

# Reports

## Board of Trustees


The Conference Board of Trustees has worked hard for you this past year and we thank you for the many ways in which you have worked with us. Good stewardship of resources entrusted to its care is always a Board priority.

**Our responsibilities include property, insurance and legal issues, with our primary work including the following areas:**

1. Securing Group Insurance for All Local Churches a) Workers Compensation b) Property and Casualty
2. Committee Work
  - a. Board Committees
    - i. Safety Committee – to help save money on Workers Compensation premiums
    - ii. Insurance Committee – to secure the best coverage at the lowest cost
  - b. Annual Conference Committees
    - i. CCFA
    - ii. Connectional Table
    - iii. CORR—Economic Justice Council
3. Administering Four Endowment Funds
  - Bookstore Fund – offers grants of up to \$5,000 to our retired clergy toward the entrance fee at an EPA related retirement home and an annual gift to our retirees
  - Dewees Fund – offers grants of up to \$5,000 for new ministries in local churches, districts or the conference
  - Adams Fund – offers grants of up to \$500 for the purchase of new hymnals to churches with limited resources
  - Narberth Legacy Fund—offers grants for emergent justice ministries not otherwise supported by the Conference budget.
4. Managing Conference Owned Property
  - Conference Office
  - Three Conference-owned Camps: Innabah, Gretna Glen and Pocono Plateau (Carson Simpson is owned by Metro Ministries)
  - Eleven Discontinued Church Cemeteries: Hilltown, Flinthill, Seipstown, Eby, Old Salem, Mt. Olivet, Wesley Brick, Emmanuel, Nazareth, St. John’s, and a plot for pastors at Mt. Moriah
5. Setting the terms of Disaffiliation Agreements under Discipline ¶12553.
6. Defending the Trust Clause, which states that all UM church property is held by the local churches in trust for the Annual Conference. If a local church discontinues, all real property is to be returned to the Annual Conference to continue the Lord’s work.

### **In 2021-2022 the Board:**

1. Received and are maintaining in our care the following discontinued churches: Asbury: Norristown and Perkasio: First. We tended to post-sale matters related to CC Hancock and dispersed all funds in accordance with Conference policy. We closed out matters related to William Penn. Sold the following discontinued churches and parsonages: Avondale and Shamokin: Zion.

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2. Cared for and closed out matters related to the disaffiliation of Grandview UMC.
  3. Carried out needed repairs and system updates at the Conference Office.
  4. Accepted funds from the EPA Loan Fund and directed funds to Cabinet for use to support historically Black congregations and ministries and develop new ones.
  5. Monitored and made decisions consistent with Annual Conference policy when necessary concerning the sale of a portion of the Camp Innabah property.
  6. Supported necessary archeological work so that the archives at Historic St. George's can be made handicap accessible.
  7. Made grants to 36 recipients through the Dewees endowment in the amount of \$80,482.
  8. Awarded one grant through the Narberth Legacy Fund in the amount of \$15,000.
  9. Continue working with Church Mutual for Liability & Vehicle Insurance; Eastern Alliance for Worker Compensation; and Philadelphia Insurance for D&O and Cyber (Conference Only) insurance.
  10. Tended to legal matters as they related to the BSA Bankruptcy.
  11. Assisted where necessary with the transition from Bishop Johnson to Bishop Schol.
  12. Held all required safety committee meetings.
  13. Reviewed investments held with the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation.

We greatly appreciate all local churches do to create healthy and safe spaces for ministry. We also thank you for your efforts to pay your direct bill obligations.

