

++++2008 REPORTS++++

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

Council on Finance and Administration  
Northwest Texas Annual Conference  
of the United Methodist Church

We have audited the accompanying Schedule of Cash Receipts and Disbursements – All Funds (Schedule I), Summary Schedule of Cash Receipts by District (Schedule II) for the period January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007, Schedule of Cash Accounts (Schedule III), and Schedule of Loans (Schedule IV) as of December 31, 2007, of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, (the Conference). These schedules are the responsibility of the Conference's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these schedules based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedules referred to above are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the schedules. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates by management, as well as evaluating the overall schedule presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The Conference's policy is to prepare its schedules on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements; consequently, receipts are recorded when received rather than when earned, and disbursements are recorded when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying schedules are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the schedules referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursements for the year ended December 31, 2007, and the cash accounts of the Conference Treasurer of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church at December 31, 2007, on the basis of accounting described above.

This report is intended for the information and use of the Council on Finance and Administration of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and should not be used for any other purpose.

*Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss LLP*

Certified Public Accountants

May 15, 2008

**NORTHWEST TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**NOTES TO SCHEDULES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

1. Nature of Activities and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Activities

Northwest Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (the Conference) is the governing body for member churches of the United Methodist Church in northwest Texas. The Conference budgets for and collects funding from its member churches and allocates the funding to various causes as directed by the Council on Finance and Administration of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Under that basis, the only asset recognized is cash, and no liabilities are recognized. All transactions are recognized as either cash receipts or disbursements, and noncash transactions are not recognized. The cash basis differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America primarily because the effects of outstanding amounts due to Northwest Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and obligations due to other organizations unpaid at the date of the financial statements are not included in the financial statements.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The cash balances maintained by the Conference are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$100,000 per each banking institution where deposits are held. At times during the period January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007, cash balances exceeded insured limits.

The Conference also has investments with the Texas Methodist Foundation's Methodist Loan Fund. These investments are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

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Schedule I

**NORTHWEST TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - ALL FUNDS  
JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	Balance	Receipts and Transfers		Disbursements and Transfers		Balance
	January 1, 2007	Receipts	Transfers	Disbursements	Transfers	December 31, 2007
Annual Conference Mission Offering	\$	\$ 20,350	\$	\$ 13,566	\$ 6,784	\$
Archives and History (Jewel Posey)	2,948					2,948
Area Resource Center Rentals	2,931	3,921	9,868	6,133	8,825	1,762
Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry	160					160
Board of Ordained Ministry		22,002	7	21,821	188	
Board of Pensions and Health Benefits	521,026	5,511,712		5,542,323		490,415
Build, Renew, Rejoice - Capital Campaign		60,032	198	138,423	770	(78,963)
Butman Camp - Development Fund	85,392	131,811	150	48,553	30,000	138,800
Butman Camp - Operating Fund	(17,024)	720,319	130,259	757,927	87,467	(11,840)
Butman Camp - Operating Fund - American State Bank - Merkel	2,500	602,791		602,791		2,500
Butman Camp - Petty Cash Fund	15,000					15,000
Cafeteria Plan - American State Bank - Lubbock	1,226	5,568		5,933		861
Camp Scholarships	17,385	7,052			7,957	16,480
Ceta Canyon Camp - Capital Improvements	11,944	951,406	284,365	137,146	1,019,128	91,441
Ceta Canyon Camp - Endowment	82,775	6,676				89,451
Ceta Canyon Camp - Operating Fund		1,083,130	852,645	1,792,209	143,566	
Ceta Canyon Camp - Operating Fund - Happy State Bank	1,000	1,872,863		1,872,863		1,000
Ceta Canyon Camp - Petty Cash Fund	40,000					40,000
Chaplaincy Service - Covenant Hospital - Lubbock		76,234		76,234		
Church Extension and Revitalization	230,223	228,858	5,000	251,930	2,837	209,314
Church Extension and Revitalization						
Church Loan Fund - TMF	726,493	43,100				769,593
Church Treasurers' Bond	(14,118)	5,946				(8,172)
Conference Administration Fund		586,342	100,749	663,788	23,303	
Conference Advance Specials	16,994	85,194	1,356	91,112	356	12,076
Conference Board of Missions	588					588
Conference Board of Missions - Ward Estate	18,948	796				19,744
Conference Hispanic Ministry		46,846	59	42,985	3,920	
Conference Ministry Team (Conference Benevolence)	24,874	134,111	9,077	138,796	14,317	14,949
Conference Parsonage	102,428					102,428
Conference Service Center	37,321		12,000	18,634		30,687
Conference Stabilization Fund	313,092	32,648	88,766	21,844	89,628	323,034
Disaster Fund	37,472	17,695	421	19,313		36,275
District Administration and Programming		150,895	1,613	140,008	12,500	
District Superintendents' Fund		448,758	12,500	453,350	7,908	
Equitable Compensation Fund	271,717	203,779		122,037	31	353,428
Equitable Compensation - Endowment Fund	203,671	8,561	1	212,231		

