



## **The Baltimore-Washington Conference**

### **Our Calling/Purpose**

*To make and engage disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.*

Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 22:34-40

### **Our Vision**

*To become like Christ*

1 Corinthians 12:27; Philippians 2:4-8

### **Our Mission**

*To call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders to  
make disciples and grow Acts 2 congregations*

Mark 1:17; Luke 9:1-6; Ephesians 4:11-13

### **Our Focus**

*The congregations of BWC*

1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 3:10

### **Our Big Holy Adventurous Goal**

*Grow at least 600 Acts 2 congregations by 2012*

Acts 2:1-4, 37-38, 41-47

### **Our Strategy**

*To engage congregations in the Discipleship Adventure and  
resource them through the 10-Point Plan*



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Washington Episcopal Area  
Baltimore-Washington Conference

John R. Schol  
Bishop

Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I look forward to our 224th Annual Conference. We will be representing 685 congregations and 192,000 United Methodists in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church. We gather to celebrate in worship, connect as one, develop our faith, serve like Christ and share our faith. We will discern God's unfolding grace in our midst and our growing commitment to make disciples for the transformation of the world. God is active in our Conference as disciples are poured out to serve like Christ. I give thanks to God for you and for the Baltimore-Washington Conference and look forward to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our annual Conference session.

This Conference session will focus on serving like Christ as we are poured out for ministry. We are inviting you to:


*Look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient.*

—Philippians 2:6-8

This pre-Conference book is a tool for you as you prepare for Annual Conference. I invite you to prepare by reading the materials and attending one of the pre-Conference sessions on Saturday, May 10, 2008. I also invite you to prepare by observing a period of fasting and prayer during May. I encourage you to fast each Wednesday of May or another day that may be convenient. I call upon you to pray everyday that God's Spirit will be poured out on all of us as we gather the last weekend in May.

Together, as we call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow Acts 2 congregations we will transform the people and communities we serve. Your presence, discernment, and support for this purpose at the 224th Annual Conference session will make the difference.

In Christ,

  
John R. Schol

# You Are Invited to Holy Conferencing

1 Peter 3:8-15

*Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*

– NRSV

*Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble.*

– The Message

## **We holy conference as we:**

- See every person as a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable;
- Patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion;
- Listen patiently before formulating responses;
- Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views;
- Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited;
- Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with that position;
- Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names, or an excited and angry voice;
- Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples;
- Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God — not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

– The Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AGENDA**  
**National Harbor, MD, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center**  
**224th Session, May 22-24, 2008**  
***POURED OUT: SERVE LIKE CHRIST***

*We seek to be more like Christ as we call, equip, send and support  
spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow at least 600 Acts 2 congregations by 2012*

**Saturday, May 10, 2008**

Pre-Conference Briefings in four locations

Morning, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Southern Region – Community UMC, 1690 Reidel Rd., Crofton, MD

Western Region – Harmony UMC, 9455 Williamsport Pike, Falling Waters, WV

Afternoon, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Baltimore Region – Catonsville UMC, 6 Melvin Ave., Catonsville, MD

Washington Region – Woodside UMC, 8900 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

1:00 p.m. Registration Opens

2:00 p.m. Outreach and Fellowship Opportunities

**Thursday, May 22, 2008**

8:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Clergy Executive Session

11:00 a.m. Laity Executive Session

12:00 p.m. Clergy Lunch and Executive Session continued

12:00 p.m. Laity Lunch and Executive Session continued

2:00 p.m. Opening Worship, Message by Bishop Minerva Carcano of the Desert

Southwest Episcopal Area; an offering in support of the HOPE Fund will be received.

3:45 p.m. Organizing the Conference

4:00 p.m. State of the Church

5:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Praise and Worship

7:15 p.m. *Living the Wesleyan Way*, presented by Bishop Jane Middleton of the Central  
Pennsylvania Episcopal Area

8:15 p.m. Legislation

9:00 p.m. Consent Calendar Approval and Adjournment

9:15 p.m. Ordination Rehearsal

**Friday, May 23, 2008**

6:00 a.m. Morning Prayers by the Prayer Team

8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship

8:45 a.m. Discipleship Study

9:45 a.m. Discipleship Report

10:05 a.m. Discipleship Holy Conferencing

10:35 a.m. Discipleship Legislation

11:00 a.m. Nominations Report

11:15 a.m. Service of Passage and Reading of the Appointments

12:30 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. Praise and Worship

2:45 p.m. Stewardship Study

3:45 p.m. Stewardship Report

4:05 p.m. Stewardship Holy Conferencing

4:35 p.m. Stewardship Legislation - Budget

5:15 p.m. Legislation

- 6:00 p.m. Adjourn
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner (ticket required) with Multi-cultural Celebration
- 9:00 p.m. Legislation (if necessary)

**Saturday, May 24, 2008**

- 6:00 a.m. Morning Prayers
- 8:15 a.m. Praise and Worship
- 8:30 a.m. *Living the Wesleyan Way*, presented by Bishop Jane Middleton of the Central Pennsylvania Episcopal Area
- 9:15 a.m. Nomination of Episcopal Candidate
- 9:30 a.m. Report from the General Conference Delegation
- 9:45 a.m. Service of Remembrance
- 10:45 a.m. Legislation
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. Ordination Service, Message by Bishop Thomas Bickerton of the Western Pennsylvania Episcopal Area; an offering in support of the Baltimore Initiative will be received.
- 4:30 p.m. Adjournment

**Note: The agenda is in draft form; items on it are subject to change.**

Additional Pre-Conference information is available in your registration packet; updated information is available through the UMConnection, the e-Connection and the Conference Web site: [www.bwcumc.org](http://www.bwcumc.org).

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The 224th Session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will convene in National Harbor, Md., at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center Thursday, May 22, 2008. The hotel telephone number is 410-965-4000 and the hotel reservations Web site for Annual Conference is <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/bwcumc>. You may check in on the morning of May 22. If your room is not yet available, the hotel will store your luggage for you. You need your credential/attendance card to register for the Conference at the appropriate area. Highlighters will be available throughout the building to assist you with directions. If you are not staying Saturday night, you must check out of your hotel room by noon on Saturday, May 24. Once again, the hotel will be glad to store your luggage. For those who do not purchase a meal plan, we will include in the registration packet a list of eateries in the area. The daily rates for parking are \$19/day for self-parking and \$24/day for valet parking. Day parking includes in/out privileges. Residents at Conference are strongly urged to take one of the buses listed in registration materials. There will be a Metro bus that goes to the hotel. A Metro shuttle bus will operate 7 days a week from 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. at an interval of every 20 minutes to the Southern Avenue Metro Station. The pick up/drop off location is in front of the Gaylord National Resort entrance at the intersection of Waterfront Street & St. George's Blvd. The cost is \$1.35 each way. Commuters are strongly encouraged to car pool and/or use public transportation.

Be reminded that at Conference a FRAGRANCE-FREE environment is requested; plan accordingly. Please remember to wear your badge and have your voting card at all sessions.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CC)

Items marked “(CC)” are on the Consent Calendar; these reports are reports that do not require Conference action and will be received without further reference. Five Conference members may remove an item from the Consent Calendar by contacting the Conference Secretary prior to the adoption of the Consent Calendar at 9 p.m., on Thursday.

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## DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES AREA OVERVIEW

### Discerning Into the Mission (CC)

7 Discernment is taking place in boards, agencies, committees, teams and congregations throughout  
8 the Conference as participants engage in prayer and spiritual practices to discern their way  
9 forward. Groups discern when they take time to invite conversations with multiple opinions and  
10 perspectives, which eventually lead to a mutual sense of the way forward. They engage in a  
11 process that is open and responds to the lead and input of all interested participants. They take  
12 seriously the opportunity to accomplish something significant and to make a difference. They  
13 also look for ways to model what they are about by engaging in spiritual practices together and  
14 learning from their experiences.

15  
16 When we are in a discerning mode, we are aware that there is more at play in our conversations  
17 than our own thoughts and ideas. In discernment, hearts speak to hearts. Souls speak to souls.  
18 God's spirit is given space to move in and among us leading to places that were before unknown  
19 yet are somehow familiar. There is a sense that we are going somewhere that no one could plan  
20 ahead of time. We do not end up where we started.

21  
22 Underlying the discernment process is an understanding of call. God continues to move in and  
23 through people to bring about what God desires for all of creation as we have seen it most clearly  
24 in Jesus Christ. What is God calling us as individuals and congregations to be doing now?  
25 Leaders who are attuned, attentive and open to asking and listening to God and others inside and  
26 outside the church, and can draw out what is being shared in important conversations, are offering  
27 the kind of discerning work that is needed and resonant today.

28  
29 Fully engaging the Conference vision and mission requires discernment. Our Conference vision  
30 and mission is "to be like Christ as we call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders to make  
31 disciples and grow Acts 2 congregations." Our goal is to see all of the Baltimore-Washington  
32 Conference congregations developing spiritual leaders who make disciples and grow Acts 2  
33 congregations, thereby living their faith in the world. This mission rings out like a bell in the fog.  
34 It gives direction as to what to say yes to and what to say no to. It has us all on the same page  
35 and talking the same language.

36  
37 The question is: What are we going to do that is Spirit led in each of our congregations to move  
38 forward with this mission? One approach is to divide the Conference vision and mission state-  
39 ment into four parts and then to ask discernment questions about each one. That process could  
40 look like this.

41  
42 ***Call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders***

43 Discernment questions: What is a spiritual leader? What is involved in spiritual leadership?  
44 What can our congregation do to be growing spiritual leaders?

45  
46 ***Make disciples***

47 Discernment questions: Who are disciples? How do we make disciples? What can our congre-  
48 gation do to become more intentional about disciple making?

49  
50 ***Grow Acts 2 congregations***

51 Discernment questions: What does an Acts 2 congregation look like? What do we need to  
52 address that is keeping us from becoming an Acts 2 congregation? What God-inspired vision do  
53 we have of the congregation and what steps do we need to take to get there?

1 *Actively Live Faith in the World*

2 Discernment questions: Discipleship is all about putting our faith into action. Disciples have  
3 impact in the world. What does actively living your faith look like? How can our congregation  
4 be more engaged in its community? Whose lives are being touched by our congregation?

5

6 Discerning responses to these questions individually and communally and then being and doing  
7 them are the heart of what it is to be like Christ. When we discern and act together around clear  
8 goals and objectives, we are the Body of Christ purposefully placed in this time to embody who  
9 God is calling us to become today. As we move through discernment into action, it is my hope  
10 that individuals and groups will experience the fulfillment that comes from fully and deeply  
11 responding to the call of God.

12

13 Rod Miller, Director of Connectional Ministries

14

15  
16 **BOARD OF LAITY (CC)**

17

18 **Ministry: God's people called to love and serve**

19

20 The Board of Laity exists to foster awareness of the role of every person in achieving the mission  
21 of the church. It is our ministry to develop and promote programs that enable lay people within  
22 the Baltimore-Washington Conference to live out the biblical mandates of the ministry of all  
23 believers.

24

25 It is our goal to assist in the empowerment and spiritual leadership development of local church  
26 leaders using the train the trainer concept as we seek to be like Christ, make disciples in his name  
27 for the transformation of the world and help grow Acts 2 congregations.

28

29 We continue to learn and grow spiritually through meditation, personal devotion and study while  
30 supporting our communities and the world as we nurture, serve and witness, striving to make  
31 disciples for Jesus Christ.

32

33 We lead, motivate and engage laity in praise and worship in a variety of Conference, region,  
34 district and local church events. We make connections and develop relationships through Bible  
35 study, prayer meetings, district and regional training, seminars, convocations and lay speaking  
36 ministries.

37

38 Across the Conference, we have engaged laity by:

- 39 • Appreciating and enabling their spiritual gifts and graces;
- 40 • Addressing social and political ills with advocacy efforts;
- 41 • Ministering to communities through outreach efforts;
- 42 • Depicting the Discipleship Adventure's 'Strive for Five' through drama;
- 43 • Participating in district and regional training events;
- 44 • Working diligently in the preparation and development of the Discipleship Adventure's  
45 Academy; and
- 46 • Having Sandy Zeigler Jackson, from the General Board of Discipleship, make a  
47 presentation on the Certified Lay Minister program.

48

49 Regionally, local lay leaders have participated in bi-monthly spiritual leadership training taught  
50 by district lay leaders.

51

52 On the district level laity:

- 53 • Work with children, youth and young adults ministries;

- 1 • Participate in laity convocations;
- 2 • Spread God's word through speaking engagements; and
- 3 • Accompany district superintendents and discipler guides to charge Conferences.

4

## 5 Lay Speaking Ministries

- 6 • Lay ministry continues to engage laity in discipleship through leading, caring and
- 7 communication ministries.
- 8 • District directors continue to develop and offer classes for local and certified lay speakers.
- 9 • Several district directors of lay speaking ministries continue to serve in the dual role of lay
- 10 speaking director and district lay leader.
- 11 • A three-day Conference training event for local and certified lay speakers was held
- 12 September 6 - 8, 2007.

13

14 In the next year we will continue to strive not only to be disciples; but to grow disciples for Jesus  
15 Christ for the transformation of the world.

16

17 As we grow together in the Discipleship Adventure, Conference lay leadership will engage local  
18 church laity in ministries that faithfully connect United Methodists with the church, each other  
19 and God.

20

21

Delores M. Oden, Conference Lay Leader

22

Helen S. Fleming, Staff

23

24

25

26

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### COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN (CC)

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. - Galatians 3:28*

31

#### **COSROW Accomplishments**

32

- **COSROW Logo and Communications**

33

We designed and approved a COSROW logo that represents its diversity, connection to women, our church and God. We used the Internet and e-mail technologies to announce our meetings and events.

34

35

36

- **Build for Intentional Inclusiveness Workshop**

37

Thirty representatives from 13 churches in the Conference attended this March 2007 workshop that we promoted to all local and district COSROW representatives using an online color brochure. Information was shared about the status and role of clergy and laity women in the total life of the Conference. Workshop speaker, Kim Coffing, UMC Assistant General Secretary of COSROW, received outstanding comments.

40

41

42

43

- **Safe Sanctuary Workshops**

44

With the Board of Ordained Ministry, we co-sponsored the Safe Children and Youth Procedures recommendation, which was approved at the 223rd Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. Under the leadership of Joy Melton, author of *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in Church*, COSROW hosted five training workshops at local churches to help them improve their policies and procedures in this area.

47

48

49

50

- **COSROW Exhibit for Annual Conference**

51

We prepared an educational display highlighting the various roles of COSROW as a monitor for church institutions to ensure that women are represented and heard; as an advocate for the full participation of women and girls at every level of the church; as a change agent in the

52

53

1 church, in a society that still struggles with gender bias; and as a witness to the ideal of a  
2 truly loving, fully inclusive Body of Christ.

3  
4 • **Conference Monitoring**

5 As a follow-up to the 2005 report, *Study of Clergy Remuneration, Mobility and Retention*, we  
6 monitored the 223rd Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. Representatives from  
7 COSROW observed each session and monitored the gender and ethnicity of speakers. A  
8 summary report was prepared by Linda Worthington and published in the UMConnection,  
9 issue 6/6/2007, page 4.

10  
11 In the six sessions observed, monitors recorded 211 times someone spoke. Speakers included  
12 76 females (35%) and 135 males. These were divided almost evenly between clergy and  
13 laity, with 103 clergy speaking and 108 laity. Findings indicated that white males dominated  
14 the floor.

15  
16 • **Conference Clergy Study**

17 The 2005 *Study of Clergy Remuneration, Mobility and Retention* report based on 2003  
18 survey data made seven recommendations with one in particular identifying future issues that  
19 should be addressed:

- 20 • Improve the appointment process and itinerant system;
- 21 • Increase the visibility and involvement of the Conference offices at local church levels;
- 22 • Enhance financial benefits and security;
- 23 • Provide significant support group, networking and counseling;
- 24 • Provide additional information about the Conference's budgeting process and budget.

25  
26 COSROW believes it is time to re-examine the results of the study and determine what progress  
27 has been made since the 2003 survey.

28 Rev. Iris Farabee-Lewis, President

29  
30  
31 **BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP (CC)**

32  
33 The Board of Discipleship is a newly formed team of Christian disciples who seek to support the  
34 vision of the Annual Conference: to become like Christ. We have met several times since  
35 November of 2007, including a Day Apart at West River Conference Center on February 19, 2008.  
36

37 While much of what The Book of Discipline outlines as the work of the board is facilitated by  
38 other groups within the Conference, we have identified the following as objectives for our  
39 ministry:

40

41 Coordination of existing ministries:

- 42 • Provide a space for collaboration with and among currently functioning conference
- 43 ministries;
- 44 • Be a community of support and coordination for ministries;
- 45 • Gather and maintain a comprehensive list of committee, board, commission and team
- 46 members' contact information.

47

48 Development of resources for the Discipleship Adventure:

- 49 • Look at overall program, ministry teams, etc. in the Annual Conference and see where there
- 50 are "gaps" that need to be filled;
- 51 • Provide a resource database at least to:
  - 52 • Develop: Christian Education & Spiritual Formation;
  - 53 • Celebrate: Worship;

- 1 • Share: Evangelism;
- 2 • Connect: Relationship/Community-building;
- 3 • Brainstorm initial categories for the database and include specific resources in the following
- 4 categories:
- 5 • Print resources;
- 6 • Human resources (live people who could provide insight/answer questions);
- 7 • Web resources;
- 8 • Training events/conferences;
- 9 • Share the categories with and enlist the input of lay and clergy members of the Annual
- 10 Conference to provide specific resources for the database;
- 11 • Work with the Communications Team to make the resource databases searchable on the
- 12 Gateway Web site;
- 13 • Incorporate a way to receive additions to the searchable database;
- 14 • Develop and submit articles and other content to the Communications Team for inclusion on
- 15 Gateway.

16  
 17 Many thanks to the members of the Board of Discipleship who have begun this work faithfully  
 18 and well: Marie Matthews, John Barnes, Travis Knoll, Andy Thornton, and Mark Waddell.

19  
 20 In Christ's service,  
 21 Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Chair

22  
 23  
 24 **COMMITTEE ON RETREAT AND CAMPING MINISTRIES (CC)**

25  
 26 **Mission** – To grow disciples of Jesus Christ by immersion in Christian community and building  
 27 relationships in the midst of God's creation.

28  
 29 **Vision** – To be a key cornerstone in the Discipleship Adventure by providing unmatched opportu-  
 30 nities to individuals and local churches for spiritual transformation in the midst of God's creation.

31  
 32 **Strategy**

- 33 • Grow participation 2% per year in summer camp and retreats;
- 34 • Provide a safe environment;
- 35 • Provide opportunity for disciple-making that focus on celebration, connection, development,
- 36 service and faith-sharing;
- 37 • Provide high quality physical facilities and programs that appeal to a diverse constituency
- 38 • Use best business practices.

39  
 40 Retreat and Camping Ministries had an eventful year. There were a number of transitions, cele-  
 41 brations and challenges that were faced.

- 42  
 43 • Rev. Bill Herche ended five years as director at Manidokan Outdoor Ministry Center to take  
 44 an appointment at a local church. Under Bill's leadership two new lodges were constructed  
 45 and paid for. Retreat participation grew to fill these two new facilities. Bill instituted many  
 46 innovations and programs that enabled Manidokan to be a place where disciples were made  
 47
- 48 • Ann Herche, who served in a variety of roles, also left Manidokan with her husband Bill.  
 49 Ann put in many hours of tireless work to make Manidokan a welcoming place and to meet  
 50 the special needs of the guests and campers. Both Bill and Ann's effort in ministry are very  
 51 much appreciated.
- 52  
 53 • Christopher Schliekert was hired as the new director of Manidokan Outdoor Ministry Center.

1 Chris comes from a camp and retreat ministry background in the Minnesota Annual  
2 Conference where he served on camp staffs and as an assistant camp director.

