moving out of state/ conference staff , etc.)

The second set of items use a five point (Likert-type) rating scale. (Very Satisfied -- Very Dissatisfied) for rating the Moving Director (2 items), Moving Company Customer Service staff (2 items), weight estimator (2 items), driver & crew (1 item), information received (5) items, any claims for damage to buildings or household goods (2 items) and satisfaction with responses (2 items).

The final section asked what they did to reduce the amount of household goods going on a moving van. If they reported that they moved things themselves, they were asked to estimate the number of trips, and out-of pocket personal cost of those efforts. The final statement in the survey asked to provide specific suggestions and comments that might help improve the moving experience of other pastors or staff.

Survey Results: Moving of excess weight and the accuracy of estimate were the primary concerns of those that responded to the survey. The degree of the estimate accuracy will continue to be conveyed to moving clergy and reviewed with the moving company.

Processing of charge-back requests to pastors. When a charge-back was requested: a copy of the invoice and a cover letter containing “STATEMENT AND BILL FROM WISCONSIN CONFERENCE” showing the charges for the move, the application of allowances and the charge-back amount due prepared and signed by the Moving Director for review and approval by the Treasurer. They were then sent to the Conference Treasurer for review and signature, thence to the moving pastor or staff member.

Fuel Costs and Advance Charges-- Important Moving Industry Change

Fuel Costs: Although fuel costs were low in 2009, they are expected to increase in 2010, which will be added in the total moving cost again in the form of fuel surcharges.

Plans for the Coming Year

The moving company will continue to improve the detailed information sent with the estimate to allow moving clergy and staff better, quicker moving decisions. The Moving Director will continue to investigate the possibility of using more local drivers for short moves, using less fuel and using alternative packing containers as a possibility for less cost, while promoting being good stewards of our resources.

Bob Miller, Moving Director (2010)

CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Introductory Comments

The Office of the Conference Secretary is one of the “Conference Support Ministries.” As “the keeper of the record” the Conference Secretary indirectly supports the work of all other conference agencies, officers and staff by gathering information about their work, processing and disseminating that information to the members of the annual conference, recording the actions of the annual conference, and communicating that information to a variety of agencies, organizations, and of course the local churches of the conference. The conference secretary facilitates the flow of information among the various elements of the conference by providing contact information in the journal, and maintains a historical record that can be used in future years as a reference of previous conference actions. I also serve as a member of the Program and Arrangements Committee, and work with the other leaders of the Annual Conference to plan, organize, and facilitate the Annual Conference session.

My work indirectly benefits all Wisconsin United Methodists by providing information that will enable the members of the Annual Conference to do their work, the boards and agencies of the Annual Conference to communicate about their work, and the clergy and staff of the Annual Conference to be in communication with one another.

Highlights and Challenges of the Past Year

2009 was a difficult year for the work of the Conference Secretary. In addition to my work as Conference Secretary, I also serve as the Executive Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Changes in the scheduling of a number of my tasks related to the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry required time during the spring and summer which has in the past been devoted to completing the Conference Journal. A number of items required for inclusion in the Journal were not received until mid to late August. The discovery in September of significant discrepancies in address/contact information for conference clergy between the databases used to produce several of the Journal sections required substantial time for correction and editing that was not anticipated. These delays pushed the completion of the directory and journal past the end of September, and into a time period when Board of Ordained Ministry responsibilities again required priority in the use of my time. The Directory Volume was completed and posted on the Conference website in mid-October. However, the Journal Volume was not completed until just before Christmas. It was posted on the Conference Website and sent to the printer on December 21, 2009. This is the latest that the Journal has been completed in my nearly 20 years as Conference Secretary.

On January 25, 2010 I received word from the Journal printer that they had discovered significant printing errors which were not noticed until the Journal and Directory were completely printed and ready to be sent to the bindery. These printing errors were apparently a result of the process of electronically transmitting the books to the printing press itself. The printing errors required a “re-reading” of the entire proof copy of both the Journal and Directory to determine which pages contained errors. Approximately 25% of the pages of the Journal and Directory had to be re-printed before the books could be reassembled and sent to the bindery. I am working with the Journal printer to determine the specific cause of this problem, so that it does not recur in future years.

