

2019 Conference to explore ministry of generations

Worship to celebrate ageless wisdom of Psalms

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN

*We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his
might,
and the wonders that he has done.*
—Psalm 78:4

"Tell to the Coming Generation," from Psalm 78:4, is the theme Bishop Peggy Johnson has chosen for the 2019 Annual Conference, which returns to the Expo Center in Oaks, Pa, June 13-15. But the session's program may be more about listening to the voices of that generation that is both coming and already arrived.

Much of the focus, inspired by wisdom from the Psalms, will be on evangelism, including teaching and being taught by the millennial generation and all

generations.

The opening worship service, June 13, will center on Psalm 145:3-4:

*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be
praised,
his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.*

Hearing young adult voices

Instead of the usual featured preacher, diverse voices of young adults from across the conference will share how previous generations have lauded God's works to them and how the millennial generation can praise and interpret God's mighty acts to generations to come. The assembly will once again celebrate Holy Communion in groups around tables, serving one another.

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tell to the coming generation

psalm 78:4

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The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (right) leads a discussion with clergy following the UM Judicial Council's ruling in late April that upheld much of the Traditional Plan passed by the 2019 Special General Conference in February. See post-GC2019 stories about the UMCNext gathering at Church of the Resurrection in Kansas and the Wesleyan Covenant Association gathering at Washington Crossing UMC on page 4. *John Coleman photo.*



Jezerel Gutierrez (center), Associate Coordinator of Youth Ministries for the Eastern PA Conference, shares the stage with Conference Council on Youth Ministries members during CCYM's 4th annual Youth Rally, March 16, at Wesley UMC in Bethlehem. *John Coleman photo.*



(Left, Center) Bishop Hector Ortiz and his aide Carmen Ana Perez, leaders of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, pose with members of the first Eastern PA Conference Volunteers in Mission team to visit the island to do hurricane recovery work last November. *John Coleman photo.*



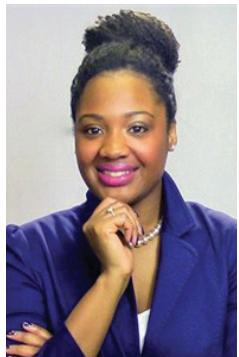
2019 Conference to explore ministry of generations --continued from page 1

Preaching at the Service of Ordination and Commissioning, June 14, will be the **Rev. Nathalie Nelson Parker**, National Program Coordinator for Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, or SBC21, an agency of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries in Nashville.

A native New Yorker, she is an author, pastor's wife and mother and a first-generation American, with parents from Jamaica, West Indies.

With degrees in Political Science, English Literature, Secondary Education and Divinity, Parker is a certified educator, has taught all school grade levels, created young adult and children's ministries at several local churches in Georgia, and is a member of Theta Phi, the international honor society for theological studies. But she is most committed to promoting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

She leads the National Network of Young Adults (NNYA), a collection of HBCU students, seminarians, campus leaders, young clergy and church laity, supported by UMC agencies and congregations. They recruit, train



Rev. Nathalie Nelson Parker

and resource racial-ethnic young adults to "hear, discern and respond to the call of God upon their lives."

Bishop Susan Hassinger, retired, will preach the Memorial Service to honor clergy and clergy spouses who entered the Church Triumphant in the past conference year. She will preach from Psalm 90:1-4, which begins, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations."

Hassinger, elected in 1996, led the New England Annual Conference until her retirement in 2004. She previously directed the Eastern PA Conference's Office of Resourcing, helping diverse churches and groups in congregational and leadership development, team building and conflict transformation. She helped design and was the first president of JustPeace Center for Conflict Transformation and Mediation; and she served on task forces that produced major denominational documents on Holy Communion ("This Holy Mystery," adopted in 2004) and "A Wesley Vision for Theological Education and Leadership Formation for the 21st Century."

State of the Church & Conference

Bishop Peggy Johnson will deliver a timely State of the Church & Conference Report Thursday evening, June 13, her first in her episcopacy. She will review our connectional mission and ministry and begin to cast a vision for the future. The report may assess the consequential way forward for both the conference and the denomination in the interim between the landmark Called General Conference of February 2019 and the next General Conference



Bishop Peggy Johnson

in 2020.

Campus minister **Derrick Luruth Scott III**, 37, will deliver a talk about reaching and responding to the needs, gifts and concerns of young adults during the Friday morning Teaching Session, June 14. The Director of College & Young Adult Ministries at CrossRoad UMC in Jacksonville, Fla., Scott also directs the Florida Conference's Campus to City Wesley Foundation in the Jacksonville-Northeast Florida Area and is a musician, band leader and worship intern at CrossRoad.

Finally, the annual celebration of new clergy retirees, as they pass the mantle to new clergy to be ordained, will lift up Psalm 71:18: *So even to old age and gray hairs,*

O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.

Also celebrated will be the conference's commitment to Connectional Ministries and also 200 years of Methodist missions in a video produced by the UMC's Global Ministries agency. Moreover, there will be reports on Native American ministries and inclusiveness monitoring of the session, and also debate and legislating over proposed resolutions, which must be submitted to the conference secretary by March 15.

But the annual session's most dramatic moments will likely come during nomination and election of delegates to the 2020 General Conference in May 2020. March 1 is the deadline to submit advance nominations for the four clergy and four laity slots, although lay and clergy members may also be nominated on the conference floor.

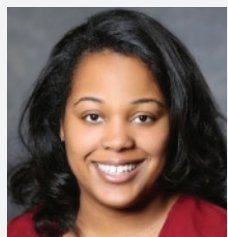


Derrick Luruth Scott III

Two more speakers to address crowds at AC2019

Krystl Johnson, an active leader at St. Daniel's UMC Chester and a lay delegate to the 2016 and 2019 General Conferences, will address the Laity Session at Annual Conference Thursday morning, June 13. Her topic: "The FAQs: A Millennial Update."

Johnson serves on several conference committees and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, often providing a young adult and African American perspective to discussions and decision-making. Executive director of the Delaware County Pregnancy



Center, she leads several ministries at St. Daniel's, including its church council and youth ministry, and serves on the boards of Chester's Ray of Hope Community Development Corporation and Philadelphia Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR).

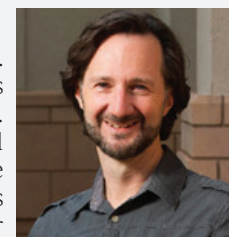
"My focus is providing Young People's FAQs (as in Frequently Avoided Questions)," said Johnson, "that is, some questions and concerns we have that the church ignores in silence, or seems to avoid, or fails to address. It's a time for truth."

Meanwhile, the **Rev. Rob Renfro**, president and publisher of Good News, will speak at a breakfast during Annual Conference, hosted by the conference's Evangelical Connection, on Friday, June

14, from 7 to 9 AM. Pre-registration is required by **June 7**.

The venue will be the Theatre Room of Arnold's Family Fun Center (next door to the Oaks Expo Center). Renfro will speak and answer questions on the topic "Is There a Future for United Methodism?" The cost is \$20 for a full buffet breakfast and presentation.

Last year's Evangelical Connection breakfast audience filled the room to hear the Rev. Tom Lambrecht, vice president and general manager of Good News, a leading conservative UM-related organization and magazine.



The Revs. Monica Guepet and Candy LaBar chair the Annual Conference Worship Team. David Bryant, Music Director at First UMC Phoenixville, will return to direct music for the Annual Conference. The Conference Commission on Sessions, chaired by the Rev. James Anderman, plans and evaluates Annual Conference sessions.

JUNE

JUNE 8

Transitioning Pastor Workshop and Relating with Clergy Spouses

JUNE 13-15

2019 Annual Conference

JUNE 22

CONAM Presents: Native American Arts Festival

JULY

JULY 19-20

Mission u 2019: The Inn at Reading

JULY 27

Healthy Transitions for Clergy Spouses: 10 am - 3 pm, \$15

United Methodist Night with the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park

AUGUST

AUGUST 3-5

Laity Academy

AUGUST 20

Basic and Advanced Sexual Ethics Workshop (Women only), 9 30 AM to 3 PM. \$35.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 14

Racism, Post-Traumatic Stress, & Transformation: Impact of Racism on People of Color workshop

SEPTEMBER 21

Hopewell UMC's Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth

SEPTEMBER 21

Claiming Sabbath for Clergy Spouses

SEPTEMBER 28

Domestic Violence: The Church Responds



(USPS 19-604)

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Annual Conference 2019 “Tell to the Coming Generation”

Soren Kierkegaard once wrote “The most painful state of being is remembering the future, particularly the one you’ll never have.” The people of God, however, think quite the opposite.

Legendary missionary Adoniram Judson, who served in India and Burma, proclaimed “Our future is as bright as the promises of God.”

We serve the God of the ages that transcends time and space. And we, God’s people, have the awesome privilege of being a part of the mighty sweep of history that continues the legacy of God’s love. We do that by telling of God’s goodness, might and salvation to the next generation.

It is in that witnessing spirit that the Eastern PA Annual Conference chose the 2019 theme “Tell to the Coming Generation.”

We will hear and experience voices from our young adult community throughout our three-day conference. They will tell of their dreams and visions for a future church that will be in their hands in the years to come.

We will also hear from our beloved daughter of Eastern PA, retired Bishop Susan Hassinger, who will remind all at our Memorial Service of the promises of God that have been fulfilled in the church triumphant.

It is my hope that all will come away from annual conference with some new ideas for jump-starting our church’s ministries with youth and young adults. They are not only the future of the church, they are the church of today as well.

A very special part of annual conference every year is our Service of Commissioning and Ordination. As we well know, this is a time of deep division and turmoil in The United Methodist Church in the wake of our recent General Conference. But nothing has been more encouraging to me during this journey than to see a class of new servant leaders dedicating their lives to the future of the church.

Neither the gates of hell nor our present state of

division will prevail against the church. That is because God’s Spirit is among us, working in us through it all and raising up new leaders for the task.

Be assured that the future is bright, and we will see it, no matter if we are “here, there or in the air.” Let’s keep our eyes on the work of drawing people to Christ—in particular, the next generation—so we will be found faithful on the last day.

As the Apostle Paul wrote “Not that I have already obtained all this or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.” (Philippians 3:12)



Faithfully Yours,
Peggy A. Johnson



Cabinet photos

(Top photo) Bishop Peggy Johnson’s stands with the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Cabinet Dean, and the rest of her Appointive Cabinet: (from left) the Revs. Tracy Bass, Steve Morton and Bumkoo (“BK”) Chung.

(Bottom photo, seated) Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Cabinet Dean, flanked by Jo Fielding (left), Director of Administrative Services and Pension & Health Benefits; and the Rev. Anita Powell, Director of Connectional Ministries. (Standing from left) The Rev. Tracy Bass; James Brown, Treasurer; the Rev. Steve Morton; David Koch, Conference Lay Leader; and the Rev. Bumkoo (“BK”) Chung. Taylor-Storm, Bass, Morton and Chung are Superintendents of the South, East, North and West districts, respectively. Lindsey Cotman photos.

Conference to view human trafficking film June 12

On the eve of their Annual Session, Eastern PA Conference members and guests will view a compelling, award-winning film about the painful truths of human sex trafficking in their state. So far, over 100 conference registrants have indicated they would attend; but that number will likely grow before the Wednesday, June 12, free screening at 6:30 PM, in the main hall at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks.

“Human trafficking is our new slavery” warns the new documentary, From Liberty to Captivity. It shows how Pennsylvania, a birthplace of our nation’s freedom, has become a state where human sex trafficking and slavery are flourishing as a profitable industry. The two-hour documentary takes viewers county by county to reveal the trauma of sex trafficking and heroic efforts of those trying to solve the problem.



Debbie Wright

Director and producer **Debbie Wright** (left) a member of Washington Crossing UMC, will be present to talk about the film, in which she reveals much about trafficking, a “heinous crime that is stealing human lives and lurking nearby in the darkest crevices of our society.”

Washington Crossing UMC premiered the film in our

region at a screening for audiences in January. It is being shown at independent theaters, churches and other places of worship, universities and colleges, community events and other venues.

Producers want viewers to aid anti-trafficking efforts

The producers hope people who view the film will contact and support organizations that work to help victim survivors and eradicate human trafficking in their communities. Wright’s firm, Do What’s Wright Production Company, plans to release the film to theaters and online streaming services following this grassroots distribution campaign.

From Liberty to Captivity explores the tragic reality of sex trafficking here by telling powerful, personal stories of sex trafficking victims who were brutalized and yet survived to become living examples of the triumph of the human spirit. The film reveals the reality and complexities of sex trafficking crimes, while presenting social justice aspects and the real hope of conquering this scourge on society. It also highlights abolitionists fighting to end this great crime against humanity.”

Themes of justice and hope are woven into the film, including the legacy of abolitionists who rescued and harbored black slaves in the 19th century. It shows that the fight for freedom from slavery persists today among those who are trying to end human trafficking.

The film has won numerous awards, including being named Best Documentary by the Top Indie Film Awards Film Festival. Visit the film’s website to learn more about it and about Wright and her team. And view the movie trailer. Due to the sensitivity of the topic, no unaccompanied minors under the age of 18 will be allowed.

Gracious.
Insightful. Intimate. Masterful storytelling.

Bishop’s Blog

Apt descriptions of Bishop Peggy Johnson’s eloquence; but see for yourself. Enjoy new essays published each month on her **Bishop’s Blog**. Always a good read!

NEWSpirit newspaper to end print edition

Haven’t seen NEWSpirit newspaper in awhile? Sorry about that. We’re making some changes in our media menu. This will be the last printed issue of NEWSpirit for awhile. We will formally suspend the print publication for a year, but we will continue to produce the convenient online version always available for reading and sharing on our conference website. We may decide to print our next issue just before our 2020 Annual Conference. We’ll let you know.

Like many publications in these changing times, we have found that most readers prefer to get their news online because it’s faster, more accessible, and more easily shareable.

But please do read it and share it with others—even just the website link—so that more people can enjoy the important church and conference news and views we try to share. We will continue to let you know in our online newsletters (NEWSpirit Digest or NEWSpirit Alert) when a new issue is published and ready for you to read. So, please stay tuned and stay with us. There’s much more NEWSpirit to share!



Centrists, progressives see 3 paths on the UMC's way forward

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN

"If not us, who? If not now, when?" Several speakers repeated those challenging questions at the **UMCNext** conference, May 20-22, hosted by Church of the Resurrection UMC (COR) in Leawood, Kansas. No doubt, others have also. Who will stay in The United Methodist Church and try to make it better? Who will leave to chart a new denominational path? And when—right now or before or after the next General Conference in May 2020?

At least 11 lay and clergy members of the Eastern PA Conference attended the historic, closed-door meeting of more than 600 participants from every annual conference. Each was nominated or self-nominated and then selected, from more than 2,000 nominees, to be invited to the conference. All attendees were to pay their own expenses to avoid using church or conference funds.

Self-described as either centrists or progressives, they wrestled with how to respond to UMC laws that continue to deny marriage and ministry rights to homosexual members and that now call for stronger enforcement of those laws—or what traditionalists call “enhanced accountability.”

Some local attendees reported on what they learned at a meeting June 1 at St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge, following a Reconciling United Methodists' (RUM) event, “Rise and Resist: A Worship Celebration of Praise, Power and Persistence.” That worship gathering of over a hundred people featured inspiring music and messages offered in scriptures, homilies, dance and liturgy, including a renewal of the baptism covenant.

Suggestions of what to do next

Attendees at the meeting discussed what happened at UMCNext and suggested next steps to be taken to try to remedy the painful consequences that many see resulting from the Traditional Plan. Much of that plan, passed by the Special 2019 General Conference in February, was ruled constitutional by the Judicial Council in April. The UMCNext seminar identified three possible paths forward:

- acts of **resistance** to defy the new church laws;
- **disaffiliation** from the denomination by churches that conditionally can take their assets with them until December 2023; and
- advocacy for a negotiated **dissolution** of the entire UMC so that new denominations may be formed.

If anyone came hoping UMCNext would produce a single plan or direction, they may have left disappointed. There was no consensus on any of the three options. So, for now, they will explore all three paths forward and may even witness a gradual departure. Some churches and conferences may begin by resisting, then move toward disaffiliation to become independent or aligned with other judicatories. And some may finally join or help form new denominations if The United Methodist Church is dissolved.

“We have to fix this denomination.



Rev. Adam Hamilton

We can't go on with things the way they are,” said the Rev. Adam Hamilton, host pastor and lead convener of the meeting. “But there are churches who feel every urgency that they are going to leave now.”

His vast, remarkable church, which averages a denomination-leading 7,000 worshippers weekly, has some traditionalists among its centrists and progressives, he reported, and COR has both lost and gained members during the controversy.

“There are also churches that say, ‘We couldn't leave even if we wanted to,’” added Hamilton. “So, we're ultimately going to have several pathways forward.” Indeed, some churches may want to disaffiliate but can't afford the prerequisite full payment of apportionments, remittances and clergy pension liability bills. Also required is a two-thirds vote of approval by the church conference and a majority vote by the Annual Conference.

However, members of the largely progressive Mountain Sky Conference (Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and a piece of Idaho) in the Western Jurisdiction revealed that they are

exploring disaffiliation as a conference, which should make it easier for their member churches to leave the denomination together.

Diverse participants brought diverse concerns

Many table groups at UMCNext were arranged to be diverse in race and ethnicity, age, gender, region, sexual orientation and ministry roles. Sixteen bishops, who came as observers, sat together also.

Participants discussed their diverse ministry concerns and contexts, their views on justice, the church's mistreatment of LGBTQ members, race and racism, and their leanings toward choosing resistance, disaffiliation or dissolution.

They heard speakers share poignant testimonies that addressed hurtful discrimination and rejection of LGBTQ persons, along with fear and adversity. But also, they heard about loving relationships, resilience, redemption and confirmation of God's call to ministry.

Expressions of hope and humility were widely shared. But conveners were challenged by some to address the prevailing sin of racism as a significant, if not primary, consideration in seeking justice for all and forging new denominational paths forward.

UMC Next conveners' four commitments displayed prior to refinement by attendees.

Eastern PA participants meet to plan

Only on the final morning did conference groups meet together, tasked to start their planning of what to do next. The Rev. Fred Day, who was invited there as head of the General Commission on Archives & History, joined fellow Eastern PA members at their table.

The others included: the Revs. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Lydia Muñoz, Robin Hynicka, Jason Perkowski and Mary Catherine Miller, plus lay members Judy Ehninger, Ruth Daugherty, Ann Jacob, Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck and John Coleman. Muñoz



Rev. Junius Dotson (right)

and DiDomineck agreed to co-lead future efforts of the new team, which adopted the name “EPAUMC-Next.”

The UMCNext event was closed to the media, and recordings and photography were discouraged during the session because of concern that public exposure might inhibit candor. But some participants and outside critics did share scant photos and comments on social media.

Afterward, five of the 17 conveners read statements and answered questions at a press conference. They acknowledged that resistance could mean violating restrictions in the newly revised *Book of Discipline* and risking clergy suspension. But groups discussed other, less consequential forms of resistance, such as increasing LGBTQ visibility in lay ministry, partnering in worship with LGBTQ clergy of other denominations, and holding public vigils and protests.

“The term resistance is grounded in our baptismal vows,” said the Rev. Junius Dotson, a convener and head of the Discipleship Ministries general agency. “We promise to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. So, there are many forms of resistance, and people have to decide how they will participate.”

The deadline for resolutions to the 2020 General Conference is Sept. 15. When Church of the Resurrection hosts its annual Leadership Conference for pastors and laity Sept. 25-27, they will focus the agenda on what follows UMCNext. They expect to draw over 3,000 people in teams from about 1,000 churches, and that event will be open to the media.



Rev. Lydia Muñoz

WCA leaders cast vision amid division at Eastern PA seminar

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN

Preaching a message of grace and a mission of growth, the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) is working to unify and support people who favor the Traditionalist view of The United Methodist Church's future—the view that narrowly won a majority of votes at the Special General Conference in February. That majority declined to sanction same-sex marriage for LGBT members and to welcome them into ordained ministry.

“Now we're offering a positive vision of our future--what we're calling the next Methodism—and a sense of moving forward,” said the Rev. Joseph DiPaolo,

leader of the loosely organized WCA movement in the Eastern PA Conference. He wants to see that movement connect and encourage people of like minds and hearts because “we can do so much more together than apart.”

