



With
Jesus
in the
Boat
-Matthew 8:23-27-

**California-Nevada Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
2019 Annual Conference Session
2018 Annual Reports
Compilation 1 — May 15, 2019**

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Lay Leadership Development Team

Number on Agency:

Number voting for:

Date of first meeting:

Date adopted: April 30, 2019

Submitted by: Micheal Pope, Conference Lay Leader

Number voting when adopted:

Number abstaining:

Number of meetings held:

Goals for 2018

- Develop leaders in the conference that feel engaged and the best they can be in their leadership role.
- Provide outstanding trainings, programs and services whose outcomes that can be measured.

The California-Nevada Conference Lay Leadership Development Team (LLDT) set many goals for 2018. As a team we discussed more frequent meetings and a strategic plan that would support the activities of the four core focus areas of the conference while building a stronger intentional communication with the conveners of the mission focus areas of the conference.

As Conference Lay Leader I spent many hours partnering with Bishop Carcaño to perform church visits. Our visits were important to the laity and clergy throughout the conference.

Our message for 2018 was “Laity and Clergy...Together!”

Traveling together and building relationships throughout the conference is vital to our goal to connect as a leadership team.

My relationship with the Bishop is collaborative and over the year we have grown in our partnership as leaders of the conference. The Bishop provides me pastoral care, friendship and we are in prayer for each other.

The Bishop asked me to participate in a group that would review a new strategic planning process that would create alignment as we moved into 2019. We continue to work on this.

It was my honor to partner with the conference church staff on numerous projects:

Communications Department-Website remodel/Stories of ministry

Connectional Ministry – Review of strategy models

Leadership Development- District visits and LLDT

Congregational Development-Vocational Ministry, Spiritual Formation of leaders

Youth and Young Adults-Mentoring 2 Young Adults in the conference through connection/prayer/support

Partnering with Leadership

Executive Director of Leadership Development Gere Reist and I were able to participate in the clergy and leadership orientation. This activity provided a great opportunity for communication and fellowship. Gere and I had the opportunity to partner in Sparks, Nevada. Our joint sermon on the “Priesthood of Believers” was received very well.

Young Adult Francisca Smith is a product of seed planted in Sparks. As a young adult in our conference she has a great number of questions about the conference. Ms. Smith had an opportunity to speak with the Bishop during an Episcopal visit held in South Reno after General Conference.

Many partnerships have been formed from these interactions. As conference Lay Leader, I have supported the conference through pulpit supply.

Preaching throughout the conference has been one the areas where I have grown this past year. AMEN!!

Lay Leadership Development Committee

The California-Nevada Conference Lay Leadership Development Committee had the following overarching goal: To assist Conference Churches to use the District and Circuit model to train, worship, and serve together. The LLDT supports the efforts of the CLM program by identifying trainers and local leaders who might be interested in lay leadership. The LLDT will propose ideas from Discipleship Ministries with the idea that every congregation member is a lay servant.

The Lay Leadership Development Committee meet monthly for the entire year through Zoom to accommodate the geography of our conference. The group met face-to face after annual conference to establish goals and to create a laity strategy for the conference that will ensure the inclusion of not only the laity that are in leadership but those who sit in the pews every Sunday.

The Lay Leadership Development Committee has been able to strengthen the connection between laity and conference through outreach strategies:

1. Strengthen the connections between laity and conference through outreach strategies that include face to face connections; workshops and worship
2. Advance California-Nevada Conference Train the Trainer curriculum
3. Expand opportunities for laity leadership...promote diversity
4. Improve information systems by working with the conference communications department to create laity newsletter, dashboard and archive of training documents
5. Facilitate and promote access to Discipleship Ministries on-line trainings
6. Track Outcomes and performance metrics-LLDT will be accountable and transparent in our practices to deliver
7. Advance and foster youth and young adult leadership in the hope of foster permanency of younger leadership within the California-Nevada Conference
8. Work towards achieving racial equity within the California-Nevada Conference lay leadership

Lay Servant Ministries

During annual conference year 2018 the LLDT, with much support from Akesa Fakava, significantly increased the number of Lay Servant trainings that were available throughout the conference in addition to developing some structure there that had been missing for some time. Much of our work has been trying to support those efforts and is one of the activities that is actually measurable.

CLM

From July 1, 2018 to date we have trained 8 Lay Ministers that are ready to serve the California-Nevada Conference. We will have 5 CLM certificates to present at Annual Conference for those who have taken the program and will be serving churches this year. The program is developing and evolving. We will have 2 one-week intensive trainings in the 2019-2020 appointment year. The first one will be September 2-6 AND November 14-18 in Lemoore, CA (Central Valley District) and we will have one next spring either somewhere in the Great Northern District or at the Conference Center in West Sacramento.

Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Number on Agency: 15

Number voting for: 13

Date of first meeting: August 8, 2018

Date adopted: April 23, 2019

Submitted by: Patty Bartscher, Chair

Number voting when adopted: 13

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 7

The Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry had a productive year. The Board consists of 15 members; 7 members “at large”, and 8 members who are the Campus Ministers of the ministries supported by the Annual Conference. One member was not able to continue this year, two Campus Ministers began with the 2017 Fall semester, and two Campus Ministers began at the end of the 2018 Fall semester. While we are thankful for some stability on the Board, we are also looking forward to growth and energy the new Campus Ministers bring.