- 3
- 4 • Dick Kaetzel retired in August as the maintenance director at Manidokan. Dick served faithfully for 23 years and was the longest serving Conference Staff person at the time of his  
5 retirement. Dick's gift for construction, working with people and utilizing resources enabled  
6 Manidokan to flourish during his tenure. Dick's accomplishments were many. The  
7 improvements at Manidokan from the new lodges to the restoration of the cabins in the main  
8 compound were a result of his hard work, ingenuity and passion. The clean facilities, the well  
9 groomed lawns and fields and the crisp look that campers and guests came to expect are a  
10 result of Dick's efforts. His service has made a lasting impact on the ministry at Manidokan  
11 and is treasured by all!
- 12
- 13
- 14 • Rev. Vivian McCarthy was thanked for her 13 years of service guiding and leading this ministry as she moved on to her new role as district superintendent. Vivian's vision, humor,  
15 insights, dedication and spiritual strength enabled Retreat and Camping Ministry to grow and  
16 thrive as a means for making disciples for Jesus Christ. Andy Thornton was appointed as the  
17 new director of Retreat and Camping Ministries for the Conference in addition to his role as  
18 director of the West River Center.
- 19
- 20
- 21 • West River Center launched a successful capital campaign to fund the construction of the  
22 long overdue new Dining Center. Generous contributions from individuals, churches, the  
23 Board of Child Care and the Baltimore-Washington Conference Foundation will enable  
24 construction to begin in 2008. It is estimated that construction will take six to seven months  
25 to complete. Fund raising will continue into 2008 to raise the remainder of the funds needed.
- 26
- 27 • Specific individuals were recognized for their continued volunteer service in Retreat and  
28 Camping Ministries. Rev. Terri Rae Chattin received the Dorothy Ordwein award for  
29 Volunteer Service. Rev. Chattin has given a week each year for many years as a summer  
30 camp director and counselor at both Manidokan and West River. She also served on the  
31 Steering Committee for the Capital Campaign for the new dining hall. Rev. Edwin DeLong  
32 received the Richard S. Lord award for volunteer service in the sailing program at West  
33 River. Rev. DeLong's association with West River began in the early 1970s when he pastored  
34 Centenary UMC in Shady Side, Md., and most recently has been helpful with creating  
35 opportunities for day sails for clergy as a means of sabbath and renewal. Rev. DeLong also  
36 served as co-chair of the Capital Campaign for the new dining center at West River.
- 37
- 38 • In 2007, 1,476 children, youth and adults participated in the summer camp program; 343  
39 volunteers served to guide these folks in their experiences. Over 11,000 folks participated in  
40 retreats and other program experiences at Harmison, Manidokan and West River. One of the  
41 new programs initiated was a summer camp experience for children who have one or more  
42 parents incarcerated. Led by Rev. Tim Warner, this program touched the lives of these  
43 children who are often subject to the vicious cycle of being involved with the judicial system  
44 themselves before they even get out of their teenage years. The program was very successful  
45 and plans are being made to double the outreach in 2008.
- 46
- 47 • For the second year in a row, Retreat and Camping Ministries failed to meet the goal of being  
48 financially self-sustaining. A new task force to look at marketing is implementing a number  
49 of new ways to promote the summer camp program to a wider audience and more effectively  
50 let families know the opportunities available to them.
- 51
- 52
- 53

1 Retreat and Camping Ministries does indeed offer unique opportunities for children, youth and  
 2 adults to spend extended time together apart from other distractions, worries and issues of daily  
 3 life. It is through these times that faith can grow, worship in the out-of-doors in clear view of  
 4 God's creation can take on new meaning, personal relationships with God and our fellow  
 5 disciples in Jesus Christ have a chance to blossom and we truly become one community in Christ  
 6 and thus the church will be strengthened.

7

8 The staff of Retreat and Camping Ministries is grateful to all the churches that support and utilize  
 9 these sites to further their ministry and make opportunities for people to grow in faith.

10

11 Respectfully Submitted,

12 Andrew Thornton

13 Director, Retreat And Camping Ministries

14

15

## 16 **COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CC)**

### 17 **Sub-committee on Persons with Mental Illness and their Families**

18

#### 19 **Accomplishments**

20 We wish to recognize the excellent progress being made by those in the local church in the area  
 21 of disAbility ministry, even as our committee itself emerges from a time of inactivity. Our  
 22 strategy emphasizes "growing disciples who grow disciples" by equipping those within the local  
 23 church to multiply their mission by training others. More on this training model follows.

24

25 As we move forward in ministry with persons of all abilities, we encourage others to join us in  
 26 prayer, seeking the Scriptures and mutual encouragement of those practices that promote the full  
 27 inclusion of all persons in the life of our congregations.

28

#### 29 **Conference Committee Plan for Discipleship**

##### 30 **Case Study: Committee on Persons with disAbilities**

31 **Goal:** Integrate persons with disAbilities more fully into the faith communities of our  
 32 Conference

33 **Mission:** Provide local church leaders with a model for disAbility ministry.

34

35 1. Develop a strategy team to oversee the process of collecting and acting on the information  
 36 collected (this can be done with Conference staff and one or two key laypeople or clergy)

37 2. Discern/Assess the needs present in the diverse settings of our Conference, with special  
 38 sensitivity to cultural differences.

39 3. Decide on the resources and materials necessary to address these needs.

40 4. Collate materials and resources from field research and professional publications.

41 5. Recruit leaders (accomplished in the past by our presence at Leadership Days and Annual  
 42 Conference Display tables, and with assistance from the Conference staff)

43 6. Train these leaders in the basics of disAbility ministry.

44 7. Provide materials for them to train others.

45 8. Publicize availability of trainers and recruit interested churches.

46 9. Make available an on-line training module, which can be amended and edited to fit the  
 47 emerging needs of the population.

48 10. Using feedback from leaders and participants, go back to step two with the newly-developed  
 49 leadership.

50

51 The emphasis of this strategy is to provide a self-sustaining process, whereby leaders multiply  
 52 their work by training (discipling) others to carry on the work entrusted to them. We accomplish  
 53 this by means of the support of the Conference staff, working in conjunction with leaders and

1 clergy members of local churches. The method requires that resources be devoted  
 2 unapologetically to the equipping of new leaders and the support of existing leaders in their  
 3 mission to do so.

4

#### 5 **Commendations**

6 We support the celebration of the disAbility Awareness Sunday in the local church setting.

7

8 We encourage each congregation to take stock of the physical and attitudinal barriers to  
 9 ministry alongside persons with disAbilities and work toward any changes that need to be  
 10 made.

11

12 We encourage laity and clergy alike to recognize the ways that the Spirit works through all  
 13 persons in the body of Christ, and to make room for contributions from persons with  
 14 disAbilities in ministry in the local church.

15

16 We recognize the need to encourage efforts to move from individual compassion to justice at  
 17 the state and federal levels. We support any legislation that would extend more dependable  
 18 care for those facing disability issues, and encourage churches and communities to go  
 19 beyond the letter of the law in the spirit of making places of worship more accessible for all.

20

21

John W. Nupp, Chair

22

Sandra Ferguson, Staff

23

24

### 25 **BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY (CC)**

26

27 The newly constituted Conference Board of Church and Society is in its first year of operation  
 28 and has met twice since it was peopled by election of regional representatives at last Annual  
 29 Conference.

30

31 The board's disciplinary role is to develop and promote programs on church and society within  
 32 the bounds of the Conference that include prison ministry and reform concerns, and develop  
 33 programs that provide education and action on issues confronting the church consistent with the  
 34 Social Principles and the policies adopted by the General Conference. In this Annual Conference  
 35 it is related to the Discipleship Ministries Area, whose task is to resource congregations to  
 36 become like Christ and call, equip, send and support disciples to engage in the Discipleship  
 37 Adventure and bear Acts 2 fruits.

38

39 In keeping with these tasks, the board has identified its vision as developing and connecting with  
 40 the community to be involved in pro-active Discipleship Adventures through justice ministries  
 41 and advocacy for the transformation of the world. Its mission is to equip and support local con-  
 42 gregations to be involved in pro-active justice ministries through education and  
 43 advocacy.

44

45 While not a fully definitive understanding of "justice ministries," the board understands "justice  
 46 ministries" to be working in the name of Jesus to change legislation, systems, structures, and  
 47 practices considered unjust and oppressive to others.

48

49 Two goals were developed as focal points for working this year:

50

51 I. To develop a data base of active local church justice ministries and leaders to serve as mentors  
 52 and trainers for local congregations who express interest in developing justice ministries within  
 53 their community or congregation.

- 1 a. conduct an online survey of local churches to collect data of existing ministries.
- 2 b. identify state-wide groups with knowledge of issues.
- 3 c. post the Directory online for reference and make printed copies available to
- 4 Conference churches and leaders.

5 Note: The survey was been developed and will be posted on the new Gateway to solicit local  
6 church responses.

7

8 2. Develop an Advocacy Team to train and mentor local congregations to become involved in  
9 advocacy ministries.

- 10 a. equip a team of leaders for advocacy ministry
- 11 b. develop a Tool Kit for advocacy.
- 12 c. support the position of Conference Advocate to link with other faith groups working
- 13 on similar issues and to lead the Advocacy Team
- 14 d. be a “voice” for justice in the state governmental bodies that are encompassed by the
- 15 Baltimore-Washington Conference ( States of Maryland and West Virginia and City of
- 16 Washington, D. C.).

17

18 Details on what has developed with goal two can be found in the Conference Advocates report.

19

20 N. Sharon Leatherman, Chair  
21 Sandra Ferguson, Staff

22

23

24

### HIV-AIDS MINISTRY (CC) 20th Anniversary

25

26

27 Quality of Life Retreats for Persons with HIV/AIDS began in 1988. The first retreat was held at  
28 West River Center with twelve HIV+ men attending. Now in 2008, 78 retreats have been held,  
29 serving more than 2,500 persons. This is a special ministry within the Baltimore-Washington  
30 Conference.

31

32 Four retreats are held each year: two winter retreats at the Washington Retreat House, the summer  
33 retreat in 2008 will be at West River Center and the fall retreat at Camp Manidokan. Each retreat  
34 receives 40 participants – who pay a \$10 registration fee – and a staff of 8-10 leaders (including a  
35 nurse or doctor). Each retreat now costs between \$6,500 - \$7,000. Funding comes from individ-  
36 uals, churches, the Conference and the General Board of Global Ministries. The retreats are very  
37 diverse demographically: male, female, transgendered; lesbian, gay, bisexual; Caucasian, Latino,  
38 African-American; Christian, Jewish, Muslim. Each program includes speakers, support groups,  
39 chapel, talent show, entertainment, gift giving. Real community and support are developed  
40 during the three days of the retreat. Recently, participants have come from New Jersey, South  
41 Carolina and Tennessee – no such program existing in these areas.

42

43 This ministry is supervised by a Board of Directors. New persons interested in staffing a retreat  
44 or visiting the Board meetings would be welcome. Financial support is always welcome.

45 Contact Rev. Edwin H. Langrall - EHLRAM@verizon.net or 202-462-0234.

46

47 We continued our partnership with the Moveable Feast Organization with some of our churches  
48 participating in the Ride for the Feast, a 140-mile bike ride from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, to  
49 Baltimore City. We also continue to support the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) in  
50 its promotion of the Global AIDS Fund.

51

52 We continue to encourage and resource local churches to celebrate WORLD AIDS DAY as they  
53 network with other religious and social agencies within their communities. Other churches have

1 identified on-going training events that target different age/gender groups, and have supported  
 2 persons living with the HIV/AIDS virus through care groups. Still other churches have devel-  
 3 oped phone-prayer lines and similar vehicles of communication that address the times when  
 4 persons are in crisis and need a personal and spiritual reassurance that God still cares for them.

5  
 6 The Conference continues to have a relationship with the Howard County Health Department and  
 7 the State of Maryland to promote events and news resources that are available. We also help local  
 8 churches set up their facilities for screening.

9  
 10 HIV/AIDS, Team  
 11 Sandra Ferguson, Staff

12  
 13  
 14 **BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES (CC)**

15  
 16 The annual report of the Board of Global Ministries follows. All the work of this committee is  
 17 done by the sub-committees under it. My major function is to serve as a guide to the various  
 18 committees and ensure that they are meeting their responsibilities.

19  
 20 The committees include Disaster Relief, Volunteers in Mission, the Committee on Deaf  
 21 Ministries, Justice for Our Neighbors and the Conference mission secretary. These groups need to  
 22 make disciples in the local churches and excite the congregations to get on board with the  
 23 Discipleship Adventure.

24  
 25 I need to express my thanks to Sandy Ferguson for her continued guidance as she oversees the  
 26 work of these agencies. It is a pleasure to work with her.

27  
 28 Judy Beisner, Chair  
 29 Sandra Ferguson, Staff

30  
 31  
 32 **VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (CC)**

33 **Introduction**

34 Perhaps a watershed event in the United Methodist Church's Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)  
 35 program was Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Although UMVIM was officially sanctioned by the  
 36 General Conference almost 30 years ago (in 1980), the response to this large scale and much-  
 37 publicized tragedy has inspired numerous teams from this Conference and others from around the  
 38 United States to travel to the Gulf Coast to offer assistance in rebuilding. The effort continues to  
 39 this day by many volunteers reaching out to those who are still in need in the Gulf region.

40  
 41 In the early fall of 2007, my wife and I represented the Baltimore-Washington Conference at a  
 42 "Thank You" celebration in New Orleans, hosted by the three annual Conferences that were  
 43 impacted by Katrina – Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama-West Florida. The three bishops  
 44 expressed their appreciation for of all of the labor and supplies provided by churches throughout  
 45 the United States.

46  
 47 It was easy to be impressed with what we heard and saw: in the past two years in Mississippi  
 48 alone over 3,000 volunteer (VIM) teams from over 1,500 local churches across the country were  
 49 part of the recovery effort. Over 50,000 volunteers worked over 1,000,000 hours. More than  
 50 2,700 families were enabled to return to their homes, and many churches were repaired as well.  
 51 The churches became and are still the "safe haven" for those displaced by the hurricane.

52  
 53

1 But it is also easy to be almost overwhelmed with what remains to be done. For example, also in  
2 Mississippi, there are over 16,990 FEMA trailers still in use by 31,000 people. Major repairs are  
3 being made to their homes, including repairing and replacing roofs, walls and floors. In some  
4 cases, even two years later, houses are beginning construction from the ground up.

5  
6 It was often stated after Katrina that it would take five years for rebuilding. We heard that with  
7 two years of work already done, there is still five years – or more – needed for rebuilding those  
8 uprooted by the hurricane.

9  
10 We, as United Methodists, and especially those of us in the Baltimore Washington-Conference,  
11 can be pleased about what our United Methodist church has done in this time of great need. It is a  
12 powerful picture not only of our compassion but the connectedness of United Methodist churches  
13 and Conferences throughout our denomination. But we cannot “rest on our laurels.” So much  
14 more needs to be done.

### 15 16 **Purpose of Volunteers in Mission**

17 The purpose of Volunteers in Mission is to give United Methodists and others the opportunity to  
18 reach out with compassion to those in need locally, nationally, and even internationally. It is a  
19 chance to share the gifts and talents the Lord has graced us with, while at the same time helping  
20 our faith to grow in ways that can be a complete surprise to us.

21  
22 UMVIM works closely with United Methodist Commission on Relief (UMCOR) providing teams  
23 as well as individuals to assist in recovery from natural disaster and sometimes even violent con-  
24 flicts. Volunteers are truly changed and blessed by giving of their time and talents to those they  
25 go to help, as are those they serve. Congregations are renewed as they become involved in this  
26 mission outreach. And as volunteers go out and return sharing their stories, they often inspire  
27 others to seek this opportunity as well.

28  
29 The UMVIM motto is “Love in Action” and is taken from 1 John 3:18, in which Christians are  
30 instructed to love their neighbor, not just in word, but in truth and action. Living out faith in this  
31 way is at the very heart of our Christian faith and calling, and it reflects the purpose that has  
32 grown out of our understanding of who we are and what we want to be: those who express  
33 “Christian Love in Action.”

### 34 35 **Characteristics of a UMVIM Team**

36 Perhaps those not familiar with UMVIM can get a sense of the team experience by reviewing  
37 these “Characteristics of UMVIM” taken from the UMVIM Training Manual for Mission  
38 Volunteers. These include the following: (1) are open to God’s blessings; (2) radiate God’s love;  
39 (3) share Christ’s great spirit of kindness, acceptance, and unity; (4) serve Christ and his people;  
40 (5) lift up God in all they do; (6) have a healthy prayer life; (7) think team, not self; (8) are  
41 flexible, patient, and relaxed; (9) realize that people are more important than work results; and  
42 (10) understand that cultures are different, not superior or inferior.

43  
44 Who among us cannot understand the value of these characteristics and who could not benefit  
45 from a UMVIM team experience?

### 46 47 **Assisting the Church**

48 The Conference UMVIM Committee assists local churches in responding to needs for teams. We  
49 have a dedicated team of volunteers, made up of coordinators for each region who meet regularly  
50 to plan to better assist local churches with training for team leaders and resources to keep them  
51 updated with new information. They are available to train those who want to lead teams and to  
52 share information for forming teams. They can also assist local churches to find speakers on  
53 UMVIM to inspire local church involvement.

1

2 The Conference UMVIM Committee would like to hear from those of you who have ideas of  
3 how we can better assist you in carrying out this ministry. You can contact the Conference  
4 coordinator, Jeff Odom, at [jvodom@comcast.net](mailto:jvodom@comcast.net).

5

## 6 **Accomplishments**

7 In the past year, Conference churches have sent out more than 80 teams to meet needs and share  
8 the love of Jesus Christ. Many went (some for the second, third or more times) to the Gulf Coast  
9 to help with Katrina recovery. Many others went to places all over our country for the same  
10 purpose. In addition, teams went to a number of countries: including the Bahamas, Costa Rica,  
11 Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Peru,  
12 Bosnia, Nambia, Russia, Senegal, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe.

13

14 Teams helped to build (or rebuild) homes, schools, and churches. Medical needs were met; Bible  
15 schools were held to help children (and often their parents) meet our Lord and Savior, Jesus  
16 Christ. Often teams return to the same place annually, building on relationships as they complete  
17 new work and assist in ongoing programs.

18

19 Training events were held numerous times around the Conference to train people to lead teams.  
20 Enthused volunteer trainers brought life to the concept of volunteering.

21

## 22 **Plans for the Coming Year**

23 Our hope and goal is that every church will participate by sending teams or sending members to  
24 participate in teams from other churches. Our desire is to continue to resource these teams and  
25 provide the training needed for those who choose to lead a team.

26

27 The Conference UMVIM Committee is working with the Conference staff in providing an  
28 updated component in the Conference's newly developed Gateway Web site ([www.bwcumc.org](http://www.bwcumc.org))  
29 that, when it is completed, will provide the latest information as to where VIM teams are needed,  
30 how to get training in leading teams, stories of past teams that will inspire others to get involved  
31 in UMVIM, and will contain applications for both registering the teams and obtaining the insur-  
32 ance for team members that is available from the General Board of Global Ministries for team  
33 members.

34

35 Additionally, the Conference UMVIM Committee plans to produce a new VIM promotional DVD  
36 for local churches that will help advertise this vital program. It is expected that this new video  
37 will be available by the end of 2008.

38

39 A better record of teams registering and obtaining insurance is needed by the committee. The  
40 Discipline, paragraph 247.12, states that "the charge Conference shall receive reports annually on  
41 all local church organized UMVIM teams, and the total number of local church participants in  
42 any UMVIM team, and shall forward the combined report to the annual Conference and the gen-  
43 eral church through the regular local church statistical report." We encourage the Conference to  
44 emphasize this at the charge conferences and to forward such information obtained to the  
45 Conference UMVIM Committee.

46

47 In addition, the Conference committee urges all those making plans for UMVIM teams to register  
48 these teams with the Conference UMVIM Committee and to obtain insurance for the team  
49 members. This step will enable better record keeping and provide protection for the team  
50 members in the event of injury or sickness while participating on the teams.

51

52

53

1 Christ called us to reach out to those in need. What better way to accomplish this mission than to  
 2 be with other Christians to do this work to love our neighbor, not just in word, but also in truth  
 3 and action.