Indeed, the Rev. Keith Boyette, president of the association, preached that message at its Northeastern Regional Gathering May 11, hosted by Washington Crossing UMC.

“I believe we are on the doorstep of the next Great Awakening and God is preparing us for that awakening,” he shared, referencing Charles Wesley's sermon “Awake, Thou Who sleepest” and likening today's churches to those



Rev. Joe DiPaolo (left) and Rev. Kieth Boyette

that lost their fervor in the Bible's Book of Revelation. “I believe the UMC is in an existential crisis,” said Boyette, calling for the church to be “resurrected” and to “reclaim sound doctrine grounded in

the Word of God.”

“We will not capitulate to this culture,” asserted the retired Virginia Conference clergy member and former attorney. “We will contend for the historic Christian faith through the Wesleyan tradition.”

Irreconcilable differences

Citing a lack of unity and “cohesive vision,” he described the current divisions in the denomination as “irreconcilable at this time...making it very hard to see a way where we can all remain in one church.”

“If we part ways, I don't want there to be rancor, a winners and losers scenario, but a scenario where we bless each other

Continued on page 13-WCA.

Annual Conference resolutions address changes ahead

The 2019 Eastern PA Annual Conference (AC2019), meeting June 13-15, will consider 19 legislative resolutions for debate and votes among its membership. Two resolutions submitted in May, after the March deadline, were prompted by decisions of the denomination's recent Special General Conference and Judicial Council that temporarily allow churches to leave the denomination for doctrinal reasons and to take their properties with them.

Those pivotal decisions suspend until December 2023 the protective trust clause, which is found in the UMC's Book of Discipline, and thus, allow churches to disaffiliate with their assets from the denomination in disagreement with church law and doctrine regarding homosexual clergy and same-sex marriage. The Special General Conference in February passed the Traditional Plan that retains and more strictly enforces bans against lesbian and gay members being included in United Methodist weddings and ordained ministry. That vote may be sustained or overturned at the 2020 General Conference.

The new disaffiliation rules relate to church properties and clergy pensions. Exiting churches may retain their properties under certain conditions and in compliance with annual conference policies and protocols, but they must satisfy prescribed clergy pension obligations.

The Eastern PA Conference Board of Trustees, in Resolution 2019-19L, proposes that new disaffiliation guidelines in paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline temporarily supersede different rules approved by the 2015 Annual Conference (Resolution 2015-17) when it accepted terms of the disaffiliation of Wesley UMC Quarryville.

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits will present to the Annual Session Resolution #2019-18L, Pro Rata Pension Obligation, which requires compliance with the new ¶2553 of The Book of Discipline mandate that before any church disaffiliates from the UMC it must pay its "withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference." That liability is determined by the church's percentage of the Conference remittance figures for the year of disaffiliation. Funds paid must be used "solely for payment of future clergy pension obligations."

"It is my prayer that we will handle these resolutions with great care and listening hearts," said Bishop Peggy Johnson.

Other resolutions will recommend changes ranging from new requirements for clergy anti-racism training to new retiree benefits and the closure of two churches.

Changes in anti-racism training program

The recently reconstituted Healing the Wounds of Racism (HWR) Core Accountability Team will present three resolutions, #2019-9, #2019-11 and #2019-15. The team was created by the 1996 Annual Conference as part of its "Plan toward the Elimination of Racism within the Eastern PA Conference." With changes in conference staffing and anti-racism training programs, the HWR team has been minimally active

in recent years, primarily consulting with and assisting the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR), its partner in dismantling systemic racism.

The three HWR resolutions propose that the newly reorganized team, which is co-chaired by the Revs. David W. Brown (Elder) and Mertice Shane (Local Pastor), provide oversight again to all required training to help clergy, lay min-



The Revs. Mert Shane (left) and Susan Worrell, co-leaders of Healing the Wounds of Racism (HWR) and the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR), respectively.

isters and conference staff understand and undo the sin and practice of institutional and interpersonal racism in their ministries.

Gene Washington and Sarah Stearns, two diversity and equity education consultants from Visions, Inc., currently teach the conference's twice-yearly, introductory anti-racism training sessions, titled Changing Racism. HWR is helping them sharpen the program's focus and proposes to oversee it and also take over CORR's recent advanced anti-racism training program.

HWR further proposes to change the title of both programs to Dismantling Racism, to more accurately reflect the conference's goals. And it asks the Annual Conference to "encourage the Board of Ordained Ministry to establish a requirement for advanced training in dismantling racism, similar to the requirement for advanced sexual ethics training." (#2019-11)

The HWR team also asks to report on its work to the Director of Connectional Ministries, rather than to CORR (#2019-9).

Respect for Native American land rights

Another resolution addressing racial concerns is #2019-14, which calls upon the conference to advocate for protection and respect for Native American land rights based on treaties between Native tribes and the U.S. government.

"The greatest challenge facing Native Americans today is invisibility," reads

the resolution submitted by the conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM). It notes the waning of public attention to ongoing, unsafe exploitation of Native land rights since the end of protests in Standing Rock, North Dakota, two years ago, that opposed installation of an oil pipeline there. Months after the Obama Administration halted the pipeline project, President Trump reversed that decision and permitted it to resume.

Citing the vulnerability of Native land rights to federally-aided multinational corporations and ongoing damage to land, water and air caused by pipelines and mining, the resolution asks the conference to publicly support the advocacy efforts of Native groups in the church and in society. It requests a signed copy of the resolution be sent to the White House and key leaders in Congress.

In other advocacy resolutions, #2019-10 asks the conference to revise the UMC's longtime missional motto, for its own use, to "Open Bibles, Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" and to recommend that same extended motto to the denomination at the 2020 General Conference. The resolution, submitted by the Rev. Jimmy Montgomery and Cochranville UMC, cites the primacy of Scripture in our Wesleyan and former Evangelical United Brethren history, mission and doctrine, and it seeks to correct the omission of that primary influence from our UMC motto.

From "Mission ConneXion" to Mission Link

Resolution 2019-02 would officially change the name "Mission ConneXion," coined by the Cabinet and Annual Conference in 2013 to describe organized clusters of neighboring UM churches working together in mission. The new, similar name proposed by the Cabinet for each cluster is "EPA Conference Mission Link."

Groups of "Mission ConneXions" were formed among churches in each district to cooperate in creative mission projects. But it was recently discovered that the name was already copyrighted by a national mission training and support agency based in Oregon. Thus, the conference has agreed to stop all uses of the name and asked its districts and churches to do likewise to avoid any costly legal challenges.

Meanwhile, Resolution 2019-13 calls upon the conference to affirm itself as a "One Church Plan Conference in spirit," apart from the General Conference's majority-vote choice of the Traditional Plan as the UMC's disciplinary "Way Forward." It cites the dramatic lack of consensus in that vote—especially among U.S. delegates—and the ongoing efforts of many progressive leaders to forge unity and inclusion despite the global denomination's current divisiveness and its exclusion of homosexual members from marriage and ordained ministry.

The resolution's co-presenters, the Revs. James McIntire and Lydia Munoz, ask the conference to commit to "continued support of ministry to, for and with all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

Licensed Local Pastors who have not completed the course of study and

Commissioned Provisional Elders and Deacons who have not yet completed seminary training are two other groups that have long sought more inclusion. The Book of Discipline does not allow those two groups to be elected as delegates at our quadrennial conferences, nor to vote on constitutional amendments.

Resolution #2019-17, presented by the Revs. Jason Perkowski and Kevin Kresge, both local pastors, asks the Annual Conference to affirm changes proposed to grant rights to elect and serve to all Local Pastors, Provisional clergy and also student pastors. The changes would be made to the UM Constitution and Discipline at the 2020 General Conference.

Two closed churches to be discontinued

Meanwhile, the Annual Conference will vote to discontinue two churches that have voted to cease operating their ministries and close their doors.

CC Hancock UMC, South District, has served the community of Springfield, Pa., since its founding in 1956. It voted March 10 to discontinue its ministries and transfer members to Lima UMC. Proceeds from the sale of its property will go to support a new church extension ministry of St. Daniel's UMC in Chester and to other church development efforts of the conference.

In addition, Diamond UMC in Hazleton, North District, established in 1905, voted to close Nov. 1, 2018, and held its last service on Sunday, Jan. 6. Any net assets remaining from its sale will go to Pocono Plateau and Gretna Glen camp and retreat centers and to ministries of its district.

Four resolutions pertain to conference pension benefits and policies and to health care insurance and rental/housing allowances for retired and disabled clergy. While Resolutions #2019-05 and -07 seek customary annual approvals, two other resolutions request important changes in pension and retiree health benefits services.

Resolution #2019-04 seeks to make enrollment in the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) automatic, with a minimum 1% contribution to the UM Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). Optional enrollments have led many clergy to delay their participation, thus minimizing their contributions and earning potential, and making them less prepared for timely retirement. Clergy may waive automatic enrollment if they wish.

Resolution #2019-06 seeks approval to outsource retiree health care to Via Benefits through Wespath, the denomination's benefits and health care agency. The Via Benefits program helps eligible retirees, spouses and disabled participants efficiently select the best Medicare supplemental health coverage for their needs. The resolution would require use of Via Benefits and a reduction in the stipend paid to retirees.

Resolution #2019-03 asks the Annual Conference to offer a reduced conference registration fee for retired clergy not serving a sponsoring local church or church agency, since they have to pay their own registration costs, often while



(From right) Verna Collier and Sandi Cianciulli hold a banner with another marcher. Armen Elliott photo

Continued on page 10--RESOLUTIONS.

Clergy Delegate Nominees

These profiles are slightly edited from the ones submitted by nominees to the Conference Secretary. Omitted here are: past church appointments and years of service; college and seminary degrees; awards; and family members beyond spouse. Full profiles can be found in the Annual Conference 2019 section of the conference website at www.epaumc.org/annual-conference.



Rev. Tracy L. Bass, Esq. East District, Eastern PA Conference

Career: Superintendent. Former Conference Secretary, Former Pastor and Licensed Attorney

Ministries:

- **Connectional:** Secretary, Board of Directors, Wespeth (UMC Benefits and Investments); Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits; Ex Officio member of District and Conference Boards, Committees, Commissions; Ministries, etc., including BOOM, DCOM, Metro Ministries, and BMCR.

- **Ecumenical:** Member, Urban Theological Institute of United Lutheran Seminary

Other Information: As a current member of the Pennsylvania Bar, I have provided legal education for chancellors through the General Council on Finance and Administration's Legal Forum.

Statement: Throughout the various seasons of my life I'm guided by scripture. In this season I meditate on the following passage: "You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever." Psalm 16:11



Rev. Andrea Brown

Church: Lancaster: Grandview UMC

Career: Lead Pastor and formerly Associate Pastor; Journalist; Public-school teacher; Adjunct seminary professor

Ministries:

- **Connectional—Current:** Board of Ordained Ministry, Whites Confronting Racism, MANIFEST (Lancaster affordable housing development partnership). **Past:** Board of Pensions & Health Benefits; SpiritNet editor; District Ministries Planning Team; Tools for Ministry keynoter; Support for Anchorage Breakfast Program (Lancaster: First UMC) and district ministries.

- **Ecumenical:** Lancaster County Clergy Partnership for Education (part of POWER); NAACP clergy group; Manheim Township Ministerium; Local ministry partnerships providing food, shelter, clothing, and refugee and immigration services; Embrace Lancaster (support of LGBTQ+ people of faith); Reentry Management Organization and other criminal justice reform programs.

Publications: Co-author of *Out of Exodus: A Journey in Open & Affirming Ministry*; Newspaper articles on mission trip to visit GBGM missionaries in Nepal and on fair educational funding; Sermon on transfiguration published online by *Lectionary Homiletics* (goodpreacher.com)

Other Information: Spouse: Tim Buckwalter.

Statement: As an observer of the 2019 General Conference, my heart was broken for the state of The United Methodist Church. More even than at the outcome, I felt despair at winners-and-losers processes, dispirited worship, and a sense of human disconnection. There was not much that felt holy about the conferencing.

I know it can be otherwise. I know because I serve and lead a healthy, growing congregation that has as many conservatives as liberals, yet is able to gather, knowing that God is bigger than any of our individual perspectives. I have seen that it is possible in such a setting to love and affirm LGBTQ+ people in a way they recognize as loving

and affirming. I have seen that it is hard, yet life-giving for a historically white congregation to work actively on the ways that racism infects and limits us and others. I have seen that it is possible to discuss and make decisions in contentious matters without spite or bitterness or deceit. I have seen that it is beneficial, when we hurt others, to aim for true repentance. And I am regularly in worship in which the Spirit's presence is evident, known in tears and joy and answered prayer.

The Lord's Prayer and 1 John 4:7-12 and the hymns of the Wesleys are central to my faith. Luke 4:18-19 inspires my calling. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (written by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.) convicts me. I am an evangelistically-minded, Bible-believing, people-loving, hope-filled Christian.



Rev. Edward (Eddie) Locke Cameron

Church: Hopewell UMC, Downingtown, PA

Career: Deacon; Associate Pastor; Pastor of Administration and Evangelism; Minister of Spiritual Growth.

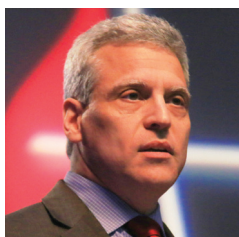
Ministries:

- **Connectional:** Board of Ordained Ministry, Co-chair Residency in Ministry; Jeremiah 29 Team; Safe Sanctuary Committee; Whites Confronting Racism cohort. Ecumenical: Lancaster Downtown Ministerium; Founder of Labor for Lancaster, a city-wide Day of Service supported by Lancaster churches; Lancaster County Council of Churches (meal ministry).

Other Information: Spouse: Lisa Cameron

Statement: We are living in turbulent times, as together we navigate the waters surrounding us that ebb and flow with differing opinions of church, culture, faith, and God's divine Spirit. At times the waters feel like dams breaking, overwhelming us and too deep to find our footing. Yet, in these uncertain times, we must realize God is once again at work, forming something new and good, just as God did during creation (Genesis 1:1-2). As a nominee for delegate to the 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, I cling to the promise of God to restore our health and heal our wounds (Jeremiah 30:17), and in the hope of Christ, to complete in us what God has started (Philippians 1:6).

God's Spirit is stirring over our chaos once again. God is creating something new and good in our midst that will honor and glorify Jesus our Lord. And God invites us all to actively and courageously participate in this new creation story God is revealing to us and the world. As a delegate, I will be faithful to God's call on my life as a deacon to seek justice and compassion, serve my sisters and brothers with integrity and authenticity, and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ as revealed to us in the Old and New testaments. It is my prayer that God's creative and life-giving powers be realized once again in our beloved church. Amen.



Rev. Joseph F. DiPaolo

Church: Lancaster: First UMC

Career: Lead Pastor

Ministries:

- **Connectional—Current:** Commission on the General Conference; General Commission on Archives & History; President, NEJ Commission on Archives & History. **Past:** Delegate to General & NEJ conferences; NEJ Vision Team; EPAC Archives & History and Historical Society; Laity Academy instructor; Chair, Mid-Town Parish Vision Team; Urban Commission; Chair, EPAC Administrative Support Review Team
- **Ecumenical Ministries:** Adjunct Professor, Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown, and Palmer Theological Seminary, Philadelphia; Trustee, Evangelical Seminary; Advisory Board, Campolo Center for Ministry, Eastern University; President, Delaware Valley Council of Churches.

Publications: Wide Views and a Loving Heart: The Life and Ministry of Bishop Levi Scott, EPAC Historical

Society, 2018; "So Shall Their Chains Fall Off": Bishop Levi Scott and Nineteenth Century Black Methodism, in *Methodist History* 55:4 (July 2017), 241-264; "A Very Singular Man: Rev. Moses Dissinger of the Evangelical Association," in *Methodist History* 53:1 (October 2014), 40-61; "Social Justice: Liberating a Biblical Mandate from Political Captivity," in *Evangelical Journal* 30:1 (Spring 2012), 22-39; "To Your Tents, O Israel!" The Life of Rev. Andrew Manship, Evangelist and Entrepreneur. Arcadia Enterprises, 2009; "That Dear Man of God: Edward Evans and the Origins of American Methodism," in *Methodist History* 47:1 (October 2008), 26-47; "A Hot Bed of Secession: New Hope and the Civil War. Bedminster, PA: Adams Apple Press, 2001; My Business Was to Fight the Devil: Recollections of Adam Wallace, Peninsula Circuit Rider, 1847-1865. Acton, MA: Tapestry Press, 1998.

Other Information: Spouse: Susan. Since my appointment to First UMC Lancaster in 2015, we have launched a ministry which currently serves free breakfasts to 150 persons per day and led a capital campaign to relieve \$2 million in debt.

Statement: The United Methodist Church is in crisis, deeply divided and uncertain of its future. As a participant in the 2019 General Conference, I do not wish to see another painful session like that one in 2020. We must find an alternative "way forward" which allows a win/win solution for all parties, and allow people enough secure space to pursue their ministries in accordance with the dictates of conscience. And we must put our focus back on making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Rev. Johnson Dodla

Church: Coatesville: Olivet UMC

Career: Pastor

Ministries:

- **Connectional:** Healing the Wounds of Racism, Camp and Retreat Ministries, Board of Ordained Ministry Co-Chair.
- **Ecumenical Ministries:** Exton-Lionville Ministerium, Coatesville Area Pastors Network

Statement: Our family is quite diverse. I am Indian, married to Christyn, who is Caucasian. We have four kids ranging from 4-11 years old. Our older two children joined our family through adoption. They are African American. We also have two biological children who are biracial. When our family breaks bread together at a restaurant, most bystanders give us a puzzled look, a look that is begging the question, "Are all of you together?" Irrespective of the diversity, we are family. Our kids fight like any other siblings. They love and show compassion when another is hurting. One Sunday, during my sermon, I said: "My kids are obnoxious at church because they are so well loved by everyone in the pews." They feel secure when they are within the walls of Olivet UMC.

2020 General Conference is going to impact how my kids will experience the only church they have ever known. I believe that there is a way forward for our church to move past our current impasse. We can be a church where there is theological diversity, where everyone is welcome to break bread at the Lord's Table. I believe that we can be the church where the world around us is going to look at us and ask the question "Are all of you together?" My prayer is that we the family, called the United Methodist can shout a resounding YES!



Rev. Christopher L. Fisher

Church: Schuylkill Haven: First UMC

Career: Pastor; Director of UM Studies, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Myerstown, PA; Adjunct Prof., United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH, and Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY;

Ministries:

- **Connectional—Current:** NW District Committee on Ordained Ministry. **Past:** Counsel for the Church, EPA Conference; Latino Ministries Spanish Theological Training Initiative; Evangelical

Connection; NW District Superintendent's Support Team; Conference Communications Team, Conference Computer Task Force.

- **Ecumenical:** Treasurer, Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches; Chaplain, Boy Scout Troop 625, Schuylkill Haven.

Publications: *Human Significance in Theology and the Natural Sciences* (Pickwick, 2010). "Some Theological Issues in the Church's Contemporary Discussion on Homosexuality," *Evangelical Journal* 30:1 (Spring, 2012). "Apes, Humans, and X-Men: Human Uniqueness and the Meaning of Personhood," *Theology and Science* 3:3 (2005).

Other Information: PhD, University of Edinburgh (2004). Spouse: Elizabeth Fisher, LMFT.

Statement: *I was raised in the UM Church and made a commitment to Christ as a child. I lost my faith during college, where I was strongly influenced by the secular worldview and stopped believing in the Bible. While traveling after college, I recommitted my life to Christ, surrendering to him on his own terms, including putting faith in his Word. I came alive to God after this, becoming aware of the power of God to save, transform and heal, and answering a call to ministry. Since then, I have extensively researched apologetics, science and theology questions, and the defense of biblical Christian faith in a secular age, completing doctoral studies in those areas.*

I believe in the Nicene Creed where it says the church is "apostolic," and I interpret this to mean the church is built on the teaching of the Apostles. The Lord Jesus entrusted his word to them, and by the power of the Holy Spirit they have passed it on accurately. I believe transformative discipleship is at the heart of the church's mission. Jesus' disciples are empowered by him to escape the corruption that is in the world due to the hardening of hearts in sin (of which I am personally familiar) and are called to be conformed to Christ's image in ever-increasing personal and social holiness (which I am working on).

My convictions are orthodox and evangelical in the classic Wesleyan sense, with some charismatic and messianic Jewish influences. If elected to General Conference, I would favor legislation which helps the church live into its mission of transformative disciple-making. I would also support a gracious exit path for those who cannot live with the current direction and growth trends of the denomination.