The Campus Ministries at San Francisco State University (EcHouse), UC Davis (CA House) and UC Merced and Merced College (Wesley Foundation of Merced) and San Jose State University (The Wesley Club) each boast strong leadership and dynamic programs. The Annual Conference funding for these campus ministries has remained stable, which has been central to the successful ministries. The Annual Conference has also provided funding for the Campus Ministries at the University of the Pacific and Delta Wesley through Central UMC Stockton, and UC Santa Cruz (The Feast). Wesley UMC Palo Alto provides support and space for Campus Ministry at Stanford University.

The Wesley Foundation of Merced provides ministry to UC Merced, Merced College and at the Wesley House, a 9 student intentional Christian community. Bible Study and “Journey Conversations” small group program are offered to deepen Christian faith and to equip students with resources to meaningfully address and engage relevant issues that students are facing today: anxiety, depression, suicidality, economic insecurity, climate instability, gun safety, church and homosexuality, partisan politics, and navigating the chaos and information overload from social media. We learn to ask “beautiful questions”: How do we distinguish between healthy religion from toxic religion? How do we live out our Christian faith in an increasingly polarized culture where people are retreating into their own “eco chambers”? Rather than view conflict as one side pitted against the other, there is a “third side” as William Ury calls it. It’s the power of coming together in community and creating a new perspective. In addition, we offer monthly worship service, meditation workshop and discussion forum on campus. Our Campus Minister John Song offers free pastoral counseling and Spiritual Direction to students.

The Cal Aggie Christian Association (CA House) at UC Davis has continued and expanded its primary programs, including a weekly Christian student fellowship and “Open Table”, a Multi-faith program that allows a space for students of diverse religious traditions to gather around a common table for conversation. And, the newest addition to the CA House offerings is the “Nourish” Food Pantry. “Nourish is a radical intracommunity food pantry system designed to address food insecurity among university students in the Davis community. CA House is working to establish a food pantry system that can meet the needs of the student community while offering a variety of healthy food options.

The EcHouse at San Francisco State is an intentional living community for six residents. The Campus Minister serves as a mentor and guide as these residents discern and create their ministry to the campus and community. There is a “family dinner” each week that includes between 10-15 students. EcHouse has shared in the Shabbat services with the Camus Hillel group and co-sponsored event on interfaith work. Twice a week free coffee and sandwiches are provided to 100-120 students each day, many returning week after week.

This provides an opportunity connect with volunteers and link students with community gardens, food recovery, food pantries and coordinated benefits access programs in the neighborhoods where the students live. Homelessness among students is an urgent issue and one that EcHouse is looking to include in its ministry.

At the University of the Pacific and Central UMC Stockton, a group of devoted United Methodist Students meet weekly on campus for “Open Door” United Methodist Ministries for community and discipleship. Students discuss Wesleyan spirituality and enjoy a meal together. Open Door members often have off-campus gathering and events. The Campus Ministries at Stanford and at UC Santa Cruz (The Feast) have just welcomed new Campus Ministers, and are refining their programs and focus. As a Board, we are excited that they have strong support from their local communities and are building relationships with their campuses.

Funding for these critical ministries continues to be an issue. And, there are significant areas in the Annual Conference that have thriving college communities, but no Campus Ministry. The Board is working towards a stable funding model and expansion of Campus Ministry in the Annual Conference.

Advocacy and Justice Committee

Number on Agency: 14

Number voting for:

Number voting against:

Date of first meeting: January 13, 2018

Date adopted:

Submitted by: Rev. Michael Yoshii, Chair

Number voting when adopted:

Number abstaining:

Number of meetings held: 6

In July 2018 the we welcomed Rev. Jorge Domingues as new staff resource to our committee with his new position as Executive Director of Connectional Ministries.

In April 2018 our committee organized a conference wide event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with focus on the triple evils of militarism, racism, and poverty. The event was a great success with over 200 in attendance. The issues King addressed in 1967 regarding inequity in resources for basic human needs in local communities while huge profits are generated for and by the military industrial complex continue to resonate in today's world. The event also was successful in creating intersectional relationships with different task forces represented on the committee. In particular, the Israel-Palestine Task Force, Philippines Solidarity Task Force, Immigration Task Force, Disability Task Force, and Korean Peace Task Force all worked together well in drawing connections between their specific issues within the framework of the triple evils of militarism, racism, and poverty. A new insight has emerged with an understanding of the extension of the military industrial complex to now include the prison industrial complex and security industrial complex with proliferation of detention centers, prisons, and proposal of border walls in the U.S. as modeled on Israeli tools of military occupation. We continue education and training on this framework and plan to have a vigil at Annual Conference 2019 to bring attention to how children are being impacted by these issues.

We have invested in leadership training this past year sponsoring two clergy to attend the General Board of Church and Society – “Young Clergy Forum” in Washington D.C. this past January. We also sponsored young adult participation in the Ecumenical Advocacy days in Washington D.C. in April. EAD is an annual ecumenical event which involved workshops, trainings, and advocacy at Capitol Hill.

This past year we named Jean Reynolds as our new Peace and Justice Coordinator. The P & J Coordinator participates in national trainings and is our liaison to the national P & J network through the General Board of Church and Society.

We held a consultation with GBCS staff to better coordinate the work and resources of the agency with our conference ministry and will continue to plan together.

We continue to support the work of representative task forces on the committee. Each task force carries out their own specific activities within the conference and national networks while we are strengthening the collective work together.

