

## VII. LEGISLATION

**P 101 Solitary Confinement**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS Hebrews 13:3 calls us to “Remember those who are in prison as though in prison with them; and those who are ill related since you also are in the body.”

WHEREAS Matthew 25:39, the Great Commission states; “When did we see thee in prison and visit thee? Truly I say to you that as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it also unto me.”

WHEREAS The Social Principles of the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* 2012, ¶164(h) specifies: “To protect all persons from encroachment upon their personal and property rights, governments have established mechanisms of law enforcement.”

WHEREAS the use of solitary confinement is entirely at the discretion of the Department of Corrections. *Ponte v. Real* “In November, 1982 ...the (Pennsylvania) Commissioner of Corrections, Ronald Marks, decided that henceforth all prisoners under sentence of death would be confined in those prisons' Restricted Housing Units (RHU's) in administrative custody.” *Peterkin v. Jeffes*

WHEREAS Pennsylvania taxpayers pay some \$30,000 per year to maintain an inmate in general prison population. It costs them \$60,000 per year to keep the same person in solitary confinement under 24/7 monitoring.

WHEREAS Pennsylvanians held in solitary confinement are in cells 9 feet tall, 7 feet wide and 9 feet long. They have a 6 foot concrete bunk, a 2 foot toilet and a sink. They are held in a zero stimulus environment at least 23 hours a day. It is possible that they may get 1 hour of walking exercise in the cell block. They are allowed 15 minutes to read, and respond to, any correspondence. Food is passed to them through slots in their cell doors. They are denied access to work programs or other rehabilitation efforts. If visitors were allowed, the interactions are conducted with no physical contact. Some Pennsylvania inmates have been held in solitary confinement for over 30 years.

WHEREAS the UN reports that the US holds more inmates in solitary confinement than any other industrialized or democratic nation. In 2011, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment advocated that solitary confinement only be used as a last resort, and for as brief a time as possible. He also called for a prohibition against solitary confinement of the mentally ill, juveniles, pregnant women, death-sentenced prisoners, and as a means of punishment. He further recommended a 15-day maximum term, based on scientific literature establishing that the impact of prolonged solitary confinement beyond that time period runs an increasing risk of permanent psychological damage.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/torture/srtorture/pages/srtortureindex.aspx>

WHEREAS a growing number of states are rethinking the use of long-term isolation, re-evaluating how many inmates really require it, how long they should be kept there and how best to move them out. Up to 80 percent of the inmates could probably be safely moved to less restrictive settings. Inmates who are moved into general prison population begin spending hours outside their cells, or are moved to the general population, within of six months. “Prisons Rethink Isolation, Saving Money, Lives and Sanity” *The New York Times*, March 10, 2012. Missouri completely eliminated solitary confinement for Capital

Prisoners in April 1989. It suffered no increase in violence or incidents, and a substantial reduction in costs. (Alternatives for Death Sentenced Inmates)

WHEREAS the US Department of Justice evaluated Pennsylvania's solitary confinement conditions in January 2014. Investigation of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Confinement on Prisoners with Serious Mental Illness and/or Intellectual Disabilities,(February 24, 2014) They determined that Pennsylvania was in violation of both the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution against "cruel and unusual punishment" and of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church encourages the Pennsylvania General Assembly to develop legislation which provides the Department of Corrections with positive guidance regarding the use of solitary confinement, and limits the amount of time a person may be held in solitary confinement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clergy and laity of the Conference be encouraged to demonstrate their support for this resolution through letters and testimony.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church authorize the author of this Resolution (Roger Thomas) to promptly deliver it to the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee in accordance with Conference Rule 2.3.8.1.3.

Roger Thomas rnrthomas@hotmail.com; Steven Tuell; David Keller

#### **RS 102 Juvenile Justice**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS 1 Peter 2:23 provides, "Christ did not seek vengeance, but trusted all things to the God who sees into men's hearts and judges justly." Exodus 22:3 provides, "You shall not show partiality against a poor man in his dispute."

WHEREAS Pennsylvania has at least 509 people serving life sentences without possibility of parole because of crimes that occurred while they were juveniles. This is more than twice as many as the next highest state.

WHEREAS Senator Greenleaf's 2008 hearing on this problem determined that over 59% of these juveniles had never held a weapon or confronted the victim. Some did not even know that the offense had taken place.

WHEREAS Juveniles serving life sentences are at much greater risk of being victims of suicide, assault and rape while in prison.

WHEREAS 94% of felony convictions are from plea bargains which do not involve trials or juries. These plea bargains implicate other people.

WHEREAS Rep. Rob Matzie, and several other Representatives, have introduced the **Juvenile Justice Act (HB 1005)**, to address this issue. The Bill provides:

(a) An accomplice who was less than eighteen years of age when he committed a crime for which he was sentenced to serve a term of imprisonment of no less than five years, or who was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole eligibility, may be re-sentenced by the sentencing court within ten years after the date of sentencing.

(b) In determining whether to resentence an individual under this section, the sentencing court shall consider the following factors:

- (1) The individual's age and level of maturity at the time of the offense.
- (2) The individual's degree of participation in the offense.

- (3) The nature of the offense.
- (4) The severity of the offense.
- (5) The individual's prior juvenile or criminal history.
- (6) The likelihood of the individual to commit further offenses.
- (7) Other information considered relevant by the sentencing court.

WHEREAS The **Juvenile Justice Act (HB 1005)**, would change the practice of collective culpability in favor of individual culpability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church encourages the Pennsylvania General Assembly to pass the **Juvenile Justice Act (HB 1005)**, which will allow Pennsylvania Courts to consider evidence of the individual culpability of juveniles when reviewing long term sentences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clergy and laity of the Conference be encouraged to demonstrate their support for this resolution through letters and testimony to the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church authorize the author of this Resolution (Roger Thomas) to promptly deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee in accordance with Conference Rule 2.3.8.1.3.

Roger Thomas (thomasrnr@hotmail.com);  
Board of Church and Society, Kelly Smith, Chair;  
United Methodist Women, Barbara Hess, Chair.

### RS 103 ADVANCE SPECIAL ADDITIONS

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS Nancy Denardo requested approval of the following addition on March 1, 2014.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that his list be added to the Western Pennsylvania Advance Special List:

UGANDA CHRISTIAN SOLUTIONS, Nancy Denardo, Founder ndenrn1@comcast.net  
1405 Pike St., Mckeesport, PA 15133 412-780-8636 cell

#SS003900U General Fund to go where it is needed most.

#SS003902U Agriculture.....Provides training, tools and seeds for rural farmers.

#SS003904U Income Generating Micro Business..... Provides start-up funds for a piggery, poultry, soap making, sewing, basket weaving, jewelry making or baking project.

#SS003906U Karen's Wells (in memory of Karen Hazlett, laywoman from Trinity UMC, Brackenridge).....Provides safe, clean water for villages

#SS003908U Local Language Bibles.....Purchases and distributes Bibles printed in local dialects.

#SS003910U Medical Clinic at Mt Olives UMC..... Provides equipment, supplies, medications, and staff salary support.

#SS003912U Pastoral support.....Meet pastors transportation needs with bicycles, motorcycles, and provides training workshops.

#SS003914U Prison ministry.....Ministries for women who are incarcerated, many with their children.

#SS003916U Student scholarships.....Assists primary, secondary, and university students to meet tuition needs.

#SS003918U Wesley Primary School in Banga.....Provides for textbooks, school supplies, and teachers salary support.

#SS003920U Women's Empowerment Center in Jinja.....Conducts counseling, education and training programs to empower women to earn a living, and a better quality of life.

Editor's Note: East Africa Humble School (page255) Erie Center City Outreach (page 296) and are to be deleted from the list of advance specials.

Dale Shunk, Advance Special Coordinator

### **Response to Judicial Decision 1238 and Judicial Decision 1241**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS Missions is an incarnational ministry of the church where we are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to make disciples for the transformation of the world. John 1:14 expresses incarnational ministry as a ministry full of grace and truth, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only son, full of grace and truth." Also as stewards of God's resources in missions we must be faithful and true, 1 Corinthians 4:2 "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."

WHEREAS The People and the Churches of the Former Pittsburgh East District raised nearly \$100,000 for the Uganda Challenge for constructing the Naboole Church building, digging a water well, and providing a mobile maize mill for the churches and the people of the Busia District of Eastern Uganda.

WHEREAS In January 2005, Nancy Denardo and other persons from Western Pennsylvania visited Uganda to see the outcomes of the mission. At the site where the church was to have been constructed, they discovered only an unfinished foundation, and they were told by Reverend Wandabula that the funds had been exhausted.

WHEREAS On four subsequent occasions (2007, 2009, 2010, 2011), Nancy Denardo visited the site to determine whether additional construction had occurred, but she found only a few unfinished walls had been added.

WHEREAS On July 24, 2011 Nancy Denardo made a complaint against Bishop Wandabula following the protocol of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*. In December 2011 Nancy Denardo filed a joint complaint against Bishop Wandabula with Reverend John Kiviiri.

WHEREAS Since the last meeting of our annual conference, the General Council on Finance and Administration met August 16, 2013 in Nashville, Tennessee to consider a request from the president of the Africa Central Conference for "actions that would be necessary to satisfactorily resolve the outstanding audit issues" with Bishop Daniel Wandabula of East Africa. Bishop Michael Coyner, president of the council, listed the steps in an August 30, 2013 response to Bishop Eben Nhwatiwa:

(1) Bishop Wandabula agrees to resign his position as a bishop and surrender his clergy credentials;

(2) Bishop Wandabula pays a full restitution of all unaccounted-for monies identified by the General Board of Global Ministries Audit Committee from the most recent documents submitted by Bishop Wandabula that total being \$757,275;

(3) Bishop Wandabula agrees to the removal of Charles Bamutya as the treasurer of The East Africa Annual (regional) Conference.

(4) In response to these actions, the Board of Global Ministries and the Council on Finance and Administration agree to appoint a financial administrator of the East Africa Annual Conference "to manage properly all conference finances." The administrator would be accountable only to the two agencies and could be terminated by them. "This will be reviewed on an annual basis." (*UMConnections* 9/1/2013)

WHEREAS Since the last meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference Bishop Wandabula asked the Judicial Council for reconsideration of the payment of \$3,000 to Isaac Sebit or the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference and the Judicial Council denied that request in Judicial Decision 1241 with this additional language in a concurring opinion "We concur with the decision not to reconsider Decision 1238. However, we also understand that the Judicial Council retains jurisdiction on the payment of money indicated in part 2."

WHEREAS After notification that Bishop Wandabula and the East Africa Annual Conference had not complied with Judicial Council Decision 1238 and 1241, The Judicial Council made the following motion at its April meeting.

"We instruct the Secretary to write Bishop Wandabula and indicate that the Judicial Council reaffirms Decision 1238 in its entirety. Because the funds were not given to Isaac Sebit by the required date of January 1, 2014, now those funds are to be returned to the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference by June 1, 2014. Copies of the letter to Bishop Wandabula are to be sent to Bishop Warmer Brown, Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, Bishop Tom Bickerton, Robert Zilhaver, Thomas Kemper, Richard Rettberg, Isaac Sebit, and Nancy Denardo. The Secretary should include the full text of Judicial Council Decision 1238...."

WHEREAS After tireless efforts by the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference the \$3,000 was received on May 27, 2014.

WHEREAS The Judicial Council in Decision 1238 states that Nancy Denardo's complaint is still in process. "The Judicial Council, therefore, understands that the complaint process is continuing."

WHEREAS The Judicial Council in Decision 1238 notes "The complainant is certainly entitled to be included in active consultation with regard to the handling of the complaint, and the accused is certainly entitled to fair process. The Africa Central Conference College of Bishops and the Council of Bishops have responsibility for the proper handling of the complaint to its conclusion."

WHEREAS Since the last meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference Bishop Wandabula asked the Judicial Council for reconsideration of the finding that the complaint was still in process. In his request for reconsideration he argued that the complaint by Nancy Denardo was dismissed at a meeting of the Central Conference Bishop's meeting by the College of Bishops. The Judicial Council denied that request in Judicial Decision 1241 retaining the original language of Judicial Decision 1238, "The Judicial Council, therefore, understands that the complaint process is continuing."

**P 104 Request by the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference Regarding Legality of Actions Taken in Regard to Judicial Decision 1238 and Judicial Decision 1241**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Western Pennsylvania Conference officially petition the Judicial Council under the jurisdiction of Judicial Decision 1238, Judicial Decision 1241, ¶2609.5 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline* on the following matters:

To provide clarification as to which paragraph of the *Discipline* and which body of the church currently holds the jurisdiction over the complaint process (Nancy Denardo and John Kiviiri's complaints) that was understood as continuing under Judicial Decision 1238 and 1241. And to further clarify what action or actions that body which has jurisdiction over the complaints is required to take by the *Discipline*.

Nancy Denardo Member Port Vue UMC

Robert Zilhaver, FE Lakeside UMC

SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING

**DECISION 1281**

*IN RE: A Request from the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference Regarding the Legality of Actions Taken in Regard to Judicial Decisions 1238 and Judicial Decision 1241*

**DIGEST**

Three issues were raised by Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference and addressed in Decisions 1238 and 1241. All have now been resolved. Issue one regarding the arrangement between Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference and West Africa Annual Conference was dismissed as a partnership not under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Council. Issue two, the \$3,000 owed by West Africa Annual Conference to Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, was resolved when the money was received by Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference from Bishop Daniel Wandabula. Issue three, a complaint against Bishop Daniel Wandabula, was resolved when the College of Bishops of the Africa Central Conference verified that the charges against Bishop Wandabula had been dismissed. These matters have been resolved, and the Judicial Council no longer has jurisdiction.