Rev. Monica B. Guepet

Church: West Grove UMC
Career: Pastor. Former Director/Pastor of Christian Education.

Ministries:
• **Connectional:** Chair, South District Committee on Ministry; Board of Ordained

Ministry; Annual Conference Co-Coordinator of Worship; Christian Educators Fellowship; Children's Ministries Team; Commission on Conference Sessions; Annual Conference Head Teller; Women in Professional Ministry; MAUMF Financial Leadership Academy

- **Ecumenical:** Drexel University Wesley Foundation; Avon Grove Ministerium; Constellation Network (community organizing); Southern Chester County Opportunity Network (poverty alleviation and advocacy).

Publications: Schreyer's Honors Thesis: "The Similarities in Roman Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran liturgy since the liturgical movements of the 1960s," 2003. Master's Thesis: "Full Table: Kin-dom of God", 2011

Other Information: Spouse: Stephen Guepet. I was an Observer & Monitor at 2012 and 2019 General Conferences. I love dance, from liturgical dance to performing the Nutcracker, to goofing off in the kitchen with my family!

Statement: *The gospel calls us to live out a call to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. Our global connection vivifies hope, faith and love, while we seek to remove harm from the insidious places where it has gotten stuck. I give thanks to God for the places where love, faith, and hope have poked up like persistent flowers in the cracks of the sidewalk of the church. We are called as the body*

of Christ to care well for one another in our shared love for God. The 2020 General Conference provides a resilient opportunity for creative leadership for those willing to prayerfully discern the movement of the Holy Spirit. Reflective, adaptive, contextual leadership is needed for these changing times. If elected, it would be my honor to serve faithfully.



Rev. Robin M. Hynicka

Church: Arch Street UMC, Philadelphia

Career: Pastor
Ministries

• **Connectional:** UM Metro Ministries; Urban Commission; Methodist Federation for Social Action; National MFSA Program Council; Reconciling UMs of

Eastern PA; Delegate to 2012 General Conference and 2016 NE Jurisdictional Conference; Convener of the Whites Confronting Racism Training, in partnership with the Conference Commission on Religion and Race, the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Office of Connectional Ministries

• **Ecumenical:** Founding Member of POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness Empower and Rebuild), an interfaith network of communities of faith and conscience in Philadelphia and beyond that advocates for sacred and social justice.

Other Information: Member of the Board of Trustees of Albright College. Co-Convener of The Center - Philadelphia (a non-profit committed to social justice and civic engagement). President of Center City Organized for Responsible Development. Honorary Doctorate from Albright College.

Statement: *John Wesley's Holy Club members asked themselves 22 different questions. While all of them require serious consideration, there are three that stand out for me.*

1. "Is Christ real to me?" *My faith journey began as a child in the Sunday School of St. Paul's Evangelical United Brethren Church in Mountville, PA. Miss Reese made me memorize the Books of the Bible and Miss Hartman taught me to sing "Jesus Loves Me." That small-town congregation embraced me as I knelt at the altar and in a tearful prayer asked Jesus to love me. That love is real today, and those seemingly simple assignments and songs remain at the core of my faith.*

2. "Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?" *I am committed to a fully inclusive church that puts racial justice, LGBTQ justice, gender justice, economic justice, environmental justice at the center of our walk with Jesus. I pray for, preach and promote wholeheartedly: the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the life of the church; the restructuring of economies that perpetuate poverty; and the dismantling of racism by addressing white privilege—my own and that embedded in the ecclesiastical, social and political systems of society.*

3. "Did the Bible live in me today?" *Preaching at Grace Café, a weekly time of worship and food fellowship with persons experiencing homelessness and hunger, is such an ominous task. I add wrinkles to my brow thinking of ways to connect with the 200 or so souls who gather in the sanctuary on Sundays at 5:30 PM. I have learned that if, before I speak, I walk up and down the aisles of the sanctuary and shake hands, fist-bump or flash the peace sign to each person gathered, what I say later in the sermon becomes a living word. It is less about what is said and totally about what is done to be in the presence of the people.*



Rev. Dan Lebo

Church: Annville UMC

Career: Pastor; Director of Innabah Camp and Retreat Center; Chaplain/Coordinator of Spiritual Life, Lebanon Valley College.

Ministries:

• **Connectional:** Global Justice Volunteer, General Board of Global Ministries; Young Adult Clergy Leadership Forum, General Board of Church and Society; Conference

Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries, ex-officio; Northwest & West district committees on Ordained Ministry; Board of Ordained Ministry.

- **Ecumenical Ministries:** Evangelicals for Social Action; Somerton Ministerium; Somerton Food Bank; Annville-Cleona Council of Churches; Interfaith Dialogue Panelist at Lebanon Valley College; Lebanon Rescue Mission.

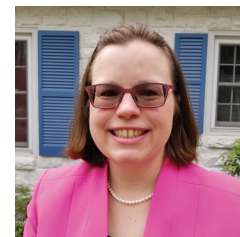
Publications: Book Talk with Paul Chilcote and Layceye Warner. *Witness: Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education*, 24, 81-92.

Other Information: Ph.D. candidate in Organizational Leadership, Alvernia University. Prepare-Enrich Certified Facilitator. Spouse: Becca Lebo.

Statement: *As a husband, father, pastor, chaplain, and graduate student, I have learned a lot about the importance of listening. When we don't listen we can't communicate well. We argue, we misinterpret, we fail to build relationships, and ultimately we fail to realize the kingdom and community that God is building in our midst. As I watched the live feed of the most recent General Conference I was distraught by many things I witnessed. Perhaps none struck deeper than what I interpreted as a failure in our process to listen. I watched as voices begged to be noticed, begged to be heard, begged to be listened to; but we, as a denomination, closed our ears.*

Our church is better when all voices are heard and, more importantly, listened to. The United Methodist Church is a diverse body with many voices that deserve to be represented. My desire to be a delegate for General Conference comes from my belief that one of the voices that is under-represented at the table is the voice of young adults in our connection. At the 2019 special session of General Conference, less than 7% of delegates could be categorized as young adults. I believe greater representation of this population is important because we are part of the leadership of the church now and will be for many years to come. I, as well as many other young adults, understand that the decisions that are made on the extremely important issues discussed at General Conference will have a lasting impact on the future of our denomination.

Every year when I fill out my charge conference forms I smile as I fill in my projected retirement date for 2050, because it seems so far away. In reality, it is not as far as we think. The decisions that are made in 2020 will still be felt in 2050 and beyond, which is why young adult representation is so crucial. God willing I would be honored to serve our conference in this capacity.



Rev. Mandy S. Miller

Church: Reading: Holy Cross
Career: Pastor. Former Associate Pastor (Tokyo Union Church, Tokyo, Japan).

Ministries:

- **Connectional:** Previous Co-Chair Women in Professional Ministry
- **Ecumenical:** Previous On-Site Coordinator Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy Conference

Other Information: Graduate of the MAUMF Financial Leadership Academy. President of Owatin Creek Elementary Association of Parents and Teachers

Statement: *The God I worship and serve is a God of inclusion, a God who welcomes all to experience amazing love and grace. The message I read in the Bible and see in the life of Jesus Christ is one who loves all people—especially those whom others attempt to shame or exclude. Galatians 3:28— "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"—is among the first Bible verses I memorized. I value the biblical lessons of equality I learned as a child and these teachings serve me well as I continue in ministry today. We each bring unique gifts and graces into the church as we strive to serve the living God. My first pastorate in Tokyo demonstrated how people from all over the globe could worship and serve God amid a whole variety of differences. Everyone was welcome. Our strength in ministry came from our ability to work together and to value each person. This is what we are called to do as the church—to make space for all to use their gifts and to allow God's love to flow freely. The Holy Spirit empowers me to lead people to Christ and to preach and teach God's inclusive love for all.*

**Rev. Lydia E. Muñoz****Church:** Kennett Square: Church of the Open Door**Career:** Pastor; Director, Escuela Teologica Evangelica—Latino Commission; Multi-systemic Therapist; Conference Coordinator of Young People's Ministries; MH/MR

Therapist.

Ministries:

- **Connectional:** Board Co-Chair of National Methodist Federation for Social Action, MFSA EPAC Chapter Co-Convener; MARCHA NEJ, President; Latino Commission; Urban Commission, EPAC (Immigration) Rapid Response Team, Current Co-Chair, National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries, Reconciling Ministries Network; Cross-Racial/Cross Cultural Central District Committee, Ethnic-Local Church consultant; Central District Committee on Nominations, UM Hymnal Review Committee, GCORR Facing the Future Design Team.
- **Ecumenical Ministries:** Heeding God's Call; Emergent Village Cohort, Worship leader/Design team for World Council of Churches Global Gathering 2013 in South Korea, New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia, Puertas Abiertas Immigrant Counselling Services, La Comunidad Hispana, POWER Metro

Publications: *My Peace*. WCC2013 Song Book, *Make us One*. NEJ Clergy Women's Gathering Song Book, *Gracias Amigo* (Mark Miller & Lydia Munoz). (soon to be published by Choristers Guild). lentforeveryone.blog, Abingdon Press Preachers Manual

Other Information: Spouse: Rev. James F. McIntire.

Statement: *I believe the Church of Jesus Christ is at its best when it embraces all of its diversity and differences as its core value. When we embrace the fact that we do not have to be the same in order to be together then we are truly being the body of Christ and a witness of God's reign on earth. In all of creation, God's creative energy can be seen in the variety of colors, shapes, languages, imagination and our ability to love more than our ability to hate. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (NRSV). The most powerful witness that we can give the world is to see how we love each other in the midst of deep disagreement. I believe we lost that opportunity in this last special session of General Conference, but I have not lost hope. Like Paul, "we are pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair." (2 Cor. 4:8) I believe God is still in control and the Holy Spirit is in the midst of great transformation.*

In a world polarized and divided, in a country that struggles to come to terms with the fact that by 2044 demographics show that we will be a majority minority country, we need the witness of Church. We need a witness of how an institution can divest itself from its racist practices and past and commit to being a church that truly embraces its work in eliminating racism in all its forms understanding that racism it is incompatible to the teachings of Jesus Christ, and sees this as its most important goal.

This is not easy. We can only do this work together. It is work that involves a deep commitment from each of us to love each other beyond the labels that we often place on one another of "conservative" or "progressive." So that we can embrace our shared mission and vision. I dream and work for a church where everyone is welcome and where are "good works" are seen as a clear sign of people who have captured the message of Jesus Christ and are committed to live into it. I believe we can do it and as Wesley reminds us, "the best of all is, God is with us!"

**Rev. Coleen Brandt Painter****Church:** Elverson UMC**Career:** Pastor. Chaplain: US Army Reserve (Captain); Manor-Care Health Services; Norristown State Hospital and Southeastern Veterans Center (PA Council of Churches contract); Pottstown

VNA Hospice. Executive Director: On Track Behavioral Health Services.

Ministries:

- **Connectional--Current:** Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (president); Commission on Archives and History; Volunteer counselor at conference camps. **Past:** Board of Ordained Ministry; Associate Conference Secretary; Council on Finance and Administration; Metro-Ministries (secretary), Committee on Investigation; Wesley Foundation at Drexel University; Board of Global Ministries (NE District Mission Secretary).
- **Ecumenical:** See Chaplain appointments.

Other Information: Elected member of the Board of Auditors, Limerick Township, Montgomery County. Spouse: Mark S. Painter, Sr. Advocate for better services for people with disabilities; and former leader of a 4-H Club for children with autism. Developed and implemented a confirmation curriculum for non-verbal children with autism at Spring City UMC. Co-author and shepherd of the resolution on "Abusive Treatment Methods for Persons with Mental Disabilities" which first appeared in the UM Book of Resolutions in 1996.

Statement: *Although I have lived my adult life in Eastern Pennsylvania, I grew up in the Yellowstone Conference and I completely understand the Western Jurisdiction's adverse reaction to the decisions of the 2019 General Conference. GC2020 needs to revisit those decisions in favor of a solution that respects regional and cultural differences on the issues for which we do not have consensus. Whatever happens, the devil will be in the details, especially the finances, and General Conference will need members who can understand the broad implications of financial details. This is one of the skills that I can offer the EPC delegation.*

**Rev. Jeffrey Alan Raffauf****Church:** West Lawn UMC, Reading**Career:** Lead Pastor**Ministries:**

- **Connectional--Current:** Board of Trustees, Cornwall Manor. **Past:** Delegate and Alternate to General & Jurisdictional conferences; District Council on Ministries; Conference Education Society; Camping Board; Council on Finance & Administration; Central District Connectional Ministries Fund Team Congregational Transformation Team; Board of Ordained Ministry; District Committee on Church Building & Location; Jeremiah 29 Teams.
- **Ecumenical Ministries:** Associate Chaplain, Reading Hospital; Northern Lebanon County ministerial associations; Jonestown Council of Churches; Columbia, Wilson Area, and Reading-Berks Conference of Churches; Berks County Jail prison ministry.

Publications: "Growing the Local Church through Worship: One Model for Reaching New People, Younger People, and More Diverse People" (Doctor of Ministry Project Thesis, Wesley Theological Seminary, 2013)

Other Information: D.Min degree in Church Leadership, Wesley Theological Seminary.

Statement: *It has been an honor and privilege to live out my calling in a small, a mid-sized, and now a larger congregation. I believe the breadth of my experiences gives me a rich pool from which to draw when discerning and making decisions in my local church, as a voting member in full connection in our Annual Conference, and, if so honored, at the Jurisdictional and General Church levels. Having recently served at the last two General Conferences, I believe it could be beneficial to have such*

experience on the next General/Jurisdictional Conference delegation. If elected, I would hope to serve the whole Church with fairness, compassion, and a hopeful eye for future ministry in The United Methodist Church.

**Rev. Shauna K. Ridge****Church:** Thorndale UMC**Career:** Pastor. Formerly: Intern at Crossroads Hospice, Plymouth Meeting; Director of Lay Ministries at Hopewell UMC.**Ministries**

Connectional: Co-Chair, COSROW; Co-Chair, Women in Professional Ministry; Downingtown-Coatesville Mission Cluster; SOULanco Mission Cluster; Former Equalizing Lay Delegate to Annual Conference.

Ecumenical: Downingtown Area Ministerium; Solanco (South Lancaster County) Ministerium; Board Member, Solanco Neighborhood Ministries.

Other Information: Spouse: Jamie Ridge.

Statement: *It is a privilege to be considered to serve as a delegate to this historic General Conference. As one who did not grow up in a family of faith, and having been raised by parents who were deeply wounded by the church, I will bring a unique perspective to this delegation. I came to faith later in life through two vital congregations. They taught me how God's grace is available to me and to all. They shared their love for Jesus and his love for me and for all. They showed me the power of the Holy Spirit when we, as his disciples, do good work and when we work together for the good of all. I love the local church, and I believe that we are the hope that this hurting world so desperately needs. There is surely much at stake for the future of our denomination in 2020. This is the perspective with which I will serve if elected.*

**Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm**
South District, Eastern PA Conference**Career:** District Superintendent; Dean of the Cabinet; Pastor; Associate Pastoral Intern.**Ministries:**

- **Connectional:** GCFA Economic Advisory Committee; Jurisdictional & Conference Episcopacy committees; Congo Partnership; Urban Commission; Board of Ordained Ministry; Conference Relations Committee; District Teams
- **Ecumenical:** Collaborative partnerships with the AME Church and Palmer Seminary; Inter-faith Mainline Ministerium; Methodists United in Mission (AME/CME/UMC)

Other Information: I led a joint delegation from the Eastern PA & Pen-Del conferences to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and also led a fund development project to build the first pediatric medical & eye clinic in Mpasa, Congo. Spouse: Dan Taylor-Storm,

Statement: *"Resurrection happens on the third day not because the people voted for it. Resurrection happened on the third day because the movement of God could not be legislated. You see, God does not depend on a majority vote...." (Spoken during debate at GC2020.) Since General Conference 2019, I have seen resurrection. I have watched thousands of young people engage the church and claim it as their own, refusing to walk away, but instead committing their lives even more to the proclamation of the Gospel. I have witnessed churches renewing their commitments to be places of radical hospitality. I have seen people finding their voice and speaking, even if their voices shake. I believe God is doing a new thing through the United Methodist movement. I am committed to a United Methodist movement where all people are invited to the table and are fully welcome in all ministries of the church. I take this work seriously and am presently working collaboratively across the United Methodist connection to discern a future that seeks abundant life for all. If elected, you have my full commitment to engage the work of the General Conference in the same way I engage the work of the church - with my prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.*



Rev. Joan H Trout

Church: Willow Street: Boehm's UMC & Historic Boehm's Chapel

Career: Pastor

Ministries:

- **Connectional:** Chair, Southeast District Committee on Ordained Ministry; Board of Ordained Ministry; Southwest District Committee on Superintendency; Rawlinsville Camp Meeting.

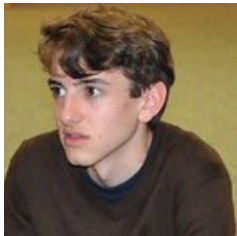
- **Ecumenical:** Conestoga Pastor's Group; Lionville-Exton Ministerium; Willow Street Ministerium.

Other Information: Spouse: Barry L Trout

Statement: *Even after a much-anticipated Special General Conference in February, Our UMC is still in a state of deep division. While a vote was taken and a plan was approved by a small majority—along with possible voting irregularities and parts of the approved Traditional plan declared unconstitutional—many who voted for the One Church Plan insist, as a matter of conscience, that they will minister as though that plan was approved. It is readily apparent that we still have much to do to find a way forward that can lead to ways for all to minister according to their understandings of Scripture, human sexuality and their conscience.*

I am willing to pray and work with all people with varying views on these matters to discern how God can lead us away from the hurt and pain and toward a new Methodist future that provides a way forward for all United Methodists to worship, share and serve Jesus Christ in ways consistent with their understanding of Scripture, God's will and our human condition, every person created in the image of God, yet sinful and needing the redemption, forgiveness and freedom that Jesus Christ brings to us by his great love, his mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Lay Delegate Nominees



Matthew Calderone

Church: Emilie UMC, Levittown

Employment: College Student

Ministries-- Connectional: EPAC Board of Laity; Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries. Formerly on the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

ference Council on Youth Ministries.

Other Information: Student of the Month Levittown Rotary Club November 2017, Student of the Month Bucks County Technical High School November 2017

Statement: *I believe that young adult representation is crucial to the future of The United Methodist Church as a whole, and I will stand to represent them to the best of my ability. I will attend meetings as scheduled and aid in the movement of having young voices heard.*



Judith K. Ehninger

Church: Asbury UMC, Allentown

Employment: Retired Registered Nurse Educator (52 years); Professor Emeritus, Allied Health Education, Lehigh Carbon Community College

Ministries

- **Connectional:** Local

church: Certified Lay Minister, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Staff-Parish Relations Committee; Leadership Development Committee; Prayer Ministry Leader; Christian Education Third Grade teacher; Disciple Bible Study Leader; Lay Pastoral Care Visitor. District: Northeast District Christ Servant Ministry Director, Member, Northeast District Transformation Team and Nominations Committee, 1996-2005. District Lay Leader, Northeast District. Annual Conference: Academy for Laity annual presenter (Christ Servant Ministry Basic Program). Coordinator of the Certified Lay Minister Program; North District Committee on Ordained Ministry. Jurisdictional: Northeastern

Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee, 2004-2012, 2016 to present. Delegate to 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 Jurisdictional Conferences. Delegate to 2012 and 2016 General Conferences. Chair, Host Site Committee of the 2016 NEJ Conference.

- **Ecumenical:** Member Lehigh County Conference of Churches; Daybreak Angel Volunteer; Meals on Wheels delivery volunteer.

Publications: Authored Professional Allied Health publications and curriculum.

Other Information: Spouse: Charles Ehninger for 50 years. Joined the Methodist Church in 1964 as a student nurse. Received Denman Evangelism Award, 1991. Have a passion for small groups, Wesleyan and classical church history, lay ministry development, and all aspects of prayer ministry.