Plans for 2010 and 2011

1. Beginning in 2010, with the concurrence and approval of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Conference Journal and Directory will only be available for general distribution in electronic format. While the Book of Discipline requires that a certain number of printed copies of the Annual Conference Journal be distributed to specific General Agencies of the denomination, it does NOT require that the journal be distributed throughout the annual conference in printed form. We will only be printing enough copies of the 2010 Journal and Directory to meet the requirements of the Book of Discipline and for use in the Conference offices. The Journal and Directory will be available for download from the Conference Website at no charge. It will also be available as a CD-ROM for a nominal fee. We anticipate that this change in distribution of the Journal and Directory will result in a savings to the Annual Conference of at least \$10,000 per year, and will also reduce paper consumption by nearly 250,000 pages.
2. 2011 is an election year in The United Methodist Church. We will be electing delegates to the 2012 General Conference and considering petitions to the General Conference related to changes in The Book of Discipline. This happens once every four years. The election of delegates and consideration of petitions require additional plenary time at the annual conference session, and there are costs associated with the election and petitions processes that cannot be accommodated within the Conference Secretary's annual budget. Therefore in election years an amount must be added to the budget to cover these costs. This amount is not carried forward to the succeeding year, but is a once-per-quadrennium expense. This additional expense for 2011 is reflected in the budget proposed to the Annual Conference by the Council on Finance and Administration.

The following goals are ongoing each year:

- To keep the record of the proceedings of the Annual Conference, and to publish that record in the Annual Conference *Yearbook and Journal*.
- To facilitate the work of the Annual Conference Session through the publication of the *Pre-Conference Workbook*.
- To improve the accuracy of the *Workbook* and the *Journal*, and to produce them in a format which makes them easy to read and use.
- To explore and implement, where appropriate, new methods of recording, storing and publishing the records of the Annual Conference.

On a personal note, I want to thank the many, many people from around the Annual Conference for their expressions of caring, prayer and support this year, both at the time of my father's death on Christmas Day, 2009, and following my rotator cuff surgery in March. It has been a wonderful reminder to me of the power and importance of our United Methodist Connection. I continue to believe that the most important part of "Annual Conference" is the relationships that we develop with one another. That "connection" has been very real, and very important, for me this year.

It is a great privilege to serve as your Conference Secretary, and I thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary

AFRICA UNIVERSITY: THRIVING IN ZIMBABWE

Africa University has many stories to tell – to the nations of Africa, and the world.

During Zimbabwe's economic and political struggles of recent years, United Methodist-related Africa University continued to educate leaders for all of Africa. For a time in 2009, it was the only institution of higher education in Zimbabwe open for classes. We celebrated our 3,000th graduate with the 2009 graduating class.

In the 2009-2010 academic year, our 1,100 students represented 28 African countries. We have a substantial waiting list of students eager to attend on campus or through our emerging distance-learning curriculum.

For all of this, we thank God for the prayers and support of United Methodists. In 2009, annual conferences contributed more than \$2 million to the apportioned Africa University Fund. That represents 86 percent of the \$2.5 million goal set by the 2008 General Conference.

United Methodists' support for Africa University creates opportunities for Africans to help Africans. Our graduates are living out the United Methodist vision for the Four Areas of Focus:

Leadership: The Rev. Tolbert Thomas Jallah Jr. is a prime example. A graduate of AU's Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance, the former advisor to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is now Secretary General of the Fellowship of Christian Councils of Churches in West Africa.

Global Health: Bigi Ruhigita, a nurse from the Democratic Republic of Congo, earned her master's degree in public health at AU. She returned to Congo to work in a 50-bed clinic she and her siblings founded in honor of their father.