Kabamba Kiboko was absent.

Timothy K. Bruster, first clergy alternate, took part in this decision.

October 25, 2014

**CONCURRING OPINION**

Our decision now should put a closure to the unfortunate controversies. A couple of legal lessons cannot be glossed over. First, a complaint against a bishop ought to be carefully reflected upon with circumspection and due respect for the office. Second, if it cannot be avoided, the proper procedure spelled out in the *Discipline* must be strictly followed. The Judicial Council is not the proper forum for such complaint. Well-known is the principle of separation of powers. We have the College of Bishops and the Council of Bishops. Given the growing number of legitimate issues laid at our door, the Judicial Council could be of greater service to the church if its time and energies would not be unduly misdirected.

Ruben T. Reyes

October 25, 2015

**P 105 Request by the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference for a Declaratory Decision Regarding the meaning and application of ¶413, ¶2702, ¶2704 and ¶2706 in the Process of Review and Dismissal of a Complaint against a Bishop**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Western Pennsylvania Conference officially petition the Judicial Council for a ruling in the nature of a declaratory decision (¶2610) as to the meaning and application of ¶413, ¶2702, ¶2704 and ¶2706 in regards to the process of the review and a dismissal of a complaint regarding a bishop regarding, namely:

- 1) Upon receipt of a complaint what is the responsibility and process (including timeliness) of the President/Secretary of the College of Bishops is required to take to initiate a supervisory response process under the provisions of ¶413?
- 2) Who has the responsibility to conduct and who has the responsibility to oversee the supervisory response process under the provisions of ¶413? What is the process (including timeliness) and responsibility of those conducting the supervisory process under the provisions of ¶413?
- 3) Does ¶413 allow the action by the College of Bishops to resolve the complaint without a supervisory response to seek a just resolution?
- 4) Is the power to dismiss a complaint, determined by the College of Bishops to be an Administrative Complaint, retained solely by the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy under the provisions of ¶413?
- 5) Is the power to dismiss a complaint, determined by the College of Bishops to be a Judicial Complaint, retained solely by the Committee on Investigation ¶2704 and ¶2706?
- 6) Does ¶413.3.d as read in context with ¶413.3.e require the College of Bishops to refer the complaint to the jurisdictional or central conference committee on the episcopacy if the complaint is based on allegations of incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to perform episcopal duties?
- 7) Does ¶413.3.d as read in context with ¶2704.1.a require the College of Bishops to refer the complaint to the respondent bishop, notify active bishops of the existence and nature of the complaint, and refer the complaint to an elder in full connection within the same jurisdiction or central conference, who shall serve as counsel of the Church?
- 8) Has the General Conference in ¶413.3.d or in any action under ¶16.5 given the College of Bishops the power to dismiss complaints or make rulings regarding administrative or judicial processes?

Nancy Denardo Member Port Vue UMC  
Robert Zilhaver, FE Lakeside UMC

SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING

**DECISION NO. 1275**

*IN RE: A Request from the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference for a Declaratory Decision Regarding the Meaning and Application of ¶¶ 413, 2702, 2704, and 2706 in the Process of Review and Dismissal of a Complaint against a Bishop*

### DIGEST

There is no provision for anyone other than the Committee on Investigation [¶2706.5(c)(1)] to dismiss a judicial complaint against a bishop. The power to refer a matter as an Administrative Complaint or a Judicial Complaint is granted to the president or secretary of the College of Bishops as the ones with whom the complaint is originally filed (¶ 413.2). Paragraph 413.3(d) permits the president or secretary of the College of Bishops to refer or not to refer the matter as an Administrative Complaint or a Judicial Complaint. If the matter is not referred, it is effectively dismissed.

The other issues raised in the request for a declaratory decision require legislative resolution by the General Conference and are not within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Council.

### ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE

[Editor's Note: the following is an excerpt of the Judicial Council Decision 1275. The complete text is available online from the Judicial Council.]

Response to the first question: In that the contexts for the inquiry are complaints filed in July 2011 and March 2012, the answer is to be under the 2008 Book of Discipline. If these complaints are not the references for the request for a declaratory decision, the request is moot and hypothetical. Paragraph 413.2 indicates that “for the purposes of this paragraph, the United Methodist bishops of the central conferences shall constitute one college of bishops,” but Judicial Council Decision 1149 declared that provision unconstitutional. The remaining language of ¶ 413 lacks clarity. Paragraph 413.3 calls for the appointment of two persons from the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, but does not indicate for what purpose these appointments are made. Paragraph 413.3(b) speaks of the role of the supervising bishop, but gives no definition of who the supervising bishop is. Paragraph 413.3(b) begins with a description of “the supervisory response” as “pastoral and administrative and shall be directed toward a just resolution,” but there is no indication that a supervisory response is mandatory. In fact, the language of the paragraph sometimes implies recommended procedures, not mandatory procedures: “The supervisory response should (emphasis added) be carried out in a confidential manner and should (emphasis added) be completed within 120 days.” It is not clear when the General Conference has mandated action (shall), recommended action (should), or permitted action (may). Paragraph 413 assumes the requirement of a supervisory response, but the formatting and terminology of the paragraph does not make that clear, thus the Judicial Council cannot with complete assurance answer the inquiry about “the responsibility and process (including timeliness) of the President/Secretary of the College of Bishops is required to take to initiate a supervisory response process under the provisions of ¶ 413.”

Response to the second question: The same limitations delineated in response one apply here. Paragraph 413.3 does not specify who has the responsibility to oversee the supervisory response. In terms of timeliness, there are deadlines that are suggested (“should”), deadlines that are permitted (“may”), and deadlines that are mandatory (“shall”). In light of this, no single timeline would be applicable in all cases.



Response to the third question: Although the language of ¶ 413 assumes a supervisory response, it does not make clear that this is a requirement rather than an option. The paragraph leaves unclear how a complaint is to be resolved apart from a supervisory response.

Response to the fourth question: The jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy has the authority to dismiss an administrative complaint [¶ 413.3(e)]. However, if “unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties” means “incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to perform episcopal duties,” ¶ 413.2 does not distinguish between judicial and administrative complaints. Nevertheless, there is a separate paragraph [¶ 413.3(e)] dealing with administrative complaints. This dual approach needs to be resolved by the General Conference.

Response to the fifth question: Judicial Council Decision 1149 declared ¶ 2704.1(d) to be unconstitutional, thus the College of Bishops referenced in ¶ 2704 is the College of Bishops in which the respondent bishop is a member. There is no [provision for anyone other than the Committee on Investigation [¶ 2706.5(c)(1)] to dismiss a judicial complaint against a bishop.

Response to question six: Paragraph 413.3(d) is permissive: “If the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, the president or secretary of the College of Bishops may (emphasis added) refer to matter as an Administrative Complaint (¶ 413.3(e) or a Judicial Complaint (2704.1). Paragraph 413.3e is mandatory: “...the president and secretary of the College of Bishops...shall (emphasis added) refer the complaint to the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy.” The General Conference is the body to clarify the conflict. See Judicial Council Decision 557.

Response to question seven: Paragraph 413.3(d) permits the president or secretary of the College of Bishops to refer or not to refer the matter as an Administrative Complaint or a Judicial Complaint. If the matter is not referred, it is effectively dismissed. Paragraph 2704.1a describe the process for handling a complaint that is referred as a judicial complaint. If the matter has not been referred, ¶ 2704.1a is not applicable.

Response to question eight: Paragraph 413.3(d) indicates that “...the president or secretary of the College of Bishops may (emphasis added) refer the matter as an Administrative Complaint [¶ 413.3(e)] or a Judicial Complaint [¶ 2704.10].” This provision does not grant that authority to the entire College of Bishops. The power is granted to the president or secretary as the ones with whom the complaint is filed (¶ 413.2).

In summary, the Judicial Council notes that there are portions of ¶ 413 that lack clarity and which, in fact, give contradictory processes. In the instant case, the point of reference is the Discipline 2008, but these murky areas have not been addressed by the 2012 Discipline. There would be value if a future General Conference harmonized this paragraph. Judicial Council Decision 557 says that when two options are presented, “Neither Par. 455.1 nor Par. 2623.3(b) [1984 Book of Discipline] is assured of

precedence. The district superintendent who first receives the grievance or accusation may determine which process shall be initiated, depending on the nature of the grievance or accusation and the surrounding circumstances.” This determination applies in the instant case.

Kabamba Kiboko was absent.  
Timothy K. Bruster, first clergy alternate, took part in this decision.  
October 25, 2014

### **RS 202 Ethnic Ministry Sub-Teams**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing connection for ministry beyond the local church ¶601;

WHEREAS the annual conference is responsible for structuring its ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose, ¶610;

WHEREAS each annual conference is responsible to focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within its boundaries by developing and strengthening ethnic ministry, including ethnic local churches and concerns, ¶608.5;

WHEREAS there shall be an annual conference committee on Native American ministry or other structure to provide for these ministries ¶654;

WHEREAS the annual conference is encouraged to establish a committee on Hispanic Ministries or other structure to support the ministry ¶655;

WHEREAS the Western Pennsylvania has a strong work area and Conference Committee on Ethnic and Local Church Concerns that provides for maintaining connectional relationship in areas of vision, resourcing, dialogue, training, and promotion of ethnic and local church concerns ¶632;

WHEREAS the Annual Conference has a vision to create vital congregations within the context of our local ministry areas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Conference affirm the ministry and connectional relationship of the Conference Committee on Ethnic and Local Church Concerns and its connectional responsibility for the ministry concerns of ethnic minorities within the boundaries of the conference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ministry and structure of Native American Ministries within Western Pennsylvania be developed and maintained as a Sub-team of the Conference Committee on Ethnic and Local Church Concerns, having amenability to that committee on all matters;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee on Ethnic and Local Church Concerns also be given authority to develop and strengthen ministry among the Hispanic and Korean communities within Western Pennsylvania, and others as populations and concerns rise;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the newly formed Sub-team chairperson(s) be a member with voice and vote on the Committee on Ethnic and Local Church Concerns;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee on Ethnic and Local Church Concerns also be given the authority to keep connection with and help implement current General Church ethnic ministry plans and any such plans that may be adopted in the future by the General Church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nominations and leadership recruitment team fill the positions necessary for membership be representative of the sub-team(s).

La-Von Kincaid, Chair, Nominations and Leadership Recruitment

Louise Patterson, Chair, Connectional Leadership Table

Gregory D. Cox, DCM

#### **P 204 Change of Appointment Leave**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS Matthew 11:28-30 reads, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (NIV)

WHEREAS the Clergy Health Initiative at Duke Divinity School’s study has shown that rate of depression among clergy (11.1%) is double the national average (5.5%).

WHEREAS the same study has shown that the clergy rate of anxiety is also significantly high at 13.5%.

WHEREAS the study also states, “A number of factors were found to be powerful predictors of depression and anxiety, most notably job stress. Clergy engage in many stressful activities, including grief counseling, navigating the competing demands of congregants, and delivering a weekly sermon that opens them up to criticism. The strain of these roles is further amplified by having to switch rapidly between them...those who reported feeling socially isolated—were at higher risk...”

WHEREAS the University of Maryland Medical Center reports that “Acute (sudden or short-term) stress leads to rapid changes throughout the body...repeated stressful situations put a strain on the body that may contribute to physical and psychological problems.”

WHEREAS acute stressors include, but are not limited to: danger (or fear of danger), isolation, imagining a threat.

WHEREAS, chronic stressors include, but are not limited to: ongoing work pressure, inability to create or maintain long-term relationship, loneliness, and persistent financial worries.

WHEREAS the itinerant system of United Methodist Clergy inherently includes acute stressors including, but not limited to, the fear involved in moving to a new community and the isolation created by moving into the new community away from developed relationships.

WHEREAS the itinerant system of United Methodist Clergy inherently includes chronic stressors including, but not limited to: unknown work demands of the new appointment, the disruption and possible loss of long-term relationships, loneliness in the new community and the financial transitions.

WHEREAS the health and well-being of United Methodist Clergy continues to worsen and the depression and anxiety rates continue to increase exponentially to the national rate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Western Pennsylvania Conference clergy, who are being reappointed to a new charge, may be released from their pastoral responsibilities (in consultation with the present PPRC and the District Superintendent) to their current appointment effective 14 days prior to the start date of the new appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this time to be taken not be considered vacation time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pastoral compensation for the pastor is to be continued by the current appointment during the 14 day change of appointment leave.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that clergy are to use this time as a period of preparation for the new appointment in ways that will reduce the acute stressors that are part of itinerancy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church create, develop and implement stress managing programs specifically for clergy being appointed to new settings, by the 2015 appointment year.

Scott L.F. Gallagher, Elder

### **P 205 Setting Clergy Compensation Dialogue**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the goal is to encourage theological discussions, especially on clergy compensation, in our Annual Conference, to strive for continued discernment of God's will.

WHEREAS 2011 Annual Conference *Journal* page 227 printed in the Daily Proceedings:

**RS304 BASE COMPENSATION FOR PASTORS** – Mark Stewart moved concurrence as amended by section three, 91-34-7. After a sustained call for the previous question and prayer, it was approved as amended by Stephanie Gottschalk.

Motions:

Stephanie line 35, after the word ministry add, “and also prayerfully consider giving a matching amount to the Western PA Conference Equitable Compensation Fund, Mission Support Fund, or the Central Conference Pension Fund in Keeping with the Spirit of Acts 2:42-47. Approved.