Conference Mission Service Committee

Number on Agency: 12

Number voting for: 12

Date of first meeting: February 10, 2018

Date adopted: April 30, 2019

Submitted by: Colin Kerr-Carpenter, Chairperson

Number voting when adopted: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 2

The Conference Mission Service Committee has a threefold purpose:

1. To envision and engage in imaginative new forms of mission appropriate to changing needs;
2. To coordinate implementation of Conference strategy for outreach and mission; and
3. To resource congregations for mission outreach.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to nurture and grow our missional partnerships with Cambodia and West Angola. In Cambodia our focus has been to grow and strengthen Methodist congregations in country. Our West Angola partnership has centered around partnering with the West Angola Conference on ways to strengthen health initiatives in Angola.
- We continue to support our bilateral covenant relationships with the Methodist Churches of Fiji and Tonga.
- We continue to partner with the Conference Committee on Children and Poverty to support NetworX, a project with the goal of building relationships across class lines to walk people out of poverty.
- United Methodist Volunteers-in-Mission (UMVIM): in 2018 we deployed 22 local church volunteer groups both domestically and abroad. The work of these 193 people included fire relief work, running medical clinics, and constructing homes and churches.
- Sent representatives to the Mission Ambassadors Summit, December 1-3, in Atlanta GA. The summit was to celebrate our United Methodist mission work throughout the world and to introduce conference mission representatives to the new General Board of Global Ministries offices in Atlanta.

Finally, 2019 marks the bicentennial of our United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. We too celebrate our long Methodist legacy of working in the name of Jesus Christ to alleviate suffering and uplift people throughout the world.

**Conference Mission Service Committee
Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**

Number on Agency:		Number voting when adopted:
Number voting for:	Number voting against:	Number abstaining:
Date of first meeting:		Number of meetings held:
Date adopted:		
Submitted by: Howard Parker, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries		

In 2018, four Global Ministries missionaries from the annual conference were in active missionary service: Marilyn Chan (Cambodia), Claudia Genung (Japan), Katherine Parker (Nepal), and Josh Van (Malaysia). Margaret Lohmeyer served within the annual conference as a Global Missions Fellow for part of the year.

In addition to these five, and in the spirit of missionary service being “From Everywhere to Everywhere,” these six other Global Ministries missionaries also received significant conference support through The Advance: Eun Ha Choi, Ken Cruz, Paul Jeffrey, Larry Kies, Jane Kies, and Hyo-Won Park. Missionaries Teri and Evelyn Eberle served as Mission Advocates for the Western Jurisdiction. For 2018, the total conference missionary support was about \$70,000. The total conference support through the Advance for all global ministries, including UMCOR, other projects, and missionaries, was about \$340,000 for the year.

In 2018, these 32 conference churches provided significant missionary financial support:

Alamo, San Ramon Valley	Manteca, St. Paul’s	San Francisco, Glide
Aptos	Mill Valley, Mt. Tamalpais	San Francisco, Temple
Chico, Trinity	Montague	San Jose, Almaden Hills
Davis	Nevada City	San Jose,
Dixon	Oakland, Korean	Korean of the Santa Clara Valley
Elk Grove	Palo Alto, First	San Jose, St. Paul’s
Farmington	Palo Alto, St. Andrew’s	San Rafael, Aldersgate
Fresno, Calwa	Pleasanton, Lynnewood	Santa Rosa, First
Healdsburg Community	Porterville, First	Sunnyvale, First
Lafayette	Richmond, First	Walnut Creek, First
Lodi, First	San Francisco, Bethany	Windsor

Conference Committee on Episcopacy

Number on Agency: 10

Number voting for: 10

Date of first meeting: December 8, 2018

Date adopted: April 30, 2019

Submitted by: Lisa A. Brown, Chairperson

Number voting when adopted: 10

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 2

According to *The Book of Discipline* (2016) of the United Methodist Church (§ 637), the committee shall meet at least annually. It shall be convened by the bishop and shall elect a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary. The bishop and/or chairperson are authorized to call additional meetings when desired.

The current committee members are as follows:

Lisa A. Brown (clergy-chairperson)
Oscar Ochoa (layperson-vice chair)
Kris Marshall (clergy-secretary)
JB Brayfindley (lay person)
Micheal Pope (conference lay leader)
Dawn Blundell (clergy)
Vathanak Heang (clergy)
Ofa Uepi (clergy)
Emily Allen (Western Jurisdiction lay person)
Jeffery Kuan (Western Jurisdiction clergy)

One of the committee's responsibilities is to engage in annual consultation and appraisal of the balance of the bishop's relationship and responsibilities to the area and annual conferences, the jurisdiction, general Church boards and agencies, and other areas of specialized ministry... (§637.3.f.).

During December, 2018, we reviewed the membership of the Conference Committee on Episcopacy. The following information was brought to the chairperson's attention:

According to the Book of Discipline, this Committee on the Episcopacy shall be between seven and seventeen members, comprised of 1/3 lay women, 1/3 lay men, 1/3 clergy.

To meet these requirements, we would need to add three more lay women, and four more lay men. The Bishop is responsible for nominating 1/5 of the committee. No current committee members should be omitted for inactivity (which is missing two meetings in a row).

During the March, 2019 meeting, recommendations were made to meet the recommended requirements. It is our understanding these recommendations are now being processed through the work of the Conference Committee on Nominations and Connectional Leadership Development.

Lastly, our committee met twice since the last Annual Conference Session and discussed ways to support and care for our Bishop as she works effectively with all of the diverse communities in our Episcopal area to cast vision for the future, respond to the concerns of the FACT Engagement, and develop leaders for today's church.

Conference Board of Pensions

Number on Agency: 12

Number voting for: 11

Date of first meeting: January 24, 2018

Date adopted by Conference Call: April 28, 2019

Number voting against: 0

Number voting when adopted: 11

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 3

1. The Board is the agent for the United Methodist Church and the California-Nevada Annual Conference in a significant economic ministry: providing adequate benefits for clergy and lay participants, their dependents and their survivors.