Officers of the Conference Board of Trustees: Mary Catherine Miller, President; James Duckett, Vice President, Scott Johnson, Secretary; James Brown, Treasurer

Members of the Conference Board of Trustees include: Mary Catherine Miller, James Duckett, Scott Johnson, Rick Wrisley, Jon Gruber, Coleen Brandt Painter, Sunil Balasundaram, Ethel Malone, Larry Pickens. (Voice and Vote)

Resources to the Board include: Matt Morely, Counsel; Dawn Taylor-Storm, Director of Connectional Ministry; Jo Fielding, Board of Benefits and Administrative Services; B K Chung, Cabinet Liaison; James Brown, Treasurer. (Voice Only)

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Mary Catherine Miller  
President  
Conference Board of Trustees



# Connectional Ministries

## 2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### New Faith Communities

- Two new Latino faith communities in **Mohnton, PA** and **Hazleton, PA**

### Camp & Retreat Ministries

- EPA-UMC Camps served **11,258** summer campers and guests in 2021 through an ongoing pandemic.
- EPA-UMC Camps received **\$520,407** in direct site donations
- EPA-UMC Camps had **375** volunteers to support the site's ministries in 2021
- EPA-UMC Camps were recently awarded grants in 2022 for projects totaling: **\$115,800**

### "Project Restoration" : Hurricane Ida & Hurricane Isaias Recovery

- We celebrate UMCOR's partnership through a grant of **\$417,737.00**.
- We celebrate EPA's commitment to serving **55** families in restoration efforts in Chester, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.
- We celebrate volunteer teams in EPA and beyond EPA serving alongside survivors repairing homes and rebuilding lives.
- We celebrate EPA joining together with multiple Long Term Recovery Groups and Unmet Needs Tables to collaborate on community efforts.

### EPA 2022 Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team

- Christmas cards for the incarcerated program – **5700** cards were delivered to a total of **13** correctional facilities for distribution to the incarcerated as a sign of God's love and care
- Unused Commercial Christmas cards – **1500** were collected and delivered to the Philadelphia Prison System Head Chaplain for distribution so that those incarcerated could send cards and messages to their loved ones.
- Undies for Easter Campaign – a tremendous success – thanks to the many who participated! Met and exceeded our goal of providing **2000** men's briefs, **600** women's briefs, and **2000** men's undershirts for Philadelphia Prison System Head Chaplain to distribute to those entering incarceration – who are only provided one brief and no undershirt by the system.
- Healing communities training to help congregations and community members learn more about how to help those impacted by the criminal justice system.

### Urban Ministries

- **\$60,000** in grants to **11** Urban Initiatives and **7** Urban Alliances:
  - Arch Street UMC: Upgraded computer stations
  - Devereaux Memoria UMC: upgraded technology
  - East Stroudsburg UMC: food pantry support
  - Drexel Campus Ministry: young adult worship expansion
  - Bethlehem: Epworth UMC: community mission fair
  - Ebenezer UMC: supported the essential workers on Caring Day
  - Holy Spirit UMC: upgraded technology
  - Holmesburg UMC: food program and upgraded technology
  - Darby: Mt. Zion UMC: sponsored a youth job readiness program
  - Sayers Memorial UMC: youth ministry development

- Allentown Alliance: food distribution support
- Clifton Heights/Darby Alliance: established a youth gaming ministry
- Hazleton Alliance: summer Day Camp support
- JFON: legal support for immigrants
- MANIFEST: supported their housing rehab program
- Pottstown: Mission First: aid for hotel cost for homeless people during pandemic
- Young Latinos: support for their Conference Gathering

#### **Office of Latino Ministries**

- **21** New Lay Missioners received certification 2021
- **10** New Lay Missioners will receive certificates June 4, 2022
- **8** LLPs in process
- **2** New Faith Communities (Hazleton & Mohnton) with **2** Lay Missioners
- **2** Workshops in Spanish at Tools for Ministry event
- Semana Latina summer camp
- ETEL became active in teaching lay leaders

#### **Youth & Young Adult Ministries**

- Feed **45-60** students weekly at Drexel
- First Black and Brown Youth Retreat hosted **50** young people
- Recruited **22** new CCYM members

#### **Leadership Development**

- Over **1,000** individuals resourced in areas of intercultural competency, leadership development, administrative effectiveness and congregational vitality
- Over **200** individuals participated in quarterly book studies focused on emerging from the pandemic, inter-religious dialogue & how to establish BOTH/AND worship
- 1:1; Small Group & Coaching support to develop transformational leaders

Connectional Ministries celebrates the commitment of EPA congregations as we partner together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

#### **EPA Mission**

Creating Disciples, Celebrating Diversity,  
Connecting Communities and Committing to Love and Justice

#### **EPA Purpose**

Recruit and develop transformational leaders to make disciples and grow missional vital congregations for the transformation of the world.