THEREFORE BE IT RSOLVED that the Commissions on Equitable Compensation shall facilitate with appropriate people/committees: 1) Obtain information from other Annual Conferences Commissions on Equitable Compensation, specifically their letters on how to set the pastor's salary. The purpose would be to identify theologically based criteria for setting clergy compensation. 2) Explore how the Proposed Just Compensation Theory below can be incorporated in to our Annual Conference's Commission on Equitable Compensation's letter on "How to set your pastor's salary for 2016" in conjunction with input from our Annual Conference and other Annual Conferences during 2014 and 2015.

Proposed Just Compensation Theory for Clergy

- Love and justice within the gracious presence and power of God are the basis for all of Christian life.
- The Christian goal is not a particular class level or style of life for some, but abundant living for all, with no one living in poverty.
- God knows what a just wage might be, and our challenge is to wrestle with discerning the level that permits living with a balance of material and spiritual necessities.
- Each individual, family, and congregation must discern an appropriate level of clergy compensation for each specific situation, using the core values of love and justice.

- Clergy compensation and lifestyle should be a positive witness to the Gospel, not self-centered or excessive.
- Neighbors should describe clergy lifestyle as simple and loving, always thinking of others and the world about us.

Dennis Johnson, Elder

**RS 301 Part-time General Evangelist Christine Rogan**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS Christine Rogan has been approved as a General Evangelist by the Western PA Conference in 2006 through 2009 and 2012 through 2014,

WHEREAS Christine Rogan is seeking this designation again,

WHEREAS Christine Rogan has been approved by the conference Evangelism Committee to serve as a Part-time General Evangelist,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference recommends, in keeping with the 2012 *Discipline* ¶630.3.f & ¶1112.7 that for the conference year 2014-2015, Christine Rogan be appointed as Part-time General Evangelist amenable to the conference Evangelism Committee without conference support for benefits.

Paul Morelli, Chair, Evangelism Committee

**RS 302 General Evangelist: John Zimmerman**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS John Zimmerman has been approved as a part-time General Evangelist by the Western PA Conference for the conference year 2013-2014,

WHEREAS John Zimmerman has fulfilled the requirements of the standard for initial approval for full-time General Evangelist,

WHEREAS, John Zimmerman is seeking designation this year as full-time General Evangelist for 2014-2015,

WHEREAS, John Zimmerman has requested through his District Superintendent to be considered for appointment as full-time General Evangelist,

WHEREAS, John Zimmerman has requested BOOM consideration as full-time General Evangelist,

WHEREAS John Zimmerman has received approval by the conference Evangelism Committee to serve as a full-time General Evangelist,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference recommends, in keeping with the 2012 *Discipline* ¶630.3.f & ¶1112.7 that for the conference year 2014-2015, John Zimmerman be appointed as full-time General Evangelist amenable to the conference Evangelism Committee and per the request of his superintendent, he will receive conference compensation for CPP, Pension, and Death and Disability benefits and Hospitalization/Health Insurance.

Paul Morelli, Chair, Evangelism Committee

**RS 303 Conference Evangelist Luella Krieger**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS Luella Krieger has been approved as a full-time Conference Evangelist by the Western PA Conference for the conference year 2013-2014,

WHEREAS Luella Krieger has fulfilled the requirements of the standard for initial approval for full-time Conference Evangelist,  
 WHEREAS Luella Krieger has been approved by the Conference Evangelism Committee to serve as a full-time Conference Evangelist,  
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference recommends, in keeping with the 2012 *Discipline* ¶ 630.1.i & ¶ 630.3.1 that for the conference year 2014-2015, Luella Krieger be appointed as a full-time Conference Evangelist amenable to the conference Evangelism Committee, with Conference support for Hospitalization/Health Insurance, Pension, and Death and Disability benefits.

Paul Morelli, Chair, Evangelism Committee

### RS 304 BASE CASH COMPENSATION FOR PASTORS

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS The *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* 2012 (hereafter called *Discipline*) assigns the responsibility to the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee to consult with the pastors and staff on matters pertaining to compensation proposals and benefits, and to make annual recommendations regarding such matters,  
 WHEREAS the ultimate decision of the Pastor's compensation is voted upon separately by the charge conference (See *Discipline* ¶247.13 and ¶252.4d),

WHEREAS the *Discipline* requires each annual conference to set a schedule of minimum base cash compensation for the full-time pastors appointed (See *Discipline* ¶625.3),  
 WHEREAS many churches within the Western PA Conference are suffering financially as is the general economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the minimum Base Cash Compensation for Pastors serving full-time in the Western PA Conference for the year 2015 be kept the same with the exception of full-time Local Pastors which is adjusted to meet the requirements of General Board of Pension in relation to the Comprehensive Protection Plan. This shall be as follows:

Full Conference Member (FE).....	\$39,160
Associate Conference Member (AM).....	\$37,960
Provisional Member (PE) .....	\$35,699
Full Time Local Pastor (FL) .....	\$35,169
Deacons under appointment of the Bishop (See <i>Discipline</i> ¶331.14)	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the local charge/church considers extending a MERIT INCREASE to their pastor based upon the pastor's faithful, effective and fruitful ministry,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pastors serving multi-point charges, or multiple appointments, will receive a "Multiple Charge/Appointment Adjustment" of \$400 for each additional church, beyond the initial church. Pastors will have the option to have the amounts added to their Accountable Reimbursement Account,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that although there is no minimum compensation for Part-time local Pastors, charges served by them should observe the stated principle of the Western PA Conference in setting the compensation and benefit package at a level proportionate to his/her workload, using the base compensation and benefit package of a full-time pastor as a guideline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Equitable Compensation will advise local churches by mail of the most current cost of living (CPI) figure and current minimum Base Cash Compensation by July 30, 2014.

Corben M. Russell, Chair, Commission on Equitable Compensation

#### **RS 305 ACCOUNTABLE REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the Commission on Equitable Compensation has been given the task of recommending to the annual conference standards of pastoral support and the pastoral support package,

WHEREAS the pastoral support packages includes an amount for Accountable Reimbursement expenses,

WHEREAS the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee in each local church is responsible for submitting to their respective charge conference a pastoral support package,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each charge shall continue to maintain an Accountable Reimbursement Account for its Pastor (s) from which will be reimbursed Expenses such as travel, continuing education, books, etc. Reimbursement will occur upon presentation of vouchers or receipts for legally reimbursable expenses, as the Internal Revenue Service defines them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Accountable Reimbursement Account shall be established at no less than \$5,000 per full time pastor for the year 2015. The Accountable Reimbursement Account shall be treated as a separate line item distinct from cash salary. Charges may set the amount for the account at a higher level if circumstances of the charge warrant such an increase. Mileage shall be reimbursed at the rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

Note: Please refer to the annual document published by the General Council on Finance and Administration, titled "Tax Information." This will give you the complete guidelines for establishing and maintaining an accountable reimbursement account. This document can be downloaded at [www.gcfa.org](http://www.gcfa.org).

Corben M. Russell, Chair, Commission on Equitable Compensation

#### **RS 306 CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCE RESOLUTION**

for District Superintendents and Conference Staff

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for district superintendents, clergy executive officers of the Conference, or clergy staff of the Conference;

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

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

WHEREAS the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for Clergypersons who are members of this Conference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that for the year 2015, of the annual compensation paid to each district superintendent, clergy executive officer of the Conference, or clergy staff of the Conference, living in a Church-provided parsonage, the amount of \$10,000 be designated as a housing allowance, excluded from gross income pursuant to Section 107, 1986 Internal Revenue Code;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an amount equal to 100% of the annual compensation paid to each clergy executive officer of the Conference, or clergy staff of the Conference, living in his/her own home or rental home, be designated as a rental/housing allowance for income tax purposes for the year 2015.

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

Corben M. Russell, Chair, Commission on Equitable Compensation

### P 307 ON EVOLUTION, CHRISTIAN TEACHING and EUGENICS

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

Scriptural Foundation: *Genesis* 1:1-2:4a, *Romans* 1:20, *John* 1:1-5

WHEREAS: We believe science and theology are fully complementary rather than mutually incompatible. (2012 ¶160 F)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference petition the 2016 General Conference to amend the *Book of Discipline*, Science and Technology 160F line 6 by deleting "cosmological, geological, and biological evolution" and substituting the following: "cosmology, geology, and biology".

**160 F) Science and Technology**— We recognize science as a legitimate interpretation of God's natural world. We affirm the validity of the claims of science in describing the natural world and in determining what is scientific. We preclude science from making authoritative claims about theological issues and theology from making authoritative claims about scientific issues. We find that science's descriptions of ~~cosmological cosmology, geological geology, and biological biology evolution~~ are not in conflict with theology. We recognize medical, technical, and scientific technologies as legitimate uses of God's natural world when such use enhances human life and enables all of God's children to develop their God-given creative potential without violating our ethical convictions about the relationship of humanity to the natural world. We reexamine our ethical convictions as our understanding of the natural world increases. We find that as



science expands human understanding of the natural world, our understanding of the mysteries of God's creation and word are enhanced.

ADOPTED 1996  
 AMENDED AND READOPTED 2004  
 AMENDED AND READOPTED 2008  
 AMENDED AND READOPTED 2012

**P 308 Let Us Be Clear On Creation**

(Adopted 06-06-2014)

Scriptural Foundation: *Romans* 1:20 "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."(NAS)

WHEREAS historically within Wesleyan and United Brethren traditions, Creation has been an explicit Doctrinal Standard of the Church, a review of the language in the *Book of Discipline* reveals that since its formation in 1968, Creation has been the implicit Doctrinal Standard of The United Methodist Church. Because of the confusion and divisiveness that has arisen both inside and outside the denomination over the 2008 General Conference's amending of ¶160 E) Science and Technology through Petition 80050 to read: (2012¶160F) "We find that science's descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with theology.", the UMC needs a clear and concise Statement of Principle on Creation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference petition the 2016 General Conference by its right within The United Methodist Church, and its responsibility before God, to adopt a Statement of Principle on the topic of Biblical Creation for the denomination in the *Book of Resolutions*.

Cathy Preston, Trinity United Methodist Church, Erie PA

Pastor James Eaton, Trinity United Methodist Church, Erie PA

Unanimously approved by Trinity UM Erie Church Council January 26, 2014

Trinity United Methodist Church, Erie PA members (Don Kindle, Janet Mazor, Gregg Bastow, Dottie Stewart, Marlin Byerly, Maureen Eaton, Wilbur Shepard, Lee Tillman,

Kathy Tillman, Jeanne Brown, Ron Brown, Fred Gravatt, Sunny Morehouse, Sam Zeisloft, Jen Shaffstall, Joe Shaffstall, David Hewett)

Pastor Dale Shunk Somerset: First UMC, Somerset PA

Unanimously approved by Somerset: First UM Church Council February 24, 2014

Pastor Mel Bendig Calvary UMC, Albion, PA

Calvary UM Church Counsel Albion, PA

Paul Morelli, Lakeside UMC, Dubois PA

Wesley UMC, Wesleyville, PA members ( Carol Steele, Cindy Myers, Cindy Tinsley, John C Morton, Kerry L Morton, Doris M. Hinkler, Peg Coffman, Helen Walburn, Helen Canter, Janet Douthett, Don Wolfgang, Margie Wolfgang, Don Blue, Lucille Blue Irwin

L.(Lee) Coleman

**RS 401 FUNDING FOR MINISTRY FOR 2015**

Connectional Apportionment Budget

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS ¶ 614 of *The Book Of Discipline* mandates that the Conference Council on Finance & Administration recommend to the annual conference for its action and determination budgets of anticipated income and proposed expenditures for all funds to be apportioned to churches.

WHEREAS The Rationale for the Mission of The United Methodist Church listed in ¶121 of *The Book Of Discipline* states: “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and by exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God’s reign and realm in the world.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference Apportionment based on the Formula  $CA=E \times (P \pm i)$ , as adopted at Annual Conference 2011 in RS 401 Funding for Ministry.

Where CA represents a local church’s Connectional Apportionment

E represents the local church’s “Operations Costs,”

P represents the “Base Percentage,”

and i represents the local church’s “Percentage Adjustments.

1) In accordance with RS 402-Mission Share Formula adopted 6/9/2000, the Base Percentage recommended by the Conference Council on Finance & Administration to reach the proposed Connectional Apportionment Budget for 2015 is 15%.