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General Advance Specials and Special Offerings	6,177	186,683		184,627		8,233
General Church Funds	252,542	252,542				
Golden Cross	5,872	1,355	3,392	1,027	326	9,266
History of NWTX Conf (Archives and History)	9,281	6,694		1,347		14,628
Homes for the Aging – Sears Methodist System/King's Manor		75,530		75,530		
Insurance Premium Trust – Texas Methodist Foundation	624,752	205,778				830,530
Lydia Patterson Institute		22,134		22,134		
Ministerial Education Fund	78,394	177,511	100	154,681	5,217	96,107
Ministers Emergency Aid Fund	8,640	11,105		7,690		12,055
Ministry Development Program	3,053					3,053
Mission and Admin Fun (South Central Jurisdiction)		9,794		9,794		
Mt. Sequoyah Methodist Assembly		4,010		4,010		
NWTX Conf Loan Fund	127,342	12,442		7,999		131,785
Northwest Texas Conference						
- Merit Scholarships	604	127				731
Off-Site Insurance	1	92				93
Other Causes	23,374	68,233		68,919	522	22,166
Spiritwind	5,893	25	2,500			8,418
Stabilization Fund - Replenishment		83,221			83,221	
Summer Activities	66,977	65,200	145,418	90,078	115,063	72,454
Supplemental Health Insurance Program		511,386		511,386		
Texas United Methodist College Association		80,867		80,867		
United Methodist Men	540		3,392	3,392		540
Unrestricted Endowment Fund - Texas Methodist Foundation	2,777	1,279				4,056
Ward Estate Trust Fund	5,252	1,427	79			6,600
Wesley Community Center		39,032		39,032		
Wesley Foundations Operating Fund		323,703		323,703		
World Service		368,237		368,237		
Youth Service Fund	3,819	168		41		3,946
	\$ <u>3,709,714</u>	\$ <u>15,577,971</u>	\$ <u>1,663,835</u>	\$ <u>15,186,834</u>	\$ <u>1,663,835</u>	\$ <u>4,100,851</u>

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**REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR YEAR 2007**

*Mark Pittman, Conference Director of Stewardship/Treasurer*

Receipts from 1/1/2007 to 12/31/2007

	<b>2007 Total Apportionments</b>	<b>2007 Total Receipts</b>	<b>2007 Percent Apportion. Received</b>	<b>2007 Apportion. Not Received</b>	<b>Percent of Total Budget Not Paid</b>
<b>Ministerial Support</b>					
Conference Claimants (Board of Pension)	1,200,000	1,019,950	85.0%	180,050	2.8%
District Superintendents' Fund	496,700	445,260	89.6%	51,440	0.8%
Episcopal Fund	159,672	138,370	86.7%	21,302	0.3%
Equitable Compensation	237,800	199,874	84.1%	37,926	0.6%
Ministerial Education Fund	213,692	164,648	77.0%	49,044	0.8%
Supplemental Health Insurance Program	620,000	511,386	82.5%	108,614	1.7%
<b>Total Ministerial Support</b>	<u>2,927,864</u>	<u>2,479,488</u>	<u>84.7%</u>	<u>448,376</u>	<u>7.0%</u>
<b>Conference/District</b>					
Board of Ministry	25,000	18,725	74.9%	6,275	0.1%
Camp Operations and Programs	227,300	175,448	77.2%	51,852	0.8%
Chaplaincy Program	110,000	76,234	69.3%	33,766	0.5%
Church Extension/Revitalization	300,000	202,510	67.5%	97,490	1.5%
Conference Ministry	150,000	108,949	72.6%	41,051	0.6%
Conference Services	721,535	496,307	68.7%	225,228	3.5%
District Service and Ministry	189,150	150,894	79.8%	38,256	0.6%
Hispanic Ministry (Northwest Texas)	50,000	38,495	77.0%	11,505	0.2%
History of NWTX Conf (Archives & History)	10,000	6,694	66.9%	3,306	0.1%
Homes for the Aging	100,000	73,572	73.6%	26,428	0.4%
Stabilization Fund	127,500	83,221	65.3%	44,279	0.7%
Wesley Community Center	50,000	39,032	78.1%	10,968	0.2%
Wesley Found and Camp Ministry	442,942	323,703	73.1%	119,239	1.9%
<b>Total Conference/District</b>	<u>2,503,427</u>	<u>1,793,784</u>	<u>71.7%</u>	<u>709,643</u>	<u>11.1%</u>
<b>General Church/World Outreach</b>					
World Service Ministry	621,001	368,237	59.3%	252,764	3.9%
Africa University Fund	18,791	13,779	73.3%	5,012	0.1%
Black College Fund	85,091	55,761	65.5%	29,330	0.5%
General Administration Fund	53,707	34,703	64.6%	19,004	0.3%
Interdenominational Co-op Fund	16,545	9,928	60.0%	6,617	0.1%
<b>Total Church/World Outreach</b>	<u>795,135</u>	<u>482,408</u>	<u>60.7%</u>	<u>312,727</u>	<u>4.9%</u>
<b>South Central Jurisdiction</b>					
Lydia Patterson	28,282	22,134	78.3%	6,148	0.1%
Mission and Admin Fund	13,848	9,794	70.7%	4,054	0.1%
Mt. Sequoyah Methodist Assembly	5,785	4,010	69.3%	1,775	0.0%
Texas United Methodist College Association	125,000	80,867	64.7%	44,133	0.7%
<b>Total South Central Jurisdiction</b>	<u>172,915</u>	<u>116,805</u>	<u>67.6%</u>	<u>56,110</u>	<u>0.9%</u>
<b>TOTAL FAMILY FUND</b>	<u><b>6,399,341</b></u>	<u><b>4,872,485</b></u>	<u><b>76.1%</b></u>	<u><b>1,526,856</b></u>	<u><b>23.9%</b></u>

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**General Advance Specials**

Four Corners NAM	6,012
McCurdy School-Espanola, NM	2,975
Rio Grande Conf-Support	1,600
United Methodist Committee On Relief	<u>13,695</u>
<b>Total General Advance Specials</b>	<b><u>24,282</u></b>