Statement: *What the church preaches and teaches publicly defines what we believe and who we are to all. Moreover, what we do, our actions, as a church define who we believe Jesus Christ to be. We must strive to live the Gospel in our communities as a witness to the continuity and consistency of our faith. Decisions facing the 2020 General Conference must provide the context for church renewal and expansion, sharing the Good News the world over. We must seek God's vision for our future structure and His guidance as we seek to make disciples in this 21st century.*



Ann Jacob

Church: Lima UMC

Employment: Preparing for law school

Ministries:

- **Connectional:**

General Church: Discipleship Ministries Board Member, 2012-Present. General

Conference 2016 Reserve Delegate. GC2008 Youth Representative. Division on Ministries with Young People Co-Chair, 2012-2016. UMC Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly— Youth Representative 2006 in South Africa; Youth Delegate 2010 in Germany; Co-Chair 2014 in Philippines; Church & Society Global Social Principles Consultation, 2014 in Czech Republic.

Jurisdiction: NEJ Conference Lay Delegate, 2012 and 2016. Mission of Peace, 2010. Leadership Table Chair, 2008– 2010. Vision Table, 2008–2010.

Annual Conference: Conference Council on Youth Ministries President, 2006–2010. Lay Equalizing Delegate to Annual Conference. EPA-Congo Partnership Team, February 2018. Trained as VIM Team Leader, March 2018.

- **Ecumenical:** World Methodist Council Lay Representative, 2018, South Korea. UMC Council of Bishops Young Adult Ecumenical Immersion, 2017. World Student Christian Federation – North America Co-Chair, 2014-2016.

Other Information: B.A. in International Relations and Political Science, 2014. M. Div., 2018. Intern at General Board of Church and Society in Washington D.C. (2012) and in New York (2015–2016).

Statement: *We are at a significant moment in the life of our denomination, and I believe that the 2020 General Conference will have the opportunity to make decisions that affect the future of The United Methodist Church. At General Conference 2019 only 7% of the voting delegates were under 35 years of age. As a young adult, under 30 years old, and a person of color, I am interested in becoming a General Conference delegate and serving on the EPAC delegation for several reasons. First, I am a faithful Christian. Second, I am passionate about The United Methodist Church. My faith compels me to be active in the life of the church. The 2020 GC will provide us the space to worship with fellow United Methodists from around the world, to consider petitions to the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions, and to discern the future of our denomination. As a young person who will be affected by the decisions of the 2020 General Conference, I want a seat at the table, as I know my voice as a young person will add to the conversation and deliberations. Third, I am qualified. I have attended two General Conferences, served on a general agency for two quadrennia, served as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference twice, and know the rules and procedures of the conference. I truly believe*

that my experiences representing EPAC in various roles have prepared me adequately to serve as a General Conference delegate. If elected, I will serve with gratitude and diligently fulfill all of my responsibilities.



Krystl D. Johnson

Church: St. Daniel's UMC, Chester

Employment: Executive Director, Delaware County Pregnancy Center

Ministries

- **Connectional:** South District Dinner Discussions (Group Chair); St. Daniel's Youth Ministry Coordinator; St. Daniel's Church/Charge Council Chair; Conference Communications Team; Council on Young Adult Ministries; General Board of Higher Education Ministry (Audit & Review Committee Chair); NEJ Black Methodists for Church Renewal (Young People's Ministries Coordinator); Philadelphia Black Methodist for Church Renewal Caucus (Vice Coordinator); Ray of Hope Community Development Corporation Board of Directors

Publications: 2018 (Thesis) Adopted Adolescents Adjusting to Forever Families: A Social Skills Group for Adopted Teens.

Other Information: B.A. in English; M.S. in Counseling Received 2 awards from St. Daniel's UMW: the Outreach Award and the Women of Faith through Commitment and Service Award. Trained in serving individuals living with HIV. She has a passion for connecting the Word of God to the lives of young people. Most known for using her Christian and city upbringing to weave compelling stories and real-time application into her messages, Krystl is one of the boldest and most creative speakers in the Delaware Valley. She has a masterful grasp of academic and Biblical content. She is able to develop and implement programs with a real eye on what young people and leaders of young people need in their own educational or small group settings. She works hard to make sure her programs hold spiritual experiences and substantive Biblical scholarship at the forefront.

Statement: *As someone personally invested in building relationships between Christ and His church, Ms. Krystl D. Johnson believes that she is the ideal delegate candidate for both the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. In 2016 and again in 2019, Ms. Johnson took her role as delegate seriously and sought to uphold Christ's mission in the world. She believes she is a reflection of Young People in Eastern Pennsylvania. Her peers would attest: "In all things, she seeks to engage, encourage, and energize young Christians." Ms. Johnson promises this: "Guided by scripture and the Holy Spirit, I will keep in mind God's will for His Church as I make bold decisions about church policies and tough issues."*

Statement: *As someone personally invested in building relationships between Christ and His church, Ms. Krystl D. Johnson believes that she is the ideal delegate candidate for both the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. In 2016 and again in 2019, Ms. Johnson took her role as delegate seriously and sought to uphold Christ's mission in the world. She believes she is a reflection of Young People in Eastern Pennsylvania. Her peers would attest: "In all things, she seeks to engage, encourage, and energize young Christians." Ms. Johnson promises this: "Guided by scripture and the Holy Spirit, I will keep in mind God's will for His Church as I make bold decisions about church policies and tough issues."*



David Koch

Church: Grove UMC

Employment: Retired Human Resources Director

Ministries

- **Connectional:** Conference Lay Leader, Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits, Association of Annual Conference

Lay Leaders, Conference Nominations Committee, Conference Human Resources Committee, Conference Sessions Committee, Board of Lay Ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, EPAC Historical Society.

- **Ecumenical:** Human Resources Committee of Good Works, Inc., Coatesville Women and Youth Association Volunteer

Other Information: Led adult Sunday School class and Lenten Bible Study.

Statement: *I think The United Methodist Church is finally at a tipping point on the issue of homosexuality. The 2019 General Conference may have decided what language is used in the Book of Discipline, but it did not decide what individual members and churches will do going forward, as evidenced by reactions to the results of the conference. It did, however raise the consciousness of a greater number of members and brought the issue to*

the forefront of their thinking. The church needs to come to some broader agreement on the issue so that we can focus on our main task – making disciples. I would like to be a part of that effort and represent the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference at the 2020 General Conference. Only a handful of people have ever asked me directly where I stand on the issue of ordination of gay/lesbian persons and same sex marriage, so I will share that here. I would like to see the Book of Discipline changed to allow for full participation by our gay/lesbian brothers and sisters. However, until the Book of Discipline is changed I feel an obligation as your Conference Lay Leader to honor the existing language. I understand that people of good faith read the scriptures differently and I respect different views, but when I apply the concepts of tradition, experience and reason to the scripture I think we need greater inclusion. This is not the issue on which we should be focused. I want to see the church focus on making disciples.



Clarita Anderman Krall

Church: First UMC of Germantown, aka FUMCOG

Employment: Retired

Ministries

• **Connectional:** 2016 delegate to General and NEJ Conferences (and GC2019). Conference Communications Ministry Team (2012-2017). District Resource Assistant (1992-2017). Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (Secretary, 2008-2012). East District Committee on Ordained Ministry (1999-2015, Secretary).

Other Information: B.A., Sociology/Anthropology. Spouse: Rev. Stanley J. Krall since 1970. Clergy spouse at 4 churches, 1976-2012. At FUMCOG: Chancel Choir; Coordinator of Senior Friends, etc..

Statement: As a 21st-century, North American Christian, I believe that God is alive and interactive with the whole of creation through the Holy Spirit. It is important to me to remain prayerfully open to new understandings that God is revealing through the Comforter, the Counselor, the Divine, the Helper, the Friend, the Companion, the HOLY SPIRIT – the one Jesus promised would come once he went away (John 16:7). There is much we do not know now; there is much yet to learn.

I pray that we United Methodists can remain open to the visions and experiences that God continues to communicate. Even the apostles remained open to God's leading, through the Holy Spirit, as they entered into their ministries after Jesus was taken up into heaven. "My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you." (John 15:12). This directive from Jesus sums up my faith. It is so simple to understand! It is not difficult to teach! And our Church, our families, our neighborhoods, indeed, our world would be God's kingdom come if we could get to a place of comprehending and abiding by it. I was born into, raised, nurtured, and matured in my faith in this domain of Christendom, now called The United Methodist Church. Having grown up in a parsonage and then having had the experience of being a clergy spouse, I feel as if I have always been in ministry to all whom I meet. As a former District Resource Assistant, it has been my privilege to minister to both clergy and laity in my daily labors. I look forward to following God's leading should I be elected to represent the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference at the 2020 General Conference.



Lawrence Lee

Church: Mother African Zoar UMC in Philadelphia

Employment: Comptroller, Eastern PA Conference UMC

Ministries

• **Connectional:** Board Member of Metro Ministries; Past Coordinator and current Secretary of Philadelphia Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR). Previously, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference; Member of Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA); Committee on Equitable Compensation; Conference Loan Fund Board; Chair of Central District Recourse Advisory Team; Co-Facilitator of the Philadelphia Area Mission Cluster.

Other Information: I am a fourth-generation Methodist and a lifelong member of Zoar UMC. I served as Lay Leader (2003-2008), Financial Secretary (2008-2012), Finance Chair (2012-2016) and Treasurer (2016-2018). Chief Petty Officer in the US Coast Guard Reserve. Received the CG Achievement Medal, among other military awards.

Statement: When men and women of good conscience come together in a spirit of love, fellowship and unity, focused on God alone, then miracles can happen. If honored to be elected as your GC Lay Delegate, I vow to be led by the Holy Spirit in all that I do, discuss, and decide around the future of our beloved denomination. Many are the challenges that our church faces, but Greater is the God that we serve.



Susan Grimm Mattox

Church: Ross Street UMC, Lancaster

Employment: Retired former Educator, Middle-School Librarian, Reading Specialist. Pulpit supply pastor.

Ministries

• **Connectional:** West District Lay Leader; West District Committee on Ministry; West District Superintendency Committee; West District Resource Committee; EPAC Mission Committee; EPAC Board of Laity; Lancaster City Urban Church Cluster; Lancaster Urban Ministry, MANIFEST; LUMINA volunteer; United Methodist Women Vice President and Christ Servant Minister at Ross Street UMC.

• **Ecumenical:** Lancaster Northeast Ministerial Group.

Other Information: Anchorage Breakfast Ministry at First UMC Lancaster Board of Directors; President of Lancaster-Lebanon PSEA, Retired, 2018-2020; President of Lancaster Optimist Club, 2018-19 and Optimist of the Year (2018).

Statement: At this gathering of the 2020 General Conference I hope faith members from across the world will hold open dialogues that will help to move our faith to further God's kingdom. I pray that the 2020 General Conference will be led by the HOLY SPIRIT. With active listening, study and fellowship, I hope we will be moving towards the unity that our United Methodist brothers and sisters desperately need. I hope that I can be a prayerful partner in this gathering.



Lenora Thompson

Church: Wharton-Wesley UMC

Employment: Self Employed: President, The Thompson Group (29 years)

Ministries

• **Connectional:** Conference Lay Leader, 1998-2006. Delegate to General and or Jurisdictional conferences since 1992. Chairperson, EPAC Scholarship Program and Connectional Table. Past board member of: EPAC Loan Fund, General Council of Finance & Administration, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and Africa University. Former Vice-Coordinator of Philadelphia BMCR (Black Methodists for Church Renewal).

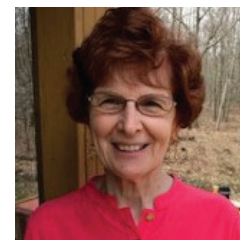
• **Ecumenical Ministries:** Past Delegate to the World Methodist Council, 1991 and 2006.

Publications: Contributing Author, "Making the Connection: Economic Development, Workforce Development and Urban Poverty." Co-author, "Organizing Community Groups."

Other Information: PECO Energy Service Leadership Award (Senior Management Recognition). Philadelphia Clef Club of Performing Arts Service Award. Current Judge of Elections for the 4th Ward. 21st Division (Philadelphia). Chairperson of Local Church SPRC. Founder and Organizer of The Boys' Book Club.

Statement: Having just served as the first lay alternate delegate to the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, I am aware of and understand the issues and concerns facing our denomination. Our issues are many, but as Christians we must learn to truly believe in our Baptism. We must accept that we must be one in the

spirit. We must lead in a manner that is not like the secular world. It is our responsibility to find a way to look at all the issues that marginalize all God's people.



Ann Tinner

Church: Pocono Lake UMC

Employment: Retired Elementary School Teacher from the Hanover Area School District. Christ Servant Minister and a Certified Lay Minister for two years.

Ministries

• **Connectional:** Served on 3 District Superintendency committees. Trained to work on a Transformation Team with my husband in several churches in the Conference. Lay Leader for several years.

• **Ecumenical:** Ecumenical Council, Pocono Lake area. Personal shopper for Ecumenical Food Pantry at the Five Loaf House in the Pocono Area.

Other Information: As President of the Keystone State Literacy Association of Luzerne County, I have initiated the Laundromat Library League in laundromats in Luzerne and Monroe Counties, providing boxes of books for children, from toddlers to teens. I am Secretary of the Indian Lake Homeowners Association and Past President of Delta Kappa Gamma Society. I now work on its Scholarship Committee.

Statement: I would attend the General Conference as a well-informed delegate. We should work together as a democratic assembly that can join together as Christians to listen to differing viewpoints with love and compassion. We should all pray for God's guidance to discern His will before we initiate our decisions. We should strive to love our neighbor and remember our commission to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

RESOLUTIONS-continued from page 5.

living on fixed incomes. The resolution, submitted by the Rev. Bron Yocum, also asks that the fee not exceed the cost of meals at the session.

Resolution 2019-08 would disband the Joint Committee on Incapacity, which no longer has responsibility to approve clergy medical leave, and instead form a Joint Caring Committee to "provide support, advocacy and contact for our members on medical leave."

Five resolutions in all (#s 5, 6, 7, 12 and 16) will be placed on the Consent Calendar to be voted on together by consensus, unless requests are made to remove any from that group. One such resolution, #2019-12, is for approval of the 2019-20 Advance Special Applications by 10 diverse, local ministries seeking allowance to solicit local church second-mile-giving support.

And Resolution #2019-16 requests approval of recommended Equitable Compensation levels for 2020 to help economically challenged churches ensure that their pastors can receive at least minimal compensation.

All 19 resolutions can be found on the Conference website's Annual Conference 2019 page, titled 2019 Resolutions.



Members of the recently closed Diamond UMC in Hazelton were received into membership at Lattimer Mines UMC on April 4.

Eastern PA's Call to Action efforts move from talk to action

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN

In its fall 2018 Call to Action report to the Northeastern Jurisdiction Vision Table and Episcopacy Committee, the Eastern PA Conference reported strides and next steps that suggest real movement against racial ignorance and inequity that have too long seemed rooted in place. Conference Commission on Religion & Race leaders will present and update that report at our 2019 Annual Conference.

Indeed, last year may have been a turning point in the conference's renamed Racial Justice Transformation Process, an ambitious response to the NEJ's Call to Action* initiative. Now it remains to be seen if the candid dialogues and revealing analyses that emerged can lead to deep learning and real change.

Those dialogues were part of an intensive "institutional racism audit" that engaged racial-ethnic groups and conference leaders in separate, guided discussions facilitated by expert consultants. Their discussions yielded subsequent learnings, followed by further listening sessions hosted by Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Rev. Anita Pow-

barrier-dismantling that must continue on and on," she explained. "The work is never 'once and done.' The Call to Action is a call to a lifetime of learning, growing and healing."

The conference's overall work in this initiative seeks to "engage and equip congregations, clergy, ministry candidates and staff in seeking inclusion and equity while serving their communities." The goal is to "create opportunity for changing systems" and ultimately, to dismantle institutional racism.

The changes leaders want to see include:

Wider capability among members to engage in "difficult conversations about race with progressive understanding."

"Shared decision-making and shared power," where the participation, viewpoints and influence of people of color are valued.

More "financial equity in employment, clergy appointments and compensation for everyone."

Compared to other NEJ conferences, there is remarkable racial-ethnic diversity in our conference, including:

27 predominantly black churches out of 415, plus 13 Latino churches and faith communities, and five Korean churches.

About 44 pastors and deacons of African descent serving churches, plus about 12 Latino pastors, 11 Korean pastors and six who are from India. Many of these pastors are serving in cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments.

Significant numbers of staff, cabinet and elected conference leaders of African descent, plus Latino and Korean staff and elected leadership as well.

At least three active, influential, representative racial-ethnic groups who have met with the bishop and conference

staff: Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the Latino Commission and a Korean-American clergy group from



the Eastern PA/Peninsula-Delaware conferences combined.

The Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM)—although there are very few Native people in our conference—and a small group of clergy from India also have met with the bishop for discussion of racial justice concerns.

While such diversity is not new for Eastern PA, the scope of in-depth conversations, ambitious visions and intentional plans generated by the Butterfly Project was remarkable. They include:

- Information and dialogues on implicit bias and white privilege to assist the Board of Ordained Ministry in its consideration of candidates and to help other groups.
- Deliberate inclusion of people of color in interviews and judgment of ministerial candidates.
- A series of Whites Confronting Racism Workshops that convened in March and will continue in July and September. The intensive but "compassionate, nonjudgmental" workshops are designed for white people who "want to understand the dynamics of racism in our society and within themselves" and who are willing to "commit to the ongoing work of seeking racial justice in all aspects of their lives and to influencing others to do the same."
- Another workshop on internalized racism and resulting trauma for people of color, scheduled for Sept. 14, to be led by an author and expert on the subject.

A request that conference ministry boards, councils and committees identify, initiate and report efforts to increase the participation and influence of people of color in their work.

An extensive, strategic plan—led by the Cabinet, the Connectional Ministries Office and the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR)—to expand, promote and support opportunities for successful cross-racial and cross-cultural pastoral appointments as shared ministry between clergy and congregations.

A goal to convene more district, church cluster and local church conversations on race. So far in



2019, two districts have convened such conversations. The East District gathered members to view a relevant documentary film and then discuss racial bias and injustice in America. The South District has convened a number of interracial table talks over dinners to help members become more aware of and sensitive to one another's lives and concerns, including racial-ethnic differences.

Efforts to provide Spanish and Korean-language translation and instruction at Annual Conference and major training events, like Tools for Ministry and the Laity Academy.

"In the many current and planned activities documented here, I am encouraged by the effort and attention being devoted to working toward the stated goals laid out in the NEJ Call to Action Resolution," said the Rev. Susan Worrell. She prepared the CTA report on behalf of CORR, which she co-chairs, using information provided by leaders of conference groups, districts and local churches.

"As greater understanding and cultural humility is sought by those who have for so long been granted power," she continued, "relationships across ethnic boundaries will be forged and hearts will be changed, leading to transformed systems. This is my prayer for us all."

Each conference's Call to Action report is submitted annually to NEJ leadership, and a quadrennial report is due to be submitted in 2020, showing progress in achieving racial progress goals. The 2018 report and past reports can be found on the conference's Religion and Race webpage.

* The *Call to Action resolution for racial justice was endorsed unanimously by annual conference delegates and bishops at the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. It contains detailed recommendations that call on each conference to do more to confront and dismantle racism and discrimination, both interpersonal and institutional, to push for systemic change in pursuit of racial justice and progress, and to affirm that all lives matter in God's eyes

'The CTA is a long process of storytelling, relationship-mending and barrier-dismantling that must continue on and on. The work is never "once and done." The Call to Action is a call to a lifetime of learning, growing and healing.' —Bishop Peggy Johnson

ell, Director of Connectional Ministries.

The bishop held follow-up talks with Latino, Korean and Indian groups and with the Committee on Native American Ministries in late 2018, and then with clergy of African descent (including those from Africa and the Caribbean) March 23.

"These ongoing talks are a part of our journey of racial reconciliation and the building of the 'beloved community,'" said the bishop, who has led her Cabinet to support the Call to Action initiative by example. The report highlights her and the superintendents' own racial learning efforts, including study, participation in dialogues and training events, and visits to racial-ethnic churches.

"The CTA is part of a long process of storytelling, relationship-mending and





Conference promotes Cross-Racial/ Cross-Cultural ministry

The Rev. Grace Pak, of the UMC's General Board of Religion and Race (GCORR), invites feedback from lay members who attended an orientation March 30 to learn about the Eastern PA Conference's plans for developing more Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural (CR/CC) ministries, including pastoral appointments. The orientation, held at St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge, was one of several the conference has offered to interpret and promote CR/CC ministry to clergy and laity who are involved or interested in such opportunities.