2) Changes in the 2015 Connectional Apportionment Budget would require the Conference Council on Finance & Administration to make an appropriate adjustment in the Base Percentage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 District Superintendents salaries be the average of 140% of the conference average clergy salary for 2014;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference Connectional Apportionment Budget be as follows:

		2015	2013	2014	2015
		Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
			<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries</b>					
<b>Connectional Leadership Table</b>					
1000	Administrative		\$12,757.44	\$43,000.00	\$28,500.00
1010	Ministry Pool			\$0.00	\$1,000.00
2000	Nurture Ministries Team Pool - See Ministry Teams Below		\$12,757.44	\$0.00	\$0.00
3000	Outreach Ministries Team Pool - See Ministry Teams Below			\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00
4000	Witness Ministries Team Pool - See Ministry Teams Below			\$16,000.00	\$9,000.00
5000	Administration Ministries Team Pool - See Ministry Teams Below			\$16,500.00	\$9,000.00
				\$500.00	\$500.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2013 Budget Actual Expenses	2014 Budget Adopted	2015 Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Connectional Nurture Ministries Team</i>				
		\$483,901.85	\$614,502.00	\$635,695.00
<i>Board of Ordained Ministry</i>				
2010	<b>Board of Ordained Ministry</b> - Scholarships for those pursuing the ministry paid by General Church Apportionments, 50% of which are used within the Western PA Annual Conference for scholarships	\$28,382.61	\$179,002.00	\$165,695.00
2011	<b>Board of Ordained Ministry - Administrative</b>	\$11,822.16	\$114,002.00	\$110,695.00
2020	<b>Pool</b>	\$16,560.45	\$65,000.00	\$50,000.00
			\$0.00	\$5,000.00
<i>Camping &amp; Retreat Corporations Committee</i>				
2100	<b>Camping</b> - Coordination & promotion.	\$347,203.30	\$321,000.00	\$331,000.00
2110	<b>Camping</b> - Summer Staff Salaries	\$175,157.51	\$221,000.00	\$221,000.00
2120	<b>Clergy and Laity Leadership Development</b>	\$3,838.43	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
2130	<b>Combined Camp Distributions</b>	\$168,207.36	\$0.00	\$10,000.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2013 Budget Actual Expenses	2014 Budget Adopted	2015 Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Episcopacy</i>				
2200	Administrative Pool - includes gifts for episcopal family and administrative expenses	\$64,771.82	\$77,000.00	\$77,000.00
2220	Episcopal Residence Capital Fund - Mortgage	\$5,200.56	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
2230	Episcopal Residence Operating Exp and Maint.	\$28,452.14	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
		\$31,119.12	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
<i>Laity Board</i>				
2300	Laity Ministry Team	\$14,876.17	\$7,500.00	\$15,000.00
2310	Laity Scholarships	\$106.21	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
2320	Training and events	\$12,558.00		\$5,000.00
2330	CLM Training	\$2,211.96	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
				\$2,500.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2013 Budget Actual Expenses	2014 Budget Adopted	2015 Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Leadership &amp; Nominations</i>				
2400	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>United Methodist Men</i>				
2500	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>United Methodist Women</i>				
2600	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Young Adult Ministry</i>				
		\$2,484.47	\$0.00	\$500.00
2700	Administrative Pool - Requested minimal	\$2,484.47	\$0.00	\$500.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Youth Ministry</i>				
2800	Pool	\$24,683.48	\$30,000.00	\$46,500.00
2810	Administrative Costs	\$1,270.98	\$30,000.00	
2815	Annual Conference			\$2,000.00
2820	Leadapalooza	\$0.00		\$2,500.00
2825	SPARK- Recovery of investment through registrations			\$2,000.00
2830	Uth 4 Missions	\$12,462.67		\$5,000.00
2835	Youth Worker Retreat			\$9,000.00
2840	Continuing Education			\$1,500.00
2845	Intern: Assist for Conf Youth			\$1,500.00
2850	NEJ Youth Participation			\$11,000.00
2855	Global Young Persons Convocation	\$0.00		\$2,000.00
2860	Pilgrimage program			
2865	Youth Service	\$10,949.83		\$10,000.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<i>Connectional Outreach Ministries Team</i>				
<i>Church &amp; Society</i>				
		\$480,012.43	\$566,962.00	\$866,350.00
3010	Administrative	\$13,291.64	\$20,000.00	\$13,000.00
3020	Funding UM Witness in PA	\$60.00		\$3,000.00
3030	Training	\$13,231.64	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00
<i>Disability Concerns</i>				
		\$3,402.09	\$3,000.00	\$4,500.00
3100	Pool	\$3,402.09	\$3,000.00	
3110	Expansion of Disabilities Retreat			\$1,500.00
3120	Conference and District Resources			
3130	Local Church Training			\$1,500.00
3140	Disability Awareness			\$1,500.00



2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Ethnic Local Church Concerns</i>				
3200	Pool	\$54,602.61	\$40,000.00	\$150,000.00
3210	Anti-Racism Team	\$54,602.61	\$40,000.00	
3220	Crossroads Ministry Training			\$10,000.00
3230	New Racial Ethnic Church Plant			\$100,000.00
3240	Administration			
3250	Ethnic Local Church Grants			\$25,000.00
3260	Ethnic Church Development			
3270	Cross Racial Appointments			\$15,000.00
<b>Global Health Initiatives Team</b>				
3300	Conference to Conference, Coordinator, Immersion Program, and Laity School	\$165,854.45	\$207,462.00	\$175,000.00
3310	Transfer to Ebenezer and Immersion Projects	\$0.00	\$107,462.00	\$175,000.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2013 Budget Actual Expenses	2014 Budget Adopted	2015 Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Global Ministries</i>				
		<b>\$222,510.68</b>	<b>\$280,000.00</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>
3400	Pool	\$32,723.99	\$280,000.00	\$20,000.00
3410	Mission Support Ongoing Ministries Funding	\$130,251.40		\$235,000.00
3420	Mission Support Western PA Missionaries	\$11,750.00		\$35,000.00
3430	Mission Support New Ministry Funding	\$11,000.00		\$88,000.00
3440	Mission Support Mission Church Funding	\$2,500.00		\$20,000.00
3450	VIM Director	\$15,200.00		\$15,000.00
3460	Disaster Response	\$19,085.29		\$2,000.00
3470	Conference to Conference Mission Relationships			\$85,000.00
<i>Health as Wholeness</i>				
		<b>\$3,638.99</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
3500	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$3,638.99	\$0.00	\$0.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Native American Ministries</i>				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>3600</b>	<b>Administrative - See RS402 Other income (Advance Specials)</b>		\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Poverty Team</i>				
		\$15,850.00	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00
<b>3700</b>	<b>Pool</b>	\$15,850.00	\$15,000.00	
<b>3710</b>	<b>Poverty Grants</b>			\$10,000.00
<b>3720</b>	<b>Systemic Poverty Initiatives</b>			\$5,000.00
<b>3730</b>	<b>Scholarships for training events</b>			\$500.00
<b>3740</b>	<b>Poverty Awareness Events</b>			\$1,500.00
<b>3750</b>	<b>Poverty Simulators</b>			\$1,000.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Religion &amp; Race</i>				
3800	Administration	\$85.56	\$500.00	\$1,150.00
3810	Resources	\$85.56	\$500.00	\$100.00
3820	Identify & connect all people of color and ethnicity			\$250.00
3830	Training & Support for Cross Racial Appointments			\$500.00
3840	People of Color Event			\$300.00
<i>Status &amp; Role of Women</i>				
3900	COSROW - Pool	\$776.41	\$1,000.00	\$4,700.00
3910	Operating Expenses	\$776.41	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
3920	Monitoring Annual Conference 2015			\$700.00
3930	Clergy Women's gathering			\$1,000.00
3940	Educational Initiative			\$1,000.00
3950	COSROW Training			\$1,000.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Connectional Witness Ministries Team</i>				
<i>Christian Unity &amp; Interreligious Concerns</i>				
		\$369,577.26	\$267,000.00	\$574,169.09
4010	Regional Connections - supports Ecumenical bodies such as Witness in Pennsylvania	\$6,076.31	\$5,500.00	\$6,750.00
4020	Grants to Christian Associations and PA Council of Churches	\$6,076.31	\$5,500.00	\$800.00
4030	Training and Development			\$4,000.00
4040	Cost of participation in PA Council of Churches			\$550.00
4050	National Workshop on Christian Unity			\$400.00
				\$1,000.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Communications</i>				
4100	Conference Publications - Pool	\$87,154.70	\$130,000.00	\$215,000.00
4110	Web-site	\$74,088.85	\$80,000.00	\$150,000.00
4120	Audio and Sound Equip.	\$13,065.85	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
4130	Subcontractors and Interns		\$40,000.00	\$25,000.00
4140	Software and Hardware Upgrades			\$20,000.00
				\$5,000.00
<i>Discipleship</i>				
4200	Pool	\$5,479.84	\$5,000.00	\$11,000.00
4210	Resources for spiritual formation retreats	\$5,479.84	\$5,000.00	
4220	Conference Regional Christian Ed Training			\$2,000.00
4230	Financial support for Grants and Scholarships			\$2,000.00
4240	Adult Chaperones to Taize, France			\$5,000.00
4250	Senior Ministries Mobilization			\$0.00
				\$2,000.00



	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2013 Budget Actual Expenses	2014 Budget Adopted	2015 Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Connectional Administrative Ministries Team</i>				
<i>Archives and History</i>				
		<b>\$1,747,730.37</b>	<b>\$1,581,400.00</b>	<b>\$1,215,389.91</b>
5010	Administration	<b>\$6,780.80</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>
5020	Local Church Seminars	\$6,780.80	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
5030	New Equipment - SCANPRO 3000		\$500.00	\$500.00
				\$10,000.00
<i>Conference Rules Committee</i>				
		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
5100	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
<i>Conference Sessions Team</i>				
		<b>\$397,910.69</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	<b>\$331,489.00</b>
5200	Conference Sessions - Funding for the annual meeting of Western Pennsylvania Conference	\$397,910.69	\$300,000.00	\$331,489.00



2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Equitable Compensation</i>				
5300	<b>Equitable Compensation</b> - Grants -Fulfills our mandate from the <i>Book of Discipline</i> to support full-time pastors in the charges of the conference.	\$124,200.58	\$141,000.00	\$158,000.00
5310	<b>Emergency One-Time Grants</b>	\$124,200.58	\$140,000.00	\$144,000.00
5320	<b>Quadrennial Training</b>			\$10,000.00
5330	<b>Administration</b>		\$650.00	\$650.00
5340	<b>Subscriptions/Dues</b>		\$350.00	\$350.00
<b>Council on Finance &amp; Administration</b>				
5400	<b>Conference Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$250,239.73</b>	<b>\$340,000.00</b>	<b>\$215,000.00</b>
5410	<b>Legal &amp; Audit Fees, Insurance, etc.</b> - Provides for conference-wide property & liability insurance, bonding of local church officers, audit & legal fees	\$102,235.23	\$125,000.00	\$0.00
5420	<b>Administrative Costs</b>	\$137,822.60	\$190,000.00	\$190,000.00
5430	<b>2016 General/Jurisdictional Conf. Exp.</b>	\$181.90	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>				
<i>Personnel Team</i>				
<b>5500</b>	<b>Administrative Costs</b>	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
<b>Board of Trustees</b>				
<b>5600</b>	<b>Trustees</b> Property taxes, maintenance, insurance and repairs for all conference owned properties and abandoned churches	\$478,241.42	\$416,900.00	\$415,900.00
<b>5610</b>	<b>Trustees Capital Fund</b>	\$413,711.20	\$318,700.00	\$331,900.00
<b>5630</b>	<b>General Fund:</b> Administrative, legal & mileage costs for conference properties & abandoned churches.	\$45,920.97	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
		\$18,609.25	\$78,200.00	\$64,000.00
<b>Board of Pensions</b>				
<b>5700</b>	<b>Medical Insurance</b> - for pastors on disability, 50% of the cost of medical insurance for student pastors.	\$490,357.15	\$380,000.00	\$82,000.00
<b>5710</b>	<b>Surviving Spouses</b>	\$411,193.15	\$300,000.00	\$0.00
<b>5720</b>	<b>Administrative</b>	\$69,159.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
		\$10,005.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2013 Budget Actual Expenses	2014 Budget Adopted	2015 Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
	<b>Ministerial Support</b>	<b>\$6,203,535.53</b>	<b>\$6,624,898.00</b>	<b>\$6,458,302.00</b>
	<b>District Superintendent/Cabinet Expenses</b>			
		<b>\$1,674,220.89</b>	<b>\$1,922,414.00</b>	<b>\$1,908,100.00</b>
<b>6000</b>	<b>District Superintendents</b> - Provides salaries, utilities, pension, medical insurance, travel, and office expenses for DS and Staff	\$1,511,370.42	\$1,692,414.00	\$1,683,100.00
<b>6010</b>	<b>District Program Funds</b>	\$93,429.70	\$80,000.00	\$100,000.00
<b>6020</b>	<b>Moving Expense/Clergy in Transition</b>	\$39,420.77	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
<b>6030</b>	<b>Cabinet at Large</b>	\$30,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$50,000.00