Ministry with the Poor: Isaiah Njimbu, a 2006 graduate, returned to Lubumbashi, DRC, to find many children orphaned because their parents died of AIDS. In response, Njimbu started the Child Action Initiative, a nongovernment organization. Today, this ministry still thrives.

Church Growth: The Rev. Daniel Mhone was instrumental in establishing 28 local churches in the newly established Malawi (Africa) Missionary Conference. He credits Africa University for increasing his capacity as a pastor.

In December 2009, we joyfully celebrated the inauguration of Bishop David Kekumba Yemba and professor Fanuel Tagwira as the university's third chancellor and vice chancellor.

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila praised the university's dedication to Africa at our annual seminar commemorating former United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld.

Every annual conference is vital to the success of the dream that has become Africa University. Your support educates leaders in theology, agriculture, social sciences, health sciences, and peace and justice.

Jim Salley, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

We greet you in friendship, thanking God for your leadership of the church's ministry. Many of you have given prayerful support to the Boston University School of Theology (STH) during the past year, and we thank you. You encourage us as partners in mission and in the pioneering work that has marked our particular mission in the past year. Thanks in large part to many of you, we have traveled the country, heard your hopes for the future, and launched many new initiatives.

What has happened during this year?

- Student enrollment increased in 2009-2010 over the previous year. Our dynamic student body has led STH efforts to respond to the people of Haiti, to enhance the School's sustainability work, and to create new forms of theological dialogue among people with diverse perspectives on God and God's creation.
- The Seminary Singers have revived the annual choir tour tradition, singing their way from Northern Virginia to Connecticut.
- Travel seminars have studied in Cuba and Ephesus (modern Turkey).
- The STH faculty published eight books in the past year, and they were honored with two book prizes, two teaching awards, one promotion to a Boston University endowed chair, and one leadership award.
- Professor Anjulet Tucker joined our faculty in 2009, bringing her expertise in Sociology of Religion and her specialized study on Black Pentecostal churches.
- Professor Dana Robert is delivering major addresses around the world in 2010 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference. The School will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Truman Collins Chair in World Christianity and Mission, sponsoring special events in Fall 2010 and soaring efforts to raise funds for the Chair, thanks to an anonymous challenge grant of \$420,000.
- Co-directors of Contextual Education, Sam Johnson and Elizabeth Parsons, are expanding STH partnerships with local churches, service agencies, and faith-based communities, helping us extend the breadth and depth of our work in contextualizing theological education.
- The ATLAS for Alums Program now provides free online ATLAS Access to all STH alums, enabling them to utilize over 140 journals in their ministries! Please email Maggie Keelan, Development Officer, for the user name and password to ATLAS: mkeelan@bu.edu. We are grateful to the Lilly Foundation for supporting this outreach.
- We are on the road, striving to increase our presence in United Methodist Conferences around the country. Please hold us accountable to this and let us know if you would like a representative from the School to visit in the future!

What is coming?

- The new Master of Divinity curriculum will be launched in September 2010. The focus is “Faith Engaging the World,” and the goals are to prepare spiritually-centered, prophetic, intelligent, practical religious leaders who can contribute to renewing and transforming the church and the world.
- Three faculty searches are underway: the Martin Luther King, Jr., Chair in Ethics or Homiletics, and positions in Religious Education and the History of Christianity.
- The STH People’s History Project is expanding. This is an ambitious endeavor to record oral histories of alums from all eras, particularly the 1950s and 1960s. Contact the Alumni Office if you are interested in sharing your story with us: (617) 353-2349.
- The School has created a bold strategic plan to guide the coming years. The plan is to strengthen support for students, renovate degree programs that educate future leaders, enhance faculty excellence in teaching and research, and support research and continuing education to strengthen the church.
- The School begins a specialized, one-year Master of Sacred Theology program for military chaplains in Fall 2010, responding to their increasing needs to address issues of ethics, trauma, and conflict transformation.
- We are renovating our physical space: the famous ping pong table is back! Classrooms are becoming “smart” with technology, art displays are multiplying, and the first floor has been remodeled for hospitality and comfort. On the near horizon are plans to renovate the basement into a community center, replace light fixtures and windows for energy-efficiency, and improve the handicap accessibility of our building.
- We are developing partnerships with Africa University and two Korean Universities through student exchange and faculty exchange programs.
- Plans are underway for more work in continuing education, including onsite events and distance education opportunities. Our new work will include efforts to make our new certificate programs more widely available. We presently offer the academic certificate requirements for United Methodist Certification in Evangelism, Spirituality, and Sacred Music.