**Global Ministry/World Service**

William Savuto	3,788
Jerri Savuto	6,000
Mark Abbott -Salary	5,450
Miss in Commonwealth Indp States	3,000
Theology Seminary Scholarship-Congo	3,500
University Student Ministries	1,000
Stacy Vanderwerf #0131247JZ	7,644
Maua Service Fund/Savuto	19,178
Samuel Rodriguez - Salary	1,800
Fred Vanderwerf #0131236JZ	4,023
Maua Hosp.-Op .Outreach Kenya	15
Maternal/Child Health Program	756
David Ceballos-Spain	500
Sudan Emergency	2,700
Bio-Intensive Training Centre	7,650
Hope for the Children of Africa	540
Material Resource Ministry-USA	1,600
AIDS Orphans' Proj, Maua Hospital	12,593
Mulungwishi Theological Seminary Scholarship	2,500
Babyfold Mutare Hospital	600
Kathy Burton-Lewis - Japan-Sal	3,687
Cris Hena-Okrah-Russia	2,250
Clara Swain Hospital	300
HIV/AIDS Program	7,961
Oklahoma .Indian Missionary Conference	600
Red Bird Missionary Conf.	390
McCurdy School-Carino	100
Navajo Methodist Mission School	125
World Hunger/Poverty	1,600
Count Your Joy	100
ECHO	500
Nothing But Nets	13,544
School Hot Lunch-Haiti	24
Domestic Disasters	2,915
Kansas Tornado Relief	535
Jerimias Franca-Chicouque Hosp.	1,000
Sager-Brown Depot	<u>7,390</u>
<b>Total Global Ministry/World Service</b>	<b><u>127,858</u></b>

**Other General Advance Specials**

Global Refugee Response	500
Sierra Leone Gen-Rev. Bockari	250
Intl. Disaster Response	500
Afghanistan Emergency	<u>1,000</u>
<b>Total Other General Advance Specials</b>	<b><u>2,250</u></b>

**Conference Advance Specials**

Volunteers In Missions	710
Area Methodist Outreach Service	785
Camp New Dawn Scholarship	236
Canadian Challenge-Ceta Canyon	<u>8,357</u>
<b>Total Advance Specials</b>	<b><u>10,088</u></b>

**Special Offerings**

Palestinian Conflict Resol Center	113
Bishop's Appeal - Katrina	9,349
One Great Hour of Sharing	11,970
World Communion Sunday	3,933
United Meth Student Day	1,228
Human Relations Day	1,151
Peace With Justice Sunday	1,769
Native Am. Ministries Sunday	2,624
Meth. Childrens' Home	32,366
Methodist Mission Home	13,249
Youth Service Fund	135
McMurry Annual Fund	1,122
Golden Cross	1,305
Mothers Day Off-Sears System	50
Spirit Wind	<u>25</u>
<b>Total Special Offerings</b>	<b><u>80,389</u></b>

**Other Causes**

Bd. Ordained Min-Scholarship	100
Children's Fund Christian Miss	55
Pension Fund Campaign	1,845
Pastor/Congregation Assist.	120
Designated Gifts	1,755
World Gospel Mission(Kunkel)	510
Asbury Seminary Scholarship	3,000
Timothy International	1,297
Hispanic Scholarships from Churches	153
Capital Development - Ceta Canyon	533
General Scholarship Fund	250
Camp Grace Scholarships	753
Capital Development Plans-Butman	51
Conference Tornado Relief	13,190
Mission Society For UM	910
Retired Ministers' Day Offering	5,142
Lubbock County Board of Missions	2,500
Habitat Projects	153
Capital Campaign Individual 2007-Undesign.	3,437
Capital Campaign Individual - Conference Center	50
Capital Campaign Church Pledge – Undesign.	38,223
Min. Emergency Aid Fund Undesignated	61
Local Disaster Fund	<u>781</u>
<b>Total Other Causes</b>	<b><u>74,869</u></b>

**TOTAL REMITTANCES**

**5,192,221**

The conference churches gave 76.1% of our shared ministries (apportionments). In 2006 the conference churches gave 77.2%. This is a decrease of 1.1%. Thanks to all of the churches and individuals that gave to the Family Fund in 2007. I would encourage each of you to encourage those 13 churches that didn't give to our shared ministries in 2007 to prayerfully consider giving in 2008.

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**100% Churches for 2007 – (118 churches) - There were 121 churches that were 100% in 2006.**

Abilene District (26) - (25 in 2006): Aldersgate (Abilene), Caps, Southwest Drive, Plum Street, Potosi, Albany, Aspermont, Baird, Benjamin, Elbert, Fargo, Hamby, Hawley, Jayton, Knox City, Leuders, Moran, Nolan, Pioneer Memorial, Roby, Rotan, Sagerton, Throckmorton, Trent, Vera, and Vernon (First).

Amarillo District (31) - (34 in 2006): Adrian, Allison, Polk Street, Booker, St Andrew’s (Borger), Canadian, Canyon, Clarendon, Claude, Central (Dalhart), Darrouzett, Hunt Memorial, Follett, Fritch, Gruver, Heald, Hedley, Higgins, Lefors, Mclean, Miami, Middlewell, Mobeetie, Pampa (First), Perryton, Shamrock, Spearman, Sunray, Vega, Wheeler, and White Deer.