		2015	2013	2014	2015
		Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
			<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Ministerial Support - Continued</b>					
<i>Bishop's Leadership Initiatives</i>					
6100	<b>Bishop's Leadership Initiative: Ordinand Heritage Tour</b>		<b>\$67,770.66</b>	<b>\$48,500.00</b>	<b>\$86,000.00</b>
6110	<b>Bishop's Initiative: Leadership Development Office:</b> Leadership Development and mentoring among Young Pastors (35 years of age or younger and/or "new" in ministry (second careers)		\$45,027.90	\$28,500.00	\$31,000.00
6120	<b>Bishop Initiative:</b> Ad Hoc Poverty/Homelessness Task Force		\$13,399.79	\$10,000.00	
6130	<b>Bishop's Academy:</b> Program Development		\$9,342.97	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
6140	<b>Clergy Coaching</b>		\$0.00		\$30,000.00
			\$0.00		\$15,000.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
<b>General &amp; Administrative</b>		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Conference Center</b>				
<b>6200</b>	<b>Conference Center - Conference Center Operating costs: postage, supplies, etc..</b>	<b>\$1,906,668.51</b>	<b>\$2,118,916.00</b>	<b>\$2,020,654.00</b>
<b>6210</b>	<b>Conference Computer System - Computer system costs at the Conference Center and district offices</b>	\$354,476.68	\$400,000.00	\$325,000.00
<b>6215</b>	<b>Conference Computer Capital Investment - long term upgrading of conference computer systems.</b>	\$24,923.63	\$60,000.00	\$30,000.00
<b>6220</b>	<b>Conference Secretary &amp; Statistician</b>	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
<b>6230</b>	<b>Personnel Costs: Program Support Staff - Salaries, pension, medical insurance, &amp; expense reimbursement for clergy and lay Conference Center Staff.</b>	\$59,339.62	\$59,500.00	\$41,750.00
<b>6240</b>	<b>Personnel Costs: Episcopal Office Staff - Salaries, pension, medical insurance, &amp; expense reimbursement, Assistant to Bishop travel &amp; secretarial support.</b>	\$605,549.49	\$734,000.00	\$720,000.00
<b>6250</b>	<b>Personnel Costs: Office of Finance and Administration -Salaries, pension, medical insurance, and expense reimbursement for clergy and lay Treasurer's and Administrative Department Staff.</b>	\$213,459.29	\$255,416.00	\$248,904.00
		\$589,669.90	\$580,000.00	\$615,000.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2013 Budget Actual Expenses	2014 Budget Adopted	2015 Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Ministerial Support - Continued</b>				
<i>Conference Center – Continued</i>				
6260	Program Development - Program & Finance Departments	\$12,180.00		
6270	Spiritual Formation & Discipleship - Office of Director of Discipleship	\$47,069.90	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
<b>General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>				
		<b>\$2,507,805.57</b>	<b>\$2,505,068.00</b>	<b>\$2,443,548.00</b>
6300	World Service Fund - Enhances world-wide ministries by supporting program agencies making direct contact with human need	\$1,330,015.00	\$1,328,251.00	\$1,289,737.00
6310	Ministerial Education Fund - Helps support 13 United Methodist theological schools and the Clergy Continuing Education program of our annual conference administered through the Board of Ordained Ministry	\$342,461.28	\$342,007.00	\$332,086.00
6320	Black College Fund - Financial support to 11 historically black colleges in the United States, providing opportunities to students to develop their God-given potential	\$182,131.00	\$181,889.00	\$176,630.00

2015		2013	2014	2015
Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		Budget Actual Expenses	Budget Adopted	Connectional Budget
		<b>\$9,297,514.88</b>	<b>\$9,697,762.00</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>
<b>Ministerial Support - Continued</b>				
<i>General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments – Continued</i>				
<b>6330</b>	<b>Africa University Fund</b> - Provides financial assistance for the ongoing operation of the first United Methodist University in Africa	\$43,163.29	\$40,704.00	\$39,523.00
<b>6340</b>	<b>Episcopal Fund</b> - Salaries, housing, office expense, and pension for our Bishops	\$385,423.00	\$387,847.00	\$386,820.00
<b>6350</b>	<b>General Administrative Fund</b> - Supports the church beyond our conference; i.e., Judicial Council, Archives and History, General Council on Finance Administration, General Conference, and interpretation, etc.	\$160,490.00	\$160,295.00	\$155,678.00
<b>6360</b>	<b>Interdenominational Cooperation Fund</b> - Supports a variety of ecumenical ministries across the world	\$35,693.00	\$35,646.00	\$34,645.00
<b>6370</b>	<b>Jurisdictional Fund</b> - Supports the collective ministries of the conferences in the northeastern United States, including Western Pennsylvania	\$28,429.00	\$28,429.00	\$28,429.00

\* NOTE: Line Item Numbers are subject to change according to SHELBY Financial System Requirements

**2015 BUDGET NARRATIVE**

This year, the budget for 2015 is taking on a different look. I know, right now you're thinking, change? Again? But this new change is exactly what was asked for at the 2013 gathering of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. In this new budget design, we have incorporated several previously asked for changes that will hopefully make understanding the budget easier.

The first change you will notice is in the format of the budget. Last year an amendment was offered from the floor of the Annual Conference asking the Council on Finance and Administration to show how much money was spent in a particular line item in the previous year, how much was afforded to each line item in the current year, and how much was being afforded to each line item for the next year.

This request is the first column in the 2015 budget. The second column is the amount allocated through the 2014 budget that was passed at last year's Annual Conference. The third column is the proposed budget for 2015.

The second change you will notice is a realignment of the budget line items according to how those teams relate to each of the Conference Connectional Leadership Teams. The committees and teams that report to each of the four areas of ministry, Nurture, Outreach, Witness and Administration, are now listed by those corresponding groups, making it easier to match up the budget area with the Nominations Report.

The third change is in the actual numbering system for budget line items. In an effort to make it easier to track those numbers in our accounting system, a fourth digit was added to help make it easier to create new categories and new ministry opportunities to the accounting system. This numbering system is subject to change as we enter the data in 2015 to realign with this new numbering system.

The Budget Team, in connection with the Council on Finance and Administration and the Conference Connectional Leadership Table, have developed the budget for 2015 with the Conference Approved Five Areas of Focus in mind. This year's budget includes monies for new places for new people, eliminating racism, dealing with poverty issues, providing principled Christian leaders, and improving the spiritual development of people in Western Pennsylvania.

The 2015 budget is slightly over 0.8% higher than the 2014 budget, which is keeping in line with current cost of living changes. It also takes into consideration the great work that the local churches have done in paying their connectional apportionment, and recognizes how difficult that process can be. It also, for the fifth year, provides for our annual conference to pay our General and Jurisdictional apportionments at the 100% mark.



You will notice that this year we have removed a direct line item request for additional monies to be placed in the reserve account. 2013 was a very good year for our annual conference financially, and we were able to restore the conference reserve fund to within a reasonable level of the required 5% rule. For 2014, last year's legislation allows us to provide for the needs of the reserve account through endowment interest income. By doing this again in 2015, it is our belief that our reserves will maintain their current level and that our financial strength will be secure.

Every year the budget process is a difficult one, and we continue to look for ways to help the committees and councils serving the churches of Western Pennsylvania to find ways of doing God's will while still being financially responsible. With over \$10.2 million in requests for ministry funding, we looked for ways to honor these vitally important ministries, while still being faithful to the local church. In addition, we continue to look for ways to make it possible for the churches of Western Pennsylvania to afford to do ministry in local outreach, as well as ministry across the connection.

This year we continued the ministry team pool concept for the Conference Connectional Leadership Teams. While we do not have a lot of history to build off of with these pools, the concept has provided for some great new ministry starts and ideas. This will hopefully continue in 2015 and for years to come.

The budget process is never an easy one. But with the help of those who represent the local church in the committees that serve this Annual Conference, once again this process was well balanced and we believe as fair as possible. Our hope each year is that every church will be faithful in their contributions to the Connectional Apportionment so that ministry in the Annual Conference will be fully funded. We want to thank all those churches that paid 100% of their Apportionments in 2013. We also want to especially thank those churches that went above and beyond in paying more than 100% of their Apportionments.

Our hope continues for those churches that did not meet the 100% mark, and a few others that did not pay any Apportionments at all, that they will be able to meet their obligations in the Connectional Apportionment in 2015. To those churches that almost made it, please keep up your hard work and good stewardship, because there are a lot of people praying for your success and good work.

We continue to encourage the churches that have not paid anything towards the Apportionments to look at them not as something that can be ignored or that does not require our attention. It is as important to pay this obligation of Connectionalism as it is to pay the local church bills, tithes, utilities, salaries, and other financial obligations. Without everyone doing their part, the vital ministry provided by this budget and the lives it touches cannot happen. So to those churches that do not see the necessity of the ministry of the budget, please know

that we are praying for your ministry, and for you to be able to contribute towards the ministry of the Annual Conference of which you are a great part.

In 2011, 2012, and again in 2013, we paid our General Church Apportionments at the 100% level. It is our hope that we will be able to pay our General and Jurisdictional Apportionments at the 100% mark for 2014 and 2015. We cannot avoid this obligation any more than the local church can avoid its obligations.

Finally, it is our belief, and our hope, that this budget will fulfill our mission as the church of Jesus Christ as outlined in Matthew 28 and *The Book of Discipline*: “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Please continue to pray for our work, for the work of the Annual Conference, and most importantly, the work of the local church, as we all continue in our covenant together to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Council on Finance & Administration, Paul Ritchey, Chair  
Conference Connectional Leadership Team, Louise Patterson, Chair

**RS 402 FUNDING FOR MINISTRY FOR 2015**

## Endowment &amp; Other Income Disbursal Directives

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS ¶613.9 of the *Book of Discipline* requires the Conference Council on Finance & Administration to review at least quarterly and to account to the annual conference for the disbursement of funds in accordance with budgets approved by the conference;

WHEREAS certain endowment incomes may be designated by the annual conference to various budget lines within the directives of the donors;

WHEREAS income from investments and endowments greatly enable our conference to move forward in its mission and ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;

WHEREAS Conference Rule 3.4.1.b states, “The Council on Finance & Administration through a Ministry Team shall provide for the fiscal supervision of the work of the Conference Treasurer and the Annual Conference as outlined in ¶¶ 613.9, 613.11, 613.12, 13.18, 616, 617, 618, and 619 of the 2012 *Discipline*.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference direct the conference treasurer to disburse any endowment income from the Kaighan, Ethel Braun, El Paso, Worthington, Exxon, Maude Murray, Kilpatrick 265, and the Kilpatrick 040 endowments to the conference reserve fund;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that budget line item 6040, Short Term Incapacity Fund, will be funded in the following manner. Each charge will be assessed a fee of \$25 per pastor as part of their Worker’s Compensation billing. Disbursements from this fund shall be in accordance with the plan of ministry developed by the local church or charge and District Superintendent in accordance with ¶424.1 and ¶424.3 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline*. The plan of ministry shall be reviewed by the cabinet and if necessary modified. The plan of ministry must include continued payment of salary, pension, hospitalization, retirement, and housing for the clergy person placed on short term disability by the local charge. No plan of ministry shall include payments from the Short Term Incapacity Fund for more than 18 months. Prior to any disbursements from the Short Term Incapacity Fund, all review provisions of ¶357 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline* must be completed and placed in the supervisory and personnel files. The Conference Treasurer shall make disbursements from this account to the local church or charge Treasurer as designated in the plan of ministry. The Conference Treasurer may not disburse funds from the Short Term Incapacity Fund if the balance of the fund is depleted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached total budget for 2015 for the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference is subject to change based on the actions taken by the Conference with regards to the Connectional Apportionment budget, endowment, and other income.

Council on Finance & Administration, Paul Ritchey, Chair  
Conference Connectional Leadership Team, Louise Patterson, Chair

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries</b>					
<i>Connectional Leadership Table</i>					
1000	Administrative	\$28,500.00	\$634.00	\$0.00	\$29,134.00
1010	Ministry Pool	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00
2000	Nurture Ministries Team Pool - See Ministry Teams Below	\$0.00	\$634.00		\$634.00
3000	Outreach Ministries Team Pool - See Ministry Teams Below	\$9,000.00			\$9,000.00
4000	Witness Ministries Team Pool - See Ministry Teams Below	\$9,000.00			\$9,000.00
5000	Administration Ministries Team Pool - See Ministry Teams Below	\$500.00			\$500.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
	\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09	
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Connectional Nurture Ministries Team</i>					
	\$635,695.00	\$179,349.00	\$192,976.00	\$1,008,020.00	
<b>Board of Ordained Ministry</b>					
<b>2010</b>	\$165,695.00	\$150,337.00	\$30,992.00	\$347,024.00	
	Scholarships for those pursuing the ministry paid by General Church Apportionments, 50% of which are used within the Western PA Annual Conference for scholarships				
<b>2011</b>	\$110,695.00	\$150,337.00	\$30,992.00	\$292,024.00	
	<b>Board of Ordained Ministry - Administrative</b>				
<b>2020</b>	\$50,000.00			\$50,000.00	
	<b>Pool</b>				
<b>2030</b>	\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00	
	Student Aid grants to seminary students				
<b>2040</b>				\$0.00	
	Cont. Ed.- Provisional and Full Members				
<b>2050</b>				\$0.00	
	Course of Study				
<b>2060</b>				\$0.00	
	Recruitment				

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Camping &amp; Retreat Corporations Committee</i>					
		\$331,000.00	\$18,194.00	\$30,286.00	\$379,480.00
2100	Camping - Coordination & promotion.	\$221,000.00	\$18,194.00	\$6,182.00	\$245,376.00
2110	Camping - Summer Staff Salaries	\$100,000.00		\$24,104.00	\$124,104.00
2120	Clergy and Laity Leadership Development Opportunities	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
2130	Combined Camp Distributions				\$0.00
<b>Episcopacy</b>					
		\$77,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$87,000.00
2200	Administrative Pool - includes gifts for episcopal family and	\$7,000.00			\$7,000.00
2220	Episcopal Residence Capital Fund - Mortgage	\$40,000.00			\$40,000.00
2230	Episcopal Residence Operating Expenses and Maintenance	\$30,000.00		\$10,000.00	\$40,000.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Laity Board</i>					
2300	Laity Ministry Team	\$15,000.00	\$5,984.00	\$0.00	\$20,984.00
2310	Laity Scholarships	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
2320	Training and events	\$5,000.00	\$5,984.00		\$10,984.00
2330	CLM Training	\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00
		\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
<b>Leadership &amp; Nominations</b>					
2400	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00			\$0.00
<b>United Methodist Men</b>					
2500	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00			\$0.00

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2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>United Methodist Women</i>					
2600	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00			\$0.00
<b>Young Adult Ministry</b>					
2700	Administrative Pool - Requested minimal	\$500.00	\$954.00	\$0.00	\$1,454.00
		\$500.00	\$954.00		\$1,454.00