We celebrate our graduates and friends in your conference and our colleagues in ministry throughout the United Methodist connection. We hope to hear from you in the coming year and to build significant partnerships. Our relationship with you is vital for our learning and for our service in this world of many needs. We pray for you and invite you to pray for us as well!

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Guided by our mission *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*, **Candler School of Theology** continues to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by developing leaders called by God to serve in Christian ministry. Our distinctive commitment to both *inspiring minds* and *empowering ministry* enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of nine graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students a learning laboratory that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

To ensure that our students are prepared for leadership in an increasingly global context, Candler has placed a new emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum. In 2009, we established the Office of International Initiatives, led by Dr. David Jenkins, and received several grants related to international engagement. Through one of these, Candler partnered with International Relief and Development, Inc. to send seven student interns to Mozambique, Indonesia, and the Republic of Georgia in the summer of 2009. Other grants are assisting Candler in initiating a national conversation on best practices for internationalizing theological education. In spring semester of 2010, Dr. Wesley de Souza, Arthur J. Moore associate professor in the practice of evangelism, team-taught a distance education class in real time with a professor and students at a seminary in Sao Paolo, Brazil, the first collaboration of its kind at Candler. The March 2010 visit of Roman Catholic Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, ushered in a yearlong special emphasis on internationalization at Candler.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the Contextual Education program continues to shape our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites and churches with academic reflection in the classroom. In any given week, Candler deploys more than 250 ConEd students throughout the region to minister to people in congregations, hospitals, and social service agencies. Last year, Candler's ConEd students provided 1/3 of the service hours responsible for Emory University winning the U.S. government's Presidential Award for General Community Service, the highest federal award a college or university can receive for its commitment to community engagement.

Candler's Teaching Parish Program, directed by Dr. Alice Rogers, continues to expand into more conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, providing United Methodist students with the opportunity to serve churches throughout their seminary education, earn academic credit for pastoral experience, and complete their MDiv degree in three years. Through the Course of Study regional school at Candler and our five extension schools in the Southeast, we oversaw the educational process of 918 people this past year.

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Candler has faced the recent economic challenges with bold initiatives to advance our mission. Although our operating budget essentially will remain flat next year, we are increasing our investment in financial aid each year. Candler's total financial aid commitment in 2009-10 was \$4.7 million. Eighty-six percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 76 percent of tuition. More than \$2.6 million was provided to 191 United Methodist students. We also established Candler Advantage, a program designed to pay rising third-year MDiv students for summer internships in congregations so they can concentrate fully on honing their pastoral skills. In March, we hosted our second annual Leadership Candler event, an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that draws together top prospective MDiv students to explore the richness of life and study at Candler. Last year, 75 percent of the participants in Leadership Candler joined us as students in the fall. Finally, Candler has raised more than half of our \$60 million capital campaign goal.

During 2009-10, Candler celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Sherman Scholarship Fund. Established by Frank and Helen Sherman of Jacksonville, Florida, the Sherman program has provided financial assistance to 868 students preparing for pastoral ministry in United Methodist churches.

Candler's student body continues to attract younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 499, with 391 seeking the Master of Divinity, 62 the Master of Theological Studies, 25 the Master of Theology, 14 the Doctor of Theology, and 7 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 11% international, and 50% women. More than 50 denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 57% of total enrollment under thirty.