4 Jeffrey V. Odom, Conference VIM Coordinator  
 5 Sandra Ferguson, Staff  
 6  
 7

## 8 COMMITTEE ON DEAF MINISTRIES (CC) 9

10 The Baltimore-Washington Conference continues to be a leader in the denomination in the area of  
 11 Deaf Ministry. The following are some of the accomplishments since last annual Conference:  
 12

13 1) Leaders from all of the Deaf ministries in the Conference met with Rev. Rod Miller to draft a  
 14 strategic plan for Deaf Ministry.  
 15

16 2) Christ UMC of the Deaf led a VIM team to the Dominican Republic to assist with two Deaf  
 17 schools in February 2007. In January 2008. Christ UMC of the Deaf, in conjunction with  
 18 Wesley Theological Seminary, led a deaf culture immersion to these same Deaf schools.  
 19

20 3) A team of five traveled to “SPLAT” (UM Youth Conference in Greensboro, NC) bringing the  
 21 first Deaf participants to this national event in 16 years.  
 22

23 4) A team of 11 from the BWC traveled to Orlando, Florida, for the bi-annual United Methodist  
 24 Congress of the Deaf.  
 25

26 5) Christ UMC of the Deaf hosted two Deaf ministry missionaries from Zimbabwe for two weeks  
 27 in July 2007.  
 28

29 6) BWC Deaf Ministries participated in the Quality of Life Retreat in September 2007.  
 30

31 7) Christ UMC of the Deaf hosted two work teams from the Detroit Annual Conference, a Deaf  
 32 ministry intern from West Virginia Annual Conference for two months, a Deaf ministry pastor  
 33 from Southwest Texas Annual Conference for one week, and a Wesley Seminary full-time  
 34 intern for one year from the AME Church.  
 35

36 8) Welcomed a new Church and Community Worker to the Deaf Shalom Zone: Mary Gladstone.  
 37

38 9) BWC Deaf Ministries has assisted in a new Deaf church start in Wilmington, DE.  
 39

40 10) Hiss UMC has a new Deaf ministry.  
 41

42 Ongoing ministries include:

- 43 • Deaf, Deaf Blind, and Sign Language Camps at West River Camping Center in June and  
 44 July;
- 45 • Monthly Deaf Bible studies at Springfield State Hospital;
- 46 • Weekly Deaf Bible studies at MD Correctional Institution of Jessup;
- 47 • Weekly religious education classes at Columbia and Frederick Deaf schools;
- 48 • Annual Religious Interpreter’s workshop in November at the MD School for the Deaf in  
 49 Columbia;
- 50 • Deaf Shalom Zone continues its full-time operation of social justice ministries (HIV/AIDS,  
 51 addictions, Immigration, Deaf Blind, case management, advocacy, therapeutic foster care,  
 52 Deaf Tax Day, food bank, homeless outreach and transportation);
- 53 • Campus Ministry at Gallaudet University;

- 1 • Participation in annual Emmaus Walks which are accessible to Deaf pilgrims;
- 2 • Several churches in the BWC provide sign language interpreters, listening devices and
- 3 captioning for their members with hearing loss;
- 4 • Active participation in the NEJ United Methodist Congress of the Deaf meetings.

5  
6 Rev. Peggy A. Johnson, Rev. Joo Hai Kang  
7 Ms. Carol J. Stevens, Ms. Sandra Ferguson  
8

## 9 10 **JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (JFON) (CC)**

11  
12 *A ministry of the Baltimore/Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church in*  
13 *partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief*

14 **MISSION:** Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) is a faith-driven ministry, welcoming immigrants  
15 into our churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration legal services,  
16 education, and advocacy.  
17

18 Justice For Our Neighbors provides volunteers (from within The United Methodist Church and  
19 from the community) the opportunity to become more like Christ by loving God completely, and  
20 those we encounter as a friend. – Matthew 22:34-40, The Great Commandment  
21

22 At the monthly JFON intake clinics, volunteers provide hospitality and a warm welcome to the  
23 sojourners in our midst. Volunteers do not judge or make assumptions; volunteers receive and  
24 welcome. Volunteers interview new clients and, in doing so, open their hearts and minds to the  
25 realities and challenges that face immigrants in this country. Volunteers grow as much from this  
26 experience as do the clients. In fact, the clients would benefit from legal services alone. The  
27 JFON volunteer-based model offers church members the opportunity to benefit from being in  
28 ministry with people in need and to develop lasting relationships with a class of people who  
29 would otherwise be strangers.  
30

### 31 **TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS/CLIENTS SERVED: 304**

32 <b>JFON-Emory:</b>	33 <b>JFON-Hyattsville:</b>	34 <b>JFON-Baltimore:</b>
35 Total people served: 111	36 Total people served: 144	37 Total people served: 49
38 Women served: 50	39 Women served: 77	40 Women served: 17
41 Men served: 48	42 Men served: 36	43 Men served: 32
44 Children served: 13	45 Children served: 31	46 Children served: 0

47 **COUNTRIES SERVED:** Majority of our clients are from: Dominican Republic, Cameroon, El  
48 Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Trinidad & Tobago  
49

50 **TYPES OF CASES:** The majority of our cases are family-based immigration cases, where a  
51 U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident sponsors their qualifying relative for permanent resident  
52 status (also known as an immigrant visa or green card). Generally, the only relatives that U.S.  
53 citizens may sponsor are spouse, parents, children and siblings. Some limitations exist. For  
54 example, a U.S. citizen must be 21-years-old to sponsor his or her parent. With some restrictions,  
55 lawful permanent residents of the U.S. may sponsor their spouse and unmarried children. Other  
56 types of cases include: naturalization, VAWA, asylum, TPS, NACARA, removal proceedings,  
57 religious worker, research, advice and counsel  
58

59 JFON is committed to continuous service to the church and community.  
60

61  
62 Monique Bona, Attorney  
63 Sandra Ferguson, Staff

1                   **COMMITTEE ON PARSIH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CC)**

2

3 The Committee on Parish and Community Development was established under the new  
4 Conference structure. We are still in the process of organizing the work of the committee, but  
5 have several areas of concentration upon which we will be focusing.

6

7 Parish and Community Development is responsible for the development and redevelopment of  
8 local congregations and community ministries within all areas of the Annual Conference, to  
9 achieve the Conference's vision of becoming like Christ and mission to grow Acts 2 Churches.

10

11 A specific area in which we are involved is **the D-12 (Disciple 12) groups**. These are groups of  
12 12 or more disciples to start new faith communities and develop existing congregations. Some of  
13 these strategies will be initiated by the Conference but most will develop through the passion and  
14 calling of congregations and disciples. We are also in the process of creating a Conference strat-  
15 egy for the creation of new congregations.

16

17

Rev. Willam G. Brown, Chair

18

19

20                   **COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS (CC)**

21

22 The Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church is truly blessed by the  
23 ethnic diversity found in our local congregations, our laity, our clergy and the communities in  
24 which we work, play, and worship. We have also been blessed by groups of laity and clergy  
25 within our annual Conference, who have been coming together to resource, empower and  
26 encourage our local ethnic congregations in fulfilling their roles in making disciples for Jesus  
27 Christ. We commend them for their dedication and work.

28

29 The Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) sees its primary purpose as being a  
30 forum for dialogue where those who represent our ethnic local churches can freely share, learn  
31 from each other and provide mutual encouragement in the fulfillment of their goals in equipping  
32 and empowering the ethnic local church in the present and the future while honoring the tremen-  
33 dous efforts that have already taken place. The ELCC is neither a replacement for these  
34 representative groups nor an umbrella organization to which they report. Rather, the ELCC is  
35 simply a forum where dialogue will be encouraged and our diversity celebrated. To that end, the  
36 ELCC will meet throughout the year to explore new ways for dialogue to take place and ways to  
37 celebrate the abundant diversity of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

38

39

Rev. Michael W. Armstrong, Rev. Kenneth Wm. Walker  
Co-Chairs

40

41

42

43                   **COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY (CC)**

44

**Comité de Ministerio Hispano/Latino**

45

46 Gracia y paz en nombre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

47

48 El Comité Conferencial de Ministerio Hispano/Latino se ha mantenido activo durante el año.  
49 Entre las muchas cosas que celebramos de nuestro caminar, se encuentra de una manera especial  
50 la presencia entre nosotros del Rev. Edgardo Rivera y su familia. Además de su posición en la  
51 conferencia como Guía de la Región de Baltimore, el Rev. Rivera funciona como Coordinador  
52 Conferencial del Ministerio Hispano/Latino.

53

1

2 Con gozo también celebramos el nuevo ministerio de Frederick que actualmente se encuentra  
3 localizado en la Iglesia Metodista Unida “Trinity”. En el servicio de celebración y acción de  
4 gracias que realizamos en la Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida de Hyattsville, este pasado otoño,  
5 le dimos la bienvenida al Rev. Edgardo Rivera y su familia y a la Rev. Milly Rivera, pastora del  
6 ministerio en Frederick.

7

8 Con dolor tenemos que informar que este año hemos sido testigos del auge de sentimientos hos-  
9 tiles en contra de la comunidad Hispana/Latina en toda la nación. En una carta dirigida a la  
10 Iglesia en general, el obispo Elías Galván, en su capacidad de Director Ejecutivo Interino del  
11 caucus nacional Hispano/Latino, MARCHA, y el Dr. David Maldonado, su presidente,  
12 escribieron:

13

14 “En todos los estados y distintas comunidades a través del país, se han estado promulgando leyes  
15 y ordenanzas que han tenido un impacto severo en el diario vivir de nuestras familias y vecinos.  
16 Los niños latinos, aunque han nacido en este país, son tratados como personas sin derecho  
17 alguno. Las familias latinas tienen que demostrar su ciudadanía cuando tratan de alquilar una  
18 casa o apartamento, cuando consiguen un empleo y aún cuando matriculan a sus hijos en la  
19 escuela. Estas son prácticas que no se aplican al resto de la población. La comunidad Latina, por  
20 su color, cultura, y lengua son sin ningún fundamento, objetos de la sospecha y la injusticia. Esto  
21 es un racismo legalizado.”

22

23 De esta manera, este año, además de recomendar que se reiteren las recomendaciones que fueron  
24 aprobadas en la sesión pasada, pedimos que la Conferencia de Baltimore-Washington se una y  
25 apoye la siguiente petición de MARCHA:

26

27 MARCHA llama a la Iglesia Metodista Unida a retar y a oponerse a la ola de discriminación,  
28 opresión y racismo que existe en contra de nuestro pueblo Hispano/Latino. Invitamos a cada  
29 persona Metodista Unida que se una a este pueblo sometido a tan injusto tratamiento. La Iglesia  
30 Metodista Unida necesita oponerse a ordenanzas locales y a leyes estatales que están motivadas  
31 por actitudes y sentimientos hostiles en contra de los inmigrantes y específicamente en contra de  
32 la comunidad Latina. Estas leyes y ordenanzas no tienen otro propósito sino el de atemorizar e  
33 intimidar a nuestro pueblo, empujándolo a vivir cohibido por el temor o llevándolo a la decisión  
34 de irse de nuestras comunidades.

35

Jack Ballard y Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz, Co-Presidentes

36

37

38

39

### COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

#### 40 English translation of the preceeding report:

41

42 Peace and Grace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

43

44 The Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministry has kept busy during the year. Among the many  
45 things we celebrate, stands the presence of the Rev. Edgardo Rivera and his family with us. In  
46 addition to his position of Guide in the Baltimore Region, Rev. Rivera functions as the  
47 Coordinator for Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

48

49 In addition, we celebrate the birth of a new ministry in Frederick, actually located at Trinity  
50 UMC. In a service of thanksgiving and celebration at First Hyattsville UMC last fall, the  
51 Committee welcomed Rev. Edgardo Rivera and his family, and the Rev. Milly Rivera (no  
52 relation), appointed to the Frederick Ministry.

53

1 This year we have witnessed with deep sadness the growth of the anti-Hispanic/Latino sentiment  
 2 in our nation. In a letter to the entire church, Bishop Elías Galván, Executive Director of our  
 3 national caucus MARCHA, and the Rev. Dr. David Maldonado, as the President of MARCHA,  
 4 wrote: “Communities and states across the country are enacting laws and practices that are having  
 5 a severe impact on the daily lives of our families and neighbors. Children born in this country  
 6 are increasingly treated as persons without rights. Latino families have to prove their citizenship  
 7 in order to rent a house, to be employed or enroll their children in school. These are harsh prac-  
 8 tices that are not applied to the general population. Because of our color, culture and language  
 9 Latinos are singled out for suspicion and unfair treatment. This is legalized racism.”

10  
 11 This year, in addition to reaffirming our previous recommendations, we ask the Baltimore-  
 12 Washington Annual Conference to join and support MARCHA’s plea:

13  
 14 “MARCHA calls upon the United Methodist Church to challenge and oppose the current  
 15 wave of anti-Latino demagoguery, treatment, and public ordinances intended to suppress a  
 16 people. We invite you to stand with those who are subjected to such senseless and unjust  
 17 treatment. The United Methodist Church needs to oppose city ordinances and state laws  
 18 that are grounded on anti-immigrant and anti-Latino attitudes intended to frighten and  
 19 intimidate Latinos and force them to live in fear or leave these communities.”

20  
 21 Jack Ballard and Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz, Co-Chairs

22  
 23  
 24 **STRENGTHING THE BLACK CHURCH FOR THE 21st CENTURY (CC)**  
 25

26 **The Vision:** To become a resource committee that will empower and encourage local black  
 27 churches to be effective in ministry with in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

28  
 29 **The Mission Statement**

- 30 • We, the committee of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century in the Baltimore-  
 31 Washington Conference, seek to empower and strengthen through spiritual revivals, commu-  
 32 nity relevance and effective discipleship.  
 33 • We shall covenant to aid and assist local black congregations to facilitate effective and  
 34 faithful ministries through the Discipleship Adventure.

35  
 36 **Accomplishments:**

37 Our major activity this year has been our mission trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, in November  
 38 2007. Thirty-five pastors went to help rebuild homes and to begin a unique covenant  
 39 relationship with the Black United Methodist churches in the Mission Zone that still need our  
 40 help. Each pastor that went made a commitment to follow up on their covenant relationship  
 41 (partnership) either by sponsoring a mission trip to New Orleans, prayers or further contributions.

42  
 43 This opportunity to minister to our brothers and sisters in need in Louisiana through financial  
 44 support, evangelism, prayers and mission work has strengthened our mission of nurture, outreach  
 45 and witness not only to the New Orleans community, but in our surrounding communities. In  
 46 New Orleans we started a dialogue about how we can strengthen our own church communities  
 47 and the communities in which we live out our ministries. We came back enthusiastic and ready to  
 48 partner with our colleagues to strengthen the Black Church and to empower the laity to go  
 49 beyond their walls.

50  
 51 Since our return we have preached about our mission trip, shared photos of the mission trip,  
 52 organized subsequent mission trips, organized homeless shelters and many other individual  
 53 church events. It is because of this Mission trip that we sponsored an event called I AM

1 MISSION at Sharp Street United Methodist Church on March 1, 2008. This event brought our  
 2 Young Adults and Youth together to hear a dynamic speaker from New Orleans, to meet one-on-  
 3 one with VIM volunteers and to gain valuable information about what it means to be in mission.  
 4 Additionally, several churches are in the process of planning mission trips and partnerships along  
 5 with the Baltimore-Harford District. New Life UMC has instituted a unique partnership between  
 6 a school in its area and an elementary school in the New Orleans Mission Zone. We see these  
 7 and future events as ways to multiply ourselves with the intent to be witnesses of Jesus in an  
 8 area which has been ignored by much of society.

9

10 We are involved in the urban ministry strategy and will continue to resource local churches in  
 11 urban areas as they seek to make disciples, work for social justice and empower communities.  
 12 We have also partnered Black Methodist for Church Renewal to bring training and ministries to  
 13 our churches that have made a significant impact as we seek to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

14

Sandra E. Demby, Chair

15

Sandra Ferguson, Staff

16

17

18

19

### COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY (CC)

20

21 The Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM) continued our mission to make disciples  
 22 for Jesus Christ by: 1) supporting Native American ministry and outreach; 2) promoting  
 23 awareness of these ministries and of the Native American community residing within the bounds  
 24 of our annual conference; and 3) developing leadership among the Native community and among  
 25 those giving leadership to Native American ministry.

26

27 CONAM is very active in the Northeast Jurisdictional Native American Task Force (NEJNATF).  
 28 One of the purposes of the task force is to help establish and maintain CONAM in all of the  
 29 Conferences in the Northeast Jurisdiction. Two representatives of our CONAM attended the  
 30 2007 NEJNATF annual conference in Morgantown, WV. While at the conference several of the  
 31 members had the chance to meet with the indigenous inmates at the Morgantown Minimum  
 32 Security Prison. There we played flutes, drummed and shared stories about our lives with Christ.  
 33 Later on that month we sent them subscriptions to Indian Life Ministries. Bob Willasch also sent  
 34 several PVC Native American flutes to the fellows so they have enough flutes for all the  
 35 members of their group when they meet. The 2008 meeting of NEJNATE will be hosted by the  
 36 Baltimore/Washington CONAM.

37

38 There are two outreach ministries that we support – A prison ministry that is sponsored by the  
 39 Indian Life Ministries, which is an inter-tribal Christian Communications newspaper. Our  
 40 CONAM sponsors the delivery of 10 copies – on each distribution date – of the Christian news-  
 41 paper to three other prisons that have large numbers of Native American inmates.

42

43 The second major outreach ministry is the continued support of the WINS program that is spon-  
 44 sored by the American University in Washington, D.C. The program offers classes and internships  
 45 for qualified Native students during the fall, spring, and summer sessions. CONAM provides sup-  
 46 port during orientation for each session by attending them and welcoming the students to the  
 47 area, presenting them with an appropriate book, and serving as their mentors and contacts away  
 48 from home. We also have representatives at their pow wow, special luncheons and dinners and  
 49 other activities. CONAM also provides an emergency fund for students who may have to return  
 50 home for a while or who have issues while in the D.C. area. Once a month there is a Native  
 51 American Prayer Breakfast, which is held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building, in  
 52 Washington, D.C. We invite the WINS students to attend as our guests. A member from CONAM,  
 53 either Olivia Schwartz or Al Elmond, is there to greet the WINS Students who attend.

1 CONAM is small but hardworking and would welcome anyone who would wish to join a  
2 mission-driven committee.

3  
4 We give thanks to the Great Spirit for all the opportunities we have been given and eagerly antici-  
5 pate building on what we do. Please continue to support the Native American Ministries Sunday  
6 Offering, half of which supports the ministry that we do in the Master's name.

7  
8 Respectfully submitted,  
9 Robert Willasch, Chair

10  
11  
12 **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY (BHEM) (CC)**  
13

14 **Purpose:** The Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry interprets and pro-  
15 motes the United Methodist ministries in higher education that are supported by the general  
16 church and those specifically related to the Baltimore-Washington Conference. (BOD §633)

17  
18 **Other General Responsibilities:** The board oversees the management of the annual Conference  
19 program of campus ministry in Wesley Foundations and ecumenical campus ministries. Members  
20 of the board work with local churches to increase awareness of United Methodist Student Day  
21 and encourage the annual Conference's support for the United Methodist Student Movement. In  
22 accordance with guidelines from the Office of Loans and Scholarships at the General Board of  
23 Higher Education and Ministry, the chair meets with the Joint Scholarship Committee and awards  
24 two or three merit scholarships to students enrolled at UM-related colleges who have been active  
25 members in Baltimore-Washington Conference churches.

26  
27 **Role in the Discipleship Process:** The campus ministers welcome students into the campus faith  
28 community, encourage their profession of faith, nurture them in Christian living, and equip them  
29 to go out into the world as "disciple-making" disciples.

30  
31 **Specific Accomplishments:**

32 **1. Faith Celebrations:** Wesley Foundation students at the University of Maryland participated in  
33 worship services at University UMC, while their counterparts at Howard participated in the  
34 university-wide chapel services. Students at American, Gallaudet and Morgan State attended  
35 worship services conducted by their respective chaplains. All campus ministry sites provided a  
36 variety of worship experiences, including praise-filled contemporary worship on Sunday  
37 evenings, mid-week prayer or healing services, a Taize worship service, Wednesday Night  
38 Live, and special Lenten and Holy Week services.

39  
40 **2. Faithful Connections:** The American University campus ministry kicked off the school year  
41 with an active welcome week program for incoming students. Table fellowship was a favorite  
42 venue for students on most campuses. Students at Morgan share meals with the Lutheran  
43 ministry, and Frostburg's ecumenical ministry hosted a Seder led by a local rabbi. At other  
44 campuses students forged friendships during weekend retreats, sports outings, hay rides, movie  
45 nights and ice cream socials. Those who attended the Exploration Conference or Student  
46 Forum were transformed by those experiences.

47  
48 **3. Faith Development:** Weekly Bible studies were held at all ministry sites. AU and the  
49 University of Maryland both had Covenant Discipleship groups. At American and Maryland,  
50 the student-led worship featured music selected or composed by students and prayers written  
51 by them for Sunday worship or Thursday healing services. AU students also led a Reconciling  
52 Bible Study and attended a special Bible study on immigration and the Christian's response to  
53 the stranger. Gallaudet's chaplain led a Bible study for students and one for staff. Frostburg's

1 chaplain convened a weekly faculty/staff reading group.

2

3 4. **Faithful Service:** Diverse service projects at the campus ministry sites foster social holiness.  
 4 Students fed the homeless, contributed toys to children of incarcerated parents, visited a local  
 5 nursing home, assisted with a massive city cleanup, and interacted with social service and  
 6 advocacy groups to gain a deeper understanding of social justice issues such as child labor,  
 7 genocide, animal rights and the environment. Many students also volunteered for Alternative  
 8 Spring Break projects such as hurricane cleanup in New Orleans and the Potato Drop and other  
 9 service learning in Cherokee, North Carolina. University of Maryland and Howard chaplains  
 10 led students on a mission trip to Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2007. One HU student  
 11 reported that she experienced life and 'global Christianity' on the trip. The United Campus  
 12 Ministry at Frostburg collected over \$15,000 to raise three Arks for Heifer International.  
 13 Frostburg and AU also held student peace rallies against the war in Iraq. All chaplains provided  
 14 critical insight and spiritual support to organizations, groups and individuals on their respective  
 15 campuses. Larry Neumark, Protestant chaplain at Frostburg State, received the FSU Advisor  
 16 of the Year Award for 2007 in recognition of his overall contributions to the university.