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2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Youth Ministry</i>					
2800	Pool	\$46,500.00	\$3,880.00	\$121,698.00	\$172,078.00
2810	Administrative Costs		\$3,880.00		\$3,880.00
2815	Annual Conference	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
2820	Leadapalooza	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
2825	SPARK- Recovery of investment through registrations	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
2830	Uth 4 Missions	\$5,000.00		\$104,552.00	\$109,552.00
2835	Youth Worker Retreat	\$9,000.00		\$5,852.00	\$14,852.00
2840	Continuing Education	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00
2845	Intern: Assist for Conf Youth	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00
2850	NEJ Youth Participation	\$11,000.00			\$11,000.00
2855	Global Young Persons Convocation	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
2860	Pilgrimage program	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
2865	Youth Service			\$11,294.00	\$11,294.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
	\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09	
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Connectional Outreach Ministries Team</i>					
	\$866,350.00	\$32,262.00	\$1,414,704.00	\$2,313,316.00	
<b>Church &amp; Society</b>					
3010	Administrative	\$13,000.00			\$13,000.00
3020	Funding UM Witness in PA	\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00
3030	Training	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
					\$0.00
<b>Disability Concerns</b>					
3100	Pool	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
3110	Expansion of Disabilities Retreat	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00
3120	Conference and District Resources				\$0.00
3130	Local Church Training	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00
3140	Disability Awareness	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Ethnic Local Church Concerns</i>					
3200	Pool	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
3210	Anti-Racism Team	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
3220	Crossroads Ministry Training				\$0.00
3230	New Racial Ethnic Church Plant	\$100,000.00			\$100,000.00
3240	Administration				\$0.00
3250	Ethnic Local Church Grants	\$25,000.00			\$25,000.00
3260	Ethnic Church Development				\$0.00
3270	Cross Racial Appointments	\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
<i>Global Health Initiatives Team</i>					
3300	Conference to Conference, Coordinator, Immersion Program, and Laity School	\$175,000.00	\$0.00	\$295,474.00	\$470,474.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>	<b>\$1,909,867.00</b>	<b>\$23,242,633.00</b>	<b>\$34,930,905.09</b>
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Global Ministries</i>					
3400	Pool	\$500,000.00	\$30,122.00	\$1,107,306.00	\$1,637,428.00
3410	Mission Support Ongoing Ministries Funding	\$20,000.00	\$30,122.00	\$1,087,192.00	\$1,137,314.00
3420	Mission Support Western PA Missionaries	\$235,000.00			\$235,000.00
3430	Mission Support New Ministry Funding	\$35,000.00			\$35,000.00
3440	Mission Support Mission Church Funding	\$88,000.00			\$88,000.00
3450	VIM Director	\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00
3460	Disaster Response	\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
3470	Conference to Conference Mission Relationships	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
		\$85,000.00		\$20,114.00	\$105,114.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
	\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09	
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Health as Wholeness</i>					
3500	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00			\$0.00
<b>Native American Ministries</b>					
3600	Administrative	\$0.00	\$2,140.00	\$11,924.00	\$14,064.00
		\$0.00	\$2,140.00	\$11,924.00	\$14,064.00
<b>Poverty Team</b>					
3700	Pool	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
3710	Poverty Grants	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
3720	Systemic Poverty Initiatives	\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00
3730	Scholarships for training events	\$500.00			\$500.00
3740	Poverty Awareness Events	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00
3750	Poverty Simulators	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Religion &amp; Race</i>					
3800	Administration	\$1,150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,150.00
3810	Resources	\$100.00			\$100.00
3820	Identify and connect all people of color and ethnicity				\$0.00
3830	Training and Support for Cross Racial Appointments	\$250.00			\$250.00
3840	People of Color Event	\$500.00			\$500.00
		\$300.00			\$300.00
<b>Status &amp; Role of Women</b>					
3900	COSROW - Pool	\$4,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,700.00
3910	Operating Expenses				\$0.00
3920	Monitoring Annual conference 2015	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00
3930	Clergy Women's gathering	\$700.00			\$700.00
3940	Educational Initiative	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00
3950	COSROW Training	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Connectional Witness Ministries Team</i>					
		\$574,169.09	\$199,339.00	\$15,357.00	\$788,865.09
<i>Christian Unity &amp; Interreligious Concerns</i>					
4010	Regional Connections - supports Ecumenical bodies such as Witness in Pennsylvania	\$6,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,750.00
4020	Grants to Christian Associations and PA Council of Churches	\$800.00			\$800.00
4030	Training and Development	\$4,000.00			\$4,000.00
4040	Cost of participation in PA Council of Churches	\$550.00			\$550.00
4050	National Workshop on Christian Unity	\$400.00			\$400.00
		\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Communications</i>					
4100	Conference Publications - Pool	\$215,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,257.00	\$222,257.00
4110	Web-site	\$150,000.00		\$7,257.00	\$157,257.00
4120	Audio and Sound Equip.	\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
4130	Subcontractors and Interns	\$25,000.00			\$25,000.00
4140	Software and Hardware Upgrades	\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00
		\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00
<i>Discipleship</i>					
4200	Pool	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,000.00
4210	Resources for spiritual formation retreats	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
4220	Conference Regional Christian Ed Training	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
4230	Financial support for Grants and Scholarships	\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00
4240	Adult Chaperones to Taize, France	\$0.00			\$0.00
4250	Senior Ministries Mobilization	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00



2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Evangelism</i>					
4300	General Evangelists Benefits Package	\$46,419.09	\$5,682.00	\$0.00	\$52,101.09
4310	Evangelism Ministry - including training events	\$42,419.09			\$42,419.09
4320	Administration	\$2,000.00	\$5,682.00		\$7,682.00
		\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
<b>Higher Education and Campus Ministry</b>					
4400	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00	\$176,811.00	\$0.00	\$176,811.00
		\$0.00	\$176,811.00		\$176,811.00
<b>Parish &amp; Community Development</b>					
4500	Congregational Redevelopment / Revitalization	\$295,000.00	\$16,846.00	\$8,100.00	\$319,946.00
4510	New Communities of Faith	\$105,000.00	\$16,846.00		\$121,846.00
4520	Mission Insite	\$180,000.00		\$8,100.00	\$188,100.00
		\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Connectional Administrative Ministries Team</i>					
<i>Archives and History</i>					
		\$1,215,389.00	\$1,477,428.00	\$21,234,484.00	\$23,927,301.00
5010	Administration	\$13,000.00	\$33.00	\$25.00	\$13,058.00
5020	Local Church Seminars	\$2,500.00	\$33.00	\$25.00	\$2,558.00
5030	New Equipment - SCANPRO 3000	\$500.00			\$500.00
		\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
<b>Conference Rules Committee</b>					
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5100	Administrative Pool - Did not file a Budget Request	\$0.00			\$0.00
<b>Conference Sessions Team</b>					
		\$331,489.00	\$0.00	\$117,156.00	\$448,645.00
5200	Conference Sessions - Funding for the annual meeting of Western Pennsylvania Conference	\$331,489.00		\$117,156.00	\$448,645.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Equitable Compensation</i>					
5300	<b>Equitable Compensation - Grants -</b> Fulfills our mandate from the Book of <i>Discipline</i> to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the conference.	\$158,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$158,000.00
5310	<b>Emergency One-Time Grants</b>	\$144,000.00			\$144,000.00
5320	<b>Quadrennial Training</b>	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
5330	<b>Administration</b>	\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00
5340	<b>Subscriptions/Dues</b>	\$650.00			\$650.00
		\$350.00			\$350.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Council on Finance &amp; Administration</i>					
5400	Conference Reserve Fund	\$215,000.00	\$373,360.00	\$659,937.00	\$1,248,297.00
5410	Legal & Audit Fees, Insurance, etc. - Provides for conference-wide property and liability insurance, bonding of local church fiscal officers, audit fees, and legal fees	\$0.00	\$373,360.00		\$373,360.00
5420	Administrative Costs	\$190,000.00		\$659,937.00	\$849,937.00
5430	2016 General/Jurisdictional Conf. Exp.	\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
		\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
<b>Personnel Team</b>					
5500	Administrative Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00			

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Conference Ministries - Continued</b>					
<i>Board of Trustees</i>					
5600	<b>Trustees</b> Property taxes, maintenance, insurance and repairs for all conference owned properties and abandoned churches	\$415,900.00	\$20,312.00	\$46,509.00	\$482,721.00
5610	<b>Trustees Capital Fund</b>	\$331,900.00		\$46,509.00	\$378,409.00
5630	<b>General Fund:</b> All administrative, legal and mileage costs related to conference properties and abandoned churches.	\$20,000.00	\$20,312.00		\$40,312.00
		\$64,000.00			\$64,000.00
<b>Board of Pensions</b>					
5700	<b>Medical Insurance</b> - (projected) for 17 pastors on disability, 50% of the cost of medical insurance for approximately 10 student pastors.	\$82,000.00	\$1,083,723.00	\$20,710,857.00	\$21,576,580.00
5710	<b>Surviving Spouses</b>	\$0.00		\$12,110,945.00	\$11,810,945.00
5720	<b>Administrative</b>	\$70,000.00			\$70,000.00
5730	<b>Pensions</b>	\$12,000.00		\$75.00	\$12,075.00
			\$1,083,723.00	\$8,599,837.00	\$9,683,560.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Ministerial Support</b>					
		\$6,458,302.00	\$20,855.00	\$85,112.00	\$6,564,269.00
<b>District Superintendent/Cabinet Expenses</b>					
6000	District Superintendents - Provides salaries, utilities, pension, medical insurance, travel, and office expenses for DS and Staff	\$1,908,100.00	\$20,855.00	\$51,345.00	\$1,980,300.00
6010	District Program Funds	\$100,000.00	\$20,855.00	\$2,205.00	\$1,706,160.00
6020	Moving Expense/Clergy in Transition	\$75,000.00			\$75,000.00
6030	Cabinet at Large	\$50,000.00		\$49,140.00	\$99,140.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>Ministerial Support - Continued</b>					
<i>Bishop's Leadership Initiatives</i>					
6100	<b>Bishop's Leadership Initiative:</b> Ordinand Heritage Tour	\$86,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,600.00	\$104,600.00
6110	<b>Bishop's Initiative: Leadership Development Office:</b> Leadership Development and mentoring among Young Pastors (35 years of age or younger and/or "new" in ministry (second careers)	\$31,000.00			\$31,000.00
6120	<b>Bishop Initiative:</b> Ad Hoc Poverty/Homelessness Task Force	\$10,000.00		\$18,600.00	\$18,600.00
6130	<b>Bishop's Academy:</b> Program Development	\$30,000.00			\$30,000.00
6140	<b>Clergy Coaching</b>	\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00

	2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget	2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
<b>General &amp; Administrative</b>	<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>	<b>\$1,909,867.00</b>	<b>\$23,242,633.00</b>	<b>\$34,930,905.09</b>	
<b>Conference Center</b>					
<b>6200</b>	<b>Conference Center - Costs for operating the Conference Center: postage, supplies, and database development.</b>	<b>\$2,020,654.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$15,167.00</b>	<b>\$2,035,821.00</b>
<b>6210</b>	<b>Conference Computer System - Upgrading of the conference computer system for the Conference Center and district offices</b>	<b>\$325,000.00</b>			<b>\$325,000.00</b>
<b>6215</b>	<b>Conference Computer Capital Investment - long term upgrading of the conference computer system for the Conference Center and district offices</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>			<b>\$30,000.00</b>
<b>6220</b>	<b>Conference Secretary &amp; Statistician</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>			<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>6230</b>	<b>Personnel Costs: Program Support Staff - Salaries, pension, medical insurance, and expense reimbursement for clergy and lay Conference Center Staff.</b>	<b>\$41,750.00</b>		<b>\$1,336.00</b>	<b>\$43,086.00</b>
		<b>\$720,000.00</b>			<b>\$720,000.00</b>



2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
<b>General &amp; Administrative</b>		<b>\$9,778,405.09</b>	<b>\$1,909,867.00</b>	<b>\$23,242,633.00</b>	<b>\$34,930,905.09</b>
<b>Conference Center - Continued</b>					
<b>6240</b>	<b>Personnel Costs: Episcopal Office Staff</b> - Salaries, pension, medical insurance, and expense reimbursement & travel for Assistant to the Bishop & secretarial support.	\$248,904.00			\$248,904.00
<b>6250</b>	<b>Personnel Costs: Office of Finance and Administration</b> -Salaries, pension, medical insurance, and expense reimbursement for clergy and lay Treasurer's and Administrative Department Staff.	\$615,000.00		\$13,831.00	\$615,000.00
<b>6260</b>	<b>Program Development</b> - Program and Finance Departments				\$13,831.00
<b>6270</b>	<b>Spiritual Formation &amp; Discipleship</b> - Office of Director of Discipleship	\$30,000.00			\$30,000.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>General &amp; Administrative - Continued</b>					
<b>General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>					
<b>6300</b>	<b>World Service Fund</b> - Enhances world-wide ministries by supporting program agencies making direct contact with human need	\$2,443,548.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,443,548.00
<b>6310</b>	<b>Ministerial Education Fund</b> - Helps support 13 United Methodist theological schools and the Clergy Continuing Education program of our annual conference administered through the Board of Ordained Ministry	\$1,289,737.00			\$1,289,737.00
<b>6320</b>	<b>Black College Fund</b> - Financial support to 11 historically black colleges in the United States, providing opportunities to students to develop their God-given potential	\$332,086.00			\$332,086.00
<b>6330</b>	<b>Africa University Fund</b> - Provides financial assistance for the ongoing operation of the first United Methodist University in Africa	\$176,630.00			\$176,630.00
		\$39,523.00			\$39,523.00