During calendar year 2018, congregations and agencies of the conference paid \$2,803,773 for Current Service Pension Funding (CRSP/ CPP) and \$3,048,642 for active employee health care benefits. Additionally, retiree health care subsidy support was provided to over 300 retired clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses. Other benefits provided by the Board of Pensions include Death, Disability and Life Insurance Benefits through UNUM for Conference lay staff.

The Board of Pensions used \$1,913,898 from the Past Service Reserve Fund to pay for pre-1982 pension obligations. This included a 3% increase to the 2019 PSR rate (\$887 per year of service).

Paul Extrum-Fernandez serves as the Executive Officer and Conference Benefits Officer to work with Wespath (formerly the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits), Health Insurance Plan providers, the Cabinet, the Ministry Staff, the Endowment Board, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and individual constituents within the Annual Conference. He also administers reserve funds held by Wespath and makes regular reports to the Board.

The Board also employs Brian Grimmer as its Assistant Benefits Manager and Andrea Winchester as its Office Manager.

2. During 2018, staff continued to promote the importance to pastors and lay workers of the denomination's Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) and continued to assist pastors with payroll matters and compliance testing on the current 403(b) 'elective deferral' limits.

3. The Board of Pensions continues to provide a Kaiser HMO health insurance plan and Blue Shield PPO health insurance options for active participants. MetLife was also continued as our dental plan. MES Vision is also provided for vision coverage. Board of Pensions staff continued to counsel and assist constituents in the use of these managed care programs. The Board continues to monitor the health care programs and costs closely.

4. The Board of Pensions also administers four different retiree Health Care Programs (Blue Shield PPO, Blue Shield HMO, UnitedHealthCare, and Kaiser Senior Advantage) for approximately 300 retired clergy, spouses and surviving dependents. Retired participants are eligible for a premium subsidy determined by years of service.

5. Since 1944, the Board of Pensions has administered the Death Benefit Program and/or the Death Benefit-Plus Program, providing term life insurance coverage for as many as 600 Conference constituents each year, both clergy and lay employees. By General Conference action, these formerly separate programs were made part of the "Comprehensive Protection Plan" ('CPP', for clergy) and the "Basic Protection Plan" ('BPP', for lay employees). During 2018, the Board of Pensions continued to work directly with the beneficiaries and

survivors of those covered by these benefits, as well as administer the current coverage for the full-time lay employees of the Annual conference.

6. The Board of Pensions continues to operate a student housing facility adjacent to the campus of the University of California, Berkeley. Over 80 students from across the country and abroad utilize the group living accommodations.

7. The Board of Pensions remains grateful for the Conference Claimants Endowment Board (CCEB), which continued its strong work in support of retired clergy benefits, and related services for retired clergy and surviving dependents. The Board recognizes the tremendous value of the \$1.7 Million annual gift from the Endowment Board, which now provides 100% of the Annual Conference-related funding for the Retiree health care plans. During 2015, Conference Claimants received up to a \$3,800 (single)/\$7,600 (couple) subsidy in their health care premiums, thanks to the Endowment Board contribution. The Board of Pensions encourages all persons to become acquainted with the programs of the Endowment Board, and to support that Board in their work to help fund the Conference retiree benefit programs.

8. The Board carries out its work with the help of the following standing committees:

- A. The Executive Committee
- B. The Health Insurance Committee
- C. The Joint Committee on Medical Leave
- D. The Investment Committee
- E. The Personnel Committee

9. The Board of Pensions operates in accordance with the requirements of *The Book of Discipline* (2016). Authorization has been given to deposit funds with the Conference Treasurer, the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and a local financial institution used for daily transactions, presently the Bank of the West. The Treasurers related to the Annual Conference are bonded.

Conference Board of Pensions 2020 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary

Number on Agency: 12

Number voting for: 11

Date of first meeting: January 24, 2018

Date adopted by Conference Call: April 28, 2019

Number voting against: 0

Number voting when adopted: 11

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 3

Introduction:

The Book of Discipline (2012) ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespath. This document is only a summary of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan and does not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the conference's benefit obligations. You may request the full contents of the 2020 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the Board of Pensions office.

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC)

Program 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 program is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre-82 Plan 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 United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences.

Current funding plan information:

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2018, is (\$1,740,019,798), while total plan assets are \$1,904,387,237, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 109%. The California-Nevada Conference portion of the liability is 1.4576% and the 2020 contribution is \$1,378,998. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by Direct Billing. 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 California-Nevada Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 50%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2020.

Effective January 1, 2014, the CRSP DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy can 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% to CRSP DC. The 2020 CRSP DC contribution is anticipated to be \$526,320 and will be funded by Direct Billing.

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

Plan overview:

Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), provides clergy with a pension benefit 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. MPP requires that

exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when the funds are to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or it may be paid in a lump sum.

Current funding plan information:

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2018 is (\$3,606,807,509), while total plan assets are \$3,885,277,143, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 108%. The required contribution for 2020 is \$0. The California-Nevada Conference's percentage of the total liability is 1.7142%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$3,803,548,721 and the California-Nevada Conference's portion of that balance is \$59,112,003 or 1.55% of the total.

Pre-82 Plan

Plan overview:

Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit 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. If a clergyperson retires within the Conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit-approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate) - the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the pension rate, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy 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-82 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life-based benefit and, at that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; but the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

Current funding plan information:

The 2020 PSR recommended to the California-Nevada Conference will be \$903, representing a 2% increase from the 2019 rate. The conference expects future annual increases to be approximately 1.00%.