Currently, there are 51 CR/CC pastoral appointments in Eastern PA, but the Cabinet wants to increase that number and offer more churches and pastors this bridge-building, potentially transformational ministry experience. In what has become a pilot project for GCORR, Pak and conference CORR leaders have been training CR/CC mentors and other resource persons, as well as pastors, laity and Cabinet members, in a comprehensive effort to help CR/CC appointments and ministries grow and succeed. NEWSpirit will report on this dynamic initiative more in future issues. *John Coleman photo*

2019 EPA Laity Academy

CAST YOUR NET
Gather & Grow

August 2 – 4 at Eastern University

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch..." "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." –Luke 5:4,10b

Are you prepared to navigate the deep waters? Our lives and ministries are constantly bombarded by the waves that distract us from our commitment to Christ. When you are asked to Cast Your Net and fish for Disciples, do you know where to start? Do you know what to say?

Come join us at the 2019 EPA Laity Academy for an exciting weekend of classes, fellowship, worship, entertainment, food and service. Learn how you can Gather Disciples and Grow your Ministries.

Register Online Now: <https://www.etches.com/2019laity>

Costs: The cost of the 2019 Academy is \$110. There will be an additional \$5 for the BASIC course, and an additional \$10 for Making Every Prayer Count. These additional fees will cover the cost of needed materials.

If you have any questions please contact Rick Wrisley, Laity Academy Dean, at rickwrisley@verizon.net.

Enjoy the creative beauty and spirit of summer at our camps by visiting onsite or online

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is blessed with four diverse camps where the abundant beauty and peace of God's Creation can be found, especially by young people of all ages who come

to enjoy summer camp each year. Soon thousands of our children and youth will begin another season of uplifting, potentially life-changing adventures.

Our quartet of scenic **Camp &**

Retreat Centers are spread out among the conference's four regional districts:

- **Pocono Plateau**, a jewel in the picturesque Pocono Mountains of the far North;

- **Carson Simpson Farm Christian Camp**, located near Philadelphia in the East;

- **Innabah**, centrally located in the rural South, near Pottstown; and

- **Gretna Glen**, nestled in the lush-green Lebanon Valley of the West.

All four sites offer a rich variety of entertaining activities and enjoyable, enlightening camping experiences. Yet, few campers have had the pleasure of visiting all the sites; and many more might do so if they could just get a sneak peek at what exciting features await them at each venue.

With that in mind,

the conference's Camping & Retreat Ministries program has developed professionally produced videos of each campsite and made them available on their respective websites. Also newly produced is a general Camp & Retreat Centers video now viewable on the Conference website.

Each video is about 3 minutes long and provides a snapshot of many great settings and programs available to campers. The 4½-minute general camp video that showcases all four sites can be found on the Camp & Retreat Ministries section of the conference website.

And by the way, three of our Camp & Retreat Centers are celebrating major milestone anniversaries this year. Innabah is 90 years young; Gretna Glen is 70 years younger; and Carson Simpson has been serving families and children in its region for an impressive 100 years!

Come visit and celebrate with all of them and with Pocono Plateau, too, during this summer.

2019 Summer Camp dates:

- Camp Innabah: June 23 – August 9
- Gretna Glen: June 16 – August 2
- Carson-Simpson Farm: starts June 17
- Pocono Plateau: June 23 – August 11



Conference youth events spur ministry on the move

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN

Members of the Eastern PA Conference Council on Youth Ministry, led by the Rev. David Piltz, conference Coordinator of Young People's Ministries, have had a very busy, very mobile year, with major events to attend nearly every other month. And they literally have miles to go before they're done.

With new leaders and members on board, the energetic young crew began 2019 as they do every year—by journeying southeast to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference's annual Youth Rally, Jan. 4-6, at the convention center in Ocean City, MD. They joined over 3,000 other enthusiastic youth and adult leaders there, including 232 youth and 93 adults from 20 Eastern PA churches. They enjoyed interactive worship and witnessing through creative speeches, sermons, skits and songs, along with fun, friendship-building activities.

The CCYM members then planned their own fourth annual Youth Rally for March 16, trekking north to Wesley UMC in Bethlehem. There, uplifting songs and thought-provoking dramatic

skits, written and performed by professional actors, plus contests and other activities enlivened the sprawling sanctuary, under the gaze of Jesus Christ's radiant stained-glass figure.

About a hundred attentive youth heard compelling testimonies from speakers that included former NFL star Lee Woodall and Christian rock guitarist and songwriter Barry Benedita. Both shared dynamic life-lessons on the rally's challenging, Scripture-based theme, "*Easier Said than Done: Living as a Christian in a World that is Not Christian*" (1 John 2:15).

The skits and ensuing dialogues addressed bullying, violence, trauma, peer pressure, low self-esteem and other struggles many young people deal with daily. An altar call ended the half-day rally, inviting youth to accept or affirm Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Second Youth Diversity Retreat at Gretna Glen

In May it was "Go west, young people," as they traveled to scenic Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center near Lebanon, for their second annual Youth Diversity Retreat, May 3-5. Nearly 20 diverse youth, all 6th to 12th-graders, many of them already forging friendships through CCYM, drew closer as they shared candid thoughts and emotions guided by Piltz and other adult counselors.

The weekend was full of mind and heart-opening experiences like the Privilege Walk and the dynamic simulation exercise, Archie Bunker's Neighborhood. Honest dialogues, using respectful communication principles, explored various forms of diversity, including race, gender, class, physical and mental ability, family background, language, musical tastes and sexuality.

Moreover, the youth wrestled



with challenges like being seen as different and inferior, seeking acceptance but fearing rejection, vulnerability, self-esteem, gossip, bullying and honesty.

Of course, there was also lots of recreation—including rambunctious rounds of Gaga—and plenty of just "hanging out." But Sunday morning's closing worship experience ignited a spiritual unburdening for some of the youth, Piltz reported, as tearful expressions poured forth, and youth connected with one another in communal fellowship.

"It was a powerful experience for the

youth, said Piltz, who is also a local pastor, a marriage and family therapist, and UM campus minister for Drexel University's Open Door Christian Community.

Conference Youth Ministry relies on transportation

Many of the youth come to CCYM meetings and events from as far West as Lancaster, often driven by Associate Coordinator of Youth Ministries Jezerel Gutierrez. Others come from as

far East as Levittown, where Piltz lives and provides transportation. Indeed, he says, transportation may be the biggest challenge in coordinating youth ministry, especially conference-wide. But the broadened perspectives, interactions and experiences youth gain make it worth the trouble.

"After doing 25 years of this, it is retreats like this one that keep me going in youth ministry," Piltz shared. "It is inspiring to know that youth are willing to learn and grow in their faith in God."

Continued on page 14--YOUTH.

Easier Said Than Done!

"Living as a Christian in a Non-Christian World"

March 16, 2019



WCA--continued from page 4.

in our going out," said Boyette. "I pray for those who have a different vision of our church. I don't pray that God will smite them or change their minds. I pray that God will fulfill His purposes, and that He will correct in me anything that is contrary to His will."

The WCA must focus, he said, on "encouraging those who persevere in this tough time." He offered some other goals for the association, including:

- planting new churches and revitalizing declining, small-membership churches;
- having a "strengthened global connection" so that U.S. churches can support and benefit from churches in Africa that are "alive and growing";
- empowering local churches more as decision-making missional centers, while reducing the role and "idolatry" of the larger institution and general agencies;
- reducing bishops' administrative

influence and connectional responsibilities beyond their assigned areas;

- increasing the active leadership role of laity; and
- offering more affordable ways for laity to pursue ministry as local and ordained pastors, including a shift in funding theological education away from seminaries and directly to students.



Krystl Johnson

Other speakers at the regional WCA seminar included Krystl Johnson, a young adult lay member of St. Daniel's UMC in Chester and a delegate to the 2016 and 2019 General conferences. Creatively using social media references, she offered a message of adherence to orthodoxy and vital evangelism in "A Millennial's Vision of a Global Church."

(Johnson will address the Laity Session of the 2019 Eastern PA Annual Conference June 13.)

The Rev. Beth Caulfield, who leads the WCA's work in the Greater New Jersey Conference, spoke on "Recovering a Vision for Wesleyan Holiness." She emphasized the importance of defending traditional beliefs and doctrinal standards against the popularity of contemporary culture.

The Rev. John Longmire and Tom Clingan of Hempfield UMC in Lancaster proposed a WCA global mission partnership with a children's ministry in Kenya. The Rev. Scott McDermott, Washington Crossing UMC's lead pastor, preached at the opening worship, and Bishop Peggy Johnson greeted the assembly and welcomed guests.

Workshops, led by Eastern PA members, focused on "Reimagining Wesleyan Discipleship" (by Keith Buckbee), "Ministry with the Sexually Broken" (by Elizabeth Santos Fisher) and "Funding the Next Methodism(s)" (by Jack Brooks).

Steering clear of controversy

DiPaolo, pastor of First UMC Lancaster, organized and emceed the daylong event, which drew about 125 attendees. He also hosts a small, monthly gathering of about 20-30 WCA members at his church on first Saturdays.

"We're trying to steer clear of controversy, but a lot of people are still holding back" he observed. "I want to see us focus on doing good ministry."

Like Boyette, DiPaolo, also a delegate to the 2016 and 2019 General conferences, sees eventual schism ahead in the UMC, although that is not his preference. "It seems like we've been pulling the cart in opposite directions for so long, we've just about pulled it apart."

He hopes a negotiated dissolution happens peacefully before relations between traditionalists and centrists and progressives becomes so "brutal and nasty" that the rancor ruins any chance of cooperation around UMCOR, clergy pensions and other areas of ministry that should transcend ideology.

Conference extends its commitment to help Puerto Rico

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN

The Eastern PA Conference is living up to its 2018 campaign commitment to “Help Puerto Rico Rise Again!” Our third Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team heads there June 15 to donate collected hurricane recovery funds and skilled labor. Both are greatly needed and appreciated by the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR).

Churches of the Eastern PA and Peninsula-Delaware conferences raised over \$22,000 together so far this year, and the Mid-Atlantic UM Foundation added a \$10,000 challenge grant, for a total of \$32,030. Clergy of the two Philadelphia Area conferences brought many of their donations to their joint Lenten Day Apart event, held March 4 at Aldersgate UMC in Wilmington.

Bishop Hector Ortiz, leader of the

MCPR, was there to thank them, report on the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria in late 2017, update them on the slow progress of recovery, and then join them for worship.

“Thanks to all who have prayed and worked so hard to raise this much-needed money. And thanks also to the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for its generous donation,” said Bishop Peggy Johnson. “We are doing the work of God and being Christ’s hands and feet in mission here we are needed most.”

The third Eastern PA Conference VIM team, led by the Rev. Nicolas Camacho, will deliver the funds to the MCPR when it arrives in Puerto Rico June 15. The donation will help restore a badly damaged home, whose owners, like many others, did not qualify for federal assistance through FEMA.

A native of Puerto Rico and an assistant pastor at West Lawn UMC in Reading, Camacho led the conference’s

first VIM team to the island in November 2018 to help rehabilitate another home that suffered severe damage from the storm. He also delivered then nearly \$100,000 that our

conference had raised all year in its ongoing recovery aid campaign.

A second Eastern PA Conference VIM team, also composed of clergy and laity from various churches, traveled there to work from March 30 to April 6.

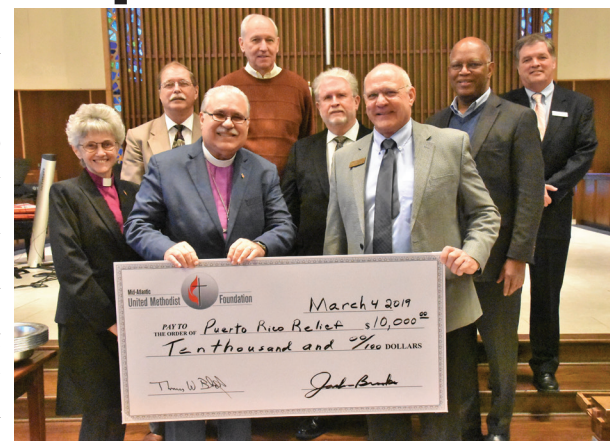
Scott Szoke, also of West Lawn UMC, led that seven-member team representing four churches. The Rev. David Harris, pastor of First UMC Palmyra, and his wife Penny Harris, joined Szoke, along with the Rev. Elaine Bortman, pastor of Ranck’s UMC in New Holland, and Robin Miller, Cheryl Lynne Feldman and Leonard Font, all from Pocono Lake UMC.

“We worked on two houses, repairing and replacing doors, windows and molded paneling, among other tasks” said Szoke, a carpenter and experienced VIM team leader. “We didn’t know each other; but we became closer by working together each day and sharing in conversations each night about ourselves, our personal journeys and how we came to know Christ. We learned we had a lot in common.”

While few on the team were skilled in doing building repairs, “it was probably the best mission trip I’ve been on when it comes to building camaraderie,” said Szoke.

Camacho will lead another, 12-member team there Nov. 9-16 to work on two homes in Camuy, located in the northwest. The team will include three returning members of his first team and several members from two of our conference’s Latino churches: Nuevo Creacion (New Creation) UMC in Lancaster and Espiritu Santo (Holy Spirit) UMC in Philadelphia.

Camacho is also recruiting volunteers for more VIM teams to go in 2020 to further assist the MCPR’s extensive



Steve Szoke (left) and Nick Camacho



Scott Szoke and his March VIM team in Puerto Rico enjoy a meal in the dining hall of Campamento Cumbres del Calvario, the Methodist camp where many teams lodge. Photo by Robin Miller

church and community restoration efforts. FEMA projects that full recovery may take up to 10 years.

Szoke has agreed to lead another team next March. More volunteers, especially those with building construction skills, are direly needed.

Team members pay much of the roughly \$900 per-person cost for their mission trips (for airfare, food, lodging and contribution to gas). But some churches provide financial assistance. Meanwhile, the conference’s Connec-tional Ministries Office pays for each person’s liability insurance, about \$35.

“On these trips we work hard, but we have a lot of joy and fun as well,” Camacho assures his teams, who receive lodging and hospitality at MCPR camps.

“Though Hurricane Maria was nearly two years ago, we know there is still much work to do for a full recovery,” said Bishop Johnson, who plans to join a VIM team there in early 2020. “We will continue to support our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico.”

Note: Several Eastern PA churches have also sent mission teams and dollars to Puerto Rico but not as part of the conference’s VIM ministry. And many donors have given to help Puerto Rico directly through UMCOR.

YOUTH--continued from page 13.

In July, CCYM’s busy year on the road continues with another journey—this time to Youth 2019 (<https://youth2019.com>) in Kansas City Mo., July 10-14. Piltz and Bishop Peggy Johnson are both on the convocation schedule as guest presenters. And he and Jezerel plan to take 13 youth with them.

“We are driving and still working on logistics,” he said, hoping to rent a 15-passenger van for the 18-hour, 1,142-mile road-trip. He asks for prayers not only for the journey but for the funds to cover it.

“It may be the most challenging adventure I have undertaken in 25 years of youth ministry,” said Piltz. “So miracles have to happen!”

Read more of David Piltz’s reflections on the Youth Diversity Retreat.

The Youth Diversity Retreats were first envisioned by Camp & Retreat Ministries board member Carlen Blackstone, who helped plan and lead the ones in 2018 and 2019. They are profound learning experiences that deserve a larger



attendance. Piltz urges more youth ministers to attend and bring their young people to future Diversity Retreats. He writes:

It was a powerful experience for the youth. Meaningful simulations were used to experience the effects of culture, oppression and power, and how they

continue today in our daily lives, as well as behaviors each person can choose to combat injustice and embrace diversity.”

Listening with deep intent was stressed and empathy was taught as a skill in holding the challenging discussions. A safe environment was created for all, and youth were empowered to share their experiences.

And then something amazing and incredible happened. Vulnerability occurred, and youth shared their deepest areas of brokenness in navigating life and the emotional chaos life can create. As youth shared and were vulnerable, other youth supported them, along with the adult leaders.

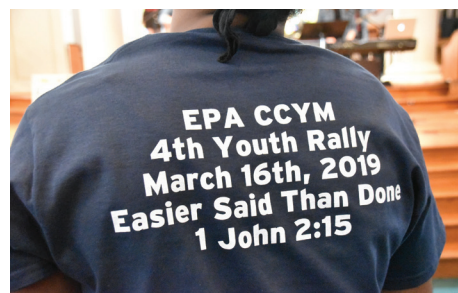
Diversity is a challenging topic to discuss; and the youth embraced the conversations and grew from the experience. Part of the experience was having a adult youth leader join the group who was interested in holding similar

discussions with her church youth group. Her energy and insight were a blessing to the group, as was all the adult leaders.

I am thankful for the adults who joined us—including Carlen Blackstone, the Rev. Anita Powell and Jezerel Gutierrez—giving up a weekend to help lead this experience. They were a positive, inspiring influence in the lives of our youth.

After 25 years, it is retreats like this one that keeps me going in youth ministry. It is inspiring to know that youth are willing to learn and grow in their faith in God.

—Rev. David Piltz



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Conference 2018 giving exceeds budget, spending down

Eastern PA Conference churches gave over \$3.5 million (\$3,545,769) to the Connectional Ministries Fund (CMF) in 2018. That amount was \$345,000 more than budgeted and \$204,000 more than in 2017.

Conference expenses reached \$2.6 million (\$2,624,706), which was \$323,000 less than budgeted

and \$293,000 less than 2017.

Local churches paid \$14.87 million, or 88%, of the \$16.78 million total billed to all churches. That performance is close to the prior year when local churches paid \$16.07 million, 90%, of the \$17.67 million total billed amount.

For the three apportioned funds—CMF, World Service

Fund and General Church Fund—total giving in 2018 was \$5.45 million or 82% of the total budget. That percentage is down 3% from 2017, when total giving was \$5.61 million or 85% of the budget.

All figures reported here are unaudited.