Big Spring District (27) - (28 in 2006): Wesley (Andrews), Big Spring (First), Coahoma, Colorado City, Cooper, Dorn, Draw, Garden City, Graham Chapel, Ira, Christ (Levelland), Loraine, Midland (First), Visionary Hollowell Community, St. Luke’s (Midland), St. Mark’s (Midland), Morton, New Home, O’Donnell, Plains, Post, Ropesville, Seagraves, Seminole, Stanton, Sweetwater (First), and Highland Heights.

Lubbock District (34) - (34 in 2006): Abernathy, Amherst, Anton, Crosbyton, Dimmitt, Earth, Floydada, Friona, Happy, Hart, Wesley (Hereford), Kress, Lazbuddie, Lockney, Lorenzo, Canyon (Lubbock), Lubbock (First), LakeRidge, Mt. Vernon, St. John’s (Lubbock), Matador, Muleshoe, New Deal, Oklahoma Lane, San Juan (Plainview), Quitaque, Roaring Springs, Shallowater, Spur, Sudan, Tulia, Turkey, Vigo Park, and Wolfforth.

**75% to 99% Churches for 2007 - (11 churches)**

Abilene District (0): No Churches

Amarillo District (3): Borger (First), Dumas (First), and Stratford

Big Spring District (5): North Birdwell Lane, Hermleigh, Lamesa (First), Levelland (First), and Union (Snyder)

Lubbock District (3): St. Luke’s (Lubbock), Olton, and Plainview (First)

**NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2007**

<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
Checking A/C-American State Bank Lubbock	707,944
Cafeteria Plan- American State Bank- Lubbock	861
Insurance -American State Bank Lubbock	490,414
C.D.-First National Bank-Midland	100,000
Investment A/C - Texas Methodist Foundation	695,565
Equitable Compensation Endowment - Texas Methodist Foundation	212,231
HCH Loan Fund Endowment - Texas Methodist Foundation	120,643
Unrestricted Endowment - Texas Methodist Foundation	4,056
Conference Board Missions - Texas Methodist Foundation	19,745
Capital Campaign - Conference Center - Texas Methodist Foundation #1948	857
Capital Campaign - New Church - Texas Methodist Foundation #1937	461
Butman Operating Fund-American State Bank Merkel	2,500
Butman Petty Cash-American State Bank Merkel	15,000
Ceta Canyon Operating Fund - Happy State Bank	1,000
Ceta Canyon Petty Cash - Happy State Bank	40,000
Ceta Canyon Capital Campaign - TMF	89,451
Insurance Premiums Trust - Texas Methodist Foundation	799,752
Insurance Premiums Interest -Texas Methodist Foundation	30,778
TMF – Church Extension and Revitalization (CCER) Loan Fund	<u>769,593</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>4,100,851</u></b>

◆◆◆◆2008 NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE◆◆◆◆

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	BALANCE
<b>Funds</b>	
Butman Development Fund - Carryover	138,800
Butman Operating Fund - American State Bank Merkel - Carryover	2,500
Butman Petty Cash - American State Bank Merkel - Carryover	15,000
Butman Operating Fund - Carryover	(11,840)
Ceta Canyon Operating Fund - Happy State Bank - Carryover	1,000
Ceta Canyon Petty Cash - Happy State Bank - Carryover	40,000
Ceta Canyon Capital Campaign - Texas Methodist Foundation	89,451
Ceta Canyon Operating Fund - Carryover	91,440
Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits - Beginning Balance	490,414
Texas Methodist Foundation Trust Account - Carryover	830,530
Equitable Compensation - Carryover	353,428
Equitable Compensation Endowment - Equitable Compensation - Carryover	212,231
Ministerial Education Fund – Northwest Texas Part - Carryover	77,648
Career Development Counsel – Ministerial Education Fund - Carryover	2,000
Wilson Fund Pastors School - Ministerial Education Fund - Carryover	16,459
Commission on Church Extension/Revitalization (CCER)	209,314
Texas Methodist Foundation CCER Church Loans	769,593
Faith Sharing Initiative-Conference Ministry Team - Carryover	2,335
Partners in Ministry-Conference Ministry Team - Carryover	1,073
Religion and Race-Carryover	2,376
Shalom Ministries-Conference Ministry Team - Carryover	8,167
Roundup Scholarship Fund - Carryover	455
Special Projects - Carryover	527
Roundup	16
1st Alternate Expense to General/Jurisdictional Conference - Carryover	4,000
Jewel Posey Archives Fund - Carryover	2,948
Capital Improvement/Replacement –Conference Service Center	26,687
Hughes Caperton-Wilsher Estate - Carryover	160
History of Northwest Texas (Archives and History)	14,628
Mission to Norway	5,987
Volunteers In Missions (VIM) - Carryover	5,697
Guatemala Mission Trip VIM - Carryover	221
Africa 2005 - VIM - Carryover	171
Peace/Justice Ministries - Carryover	4,782
Native American Awareness Sunday	3,451
Youth Service Fund – Northwest Texas Part - Carryover	3,946
Golden Cross- Carryover	9,266
Mission In Motion - Carryover	3,605
Big Spring District Hispanic Ministries - Carryover	12,588
Lubbock District Hispanic Ministries	4,279
Habitat Projects - Northwest Texas Part	1,677
Capital Funds - Disbursements	(78,962)
Ministerial Emergency Aid Fund - Undesignated	9,365
Ministerial Emergency Aid Fund - Designated - Carryover	2,690
Ministry Development Program - Carryover	3,053
Cafeteria Plan - American State Bank Lubbock	861
Conference Stabilization Fund - Parsonage	102,428
Unrestricted Endowment Texas Methodist Foundation	4,056
Church Treasurers' Bond - Carryover	(8,172)
Northwest Conference Merit Scholarship - Carryover	731
Conference Board of Missions	588
Conference Board of Missions - Texas Methodist Foundation - Carryover	19,745
Ward Estate Trust Fund	6,600
United Methodist Men - Northwest Texas - Carryover	539
Clergy Spouses - Carryover	18
Northwest Texas Student Loans - Conference Funds	11,141
Northwest Texas Student Loans - Texas Methodist Foundation	120,643