## Committee on Native American Ministries

**May 5, 2021** – We had 2 events this day – an in-person Pow Wow where we promoted awareness of MMIW by selling postcards, buttons and tee shirts featuring beautiful art created by Paige McNatt, Nanticoke/Lenape from New Jersey. We spoke to many people about this issue. Many thanks to GNJ CONAM who lent us their MMIW banner and poster. As always, we included our red dress installation.

**May 5, 2021, 4:00pm** – We presented a Zoom program called *We Are Still Here: Outstanding Native Americans Today* that highlighted the work and contributions of current Native people in the arts, politics, business, medicine, advocacy, sports and the military.

**May 28, 2021** – For our annual conference Bishop Peggy Johnson strongly suggested that since the conference was virtual, instead of presenting a resolution on Indigenous Peoples Day as we had planned, we should make a short video about a subject close to our hearts. So, with the help of Thom Whitewolf Fassett, we created a 7-minute power point video about voter suppression in Indian Country.

**September 11, 2021** – Originally, we planned to have a table at Indian Steps Festival, but that was cancelled due to flooding from Hurricane Ida. So, we went to a live pow wow at Mauch Chunk Lake sponsored by The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. Again, we borrowed GNJ CONAM's MMIW banner and poster and had our red dress installation. In addition to the MMIW tees, buttons and postcards, we also had tees and postcards promoting the October 6 event to honor the boarding school children.

In response to a request from Native American International Caucus (NAIC) for October 6 to be designated as a Day of Truth Telling and Repentance regarding the Indian boarding schools, we offered a virtual event that opened with a beautiful and powerful song, *He Can Fancy Dance* by Cindy Paul, introduction by our secretary, Verna Colliver and liturgy written by Rev. Mary Johnson for the occasion. Boe Harris read a poem she wrote about the children buried at Carlisle, and CONAM members Barbara Revere and Mike Shifflet read two stories from people who had experienced Indian boarding schools.

**October 15** – Five of our CONAM members attended the virtual Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee.

**November 7** – We offered a more in-depth program on Indian Boarding Schools. We also presented a video of a successful language program at the Red Cloud School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in SD. Since the program's implementation, graduation rates at the school have consistently gone up from 40% to 91% in 2018.

**March 5, 2022** – We offered a class at Tools for Ministry on how to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday with emphasis on 3 different areas: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Boarding Schools and Creation Care.

**April 3, 2022** – For our spring program we hosted Halay Turning Heart who talked about the Yuchi Language Project and the immersion school the Yuchi nation in Oklahoma has created to restore their traditional language, which is known as an Isolate, meaning it is not related to any other languages.



## the latino commission

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

### Latino Commission

I am glad, as the Coordinator of the Latino Commission, to report the accomplishments that the Commission had in 2021.

- In spite of the pandemic of COVID19, not just the Executive Committee was active meeting every month, but ETEL, the Latino Theological school of Evangelization, the Commission developed a couple of years ago was very busy teaching theological classes to the lay from the Latino congregations via zoom every month, this helped to keep the congregations active learning and also developing their leadership skills.
- The National Plan for Hispanic Latino Ministries was accompanying the Commission by providing the Encounters I and II for lay missionaries. With the NPHLM and the Latino Theological School of Evangelization (ETEL) we were able to give 21 certificates of completion of the Lay Missioner course to lay people from 7 congregations. 10 more lay people are about to finished Encounter 2 and will received their certificates on June 4, 2022 at our Holy Convocation.
- Two of the Lay Missioners started two new congregations, one in Hazleton and one in Mohnton and 1 in Norristown.
- Had 2 workshops in Spanish at the Tools for Ministry with attendance of 26
- In our last Annual Assembly the new Executive Committee was elected by the assembly. We had the DCM and Rev. Coleman from Communications were accompanying us, representing the Conference.
- First Brown and Black Youth Retreat
- The Semana Latina (Hispanic week) at Gretna Glen was great with 46 campers and 11 Latino Counselors (adults).
- Holy Convocation was well attended and the 21 Lay Missioners received their certificate by Bishop Johnson.
- A Latino Ministry in Morristown still active, started in 2020 by one of our Lay Missioners as well.