Our faculty members continually demonstrate their dedication to the church through preaching and teaching engagements, scholarship, and service in local parishes as leaders in their congregations. This year we welcome two new faculty: Dr. Greg Ellison, assistant professor of pastoral care and counseling, who joined us in fall 2009, and a fellow United Methodist, the Rev. Dr. Arun Jones, who joins us in fall 2010 as the Hankey Chair in World Evangelism. Candler also has produced *A Thrill of Hope*, a church resource DVD for Advent that offers a fresh take on the Christmas story, uniting art, scripture, and commentary by members of Candler's faculty. Watch a preview on our website, www.candler.emory.edu.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its vital relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of *educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you undergird this essential ministry in the life of our denomination.

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Another year has passed and **Garrett-Evangelical continues to strengthen its programs with and for the larger church.** Now in our 157th year, we continue our commitment to preparing highly regarded spiritual leaders—bold leaders—for the church, the academy and the world.

We welcomed another **large first-year class in the fall of 2009**, an extraordinary and diverse group of students. We not only held our tuition costs flat but also provided an additional \$500 grant to all full-time students who were not already on full scholarship. We introduced the Eliza Garrett Scholarship that covers tuition and provides a \$10,000 annual stipend.

Our Board of Trustees has voted to break ground for significant renovations of Loder and Lesemann Halls beginning in May 2010, providing a **new student center (including cafeteria, bookstore, lounges and coffee shop), over 30 sleeping rooms with private baths, new seminar rooms, and office space.**

We are listening carefully to students, faculty, alums, pastors, lay and clergy conference leaders, and persons outside the church to discover how we might better accomplish our core purpose: **“To know God in Christ and, through preparing spiritual leaders, to help others know God in Christ.”** As a result, we are moving forward with a number of exciting initiatives, including the following:

- The **MDiv Plus** program officially begins in the fall of 2010. The only one of its kind in the country, it provides executive education for our graduates for the initial three years after graduation and works closely with annual conferences during preparation for ordination.
- **Distance learning and intensive courses** offered beginning fall of 2010 will allow students to do up to one-third of their academic work in a “hybrid format” (simulcast, webcast and some campus intensive times).
- A revised **Doctor of Ministry** program will begin in the fall of 2010.
- Our efforts to build **stronger bonds with The United Methodist Church** are being led by Rev. James Haun.
- The **Center for the Church and the Black Experience** welcomed **Dr. R. Drew Smith as Director.**
- We continue to provide **initiatives to better serve Hispanic students and churches through the work of our Hispanic Council.**
- **We are increasing the number of full-tuition scholarships** and expanding opportunities for lay education and continuing studies for pastors through online and extension education.

Garrett-Evangelical serves over **550 students** in degree-related courses, certificate programs and our summer Course of Study School. We encourage you to visit us on campus or at www.garrett.edu. We are proud to serve The United Methodist Church, and we ask for your continuing prayers and support as we pursue our mission and our renewed vision. Thank you.

Philip A. Amerson, President

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE

Introductory Comments

As a comprehensive liberal arts college, related to the United Methodist Church, North Central is committed to effective teaching, small classes, and rigorous standards. The College is committed to an education program for the whole person — body, mind, and spirit — that has been part of the North Central College experience since the Evangelical Association founded the College 148 years ago. The College will be celebrating its Sesquicentennial on November 11, 2011.

Accountability

During 2009, North Central College received \$7,100 from the Wisconsin conference. Of the 12 United Methodist students from Wisconsin, 11 received \$181,426 in institutional scholarship and grant aid in the 2009-10 academic aid.

Philosophy and Priorities

North Central College is a community of learners dedicated to preparing students to be informed, involved, principled and productive citizens and leaders over a lifetime.

Highlights of 2009 at North Central College

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT ranked North Central among top Midwest colleges for the 16th straight year and ranked the College as a “best value.” In the fall of 2009, a record number of first-year students, 544, brought the full-time degree seeking undergraduate enrollment to 2,333. 276 students are enrolled in graduate programs.