The contingent annuitant percentage will remain at the 75% level.

Active Health Benefit Program

Program Overview

The California-Nevada Conference offers the following active health benefits to its active eligible participants:
Insurance: Kaiser HMO or Blue Shield PPO.

Current funding plan information:

The total cost of the program for 2020 is anticipated to be \$3,804,100 and will be funded by Direct Billing. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 9.00%.

Although there was a decrease in expenses in 2018, our Blue Shield rates went up 25% in 2019. Fortunately, we had modest increases in our Kaiser plans. We are anticipating a 9% change for our active plans in 2020 based on projected changes regarding vendors.

Additional Conference-Sponsored Coverage (if applicable)

The California-Nevada Conference has elected to provide health benefits coverage to the following groups during periods where-without plan sponsor--funded premiums--the participants would not be provided coverage or benefits (all figures as of 12/31/2018):

1. Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability): 3 participants at an estimated cost of \$60,480. The projected annual cost as of 12/31/2020 for additional plan sponsor funded coverage is \$12,318.

Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Program (PRM)

Program Overview:

The California-Nevada Conference currently offers Insurance for Post-Retirement Medical (PRM) coverage.

Current funding plan information:

The plan sponsor's intention for 2020 is to retain its current plans. PRM benefits provided are as follows: A subsidy is provided to retirees based on years of service appointed to a local church. The source of the subsidy is from the Endowment Board.

The projected annual plan benefit (fully funded by a contribution from the Endowment Board) cost for 2020 (subsidies, HRAs, claims or premiums) is \$1,200,000.

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. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the California-Nevada Conference contains its elections to cover three-quarter time and fulltime appointments.

Current funding plan information:

For 2020, the California-Nevada Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$513,000, which is anticipated to be funded by Direct Billing. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.00% per year.

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, Roth and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

Current funding plan information:

Conference office lay employees working an average of 20 hours per week or more are eligible for a plan sponsor-funded pension contribution of 12% of salary. Lay employees are encouraged to make contributions

toward their retirement through payroll deductions to the UMPIP. The conference's estimated contribution for 2020 is \$62,346 and will be funded via Apportionments.

Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations

Plan Overview:

The California-Nevada currently offers the following DC benefit(s): **UM Life for Eligible Conference Lay Employees**. The estimated contribution for 2020 is \$3,606 with the funding sources to be Apportionments. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 1.00% per year.

Plan Overview:

The California-Nevada currently offers the following DC benefit(s): **Moving Costs for Clergy Retirees**. The estimated contribution for 2020 is \$100,000 with the funding sources to be Apportionments. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 1.00% per year.

Plan Overview:

The California-Nevada currently offers the following DC benefit(s): **LTD for Eligible Conference Lay Employees**. The estimated contribution for 2020 is \$8,118 with the funding sources to be Apportionments. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.00% per year.

Conclusion:

The 2020 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and this summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the California-Nevada's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the California-Nevada Conference.

Conference Council on Finance and Administration

Number on Agency: 12

Number voting for: 10

Date of first meeting: January 13, 2018

Date adopted: April 30, 2019

Submitted by: Kristin Stoneking, President

Number voting when adopted: 10

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 6

The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) celebrates the people of California-Nevada for your faithfulness in tithing and giving. For the second year in a row, California-Nevada has paid our general and jurisdictional apportionments in full in 2018! Through increased tithing, a special appeal to the annual conference at the end of the year, and the utilization of stored funds and operating reserves, California-Nevada has been a full partner in the ministries of justice, healing and hope across our global connection.

Tithe collections for 2018 increased by \$113,493 or 2% compared with 2017, exceeding the Council's budgeted revenue target amount. Spending was below budget by \$394,614.

At the close of 2018, the balance of the conference operating fund was \$1,429,485 or 2.95 months' reserve. By standing rule, the Council targets a fund balance between 2.5 and 3 months' reserve.

The CFA brought a 2019 budget recommendation to the 2018 Annual Conference Session. The aspirational budget \$6,476,000 was passed as recommended. The CFA has historically recommended a budget based on an expectation of 100% tithing, though tithing has not yet reached the 100% level. While we believe 100% tithing is possible, the difference between actual tithing and 100% creates an annual structural deficit. The CFA has taken steps to remedy this structural deficit, which is reflected in the 2020 proposed budget.

The CFA's president actively participated in the Core Team meetings during 2018. With Bishop Carcaño, the extended cabinet, and Core Team, CFA provided leadership in recommendations of the FACT report related to tithing sustainability, conference-wide coordinated financial processes and statements, and communications relating to finance and administration. Additionally, the Council was represented on the California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation's investment committee.

The Unit Insurance committee of CFA continued to contract with Philadelphia Insurance Company for the program's property and liability insurance. The committee monitors the claims experience of our churches while seeking to maximize coverage at the lowest cost possible. The net asset balance of this fund was \$178,981 on December 31, 2018. The net asset balance of the earthquake relief grant fund was \$1,434,643.

The CFA and the Conference Personnel Committee began a new performance evaluation process, followed by work with Payscale to establish pay ranges for our staff positions. The CFA moved into a system that awarded merit bonuses during 2018, effective for 2019 pay.

A line of credit was approved on request from the Conference Board of Trustees related to legal expenses concerned Glide Memorial United Methodist Church.

The 2017 audit of the Council on Finance and Administration of the California-Nevada Annual Conference was received from Gilbert Associates, public accountants and approved by CFA. The audit received an unqualified opinion from Gilbert Associates, meaning that the conference's fund balances and financial processes were reviewed and affirmed.