17

18 5. **Faith Sharing:** Campus ministry Web sites and ads in electronic newsletters disseminated  
 19 information about ministry programs and faith-nurturing resources. AU's campus ministry  
 20 hosted 350 students at its annual free picnic and cookout. Harmony's Cross, the student choir  
 21 organized by Maryland's chaplain, sang often at University UMC and visited other churches to  
 22 proclaim the Good News through song. All chaplains participated in interfaith events and  
 23 embodied Christian discipleship in their interactions with campus administrators, faculty, staff  
 24 and students. The chaplains were especially effective in witnessing about the wideness of  
 25 God's grace and the depth of God's love during times of turmoil and stress. Peer ministers,  
 26 dorm deacons and other student ministry officers accelerated their efforts to recruit more stu-  
 27 dents by distributing flyers and information in dormitories and by unabashedly extending hos-  
 28 pitality to students.

29

30 **Plans for Continuing the Adventure:** The board will support the strategic plan developed by  
 31 the chaplains and will encourage local churches to support campus ministries as they seek to  
 32 empower students to share their faith. The board will also accelerate efforts to connect with and  
 33 provide resources for higher education committees in local churches.

34

Rev. Arthuree McLaughlin Wright, Chair

35

36

37

### 38 **COMMISSION ON THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH (CC)**

39

40 The 2004 General Conference provided for the role of a Conference Commission on the Small  
 41 Membership Church as detailed in Paragraph 644 of *the Discipline*. We define a small  
 42 membership church as having an average of 100 or less in worship. In the Baltimore-Washington  
 43 Conference, we have 440 small membership congregations. Our purpose as a commission is to  
 44 help with resources specific to the challenges and opportunities facing small membership  
 45 churches as we strive to bear fruit on the Discipleship Adventure. We are working this year to  
 46 survey needs common to small membership congregations and provide resources on our  
 47 developing Web site. We are just getting started and look forward to our work together.

48

Rev. Stacey E. Nickerson, Chair

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**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (CC)**  
**TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN**

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Following the examples of Jesus, United Methodist Women have worked for peace and justice for 139 years with an emphasis on women, children and youth. This call turns things upside down. The National Seminar in May, used the theme “For Christ Sake, Turn the World Upside Down!” Darlene Bowles, Washington West, Gabrielle Patrick, Washington East, and Mary Baldrige, Annapolis, along with 200 other women participated in the quadrennial mission education and justice training seminar at Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville.

The Baltimore -Washington Conference during 2007 engaged in programs and activities of spiritual growth, social action, peace and justice, etc.:

• **Mission Giving: Baltimore-Washington Conference**

United Methodist Women contributed almost \$500,000 to all mission projects, exceeding our pledge to the Women’s Division by 18%. This includes Conference projects, contributions to the Gulf Region, UMCOR, Church World Service, etc. Our mission giving pledge to Women’s Division supports mission projects worldwide.

• **Susanna Wesley House, Inc.:** Baltimore, MD

This project assists women with children with housing and development of life skills to obtain permanent housing. Exciting events are happening at the Susanna Wesley House. 609 Park Avenue houses nine women and 12 children in partnership with the Women’s Housing Coalition. A part-time executive director was recently hired and plans are being finalized to renovate 607 Park Avenue.

• **Epworth House:** Wesley Seminary

An outgrowth of the sale of the Washington Deaconess Home, this project now sponsors and supports the *missionary in-residence program* at Wesley Seminary. \$10,000 for an international scholarship was presented to Dr. David McAllister-Wilson at the annual meeting.

• **Cooperative School of Christian Mission:** Washington West

More than 200 people participated in the Cooperative School of Christian Mission, July 19-22, at the Hilton in Gaithersburg. Study topics were: Mission and Music, Globalization, and Israel/Palestine.

• **United Nations Seminar:** New York City

“A Just Peace in the Middle East,” a thought provoking seminar was attended by 39 clergy and laity; men, women and young adults. Peace in the Middle-East was explored through worship, Bible study, tours, workshops and speakers, including Stephen Goldstein, author of the study book, *Israel-Palestine*.

• **Rekindle the Gift:** Annapolis District

District officers and other women interested in leadership, participated in a workshop September 22. The workshop, designed to enhance leadership skills and answer questions about being in mission, was led by Julia Tulloch, Women’s Division Staff. Each participant continued her development by using a self-directed workbook and interactive CD-Rom.

• **Comfort Pillows:**

More than 500 Reach to Recovery (Comfort) Pillows were made and dedicated at the annual meeting for women recovering from breast surgery. The pillows were given to the American Cancer Society for distribution throughout the Conference.

1 • **Scholarships:**

2 \$14,000 was awarded to 20 male and female students for higher education.

3  
4 • **UMW Conference Projects:**

5 There are projects available in each district in our Conference that support and meet the  
6 needs of women, children and youth. These programs provide shelter, day and transitional  
7 housing, and emergency shelter for abused women and their children. Many also provide  
8 counseling and the development of life skills that lead to jobs and permanent housing.  
9 Baltimore Parrish Work in Baltimore provides activities for children including camp, day  
10 camps, after-school care, vacation Bible school, etc. They also support the U.S.2s and deaf  
11 ministry programs.

12  
13 • **Wesley Learning Center:** Wesley Seminary

14 The joint adventure of the Baltimore-Washington and the Virginia Conferences of United  
15 Methodist Women is the Wesley Learning Center. This three-day project seeks to increase  
16 seminarian and clergy understandings of United Methodist Women. Almost 100 people  
17 learned about the history, spiritual foundation, mission, finances and the connectional system  
18 through displays, dialogue and hands on activities. Carol Barton, Women's Division was the  
19 chapel speaker.

20  
21 Edith C. Williams, President

22  
23  
24 **UNITED METHODIST MEN (CC)**

25 *MEN CAN DO IT: Disciples Use Their Gifts in the Community*

26 *There are a variety of gifts, but the same spirits, and a variety of services all for the same Lord.*  
27 *(1 Corinthians 12:4-5)*

28  
29 *Faithful Service:* The UMM ministry has a relational-driven purpose. It is a new beginning on  
30 how we service others. To make this vision a reality, we are looking at how others are served. For  
31 example, we need to address the generational needs among men, (ages 50 +, 49 – 30, 29 – 18),  
32 because each has a different story to live. One ministry does not fit all. As we do our work, we  
33 keep in mind the following four biblical mandates: evangelism, establishment, equipping, and  
34 extension. This is a long-range vision. All can not be addressed on start day.

35  
36 *Evangelism:* Mark 16:15, Jesus tells his disciples to go into the world and preach the Good News.  
37 Evangelism is to present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that men come to put  
38 their trust in God through him, to accept him as their Savior and to serve him as their king in the  
39 fellowship of his church. To do this, we must pray, study the Scriptures, share our journey and  
40 therefore win souls for Christ.

41  
42 *Establishment:* In Colossians 2:6-7, Paul writes, “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the  
43 Lord, so walk in him, having been firmly rooted and now begin to build up in him and estab-  
44 lished in your faith, just as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude.” The establish-  
45 ment area of our ministry is a process of grounding men in the spiritual disciplines of prayer,  
46 Bible study, Scripture memorization and solitude. It’s here that you give them the skills needed to  
47 walk with Jesus the rest of their lives so that they aren’t dependent on others for their grounding  
48 and growth.

49  
50 *Equipping:* The third part of a balanced ministry is getting men out of the stands and into the  
51 game. Help men to discover, develop and deploy their spiritual gifts. Help men highlight areas in  
52 the church where they can help. Help men not only to understand, but also to practice, good stew-  
53 ardsip of time, energy and money.

1 *Extension:* The church exists to take the whole Gospel to the whole world. Keep the fundamental  
 2 truth in front of men. One measure of effective ministry is how many men are trained and sent to  
 3 serve in ministries that reach non-Christians.

4

5 **Our accomplishments:**

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- Planned a monthly calendar of events for **celebrating 100 years of men's ministry in the Methodist Church**. Visit Web site [www.bwcumm.org](http://www.bwcumm.org) to learn what events are planned.
- Developed a Web site that linked ministries at the local churches, districts, Conference and the General Commission of United Method Men. The Web site will empower communication at all levels, strengthen success in winning souls to Christ and promote growth within the denomination.
- **Baltimore North District** – Welcomed Bill Weller as district president for Baltimore North. At the executive team meeting, Bill reported that they plan to create a cluster structure for managing the district churches as men grow in Christ.
- Continued the **Prayer Center Ministry** to serve callers that request prayer (telephone and e-mail) from across the nation. The center operates at the Baltimore-Washington Conference Center, Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Annapolis District** – Supported them in their second annual Jubilee Retreat held at Anne Arundel Community College. The Retreat gave participants an opportunity to learn more about living within a balanced ministry of discipline for Jesus Christ. In April 2008, the Jubilee Retreat will be offered to all BWC men. The district organized 100 men to deliver 40,000 pounds of potatoes to needy families in the Annapolis projects area. They recognized 30 outstanding youth with certificates and helped start two local church men's ministries.
- **Washington West District** - Meetings encouraged men to pray daily and reach out to younger men. Participated in charity golf tournament, assisted in financial support for Katrina project and provided an opportunity to learn more about HIV AIDS with Dr. Ron Simmons, President of US Helping US, as the presenter. Provided an opportunity for Christians to enjoy a Gospel cruise on the Potomac River.
- **Washington Columbia District:** Offered a prayer breakfast to all generations, with more than 80 men participating. First UMC in Hyattsville served the community by having a sharing gathering followed by a chicken and crab dinner. The proceeds provided financial support for their VIM team to rebuild seven houses in Katrina Mississippi area.

35 The United Methodist Men's Fellowship of the Baltimore-Washington Conference is committed  
 36 to making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. By providing pathways  
 37 of discipleship, we will involve a new generation of men in ministry.

Sherman Harris, President

## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES AREA

### COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CC)

4 *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,”*  
 5 *says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out*  
 6 *so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”* Malachi 3:10-11 (NIV)

7  
 8 *The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows*  
 9 *bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not*  
 10 *reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you*  
 11 *with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share*  
 12 *abundantly in every good work.* 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

13  
 14 What is Christian stewardship? Biblically, it’s the faithful gathering, husbanding, sharing and  
 15 leveraging of God’s gifts in a way which honors the name of the Lord, blesses the people, and  
 16 extends the work and ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world. As John Wesley put it  
 17 in a three-part proverb familiar to many United Methodists: “Get all you can; save all you can;  
 18 give all you can.” The challenge for us is that we live in a culture which is very hot on the first  
 19 part of that dictum, does poorly on the second, and proves itself lukewarm at best on the third.  
 20 Sadly, often the culture, rather than the Scripture, informs even believers’ views on this score.  
 21 One outcome is communities of faith which may be struggling where they should by rights be  
 22 thriving; and connectional ministry which fails to realize the full “lift” of its potential, or which  
 23 begins to feel like an onerous burden where it could be a joyous extension of the fulfillment of  
 24 God’s purposes at home.

25  
 26 At the top of last year’s CFA report, we included Scripture texts focused on the abundance of  
 27 God’s resources and the faithfulness of God’s provision. In this report, the “header” references  
 28 are on what we are called to do with that provision.

29  
 30 Malachi is God’s instrument for bringing a word of challenge and promise. Living after the  
 31 exiles had returned to Judah and Jerusalem, Malachi’s time was one of possibility: the temple had  
 32 been repaired, the soil was being cultivated again, institutions were taking root in the ancient  
 33 homeland. We might say: the markets were up. The congregations were operating. But social  
 34 injustice was rampant. The piety of the people was halfhearted and shot through with  
 35 compromise. And in their stewardship, the people had become self-focused and self-protective.  
 36 The prophet tells them bluntly that their lukewarm, fervor-less piety and stinginess in their giving  
 37 isn’t making matters better; instead, it’s blocking their reception of God’s bounty. Through the  
 38 prophet, God throws down the challenge: “Bring the whole tithe in ... and see if I don’t just dump  
 39 blessings on you.” God goes further in the next verses, promising to turn back the “devourer”  
 40 (some translations say “locusts” or “pests”, but that’s an interpretation).

41  
 42 Big blessings. Keeping back the things in life which steal away the resources those blessings  
 43 bring. The people’s faithful giving being the key to unlock God’s infinitely vaster giving. And  
 44 God saying, to borrow from a popular movie, “I double-dog dare ya.” Who could refuse that?  
 45 Who, indeed ....

46  
 47 In 2 Corinthians, Paul the apostle teaches on the same idea, sometimes called the “principle of  
 48 sowing and reaping.” Sow sparingly, reap a little. Sow generously, reap a lot. Is it possible to  
 49 have a bad outcome, to sow a lot and reap a little? In this world, yes. But the miserly sower will  
 50 always be rewarded with a stingy harvest. The real issue, then, as Paul goes on to say, is not one  
 51 of mechanics; it’s about the heart. God, who has exuberantly sowed blessing in the world, and  
 52 who is so promiscuous in doing good that even the evil receive a benefit – this God rejoices to  
 53 find kindred spirits, “cheerful givers,” among us.

1 Like the Jews of Malachi’s day, we live at the crossroads of prosperity and uncertainty and are  
2 tempted to act in self-protective rather than self-giving ways. Like those folks, we are also not  
3 strangers in our world to unjust and oppressive societies or to tepid “discipleship”. As the early  
4 Christians in Corinth, we are part of a connection of churches, an interlocking and interdependent  
5 network of believers and fellowships and ministries. We call ours “The United Methodist  
6 Church.” But we, no less than they, can measure our health and effectiveness by how  
7 enthusiastically we sow our gifts today, for tomorrow’s harvest.

8  
9 It’s an old lesson. It’s one we need to hear again.

10  
11 **The Work of the Council on Finance and Administration**

12 The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) is responsible for the development and  
13 management of financial resources for the work of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, so that  
14 the Conference in turn can do its work of resourcing local congregations in their mission of  
15 making disciples of Jesus Christ. The *Book of Discipline* puts it this way: CFA exists “to  
16 develop, maintain and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and  
17 administrative policies, procedures and management services for the annual Conference.”  
18 (*Discipline 2004*, para. 611.1) This means that CFA is also the clearinghouse and coordinating  
19 body for a number of other key resourcing areas, including the Foundation, Conference Trustees,  
20 Pensions and Health Benefits and Equitable Compensation. Together, we work to leverage your  
21 giving in ways which both enable ministry around the Conference’s area and even around the  
22 world, while also coming back to bless the local church.

23  
24 One key part of CFA’s work is in the area of budgeting. The Council receives budget inputs for  
25 ministries and regions, and recommends to the full session of Annual Conference what is needed  
26 and prudent for pursuing our vision and mission, the Discipleship Adventure. Another  
27 component of our work is around the apportionment, which is our “fair share” or “missional  
28 share” giving from local churches, by which the Adventure is supported. This giving makes up  
29 the bulk of Conference receipts.

30  
31 The Council wishes always to honor and thank those congregations who, always at some cost and  
32 often with significant sacrifice, have paid their apportionments and commitments at the 100%  
33 level, or above. This accounts for about three-quarters of our churches. Thank you for your  
34 faithfulness! We are confident that God will bless you as you bless many others in this way!

35  
36 **Looking Back on 2007**

37 Total receipts in 2007 were \$ 31,798,507. Of this, total 2007 apportionment collections were  
38 \$15,382,783, or 87.69% of the amount apportioned. This represents a decrease of almost 3%  
39 from the 2006 level of 90.52%. This is the lowest collection rate our Conference has had for  
40 several years, and is reflective of the difficult economic environment of the past year. The  
41 collection rates for the past several years are as follows:

42	2007:	87.69 %
43	2006:	90.52 %
44	2005:	89.78 %
45	2004:	89.87 %

46  
47 For the quadrennium before 2004, collection rates hovered in the 90-92% range. This historical  
48 data becomes important as CFA makes assumptions regarding the collection rate for the 2009  
49 budget.

50  
51 The past 12 months have been a time of significant internal organizational challenges, as CFA  
52 and Finance staff have worked diligently to align structure, policies, and practices with the  
53 Discipleship Adventure. This has included: recasting the budget and account structure to reflect

1 the new ministry structure of the Conference, moving fully into an accrual basis for Conference  
2 accounting, and realigning staff responsibilities. We have also appreciated the gifts brought by  
3 the former interim Chief Operations Officer (COO), Mr. Charlie Allen; and have welcomed and  
4 been blessed by the gifts of our new COO, Mr. Bill Isberg.

5  
6 The Council continues its commitment to minimizing increases to the Conference budget, and the  
7 reduction of the Benevolence Factor (BF). The BF for the most recent budget cycles has been as  
8 follows:

9	2005:	24.8%
10	2006:	24.0%
11	2007:	23.25%
12	2008:	22.50%
13	2009:	22.00% (proposed)

14  
15 An Apportionment Task Force of CFA, made up of members of the Council and others, has  
16 continued its work throughout 2007 and into this year. The report and findings of the  
17 Apportionment Task Force are attached as an addendum to this report. After consultation with  
18 other key leaders and staff, the Council has adopted Task Force Recommendations #1 and #2 for  
19 immediate implementation, and referred Recommendation #3 to the work of the new  
20 Connectional Giving Committee for further review and refinement. Recognizing that there  
21 remain additional issues and concerns to be addressed, CFA will be recommending the calling of  
22 an Adjourned Session of annual Conference during the coming year, with a focus on apportion-  
23 ment-related matters (see CFA Recommendation 9, page 52).

24

## 25 Acknowledgements

26 The Council is ever grateful for the hard work of the Finance Area staff, especially in a time of  
27 continuing realignment of mission with structure. We express our appreciation to our Conference  
28 Treasurer and Chief Benefits Officer, Martha Knight, our Controller, Pier McPayten, and the  
29 dedicated people who work with them. We reiterate also our appreciation for the skills and  
30 support of Bill Isberg, and the leaders and linking staff of the Conference agencies related to  
31 CFA.

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39 OVERVIEW

40 1. TASK FORCE MANDATE: "To review the apportionment system of the Baltimore-  
41 Washington Conference and recommend any changes which are appropriate for Conference  
42 consideration."

43

44 2. TASK FORCE MEMBERS: Rev. Charles Harrell - Convenor (Pres. Of CFA), Rev. Barry  
45 Dillon, Rev. Evan Young, Rev. David Myers, Rev. Malcom Stranathan (for first 6 months). Mr.  
46 Ray Mosely (Member of CFA), Mr. John Derrick (Member of CFA), Mr. Charles Moore  
47 (Member of CFA), Ms. Martha Knight (Conference Treasurer)

48

49 PROCESS:

50 1. REGULAR TASK FORCE MEETINGS held since Feb 26, 2007

- 51 • Reviewed various apportionment formulas used by the other 60+ Conferences in the U.S.
- 52 • Found eleven different formulas used

53

Rev. Charles L. Harrell, President,  
Martha Knight, Conference Treasurer

### **Addendum: Apportionment Task Force Update (CC) as Adopted by the Council on Finance and Administration, March 19, 2008**

- 1 • Current BWC expense based formula is used by 31 (50% of the annual Conferences in the
- 2 U.S.)
- 3 • Evaluated the impact of capping increases/decreases and multi-year averaging (3-5 years) –
- 4 All showed a negative impact of \$500K to \$1.0 million+
- 5 • Thoroughly discussed issues related to the apportionment system;
- 6 • Leadership and accountability of pastors and key leaders;
- 7 • Communications/Education relating to understanding connectionalism and where our
- 8 apportionment dollars go;
- 9 • Lack of staff resources to effectively manage and monitor the integrity of the
- 10 apportionment process;
- 11 • The perceived lack of ability of local churches to influence the Conference budget.