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<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
<b>Funds</b>	
Local Disaster Fund - Carryover	36,275
Summer Activities - Carryover	72,454
General - Camp Scholarships - Carryover	2,747
Camp Amigos - Camp Scholarships - Carryover	153
New Dawn - Camp Scholarships - Carryover	5,393
Methodist Home - Camp Scholarships - Carryover	175
Autumn at Butman - Camp Scholarships - Carryover	495
Grace Camp Scholarships - Carryover	7,517
Spirit Wind - Carryover	8,418
Off Site Insurance	93
Northwest Texas Part – Area Resource Center	<u>1,763</u>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>3,777,817</b>
Conference Stabilization Fund	<u>323,034</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>4,100,851</u></b>
<i>Balance in Stabilization Fund as of January 1, 2007</i>	<i>313,092</i>
<i>Balance in Stabilization Fund as of December 31, 2007</i>	<i>323,034</i>
<i>Increase in Stabilization Fund</i>	<i>9,942</i>

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

*Mark Hoover, President*

This past year, the Northwest Texas Conference saw a decrease in the payment of United Methodist Family Funds. For 2007, our Conference paid 76.1%, a decrease of 1.1%. That total breaks down as follows:

- 84.6% for Ministerial Support  
\$2,479,487 paid of \$2,927,859 budgeted
- 71.6% for Conference/District Ministry  
\$1,793,784 paid of \$2,503,427 budgeted
- 67.5% for South Central Jurisdiction Ministry  
\$116,805 paid of \$172,914 budgeted
- 60.6% for General Church/World Outreach Ministry  
\$482,409 paid of \$795,141 budgeted

This past year 118 churches out of a total of 216 in the Conference paid 100% of their apportionments. The Council on Finance and Administration continues to be very concerned with the gap between what has been budgeted versus what has been paid. Northwest Texas Conference needs in Ministerial Support and Conference/District Ministries were unmet in the amount of \$1,158,915. Further, as United Methodists committed to the connectional system of our Church, our General Church/World Outreach and South Central Jurisdiction responsibilities were unmet in the amount of \$368,841.

Unmet needs are lost opportunities for us as United Methodists to be true disciples of Christ ministering to the entire world. Religion is not a charity; it is not about giving to a charity. Rather, it is about stewardship. We are called to be good stewards. Part of that responsibility is practicing and teaching stewardship to ourselves and to others. Let us re-commit ourselves to that responsibility. The Council on Finance and Administration calls on ALL churches to pay 100% of their apportionments.

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION POLICIES**

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration presents the following report and recommendations for consideration and adoption at the session of Annual Conference meeting at **Glorietta, New Mexico, June 3- June 6, 2008**. We are thankful to God for the loyal support of the churches in the Northwest Texas Conference toward the financial needs of the many causes of United Methodism and the Christian church around the world.

**I. FINANCIAL PROCEDURES FOR THE NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE**

- A. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration and the Conference Treasurer's Office staff will be directed by the requirements of the 2004 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, Paragraphs 610-618, and by actions of the Session of the Annual Conference each year.

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- B. Any agency desiring Conference allocated funds for the year **2010** must present its requests on the forms provided by the Conference Treasurer and the Conference Director. These forms will be sent out by **September 15, 2008** and should be completed according to the accompanying instructions. The requests must be returned to the Treasurer by **October 15, 2008**, regardless of whether there is a change in previous funding request. **The Budget Hearing for the 2010 budget will be held during the first two weeks of November 2008.**
- C. The United Methodist Family Funds for the Conference year **2009** will be calculated on the Decimals approved by the Annual Conference following the adoption of the **2009** Conference budget at this **2008** Annual Session. These will be given to the district superintendents in late summer to be distributed to the local churches in the fall. Local church treasurers must use the **2009** Remittance Report Forms provided by the Conference Treasurer. Please fill them in completely, using one form for all the items remitted and make the check for the total amount payable to: *The Northwest Texas Conference*. Mail to:  
*Conference Treasurer*  
*1415 Avenue M*  
*Lubbock, TX 79401-3939*
- D. We recommend that United Methodist Family Funds to local churches be on a 100% basis for **2009**.
- E. The Conference shall guarantee a percentage of the acceptance amounts up to the percentage level of United Methodist Family Funds paid the previous year not to exceed 100%.
- F. Each Annual Conference agency who receives funds through the United Methodist Family Funds shall anticipate adjusting its budget for the current year to the percentage of United Methodist Family Funds paid the previous year but not to exceed 100% of the United Methodist Family Funds for the current year.  
The Conference Treasurer shall notify each agency when it has drawn 90% of its adjusted amount on any line item, calling to its attention the fact that its funds are nearing exhaustion. If United Methodist Family Funds are paid in full, full budget amount will be available to the various boards, councils, commissions, can committees for their use. All agencies who handle their own budget will receive funds monthly as they are remitted to the Conference Treasurer, except the Wesley Foundations at Texas Tech University, West Texas A & M, Southern Methodist University, and South Plains College; the four district administration and programming funds; and the Area Administration Fund.
- G. Contingency amounts shall not be included in any agency budget. Interim needs for any Conference agency may be obtained through written requests, no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>, addressed to the president of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) for processing with the Executive Committee or the entire CCFA when in session. Any emergency or special funding granted by the Executive Committee or the CCFA will be taken from the Conference Stabilization Fund.
- H. The Conference Treasurer is authorized to pay only properly executed expense vouchers as described below. All vouchers are to be legible, printed or typed.
1. Line Item Number and Name: Vouchers must contain the complete budget line item account number and account name.
  2. Expenses incurred for: List the specific group meeting or event, or service.
  3. Date and Place: List the date (month, day, year) and city or specific place of the meeting or event.
  4. Meals: List the actual cost of meals (not per diem), not to exceed \$6.00 per meal or \$18.00 per day, plus tips. Tips claimed should not exceed 17 percent per meal. (Church and Conference related events are exempt from this rule with supporting evidence attached to the voucher.) (Meals for Conference Service Center Staff, District Superintendents, Butman Methodist Camp & Retreat Center Staff, and Ceta Canyon Methodist Camp & Retreat Center Staff will be paid at actual cost, not to exceed the per diem set by the State of Texas (currently \$35 a day including tips).
  5. Travel:  
Auto—Actual mileage traveled at 20 cents per mile or actual gasoline expense. (Carpooling is encouraged to keep expenses down.). Conference Service Center Staff, District Superintendents, Butman Methodist Camp & Retreat Center Staff, and Ceta Canyon Methodist Camp & Retreat Center Staff mileage will be paid at the maximum Internal Revenue Service rate.  
Air—Lowest fare available. Attach original or copy of ticket to the expense voucher.  
Other—Provide receipts for parking, taxi, and gasoline only if not using mileage.
  6. Lodging: Attach the original of the lodging bill listing the authorized expenses. If a spouse/family accompanies you, deduct 10 percent from the amount of your lodging reimbursement if you had to pay a higher rate than for a single room. If the room rate is the same for one person as for two persons, please make that notation on the receipt.