Highlights in Ministry and Service

Campus Life and Spiritual Opportunities

Chaplain Lynn Pries began his sixteenth year in ministry to North Central this year. Campus Ministry programs include: weekly worship services, Friday evening concerts, Bible studies, retreats, Gospel Choir, and the United Methodist Student Organization. 200 people attended the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast with guest speaker, Tashona Marshall '02. 400 persons attended the 21st Annual Gospel Extravaganza. During the winter and spring of 2009, Community United Methodist Church held their contemporary worship service in the College's Meiley-Swallow Theater with Chaplain Lynn Pries serving as one of the preachers. 15 North Central students were regular participants.

Opening the Campus to the World

Service programs included: ten ongoing projects involving 500 students who volunteered more than 6,000 hours; and 90 students participated in eight weeklong service trips, including an Appalachian Service trip.

Developing Leaders for the Church

The New Visions Summer Company, composed of six students, directed a weeklong program in one church and led four weeks of camping programs including the Music, Arts and Drama Camp held at Pine Lake. Bailey Hinz '09, a fifth-generation graduate of North Central College and a member of Trinity UMC, Lomira, Wisconsin, served as the student

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director of the New Visions Summer Company in 2008 and 2009. The New Beginnings Team, composed of six students, led VBS programs in eight churches. These ministries influenced six students to enroll as first-year students at NCC. Ten NCC students, who are considering a call to ordained ministry, attended the 2009 Exploration Conference in Dallas, Texas. The group included Danielle Clark '11 from the Sparta UMC.

Relationship to the Conference

We affirm our affiliation with the Wisconsin Conference and request continued support by sending us your students and financial support for scholarship aid.

Harold R. Wilde, President

WILEY COLLEGE

Founded in 1873 in Marshall, Texas by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Wiley College is an historically black, primarily liberal arts, residential, co-educational, baccalaureate degree-granting institution affiliated with The United Methodist Church. Wiley College holds the distinction as one of the oldest historically black colleges west of the Mississippi River. This year marks Wiley College's 137th year of continuous service in higher education.

We here at Wiley College believe that education is the pathway to success and we are committed to ensuring that each and every student who enrolls here will leave our institution one step closer to excellence.

Committed to the principles of educational access and opportunity, Wiley College serves traditional and non-traditional students of diverse academic, social, geographic, economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds who demonstrate a desire and potential for learning in a Christian environment that is sensitive to the myriad of student needs. In recognition of its covenant relationship with The United Methodist Church, the College affirms the ideal of social responsibility and seeks to contribute to the welfare and revitalization of the community in which it is located.

In this ever-changing global society, Wiley College continues to foster an environment that encourages and supports spiritual, ethical and moral development, an appreciation for the arts, global awareness, and true compassion and concern for the common good.

As President and CEO of this great institution, I extend heartfelt thanks to the Wisconsin Annual Conference for your continued support and commitment to our students. It is through your support and generosity that Wiley students are becoming creative thinkers, path builders and innovative ambassadors.

Despite the current economic downturn, I, along with the faithful members of the Board of Trustees, remain hopeful and optimistic about the future of this great institution. This past Fall 2009, Wiley College exceeded its enrollment goal and welcomed a historic 1237 students to our campus. This student body is history-making not just for its numbers, but also its diversity. More and more, Wiley is becoming a beacon of hope for all young people looking to be intellectually and spiritually stimulated.

Without the support of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, Wiley College's beacon would be a little less bright. It is because of your sacrificial giving that our students and the Wiley College family will continue to "go forth inspired glorious deeds to do." * (*Wiley's Alma Mater)

Again, thank you.

Haywood L. Strickland, President



WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*We pray and work for the unity and renewal of the church
and the healing and reconciliation of the world.*

www.wichurches.org

Tracing its roots back to the early 1940's with an inter-denominational recreation ministry for young people, the Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) now encompasses 13 denominations with approximately 2,000 congregations and over one million church members statewide.