CFA monitored the financial condition of the conference with the help of financial reports prepared by conference staff Karen Foster, Lesya Susid and Ajesh Kumar. The Council thanks the staff and particularly Diane Knudsen for carrying out her broad range of duties for the last 24 years as our Conference Treasurer and Executive Director of Finance and Administration.

Conference Board of Trustees

Number on Agency: 9

Number voting for: 8

Date of first meeting: February 24, 2018

Date adopted: March 25, 2019

Submitted by: Harold Caudle, President

Number voting against: 0

Number voting when adopted: 8

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 5

Property Management:

The Conference Board of Trustees continues to hold title to and maintains five district parsonages, one episcopal residence, and the United Methodist Center. The Board also holds in trust the Ashbury parsonage of the former Hamilton UMC of San Francisco.

During the calendar year 2018, three of the district properties, Chico, Fresno, and Sacramento were managed by the conference. The other two district properties, Reno and San Jose, the Ashbury parsonage in San Francisco, and the episcopal residence in West Sacramento were managed by professional property managers. Most of the net rental income of the district parsonages is used to fund housing allowances for the five district superintendents.

The episcopal residence continues to be rented out with the net proceeds applied to the bishop's housing allowance.

Most of the net rental income from the Ashbury parsonage is used to pay down the debt accrued from Hamilton UMC of San Francisco.

Glide:

The Conference Board of Trustees began a process, on the recommendation of Bishop Minerva Carcaño, to enforce the United Methodist Trust Clause and the Lizzie Glide Trust of the Glide Foundation.

The Board of Trustees requested a line of credit with the Council on Finance and Administration for the purpose of financing legal costs related to actions taken.

The Board of Trustees moved to authorize Diane Knudsen, Executive Director of Finance and Administration of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, to represent the members of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with Bishop Minerva Carcaño; to sign the Letter of Engagement with the law firm Bryan Cave Leighton and Paisner.

2018 Annual Conference Legislation:

The 2018 annual conference session approved two pieces of legislation submitted by the Board of Trustees:

1. To deed the real property of the former First United Methodist Church of Orangevale to the Cho-Un Korean United Methodist Church.
2. To delete the employee loan program from the Standing Rule X.D. Annual Conference Staff Housing.

United Methodist Center:

New rain gutters and downspouts were installed around the United Methodist Center along with some eave/rafter tail work.

Phase II of the United Methodist Center improvements is nearing completion with work yet to be completed on the new display area at the conference center and adding a little more interior design in the conference rooms.

Trustees are looking into ADA improvements at the United Methodist Center and are currently reviewing quotes for ADA doors leading into the restrooms and lobby.

Methodist Homes:

The Conference Board of Trustees received a request from California-Nevada Methodist Homes, a California non-profit corporation, to terminate its health and welfare organization's relationship with this annual conference. After receiving input from the Conference Chancellor's office, a discussion was held on the nature of this annual conference's relationship with this health and welfare institution. The Board of Trustees passed a motion to affirm the decision of the California-Nevada Methodist Homes to terminate this relationship and, pursuant to ¶2517.6 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016), this action is hereby reported to the Annual Conference.

Finance:

The Board has reviewed financial statements as presented by the Conference Treasurer and has approved planned maintenance and repair items on the aforementioned properties.

The Board has fulfilled its responsibilities as defined in *The Book of Discipline*.

Retired Clergy Association

Number on Agency: 10

Number voting for: 17

Date of first meeting: August 22, 2018

Date adopted: March 13, 2019

Number voting against: 0

Number voting when adopted: 17

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 3

The purpose of the Retired Clergy Association of the California-Nevada Annual Conference is to maintain a supportive relationship with each other and strengthen its relationship with the Annual Conference by continuing to be of service to the church and the world. We do this through various service projects offered to retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses. Retirees serve the churches of the Annual Conference through pulpit supply, short and long term, as well as participating in the Sacraments. Members of the Association participate in mission projects which seek to alleviate hardships suffered by others, locally and globally.

Our Executive Officer, Nancy Daley, maintains a database, mailing lists, meeting records, and a website for more than 700 persons, which keeps the membership informed of all aspects of the Association.

The Conference Claimants' Endowment Board, through its generous support, helps the Association maintain a visible presence in the lives of the membership. Through financial support, the Association is able to send teams on VIM trips, provide a per diem for retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses to attend the Annual Conference Session, and assist clergy to attend the Gathering of the Orders. The Board of Pensions is very supportive of retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses by keeping us informed of, and connected to, quality health care at as reasonable a cost as possible.

The Association is committed to offering high quality programs that will benefit the membership, spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally. The Association is also able to connect to future clergy by providing, through member donations, scholarships to seminarians and course of study students.

We are currently developing programs that will further connect each person with a personal visit (within the bounds of the Annual Conference) seeking to find out how it is with each other's soul and to prevent persons from "falling through the cracks."

Thanks are in order for all who have answered the call to serve as the Board of Directors of the Association.

Africa University Report to the 2019 California-Nevada Annual Conference

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of the local congregations of The United Methodist Church. The students, faculty, administrators, trustees, and alumni are grateful to the leaders and members of the California-Nevada Conference for prioritizing Africa University with the contribution of 100 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2018. The university community values every gift and is humbled by the sacrifices that are being made by California-Nevada United Methodists to maintain a tradition of 100 percent support for the AUF.

Through its investment in the Africa University Fund, the California-Nevada Conference continues to affirm the university's core mission of nurturing leaders who help communities to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security, and abundant health. Thank you, California-Nevada United Methodists, for your steadfast commitment and strong support.