North District

Church #	Church Name	2018 Budget	2018 Paid	%
185980	Ackermanville	42,045	42,045	100.0%
060207	Allentown: Asbury	167,333	116,913	69.9%
186027	Allentown: Emmanuel	28,438	17,845	62.8%
186040	Allentown: La Trinidad	20,650	20,650	100.0%
186038	Allentown: Salem	51,739	51,739	100.0%
060220	Analomink	6,170	6,170	100.0%
187157	Aristes: Zion	5,111	1,278	25.0%
187283	Ash Grove	16,682	13,902	83.3%
179306	Ashland: First UMC/Presby.	9,389	5,711	60.8%
179842	Audenried-Jeanesville	3,711	3,711	100.0%
060264	Bangor: First	51,107	51,107	100.0%
185147	Barnesville: Bethany	4,660	4,660	100.0%
060286	Belfast: Wesley	5,630	5,630	100.0%
185854	Berne: Salem-Berne	9,341	9,341	100.0%
060275	Bethlehem: Epworth	45,026	45,026	100.0%
060322	Bethlehem: Fritz	27,387	27,387	100.0%
186084	Bethlehem: Korean	19,908	19,908	100.0%
060344	Bethlehem: Wesley	114,367	68,304	59.7%
179534	Black Creek	42,180	42,180	100.0%
061736	Blakeslee	7,958	7,958	100.0%
185240	Bowmanstown: Faith Alive	88,265	88,265	100.0%
060402	Bushkill	9,599	9,599	100.0%
060424	Canadensis	14,047	14,047	100.0%
060468	Chapman Quarries	31,332	30,770	98.2%
060218	Cherry Lane	13,740	13,740	100.0%
060504	Cherry Valley	46,333	40,384	87.2%
187294	Clark's Grove	39,619	39,619	100.0%
185898	Coaldale	4,859	4,859	100.0%
179523	Conyngham	19,000	19,000	100.0%
062445	Cumbola	3,555	3,555	100.0%
185238	Danielsville: Salem	8,572	8,572	100.0%
067414	Donaldson	3,275	3,275	100.0%
185774	Drehersville: Salem	3,680	0	0.0%
179556	Drums: St. Paul's	17,130	5,342	31.2%
060606	East Bangor	43,198	43,198	100.0%
060708	East Stroudsburg	114,523	114,523	100.0%
060685	Easton: Christ	26,234	0	0.0%
060628	Easton: Green Pond	57,693	57,693	100.0%
061838	Effort	50,511	40,866	80.9%
179625	Elysburg	17,569	17,542	99.8%
186448	Emerald: St. Peter's	22,637	22,637	100.0%
062480	Frackville: First	49,290	49,290	100.0%
062503	Gilberton	6,108	0	0.0%
062525	Girardville	3,762	3,762	100.0%
179682	Gordon: Simpson	12,052	12,052	100.0%
062560	Hamburg: Bethany	12,446	10,928	87.8%
2215	Hazleton Enlarged Ministry	1,277	0	0.0%
179727	Hazleton: Diamond	14,638	6,285	42.9%
186142	Hellertown: St. Paul	20,424	20,424	100.0%
179820	Irish Valley	5,964	2,283	38.3%
060823	Jim Thorpe: Grace-St. Paul	38,224	38,224	100.0%
067436	Joliett: First	4,381	4,381	100.0%
179864	Kulpmont	5,981	5,981	100.0%
171141	Landingville: Welcome	4,718	4,718	100.0%
179636	Lattimer	5,482	5,482	100.0%
185433	Lehigh: Ebenezer	8,463	8,463	100.0%
185785	Lewistown Valley: Calvary Evangelical	6,589	6,589	100.0%
062662	Llewellyn	3,616	3,616	100.0%
062684	Mahanoy City: First	19,987	11,148	55.8%
061851	McMichaels	15,112	10,626	70.3%
180293	Millers Crossroads	17,855	17,855	100.0%
062707	Minersville	6,113	6,113	100.0%
186062	Moore Twp.: Covenant	53,828	53,828	100.0%

180065	Mount Carmel: First	18,599	18,599	100.0%
061007	Mountainhome	49,839	49,839	100.0%
061020	Mt. Pocono	62,623	62,623	100.0%
060537	Neola	15,659	12,457	79.6%
061042	Nesquehoning: Meed's Memorial	9,100	9,100	100.0%
185796	New Ringgold: Zion	4,006	0	0.0%
183924	Nuremberg: Bethany	6,414	6,414	100.0%
179614	Oak Grove	8,369	7,392	88.3%
185604	Orwigsburg: Salem	47,252	47,252	100.0%
186255	Palmerton: Salem	8,416	7,163	85.1%
185637	Paradise Valley: Keokee Chapel	7,153	7,153	100.0%
061122	Pen Argyl: Grace	83,067	81,816	98.5%
187330	Pine Grove: St. Paul	12,506	12,506	100.0%
061725	Pocono Lake	42,819	17,051	39.8%
060550	Poplar Valley	9,533	9,533	100.0%
063427	Port Carbon: First	7,693	7,693	100.0%
185615	Port Carbon: Grace	5,300	5,300	100.0%
185672	Pottsville: Evangelical	12,383	12,383	100.0%
063484	Pottsville: First	31,723	31,723	100.0%
185158	Quakake: Ebenezer	3,907	3,907	100.0%
063507	Quakertown	68,345	68,345	100.0%
061873	Reeders	48,472	46,764	96.5%
185808	Reynolds: Zion's	2,597	0	0.0%
061782	Richmond	15,216	15,216	100.0%
183913	Ringtown: Aurand Memorial	9,711	9,711	100.0%
063666	Saint Clair-Wade	9,967	9,967	100.0%
185991	Saylorsburg: St. Peter's	13,815	13,815	100.0%
185821	Schuylkill Haven: Covenant	9,813	9,813	100.0%
063688	Schuylkill Haven: First	73,889	73,889	100.0%
187432	Shamokin: Emmanuel	7,857	6,877	87.5%
187410	Shamokin: First	19,115	19,115	100.0%
187421	Shamokin: St. John's	24,575	24,575	100.0%
187443	Shamokin: Zion	4,203	4,153	98.8%
185843	Shoemakersville: Salem	22,714	22,404	98.6%
061862	Slatedale: Salem	5,847	0	0.0%
061884	Stroudsburg	63,752	63,752	100.0%
060242	Stroudsburg: Faith	28,624	28,624	100.0%
061907	Summit Hill	5,766	5,766	100.0%
063768	Tamaqua: First	22,401	12,247	54.7%
061964	Tobyhanna	19,170	15,773	82.3%
187341	Tremont: St. John's	5,792	5,792	100.0%
180420	Trevorton	8,683	8,683	100.0%
180464	Weatherly: Centenary	7,699	7,699	100.0%
171106	Wescosville: Bethany	322,137	322,137	100.0%
180486	White Haven	15,926	15,926	100.0%
179875	Wilburton	3,853	1,604	41.6%
062046	Wind Gap: First	5,885	2,662	45.2%
060253	Wooddale	15,456	15,456	100.0%
183935	Zion Grove: Davis Chapel	4,516	4,516	100.0%

South District

Church #	Church Name	2018 Budget	2018 Paid	%
065803	Ardmore	69,922	69,922	100.0%
064001	Avondale	13,336	11,720	87.9%
065882	Berwyn	94,764	68,441	72.2%
062308	Bethel	53,601	53,601	100.0%
185160	Birdsboro: Christ	8,415	8,415	100.0%
065368	Booth's Corner: Siloam	24,839	24,839	100.0%

186095	Broomall: Christ	27,278	27,278	100.0%
064045	Broomall: St. Mark's	57,227	57,227	100.0%
065940	Bryn Mawr: St. Luke	70,460	70,460	100.0%
062365	Cedarville	91,708	91,708	100.0%
065962	Charlestown	9,471	9,471	100.0%
064080	Chatham	21,544	21,544	100.0%
963770	Chester: Grace Community	21,748	11,068	50.9%
963781	Chester: Siloam	218	0	0.0%
963792	Chester: St. Daniel's	66,470	46,775	70.4%
064182	Chester: Trinity	18,473	16,283	88.1%
064227	Clifton Heights	15,822	15,822	100.0%
066022	Coatesville: Olivet	80,580	60,354	74.9%
064240	Cochranville	14,583	13,824	94.8%
066066	Coventryville	59,889	59,889	100.0%
064342	Darby: Mt. Zion	16,229	7,503	46.2%
963804	Darby: Union Memorial	10,125	1,144	11.3%
063462	Douglassville: Hope	39,366	18,082	45.9%
066102	Downingtown	65,899	65,899	100.0%
064364	Drexel Hill	71,850	71,850	100.0%
065426	Drexel Hill: New Life	39,585	17,603	44.5%
064400	Eddystone	9,533	9,533	100.0%
064422	Elam	130,174	130,174	100.0%
066124	Elverson	56,274	56,274	100.0%
062467	Evansburg	13,423	13,423	100.0%
061771	Exton	71,369	71,369	100.0%
185205	Faith Community	5,936	5,936	100.0%
185295	Fleetwood: Emmanuel	16,733	9,855	58.9%
066352	Fremont: Union	4,428	4,428	100.0%
064502	Friendship	15,281	15,281	100.0%
067301	Geigertown: St. Paul's	43,500	43,500	100.0%
066204	Glen Moore	17,635	17,635	100.0%
066226	Goodwill	12,190	6,615	54.3%
064546	Gradyville	5,319	5,319	100.0%
066248	Grove	135,465	135,465	100.0%
064568	Hamorton	10,552	10,552	100.0%
066283	Harmony	15,044	15,044	100.0%
064706	Havertown: Hope	52,223	20,904	40.0%
065927	Havertown: Union	72,764	72,764	100.0%
066341	Hibernia	25,919	25,919	100.0%
063564	Holy Cross: Reading	87,769	87,769	100.0%
066385	Hopewell	305,660	305,660	100.0%
064581	Kemblesville	51,584	6,204	12.0%
065153	Kennett: Church of the Open Door	44,406	14,802	33.3%
064604	Landenberg	25,608	22,559	88.1%
064626	Lansdowne: Trinity	31,624	9,334	29.5%
064648	Lansdowne Lima	74,657	74,657	100.0%
185455	Lincoln Park: Community	76,966	76,966	100.0%
064661	Linwood Heights	34,327	24,607	71.7%
064728	Marcus Hook: Cokesbury	9,625	9,625	100.0%
064763	Marshallton	55,510	55,510	100.0%
064808	Media: First	57,658	56,374	97.8%
064160	Middletown: Christ	20,735	20,735	100.0%
185513	Mohnton: Calvary	79,231	79,231	100.0%
186222	Mont Clare: Otterbein	16,355	16,355	100.0%
064843	Mount Hope	144,881	144,881	100.0%
066784	Nantmeal	7,104	7,104	100.0%
064901	New London	13,653	13,653	100.0%
061634	NorthStar	10,628	10,628	100.0%
064923	Norwood	54,782	54,782	100.0%
064945	Oxford	53,628	53,628	100.0%

066842	Paoli	86,872	73,332	84.4%
066864	Parkesburg	38,572	38,572	100.0%
064980	Phila.: Berry-Long Memorial	22,873	2,000	8.7%
962753	Phila.: Camphor Memorial	44,046	14,811	33.6%
065027	Phila.: Clearview	9,001	9,001	100.0%
065038	Phila.: Eastwick	43,364	24,373	56.2%
065142	Phila.: Sayers Memorial	51,904	24,419	47.0%
067004	Phila.: Simpson-Fletcher	11,210	11,210	100.0%
065005	Phila.: Univer. City, Calvary	39,387	39,387	100.0%
962811	Phila.: Wharton-Wesley	43,332	18,336	42.3%
063405	Phoenixville: First	123,575	123,575	100.0%
067243	Pomeroy	5,745	5,745	100.0%
063440	Pottstown: First	29,758	29,758	100.0%
186392	Pottstown: Salem	8,815	8,815	100.0%
065244	Prospect Park: Prospect	25,455	25,455	100.0%
067265	Radnor	16,893	16,893	100.0%
063542	Reading: Grace	7,740	7,740	100.0%
185730	Reading: St. Matthews	8,296	8,296	100.0%
065288	Ridley Park	25,504	25,504	100.0%
065302	Romansville	15,840	15,840	100.0%
063644	Royersford	75,735	75,735	100.0%
065415	Springfield: C.C. Hancock Memorial	24,960	19,173	76.8%
065404	Springfield: Covenant	145,385	145,385	100.0%
066727	St. Peter's: Mount Carmel	14,631	14,631	100.0%
065461	Swarthmore	51,300	51,300	100.0%
063781	Temple	9,971	9,971	100.0%
067380	Thorndale	50,656	50,656	100.0%
065483	Thornton: Bethlehem	144,499	53,676	37.1%
065506	Trainer	14,489	14,489	100.0%
067447	Valley Forge	18,872	18,872	100.0%
067141	Valley Forge: St. Matthew's	98,123	80,435	82.0%
067482	Wayne	175,096	175,096	100.0%
065563	West Chester	132,518	132,518	100.0%
186005	West Chester: El Buen Samaritano	25,590	25,590	100.0%
065585	West Grove	95,491	95,491	100.0%
064570	West Grove: Cristo Rey	8,219	837	10.2%
185945	West Lawn	203,560	203,560	100.0%
065552	Willistown	36,037	36,037	100.0%

East District

Church #	Church Name	2018 Budget	2018 Paid	%
062263	Ambler: Calvary	47,103	40,707	86.4%
060300	Bensalem	62,101	62,101	100.0%
060914	Bensalem: Korean	26,501	26,501	100.0%
062321	Bethel Hill	75,997	75,997	100.0%
060366	Bristol: First	24,669	18,102	73.4%
060388	Bristol: Harriman	22,844	22,844	100.0%
062387	Chalfont	45,741	25,147	55.0%
062401	Conshohocken	43,810	43,810	100.0%
060526	Cornwells Heights: Cornwells	15,446	15,446	100.0%
060548	Croydon: Wilkinson Memorial	12,312	7,759	63.0%
060583	Doylestown	156,430	156,430	100.0%
186131	Fairless Hills: Christ	73,573	73,573	100.0%
060743	Fairless Hills: First	53,234	45,830	86.1%
060765	Fallsington	14,608	14,608	100.0%
062547	Glenside: Lighthouse Fellowship	60,729	60,729	100.0%
061678	Glenside: Lighthouse Korean	14,965	14,965	100.0%
062582	Hatboro: Lehman Memorial	130,270	130,270	100.0%
060787	Hulmeville: Neshamony	11,897	6,060	50.9%

060801	Huntingdon Valley	74,574	74,574	100.0%
060721	Ivylnd: St. John's	85,528	85,528	100.0%
062638	Jarrettown	98,639	98,639	100.0%
062627	Jenkintown	25,772	9,000	34.9%
062285	Lafayette Hill: Messiah	49,640	49,640	100.0%
060845	Lahaska	9,093	9,093	100.0%
060867	Langhorne	81,504	71,581	87.8%
186472	Lansdale: Christ	108,514	108,514	100.0%
062640	Lansdale: First	104,252	104,252	100.0%
060925	Levittown: Emilie	91,582	41,086	44.9%
062720	Montgomery Square	26,160	26,160	100.0%
060982	Morrisville	83,351	83,351	100.0%
062354	New Berlinville: St. Andrew	57,026	57,026	100.0%
066795	New Hanover	191,745	191,745	100.0%
061086	Newtown	56,816	52,083	91.7%
062786	Norristown: Asbury	46,320	46,320	100.0%
062800	Norristown: Haws Avenue	39,669	17,795	44.9%
062822	North Wales: Sanctuary	84,924	84,924	100.0%
061144	Penns Park	7,651	1,600	20.9%
186277	Perkasie: First	37,688	25,872	68.6%
064967	Phila.: Arch Street	83,437	83,437	100.0%
061166	Phila.: Bethesda	7,882	3,287	41.7%
061111	Phila.: Bickley's New Beginning	19,239	16,739	87.0%
061202	Phila.: Bridesburg	10,799	10,799	100.0%
062866	Phila.: Chestnut Hill	15,530	7,800	50.2%
061235	Phila.: Church Good Shepherd	43,048	43,048	100.0%
061246	Phila.: Church of The Redeemer	26,458	5,625	21.3%
186302	Phila.: Crescentville	22,371	22,371	100.0%
066944	Phila.: Devereux Memorial	20,664	17,753	85.9%
063154	Phila.: El Mesias	12,327	9,251	75.1%
962775	Phila.: Emmanuel	32,356	12,787	39.5%
186335	Phila.: Espiritu Santo	21,757	9,853	45.3%
061348	Phila.: FGM: Frankford Memorial	36,271	36,271	100.0%
962786	Phila.: FGM: St. Thomas	23,517	3,419	14.5%
061304	Phila.: Fox Chase	32,261	18,747	58.1%
062981	Phila.: Germantown, First	172,902	151,894	87.8%
063085	Phila.: Grace	54,949	45,740	83.2%
067083	Phila.: Green Lane	30,472	22,470	73.7%
962800	Phila.: Haven Peniel	36,364	12,091	33.2%
061406	Phila.: Holmesburg	17,149	3,884	22.6%
962797	Phila.: Janes Memorial	58,384	24,859	42.6%
061428	Phila.: Johnson Memorial	23,373	18,551	79.4%
063121	Phila.: Kensington (Old Brick)	11,110	10,621	95.6%
063280	Phila.: Mid-Town Parish	20,682	20,682	100.0%
962877	Phila.: Mother African Zoar	28,391	28,391	100.0%
962822	Phila.: Mount Zion	52,908	41,428	78.3%
060140	Phila.: New Vision	51,906	9,153	17.6%
067106	Phila.: Roxborough, Ridge Avenue	17,574	17,574	100.0%
060162	Phila.: Servants of Christ	26,268	10,168	38.7%
061623	Phila.: Somerton	46,131	38,548	83.6%
065107	Phila.: St. George's	52,363	43,636	83.3%
061565	Phila.: St. James	20,660	0	0.0%
061587	Phila.: St. Philip's	15,493	2,460	15.9%
063325	Phila.: Summerfield/Siloam	69,440	69,440	100.0%
962866	Phila.: Tindley Temple	58,592	10,506	17.9%
962855	Phila.: Trinity	34,223	31,371	91.7%
061703	Phila.: Wissinoming	13,190	13,190	100.0%
060652	Pipersville: Rolling Hills	11,171	7,809	69.9%
062855	Prospectville: First Korean of Phila	22,219	8,095	36.4%

061840	Scottsville	56,963	56,963	100.0%
061064	Solebury	16,024	9,522	59.4%
186153	Springtown: Salem	14,654	13,579	92.7%
186450	Telford: Grace	38,416	38,416	100.0%
061986	Trevose	21,390	0	0.0%
962651	Trevose: St. Matthew	14,010	11,395	81.3%
186461	Warminster: St. Andrews	50,742	50,742	100.0%
062764	Warrington: St. Paul's	73,720	73,720	100.0%
062024	Washington Crossing	193,199	193,199	100.0%
063804	Willow Grove	65,914	55,886	84.8%
186164	Woxall: Tabor	74,514	52,128	70.0%
062068	Yardley	80,020	80,020	100.0%
186200	Zionsville: Salem	7,370	7,370	100.0%

West District

Church #	Church Name	2018 Budget	2018 Paid	%
185136	Akron: Mt. Zion	15,146	15,146	100.0%
186483	Annaville	50,060	50,060	100.0%
187215	Annaville: Kauffman's	8,963	8,963	100.0%
186494	Avon: Zion	18,749	9,374	50.0%
064023	Bainbridge: Ludwig	12,861	12,856	100.0%
187204	Bellegrove	9,626	5,615	58.3%
064876	Bethesda	22,270	22,270	100.0%
065905	Bird-in-Hand	17,223	9,218	53.5%
185171	Brownstown: Emmanuel	17,670	17,670	100.0%
185193	Brunnerville	11,444	11,444	100.0%
186530	Campbelltown	26,277	26,277	100.0%
065984	Christiana	15,732	15,732	100.0%
066000	Churchtown	7,238	7,238	100.0%
064205	Clearfield	10,295	10,295	100.0%
186585	Cleona: Immanuel	50,694	50,694	100.0%
065313	Colemanville	53,202	53,202	100.0%
064307	Columbia	65,409	65,409	100.0%
065335	Conestoga	35,518	17,131	48.2%
066044	Cornwall	74,284	74,284	100.0%
185251	Denver: Trinity	16,648	16,648	100.0%
185262	Elizabethtown: St. Paul's	120,250	120,250	100.0%
185273	Ephrata: First	147,626	147,626	100.0%
185284	Ephrata: Hope	53,067	53,067	100.0%
186871	Falmouth	8,438	8,438	100.0%
186940	Fredericksburg	14,753	14,093	95.5%
066168	Georgetown	13,995	13,995	100.0%
185876	Green Hill	7,302	4,868	66.7%
185318	Hempfield	200,569	169,109	84.3%
185320	Highville	5,143	4,833	94.0%
066363	Honey Brook	19,029	19,029	100.0%
185331	Hopeland	80,979	80,979	100.0%
186517	Indiantown Gap: Emmanuel	39,249	36,363	92.6%
185342	Intercourse	7,599	7,599	100.0%
186927	Iona: Zion	27,306	27,306	100.0%
185364	Ironville	42,916	37,784	88.0%
186938	Jonestown	41,709	41,709	100.0%
187408	Kleinfeltersville: Trinity	11,115	11,115	100.0%
065450	Lampeter	77,887	66,229	85.0%
066421	Lancaster: Christ	26,381	26,381	100.0%
185386	Lancaster: Community	14,846	14,846	100.0%
185397	Lancaster: Covenant	150,526	150,526	100.0%
066443	Lancaster: First	240,378	240,378	100.0%
066465	Lancaster: Grandview	137,071	137,071	100.0%
060105	Lancaster: Nueva Creacion	49,042	49,042	100.0%