## 12 2. ONLINE SURVEY of all Pastors and local church lay leadership in Dec.2007

- 13 • 679 responses received (34% response rate)
- 14 • Laity were 66% of the respondents and clergy were 34%
- 15 • 61% feel that the current BWC formula creates inequities for SHRINKING churches
- 16 • 47% feel the current formula creates inequities for GROWING churches
- 17 • Only 41% feel that members of their church are familiar with apportionments and the
- 18 apportionment process
- 19 • 56% feel that paying apportionments limits ministry and expansion at the local church

## 20 3.REGIONAL LISTENING SESSIONS held in January 2008

- 21 • Approx. 250 lay and clergy attended one of 6 Regional Listening Sessions
- 22 • Charles Harrell or Barry Dillon gave a 30 minute Power Point presentation that provided
- 23 results of the December Survey and the current Task Force findings followed by 90 minutes
- 24 of Q&A
- 25 • Considerable discussion of the pros and cons of alternative formulas utilizing income,
- 26 attendance, etc.
- 27 • Much discussion about the impact of rising energy and maintenance costs on churches with
- 28 large and aging facilities and shrinking congregations
- 29 • A lot of concern expressed that churches who are successful in meeting/exceeding the
- 30 Discipleship objectives get unduly penalized with excessive increases in apportionments

## 31 4.TASK FORCE EVALUATION conducted in February 2008

- 32 • Evaluated the trends in BWC apportionment giving since 2004
- 33 • Discussed results of Online Survey and Regional Listening Sessions
- 34 • Prepared Preliminary Recommendations for consideration by CFA and Discipleship Council

35 COMMENDATIONS: The following two commendations were approved by CFA on March 13,

36 2008:

### 37 1. RETAIN THE CURRENT EXPENSE BASED FORMULA

- 38 • It is felt that the current formula is the most equitable formula for the vast majority of our
- 39 churches.
- 40 • Alternative formulas such as tithing, income, attendance, membership, etc. present significant
- 41 challenges relating to the accuracy and classification/definition of data and it is not felt that
- 42 they would effectively address all of the issues expressed by the churches most impacted by
- 43 the current formula.

### 44 2. ESTABLISH A STANDING “CONNECTIONAL GIVING COMMITTEE” AS A

#### 45 SUBCOMMITTEE OF CFA

- 46 • Committee comprised of 3-4 members of CFA
- 47 • Supports Conference staff and local churches in the ongoing administration of the

1 apportionment process

- 2 • Work with Conference Finance staff to review, clarify and more effectively communicate
- 3 guidelines regarding the reporting of expense data into the apportionment process.
- 4 • Annually recruit a small group of 8-10 “lay volunteers” to assist the Conference Finance staff
- 5 in periodic review of the data submitted by local churches to insure the integrity and consistency
- 6 of data submitted.
- 7 • Work with Conference Communications staff to conduct ongoing communications for use in
- 8 local churches regarding the importance of connectional giving as well as providing
- 9 information as to where the BWC and General Conference apportionment dollars go.
- 10 • Address any issues identified by the current Conference Apportionment Task Force, CFA or
- 11 Conference leadership that may not be resolved through the recommendations ultimately
- 12 approved by the 2008 Annual Conference.
- 13 • Review the BWC Conference apportionment process at least once every 4 years and report
- 14 its findings and/or recommendations to the CFA, Conference leadership and Annual
- 15 Conference.

16

17 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION: A number of additional issues and  
 18 alternative solutions were brought forward through the current process. However, time  
 19 constraints have precluded the Task Force from thoroughly evaluating the merits of these  
 20 additional alternatives. Therefore, it is the Task Force’s conclusion that the following issues  
 21 require further analysis before recommendations are brought forth. They can initially be  
 22 addressed by the proposed/newly created Connectional Giving Committee and any proposals  
 23 shall then be brought forth through CFA and Conference Leadership and to future Annual  
 24 Conferences, as required by existing governance guidelines.

25

26 These alternatives fall into five broad categories:

- 27 1. Place caps on the annual increase or decrease (i.e. No annual apportionment shall increase
- 28 greater than XX% or decrease by greater than YY%.)
- 29 2. Initiate a 3-5 year averaging process (i.e. The benevolence factor shall be applied to the 3 or
- 30 5 year average of apportioned expenses)
- 31 3. Incorporate incentives for churches paying 100%
- 32 4. Incorporate sanctions for churches paying less than 100%
- 33 5. Provide incentives/credits for churches meeting the long term Discipleship Adventure
- 34 objectives

35

36 Also for further consideration was the following recommendation which was referred back by the  
 37 CFA for further study on 3 March 2008. [This was not endorsed at this time by CFA.]:

38

#### 39 ESTABLISH AN “EQUITABLE APPORTIONMENT FUND” TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF 40 CHURCHES FACING EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

- 41 • One-time grants to be provided to churches who qualify
- 42 • It is intended that these grants will be made to a relatively few local churches that face
- 43 extraordinary circumstances
  - 44 • The newly formed Connectional Giving Committee (with approval of CFA) shall
  - 45 establish the threshold criteria that must be met by a local church in order to apply for
  - 46 a grant
- 47 • Local churches who meet the minimum threshold criteria shall present its grant request to
- 48 their Guides and Regional Teams. The Regional Team shall then forward those grant requests
- 49 it recommends to the existing Joint Funding Task Force for disposition.
- 50 • The Joint Funding Task Force shall report its actions regarding these grant requests at least
- 51 annually to the Connectional Giving Committee and CFA.
- 52 • Initial funding of \$300K - \$500K to come primarily from unused 2006 Operating Budget
- 53 surplus

- 1 • Subsequent funding to come from budget line items approved in future operating budgets

2  
3 Rev. Charles L. Harrell, President,  
4 Martha Knight, Conference Treasurer

5  
6  
7 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES (CC)**  
8

9 In his book, *Revolutionizing Christian Stewardship for the 21st Century*, Dan Dick (from the  
10 General Board of Discipleship), does an excellent job of clarifying the meaning of stewardship  
11 and the spiritual gifts we are given to serve God: “Most all local church Committees have at  
12 one time or another heard some member remind the committee that the church is a business and  
13 needs to be run like one. Yet, think of the complications of such a statement. Any secular busi-  
14 ness that forgets its mission is in deep trouble. Businesses need to make a profit to stay in busi-  
15 ness but the profit is not the mission. Businesses and churches do not exist to exist; their legiti-  
16 macy comes from knowing why they exist and from marshaling their spiritual, human, and tem-  
17 poral resources to fulfill their primary task. The church is a steward when it is faithful to its mis-  
18 sion.”

19  
20 The mission of the Baltimore-Washington Conference is to call, equip, send and support spiritual  
21 leaders to make disciples and grow Acts 2 churches. The Conference trustees help make this mis-  
22 sion a reality by caring for the property concerns that relate to the changing needs of the greater  
23 community known as the Baltimore-Washington Conference. When two or three gather in our  
24 Lord’s name it is amazing to see what can happen. We have a few very faithful trustees who are  
25 working at light speed to care for the many new and ongoing needs of our Conference  
26 properties as well as answer questions from local churches who have their own questions and  
27 concerns.

28  
29 Highlights of our work last year include:

- 30 • Canton UMC in Baltimore continues to be on the market. A fire occurred in August; we  
31 worked with the insurance company to negotiate a cash settlement. The building is secure  
32 and continues to be shown to potential buyers. The downturn in the market is having its  
33 affect on the future development of this property.
- 34 • After a long process, involving very skilled lawyers, the Riderwood Estate has been taken off  
35 the historic designation list. A demolition permit was secured after almost a year’s delay and  
36 now the property has been cleared of the crumbling house and out buildings so it will be  
37 much more attractive to a potential builder. Sale of this property will help finance the new  
38 dining hall at West River.
- 39 • Ground was broken for the new dining hall at West River Camp last summer, but actual  
40 construction progress has not been made to date. The final permits are being secured. A  
41 capital campaign, directed at those who are friends of camping in our Conference, was  
42 successful in generating funds and support for this project. A construction loan has been  
43 negotiated to complete the project, supplementing funds on hand. Andy Thornton has done a  
44 tremendous job of coordinating the many aspects of this incredible project. Camping is also  
45 working to update the Master Plan for all our Conference camps.
- 46 • A lease was signed for the Western regional office located in Hagerstown, Md.
- 47 • After a survey of the cemetery at the former Gibbons Resurrection Center, it was determined  
48 that the driveway recently installed was not on any known graves. This will be noted in the  
49 county records and properly designated as the responsibility of the former congregation.
- 50 • Provided training for local church Trustees at Leadership Days.
- 51 • Donated property from Bethel UMC in Bakerton, W. Va., for the Fire Department to use a  
52 vacant lot as a fire station and community center; the property will revert back to the  
53 Conference if the community center is not built.

- 1 • A three-year lease is being negotiated for Keys Chapel.
- 2 • A three-year lease was finalized for Warren Chapel.
- 3 • Preparing the Boonsboro lot (formerly attached to the Reeder Home) for transfer to Mt. Nebo
- 4 UMC.
- 5 • The former parsonage of St. Paul's UMC, located on Linwood in Baltimore, is on the market.
- 6 • Recent interest in the property owned by the Conference at Ceresville/Rt. 26, near
- 7 Walkersville, has the Trustees exploring the sale of this property.
- 8 • With the assistance of a summer intern, we continued to catalog property owned by the
- 9 Conference and its local churches.
- 10 • Identified liens that exist against current churches. This issue comes up when churches try to
- 11 sell property without clearing the title.
- 12 • One member of the Conference Board of Trustees represents the Conference on the building
- 13 committee of the Susanna Wesley House.
- 14 • Reviewed insurance coverage of the Conference with our agent.
- 15 • Moved forward with plans to sell the Annapolis District parsonage. Receipts from the sale of
- 16 this property will go into the reserve fund of the Conference trustees for support of housing
- 17 allowances provided to district superintendents.
- 18 • Reviewed local church Trustee Charge Conference reports for completeness. This informa-
- 19 tion will be used to build a database of local church trustee contacts and an accurate list of
- 20 properties owned by local churches, and to enable future plans to review risk management by
- 21 local churches.
- 22 • We passed a resolution (see the recommendations section) to create a reserve fund for
- 23 abandoned cemetery upkeep. The Conference has many abandoned cemeteries, not attached
- 24 to any active churches, which need perpetual care. The reserve fund would be used for this
- 25 upkeep and would provide a Conference budget line item for transfer of funds from existing
- 26 perpetual care funds of abandoned cemeteries. We will form a task force to develop a long
- 27 term plan for the care and oversight of these cemeteries.
- 28 • A Conference Center Facilities Steering Committee has been formed to explore options for
- 29 the Conference center's offices. The steering committee will be comprised of key Conference
- 30 center staff, members of the board of trustees and other content experts as required. The
- 31 group will include at a minimum the Chair of Trustees, the Chief Operating Officer, and a
- 32 Guide/District Superintendent. The group will explore Conference facilities options as the
- 33 Conference center's current lease nears an end.

34  
 35 This is just a brief overview of the many issues that come to our attention on a regular basis. We  
 36 have been severely hampered in our work by the long term vacancy of a Conference staff person  
 37 to address property needs.

38  
 39 In all things, we have faithfully tried to fulfill the mission of our Conference, to call, equip, send  
 40 and support spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow Acts 2 churches. The work of the  
 41 Conference Trustees helps to make this mission a reality. I am grateful to our incredibly hard  
 42 working Trustees whose commitment to this work makes my job as chair much easier.

43  
 44 Grace and Peace,  
 45 Rev. Debbie Scott, President

#### 46 47 48 CONFERENCE CHANCELLORS (CC)

49  
 50 **I. The Chancellors' Purpose:** Under the *Discipline*, the chancellor's purpose is simply to "serve  
 51 as legal adviser to the bishop and the annual Conference." *Book of Discipline*, Par. 603.8. In  
 52 practice, we also frequently advise local churches.

53

1 The types of matters we handle are diverse, but the overriding focus of our work, whether  
2 we're negotiating a contract, defending a lawsuit, or ensuring regulatory compliance, is protect-  
3 ing the Conference's operational and financial integrity, without which it cannot be effective in  
4 ministry. We also assist with ensuring compliance with the Discipline, but on that score, our  
5 legal training (though helpful) is no substitute for proficiency in church polity, which is  
6 possessed by many other clergy and lay members in this Conference.

7  
8 **II.The Chancellors' Role in the Discipleship Process:** The Conference Chancellors seek to  
9 advance disciple-making primarily by providing a resource, legal advice, to those who are  
10 implementing the Church's core functions, namely, the bishop, Conference staff and  
11 committees and local churches. We appreciate that lawyers are often perceived as more of a  
12 hindrance than a help, but we believe that legal counsel properly understood and faithfully  
13 delivered, can be instrumental to effective ministry.

14  
15 **III.Accomplishments over the Past Year:**

- 16 • Advised the bishop, staff and counsel assigned by the Conference's insurer in connection  
17 with a civil lawsuit filed by a clergy member regarding employment issues.
- 18 • Advised the bishop and staff in various matters involving complaints or allegations of  
19 misconduct by clergy.
- 20 • Assisted district superintendents with claims alleging clergy misconduct and local church  
21 organizational, personnel and real estate issues.
- 22 • Provided counsel to several local churches regarding legal issues arising in connection with  
23 local church ministries, including personnel matters, property issues, and church school  
24 issues.

25  
26 **IV.Expectations for the Coming Year:** Tom Starnes looks forward to continuing to provide  
27 advice whenever new legal challenges arise, and exploring ways to improve the delivery of  
28 quality legal services to the Conference and its local churches. After 50 years of practicing  
29 law, and at least 20 serving as Chancellor of this Conference, John Ditto looks forward to  
30 retiring, effective June 30, 2008.

31  
32 **V.Commendations:** We continue to be grateful for the support we receive from the legal staff of  
33 the denomination's General Council on Finance and Administration, especially Corporate  
34 Counsel Rick Rettberg and Administrative Counsel Dan Gary, and from Irene Howard (CEO)  
35 and Joy Melton (Chief Resource Officer) of the United Methodist Property and Casualty Trust.

36  
37 John H. Ditto, Jr.  
38 Thomas E. Starnes  
39

40  
41 **BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY (CC)**  
42

43 This year, your Board of Ordained Ministry has continued its mission of supervising, evaluating,  
44 interviewing, testing, discerning and praying for the future leadership of our church. This  
45 committed group has met in full board and executive committee formations to keep tuned to the  
46 needs of the clergy and churches of our Conference as well as national issues related to the  
47 ordained ministry. It is a joy to regularly gather with this group of committed Christians, laity  
48 and clergy, to care for the future of our beloved United Methodist Church and its Baltimore-  
49 Washington Conference.

50  
51 I would like to give the following observations as my yearly report to the Conference.

52  
53 First, the board has created a task force to evaluate its own method of operation. The task force,

1 chaired by Dr. David Cooney, is looking at all aspects of Board functions, communications,  
 2 examination retreat formats, *Discipline* responsibility and unique Baltimore-Washington  
 3 Conference procedures to discern what areas and processes might be modified in light of the 21st  
 4 century church. This task force will make a presentation to the Board in April 2008. The  
 5 anticipated report will guide important modifications as the Board reconfigures its membership  
 6 for the 2008–2012 quadrennial.

7  
 8 Second, the board continues to run full member and probationary member retreats. The board  
 9 expects to have two classes of hope-filled, spirit-driven, ministry-motivated clergy to present to  
 10 the Conference for commissioning/ordination. It is important to remind all clergy candidates and  
 11 colleagues that the board takes seriously its Book of Discipline mandated responsibilities. We are  
 12 tasked with making important and difficult decisions in the life of the church.

13  
 14 Third, while the full board has easily handled its assigned duties, the Executive Committee and  
 15 the Conference Relations Committee of the board have gone above and beyond the call with sig-  
 16 nificantly more meetings and details. I personally commend the members of these groups for  
 17 their faithfulness. I would like to publicly thank the valuable contribution, guidance, and counsel  
 18 that I have received from vice-chair Rev. Gayle Annis-Forder. Her service and commitment to  
 19 the board has been commendable. We seek your prayers, support and understanding.

20  
 21 With the above stated, it is a sad commentary that ethical concerns, lack of theological depth,  
 22 personal agendas, insufficient mentoring and lack of self-awareness on issues of integrity seem to  
 23 plague a significant number of our colleagues. It is my personal hope and prayer that all clergy  
 24 will re-examine their call to ministry, their commitment to the church, their commitment to each  
 25 other as colleagues and their desire to serve the Lord with integrity, clarity of purpose and humili-  
 26 ty.

27  
 28 During my 29 years of full time ministry, I have served on the Board of Ordained Ministry 18  
 29 years, four as board secretary and four as chair. I have attended some 35 retreats (including my  
 30 own) and have witnessed much change. There are a few things we can improve. Over all, the  
 31 board continues to illustrate a powerful ministry of service, commitment, dedication, grace and  
 32 devotion to the highest ideals of Christ's kingdom in and through United Methodist ministry.

33  
 34 The Board of Ordained Ministry is in ministry with you and for you.

35

Blessings,

36

Rev. Dr. Conrad O. Link, Chair

37

38

39

40

### ORDER OF DEACONS (CC)

41

42 During 2007-08 the Order of Deacons has had regular gatherings, has worked to develop a bond  
 43 of unity and common commitment to the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church,  
 44 has worked to foster relationships that allow mutual support and trust and holds accountable all  
 45 members of the Order. Making disciples and the Discipleship Adventure has been and are  
 46 integral parts of the ministry of the Deacon. Deacons are called and set apart for the ministry of  
 47 love, justice and service; of connecting the church with the most needy, neglected and marginal-  
 48 ized among the children of God. The ministry of the Deacon is a service ministry that is called to  
 49 bridge the Word and the world. The goal of bridging is the healing of creation. Deacons encour-  
 50 age shared ministry with laypersons and elders, and try to build mutuality between all the  
 51 baptized.

52

53

1 The Deacon embodies, exemplifies and leads the church in servanthood as a bridge between the  
 2 church and the world. The Deacon leads in the congregation's mission to the world and leads the  
 3 congregation in interpreting the needs, concerns and hopes of the world to the church.

4  
 5 It is a privilege and great pleasure to be able to serve in worship at Annual Conference, modeling  
 6 the way Elders and Deacons can serve in different ways to the benefit of the church.

7  
 8 Continuing GOALS of the Order of Deacons

- 9 • Deacon(s) in Full Connection will be a resource for the District Committees of the Board of
- 10 Ordained Ministry;
- 11 • Connect and nurture those in the candidacy process – including relating to the students at
- 12 Wesley Seminary as they consider the Deacon track;
- 13 • Include all in the ministry of the diaconate as much as possible;
- 14 • Connect with and support the diakonia in small/ethnic churches.

15  
 16 Respectfully submitted,  
 17 Rev. Lynn P. Nulton, Chair  
 18  
 19

## 20 **BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS (CC)**

21  
 22 *We seek to be like Christ as we call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders to make and*  
 23 *engage disciples in the Adventure and bear Acts 2 fruit*  
 24

25 The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits continues to pursue its goal of enabling clergy and  
 26 lay staff to accomplish their missions without concern for their long-term financial protection.

27  
 28 We continue to position ourselves to face the challenges that lie ahead and to assist clergy and  
 29 staff in their missions.

30  
 31 **Pre-1982 Service:** The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits administers funds for the  
 32 pre-1982 pension program. We currently contract for a rate of 0.9% of the Conference Average  
 33 Compensation (CAC). This translates to a Past Service Annuity Rate (PSAR) of \$531 per year of  
 34 service for 2008. For 2009 the PSAR is \$542.

35  
 36 Beginning with 2008, pursuant to paragraph S1.3.4 of Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement  
 37 Security Program, the Past Service Rate (PSR) will automatically increase (rounded up to the  
 38 next dollar) by the greater of 2% or the amount needed to maintain the minimum 0.8% of  
 39 Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The Conference may elect to increase the PSR further  
 40 with immediate funding required in certain circumstances.

41  
 42 **Ministerial Pension Plan:** As of January 1, 2007, no additional contributions have been made to  
 43 the Ministerial Pension Plan MPP. Monies previously contributed to MPP will continue to be held  
 44 in individual participant accounts.

45  
 46 **Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Funding:** The Baltimore Washington  
 47 Conference funds the program as follows:

- 48 • BWC is required to collect 3% of a participant's plan compensation (salary plus housing) for
- 49 the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). CPP provides for the death and disability benefits
- 50 for all participants.
- 51
- 52 • BWC is required to collect an additional 3% of participant's plan compensation (salary plus
- 53 housing) to fund the participants Defined Contribution (DC). The Defined Contribution part

1 of the plan is similar to the old MPP where monies accumulate in an individual's personal  
 2 account. The primary difference is that these contributions are not limited by the  
 3 Denominational Average Compensation (DAC).

- 4
- 5 • The Defined Benefit (DB) portion of the plan provides for a guaranteed benefit at retirement.  
 6 (That benefit would be equal to 1.25% of the DAC at the time of retirement times the number  
 7 of years of service) In order to ensure that this benefit will be fully funded the Annual  
 8 Conference is required to make an additional payment for the Defined Benefit. Because the  
 9 DB is the same for all retirees and tied to the DAC, BWC collects 11% of each participant's  
 10 plan compensation, up to the DAC, from each congregation. If a congregation has one full  
 11 time clergy, it pays 11% of the plan compensation up to the DAC for the Defined Benefit.  
 12 The reason for this is that all full-time clergy for the years 2007 and forward receive the  
 13 same Defined Benefit based on the number of years of service after Jan. 1, 2007. Part-time  
 14 pastors receive a DB based on their percentage equivalent of a fulltime appointment.