Institutional Update:

- Africa University remains a top choice for African young people who are seeking a relevant and life-changing educational experience. In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions.
- Throughout 2018, Africa University weathered the challenges of Zimbabwe's depressed and uncertain socio-economic environment with creativity and prudence. The university delivered teaching, learning and community service activities of high-quality without interruption, while also renewing and expanding its infrastructure. Key enhancements in 2018 included the refurbishment of three residence halls for women students and the full implementation of an ERP software system to integrate and manage all facets of the university's operations.
- For the first time in five years, there is new construction on the Africa University campus thanks to a 25th anniversary gift from Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. In December 2018, work began on the foundation for a new residence hall. The university subsequently broke ground for the construction of phase two of its Student Union and Cafeteria building. Both projects are progressing well and are expected to be fully in use by August 2020.
- With conflict, poverty, and the impact of climate change persisting as the key drivers of food insecurity and the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugeehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide scholarships for refugee women so that their experiences, talents and ideas are integrated into the search for sustainable solutions.
- Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU's insectary—a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitos—shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

The students, faculty, administrators, and trustees of Africa University thank the members of the California-Nevada Conference for their prayers and support, which continue to grow and sustain this ministry. Thank you for opening doors and equipping young people to be difference-makers.

Thank you for all that you have sown into Africa University over the past 27 years. As Africa University and the California-Nevada Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God's unending grace for the increase.

Submitted by:
James H. Salley
Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office
jsalley@gbhem.org
615.340.7438

Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we seek to be faithful and courageous disciples in a hurt-filled world!

News From the School:

- **Faculty:** We welcomed two amazing faculty this year: **Shively Smith** as Asst. Professor of New Testament, and **Nicolette Manglos-Weber** as Asst. Professor of Religion and Society. In the coming year, we welcome **Filipe Maia** as Asst. Professor of Theology and **Luis Menéndez-Antuña** as Asst. Professor of New Testament.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry. We also offer new Korean and African Student Scholarships, and four Leadership Fellowships: Raíces Latinas for Latinx leaders, Sacred Worth for persons who lead in the LGBTQIA+ community, Howard Thurman for African-American leaders, and Indigenous Studies Fellowships.
- **Faith and Ecological Justice Program:** This new program sponsors events and initiatives to increase ecological awareness, education, research, and activism in ecological justice.
- **Grants:** Henry Luce Foundation has awarded a 3-year grant to support the Educating Effective Chaplains Project. The grant supports work with other seminaries to develop models that can better prepare chaplains for effective ministry.
- **Website:** A new School website will launch in Fall 2019.
- 2019 marks the 180th year of the School of Theology, originally founded as the Newbury Bible Institute in 1839.
- The BUSTH development campaign will end in September 2019, and we continue working toward a strong completion to support future generations and contribute to the vitality of your ministries.

Partnering for Ministry and Transformation:

- **Creative Callings:** Our vocational project is an exciting partnership with local churches, seeking to create “a culture of call.” It is sponsored through a grant from the Lilly Endowment.
- **Engagement with the UMC:** Many of our students and alums were delegates and participants in General Conference 2019, and in reflection sessions and actions that have followed; they continue their discerning work for transformation.
- **Congregational courses:** The Continuing Scholar program offers current BUSTH courses to alums and local clergy as continuing education credit for a small fee per course.
- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
- **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** The Clinic provides internships and workshops that foster justice and peace.
- **Travel seminars:** These courses engage students with immersion journeys to the Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, Argentina, Mexico, and other sites of learning and ministry. Attendees from the recent Serbia and Croatia Seminar presented to the 2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto, Canada.
- **Ecumenical partnerships:** We continue to build robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ, and to develop others.
- **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events and to co-sponsor the *Journal of Interreligious Studies* and the *State of Formation* blogging cohort.

Taking Action Globally and Locally:

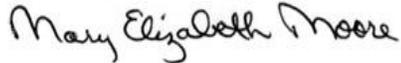
- **Campus action:** Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU, and the school participates actively in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World” for the second consecutive year.
- **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** We provide internships that support students who engage in ministry with churches and service organizations across the world.

Commitment to Justice: Celebrating differences while joining in action.

- Faculty and students have led and participated in UMCOR; support efforts with victims of hurricanes and fires in Puerto Rico, Texas, California, and Florida; protests against white supremacist acts of violence; support services with immigrants and DACA young people; and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
- Through student-led Town Hall meetings, the community has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological differences). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action, while continuing to build our prophetic witness.

As BUSTH looks to the future, we celebrate transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church. Your living legacy and faithful witness give us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Elizabeth Moore".

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

Candler School of Theology 2019 Annual Conference Report

For more than 100 years, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has prepared *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Since our founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is especially important to note amid the current uncertainty in our denomination. It is an honor and a privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and prayed alongside United Methodists, and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward from the Special Session of General Conference, we will continue to invite and welcome wholeheartedly those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.

Candler is also privileged to be one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University in Atlanta. With the resources of a top-tier research institution and the reach of a global city, our students benefit from a rich academic and hands-on learning environment: The General Board of Global Ministries is in Atlanta, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Candler's intentional involvement with our surrounding community has contributed to our inclusion on a list of "Seminaries that Change the World" for six years running. In short, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they're enrolled—they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51 percent women, 39 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded \$5.8 million in Candler scholarships, with 100 percent of MDiv students receiving aid. Plus, our comprehensive "Faith & Finance" program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

— Jan Love

Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology

Claremont School of Theology

CST values its connection to The United Methodist Church, and we are thankful for your prayers, presence, gifts, and service to our community. Since 1885, CST has existed to prepare students to become agents of transformation and healing in churches, local communities, schools, non-profit institutions, and the world at large. This work continues, in part, by your support.

