

2015

OFFICIAL JOURNAL & YEARBOOK

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The One Hundred Ninetieth Session
(Forty-sixth since Union)
Grove City, Pennsylvania
June 11-14, 2015

Editor: John Robert Wilson

Printed by
McElvany & Co. Printing and Publishing

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The United Methodist Church

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I Officers of the Conference

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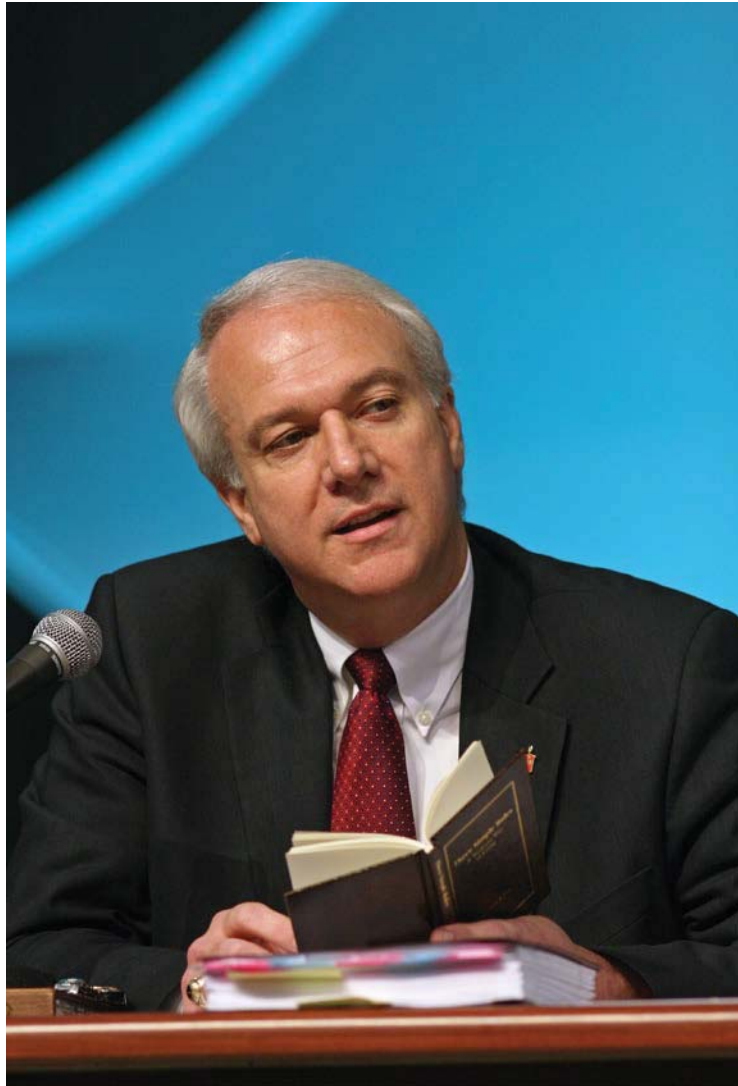
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Resident Bishop
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The United Methodist Church

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I Officers of the Conference

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- Ruth M. Smith Center: **KIMBERLY ADAMS**, Executive Director
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Mission Service	212/870-3797
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Service Center	800/305-9857
Higher Education & Ministry , General Board of	615/340-7400
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Pension & Health Benefits , General Board of	847/869-4550
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For lay employees serving churches, hospitals, conference offices	800/356-3736
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Status and Role of Women , General Commission on (COSROW)	800/523-8390
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United Methodist Men , General Commission on	615/340-7145
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I Officers of the Conference

UNITED METHODIST GIVING PROGRAM

The United Methodist Church has eight apportioned funds, six church wide Special Sundays with offerings and two designated giving programs--all which need your support. In addition, annual conferences take special offerings on Christian Education Sunday, Golden Cross Sunday and Rural Life Sunday. The United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission and the Youth Service Fund provide opportunities for young people to share their resources.

Apportioned Funds

World Service Fund supports outreach through the work of general agencies and other national and international mission programs. It also underwrites a comprehensive television and telecommunications ministry, and pension and salary equalization. 2015 apportionment: \$1,275,792

Ministerial Education Fund provides educational support for ordained elders, ordained deacons and diaconal ministers of the church through funding for theological schools, recruitment, professional development and continuing education. 2015 apportionment: \$328,504

Black College Fund provides operating funds and capital for 11 historically Black colleges including a medical school. 2015 apportionment: \$174,724

Africa University Fund helps support a new university in Africa providing post-secondary education for African students. Africa University is partly funded by World Service Special Gifts in addition to the apportionment. 2013 apportionment: \$39,133

Episcopal Fund is for salaries, pensions, office operations, official travel and other expenses for the bishops. 2013 apportionment: \$411,266

General Administrative Fund supports general agencies whose work is administrative in nature, the cost of General Conference and other items essential to the operation of The United Methodist Church. 2013 apportionment: \$155,032

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund supports United Methodist participation in the World and National Councils of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union. It also pays the travel expenses of United Methodist delegates to those bodies. 2013 apportionment: \$34,272

Jurisdictional Fund supports the collective ministries of the conferences in the northeastern United States, including Western Pennsylvania. 2013 apportionment: \$28,429

Designated Gifts

Advance Specials permit churches and individuals to support mission and relief projects with voluntary gifts. Every dollar given to the Advance goes to the project designated by the donor.

World Service Special Gifts permit churches and individuals to contribute to approved projects of World Service-related agencies. Every dollar goes to the project designated by the donor.

Special Sundays with Offerings

Human Relations Day, the Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr's birthday observance, supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

One Great Hour of Sharing, the fourth Sunday of Lent, provides major support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which aids in refugee ministries, disaster-response ministries and hunger ministries.