15

16 **HealthFlex:** The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is continuing its effort to  
 17 move to a single rate for HealthFlex in order to stabilize and equalize HealthFlex cost to the  
 18 church. At present there is an adverse impact on the appointment process because family  
 19 coverage is so much more than coverage for a single participant. A single rate for all of the  
 20 churches would eliminate that consideration when considering the most appropriate appointment  
 21 possibility.

22

23 Moving to a single rate for HealthFlex would greatly lessen the impact on the most vulnerable  
 24 participants' families. At present, the family with a single income is hit the hardest with medical  
 25 care cost. A single rate would lessen that impact.

26

27 **Arrearage:** The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has adopted a policy that  
 28 "Effective January 1, 2006, churches that are in arrears for CRSP contributions shall be charged  
 29 interest at 6% per annum compounded quarterly." As of December 31, 2007, there were 23  
 30 churches that were in arrears totaling \$32,000.

31

32 **Final Comments:** The Baltimore-Washington Conference thanks Linda Gamble for the years she  
 33 spent in the Benefits Office, working on behalf of our clergy and lay employees. Frances Tagoe  
 34 is now in this position, working with Conference Benefits Officer Martha Knight to effectively  
 35 communicate and administer the benefits based on Plan rules and regulations, the Book of  
 36 Discipline, the Conference's policies and procedures, and all applicable state and federal laws so  
 37 that there is an understanding of the benefits for our clergy and lay employees. It is their goal and  
 38 the Board's goal to continue to provide the best possible benefits package for our plan  
 39 participants, while maintaining the utmost care for and fiduciary responsibility to you, the Plan  
 40 participants, and those in the Baltimore-Washington Conference for whom we owe the same. We  
 41 wish to also give thanks to Pier McPayten, Controller; and the District Superintendents who all  
 42 support the work we do.

43

44 Frank L. Gould Jr., Chair  
 45 Martha Knight, Chief Benefits Officer

46

47 **COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION (CC)**

48

49 The Commission on Equitable Compensation (COEC) serves God and the Baltimore-Washington  
 50 Conference with our main focus to help churches make Disciples and to be Acts 2 churches. The  
 51 COEC helps provide financial support to struggling congregations to pay for full time pastors; set  
 52 standards for parsonages, sick leave, maternity/paternity leave, parsonage pet policies, etc.; pro-  
 53 vide training, networking and other resources.

1 The COEC has been linked with the new Joint Funding Task Force enabling the COEC to better  
 2 serve pastors and congregations through a streamlined process. The Joint Funding Task Force has  
 3 created a new application, which is being used for all requests for Conference financial support.  
 4 The Chair of the COEC is part of this new task force that meets monthly.

5  
 6 Respectfully submitted,  
 7 Rev. Philip D. Tocknell, Chairperson  
 8  
 9

### 10 COMMUNICATIONS (CC)

11 It has been a busy and prosperous year for the communications department. Shaun Lane was  
 12 hired as the new communications director; Matt Brighton was hired as a Web specialist; and  
 13 Gateway, in conjunction with a new Conference Web site, was launched to usher in new and  
 14 exciting ways that people can communicate with one another across the denomination and  
 15 beyond.

16  
 17 With new staff and a new Web site, the communications group still published the award winning  
 18 *UMConnection* newspaper; the weekly electronic newsletter, *e-connection*; designed Discipler  
 19 Group materials and continued to be proactive in the secular media, by promoting and  
 20 interpreting news in the Conference.

21  
 22 The communications department was also recognized for outstanding work, both inside and out-  
 23 side of the denomination, by:

- 24  
 25 Religion Communicators Council, a national, ecumenical professional organization:  
 26 • Discipler curriculum – Excellence in Design for Publication Cover  
 27 • *UMConnection* Newspaper – 3rd Place, Best in Class, newspaper  
 28 United Methodist Association of Communicators:  
 29 • www.bwcumc.org – Best Web site in the denomination  
 30 • *UMConnection* – Best annual Conference print publication in the denomination  
 31 • Discipler curriculum – Best graphic design in annual Conferences  
 32 • *UM Connection* – Best Annual Conference newspaper in the denomination  
 33

34 With the advent of Gateway, the new Conference Web site, and the continued success of our other  
 35 mediums, the communications department will continue to develop new ways to tell the  
 36 Conference story in a way that is fresh, innovative and relevant, as we continue to live the  
 37 Conference vision: to “seek to be like Christ as we call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders  
 38 to make disciples and grow at least 600 Acts 2 congregations by 2012.”

39  
 40 Shaun Lane, Director  
 41  
 42

### 43 COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY (CC)

44  
 45 The archives of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, a valuable source of historical informa-  
 46 tion, are housed at the Lovely Lane Museum and Archives in Baltimore. Researchers are wel-  
 47 come Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment. James E. Reaves, director  
 48 of Archives and History; Wanda B. Hall, assistant archivist, and the Rev. Edwin Schell, executive  
 49 secretary of the United Methodist Historical Society, provide assistance with research questions  
 50 and other needs. Archives and History supports the Conference’s efforts to make disciples of  
 51 Jesus Christ by maintaining and making available the rich evidence of its United Methodist  
 52 heritage of worship, fellowship, stewardship, Christian education, service and faith-sharing.  
 53

## 1 **Accomplishments**

2 **Service:** Both Director James Reaves and Assistant Archivist Wanda Hall attended various  
3 workshops throughout the year, including the Small Museum Association Conference in  
4 February, 2007. These workshops enhance essential skills in archive and museum management.

5  
6 In July, James Reaves and Wanda Hall attended the General Commission on Archives and  
7 History's Seventh Historical Convocation, the topic being a celebration of the 300th birthday of  
8 Methodism's co-founder and prolific hymn writer, Charles Wesley.

9  
10 Director James Reaves remains a member of the Sessions Committee for the Conference.

11  
12 The museum and archives continue to be involved with the Greater Baltimore History Alliance  
13 and other locally focused historical organizations. The museum will host a meeting of Greater  
14 Baltimore History Alliance curators and collection managers in 2008.

15  
16 Archives staff processed 592 telephone, e-mail and postal mail inquires in 2007, and hosted 97  
17 researchers. The researchers included students, genealogists, church historians, pastors, seminary  
18 students and religious and historical scholars. The Lovely Lane Museum welcomed more than  
19 954 visitors in 2007.

20  
21 Lovely Lane Museum and Archives staff and volunteers continue to make progress in reviewing  
22 and reorganizing the active church files, allowing for better archival care and ease of use.

23  
24 The staff continues to serve the local churches in the Conference by answering church history  
25 inquiries and distributing literature on records management and writing local church histories.

26 When requested, an archives staff member will visit a local church to assist with records/archives  
27 management or other historical questions.

28  
29 Projects designed to enhance the storage, cataloging and prompt retrieval of archival materials  
30 and artifacts were launched in 2007, and we have begun to create computer databases of archival  
31 and library materials.

32  
33 **Volunteers:** The Museum and Archives volunteers have contributed almost 1,000 hours of their  
34 time to valuable projects including research, assessment and arranging of materials, clipping  
35 newspaper articles, filing and sorting materials, building shelves, sweeping, dusting and moving  
36 boxes. Elaine Entwisle, Joan Ford, Margaret Judge, Cathy Knepper, John and William Parrish,  
37 Dwight Sheesley and Jane Thursby contributed greatly to the mission and ministry of the  
38 Museum and Archives with their service. New volunteers from the board include Dave Beachler,  
39 Emora Brannan, Tom Connor, James and Wilmetta Chance, Millard Knowles, Paul Nichols,  
40 Gabrielle Patrick and Richard and Peggy Rhorer.

41  
42 Members of the Baltimore Appliqué Society, Marylou McDonald, Eleanor Layman and Margo  
43 Cramer, continue to assist museum staff with caring for the rare quilts in our collection and keep  
44 on selling materials from the 2005 Lovely Lane Quilt Show. Members of the society, led by  
45 Marylou McDonald, hosted private quilt shows for interested individuals and groups, exposing  
46 the historic quilts in our collection to the public and also raising funds for the museum.

47  
48 **Resources and exhibits:** Plans for the restoration of Lovely Lane's chapel, where the museum  
49 will move major exhibits upon completion, are moving forward. An approximate estimate to  
50 restore the chapel has been received and funding sources are being explored in partnership with  
51 Lovely Lane United Methodist Church.

52

53

1 The museum staff is planning a major change in the arrangements of exhibit and library space for  
2 the first time since 1973 in early 2008.

3  
4 Temporary exhibits, including a celebration of the 300th birthday of Methodism co-founder and  
5 hymn writer Charles Wesley, and the connection between American Methodism and the Korean  
6 Methodist Church, were placed on display in 2007.

7  
8 Exhibits commemorating the 300th birthday of Charles Wesley and the 120th anniversary of the  
9 dedication of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church were prepared for Annual Conference and  
10 were well received.

11  
12 The Virginia Quilt Museum borrowed and displayed the “Mayflower,” or Coggins quilt, in the  
13 spring of 2007.

14  
15 The Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea, borrowed the Bishop Welch Collection for  
16 the museum for display in their lobby in November, 2007. Bishop Welch was the resident bishop  
17 for Korea and Japan in the 1920s, and he was instrumental in the organizing of the Korean  
18 Methodist Church.

19  
20 **Church History Contest:** Congratulations to Grace United Methodist Church of Gaithersburg  
21 (Class III) and Linden-Linthicum United Methodist Church (Class II) for winning the Church  
22 History Contest in 2007. We thank all the churches that submitted entries for this year’s contest,  
23 and encourage all local churches to write their own. All church histories become a permanent part  
24 of the Lovely Lane Museum and Archives collection.

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Respectfully submitted:  
Rev. Dr. Thomas Connar, President  
James E. Reaves, Director

#### UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CC)

33 EXHIBITS: The main exhibit space has been relocated to the Asbury Room but much more  
34 arranging remains to be done. At the 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, inadequate and  
35 out-of-the-way exhibit space left all exhibitors frustrated. We held a Charles Wesley 300th exhibit  
36 at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church. A special quilt display was held for us by the  
37 Applique Society. The Methodist Seminary in Korea exhibited some of our Bishop Welch  
38 materials for their anniversary.

40 VAULT : Wider shelving has revamped much vault space and improved access. Volunteers have  
41 been culling and arranging some files.

43 ANNUAL MEETINGS: The May 19, 2007, meeting featured EUB heritage at Otterbein UMC in  
44 Hagerstown. The officers were reelected. On April 19, we will have toured Baltimore church sites  
45 by bus and visited Sharp St. and Old Otterbein. The annual meeting and lunch at Lovely Lane  
46 will include a sale of surplus books.

48 VOLUNTEERS: Joan Ford, John and William Parrish are weekly volunteers now joined by  
49 Gwinyai Muzorewa, an intern from Morgan University. Board members aided relocation of  
50 exhibits. Kathy Knepper is listing our library holdings on line.

52 ACCESSIONS: Gifts of books were received from Martha Keeney, Dwight Sheesley and Ed  
53 Schell; also clippings from Elaine Entwisle and others. We solicit biographical and memorabilia

1 materials from local churches and individuals.

2

3 MEMORIALS OF CLOSING AND MERGING LOCAL CHURCHES: We believe the Annual  
4 Conference Memorial service should celebrate the ministry and history of each closing or merg-  
5 ing church and we commend recent inclusion of such memoirs in recent Conference Journals.

6

7 MANUSCRIPTS AND JOURNALS: The General Commission on Archives and History's  
8 mandated inventory remains to be completed.

9

10 MEMBERSHIP: There are 224 Life memberships and 220 others. Mary Lou McDonald was  
11 awarded honorary life membership. Other new life members include: board members Byron E.  
12 Brought, Gabrielle Patrick, James Chance, Galen Menne and Jennings Chapel. In Memoriam:  
13 life members Eugene Ward, Carolyn Knowles, Walter Badders, J.Harry Haines and Brooks Little;  
14 also annual members Theodore Agnew, Jim Chambly and Charles Morgan with our sympathy to  
15 their families.

16

17 TOURS: Book for Old Otterbein groups at 410-685-4703; for Lovely Lane at 410-889-1512; for  
18 Sharp St. at 410-664-2707; and for Cokesbury at 410-679-2974.

19

20 PERSONAL: This is Ed Schell's 50th report and his last as Historical Society Executive  
21 Secretary. He will continue to compile Historical Notes, clergy records and otherwise assist as his  
22 family situation permits.

23

Tom Connar, President

Edwin Schell, Executive Secretary

24

25

26

27

### 28 STEWARDSHIP CENTER AND FOUNDATION (CC)

29

30 2007 was another great year for the United Methodist Foundation of the Baltimore-Washington  
31 Conference (the Foundation). An average balanced account with the Foundation returned 7.62%  
32 to investors last year. We continue to provide churches and other Conference entities with sound  
33 investment advice that continues to exceed established benchmarks.

34

35 Last year, the Foundation also expanded its investment platform. The Foundation has added an  
36 international fund, new growth fund, mid-cap fund and a small cap fund. Also, the Foundation  
37 has established new procedures that allow for smaller churches to have more diversified portfo-  
38 lios with the Foundation. Going forward, churches with as little to invest as \$1,000 can have a  
39 fully diversified portfolio.

40

41 In addition, the Foundation continues to provide guidance in the area of stewardship to local  
42 churches. Last year we were able to provide churches with annual campaign, capital campaign,  
43 and general stewardship consulting. Many churches saw substantial increases in their pledge rev-  
44 enue from their efforts in consultation with the Foundation.

45

46 The Foundation also continues to provide churches with sound counsel in the areas of estate  
47 planning, legacy society creation and planned giving. Churches of the Baltimore-Washington  
48 Conference can use the Foundation to expand their local stewardship programs to include second  
49 mile and planned giving programs.

50

51 Last year the Foundation made a \$50,000 donation to the West River Capital Campaign fund. In  
52 the future the Foundation is looking forward to raising money to have a greater impact on making  
53 disciples.

1

2 The Foundation is launching the following new funds: The Ministerial Education Fund to support  
 3 those aspiring to serve congregations in the BWC, The Urban Ministries Fund to support  
 4 congregations in the urban core of the BWC, The International Ministries Fund to support mis-  
 5 sions and work outside the borders of the United States.

6

7 We thank the members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church  
 8 for their steadfast prayers and support.

9

Humbly submitted,  
 Rev. David Myers, Chair  
 Rev. Daryl L. Williams, Executive Director

10

11

12

13

14

## 15 **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

16

### 17 **DISCIPESHIP AREA RECOMMENDATION:**

18

#### 19 **Recommendations from the Commission on the Status and Role of Women:**

20 1. The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) recommends that we continue  
 21 to monitor our Annual Conference each year for all sessions.

22

23 At the 223rd Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference held in 2007, for the first time  
 24 COSROW representatives observed each session and monitored those who spoke in two  
 25 categories: gender and ethnicity, so we could determine how inclusive we are.

26

27 We believe that an important service and function of the Annual Conference is the monitoring  
 28 of the sessions, the handling of resolutions and the tenor of our decision-making. Thus, an  
 29 affirmation by the Baltimore-Conference that COSROW will provide a ministry of monitoring  
 30 for inclusiveness, reporting at all future Annual Conferences, will allow us to see and address  
 31 areas of racism, gender and age bias.

32

33 2. The Commission on the Status and Role of Women recommends that Annual Conference  
 34 registration information for all attendees, clergy and laity, be collected regarding their gender,  
 35 age and ethnicity in order to assist in monitoring and reporting.

36

37 Following our first monitoring of Annual Conference in 2007, we observed that insufficient  
 38 information was available about all attendees to Annual Conference. Little information exists  
 39 about laity regarding their ethnicity, gender and age. Thus, we believe collecting such  
 40 information is of great value to developing a report for a ministry of monitoring for  
 41 inclusiveness.

42

43 3. The Commission on the Status and Role of Women recommends that each year a district or  
 44 regional workshop be held to address issues of implementing the Safe Sanctuaries Policies and  
 45 Procedures and that the local church will at least annually, review its policies through the Staff-  
 46 Parish Committee or other appropriate body, which will recommend needed changes to the  
 47 Charge Conference.

48

49 At the 223rd Baltimore-Washington Conference, the recommendation, Safe Children and Youth  
 50 Procedures, was approved. COSROW saw a need to provide assistance to local churches to  
 51 help them in understanding and implementing the new policy. Based on the presence of over  
 52 500 people at the Safe Sanctuary workshops held in January 2008, we believe this indicates  
 53 that a strong interest exists in this area. We need to keep the implementation of this policy a

1 priority at the local church.

2

3 4. The Commission on the Status and Role of Women recommends the 2005 report, "Study of  
4 Clergy Remuneration, Mobility and Retention," based on a survey taken in 2003, be updated  
5 every five years.

6

7 Approved at the 2002 Annual Conference was the recommendation: The Board of Ordained  
8 Ministry and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women recommend that the  
9 Baltimore-Washington Conference conduct a survey to compare the remuneration, mobility and  
10 retention of clergywomen and clergymen that includes probationary members, Deacons and  
11 Elders in full connection.

12

13 In March 2005, COSROW published the report, "Study of Clergy Remuneration, Mobility and  
14 Retention," based on survey data that was collected in 2003. At the 2005 Annual Conference a  
15 recommendation was made and approved to adopt the recommendations of the 2005 report.

16 The report made seven recommendations. One in particular identified the need for future objec-  
17 tives and strategies:

18

- 18 • Improve the appointment process and iterant system;
- 19 • Increase the visibility and involvement of the Conference offices at local church levels;
- 20 • Enhance financial benefits and security;
- 21 • Provide significant support group, networking and counseling;
- 22 • Provide additional information about the Conference's budgeting process and budget.

23

24 COSROW believes it is time to re-examine the results of the study and determine what  
25 progress has been made since the 2003 survey. We estimate that a budget of up to \$35,000 will  
26 be required to accomplish this task, assuming that a consultant will have to be procured to  
27 assist in updating the survey results.

28

29 **Members of the Connectional Table, meeting March 1, 2008, recommended concurrence**  
30 **with the COSROW recommendations.**

31

### 32 STEWARSHIP AREA RECOMMENDATIONS:

33

#### 34 Recommendations from the Council on Finance and Administration:

35

36 1. The proposed budget of \$18,814,100 shall be adopted for 2009, including an apportionment  
37 income budget of \$16,258,140. This represents an increase of approximately 3.5% in  
38 apportionment askings over the 2008 budget. (The collection rate assumption for 2009 is  
39 90,25%.)