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7. Telephone: Attach original or copy of bill for long distance calls with the calls circled that are to be paid. The amount to be paid should include all appropriate service charges and taxes. Only Conference related calls will be paid by the Conference Treasurer.
  8. Honorarium: List the amount to be paid and the individual's Social Security number or Employer Identification number. The Internal Revenue Service requires this information and no voucher will be paid without this information. Attach supporting evidence authorizing the honorarium to be paid.
  9. Other expenses: Be specific in listing the expense and include the invoice or customer number on the voucher when applicable. Attach the original or copy of the bill or a paid receipt to the voucher. Purchase orders or packing slips that are not invoices are not acceptable as supporting evidence. If voucher is for payment of a bill, and payment stub requires amount paid to be filled in or payments noted, this should be taken care of by the person submitting the voucher. Also, if there is a return envelope provided, please put return address in space provided.
  10. Total expenses claimed: List the total amount of the voucher.
  11. Payable to: List the person or institution to whom the check is to be paid and the full mailing address. ALL vouchers that are payable for a service (i.e. plumber, electrician, service business) MUST have an EIN (Employer's Identification Number, i.e. Tax ID number) or the person's Social Security Number for 1099 purposes. If a Social Security number is given, we must have the corresponding person's name. Vouchers that do not have this information will NOT be paid until information is provided.
  12. Authorized by: To be signed by the official(s) of each agency who is authorized to sign the expense voucher and the date signed.
- I. Other General Directives for Expense Vouchers:
1. No voucher will be honored that is not properly executed with supporting evidence. It will be returned to the person authorized to sign the voucher with a statement indicating why it is returned. The Conference Treasurer shall issue checks to the designated payees only upon receipt of properly executed vouchers covering authorized expenses.
  2. Each voucher shall be signed by one or more properly authorized representatives of the council, board, commission, committee, or other agency from whose budget line item the voucher is drawn. The identity of the person or person authorized to sign vouchers for each group, except the Council on Finance and Administration and the Conference Treasurer's Office, shall be established by that group in consultation with the Conference Director. The Conference Director shall be responsible for securing the signatures of these representatives annually and filing them with the Conference Treasurer's Office. When changes in personnel or procedure require a change in authorized signatures, the Conference Director shall notify the Conference Treasurer and file appropriate signature authorization forms.
  3. Vouchers shall be made only for one person, presenting costs of meals, lodging, and other expenses, except when previous arrangements are made with the Conference Treasurer.
  4. All vouchers must be presented for payment to the Conference Treasurer's Office within 60 days following the date the expense was billed.
  5. Vouchers must be in the Conference Treasurer's office by December 20 of the fiscal year. For expenses incurred between December 20 and December 31, vouchers must be in the Conference Treasurer's office by January 10. Vouchers received after that date will not be honored.
  6. All vouchers will be paid within 5 working days, depending on the work load in the Conference Treasurer's Office, provided all vouchers are properly executed.
  7. No person may collect expenses from more than one board for meetings held simultaneously.
- J. Other Procedures and Policies:
1. No member or employee of any Conference agency and no employee, trustee, or director of any agency or institution participating in the funds of any Conference budget shall be eligible for voting membership on the council. (§611.2b, 2004 DISCIPLINE).
  2. The General Council on Finance and Administration provides a blanket bond coverage for all Conference Treasurers, and related staff members up to \$1,000,000.00 as of 1/1/85. The books of all treasurers handling Conference funds will be audited and copies filed with the Conference Treasurer. The Conference Treasurer's books will be audited annually.
  3. The Northwest Texas Conference, in keeping with §259 2004 DISCIPLINE, provides Commercial Blanket Bond Coverage of local church treasurers, up to \$100,000. The Hilb, Rogal, and Hobbs Company is the underwriter for this coverage.
  4. The Conference Treasurer is required to keep all records of income, expenditures, and supporting evidence for vouchers in lockable, fire proof cabinets for the current year and the previous year.