Goals for the Latino Commission for 2021-22

- Emphasizes on faith formation and leadership development for all ages. Especially the Youth
- Strengthening of new congregations and development and start of new congregations.
- Start new ministries where there is no Latino Ministry in our conference.
- Keep the Latino Theological school of Evangelization active throughout the year.



## Domestic Violence Awareness Committee

In 2021 the Domestic Violence Awareness Committee presented a conference titled: Domestic Violence And Social Justice in Marginalized Communities. This conference was held on ZOOM and was attended by approximately 46 people. This conference was unique in that it included American Sign Language service for the deaf population. The workshops included panel discussions with survivors and professionals, LGBT+ community, DV and men, DV and the deaf plus others. The committee decided to hold a future conference in 2022.

The committee continues to be chaired by co-chairs Rev. Jaqueline Hines and Jody Anderson. The committee currently has 13 members with one member from the signing community being added this year.

Our goals for 2022 is to present a conference for 50 people.

Our second goal is to provide ongoing information on the conference website regarding Domestic Violence.



## Global Ministries Team

The three areas of emphasis of the Global Ministries Team are missions, social justice, and health. We share information from the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society, encourage support for Advance Special giving for missions and missionaries, promote attendance at Mission u and training on justice advocacy, administer the EPC Peace with Justice Grants, and participate in the GBGM Abundant Health Program. The team has been doing its work during the COVID pandemic via email.

During 2021, we provided a zoom webinar program on the COVID vaccines which was presented by pharmacists Susan Jacob and Elsen Jacob. There were 38 individuals participating in the webinar, which was recorded on April 12, 2021 and then posted on the conference website. The 90 minute program with powerpoint slides can be found under Health and Healing Ministries on the website.

The team provided \$2000 of its \$3000 budget to feed hungry children in Africa through the Mpsa Nutrition Program of our Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership. We also provided financial support as a sponsor of the EPC Domestic Violence Workshop held October 15-16, 2021.

We reviewed and approved the applications for EPC Advance Special status and prepared the Resolution for Annual Conference to approve the Advance Specials so that the approved groups could request financial support from the churches of the Eastern PA Conference.

As the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, I attend monthly meetings via zoom with the other CSGM's of the Northeast Jurisdiction. I also attend the monthly zoom meetings of the Abundant Health Coordinators from around the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Deaconess Barbara Drake, Chair of Global Ministries Team





# Commission on Religion and Race

## NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION CALL TO ACTION REPORT

The ongoing racial unrest on display across our nation in response to police brutality compounded by the long-standing marginalization of Black, Brown and Indigenous communities has served to awaken many of our European-American United Methodists to matters previously denied, ignored, or misunderstood. The Novel Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted significant inequities for our siblings of color. Since 1968, there have been pockets of people of all races and ethnicities who have embraced the challenge of racial injustice in a variety of ways - from the adoption of United Methodist Women's Charter for Racial Justice to our conference's implementation of the Healing the Wounds of Racism initiative established in 1996 and which continues to today. And yet systemic racism and white domination have remained a barrier for many in our church and in our communities.

The North East Jurisdiction (NEJ) Call to Action Resolution of 2016 challenged bishops, jurisdictional leaders and conferences to become more proactive and move "from rhetoric to action" to remedy "the wounds caused by unchecked racism, white privilege and internalized oppression." The approved resolution called on the NEJ to evaluate and address the impact of structural and institutional racism on people of color, specifically our African-American siblings. Goals include increasing representative Black leadership, strengthening the viability of Black churches, and starting a new faith community with Black youth and young adults in every episcopal area with a significant Black population.