185400	Lancaster: Otterbein	53,071	53,071	100.0%
185411	Lancaster: Pearl Street	11,394	7,441	65.3%
066501	Lancaster: Ross Street	13,849	12,961	93.6%
186951	Lebanon: Bethany	18,377	18,377	100.0%
186962	Lebanon: Church of the Good Shepherd	151,235	151,235	100.0%
187011	Lebanon: Covenant	62,226	62,226	100.0%
186995	Lebanon: Ebenezer	30,672	30,672	100.0%
186973	Lebanon: Hebron	44,162	44,162	100.0%
187044	Lebanon: Iglesia Metodista Unida Nuevo N	21,162	3,027	14.3%
186984	Lebanon: Kochenderfer	59,597	59,597	100.0%
171265	Lebanon: Mountville	6,617	6,617	100.0%
187055	Lebanon: St. John's	12,645	3,161	25.0%
187066	Lebanon: St. Luke's	16,716	16,716	100.0%
066545	Lebanon: Trinity	33,487	33,487	100.0%
066567	Leola	66,058	53,424	80.9%
186528	Lickdale: Trinity	33,612	33,612	100.0%
185650	Limeville	20,293	20,293	100.0%
185466	Lititz	127,744	117,967	92.3%
185353	Manheim Township: Faith	42,010	39,349	93.7%
185752	Manheim: Ruhl's	81,712	81,712	100.0%
185477	Manheim: Salem	72,570	72,570	100.0%
064785	Marticville	7,417	7,417	100.0%
185502	Millersville Community	138,014	138,014	100.0%
187135	Milton Grove	10,544	10,544	100.0%
187181	Mount Gretna	41,331	41,331	100.0%
064912	Mount Hope	14,171	6,375	45.0%
066740	Mount Joy: Chiques	40,279	33,449	83.0%
185524	Mount Joy: Glossbrenner	69,441	69,441	100.0%
185535	Mount Joy: St. Mark's	135,951	111,427	82.0%
065073	Mount Nebo	31,569	31,569	100.0%
185546	Mountville: St. Paul's	42,599	42,599	100.0%
187192	Myerstown: Zion	72,599	72,599	100.0%
185661	Narvon: Mt. Zion	16,779	16,779	100.0%
185557	Neffsville: Long Memorial	27,546	15,678	56.9%
185581	New Holland: Evangelical	86,239	38,038	44.1%
066820	New Holland: New Holland	21,729	21,729	100.0%
185683	New Holland: Ranck's	34,350	30,230	88.0%
185592	Newtown	11,023	11,023	100.0%
171323	Ono	77,007	77,007	100.0%
185568	Oregon	6,951	6,951	100.0%
187250	Palmyra: Bethany	16,758	16,758	100.0%
187261	Palmyra: First	85,369	85,369	100.0%
187272	Palmyra: Gravel Hill	92,989	92,989	100.0%
185626	Paradise: St. John's	26,028	26,028	100.0%
064535	Peach Bottom: Mt. Zion	8,860	8,860	100.0%
064557	Pleasant Grove	6,459	6,459	100.0%
065266	Quarryville: Memorial	53,002	53,002	100.0%
064898	Rawlinsville	12,961	12,961	100.0%
187352	Rocherty	20,471	20,471	100.0%
185182	Rothsville: Salem	12,951	5,607	43.3%
065324	Safe Harbor	6,811	6,811	100.0%
187396	Schaefferstown: Zion	7,856	7,201	91.7%
185763	Schooneck: Wiest	12,250	12,250	100.0%
185865	Stehman Memorial	45,378	41,441	91.3%
065448	Strasburg: Wesley	36,703	28,874	78.7%
185901	Terre Hill: St. Paul's	12,063	12,063	100.0%
060377	The Bridge	5,452	5,452	100.0%
067460	Washington Boro	14,385	14,385	100.0%
185956	West Willow	28,152	28,152	100.0%
065608	Willow Street: Boehm's	34,147	34,147	100.0%

Church benefits as partner in conference's Capital Campaign

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN

Faith UMC in Manheim Township, Lititz, welcomed about a hundred worshipers on a recent Sunday, far above its average of 60. The Rev. Jason Perkowski, pastor, attributes that in part to its expanded facility, enlarged for the community's use and with the help of the church's 2013-2016 participation in the Eastern PA Conference's 2013-2018 Fulfilling Our Covenant Capital Campaign.

The church's new Fellowship Hall and Education Wing, a 30-year dream that came true two years ago, was designed with the community in mind, as a hub for local events and activities. Welcoming community events there has brought in not only needed rental dollars but also visitors to church worship services.

"We definitely needed more space," Perkowski said. "We had to set up and tear down the church every time there was wedding or funeral or pancake breakfast." Now they have six classrooms, a welcome center, fellowship

room and a warming kitchen to serve their needs and the community's as well.

The conveniently located new center has accommodated Bible study, Sunday school and VBS classes, popular community breakfasts with Santa and with the Easter Bunny, Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon group meetings, bridal and baby showers and district and church cluster meetings and events. WellSpan Health will host a day camp there next summer for students with autism spectrum disorders.

"We tried to do capital campaigns before; but we were never able to raise enough to get momentum," recalled Perkowski, who came to Faith in 2011 and now serves both Faith and Oregon Community UMCs. "So, we took full advantage of the help the conference campaign consulting firm offered to

raise nearly \$90,000." That help included:

- training in how to run a campaign,



"I deeply appreciate the sacrificial response to the capital campaign and consider it a sign of commitment to our clergy families. It has greatly eased the burden of our unfunded pension liability and we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel for full funding by 2020."

explain the vision and solicit leadership gifts;

- help with pledge letters to and initial meetings with church members;
- processing and mailing pledge fulfillment, reminder and tax deduction letters; and
- enabling electronic giving to the church's campaign.

"Just the fulfillment processing alone was a huge help, and it increased pledges," said Perkowski. "God's timing was

perfect for us. Our success built huge confidence and energy that we needed in this small church. Many didn't think we could do it. But I kept telling them to have faith. We learned that God is more faithful than we often believe at first."

Ten percent of their intake, about \$9,000, went to support the conference's efforts to retire its pre-1982 clergy pensions liability, which was the main purpose of its campaign. The conference raised over \$3 million in its first successful capital campaign

as well.

About \$70,000 of Faith UMC's campaign gifts helped upgrade its sewer line, a crucial need, especially to accommodate the building expansion. And nearly \$10,000 was added to saved funds and a conference loan for construction. The church also invested funds in the conference-affiliated Mid-Atlantic UM Foundation, which supported the capital campaign.

Finally, their new campaign knowledge and confidence inspired Faith's leaders to launch another capital campaign, from 2017 to December 2019, titled Faithfully Forward. They hope to raise \$250,000 to help pay off loans used for their \$775,000 expansion.



Capital Campaign Final Giving Report (as of 4/15/2019)

Church	Total Pledge	Total Paid
Ackermanville, Bangor	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Akron: Mt. Zion, Akron	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
Allentown: Emmanuel, Allentown	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00
Allentown: La Trinidad, Allentown	\$2,101.62	\$2,101.62
Allentown: Salem, Allentown	\$4,850.00	\$4,850.00
Analomink, Analomink	\$1,700.00	\$800.00
Annville, Annville	\$7,250.00	\$7,250.00
Annville: Kauffman's, Annville	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00
Ardmore, Ardmore	\$191,150.00	\$191,150.00
Ash Grove, Paxinos	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00
Ashland: First UMC/Presby., Ashland	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Avon: Zion, Lebanon	\$5,800.00	\$5,800.00
Avondale, Avondale	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00
BalaCynwyd, BalaCynwyd	\$200.00	\$200.00

Church	Total Pledge	Total Paid
Bangor: First, Bangor	\$8,350.00	\$8,350.00
Barnesville: Bethany, Barnesville	\$700.00	\$700.00
Barry: Salem, Gordon	\$2,900.00	\$2,890.00
Bensalem, Bensalem	\$6,850.00	\$6,850.00
Berne: Salem-Berne, Hamburg	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00
Berwyn, Berwyn	\$20,050.00	\$4,350.00
Bethel Hill, Lansdale	\$14,700.00	\$14,700.00
Bethesda, Holtwood	\$6,700.00	\$0.00
Bethlehem: Epworth, Bethlehem	\$8,050.00	\$8,050.00
Bethlehem: Wesley, Bethlehem	\$23,000.00	\$0.00
Bird-in-Hand, Bird -In Hand	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
Black Creek, Sugarloaf	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
Blakeslee, Blakeslee	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00

Church	Total Pledge	Total Paid
Booth's Corner: Siloam, Garnet Valley	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00
Bowmanstown: Faith Alive, Palmerton	\$17,300.00	\$17,300.00
Bristol: First, Bristol	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bristol: Harriman, Bristol	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Broomall: Christ, Broomall	\$2,000.00	\$950.00
Broomall: St. Mark's, Broomall	\$7,100.00	\$7,100.00
Brownstown: Emmanuel, Brownstown	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00
Brunnerville, Lititz	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Bryn Mawr: St. Luke, Bryn Mawr	\$83,800.50	\$70,331.50
Bushkill, Wind Gap	\$3,200.00	\$973.00
Cedarville, Pottstown	\$21,400.00	\$21,400.00
Chalfont, California	\$46,153.96	\$36,098.96
Chapman Quarries, Chapman	\$3,200.00	\$1,655.00
Chatham, West Grove	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
Cherry Lane, Tannersville	\$4,600.00	\$4,600.00
Cherry Valley, Stroudsburg	\$3,450.00	\$3,450.00
Chester: Grace Xommunity, chester	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Chester: St. Daniel's Chester	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Christiana, Christiana	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00
Churxhtown, Narovn	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00
Clark's Grove, Paxinos	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00
Clearfield, New Providence	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Coatesville: Olivet, Coatesville	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00
Cochranville, Cochranville	\$7,650.00	\$7,650.00
Colemanville, Conestoga	\$8,800.20	\$8,800.20
Conestoga, Conestoga	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Cornwall, Cornwall	\$2,418.00	\$2,566.00
Cornwells Heights: Cronwells, Bensale	\$4,550.00	\$4,550.00
Coventryville, Pottstown	\$11,060.00	\$11,060.00
Croydon: Wilkinson Memorial, Croydon	\$2,850.00	\$65.84
Danielsville: Salem, Danielsville	\$200.00	\$200.00
Darby: Union Memorial, Darby	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00
Donaldson, Pine Grove	\$400.00	\$400.00
Douglassville: Hope, Douglassville	\$7,700.00	\$5,000.00
Downingtown, Downingtown	\$69,780.00	\$66,105.00
Doylestown, Doylestown	\$35,600.00	\$35,600.00
Drexel Hill, Drexel Hill	\$67,031.50	\$66,131.50
Drums: ST. Paul's, Drums	\$2,950.00	\$2,950.00
East Bangor, Eat Bangor	\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00
East Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg	\$27,950.00	\$27,950.00
Eastern PA UMC Foundation , XXXXX	\$432,566.24	\$374,804.58
Eddystone, Eddystone	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Effort, Effort	\$33,146.00	\$30,043.00
Elam, Glen Mills	\$18,400.00	\$18,400.00
Elizabethtown: St. Paul's, Elizabethtown	\$34,000.00	\$32,300.00
Elverson, Elverson	\$3,700.00	\$1,433.00

Church	Total Pledge	Total Paid
Elysburg, Elysburg	\$5,200.00	\$4,700.00
Ephrata: First, Ephrata	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Evansburg, Collegville	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
Exton, Exton	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Fairless Hills: Christ, Fairless Hills	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Fairless Hills: First, Fairless Hills	\$6,300.00	\$6,300.00
Fallsington, Fallsington	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00
Frackville: First, Frackville	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Fredericksburg, Fredricksburg	\$3,600.00	\$4,800.00
Freeland: Park, Freeland	\$300.00	\$300.00
Fremont: Union, Nottingham	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Friendship, Coatsville	\$4,400.00	\$4,400.00
Georgetown-Mount Pleasant, Bart	\$2,610.00	\$2,610.00
Girardville, Ashland	\$500.00	\$500.00
Glen Moore, Glenmoore	\$5,000.00	\$4,700.00
Glenside: Lighthouse Fellowship, Gleside	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Glenside: Lighthouse Korean, Gleside	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Goodwill, Elverson	\$1,600.00	\$0.00
Gordon: Simpson, Gordon	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00
Green Pine United Methodist Church	\$9,400.00	\$9,400.00
Grove, West Chester	\$23,050.00	\$23,050.00
Hamorton, Kennett Square	\$3,050.00	\$3,050.00
Harmony, Morgantown	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00
Harboro: Lehman Memorial, Hatboro	\$35,550.00	\$35,550.00
Havertown: Hope, Havertown	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
Havertown: Union, Havetown	\$9,109.81	\$9,109.81
Hazleton: Diamon, Hazleton	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Hempfield, Lancaster	\$27,198.00	\$27,198.00
Hibernia, Coatsville	\$7,450.00	\$7,450.00
Honey Brook, Honey Brook	\$3,050.00	\$3,050.00
Hopeland, Lititz	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hopewell, Downingtown	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Hulmeville: Neshamony, Hulmeville	\$200.00	\$0.00
Huntingdon Valley, Huntingdon Valley	\$9,300.00	\$9,299.94
Indianton Gap: Emmanuel, Annville	\$5,050.00	\$5,050.00
Intercourse, Intercourse	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Irish Valley, Paxinos	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00
Jarrettown, Dresher	\$24,250.00	\$24,250.00
Jim Thorpe: Grac-ST. Paul, Jim Thorpe	\$51,551.00	\$39,666.33
Jonetown, Jonestown	\$7,900.00	\$7,900.00
Kemblesville, Kemblesville	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00
Kennett: Church of the Open Door, Kennett	\$9,750.00	\$6,504.00
Kulpmont, Kulpmont	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Lafayette Hill: Messiah, Lafayette Hill	\$13,200.00	\$6,600.00
Lampeter, Lampeter	\$10,400.00	\$0.00
Lancaster: Christ, Lancaster	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00

Church	Total Pledge	Total Paid
Lancaster: Covenant, Lancaster	\$18,300.00	\$18,300.00
Lancaster: El Redentor and Lancaster: St	\$18,000.00	\$6,276.50
Lancaster: First, Lancaster	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00
Lancaster: Grandview, Lancaster	\$25,450.00	\$25,450.00
Lancaster Otterbein, Lancaster	\$8,350.00	\$665.00
Lancaster: Pearl Street, Lancaster	\$2,120.00	\$2,720.00
Lancaster: Ross Street Lancaster	\$600.00	\$600.00
Landenberg, Landenberg	\$4,450.00	\$2,050.00
Langhorne, Langhorne	\$14,500.00	\$14,500.00
Lansdale: Christ, Lansdale	\$22,600.00	\$19,857.50
Lansdale: First, Lansdale	\$18,800.00	\$18,988.05
Lansdowne: Trinity Lansdowne, Lasdowne	\$4,650.00	\$0.00
Lebanon: Church of the Good Shepherd	\$24,700.00	\$24,700.00
Lebanon: Covenant, Lebanon	\$7,850.00	\$7,850.00
Lebanon: Ebenezer, Lebanon	\$4,350.00	\$2,610.00
Lebanon: Hebron, Lebanon	\$8,700.00	\$8,700.00
Lebanon: Kochenderfer, Lebanon	\$14,450.00	\$14,449.34
Lebanon: St John's, lebanon	\$2,650.00	\$2,650.00
Labanon: Trinity, Lebanon	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Leola, Leola	\$17,700.00	\$12,400.00
Lewistown Valley: Calvary Evangelical	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
Licksdale: Trinity, Jonestown	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Lima, Lima	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Limeville, Gap	\$5,549.50	\$5,549.50
Lincoln Park: Community, Lincoln Park	\$15,262.50	\$15,262.50
Linwood Heights, Linwood	\$5,850.00	\$5,850.00
Lititz, Lititz	\$2,050.00	\$2,050.00
Mahanoy City: First, Mahanoy City	\$1,785.00	\$1,785.00
Manheim Township Cooperative Misnistry	\$91,461.54	\$82,691.54
Manheim: Ruhl's, Manheim	\$16,750.00	\$16,750.00
Manheim: Salem, Manheim	\$16,400.00	\$5,900.00
Marcus Hook: Cokesbury, Marcus Hook	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Marshallton, West Chester	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00
Marticville, Pequea	\$25.00	\$25.00
Media: First, Media	\$10,500.00	\$0.00
Middlewown: Christ, Brookhaven	\$2,050.00	\$2,050.00
Millers Crossroads, Sunbury	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00
Millersville: First, Millersville	\$6,700.00	\$0.00
Millersville: Grace, Millersville	\$28,350.00	\$1,794.00
Milton Grove, Mount Joy	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
Mohnton: Calvary, Mohnton	\$18,100.00	\$18,100.00
Mont Clare: Otterbein, Mont Clare	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Montgomery Square, North Wales	\$5,800.00	\$5,800.00
Moores Twp.: Covenant, Bath	\$11,100.00	\$11,100.00
Morrisville, Morrisville	\$12,250.00	\$4,770.00

Church	Total Pledge	Total Paid
Mount Carmel: First, Mount Carmel	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
Mount Gretna, Mount Gretna	\$3,600.00	\$28,600.00
Mount Hope, Aston	\$28,050.00	\$28,050.00
Mount Joy: Chiques, Mount Joy	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Mount Joy : Glossbrenner, Mount Joy	\$13,550.00	\$13,550.00
Mount Joy: St. Mark's, Mount joy	\$1,500.00	\$300.00
Mount Nebo, Pequea	\$4,550.00	\$4,322.88
Mountainhome, Mountainhome	\$6,850.00	\$6,850.00
Mt Pocono, Mt Pocono	\$7,900.00	\$7,900.00
Myerstown: Zion, Myerstown	\$15,350.00	\$15,350.00
Nantmeal, Glenmoore	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
Narvon: Mt. Zion, Narvon	\$5,350.00	\$5,350.00
Nesquehoning: Meed's Memorial, Nequehoning	\$2,100.00	\$247.00
New Berlinville: St. Andrew, New Berlinville	\$10,550.00	\$6,150.00
New Hanover, Gilbertsville	\$57,250.00	\$57,250.00
New Holland: New Holland, New Holland	\$5,950.00	\$5,950.00
New London, West Grove	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
Newtown, Columbia	\$2,300.00	\$150.00
Newtown, Newtown	\$14,950.00	\$14,949.72
Norristown: Haws Avenue, Norristown	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00
Norwood, Norwood	\$8,100.00	\$8,100.00
Nuremberg: Bethany, Nuremberg	\$850.00	\$850.00
Oak Grove, Shamokin	\$2,950.00	\$2,950.00
Ono, Ono	\$15,550.00	\$18,000.00
Oxford, Oxford	\$8,175.00	\$7,010.00
Palmerton: Salem, Aquashicola	\$1,600.00	\$1,300.00
Palmyra: Bethany, Palmyra	\$100.00	\$100.00
Palmyra: First, Palmyra	\$18,850.00	\$18,850.00
Palmyra: Gravel Hill, Palmyra	\$13,040.25	\$13,040.25
Paoli, Paoli	\$19,050.00	\$19,050.00
Paradise: St. John's, Paradise	\$5,650.00	\$5,650.00
Parkesburg, Parkesburg	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
Peach Bottom: Mt. Zion, Peach Bottom	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Pen Argyl: Grace, Pen Argyl	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Perkasie, Pekasie	\$500.00	\$500.00
Phila.: Arch Street, Philadelphia	\$30,100.00	\$22,600.00
Phila.: Bethesda, Phialadelphia	\$100.00	\$100.00
Phila.: Bickley's New Beginning, Philadelphia	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Phila.: Bridesburg, Philadelphia	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Phila.: Church Good Shepherd Philadelphia	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00
Phila.: Devereux Memorial, Philadelphia	\$2,650.00	\$2,650.00
Phila.: Eastwick, Philadelphia	\$10,300.00	\$13,300.00
Phila.: Emmanuel, Philadelphia	\$25,950.00	\$19,375.00
Phila.: FGM: Frankford Memorial, Philadelphia	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
Phila.: Fox Chase, Philadelphia	\$6,150.00	\$0.00