2015 Opportunities for Ministry Connectional Budget		2015 Connectional Budget	2015 Endowment Income	2015 Other Income	2015 Total Budget
		\$9,778,405.09	\$1,909,867.00	\$23,242,633.00	\$34,930,905.09
<b>General &amp; Administrative - Continued</b>					
<b>General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments - Continued</b>					
6340	<b>Episcopal Fund</b> - Salaries, housing, office expense, and pension for our Bishops	\$386,820.00			\$386,820.00
6350	<b>General Administrative Fund</b> - Supports the church beyond our conference; i.e., Judicial Council, Archives and History, General Council on Finance Administration, General Conference, and interpretation, etc.	\$155,678.00			\$155,678.00
6360	<b>Interdenominational Cooperation Fund</b> - Supports a variety of ecumenical ministries across the world	\$34,645.00			\$34,645.00
6370	<b>Jurisdictional Fund</b> - Supports the collective ministries of the conferences in the northeastern United States, including Western Pennsylvania	\$28,429.00			\$28,429.00

1 \* NOTE: Line Item Numbers are subject to change according to SHELBY Financial System Requirements

2 Council on Finance & Administration, Paul E. Ritchey, Chair

3 Conference Connectional Leadership Team, Louise Patterson, Chair

4

**RS 501 Rental/Housing Allowance For Retired Clergy And/Or Disabled Clergy**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergy persons of the Conference:

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB") during the year of 2015, by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference or its predecessor, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson;

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

## NOTE:

The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other appropriate

body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year, (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year, or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Terry E. Lyon, Chair, Board of Pensions

### **RS 502 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS ¶1506.6 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012* requires each annual conference to develop, adopt, and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan or plans for funding all of its benefit obligations ;

WHEREAS this funding plan must result in the retirement of the respective annual conference's pre-82 pension obligations on or before December 31, 2021;

WHEREAS this funding plan shall identify funds designated by the Annual Conference and protected for the exclusive purpose of retiring its pre-82 pension obligations;

WHEREAS the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference ("WPAUMC") Board of Pensions has submitted the following funding plan, which shows that, as of January 1, 2013 (the actuarial valuation date for determining 2015

Contributions due), the WPAUMC's pre-1982 obligations have been fully funded:

WHEREAS in the opinion of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, the funding plan described above meets the comprehensive funding plan requirements of ¶1506.6 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012*; and

WHEREAS The WPAUMC Board of Pensions is in receipt of a written opinion from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits that this funding plan meets the funding requirements of ¶1506.6 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2012*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference approve the following Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference 2015 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary:

#### **Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference 2015 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary**

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health benefits for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). This summary document is only a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such, it might not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations of the conference. You may request the full contents of the 2015 comprehensive benefit funding plan from your conference benefit office.

Following is the summary of the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP) that received a favorable written opinion from GBOPHB for the 2015 conference benefit obligations:

**Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Benefit Contribution (DC)**

**Plan Overview:** The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement portfolio. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which replaced the Pre-82 for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982

CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by annual conferences. The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2013 is \$923.7 million, while total plan assets are \$978.5 million resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 106%. The Western Pennsylvania Conference portion of the liability is 2.17% and the 2015 contribution is \$2,255,974. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by the redirection of assets from the Pre-82 segment overfunding. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three-quarter and/or half-time clergy. The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 50%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2015.

Effective January 1, 2014 CRSP-DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy will have the opportunity to earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP, therefore if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3%, which is unchanged from 2013 and prior. The 2013 CRSP-DC contribution was \$705,500 and was funded by collections from local churches. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 3%, due to anticipated increase in the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) and/or Conference Average Compensation (CAC).

**Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)**

**Plan Overview:** The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2014, exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2013 is \$2.7 billion, while total plan assets are \$3.0 billion resulting in a current plan funded ratio of

109% and no required contribution for 2015. The Western Pennsylvania Conference's portion of the total liability is 2.70%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$4.4 billion and the Western Pennsylvania Conference's portion of that balance is \$108.97 million or 2.49% of the total.

#### **Pre-1982 Plan**

**Plan Overview:** Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. When participants enter a Retired relationship with your Conference, and do not terminate, the minimum benefit payable to them is based on two factors: 1) years of Service with pension credit and 2) Conference pension rate. Years of Service with pension credit are approved by each Conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*. The pension rate, (also called the past service rate PSR), is the dollar amount chosen by the Conference as the amount payable for each approved year of Service with pension credit. Typically, the pension rate changes from year to year. The number of years of Service with pension credit is multiplied by the PSR, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan, may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life based benefit. At that point the participants benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. As the conference increases the PSR, the participants benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM based benefit does not change.

The 2015 Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended to the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference will be \$586.15 representing a 3.22% increase from the 2014 rate. The conference expects future increases to be approximately 3.0%, which is based on: Anticipate 3.0% per year increases in CAC.

The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 75% level.

Based on the final actuarial valuations from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits as of January 1, 2013 for 2015, the portion of the Pre-82 liability attributable to the Western Pennsylvania Conference and funded status is, as of 1/1/2013, as follows:

Funding Plan Liability	\$79,760,893	
Assets in the Plan	\$114,994,825	
Funded status	\$35,233,932	represented by a 144% funded ratio

The Projected Funded Status as of 12/31/2014 \$25,504,467

The funded ratio is recalculated each year based on economic and demographic changes. These changes create the possibility that Pre-82 contributions may be required at a future date (even after 2021).

As outlined above, given the funded status of the Pre-82 Plan for the Western Pennsylvania Conference, the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) intends to redirect Pre-82 assets in the amount of \$5,235,275 on 12/31/14. Redirection is planned to cover the conferences CRSP-DB obligation. The conference recognizes that surplus redirection increases the probability of future Pre-82 contributions.

Defined benefit plan liabilities (Pre-82, MPP and CRSP-DB) continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the conference still has a liability (obligation) with the plan.

#### **Active Health Benefit Program**

**Plan Overview:** The Western Pennsylvania Conference offers an Insurance program to the active participants.

During the 2013 year, the total cost of the program was \$6,720,000 and was funded by Local church assessment plus use of designated reserves if required, but not anticipated. The projected average increase for future years is expected to be 5%, due to: Healthcare trend rates.

#### **Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Program (PRM)**

**Plan Overview:** The Western Pennsylvania Conference post-retiree medical plan currently offered is an Insurance plan made available primarily to Fund \$126 monthly subsidy per participant and eligible spouse toward the insurance premium.

The current annual cost is anticipated to be \$1,385,196 with funding sources to be investment growth in current fund assets and redirection of \$6,000,000 of Pre-82 assets in 2013. On a longer term basis the Western Pennsylvania Conference intends to maintain current subsidy.

Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated 1/1/2013, following is the funded position of the post-retiree medical benefits:

Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) or net conference cost	\$24,993,633
Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) or net conference cost	\$30,486,617
Service Cost (SC) or net conference cost	\$737,609
Assets designated for PRM 12/31/2012	\$25,125,952

These values are based on 3.6% long term discount rate, 7.0% long-term expected return, and a current increase trend of 7.75% decreasing to 5.0% by 2022.

#### **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)**

**Plan Overview:** The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families and is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, you are eligible to participate in CPP if your



conference or salary-paying unit sponsors the plan and you satisfy the eligibility requirements which include full-time episcopal appointment and plan compensation equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational Average Compensation or the Conference Average Compensation whichever is less. The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference has elected to make CPP-eligible clergy, who are appointed at least 100%, have mandatory participation, while full members appointed 75% or 50% may have optional participation under special arrangements.

Currently (for 2013) the Western Pennsylvania Conference has a required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$660,721, which is anticipated to be funded by Assessment to local churches. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 3% per year due to a projected increase in compensation.

#### **United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) for Lay and Clergy**

**Plan Overview:** The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, contributions your plan sponsor may make on the participants behalf and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

Certain qualified conference office lay employees are eligible after 12 months for a pension contribution of 12% of salary. Lay employees are encouraged to contribute personal funds toward their retirement through payroll deductions to the UMPIP. The estimated contribution for the Western Pennsylvania Conference is anticipated to be \$331,424 and is to be funded through contributions to plan by the local churches, by the conference for conference staff and also includes additional contributions by individuals.

As of January 1, 2014, the Western Pennsylvania Conference is sponsoring UMPIP for clergy appointed 25% time. They are eligible for a pension contribution of 10% of salary. The estimated contribution for the Western Pennsylvania Conference is anticipated to be \$256,000 and is to be funded through the local church funding, conference apportionments and conference benefit reserve fund.

#### **General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Conclusion:**

The 2015 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and the above outlined Summary document incorporates to the best of our understanding , the Western Pennsylvania Conference's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the Clergy and Laity of the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

Terry E. Lyon, Chair, Board of Pensions

#### **RS 503 Clergy Retirement Security Program & Comprehensive Protection Plan**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the denominational pension program known as the Clergy Retirement Security Program ("CRSP") is comprised of the component parts: The Pre-1982 Plan ("Pre-1982"), Ministerial Pensions Plan ("MPP"), Clergy Retirement Security Program

Defined Benefit (“CRSP-DB”), and Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Contribution (“CRSP-DC”);

WHEREAS the death and disability benefit program is known as the Comprehensive Protection Plan (“CPP”);

WHEREAS the plan for personal contributions is known as the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (“UMPIP”);

WHEREAS the 2012 General Conference charged each Annual Conference with determining annually, if desired, CRSP participation eligibility for clergy with less than full time appointments, but at least half time appointments effective January 1, 2014;

WHEREAS the 2012 General Conference eliminated CRSP participation eligibility for clergy appointed less than half time effective January 1, 2014;

WHEREAS the 2012 General Conference established within the CRSP-DC segment a matching contribution for a participant’s 1% personal contribution into UMPIP effective January 1, 2014;

WHEREAS the Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the current over-funded status of the Pre-82 plan supports the continued participation in the CRSP plan by clergy appointed at least half time;

WHEREAS the Conference Board of Pensions recommends that UMPIP shall be the plan used for clergy appointed less than half time that have not chosen to waive pension participation;

WHEREAS the GBOPHB has notified the WPAUMC that the CRSP-DB will require a contribution from the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference in respect of plan year 2015 in the amount of \$2,255,974 ;

WHEREAS the GBOPHB has confirmed that, as of the most recent actuarial valuation date, and has estimated that, as of January 1, 2013, the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference’s Pre-1982 Past Service Funding Account plan assets exceed the Pre-82 plan liabilities by more than 20%, our Board of Pensions current early warning target level;

WHEREAS the GBOPHB has advised the WPAUMC that such Pre-1982 overfunding is available to use to fund the CRSP-DB contribution due in respect of plan year 2015;

WHEREAS plans are that funds will be redirected to WPAUMC’s CRSP-DB or WPAUMC’S benefit reserves only when the Pre-1982 overfunding is greater than 120% of projected plan liabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference United Methodist Church (WPAUMC) extend participation eligibility, effective January 1, 2015, in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) to qualified clergy persons appointed less than full time and at least half time;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CRSP-DC program (the 3% CRSP-DC church contribution) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (3% CPP church contribution) be funded during the calendar year 2015 as each salary-paying unit shall remit monthly contributions on behalf of the participant directly to the WPAUMC Board of Pensions, or its agent, for credit to the appropriate account or on behalf of the participant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annuity rate (PSR) for 2015 for service rendered prior to 1982 (Pre-1982) shall be \$586.15, representing 1.00% of the WPAUMC’s Conference Average Compensation (“CAC”);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WPAUMC's CRSP-DB 2015 obligation be funded from the Pre-82 Past Service Funding Account held with the General Board of Pensions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that active (not retired) clergy persons appointed less than half time and making a personal contribution (minimum 1% of cash compensation plus 25% housing) to the UMPIP program will receive a 1% matching contribution, and in any event a 10% non-matching contribution made to the participant's account. The 3% percent church contribution and the 1% individual contribution shall be billed to local churches similar to CRSP-DC and the balance shall be contributed by the WPAUMC from the Benefit Reserve Fund;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the calendar year 2015 all UMPIP contributions will be billed by the General Board of Pensions and paid through the salary paying unit of each participant or by the WPAUMC, plan sponsor, for participants who are appointed less than half time;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference's Pre-1982 Past Service Funding Account plan assets not exceed the Pre-82 plan liabilities by more than 20%, our Board of Pensions current early warning target level, the participation in the CRSP program by less than full time appointments and the WPAUMC non-matching contribution for less than half time clergy will be reconsidered.

Terry E Lyon, Chair, Board of Pensions

#### **RS 504 CRSP Future Liabilities & Benefit Reserve Fund**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the General Conference of 2004 has mandated for The United Methodist Church a pension program known as the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), effective January 1, 2007;

WHEREAS the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference ("WPAUMC") Board of Pensions has agreed that the 2015 WPAUMC CRSP defined benefit contribution due of \$2,255,974 shall be paid from the funding excess in the Pre-1982 Pension Plan, thus relieving the WPAUMC and its local churches, agencies and other salary-paying units of this expense for 2015;

WHEREAS the WPAUMC Board of Pensions has previously approved the establishment of a Benefit Reserve Fund, presently held at and invested by the General Board of Pensions & Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), Evanston, IL, for the purpose of building a reserve for future CRSP defined benefit unfunded liabilities or other retiree benefit needs and has begun making contributions to build such Fund;

WHEREAS the GBOPHB has called to our attention the future difficulty in funding pension liabilities due to the denomination's aging clergy population and declining United States membership and encourages each annual conference to maximize funding now;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 contribution to the Benefit Reserve Fund shall be calculated at an amount equal to 0.5% of each active participant's compensation package, charged to each such participant's church, agency, WPAUMC responsibility or other applicable salary-paying unit, billed and collected by the WPAUMC Board of Pensions or its agent, and transferred in a timely manner to the Benefit Reserve Fund.