The EPA Conference's "Racial Justice Transformation Process" potentially made 2018 a turning point for the racial progress that the Call to Action initiative seeks; but that would only happen if the candid dialogues and revealing analyses which emerged lead to deep learning and real change. This approach assumes that transformation begins by changing minds, changing hearts and changing behaviors. The purposeful integration of these aspects creates opportunities for changing systems.

Progress is measured by:


- A demonstrated capacity to engage productively in difficult conversations about race, with progressive understanding;
- Evidence of shared decision-making and shared power, where people of color have more opportunities to serve, where their voices are heard and their opinions are valued; and
- Greater financial equity in employment opportunities, appointment-making and equal pay for equal work across the board.

The NEJ Call to Action Resolution charges all levels of the church to be accountable in this vital work of transformation, justice and equity.

**Bishop John Schol** has provided episcopal coverage to Eastern PA Conference since Sept. 2021. During these months of service, Bishop Schol has advocated for the work of the Economic Justice Council and encouraged Eastern PA to "right-size" apportionments in ways that reflect economic equity.

At the Conference Leadership level, District Superintendents and Annual Conference staff are monitoring evaluation processes. In 2021 a new metric was added to all conference evaluation forms asking staff and chairpersons to report on their progress towards dismantling racism.

**The Board of Ordained Ministry** continues to monitor the evaluation process of candidates at both the district and conference level. District Committees on Ministry have begun to evaluate candidates' awareness, commitment and action steps to dismantling racism in their local context. And our mandatory Dismantling Racism training has been modified to encourage deeper awareness and commitment among ministry candidates.



Our **Youth and Young Adult Ministries** hosted the inaugural Black and Brown Youth 3-Day Retreat with 55 participants. This retreat enabled our Black and Latino youth to come together for fellowship, dialogue across barriers and mutual support and understanding.

**Across the Conference**, in districts and local churches efforts and progress is being made to address systemic barriers to full inclusion of all ethnicities and languages in our midst through educational resources, conference wide book studies, Fight For Floyd & Beyond dialogue and advocacy groups, dialogues in small groups, promotion and reporting on racial-ethnic group events and ministries and encouraging all connectional ministries to address these issues in their specific contexts. We celebrate churches that engage in faith-based partnerships based on diversity along with churches who are starting new racial/ethnic church starts. We also celebrate our Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural (CR/CC) ministries that have grown to 54 churches in our Annual Conference.

The **Conference Committee on Leadership** intentionally submits a roster of Connectional Ministry members which represent the diverse ethnicities, genders, ages and lay and clergy status to serve on the 54 Connectional Ministry committees, commissions and administrative teams in the conference. An audit was conducted in 2022 to determine the percentage of persons of color leading conference agencies and committees.

### **CR/CC Support Ministry**

The leadership of the CR/CC Support Ministry is also analyzing the benefits of coaching for CR/CC ministry and how to provide funding and effective support for the appointed CR/CC clergy.

CR/CC Ministry Support Team members have all taken the Intercultural Development Inventory Assessment and received an individual intercultural development plan. The Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Support Ministry Team has implemented a detailed process for ensuring effective and successful CR/CC appointments in our conference. The process designed to fulfill this goal is led by our District Superintendents and includes:

- Assessments of readiness for a CR/CC Ministry appointment for both congregations and clergy;
- Encouragement for personal and collective cultural proficiency and humility through trainings and workshops;
- Engagement with suggested resources and participation with specially trained CR/CC Companions during the first two years of a new CR/CC Appointment.