2015 Western Pennsylvania Conference

Native American Awareness Sunday, the second Sunday after Easter, funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries and annual conference Native American ministries.

Peace with Justice Sunday, the second Sunday of Pentecost, supports peace with justice ministries through the General Board of Church and Society and the annual conference.

World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, supports Crusade Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

United Methodist Student Day, the last Sunday in November, provides loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students.

Other Special Offerings

Christian Education Sunday. The conference determines the date and how the offering is used to strengthen Christian education.

Disability Awareness Sunday, Special offering to promote awareness issues and ministries that provide opportunities for fuller inclusion of people with disabilities.

Golden Cross Sunday (Red Stocking Sunday), The annual conference determines the date and how the offering will be used to support health and welfare ministries.

Rural Life Sunday. The annual conference determines the date and how the offering will be used to strengthen the nurture, outreach, and witness of congregations in town and rural areas.

Other Conference Special Offerings

Camping Sunday supports the summer program in order to reduce registration costs for participants.

Doors to Hope at Home for continued support of the six Western PA Conference regional mission agencies, within the Conference boundaries with additional funds to continue and expand their work.

UMVIM Sunday 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.

Youth Service Fund supports projects of mission and ministry by and for youth as well as administration of the fund.

Conference Special Sundays without Offerings

Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union Month to promote being good and faithful stewards of God's gifts by learning about the resources and benefits of becoming members of our credit union.

Retired Clergy Sunday to honor retired clergy, spouses or surviving spouses

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday to support our United Methodist beliefs highlighted in our *Social Principles* that celebrate the wondrous gift of life for all and for creation.

Sanctity of Marriage Sunday to strengthen marriages in their ministry in the body of Christ and give prayer and spiritual support for stronger marriages.

Sanctity of Singleness Sunday to honor those who are single and their contributions to their families, congregations and communities and to promote ministries to and with those who are single.

I Officers of the Conference

2016 Special Days and Program Calendar

Jan 3	Epiphany to commemorate the coming of the Magi
Jan 17	Human Relations Day to encourage better human relations; offering funds community developers, voluntary services, and youth offender rehabilitations.
Jan 18	Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Observed
Jan 18-25	Prayer for Christian Unity Week
Feb	Black History Month to celebrate the historical contributions of African Americans to the worship life, mission and ministry of the church
Feb 10	Ash Wednesday to begin Christian self-examination for Lent
Feb 14	Scouting Sunday to emphasize scouting as ministry to children
Feb 15	Day of Prayer and Fasting For Contemporary Martyrs
Feb 20-21	Disability Awareness Weekend to promote issues as well as ministries providing opportunities for fuller inclusion of those with disabilities.
March	Women's History Month
Mar (any)	UMVIM Weekend a day for promoting Volunteers in Mission.
Mar 4	World Day of Prayer to link Christian women of the world in prayer.
Mar 6	One Great Hour of Sharing to share the goodness of life with those who hurt; offering funds, programs of relief, rehabilitation and service
Mar 13	Daylight Savings Time begins –Spring Forward
Mar 20	Palm Sunday to commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem
Mar 24	Holy Thursday to celebrate the institution of the Eucharist
Mar 25	Good Friday to commemorate Christ's death
Mar 27	Easter Sunday to celebrate Christ's resurrection
Apr 10	Native American Sunday to recognize Native Americans in society, offering funds to ministries, urban initiatives and seminary scholarships
Apr 25	World Malaria Day
May 2-8	Christian Family Week to focus on families in the church & community
May 8	Mother's Day
May 7-8	Golden Cross Weekend to further the work of health & welfare ministries in the annual conference (or another date chosen by local church)
May 10-20	General Conference Portland Oregon
May 15	Pentecost to celebrate the birthday of the Church
May 22	Heritage Sunday to call the church to remember the past by committing to God's continuing call
May 22	Peace with Justice Sunday to call the church to peace with justice, offering funds annual conference and General Board of Church & Society peace with justice ministries
May 22	Trinity Sunday
June 9-12	Annual Conference held at Grove City College
June 19	Father's Day
July 11-15	Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference Lancaster, Pennsylvania
August 13-14	Rural Life Weekend to emphasize the value of rural life & agriculture
Sept 10-11	Christian Education Weekend to call the church to be open to growth and learning
Sept 18	Retired Clergy Sunday to honor retired clergy, spouses or surviving spouses
Oct 2	World Communion Sunday
Oct 7-9	Children's Sabbath
Oct 8-9	Camping Weekend
Oct 16	Laity Sunday to celebrate the ministry of all Christians
Nov 1	All Saints Day to remember departed Saints
Nov 5-6	Youth Service Fund Weekend offering to assist youth programs locally & globally
Nov 6	Daylight Savings Time ends clocks fall back
Nov 20	Bible Sunday to acknowledge the place of the Bible in today's world
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Day to thank God for blessings, commemorating our national heritage
Nov 27	United Methodist Student Day to call the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge; offering funds scholarships & loans
Advent	Doorways to Hope at Home for continued support of the six Western PA Conference regional mission agencies within the Conference boundaries

Dec 24/25	Christmas	to celebrate the birth of Christ
Dec 31	Watch Night	to usher in the New Year with covenant renewal.

Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

Plan for Ministry

MISSION

To provide leadership, connection, and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

VISION

To ignite and sustain a passionate, spiritual connection with Christ among all people in Western Pennsylvania.

CORE VALUE

Our core value is love: We love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

This value is commanded by Jesus, inspired by our Wesleyan heritage including to spread scriptural holiness over the land, and witnessed through our integrity, accountability and inclusiveness.

Five Areas of Focus

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
- Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.
- Engaging in ministry with the poor.
- Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.
- Dismantling racism.