In 2015, CST developed a **five-year strategic plan** based on three goals: *promoting transformative education, engaging local and global communities, and achieving long-term institutional stability*. CST's groundbreaking approach to theological education is leading the way.

We are still seeing record-breaking enrollment numbers, and advancement numbers remain steady, yet we are running a budget deficit. Many other freestanding seminaries are experiencing this problem, too. One way of ensuring a healthy future is to embed in a like-minded university, so our work with **Willamette University** in Salem, Oregon, continues as we endeavor toward an affiliation agreement. This agreement will move us another step closer to reaching **long-term institutional sustainability**.

Willamette is one of a few United Methodist-related universities in the western U.S., which makes it possible for CST to retain both its affiliation as a United Methodist seminary and its reputation as an excellent theological school with renowned programs. Further, partnering with Willamette provides a number of interesting opportunities to strengthen *both* institutions – including dual degree programs, joint degree programs with Willamette's current graduate schools (Atkinson Graduate School of Management and the College of Law), and coursework for Willamette undergraduates. **CST has always met challenges with courage**: from its founding in the San Fernando Valley to its affiliation with and later break from University of Southern California, to its 60+ years in Claremont, CST's mission has always survived. Embedding within Willamette allows us the opportunity to thrive in a new way.

Even after announcing a possible move, CST's alumni/ae and friends have been supportive – as evidenced by a steady increase in giving from alumni/ae and friends in the first six months of the 2018-19 fiscal year, compared to the same period of time in the 2017-18 fiscal year. We believe this is an indication of the continued support of our mission and students, and we see this as a vote of confidence in our efforts to create a stable financial model able to sustain the CST mission for years to come.

Additionally, our **2018-19 Fall enrollment of 431 students was the highest in CST history**, demonstrating that the potential move has not deterred students from seeking the **transformative education** offered by CST. In addition, our M.Div. student enrollment was also our highest in history! And this May we graduated our largest class in history – 106 students who represented thirteen different countries. Further, CST's student body continues to be one of the most diverse among Methodist-affiliated seminaries:

- Our youngest student is 21, and our oldest is 83, with an average age of 41
- Our student body is 29% Methodist, 46% other Christian, 15% non-Christian traditions, 2% non-religious, and 8% unaffiliated/undeclared
- Nearly 60% of our students identify as people of color (14% black/African American, 17% Asian, 11% international/non-resident, 5% Hispanic, 5% Pacific islander/native Hawaiian, 3% two or more races, along with 6% undeclared, and 37% white)

In a world rife with division, our students, professors, and alumni/ae are agents of healing who model peace with justice. CST is made up of people who are **engaging local and global communities** on a variety of issues, from environmental justice and immigration reform to confronting Islamophobia and peace-building. We could not do this critical work without you.

Although the last year has had its challenges, 2018 also held some significant achievements for CST that serve to further our three goals. First, in cooperation with librarians from other seminaries, the CST librarians led the development of the world's first entirely open access library in religious studies, boasting more than 180,000 ebooks and hundreds of thousands of articles. The [Open Access Digital Theological Library's](#) (OADTL) mission is to make all content discoverable to the global community through a single curated search experience, and in just its first semester of use, we have had 12,000 unique users logging in regularly in over 120 countries. The library is free for any user anywhere in the world.

Second, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Chang Jung Christian University (CJCU) on collaboration for a Ph.D. program in Contextual Theology in Taiwan. Our relationship with CJCU began in 2014, and this MOU strengthens the development of our academic and cultural interchanges between students and faculty.

Third, CST created a new position: Vice President for International Relations. This position is designed to lead CST to build relations with alumni/ae, churches, donors, and friends in a global context, particularly in Korea where CST has a critical mass of alumni/ae.

Thank you again for supporting Claremont School of Theology as we continue to provide cutting-edge theological education for the real world... and for the world we want to be real. We invite you to **stay connected** by visiting us at cst.edu, on Facebook, and/or on Twitter @CST_News, and to sign up for our e-newsletter at <https://cst.edu/cst-newsletter>.

Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President and Professor of Hebrew Bible

Drew University Theological School 2019 Annual Conference Report

Drew University Theological School continued its multi-year self-transformation by launching its new curriculum for the Master of Divinity in the fall of 2018. This entirely reconceived degree seeks to form graduates that are rooted in the Christian story and traditions, capable of effective and creative leadership, and spiritually and socially resourceful for cultivating the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ in, with and for the church and the world.

A new two-year degree, the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry also launched, and offers students the opportunity to prepare for public leadership or a specialized vocation through deep theological and ethical reflection informed by biblical, historical, theological and practical sources.

New pathways in the Master of Arts, the Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry were also created as part of the curriculum transformation process which seeks to more intentionally focus the school's service to the church, as well as to the academy and civil society.

Drew welcomed 145 entering students this academic year, its largest entering class in over a decade, with an overall enrollment of 350 for the current academic year.

In the coming year a new 5-year strategic plan will be developed, new degree delivery options that increase accessibility and affordability for prospective students, as well as new partnerships with annual conferences, other church bodies, and values-based organizations that share and strengthen Drew's mission to advance peace, justice, love of God, neighbor, and the earth.

Submitted by: Christy Hartigan, Executive Administrative Assistant
For the office of Javier A. Viera, Vice Provost – Dean of the Theological School
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