### **Economic Justice Council and Resolution**

The Eastern PA Economic Justice Council, under the direction of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race, was formed in 2021, out of a deep concern for the realities facing our racial and ethnic churches. The Council recognizes that if key measures are not taken now to address the current concerns and invest in our racial/ethnic churches and clergy leaders of color, the future of our racial and ethnic churches will be in greater jeopardy. An equity audit was completed by the Council members looking specifically at compensation practices, apportionments for churches of color, and church property/assets. A resolution is being presented to Annual Conference 2022 to include the following new initiatives:

A. New ministries and revitalized ministries for churches of color.

Transformational Measures and Actions:

- Provide funding and other resources, including but not limited to equitable salary and benefits, technology, training and consultants that will strengthen and increase the vitality of 10 existing congregations of color by Dec. 31, 2027 (Assigned to CCFA & Extended Cabinet)
- Develop 4 new faith communities of color, including at least 1 new Black faith community, by Dec. 31, 2027 by using new technologies and innovative strategies by Dec. 31,



2027 (Assigned to Extended Cabinet & CDT)

- Develop 10 Ministry Centers serving racial/ethnic communities with a focus on locally based missions that intentionally connect, engage, and partner with their community for sustainable transformation. Include Black Indigenous Persons of Color (BIPOC) community leaders/representatives to assess community needs and design a plan to strengthen or resource an identified need(s). Foster relationships with local businesses and organizations in order to operate in an asset based model. Train congregations and community leaders and representatives through the Ministry Center in cultural awareness and to assist congregations to serve the people in their communities. (Assigned to Extended Cabinet, CDT & Urban Commission)

B. Opportunities for clergy of color advancement in leadership and ministry.


Transformational Measures and Actions:

- \$300,000 Investment in 2023; \$300,000 Investment in 2024, with a conference goal of 1.5M investment by Dec. 31, 2027, in clergy of color and churches of color through equitable salary; reduced apportionments and targeted development funding. (Assigned to CCFA; Cabinet; CDT & Urban Ministries)
- Using Eastern PA median household income, apportion all EPA churches using the following metrics:
  - Communities with median household income \$35,000-40,000 – apportion at 70% of current figures.
  - Communities with median household income \$30,000-34,999 – apportion at 65% of current figures.
  - Communities with median household income \$25,000-29,999 – apportion at 60% of current figures.
  - Communities with median household income \$20,000-24,999 – apportion at 55% of current figures.
  - Communities with median household income below \$20,000 – apportion at 50% of current figures.
- With concern for gentrification, we are using the median household income related to that church’s specific race or ethnicity.
- Those who believe they should be considered for a greater reduction may petition the Cabinet. (Assigned to CCFA & Cabinet)
- At least 50% EPA agency chairpersons/co-chairs are People of Color by June 2027 (currently 41) (Assigned to EPA Conference Committee on Leadership)
- Increase the total number of African-American/Black; Hispanic/Latino & Korean clergy serving in EPA by 20% by 2027 (13 new recruitment) (Assigned to Board of Ordained Ministry and Cabinet)
- Development of 10 clergy of color transformational leaders measured by increase from ¼-½; ½ - ¾ and ¾-Full-time positions by Dec. 31, 2027. (Assigned to the Cabinet)
- Ensuring accountability to equal pay for equal work by conducting regular administrative compensation reviews and consistent adherence to policies. (Assigned to Human Resources)

C. Witnesses in every local congregation who will work to dismantle racism in our churches and communities.

Transformational Measures and Actions:

- Thirty (30) trained EPA facilitators who are actively engaged with 90 congregations that are developing a Dismantling Racism Plan in their local context (Assigned to DCM/Commission on Religion and Race)
- Create an anti-racism audit to be used in local churches as part of the charge conference process by June 2023 (Assigned to the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Team)

- 
- Provide intercultural competence and implicit bias training materials for leaders and congregations by June 2023 (Assigned to CORR & CR/CC Support Team of Companions and Trainers)

We pray these efforts continue to grow and expand as all members of the Eastern PA Conference - leadership, clergy, ministries, and local church members – all strive to open and change minds, hearts, and behaviors. Let us stay the course, keep the current momentum and emphasis going as we let go of old, tired and ultimately destructive ways of being and doing the work of the church.

Our goal in EPA is to model to all our communities what the Beloved Community can look like, where all God's people are valued and honored. Authentic relationships forged beyond traditional cultural divisions promise riches and blessings in ways we have yet to discover or experience.