40

### 41 BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE 42 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

43

44

45

46

47

48 **Benevolence Factor**

49

50 **Collection Rate Assumption**

51

#### 52 **INCOME**

53 **APPORTIONMENTS**

2008 Adjusted Budget	2009 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
----------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------

22.50%

22.00%

89.00%

90.25%

15,754,161

16,258,140

3.20%

	2008 Adjusted Budget	2009 Proposed Budget	Percent Change	
1				
2				
3				
4				
5	<b>NON-APPORTIONED INCOME</b>			
6	Grants	108,500	95,610	-11.88%
7	Event Income	1,624,346	1,798,582	10.73%
8	Publications	88,000	94,600	7.50%
9	Individual Gifts	5,000	5,500	10.00%
10	Reimbursements	209,000	183,000	-12.44%
11	Other Income/Sources of Funds	365,000	285,000	-21.92%
12	Interest	135,000	135,000	0.00%
13	Total Non-Apportioned Income	2,534,846	2,597,292	2.46%
14				
15	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>18,289,007</b>	<b>18,855,432</b>	<b>3.10%</b>
16				
17				
18	<b>EXPENSE</b>			
19				
20	<b>DISCIPLESHIP</b>			
21				
22	<b>REGIONAL DISCIPLESHIP</b>			
23	Annapolis Southern Region	799,612	842,461	5.36%
24	Baltimore Region	1,004,868	895,181	-10.92%
25	Washington Region	782,518	860,959	10.02%
26	Western Region	773,563	870,636	12.55%
27	<b>TOTAL REGIONAL DISCIPLESHIP</b>	<b>3,360,561</b>	<b>3,469,237</b>	<b>3.23%</b>
28				
29	<b>DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAMS</b>			
30	<b>GROW MISSIONS:</b>			
31	<b>CONFERENCE MISSION GROWTH</b>			
32	Missions and Social Justice Grants	16,500	16,500	0.00%
33	Advocacy and Partnerships	119,000	195,000	63.87%
34	Church and Society	174,836	182,826	4.57%
35	Global Ministries:			
36	Deaf Ministries	260,167	264,000	1.47%
37	Justice for Our Neighbors	102,006	102,006	0.00%
38	Volunteers in Mission	10,000	10,000	0.00%
39	Other Justice Ministries	15,500	15,500	0.00%
40	Sub-total Global Ministries	387,673	391,506	0.99%
41	<b>TOTAL CONFERENCE MISSION GROWTH</b>	<b>698,009</b>	<b>785,832</b>	<b>12.58%</b>
42				
43	<b>GENERAL &amp; JURISDICTIONAL APPORTIONMENTS:</b>			
44	World Service	2,061,478	2,016,723	-2.17%
45	Interdenominational Coop	52,916	54,360	2.73%
46	African University	58,914	62,278	5.71%
47	Black College Fund	266,786	278,266	4.30%
48	Ministerial Education Fund	502,490	523,136	4.11%
49	Episcopal Fund	539,119	547,800	1.61%
50	General Administration	181,473	224,718	23.83%
51	Northeast Jurisdictional Apportionment	40,806	44,747	9.66%
52	<b>TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS</b>	<b>3,703,982</b>	<b>3,752,028</b>	<b>1.30%</b>
53	<b>TOTAL GROW MISSIONS</b>	<b>4,401,991</b>	<b>4,537,860</b>	<b>3.09%</b>

	2008 Adjusted Budget	2009 Proposed Budget	Percent Change	
1				
2				
3				
4				
5	<b>GROW DISCIPLES</b>			
6	Children	20,000	20,000	0.00%
7	Youth Ministry	250,000	255,000	2.00%
8	Young Adults			
9	Young Adult Strategy	35,000	35,700	2.00%
10	Campus Ministry	421,000	429,420	2.00%
11	Camping Ministry	1,257,547	1,369,523	8.90%
12	Immersion Series	30,500	31,110	2.00%
13	<b>TOTAL GROW DISCIPLES</b>	<b>2,014,047</b>	<b>2,140,753</b>	<b>6.29%</b>
14				
15	<b>GROW CONGREGATIONS</b>			
16	Redevelopment & New Church Start Grants	745,000	767,350	3.00%
17	Equitable Compensation	155,000	155,000	0.00%
18	New Church Start Strategy Development	60,000	61,800	3.00%
19	Latino/Hispanic Ministry	80,000	82,400	3.00%
20	Strengthening the Black Church	25,000	25,000	0.00%
21	<b>TOTAL GROW CONGREGATIONS</b>	<b>1,065,000</b>	<b>1,091,550</b>	<b>2.49%</b>
22				
23	<b>GROW SPIRITUAL LEADERS</b>			
24	Discipler Group Ministry	48,000	49,000	2.08%
25	Discipleship Academy	50,000	50,000	0.00%
26	Board of Ordained Ministry	127,000	127,000	0.00%
27	Ministerial Education Fund - BWC	167,497	176,238	5.22%
28	Councils	16,500	16,500	0.00%
29	General Conference	41,000	0	-100.00%
30	Moving Expense	230,000	235,000	2.17%
31	Strategic Development	2,000	3,000	50.00%
32	Contingency	5,000	8,000	60.00%
33	<b>TOTAL GROW SPIRITUAL LEADERS</b>	<b>686,997</b>	<b>664,738</b>	<b>-3.24%</b>
34				
35	<b>TOTAL DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAMS</b>	<b>8,168,036</b>	<b>8,434,901</b>	<b>3.27%</b>
36				
37	<b>TOTAL DISCIPLESHIP</b>	<b>11,528,596</b>	<b>11,904,139</b>	<b>3.26%</b>
38				
39	<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>			
40				
41	<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	815,236	727,168	-10.80%
42				
43	<b>STEWARDSHIP OPERATIONS</b>			
44	Operations Administration	588,445	612,689	4.12%
45	Administration - Conference			
46	Annual Conference Sessions	321,865	335,383	4.20%
47	Conference Secretary	8,000	8,240	3.00%
48	Legal	60,000	61,800	3.00%
49	Contribution to Reserve	250,000	250,000	0.00%
50	Foundation	65,000	40,000	-38.46%
51	Archives	96,500	93,111	-3.51%
52	D & O Liability Insurance	32,000	34,000	6.25%
53	Sub-total Administration - Conference	833,365	822,534	-1.30%

	2008 Adjusted Budget	2009 Proposed Budget	Percent Change	
1				
2				
3				
4				
5	Annual Conference Property	515,000	520,342	0.88%
6	Regional Office Property Costs	22,500	22,950	2.00%
7	Episcopal Office Lease	51,000	53,550	5.00%
8	Facilities Management & IT	1,184,699	1,205,468	1.75%
9	Contingency	20,000	20,000	0.00%
10	<b>TOTAL STEWARDSHIP OPERATIONS</b>	<b>3,215,809</b>	<b>3,257,534</b>	<b>1.30%</b>
11				
12	<b>FINANCE AND BENEFITS</b>			
13	Finance and Benefits Administration	521,730	540,676	3.63%
14				
15				
16	Strategy and Program			
17	Audit	58,000	60,320	4.00%
18	Benefits Programs	21,648	21,808	0.74%
19	Retiree Medical Premiums	1,819,231	1,938,500	6.56%
20	Contingency	15,000	15,600	4.00%
21	<b>TOTAL Strategy and Program</b>	<b>1,913,879</b>	<b>2,036,228</b>	<b>6.39%</b>
22	<b>TOTAL FINANCE AND BENEFITS</b>	<b>2,435,609</b>	<b>2,576,904</b>	<b>5.80%</b>
23				
24	<b>TOTAL STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>6,466,654</b>	<b>6,561,606</b>	<b>1.47%</b>
25				
26	<b>EPISCOPAL OFFICE</b>	<b>291,645</b>	<b>364,001</b>	<b>24.81%</b>
27				
28	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>18,286,896</b>	<b>18,829,745</b>	<b>2.97%</b>
29				
30	<b>NET</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>25,687</b>	
31				
32				

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

#### 35 Apportionment Collection Rate:

36 The projected collection of the amount apportioned to churches in the 2009 Budget: 90.25%

37 *The higher this percentage the more ministry commitments the Conference can fulfill.*

38

#### 39 Benevolence Factor – Proposed 2009: 22%

40 *The benevolence factor is the percentage churches are apportioned based on their operating*

41 *expenditures, excluding mortgage and capital improvement. The percentage for 2009*

42 *represents a reduction over 2008 of .50 percent. The Conference has set a goal of reducing the*

43 *benevolence factor from 25 percent in 2005, to 19.5 percent by 2012.*

44

#### 45 REVENUE

46 Apportionments: \$16,258,140

47 *The Conference is working to keep increases low so that local churches have more dollars for*

48 *mission and ministry in their community. In order to do so the Conference is making every*

49 *effort to maximize other sources of income, such as those listed below.*

50

51 Grants: \$95,610

52 *This represents grants given directly to the Conference for ministry and mission. For example,*

53 *more than \$85,000 is from the General Church to operate the Episcopal Office and residence.*

1 Event Registration: \$1,798,582

2 *This included Annual Conference income, workshop registrations, camping and retreat*  
3 *registration and other Conference events.*

4

5 Publications: \$94,600

6 *This includes sales or rentals of publications and videos, Discipleship Adventure devotional*  
7 *books, DVDs and other materials.*

8

9 Individual Gifts: \$5,500

10 *Gifts coming from individuals for specific programs. These are for the Conference specifically*  
11 *rather than for ministries outside of the Conference.*

12 Reimbursements: \$183,000

13 *The Conference receives reimbursements from denominational agencies for specific operating*  
14 *programs, such as the direct billing of churches for benefits costs. The Trustees are reim-*  
15 *bursed for the expenses of property upkeep when that property is sold.*

16

17 Other Income/sources of Funds: \$285,000

18 *Miscellaneous income or sources of funds, such as the use of funds held from previous years.*

19

20 Interest: \$135,000

21 *An estimate of the interest the Conference will earn on operating funds in investment vehicles.*

22

23 **TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE: \$ 18,839,432**

24

## 25 EXPENSES

### 26 DISCIPLESHIP

27 **Regional Discipleship:** 3,469,237

28 *Funds to operate the ministries that call, equip, send and support spiritual leaders to make dis-*  
29 *ciples and grow Acts 2 congregations. The Regions are, the Southern Region, Baltimore*  
30 *Region, Washington Region and Western Region.*

31

### 32 Discipleship Ministry Teams

#### 33 Grow Missions:

34 a. Conference Mission and Social Justice Programs: \$785,832

35 *Through grants to specific Social Justices Ministries such as Action for the Homeless,*  
36 *Appalachian Development and UM Community Services the Conference seeks to grow*  
37 *mission and ministry.*

38

39 *Other specific ministries funded through this ministry area are our advocacy partnerships*  
40 *with conferences and ministries in other Conferences, such as Zimbabwe, Korea, Latin*  
41 *America and Russia (both new this budget year),*

42

43 *There will be funds devoted to the new Hope for the City initiative through Shalom*  
44 *training and Community and Church Development.*

45

46 *This ministry team also contains the funding for Deaf Ministries and Justice for Our*  
47 *Neighbors.*

48

49 b. General and Jurisdictional Apportionments: \$3,752,028

50 *The funds that the denomination and Northeast Jurisdiction request for ministry and*  
51 *programs, for each Conference. The Conference is proud of its track record of*  
52 *consistently paying 100% of these apportionment askings, for over a decade. They*  
53 *include contributions to the specific funds listed below.*

## 1 World Service

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

## 5 Interdenominational Cooperation

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

## 8 Africa University

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

## 11 Black College Fund

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

## 14 Ministerial Education Fund

15 *This fund provides our church support for the recruitment and education of future*  
 16 *pastors and bishops*

## 17 Episcopal Fund

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

## 20 General Administration

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

## 24 Jurisdictional Administration

25 *This fund supports mission and ministry throughout the Northeastern Jurisdiction.*

26  
27 **Grow Disciples:** \$2,140,753

- 28 a. Youth Ministry – *Includes ROCK and other retreats to make, engage and support young*  
 29 *disciples of Jesus Christ.*
- 30 b. Young adult ministry - *Includes new programs through our congregations in four areas:*  
 31 *-Grow Mission – Facilitate young adult volunteer mission trips;*  
 32 *-Grow Spiritual Leaders – Increase young adult Bible study and connection ministries*  
 33 *through our congregations;*  
 34 *- Grow Congregations – Focus on two young adult congregations in each region and*  
 35 *develop more young adult friendly worship led by young adults;*  
 36 *-Grow Disciples – Equip more young adults for leadership in the local church and*  
 37 *community.*
- 38 c. Camping Ministries – *provides opportunities for spiritual growth and formation for*  
 39 *children and adults.*
- 40 d. Campus Ministries – *includes activities of young adult ministry on area college campuses.*
- 41 e. The Immersion Series – *five week immersion programs to help congregations make new*  
 42 *disciples, grow existing disciples, develop small groups and grow worship attendance.*

43  
44 **Grow Congregations:** \$ 1,091,550

- 45 a. Grants – *totaling more than \$1.4 million (on and off budget) to local churches and*  
 46 *ministries to grow congregations and expand ministry in the community.*
- 47 b. Start two new churches
- 48 c. Latino/Hispanic Ministries
- 49 d. Strengthening the Black Church

50  
51 **Grow Spiritual Leaders:** \$664,738

- 52 a. Discippler Groups – *Peer-to-peer coaching groups to spiritually condition, equip, inspire,*  
 53 *improve technique, redirect activity and support spiritual leaders (pastors and key lay*

- 1        *leadership) to grow disciples and congregations to engage in the Discipleship Adventure*  
 2        *and bear Acts 2 fruit.*  
 3        b. *The Discipleship Academy – Learning opportunities and training for all congregations.*  
 4        *Each congregation will send a team of seven or more people to meet three to four times a*  
 5        *year to equip laity and pastors to lead and carry out the Discipleship Adventure and bear*  
 6        *Acts 2 fruit.*  
 7        c. *Discipleship Boards and Agencies – Includes funds for Board of Christian Education,*  
 8        *Board of Laity, Board of Ordained Ministry, the Discipleship Council, and COSROW.*

9  
 10    **Total Discipleship Ministry Teams:** \$8,434,901

11 **TOTAL DISCIPLESHIP:** \$11,904,139

12

13 **STEWARDSHIP**

14    **Communications:** \$727,168

15    *The publications and media produced by this area are tools for implementing the Adventure,*  
 16    *such as the UMConnection newspaper, the Web site, and e-connection.*

17

18    **Stewardship Operations:** \$3,257,534

19    *This area is responsible for overall operations and project management for the many pro-*  
 20    *grams undergirding the Discipleship Adventure. It also includes:*

21

22    Project Management

23        *Project management specialist to assist the Discipleship area in implementing ministries.*

24    Property Ministries – *performed by the Conference trustees to oversee all property owned by*  
 25    *the Conference and the management of the Conference center.*

26    Foundation Funding

27        *The Baltimore Washington Conference Foundation assists local churches with investing.*

28        *This represents the Conference contribution to that effort.*

29    Archives, History and Strawbridge Shrine

30        *The Conference provides some of the ongoing support for the preservation of our United*  
 31        *Methodist Heritage.*

32    Conference Secretary

33        *The Conference Secretary provides all official record keeping for the official business of*  
 34        *the Conference.*

35    Conference Chancellors

36        *Provide legal resources to the Trustees and other Conference leadership.*

37    Annual Conference – Commission on Sessions

38        *This commission prepares all aspects of the annual Conference session and executes the*  
 39        *onsite implementation of the program and logistics.*

40

41    **Finance and Conference Administration Ministries:** \$2,576,904

42    Finance Office

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

46    Benefits Administration

47        *This office administers all clergy and laity benefit plans for the Conference, and funds*  
 48        *health insurance premiums for retired clergy.*

49    Retiree Benefits

50        *Annual amount of health insurance premiums for currently retired Conference clergy.*

51

52 **TOTAL STEWARDSHIP** \$6,561,606

53

1 **EPISCOPAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRY: \$364,001**

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

4

5 **TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: \$18,829,745**

6

7 **OPERATING NET \$ 25,687**

8

9 **Recommendations from the Council on Finance and Administration** (continued)

10 2. The Benevolence Factor (BF) target for 2009 shall be 22.00%, a decrease of 0.50% over 2008.  
11 Fine adjustments in the BF shall be made by the Conference Treasurer, in consultation with the  
12 Statistician and President of CFA, after the deadline for corrections to the statistical reports.

13

14 3. The Council moves the election of William Isberg as Chief Operations Officer (which includes  
15 the responsibilities of Director of Administrative Services), and of Martha Knight as  
16 Conference Treasurer, in accordance with the Book of Discipline 2004, para. 618.

17

18 4. As required by the Book of Discipline, the ratio for World Service and Conference  
19 Benevolences shall be set as follows: 70% for World Service and 30% for Conference  
20 Benevolences and other General Church Benevolences, with fine adjustments being made  
21 between Conference sessions by CFA.

22

23 5. The firm of McGladrey and Pullen is approved as independent auditors to audit the Conference  
24 Treasurer's financial records, and Foundation and Washington Area records by agreement, for  
25 2008.

26

27 6. The audit of any and all Conference agencies which do not use the Conference Treasurer as its  
28 treasurer, shall be placed on file with the Treasurer's office, in an audit prepared by a certified  
29 public accountant.

30

31 7. The date for the closing of the 2008 books shall be set at 5 January 2009, with all payments to  
32 be received by the Treasurer's office not later than 2 January 2009.

33

34 8. The Baltimore-Washington Conference grants authority to the Council on Finance and  
35 Administration, in consultation with the Bishop, to act on financial matters between sessions of  
36 the annual Conference.

37

38 9. The Council recommends the calling of a special Adjourned Session of annual Conference for  
39 the purpose of discussion and action on additional matters pertaining to the apportionment,  
40 during the coming year.

41

42

43 **Recommendation from the Conference Trustees:**

44 The Board adopted the following resolution on February 14, 2008, and recommends its adoption  
45 by the Conference:

46

**A Resolution Regarding Abandoned United Methodist Cemeteries  
within the Baltimore-Washington Conference**

47

48

49 **Whereas**, there are United Methodist Cemeteries that have been abandoned, for various reasons,

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1 **Whereas**, the costs of this upkeep are currently borne by the Conference with oversight by the  
 2 Conference Trustees; and

3  
 4 **Whereas**, some of these cemeteries have endowments that need to be applied to the upkeep of a  
 5 specific cemetery;

6  
 7 **Be It Therefore Resolved**, that the Conference establish a cemetery reserve fund, under the over-  
 8 sight of the Conference Board of Trustees, for the purpose of the upkeep of these abandoned  
 9 cemeteries; and

10  
 11 **Be It Further Resolved**, that the funds in any currently existing endowment fund or perpetual  
 12 care fund for an abandoned cemetery be transferred to this Conference cemetery reserve fund;  
 13 and

14  
 15 **Be It Further Resolved**, that a task force will be formed to explore the appropriate funding  
 16 vehicle and oversight of abandoned cemeteries into the future.

17  
 18 **Members of the Connectional Table, meeting March 1, 2008, recommended concurrence**  
 19 **with the Trustees' recommendation.**

20  
 21  
 22 **Recommendation from the Commission on Equitable Compensation:**

23 The Equitable Compensation Base for the calendar year 2009 shall be \$35,577, which reflects an  
 24 increase of 3.3% (based on the denominational average compensation).

25  
 26 **Members of the Connectional Table, meeting March 1, 2008, recommended concurrence**  
 27 **with the Commission on Equitable Compensation's recommendation.**

28  
 29  
 30 **Recommendations and Annual Enabling Legislation from the Board of Pensions and Health**  
 31 **Benefits:**

32 1. The CRSP Defined Benefit contribution rate shall be 11% of the participant's Plan  
 33 Compensation (salary plus housing) not to exceed the Denominational Average Compensation.

34  
 35 2. The CRSP Defined Contribution rate shall be 3.0 % of the participant's Plan Compensation.

36  
 37 3. The CPP contribution rate shall be 3.0 of the participant's Plan Compensation.

38  
 39 4. The CRSP and CPP contributions shall be paid monthly to the annual Conference by the  
 40 church or other salary paying unit.

41  
 42 5. That in accordance with paragraph (e) of Supplement One, the surviving spouse benefit shall  
 43 continue to be 85% of the participant's formula.

44  
 45 6. That the Past Service Annuity Rate for 2008 is confirmed at \$531. The Past Service Annuity  
 46 Rate for 2009 shall be set at \$542 per year of service.

47  
 48 7. That the special grants for Marguerite Hall, Madelyn Hoffman, Dallas Beall, and Grace Jones  
 49 be continued.

50  
 51 8. The Annual Conference shall approve the following pre-1982 prior service funding plan in  
 52 compliance with the Disciplinary requirement listed in ¶ 1506.8:

53

1 The 2008 Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$531. The Past Service Rate for 2009 will be \$542.  
2 Beginning with 2008, pursuant to the paragraph S1.3.4 of Supplement 1 to the Clergy  
3 Retirement Security Program, the Past Service Rate (PSR) will automatically increase  
4 (rounded up to the next dollar) by the greater of 2% or the amount needed to maintain the  
5 minimum .8% of Conference Average Compensation. The Conference may elect to increase  
6 the PSR further with immediate funding required in certain circumstances.

7  
8 As of January 1, 2006, assuming 3% annual PSR increases, the General Board of Pensions  
9 and Health Benefits' actuarial valuation of the plan for the Conference shows more assets  
10 than benefit obligations. After including the value of the expected additional 1% PSR  
11 increase, assets in the plan continue to exceed benefit obligations.\*

12  
13 The funding plan as of January 1, 2006 for 2008 is summarized below.  
14 Supplement One Liability..... \$57,133,918  
15 Current Plan Funding ..... \$76,644,095  
16 Funded Status, 1/1/04..... \$19,510,177  
17 \* Assuming 7.0 % interest and the RP 2000 Mortality Table.