Terry E. Lyon, Chair, Board of Pensions

**RS 601 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the 2012 *Book of Discipline* (§265.1) requires the Annual Conference to set the date for the observance of Christian Education Sunday each year;

WHEREAS the funds received from the special offerings support the vital Christian Education Ministries of our Conference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference establish Sunday, September 13, 2015, or another date of the local church's choosing for Christian Education Sunday and that a special offering be received in the local churches for the purpose of supporting the educational ministries of the Conference which include Training and Resources and Laity Scholarships. Local churches are urged to use this day as a time to celebrate their Christian Education ministries with events of appreciation and recognition of growth and learning as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Mark Hecht, Chair, Board of Global Ministries

Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

**RS 602 GOLDEN CROSS/RED STOCKING SUNDAYS**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the 2012 *Book of Discipline* (§265.2) requires the Annual Conference to set the date for the observance of Golden Cross Sunday and other special Sundays receiving offerings,

WHEREAS the offerings from Golden Cross and Red Stocking Sundays support the conference homes and agencies, formerly referred to as health and welfare ministries,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference establish Sunday, May 10, 2015, or another date chosen by the local church for Golden Cross Sunday and that any Sunday in Advent 2015 be established as the time for a Red Stocking Sunday and that a special offering be received in the local churches on these Sundays for the purpose of providing continued support to these ministries in the Annual Conference. Local churches are urged to use these Sundays as opportunities to share information concerning the extensive and vital ministries of these homes and agencies.

Mark Hecht, Chair, Board of Global Ministries

Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

**RS 603 RURAL LIFE SUNDAY**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the 2012 *Book of Discipline* (§ 265.3) requires the annual conference to set the date for the observance of Rural Life Sunday each year,

WHEREAS the annual conference may choose to receive a Rural Life Sunday offering;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference establish Sunday, August 9, 2015, or another date chosen by the local church, for Rural Life Sunday and that a special offering be received in the local churches for the purpose of strengthening nurture, witness and outreach in town and rural areas. Local churches are urged to use this day to celebrate the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church, to recognize the needs of rural areas and to affirm the interdependence of rural and urban communities.

Mark Hecht, Chair, Board of Global Ministries  
Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

**RS 604 DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the 2012 *Book of Discipline* (§265.4) requires the Annual Conference to set the date for the observance of Disability Awareness Sunday;

WHEREAS Disability Awareness Sunday, as defined by the 2012 *Book of Discipline*: “calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community”;

WHEREAS there may be an offering received on this Sunday to be used in this Annual Conference for ministries as defined by the *Discipline*: “to promote the work of creating architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference establish Sunday, February 15, 2015, or another Sunday chosen by the local church, to be designated as Disability Awareness Sunday and that a special offering may be received in local churches for promotion of awareness issues as well as ministries that provide opportunities for fuller inclusion of people with disabilities. Information concerning the observance of this Sunday will be provided to local churches upon request by the People With Disabilities Inclusion Ministry Team.

Debbie Hills, Chair, Disability Concerns Team  
Mark Hecht, Chair, Board of Global Ministries  
Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

**RS 605 DOORWAYS TO HOPE AT HOME**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the Western PA Conference of The United Methodist Church has selected these six regional mission agencies, (Erie Alliance, Johnstown Human Services, WPA Prison Outreach Ministries, Connellsville Area Community Ministries, Greater Pittsburgh Ministries, and Eastbrook Mission Barn) who extend the love of Christ to those who need shelter, food, clothing, and loving care within our conference boundaries,

WHEREAS those in mission in the name of The United Methodist Church are doing ministry in partnership with we who are the church,

WHEREAS the funds to support these ministries, do not meet the growing demands placed upon these groups as they faithfully serve those entrusted to their care,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any Sunday during Advent 2015, or another date selected by the local church, be designated as the date to receive a special offering for support of these six regional mission agencies, within the Conference boundaries, with additional funds to continue and expand their work. These additional gifts will help keep doors open, enabling us, as United Methodists in Western Pennsylvania to remain faithful in serving even the least of these, our brothers and sisters, as Jesus teaches in Matthew 25:40.

Mark Hecht, Chair, Board of Global Ministries  
Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

**RS 606 CAMPING SUNDAY**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS income from the Annual Conference Mission Share to CRM (Camping and Retreat Ministries) covers a large part, but not even all of the Summer Program Staff summer salary expenses;

WHEREAS other camping ministry expenses which are covered through camper registration fees include:

- Funding the summer camp brochure and other joint camping promotions
- Training of deans and volunteer counselors
- Training of summer program staff

WHEREAS separate fund raising will still have to be done if we are to continue the Bibles for campers program and Mountain Praise, the camp worship series.

WHEREAS the camps must continue their own appeals for their own capital needs and for other special gifts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Conference authorize Camping and Retreat Ministries to urge the local church to receive a Camping Sunday Offering on Sunday, October 11, 2015 or other dates selected by the local church.

Jessica Gamache, Camping Coordinator

Mark Hecht, Chair, Board of Global Ministries

Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

**RS 607 YOUTH SERVICE FUND SUNDAY**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS 1 Timothy 4:11-12 states, "These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

WHEREAS historically the Youth Service Fund of the Western PA Conference has financially assisted many youth programs in our Conference, our Nation, and our World.

WHEREAS there is a continued need for this mission work and there is a general lack of knowledge and support for YSF among the Western PA Conference and less than 15% of our churches donated to this fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference set the first Sunday in November, specifically November 1, 2015 or another date chosen by the local church, as Youth Service Fund Sunday and that a special offering be received in the local churches, for the purpose of supporting youth missions in our annual conference. Local churches will have informative bulletin inserts provided by the Conference Council on Youth Ministry. Local churches are urged to use this day to celebrate their youth and encourage youth involvement in missions through their church, district, and conference.

Renaye Hoffman, Youth Coordinator

Mark Hecht, Chair, Board of Global Ministries

Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

**RS 608 VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION RECOGNITION AND AWARENESS DAY**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS (Background) The 1980 General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) officially sanctioned the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission

(UMVIM) and directed the General Board of Global Ministries to "affirm VIM as an authentic form of personal missionary involvement and devise appropriate structure to interpret and implement opportunities for volunteers in the global community" (2012 *Discipline* ¶1302.14; 1980 *Discipline* ¶1502.13). The 1988 General Conference suggested that "each annual conference name a VIM coordinator to work cooperatively with GBGM and the Jurisdictional UMVIM offices." The 1996 General Conference created the Mission Volunteers office within GBGM to assist in the guidance and placement of volunteers; in short term mission assignments. (1996 *Discipline* ¶1312.5). The 2000 GC recognized UMVIM as a "one of the most dynamic mission outreach programs of the denomination today" (*The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church*; 2000, page 165). The 2004 General Conference authorized the establishment of a Volunteer in Mission Awareness Sunday in the annual conferences. These actions clearly recognize the UMVIM program as a growing force in promoting the church in general, Christianity in particular, and personal Christian service;

WHEREAS the UMVIM program is truly a grassroots movement in allowing all persons of faith, laity and clergy alike, the opportunity to have a "hands on" experience and involvement in mission endeavors;

WHEREAS it is generally accepted that all persons cannot do everything but, that everyone can do something, the UMVIM program allows persons to offer physical support, prayer support, and/or financial support to the wide variety of programs that are designed to promote the many opportunities to utilize their many varied talents in direct service to the Kingdom of God;

WHEREAS Scripture requires us all to be active participants in the faith, to wit, "... and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts I: 8b, RSV) and "What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works.....So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:14, 17 RSV);

WHEREAS there are opportunities to serve locally, nationally, or even internationally, and the "hands on" opportunity truly changes a missionary's perspective toward persons or cultures with different economic, ethnic, or political backgrounds;

WHEREAS the UMVIM program is one essential tool in helping to promote tolerance and understanding throughout all of God's Kingdom, a tool that helps to bring a measure of relief to those in unfortunate circumstances wherever they are, and a tool that can help Christians to fulfill the mandate of Jesus as expressed in Matthew 25:34-46.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Western PA Conference recommend to all local churches in the Conference:

1. That a Sunday of March 2015 be set aside and declared Volunteers In Mission Awareness Day;
2. That each local church with assistance of the conference UMVIM leadership, provide for UMVIM displays, information, resources, solicit individual or group testimonies and/or develop other ways to celebrate the UMVIM movement in whatever fashion that best suits the local congregation;
3. That local churches draw upon the available resources of the Conference UMVIM Coordinator to help make the day memorable, one of faith in action.
4. That an offering be taken on the designated UMVIM Awareness Sunday to support the Conference and Jurisdictional UMVIM offices and programs, with 90% of funds

collected going to the Conference VIMship Advance Special, and a tithe of 10% to the Jurisdictional UMVIM programming efforts.

Stephanie Gottschalk, Missions Coordinator  
 Mark Hecht, Chair, Board of Global Ministries  
 Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

#### **RS 609 Retired Clergy Day**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS the Conference Board of Pensions may select a Sunday in each year to be observed in the churches as Retired Clergy Day, in honor of the retired clergy, their spouses, and the surviving spouses of clergy and in recognition of the church's responsibility for their support;

WHEREAS these retired clergy, their spouses, and the surviving spouses of clergy continue to support the church in various and significant ways;

WHEREAS recognition of the ministry of these persons can also provide inspiration to those considering ministry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the third Sunday of September 2014 & 2015 be designated as Retired Clergy Day in the Western PA Conference and that each local church and charge of the Conference be encouraged to recognize and honor on that day, or on another Sunday chosen for that purpose, the retired clergy, their spouses and any surviving spouses of clergy who may be related to such local church or charge.

Terry E. Lyon, Chair, Board of Pensions  
 Louise Patterson, Chair, Conference Connectional Leadership Table

#### **RS 610 Bread for the World Sunday Offering of Letters**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS in *Proverbs* 31:8-9, it states "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute, speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

WHEREAS in *Luke* 14:13-14, it states "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

WHEREAS in *Isaiah* 58:10, it states "if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday."

WHEREAS in *Matthew* 25:37 it states, "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to eat?'"

WHEREAS in *Matthew* 25:42 it states, "for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink."

WHEREAS in *Matthew* 25:44-45 it states, "Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' "

WHEREAS *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* 2012 ¶163.E states:



“As a church we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich. To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as adequate income maintenance, quality education, decent housing, job training, meaningful employment opportunities, adequate medical and hospital care, humanization and radical revisions of welfare programs, work for peace in conflict areas and effort to protect creation’s integrity.”

WHEREAS among figures from the U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Agriculture and the non-profit Bread for the World Institute show the need for changing public policy to eliminate hunger in the U.S. and overseas are these:

1. For more than 50 years, U.S. food aid has benefited more than 3 billion hungry and malnourished people around the world.
2. While the federal government’s food-aid programs do much good, smart reforms would help get more food to more people in less time—at no additional cost to U.S. taxpayers.
3. Together we can change public policy and ensure continued, improved assistance to millions of hungry people around the world.

WHEREAS through Bread for the World Sunday and Offering of Letters, the non-profit BFTW continues to educate and enable church members to work for public policies and enable church members to work for changes in public policies to alleviate hunger through contacting federal legislators by letter, telephone, e-mail and visits.

WHEREAS Bread For The World information and resources can be found on the Bread For The World website in order for local churches to be prepared to have a Bread For The World Offering of Letters Sunday. [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each local church in the WPA Conference consider planning for a Bread For The World Sunday Offering of Letters with the 2014 theme “To Reform U.S. Food Aid.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the district superintendents encourage his/her local churches to use the Bread For The World website to obtain the necessary materials to be prepared to have a Bread For The World Offering of Letters.

Donna Burkhart, FUMC, Erie  
Kelly Smith, Chair, Conference Board of Church and Society  
Barbara Hess, President, Conference United Methodist Women  
Glenda Wilson, Chair, Conference Anti-Poverty Team  
Robert Wilson, Pastor of FUMC, Pittsburgh

### **RS 611 Children’s Sabbath**

(Adopted 06-07-2014)

WHEREAS in *Isaiah* 6:8 it states, “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”

WHEREAS in *Micah* 6:8 it states, “He has told you, O mortal what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

WHEREAS Pope Francis has stated, “A population that does not take care of the elderly and the children and the young has no future, because it abuses both its memory and its promise.

WHEREAS *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* 2012 ¶162.C states:

“Once considered the property of their parents, children are now acknowledged to be full human beings in their own right, but beings to whom adults and society in general have special obligations. Thus, we support the development of school systems and innovative methods of education designed to assist every child toward complete fulfillment as an individual person of worth. Moreover, children have the rights to food, shelter, clothing, health care, and emotional well-being as do adults, and these rights we affirm as theirs regardless of actions or inaction of their parents or guardians. In particular, children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse.”

WHEREAS the Children’s Defense Fund (an ecumenical child advocacy organization) states that we must address the needs of the whole child. Children need to have a future. They are not a number or a statistic. That we need to help them to succeed so they can have a future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of the WPA Conference UM Churches will be advocates for justice for children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each church will have a Children’s Sabbath using suggested free resources from the Children’s Defense Fund in October or another suitable Sunday. ([www.childrensdefensefund.org](http://www.childrensdefensefund.org))

Donna Burkhart, Program Advisory Group, UM Women, National Organization

Barbara Hess, President of the WPA Conference United Methodist Women

Kelly Smith, Chair of the WPA Conference Board of Church and Society