II. CONFERENCE STABILIZATION FUND

- A. The Conference Stabilization Fund is to guarantee the operation of all councils, boards, committees, commissions, or causes participating in Conference funds, for one year without borrowing funds to assure their operations.
- B. After all expense vouchers have been paid at the close of the fiscal year, any money remaining in the account line items of allocated funds which were collected by Conference apportionments to churches, shall be transferred to the Conference Stabilization Fund, unless restricted by the BOOK OF DISCIPLINE or otherwise excluded by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.
- C. The Conference Treasurer and president of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration are authorized to borrow funds, when necessary, on a short-term basis, from the Conference Depository of Funds to meet the demands made on the Conference Stabilization Fund by any agency. Such loans shall be retired with funds received from the churches in the year in which the loan is made.
- D. In keeping with the recommendations of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the Conference Stabilization Fund should be maintained at a level equal to 10% of the Annual Conference budget. Any monies of the Conference Stabilization Fund not in demand shall be invested with other Conference funds according to the investment policies adopted by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Earnings from investments shall be credited to and become a part of the Conference Stabilization Fund unless exempted by the Council on Finance and Administration.

III. INVESTMENT OF CONFERENCE FUNDS

The Conference Treasurer shall execute the policies established by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration governing investments of Conference funds and regulating cash flow.

1. All funds shall be invested following the guidelines of the General Council on Finance and Administration wherever they may be relevant or applicable.
2. The objectives for investment of Conference funds are that the principal value of the funds be preserved and that the investments provide a reasonable rate of return.
3. The Conference Treasurer shall report annually to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration the amounts invested and the earnings gained from the investments.
4. The Conference Treasurer shall seek approval annually from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration of the then depository or depositories of Conference funds, following which the council shall act upon any changes which it deems appropriate.
5. The Conference Treasurer may be authorized by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to invest funds in accordance with policies and procedures established by the council (§612.5, 2004 DISCIPLINE). A listing of securities held shall be printed annually in the Conference JOURNAL.

IV. GENERAL POLICIES

- A. We recommend that all councils, boards, commissions, and committees attempt to reduce the number of persons attending any one meeting.
- B. Money received from all four districts for the financial support of the Wesley Foundations, Campus Ministries at Texas Tech, West Texas A & M, Southern Methodist University, McMurry University, and South Plains College will be divided with each receiving the percentage that their budget is of the total Wesley Foundation apportionments (United Methodist Family Funds). Churches may designate monies to the individual Wesley Foundations after the amount accepted on their apportionments (United Methodist Family Funds) for Wesley Foundations has been paid in full.
- C. Ministerial Support Items.  
(Apportioned on the Ministerial Decimal.)
  1. District Superintendent Fund:
    - a. The cash salary of each superintendent shall be 180% of the cash salary part of the Conference Average Compensation, as determined by the General Board of Pension for the ~~previous~~ **current** calendar year. For **2008** the cash salary is \$ **69,362**. For **2009** the cash salary shall be **\$75,423**
    - b. Professional expenses shall be paid monthly to each District Superintendent, as vouchered.
    - c. Each district superintendent shall be required to voucher in detail for travel expense beyond the district; moving expense (new district superintendents); and continuing education.
    - d. We recommend monthly payment of the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) based on 14% of the annual compensation for each district superintendent.
    - e. The provision of a district office for the district superintendent is the responsibility of the district trustees.
  2. The Episcopal Fund as presented in the Conference Budget.
  3. The Conference Claimants - Board of Pensions as presented in the Conference Budget.
  4. The Equitable Compensation Fund as presented in the Conference Budget.