18  
19 9. The following resolution, as required for IRS compliance, shall be approved:  
20

21 **Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons**  
22 **of the Baltimore Washington Conference**  
23

24 The Baltimore Washington Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions  
25 relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the  
26 Conference:  
27

28 WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"),  
29 of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through  
30 ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were  
31 or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");  
32

33 WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active  
34 Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross  
35 compensation;  
36

37 WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired and disabled Clergypersons are  
38 considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled  
39 Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as  
42 the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are  
43 or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;  
44

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:  
46

47 THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans  
48 authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"),  
49 which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
50 ("GBOPHB"), during the years 2007-2008 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson  
51 who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as  
52 a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and  
53

1 THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be  
2 any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the  
3 Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company  
4 that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or  
5 fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergy person rendered to  
6 this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergy person of this Conference  
7 rendered to any local church, annual Conference of the Church, general agency of the Church,  
8 other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any  
9 other employer that employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of  
10 the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit  
11 under, such a plan, annuity or fund for such active, retired or disabled Clergy person's pension  
12 or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.  
13

14 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross  
15 income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code  
16 section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing  
17 allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church  
18 (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually  
19 expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental  
20 value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of  
21 utilities in such year.  
22  
23

24 **Recommendation from the Realignment Team:**

25  
26 **Be it resolved** that the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference realign from nine districts to  
27 eight districts with two districts in each of the four existing regions, effective July 1, 2008.  
28

29 **Members of the Connectional Table, meeting March 1, 2008, recommended concurrence**  
30 **with the Realignment Team recommendation.**  
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1 **RESOLUTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE:**

2

3 **A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE REV. HENRY G. BUTLER, ELDER,**  
4 **AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF BETHESDA UMC, DAMASCUS, MD**

5

6 **Whereas** the Scriptures urge us to show mercy and compassion (Zechariah7:9) and they record  
7 accounts of parents looking to our Lord to help their children ( Matthew 15:22);

8

9 **Whereas** pregnant women in stressful situations need assistance to carry their children to birth  
10 and need to know of the availability of resources to help such women in their immediate and  
11 future needs;

12

13 **Whereas** there are numerous Pregnancy Centers within the Conference's borders which give  
14 loving care to pregnant women and help them after delivery to prepare to raise their children or  
15 to embrace adoption;

16

17 **Whereas** other agencies which help pregnant women to choose whether to bear or abort their  
18 children are supported by federal funds those Pregnancy Centers which encourage mothers to  
19 bear their children and help them to do so with pre and post-natal care as well as the decisions  
20 relating to continued parenting or adoption are without federal funding;

21

22 **Therefore, Be It Resolved,** that this Conference encourage local churches to pray for, give finan-  
23 cial support to, and lend assistance to the operation of a Pregnancy Center in their area which  
24 helps pregnant women in the bearing and caring for their children.

25

26 **Members of the Connectional Table, meeting March 1, 2008, recommended concurrence**  
27 **with the above resolution with insertion of the words “seek out” in the final paragraph so**  
28 **that it reads, “Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this Conference encourage local churches to seek**  
29 **out, pray for, etc.”**

30

31

32 **A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF OURSELVES AS**  
33 **UNITED METHODISTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF CHURCHES**  
34 **IN THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, AND ON BEHALF OF THE**  
35 **BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON AREA RECONCILING UNITED METHODISTS,**  
36 **Adam Briddell, St. Luke’s, DC, Carol Berman, St. John’s of Baltimore City, Ella Curry,**  
37 **Capitol Hill, DC, the Rev. Peter DeGroot, United, DC, Ron Gebhardtsbauer, Foundry,**  
38 **DC, Paul Hazen, Foundry, DC, Jen Ihlo, Capitol Hill, DC, Kara Ker, St. John’s of**  
39 **Baltimore City, T.C. Morrow, Foundry, DC, the Rev. Drew Phoenix, St. John’s of**  
40 **Baltimore City, Dr. Mittie Quinn, Dumbarton, DC, Ralph Williams, Foundry, DC**

41

42 **Resolution for Continuing Dialogue on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

43

44 **WHEREAS,** the United Methodist Church continues to struggle with issues related to sexual  
45 orientation and gender identity; and

46

47 **WHEREAS,** the Report of the Task Force on Homosexuality and the Unity of the Church  
48 adopted by the 2004 General Conference encouraged further dialogue throughout the United  
49 Methodist Church, designed to lead to greater understanding, love and care for each other; and

50

51 **WHEREAS,** the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference determined in 2006 that this  
52 Conference will model inclusive behavior by expecting and encouraging its congregations and  
53 clergy to abide by the principle: Membership in any local church in the Baltimore-Washington

1 Annual Conference shall not be denied on the basis of race, color, national origin, economic  
2 condition, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, ability or disability, or any other status;  
3 and  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference has demonstrated wisdom and lead-  
6 ership in facing the challenge of contending views regarding sexual orientation and gender  
7 identity during the 2005-2008 quadrennium by initiating a dialogue team at the Conference  
8 level and by beginning the process of forming district level dialogues, which allow Conference  
9 members to talk with and not just about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT)  
10 persons; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, through prayerful dialogue these teams created open, grace-filled spaces for persons  
13 with contending viewpoints to learn to know each other authentically, to explore divergent  
14 understandings and whenever possible, to experience healing and reconciliation; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Conference was not able to initiate dialogue teams in each of the Districts of the  
17 Baltimore-Washington Conference during the 2005 - 2008 quadrennium; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, it is appropriate not only to complete the task of the dialogue teams but also to  
20 advance congregational insight and wisdom in dealing with LGBT issues as they pursue the  
21 Discipleship Adventure:  
22

23 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the bishop and each district superintendent shall  
24 continue to facilitate the organization of dialogue teams within each District of the Baltimore-  
25 Washington Conference on issues related to the full inclusion of LGBT persons in the life of  
26 The United Methodist Church, Conference organizations and each local church; and  
27

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each District dialogue team shall include LGBT persons  
29 and that care shall be taken to ensure that LGBT persons who participate in these dialogues  
30 shall not be subject to adverse actions; and  
31

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that funding required for the work of the District Dialogue  
33 Teams shall continue to come from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, as is consistent with  
34 Judicial Council rulings; and  
35

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each district superintendent shall report quarterly to the  
37 bishop regarding the formation or lack thereof of a dialogue team in his or her district and that  
38 the bishop and Cabinet work together to ensure that each district has a functioning dialogue  
39 team by Annual Conference 2009; and  
40

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each district dialogue team shall continue this important  
42 work during the entirety of the next quadrennium (2009 – 2012), and shall report quarterly to  
43 the bishop and the Cabinet on their progress and activities, and further that each district  
44 dialogue team shall, through 2012, report annually to the Annual Conference on the status of  
45 their work, including lessons learned, hopes and plans for continued dialogue, and recommen-  
46 dations for how to move into the future; and  
47

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such reports of each district dialogue team and each  
49 district superintendent shall be published annually in the Conference Journal through 2012.  
50

51 **Members of the Connectional Table, meeting March 1, 2008, recommended concurrence**  
52 **with the above resolution, noting that the Council on Finance and Administration would**  
53 **need to address its financial impact.**

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY REV. RICHARD S. DAVIS, RETIRED  
Fairness to Retired Clergy and Broken Trust**

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**Whereas** a retiree’s years of service should equate to benefits earned as much as to age; and

**Whereas** forcing clergy to work 40 years or to age 65 in order to have medical insurance payments covered by the Conference is neither in the best interest of the Conference nor the clergy; and

**Whereas** the Conference has greater resources than an individual retiree; and

**Whereas** this Conference has a long history of fairness to retirees; and

**Whereas** an exception was made in that fairness to some retirees with over 30 years of service, who are younger than 65; and

**Whereas** the Conference finds itself making exceptions based on the age of retired clergy, overlooking their years of service; and

**Whereas** the Conference is saving money by breaking a long trust with the retiring clergy; and

**Whereas** Jesus instructs us that we can not serve both God and money;

**Therefore, let it be resolved** that the Conference return to a policy of having all retired clergy with at least 30 years of service pay the same basic rate for health insurance as all other retirees with at least 30 years of service regardless of age.

**Members of the Connectional Table, meeting March 1, 2008, recommended non-concurrence with the above resolution.**

# INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

## MARYLAND BIBLE SOCIETY (CC)

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The Maryland Bible Society has been in the ministry of sharing the Bible and Scriptures in many formats and in many languages since 1810. In 2010 we will celebrate our 200th Anniversary as a Bible Society in the great tradition of the British & Foreign Bible Society in England in 1804. Maryland Bible Society considers itself a Scripture resource and mission agency of the Christian community and because of this fact, it is an ecumenical ministry focused on the distribution of Scriptures for mission and ministry. No matter what translation people enjoy reading, it is our belief that the Scriptures are instruments of God's life-changing power that brings the Christians of all denominations together. With over 20 English translations and many Spanish translations and over 68 foreign languages, Maryland Bible Society provides God's Word to prisons, detention centers, homeless shelters, missions, hospitals, schools, military personnel, port ministries and many other ministries in more than 49 states and some 20 foreign countries. One of the strongest supporting mission groups for the work of the Bible Society are the many United Methodist Women's groups in the Baltimore-Washington Conference who place the "Mission of God's Word" in their annual mission budgets. It would also be our hope and prayer that Mission Committees in local churches would place the work of the Maryland Bible Society in their annual mission budget dedicated to sharing the Word of God or at least give their people the opportunity to give once a year on Bible Sunday in November. It is also a privilege for the Bible Society to work with the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church to provide the following:

1. Pew Bibles for churches destroyed by disasters of fire, flood, or other causes.
2. Bibles in English and Spanish for Volunteers In Mission groups both in the Conference and through other United Methodist Conferences.
3. Daily Bible Reading Guides for hundreds of churches for free, nearly 200,000 copies in the past year.
4. Scriptures for the Berkeley County United Methodist Cluster for the Berkeley County Youth Fair in West Virginia
5. 5,500 Extreme Faith Bibles for ROCK 2008 in partnership with the American Bible Society and the Baltimore-Washington Conference, and we look forward to helping with the entire youth ministry of the Conference with Scripture needs.
6. Providing churches with evangelism Scripture portions at a variety of community events.
7. Providing Spanish Bibles and New Testaments for the mission trips of the Rev. Dr. Peggy Johnson to the Dominican Republic.
8. Bibles for soldiers through Fort Meade, Fort Eustis, Fort Dix, Fort Woods and the Pentagon, providing over \$40,000 worth of Bibles and New Testaments to our men and women in the armed services since 2003. There is still a great need for Bibles for military personnel.
9. Providing low-cost pew Bibles for many United Methodist churches, such as Timonium UMC, Hiss UMC, and many others.
10. Providing Spanish/English Bibles for ESL courses at churches in Martinsburg, West Virginia, with Trinity United Methodist Church and Rev. Dr. Ed Grove.

1 11. Providing Scriptures and Bibles for various churches who have ongoing prison ministries.

2

3 12. Providing Spanish Bibles for the new Spanish Initiative on the Frederick District.

4

5 13. Dr. Moreland has also preached in many Conference churches over the past year bringing a  
6 message of the work and ministry of the Bible Society, through preaching the Word, sermons  
7 in drama, and musical programs.

8

9 14. Thousands of Bibles to the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Katrina to bring comfort and  
10 encouragement.

11

12 15. Maryland Bible Society Scripture Grant Program also extends to many countries:

13 a. Helping to refurbish the Bible House of the Bible Society of Mexico and its transla-  
14 tion program

15 b. Sponsoring nearly 1,000 Reach 4 Life New Testaments for youth in South Africa.

16 c. Distribution of Scripture in China in cooperation with the American Bible Society.

17 d. Rural Distribution of Chinese Bibles through the China Resource Center.

18

19 16. Other Scripture Distribution includes: Lutheran Mission Society, St. Vincent De Paul Prison  
20 Ministry of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Baltimore City Detention Center, Camp Manidokan,  
21 Outreach Ministry at Johns Hopkins Bay View Medical Center, SonSpot Ministry to youth at  
22 Ocean City, Wesley Grove UM Church Project for Chaplains at the Ordinance Correction  
23 Center and the Jennifer Detention Center, Salvation Army – 3,500 New Testaments, Methodist  
24 Charge of churches in Aruba through the help of Olga Gazda, Thomas B. Finan Center,  
25 Cumberland, Maryland, 5,000 New Testaments for Bible Clubs in Baltimore City and County,  
26 and many other Scripture Grants.

27

28 17. Maryland Bible Society has also made a commitment with Bishop John Schol to be  
29 supportive of his initiative in the Baltimore area with Scriptures as needed for various projects  
30 dealing with youth, violence and crime.

31

32 Maryland Bible Society wants to be a Scripture resource center for all churches. We are grateful  
33 for the working relationship with Bishop Schol, the Cabinet and many Conference staff people  
34 and the Conference Secretary, Rev. Al Clipp. Thank you for helping us put the transforming  
35 power of God's Good News in the hands and lives of many throughout this Conference and the  
36 region.

37

38 Rev. Dr. Raymond Moreland, Executive Director

39 Robert Bartram, President of the Board of Directors

40

41

### STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE

42

43 The Strawbridge Shrine, the place where Robert Strawbridge organized the first Society of  
44 American Methodism. is located at 2650 Strawbridge Lane, near New Windsor. The farmhouse  
45 on the property was designated a shrine at the 1940 Methodist General Conference. On June 18,  
46 1937, the Strawbridge Shrine Association was formed to acquire the house. After several failed  
47 efforts, the association was successful in 1973. The house with 32 acres was bought for \$56,000  
48 from Mr. Arthur Haines who had lived in the house since 1919 with the provision that he have  
49 life tenancy. He lived until 1999.

50

51 On the grounds of the Strawbridge Shrine, in addition to the farmhouse, are the John Evans  
52 house, the home of American Methodism's first convert, a replica of the original Log Meeting  
53 House, and a curator's house which houses the Visitor Center in its lower floor. In addition, the

1 19th century farm buildings have been kept.

2

3 Since the death of Mr. Haines, the Shrine Board has been active in furnishing all of the buildings  
4 on the grounds, the Strawbridge Farmhouse with items from the 18th, 19th, and 20th century and  
5 the Evans House with replicas of 18th century furniture using the description that John Evans  
6 himself kept in his extensive records.

7

8 All of the buildings on the Shrine grounds are now furnished and statues of both Robert and  
9 Elizabeth Strawbridge have been erected. We have also furnished the 19th-century farm buildings  
10 that are on the property.

11

12 On October 6, 2007, we had a pilgrimage to the Shrine, attended by approximately 125 people, to  
13 dedicate the furnishings of the John Evans House and the Elizabeth Strawbridge statue. A  
14 previous pilgrimage was held June 6, 2004, when we dedicated the furnishings of the Strawbridge  
15 House, the statue of Robert Strawbridge, the entrance stone to the Shrine and the cross erected on  
16 the monument base at the original site of the Log Meeting House.

17

18 We are looking forward to erecting a larger and more functional Visitor Center. Also, we have  
19 formed a committee to generate ideas of how to celebrate Robert Strawbridge's ministry.

20

21 Tours are always welcome. Since the buildings have been furnished, they are locked and alarmed.  
22 In order to enter the buildings, tours must be booked by calling curator Laura Apostol, at 410-  
23 635-2600.

24

25

26

## UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

27

*Spirit Led, Renewing the Church!*

28

29 It is a joy to send greetings on behalf of United Theological Seminary to the Annual Conferences  
30 within the United Methodist connection.

31

32 United Theological Seminary celebrates with you 137 years of service in the ministry of  
33 theological education since our founding in 1871. We are grateful to God for the privileges of  
34 equipping faithful leadership for the Church, leading in reflection on Wesleyan theology, and  
35 assisting the Church in making disciples of all nations. We seek the Holy Spirit's leading so that  
36 we may do our part in the renewal of the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

37

38 Here are some current highlights from United Theological Seminary:

39

40

1. A new Master of Divinity degree concentration in Church Renewal.

41

2. A continuing, central role for orthodox Christian doctrine and deep grounding in the study of the Bible.

42

43

3. An emphasis upon the world as our context for theological education, including the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

44

45

4. New initiatives in Distance Learning to serve the underserved – including five new online courses in the fall of 2008.

46

47

5. Growing partnerships with African-American church leaders and institutions.

48

6. New partnerships with other schools, judicatories, agencies and congregations.

49

7. An opportunity to lead the church in reflection on the Wesleyan theological tradition through the work of our faculty and the Center for Evangelical United Brethren Heritage.

50

51

52

8. Increasing enrollment in our Masters degree, Doctor of Ministry degree and non-degree programs as we respond to new needs for clergy and lay education.

53

1 9. Our fine students, faculty and staff.

2 10. A state-of-the-art, completely accessible campus.

3  
4 We thank you for your ongoing partnership with us in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

5  
6 Sincerely,

7 Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, Acting President, UTS  
8 937-529-2201; [www.united.edu](http://www.united.edu)

9  
10  
11 **WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

12  
13 **A Multiplier Institution**

14 Wesley is one of the largest and the most diverse seminaries in the world. Our alumni are in  
15 ministry in all 50 states and in 20 countries as leaders of the church and other service organiza-  
16 tions. We have one of the finest faculties in theological education. Nationally, we have the largest  
17 lay education program of any seminary. And we reach tens of thousands of people each year  
18 through our video-based adult-education effort. Our size, theological position, international reach  
19 and location put Wesley in a unique place to affect the church for the next generation.

20  
21 **A Vision for the Church of the 21st Century**

22 Wesley is committed to a vision of a church of the 21st century that is focused on being a part of  
23 God's mission in the world. This church is hopeful and future-oriented. It is full of joy and a  
24 sense of purpose. It is relevant and global. It seeks justice from the perspective of faith.

25  
26 **A Resource for the Church and the People of the Church**

27 We are preparing men and women to lead the church of the 21st century. Our goal is fruitful  
28 leadership for congregations that are vital and engaged effectively in mission and service to their  
29 communities and the world.

30  
31 Members of just one of Wesley Theological Seminary's graduating classes will minister to more  
32 than half a million people. Wesley has come to have such an impact because of the seminary's  
33 commitment to being where God is working in the world – centered in the church. We have built  
34 many lasting partnerships with congregations throughout the Baltimore-Washington Conference  
35 that have strengthened the individual churches and the seminary.

36  
37 **An Invitation**

38 At Wesley, our graduates hold the promise of hundreds of ministries that stretch far into the  
39 future. We welcome all who would join us in our work. Learn more about the exciting things  
40 happening at Wesley through our monthly electronic newsletter. You can subscribe at  
41 [www.WesleySeminary.edu/eCalling](http://www.WesleySeminary.edu/eCalling).

42  
43 The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President  
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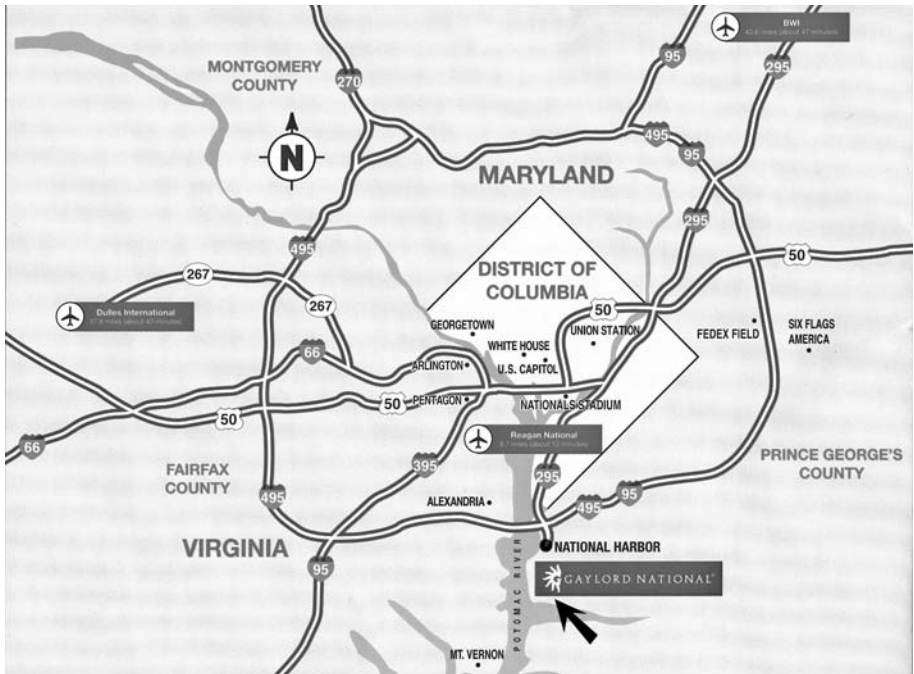
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**NOTES:**

## NOTES:

**NOTES:**

# Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center Hotel Map & Directions



## **From Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland**

Take I-295 South  
Merge onto I-295 South (enter Maryland)  
Exit at Oxon Hill Road  
Take MD 210 South (Indian Head Highway)  
Stay in right lane and take right exit around to MD 210 North (Forest Hills)  
Follow signs to National Harbor/Gaylord National

## **From Gaithersburg, Maryland**

Take 270 South toward Washington  
Merge onto Capital Beltway I-495 South (cross the Woodrow Wilson Bridge)  
Take Exit 3A (toward MD 210 South/Indian Head Highway)  
Stay in right lane and take right exit around to MD 210 North (Forest Hills)  
Follow signs to National Harbor/Gaylord National

## **From Eastern Maryland**

Take Rt. 50 West  
Exit onto I-495 South/95 South  
Take Exit 3B (toward MD 210 North/Indian Head Highway)  
Turn right to go North on MD-210  
Turn right on Livingston Rd.

## **From Southern Maryland**

Take MD 210 North/Indian Head Highway  
Turn right on Livingston Rd.

## **Gaylord Hotel**

201 Waterfront Street  
National Harbor, MD 20745  
Phone: 301-965-2000