Church	Total Pledge	Total Paid	Church	Total Pledge	Total Paid
Phila.: Germantown, First, Philadelphia	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	Shamokin: First, Shamonkin	\$3,650.00	\$3,650.00
Phila.: Grace, Philadelphia	\$8,000.00	\$1,604.00	Shamokin: St John's, Coal township	\$4,950.00	\$4,950.00
Phila.; Green Lane, Philadelphia	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	Shamokin Zion, Coal Township	\$950.00	\$950.00
Phila.: Haven Peniel, Philadelphia	\$2,500.00	\$3,025.00	Shenandoah: First, Shenandoah	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00
Phila.: Holmesbrg, Philadelphia	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00	Shoemakersville: Salem, Shoemakersville	\$3,850.00	\$3,850.00
Phila.: Janes Meorial, Philadelphia	\$16,550.00	\$1,550.00	Spring City, Spring City	\$2,475.00	\$2,475.00
Phila.: Johnson Memorial, Philadelphia	\$3,650.00	\$3,650.00	Springfield: C.C. Hancock, Springfield	\$3,610.00	\$3,610.00
Phila.: Mid-Town Parish, Philadelphia	\$14,342.50	\$2,097.50	Springfield: Covenant, Springfield	\$28,140.00	\$28,140.00
Phila.: Mount Zion, Philadelphia	\$5,750.00	\$0.00	Springtown: Salem, Springtown	\$2,754.33	\$2,754.33
Phila.: Sayers Memorial, Philadelphia	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00	St. Clair-Wade, St. Clair	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Phila.: St. Barnabas-Bethesda, Philadelphia	\$3,150.00	\$350.00	St. Peter's: Mount Carmel, St. Peters	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
Phila.: St George's Philadelphia	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	Stehman Memorial, Millersville	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Phila.: St Philip's, Philadelphia	\$106.00	\$106.00	Strasburg: Welsy, Strasburg	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
Phila.: Summerfield/Siloam, Philadelphia	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Stroudsburg: Faith, Stroudsburg	\$4,950.00	\$4,950.00
Phila.: Tindley Temple, Philadelphia	\$5,000.00	\$4,500.00	Swarthmore, Swarthmore	\$11,450.00	\$11,450.00
Phila.: Univer.City, Calvary, Philadelphia	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	Telford: Grace, Telford	\$150.00	\$150.00
Phoenixville: First, Phoenixville	\$5,940.00	\$4,990.00	Temple, Pottstown	\$2,950.00	\$0.00
Pine Grove: St Paul, Pine Grove	\$3,450.00	\$2,587.50	Terre Hill: St. Paul's, Terre Hill	\$3,456.00	\$3,456.00
Pipersville: Rolling Hills, Pipersville	\$5,150.00	\$5,150.00	Thorndale, Thorndale	\$13,800.00	\$13,800.00
Plumblin Fellowship at Narberth, Narberth	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	Thornton: Bethlehem, Thornton	\$37,150.00	\$37,150.00
Pocono Lake, Pocono Lake	\$6,600.00	\$200.00	Tobyhanna, Tobyhanna	\$1,125.00	\$1,125.00
Poplar Valley, Stroudsburg	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	Trevose: St. Matthew, Trevose	\$7,650.00	\$0.00
Pottstown: First, Pottstown	\$5,160.00	\$5,160.00	Upper Darby: New Life Uppers Darby	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00
Pottstown: Salem, Pottstown	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	Valley Forge, Valley Forge	\$4,625.00	\$4,625.00
Postville; First, Pottsville	\$7,100.00	\$7,100.00	Valley Forge: ST. Matthew's, Wayne	\$14,750.00	\$14,750.00
Prospect Park: Prospect, Prospect Park	\$4,400.00	\$4,400.00	Warrington: St. Paul's, Warrington	\$545.00	\$545.00
Quakake: Ebenezer, Quakake	\$650.00	\$650.00	Washington Boro, Washington Boro	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00
Quarryville: Memorial, Quarryville	\$19,150.00	\$19,150.00	Washinton Crossing, Wahington Crossing	\$88,800.00	\$63,716.67
Quarryville: Wesley, Quarryville	\$32,300.00	\$32,300.00	Warter Work's Lebanon	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
Radnor, Rosemont	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	Wayne, Wayne	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00
Ranshaw: Johnston City, Ranshaw	\$900.00	\$900.00	Weatherly:Centenary, Weatherly	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Rawlinsville, Holtwood	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	Wescoville: Bethany, Allentown	\$84,600.00	\$84,600.00
Reading: Grace, Reading	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	West Chester, West Chester	\$31,400.00	\$31,400.00
Reading: Holy Cross, Reading	\$123,869.04	\$119,469.04	West Chester: El Buen Samaritano, West Chester	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
Reading: New Journey - Nueva Jornada	\$730.00	\$730.00	West Grove, West Grove	\$15,300.00	\$15,300.00
Reading: St. Matthews, Reading	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	West Grove: Cristo Rey, West Grove	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Richmond, Bangor	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	West Lawn, Reading	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00
Ridley Park, Ridley Park	\$6,450.00	\$6,450.00	West Willow, Willow Street	\$9,300.00	\$5,000.00
Rocherty, Lebanon	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	White Haven, White Haven	\$3,550.00	\$3,550.00
Romansville, Romansville	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	Willow Grove, Willow Grove	\$60,885.00	\$49,998.00
Rothsville: Salem, Lititz	\$6,650.00	\$6,650.00	Willow Street: Bohem's, Willow Street	\$1,656.00	\$1,656.00
Royersford, Royersford	\$10,850.00	\$10,850.00	Wooddale, East Stroudsburg	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Schoeneck: Wiest, Stevens	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	Zion Grove: Davis Chape;, Zion grove	\$350.00	\$350.00
Scottsville, Langhorne	\$8,550.00	\$8,550.00	Willistown	\$1,700.00	\$0.00
Shamokin: Emmanuel, Coal Township	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00		\$3,938,314.49	\$3,468,797.49

In Memoriam

Full death notices are available at www.epaumc.org/death-notice

Mrs. Helen Bachman

Mrs. Helen A. Bachman passed away on December 14, 2018. She was the surviving spouse of Rev. Neal D. Bachman, retired elder.

Rev. Bachman served the following Eastern PA Conference churches: Tremont Charge, Harrisburg: St. Mark's, Former Havertown: Trinity, Levittown: Emilie, Lansdale: First.

Mrs. Bachman is survived by her daughter Katharine, her son Read and his wife Jeanne, three grandchildren, and her great-grandson.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her daughter, Mrs. Katharine E. Bachman, at 241 Perkins Street J202, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

The Rev. Thomas W. Bare

The Rev. Thomas W. Bare, a retired full member of the Eastern PA Conference, passed away on January 12, at age 88.

The Rev. Bare served the following Eastern PA Conference churches prior to his retirement in 1995: Heckton, Belfast: Wesley, Bethel, Phila.: Grace, Havertown: Trinity, Phila.: Crescentville, Glenside, and Palmyra: First.

He is survived by two children: David Thomas and Connie Lou Bare.

The Rev. Wallace Bryant, Jr.

Rev. Wallace Bryant, Jr., full member, passed away peacefully on April 18, 2019.

Rev. Bryant is survived by his wife, Edythe Bryant (Bishop) of 12 years, and daughters, Pamela (Bryant) Witherspoon and Karol Marie (Bryant) Robertson, 3 grandchildren, 2 brothers, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Prior to his retirement in 2001, Rev. Bryant served the following Eastern PA Churches: Trinity Chester, Darby Union Memorial, Berry Long Memorial, Chester Siloam. He also pastored at St. Matthews United Methodist in Trevoise, PA and was a chaplain at Camp Hill Prison in Camp Hill, PA.

The Rev. Kenneth E. Buckwalter

The Rev. Kenneth E. Buckwalter, retired full member, passed away on March 21, 2019.

Prior to his retirement in 1989, he served the following Eastern PA Conference churches: Phila.: Roxborough, First, Hibernia, Hopewell, Pottstown: Searles, Phila.: Lawndale, Fairless Hills: First, Palmyra: Gravel Hill.

Mrs. Alice Durbano

Mrs. Alice Durbano, spouse of The Rev. Vincent James Durbano, retired elder, passed away on April 25, 2019.

The Rev. Vincent J. Durbano served the following EPAUMC churches: Marcus Hook: Cokesbury, East Stroudsburg, Friendship, Trevoise, Linwood Heights, Cokesbury-Linwood Blended Ministry, Huntingdon Valley.

Expressions of Condolence may be sent to: Rev. Vincent James Durbano,

100 Halcyon Drive, Apt. B105, Media, PA 19063.

Mrs. Mabel C. Eppehimer

Mrs. Mabel C. Eppehimer, surviving spouse of The Rev. George W. Eppehimer, passed away on December 2, 2018, at the age of 99.

The Rev. Eppehimer was a retired elder in the Eastern PA Conference, who passed away in 2015. His service record is as follows: Bensalem, Cherry Valley, North Wales, Easton Calvary, Mt. Hope, Retired in 1983.

Mabel is survived by her two sons, John and David, as well as four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Helen C. Fleming

The Rev. Helen C. Fleming, a retired local pastor who served at Eastwick UMC in Philadelphia from 1996 to 2005, died Dec. 13. She was serving Mt. Vernon Place UMC Baltimore, Md.

Fleming left Philadelphia in 2005 to join the Baltimore-Washington Conference and served in a series of ministry roles, including Director of Leadership Development, Assistant to Bishop John R. Schol, and pastor of Douglas Memorial UMC in Washington, D.C. She retired there in 2010 and later became a church leadership consultant and a retired local pastor.

Condolences may be sent to Fleming's daughter Tracey L. Stafford, at 11 Caitlin Circle, Windsor Mills, Maryland 21244.

Mrs. Thelma Godshalk

Mrs. Thelma Godshalk, spouse of The Rev. Merritt Godshalk, passed away on Sunday, September 30, 2018.

Rev. Godshalk served the following Eastern PA Conference churches: Richmond, Raubsville, Delaware Water Gap, Portland, Lansford, Hulmeville: Neshamony, Philadelphia: Ebenezer, Leola, Philadelphia; Wharton Memorial, Philadelphia: Bickley Memorial, Havertown: St. Andrews, and Ridley Park.

Mrs. Hattie Hamilton

Mrs. Hattie Hamilton, surviving spouse of The Rev. Leroy Hamilton, passed away on March 14 at the age of 93.

Rev. Hamilton served the following Easter PA Conference churches prior to retiring as a full member in 1981: Darby: Union Memorial, Philadelphia: Fletcher, Philadelphia: Peniel, Philadelphia: Tindley Temple.

Mrs. Marion L. High

Mrs. Marion L. High, surviving spouse of The Rev. David G. High, passed away on February 12, 2019.

Rev. High was a retired full member of the Eastern PA Conference. He served the following churches: Girardville, Phila.: Wissahickon, Frackville: First, Newtown, Stroudsburg, Havertown: Union, Wayne, and Swarthmore.

Mrs. High is survived by her daughter, Ms. Laurel High. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her address at 149 Lewisville Court, Phoenixville, PA 19460.

Mrs. Louise B. Lobb

Mrs. Louise B. Lobb, surviving spouse

of the Rev. Thornton R. Lobb, passed away on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at the age of 102.

The Rev. Lobb served the following Eastern PA and Peninsula-Delaware churches, until his retirement in 1979: Parryville; Slatedale: Salem; Mauch Chunk: Grace; Newark, Maryland, Peninsula Conference; Chesapeake City, Maryland, Peninsula Conference; Hurllock, Maryland, Peninsula Conference; Cornwells Heights; Nesquehoning; Philadelphia: Miller; Philadelphia: Lindley; Philadelphia: Sarah D. Cooper Memorial; Philadelphia: Siloam; Eddystone; Philadelphia: Rehoboth; Philadelphia: Central; Philadelphia: St. James.

Condolences to the family may be sent to her son, Colonel David B. Lobb, USA (ret), 1035 Winchester Lane, Aiken, SC 29803.

The Rev. William R. Marlow

The Rev. William R. Marlow, retired full member, passed away on January 27, 2019.

He served the Eastern PA Conference in Extension Ministry, as chaplain and professor at Albright College in Reading, PA, until his retirement in 1992.

He is survived by his wife Betty Marlow, three children, and four grandchildren. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Marlow at 303 Valley Rd., Apt. 128, Middletown, PA 02842-5294.

Mrs. Nancy W. McEllhenney

Mrs. Nancy W. McEllhenney, wife of retired elder Rev. John G. McEllhenney, passed away on December 10, 2018.

Rev. McEllhenney served the following Eastern PA Conference churches & Extension Ministries: Charlestown; Allentown: Asbury; Gladwyne, Phila.; Advocate-St. Stephen's; Ardmore; Acting Chief Exec. Off., Methodist Hospital; and West Chester.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. McEllhenney at Bradley Hall 104, Cornwall Manor, Cornwall, PA 17016-0125.

The Rev. Virginia Y. Miles

The Rev. Virginia Y. Miles, of Doylestown, Pa., passed away on October 31, 2018. She was 77.

Rev. Ginny Miles served as Director of Christian Education at Lehman Memorial UMC in Hatboro and Associate Pastor at Doylestown UMC before her assignment to Penns Park UMC in 1997 as a provisional elder. She retired in 2007, but remained appointed to Penns Park UMC, until her death.

Mrs. Betty K. Miller

We have been informed of the death of Mrs. Betty K. Miller, who passed away on May 15, 2019. She was the surviving spouse of The Rev. William Arthur Miller, Retired Full Member.

The Rev. William A. Miller's Service Record is as follows: Susquehanna Conference; Tower City Methodist; Williamstown; Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; Manheim: Salem; Mt. Aetna; Myerstown: Zion; Industrial Chaplain, Quaker Alloy Casting, Co. (Extension Ministry); Schaefferstown: Zion.

Mrs. Miller is survived by a daughter, Cynthia (wife of Richard Shenk); sons, J. William (husband of Linda Miller), and Douglas L., (husband of Joanna Miller); her brother, Robert Kreider; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews.

Expressions of Sympathy may be sent to her son, Mr. John William Miller, at: 38241 Sabal Way Umatilla, FL 32784.

Mrs. Sara E. Norman

Mrs. Sara E. Norman, surviving spouse of The Rev. Robert E. Norman, passed away on December 27, 2018, at age 85.

The Rev. Robert E. Norman served the following Eastern PA Conference churches: Springfield: Covenant, Former Phila.: Bickley Memorial, Lancaster: Covenant, Phila.: Johnson Memorial, Springfield: C.C. Hancock, Former Erdenheim: St. Mark.

Mrs. Norman is survived by five children--Deborah N. Stamm, Susan E. Chinnici, Mary Ann Norman, Stephen E. Norman, and Caroline M. Albright. She is also survived by a brother, eleven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.RLWilliamsFuneralHome.com.

The Rev. John E. Patterson

We have received word that The Rev. John E. Patterson, Retired Full Member, passed away on April 16, 2019, at the age of 88.

Rev. Patterson served the following Eastern PA Conference churches: Girardville, William Penn, Hummelston.

And the following Extension Ministries: Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, OH; Vice President for Student Affairs, Newberry College, Newberry, SC; President, Sue Bennet College, London, KY; Provost, Lindsey-Wilson College, Columbia, KY; Adanta.

Rev. Patterson retired in 1994.

He is survived by his wife, Anne (Baker) Patterson; his son, Dr. John Patterson (Gloria); his daughter, Judith Patterson (Dr. Henderson Pritchard); his seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Expressions of Sympathy may be sent to his surviving spouse, Mrs. Anne B. Patterson, at 801 Muskgrove Street, Unit 108, Clinton, SC 29325.

Mrs. Doris Pottieger

We have received word that Doris Arlene Pottieger, surviving spouse of The Rev. Cecil P.E. Pottieger, passed away on January 18, 2019 at age 90.

Rev. Pottieger served the following churches and extension ministries prior to retiring in 1990: New Berlinville: St. Andrew; Middle Creek; Ackermanville; Saylorsburg: St. Peter's; Telford: Grace; Extension Ministry - Director of High Rise Apt. Ministries, Rockville, MD; Extension Ministry - Executive Staff EUB, BNM, Dayton Ohio; Extension Ministry - Executive Staff, New York Conference, Board of Global Ministries, National Division Urban; Phila.: Roxborough, First; and Media: First.

Doris is survived by her two children--son, Donald Pottieger, and daughter, CherylEnders--aswellas6grandchildren

Urban Commission funds diverse creative urban ministries

The Eastern PA Conference's **Urban Commission** heard reports from current funded ministries at his March planning retreat. **Correen Russo** (*right*) coordinates the work of MANIFEST and also directs LUMINA—both cooperative ministries involving UM churches and community partners in Lancaster, Pa. The commission awarded grants in 2018 to seven **Urban Alliances**, including LUMINA/MANIFEST, and six **Urban Church Initiatives**.

Current Urban Alliances and Initiatives are located in various urban communities, including Lancaster, Philadelphia, Norristown, Chester, Lebanon, Allentown, Pottstown and the Drexel Hill and Darby areas. Other eligible areas include Bethlehem, Coatesville and Reading. The breadth of funded ministries addressing unmet needs includes:

- educational, nutritional and recreational programs;
- affordable housing, and community organizing and development;
- and outreach to low-income families, crime victims and returning citizens (former inmates).

May 30 was the deadline for the current round of grant applications. The next round will be announced in the fall and are due Nov. 30.



Latino Commission gathers its faithful for Holy Convocation

The Eastern PA Conference Latino Commission celebrated its annual Holy Convocation May 25 at St. Paul UMC Warrington. The gathering observed Aldersgate Day and prepared for Pentecost Sunday by focusing on the heart-warming, pivotal conversion that Methodism's founder John Wesley experienced in 1738.

The Rev. Eliezer Valentin Castanon, pastor of Trinity UMC in Frederick, Md., lectured on his topic for the day: "En la sombra de Aldersgate, Reclamemos nuestra herencia y tradicion Wesleyana" ("In the Shadow of Aldersgate, Let Us Reclaim Our Wesleyan Tradition"). The Rev. Irving Cotto, host pastor and

Latino Commission co-chair, and the Rev. Brunilda Martinez, outgoing Latino Commission coordinator, led the meeting. Bishop Peggy Johnson joined them in celebrating Holy Communion. *John Coleman photos*



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and 11 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Dr. Jusuf Salam

Rev. Dr. Jusuf Salam, retired elder, passed away on Saturday, November 10, in Newark, DE. He served the following Eastern PA Conference churches: Dreherstown; Salem, Lewistown Valley; Calvary. Evangelical, New Ringgold; Zion, Reynolds; Zion's, West Penn; Immanuel, Hazleton; Salem, Hazleton; St. Paul's, Reeders, Collingdale; Mariner's, and Sharon Hill. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Shui Choon Salam. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her address at 1150 Elderon Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808.

Mrs. Lois H. Sauer

Mrs. Lois H Sauer, surviving spouse of Rev. Albert G. Sauer, passed away on February 22, 2019 at the age of 87.

Rev. Albert G. Sauer served the following Eastern PA Conference churches: Tannersville Charge, Croydon:

Wilkinson Memorial, Brownstown Emmanuel, Elysburg, Portland, and East Bangor.

Lois was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church and a devoted pastor's wife. She is survived by three children, nine grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, and her brother.

Expressions of Sympathy can be sent to Mr. David G. Sauer, son, at 49 Wedgemere Avenue, Winchester, Massachusetts, 01890.

The Rev. William Staton Jr.

We have received word of the death of The Rev. William Staton Jr., retired full member, who passed away on March 9, 2019.

Rev. Staton Jr. served the following EPA Conference churches, prior to his retirement in 2004: Phila.: Peniel, and Phila.: Tioga. He also served the Harry Hosier District as Superintendent.

Rev. Staton Jr. is survived by his wife, Mrs. Carolyn T. Staton, and their two daughters Erin and Debra. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Staton at 508 Woodbrook Lane, Philadelphia,

PA 19119-1103.

The Rev. Lewis Elbert Wethington

The Rev. Lewis Elbert Wethington, aged 96, passed away on March 3, 2019. Rev. Wethington was a retired full member of Eastern PA Conference. His Extension Ministry Service Record is as follows: Assistant Professor, Bucknell University; Assistant Professor, Duke University; Union Theological Seminary, Manila, Philippines; Visiting Professor, Theology, Duke Divinity School; Assistant to President, Methodist College; Professor & Chaplain, Religion, Lebanon Valley College.

Dr. Wethington is survived by his loving wife, Lois, who very faithfully cared for him during his recent years of dementia. He is also survived by his children: Olin (Nadine), Joyce (Rick) and Mark (Beth), as well as 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to: Mrs. Lois D. Wethington, 2600 Croasdaile Farm Pkwy, Apt. A123, Durham, NC 27705-1354.

Mr. Tom Young

Mr. Tom Young, spouse of the Rev. Dr. Janice Young, passed away on February 12.

Rev. Janice Young-retired, ordained Deacon of the Eastern PA Conference-served on Extension Ministry as Pastoral Counselor at Bethlehem Private Practice, until her retirement in 2008. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her at The Rev. Dr. Janice Young, 4422 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020-9510. Offer online condolences at www.AshtonFuneralHome.com.

The Rev. Robert E. Ziegler

The Rev. Robert E. Ziegler, Retired Elder, passed away on May 31, 2019 at the age of 93.

Rev. Ziegler served the following Eastern PA Conference churches, prior to retiring in 1991: Easton: Christ, Baltimore: Salem, Philadelphia: Calvary (EUB), Lebanon: Covenant, Havertown: Union.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Harriet Ziegler, PO Box 125, 2050 Rosewood Drive, Cornwall, PA 17016.