2009 Accomplishments

Equipping Leaders--The Council's signature educational event for clergy each summer is the Washington Island Forum, which in 2009 drew 160 pastors and lay leaders from 21 states representing 14 faith traditions to hear Forum Presenters Marlene Knopf and Ken Nafziger, both from the Mennonite tradition, address the theme *The Unsung Jesus*. The Council also hosts regional events throughout the year on a variety of timely topics to equip clergy and lay leaders for effective ministry.

Greening our Faith and our Communities--the Council has launched a new public education effort to mobilize congregations in support of the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, a bipartisan effort seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our state. The WCC also co-sponsored the statewide Interfaith Earthkeeping Conference, which equipped pastors and lay leaders to practice environmental stewardship in their local communities

Senior High Convo--brought over 1,000 teenagers from various Christian traditions together for spiritual renewal at the Chula Vista Resort Nov. 13-15, co-sponsored by the United Methodist Annual Conference and the WCC. Keynote speaker Chris Lear addressed the themes of peacemaking and race relations.

Ministering to the Ecumenical Family--a conference co-sponsored by Cardinal Stritch University, brought Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants together for a two-day discussion of living in "ecumenical families" where each spouse comes from a different Christian tradition.

Formula of Agreement Consultation--religious leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Reformed Church in America gathered in 2009 to consider how the full communion agreement between these four denominations can be implemented in our state.

Looking Ahead to 2010

Washington Island Forum--Kenda Creasy Dean, Associate Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary will serve as the 2010 Washington Island Forum presenter on the theme *Almost Christian: What the Faith of our Teenagers is Telling the American Church* June 21-25. For more information about the Forum and all WCC educational events, go to www.wichurches.org/events.

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Beyond Survival: What is God's Future for the Small Church?-the Council is sponsoring workshops in 2010 to equip rural congregations for effective ministry in their local communities.

Addressing the Root Causes of Hunger-the Council continues to advocate for just public policies that provide support for the unemployed and other vulnerable populations during these recessionary times.

Scott D. Anderson, Executive Director

**HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCIES
RELATED TO
THE WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Editor's Note: Health and Welfare Agencies of the Conference have been asked to submit their reports to the Conference Secretary by June 1, 2010. Those reports that are received by the deadline will be printed in the Conference Journal, and an updated version of this document will be posted on the Conference Website prior to the Annual Conference session.

CEDAR CREST, INC.

A Dynamic Community for Senior Adults
Marion Wozniak, President/CEO
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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY HOMES & SERVICES, INC.

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EVERGREEN RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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HARBOR HOUSE CRISIS SHELTERS

A Ministry of Faith United Methodist Church

1531 Hughitt Ave., Superior, Wisconsin 54880 (715) 394-9608

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Harbor House Crisis Shelters is *living, giving and loving beyond all expectation* through our mission to provide hospitable shelter, transitional living and services for homeless women and families. Our goal is to assist guests in attaining housing. Through our mission, we give others the opportunity to experience God's grace and love.

HHCS is the only one of its kind in Douglas County and serves the greater twin ports area. In 2009, HHCS provided shelter for 369 persons, providing over 10,200 shelter nights. Since opening in January 2001, we have served over 2, 245 persons in seven bedrooms. Our Transitional Living Center served 45 people since 2008.

Some Highlights from 2009 are:

- We have been blessed by receiving enough donations and grants to pay for staffing, supplies, operational and programming expenses.
- Our priorities for case work continue to be: increase income; budgeting/credit reports; mental health/AODA referrals; other housing referrals; housing counseling; nutrition/parenting classes; and prevention of further incidences of homelessness.
- We continue with our "Children's Program" to assist children through crisis, anger, stress by providing life skill games, activities, parental hand-outs and off-site adventures.
- Hosted the fourth annual "Homeless Hands Around Superior" event to educate the community about homelessness and how each person can make a difference through volunteering, donations and prayer. We had over 175 participants.
- Host the fifth annual "Homeless Awareness Week," Nov. 15-21, 2009.
- We worked with Wildfire and many mission teams. We thank God and all those that have helped with projects. What a blessing!
- We are slowly renovating/repairing the Transitional Living Center. The program has been developed and is working well.
- Received a Lake Superior Initiative Grant Cycle 2 for strategic planning, fund development plan, volunteer program development, purchase technology, staff training, and a computer program to track donors and volunteers.
- Approved work site for CEP and Experience Works programs.
- We have developed a program with the Superior Area Ministerial Association to combine the resources of community churches with HHCS as the administrator for the distribution of the resources, i.e. gas vouchers, utility bills, and referrals.
- We have re-designed and updated our brochure.
- Applied and approved for property tax exemption for 1603 N. 21st.

Goals for 2010 are:

- Provide shelter for 350 persons and transitional living for 20.
- Complete a "Strategic Plan" and "Funding Plan" for the next three years.
- Network with United Methodist circuits to educate and promote HHCS.
- Develop more spiritual resources for participants in our programs.
- Continual visioning and planning for a third shelter building.

My prayer is that our continued ministry will be a blessing and be blessed.

Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner, Executive Director

NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

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SCHMITT WOODLAND HILLS, INC.

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Introductory Comments

Schmitt Woodland Hills is a small rural retirement community. SWH was founded in 1964 through a benevolent gift by William and Oda Schmitt. Over the years the 54 apartment building has programmatically grown to 25 skilled nursing care beds, 30 CBRF beds, 38 independent apartments with services, 100 plus home service clients, and non-emergency transportation. In addition SWH partners with other community programs to provide resident services. Together with two other area nursing homes we can offer quality therapy services Medicare, Medicaid and Family Care. Discovery Playschool is the foundation of our intergenerational activities; Ocooch Humane Society provides visiting pets from their onsite adoption center; and through Impact 7, 19 very low income HUD apartment units are available to the community. We are nestled in a beautiful wooded bowl offering residents and visitors opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Every room has a great view.

Schmitt Woodland Hills believes in providing older persons with a continuum of quality services which recognizes and encourages their individuality in lifestyle, interest and ability. Our full and part time staff provides family-like support and care to approximately 90 residents and over 100 people in their own community home. Daily interaction with all residents enhances an already strong feeling of home and community. In addition to staff, dedicated volunteers, including area pastors, serve residents. There is an open invitation to express one's commitment to ministry through Schmitt Woodland Hills. Each gift, personal or skill shared, contributes to our Christian environment.

Schmitt Woodland Hills continues to pursue dreams that support our Mission Statement: "Schmitt Woodland Hills and its partners offer a wide range of quality services and facilities through good stewardship and with a Christian philosophy." Our commitment to our mission is affirmed through participation in the Health and Welfare Committee and our "Covenantal Relationship." A part time chaplain is an asset to all of our programs. We strive to make a "Christian Philosophy" real at Schmitt Woodland Hills.

Plans for 2010 and 2011

1. SWH is planning “How do we create a skilled nursing environment that meets the expectations for quality called for in our mission Statement?” Currently, all services are housed under one roof so any decision will be disruptive.
2. We are considering our home services by becoming a licensed personal care agency. This would allow SWH to provide more complicated services directed by an M.D. and nurse to elderly in their own home.
3. SWH has affirmed our commitment to quality by renewing our membership in the nationwide “Quality First and Advancing Excellence” programs.
4. SWH is very proud of our staff and their commitment to our mission. Our staff turnover rate remains below both state and national averages.
5. SWH will continue to advocate for elderly, residents and staff as public policy continues to develop.

SWH is grateful for all the support we receive. Whether in prayer, financial gifts, talents or a gift of time (volunteers), SWH is blessed. Serving people through people in our ministry.

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UNITED METHODIST HOSPITALS MINISTRY

THE VILLAGE AT MANOR PARK