Let us follow our Lord's commandment to love one another as Christ has loved us. May we all truly be one in Christ where there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor male or female. May our work to dismantle the vestiges of racism shine forth, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

\*\* 2016 NEJ Call To Action Resolution - <https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Black-ChurchConcernsCalltoActionNEJ.pdf>



## Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries

It's a great day to be in Camp. But then, every day is a great day to be in Camp if the camp is one of the four of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

After a 2020 season which was basically called off, and a 2021 season which was severely curtailed, I am pleased to report that, as of right now, all four of our Camps are up and running at full speed. While there are still some necessary Covid precautions in place, Carson-Simpson, Gretna Glen, Innabah and Pocono Plateau are ready to receive your campers and volunteers and provide for them a program of faith formation in an intentional Christian community all while have the best time ever.

We want to celebrate with EPA the following:

- EPA-UMC Camps served **11,258** summer campers and guests in 2021 through an ongoing pandemic.
- EPA-UMC Camps received **\$520,407** in direct site donations
- EPA-UMC Camps had **375** volunteers to support the site's ministries in 2021
- EPA-UMC Camps were recently awarded grants in 2022 for projects totaling: **\$115,800**

Earlier this year we welcomed new Director, Carmen O'Shea, and her family at Pocono Plateau. Carmen and the rest of our Directors are available to help you with your Camp promotion and recruiting efforts. Just give a call.

Now, that's the commercial. But that's not my primary purpose in coming before you today.

For the last couple years I have been keeping you up to date on the Camping Board's efforts to eliminate a long-standing payroll obligation at Camp Innabah. In this deficit, the Conference is owed \$394,123.97. This is a deficit the Camping Board had been carrying for several years and in 2018 decided it was time to rectify the situation.

So, in 2019 this body gave the Camping Board permission to sell up to 50 acres of land at Camp Innabah to meet this obligation. We promised to proceed slowly, carefully, and in a way that would not interfere with the program and ministry of the Camp.

We identified two parcels to target for this sale. The first is about 25 acres south of French Creek, which is not easily accessible from the main program area of the Camp and not usable by the ministry. A neighbor who owns property adjoining this parcel has expressed an interest in purchasing this land. We have been engaged in all the necessary engineering and discussions and, I am pleased to report that we expect to close on this sale later this year. This should satisfy a substantial amount of the obligation but will still leave a significant debt.


The second parcel is about 20 acres on the west side of the property. We are in discussions with two neighbors on the sale on part or all of this land. One neighbor is just looking to expand his property and maintain a buffer and has no plans to develop any acreage he purchases. The other neighbor is a Church which needs more land to expand their ballfields and other ministries.

Our plan, at this point, is to see what the net proceeds are from the first parcel and sell the minimum amount of the second parcel to meet the obligation.

All of our work is in cooperation with and under the watchful eye of the Conference Board of Trustees. We make regular reports to them on the progress of the engineering and their approval is needed at every step.

We appreciate all the thoughts and ideas that have come to us from various others in the Conference. Please know that zoning and engineering concerns almost require us to make the sale to a neighbor with adjoining property.

A third conversation which grew out of this work is ongoing with French and Pickering Conservation



Foundation. With them we continue to explore the possibility of a Conservation Easement on the remaining 125 acres of the Camp.

If we follow this route, we would basically be selling various levels of development rights to those with an interest in keeping the land undeveloped. Before proceeding, we would make sure that the interests of these conservation organizations are in exact alignment with ours and that none of these arrangements would get in the way of our present or future ministries.

If we deem this to be a possible and appropriate direction, we would need to come back to this body for permission and direction to move forward. We are not yet at the point where we are asking for that direction. I am bringing it up here simply as a part of the update on the ongoing work of the Camping Board.

The Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries greatly appreciates the continued support of the agencies and churches of the Annual Conference. And we continue to work with you to transform lives and make disciples in the sacred spaces we call Camp.



***Congratulations to our four Camp & Retreat Centers***  
for being awarded 2022 Ministry Impact Grants  
from United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministries!



***Summer Camp registrations are filling up!***  
***Don't miss out on a summer of faith, fun and friendships.***

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