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5. Supplemental Insurance Program as presented in the Conference budget
- D. When an automobile is furnished for a pastor, it shall be valued at \$4,500 per year. The utilities for the parsonage should be paid by the church and we encourage churches to pay the pastor's continuing education expense.
- E. We urge support of the Advance Specials as submitted by the Board of Global Ministries of the Conference Ministry Team.
- F. We approve the Board of Ordained Ministry's request for a Seminary Scholarship Fund as a Conference Advance Special in the amount of \$40,000 per year, to provide financial assistance toward theological education for our seminary students.
- G. We recommend that special days be observed in our local churches as designated by the General Conference and in the various reports to the Annual Conference.
- H. Financial projects and campaigns of the Conference shall be governed as follows:
  1. All financial projects and campaigns that involve asking funds from all churches in the Conference shall be approved by the agency involved, by the Council on Finance and Administration, and by the Annual Conference before the beginning of the said financial campaign or project; provided, however, that this bylaw shall not apply to those projects or campaigns having the approval of the general church or Council of Bishops.
  2. Any financial project or campaign so approved shall state a duration (how long the project or campaign will run) and termination date. These shall be strictly observed.
  3. All requests for funds, special days, or authorization of appeals for funds shall be submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Council on Finance and Administration shall make its recommendations concerning such requests before they are submitted to a business meeting of the Annual Conference.
  4. When quotas or apportionments are established to individual churches for a special project or campaign, said quotas shall continue unchanged through the duration of the campaign.
  5. All projects of Conference-owned institutions and agencies which will result in the incurring of indebtedness against Conference-owned property shall be submitted to the Conference institution or agency involved. These projects also shall be submitted per the policies of the Council on Finance and Administration, and shall be approved by a business meeting of the Annual Conference before the beginning of the project. Between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Council on Finance and Administration shall have authority to grant the required approval if
    - a. the institution or agency involved presents satisfactory evidence that means of repayment of the indebtedness is adequately committed.
    - b. the project has been presented per the policies of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.
- I. We recommend the following institutions be granted permission to solicit funds within the Conference without a campaign for the year **2009**:
  1. Wesley Community Center for the operation budget and special needs.
  2. McMurry University for wills and special gifts.
  3. Butman and Ceta Canyon Methodist Camp and Retreat Centers, for capital development plans.
  4. Sears Methodist System for operation budgets and special needs.
  5. King's Manor Methodist Retirement System, Inc. for operation budgets and special needs.
  6. Archives and History Commission for the United Methodist Archives Center building at Drew University and at McMurry University.
  7. Wesley Foundation, Campus Ministry at Texas Tech University, West Texas A & M, and South Plains College.
  8. Methodist Family and Rehabilitation Services Building Campaign.  
(A campaign is interpreted as when an institution or agency sets fair share goals for the churches of the Northwest Texas Conference and the churches are expected to meet these goals.)
- J. When a Conference owned institution begins fund raising for the purpose of capital improvements or additions, commitments for at least 30% of the required funds shall be obtained from advance donors before the proposed project is presented to the Council on Finance and Administration and the Annual Conference Board of Trustees for approval. Before a loan agreement is entered into and before construction begins, 75% of the amount needed must be in hand as cash donations or pledges.
- K. We recommend the asking for Homes for the Aging be divided between Sears Methodist Retirement System and King's Manor Methodist Retirement System with each receiving the percentage that their budget is of the total Homes for the United Methodist Family Funds.

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- L. The United Methodist Family Funds for Butman and Ceta Canyon Methodist Camp and Retreat Centers is to be divided between the two campgrounds with each receiving the percentage that their budget is of the total Camps Operation asking.
- M. We recommend support of the Texas United Methodist College Association as presented in the Conference budget.
- N. We approve the following special days with offerings:
  - Fall - Christian Education Sunday
  - Third Sunday in September - Wesley Community Center, Amarillo
  - November - Methodist Mission Home Sunday
  - Last Sunday in October or first Sunday In November - Retired Ministers' Sunday
  - Second Sunday in May - Homes for the Aging
  - December Christmas Offering – Methodist Children's Home, Waco
- O. The Conference Treasurer's Office is designated as the Central Accounting Office of the Northwest Texas Conference. All funds received on behalf of the Conference shall be deposited with the Conference Treasurer for distribution as directed by the Conference.

Accounts of boards, commissions, committees, and other agencies shall be audited annually by the firm designated by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Audit reports for boards, commissions, committees, and other agencies shall be filed annually with the Conference Treasurer. All institutions and agencies receiving financial support from the Northwest Texas Conference shall deposit copies of their audit with the Conference Treasurer for the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Audits are due by May 15 each year. If audits are not received, funds will be withheld pending receipt of the audit.
- P. The Council on Finance and Administration will present the budget to Annual Conference at least 24 hours prior to voting on the budget.
- Q. There shall be a Permanent Fund Committee, which shall be governed as follows:
  - a. The responsibilities of the Permanent Fund Committee shall include:
    - 1. Promoting donation to the Permanent Fund throughout the Conference
    - 2. Making annual recommendations to the Council on Finance and Administration on how to spend the interest earned by the Permanent Fund.
  - b. The members of the Permanent Fund Committee shall be:
    - 1. One member at large from each district
    - 2. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, or the member of the Board of Trustees appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
    - 3. The Chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration or the member of the Council on Finance and Administration appointed by the Chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration
    - 4. The Conference Director of Mission and Administration
    - 5. A representative of the Texas Methodist Foundation, without vote
- R. In each district, there shall be a District Finance Committee. The Finance Committee of each district shall be governed as follows:
  - a. The responsibilities of the Finance Committee shall include:
    - 1. Recommending to the District Conference for its action and determination a budget of anticipated income and proposed expenditures for the district
    - 2. Reviewing at least semiannually and accounting to the District Conference for the disbursement of funds in accordance with the budget approved by the District Conference.
    - 3. Providing for an audit of the accounts of the District Treasurer(s) for the preceding fiscal year within 120 days after the close of the Conference fiscal year and receiving, reviewing, and reporting such audit to the District Conference.
  - b. The Finance Committee shall have the following members:
    - 1. The chairperson, elected by the District Conference
    - 2. District Superintendent
    - 3. District Treasurer(s)
    - 4. Chair of the District Ministry Team
    - 5. Chair of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry
    - 6. Chair of the Committee on District Superintendency
    - 7. Chair of the District Board of Trustees
    - 8. Additional members as may be determined by the District Nominations Committee or the District Conference

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- c. The election of District Finance Committee members shall be as follows;
  - 1. The District Nominations Committee shall make nominations for the District Finance Committee.
  - 2. The District Finance Committee shall be elected at a District Conference session.
- d. The District Finance Committee shall meet at least two (2) times a year and, additionally, at the call of the District Superintendent or a District Treasurer.

**V. THE DECIMALS USED TO ARRIVE AT THE TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS TO EACH LOCAL CHURCH**

The Decimal is determined by each church's total for Current Program Expense, Other Operating Expense, and all Staff Compensation for the three most recent years available (line numbers 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72 of the church's statistical report) divided by the corresponding conference line number totals for the same period.)

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NWTX CONFERENCE BUDGET - 2009

	<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>2009 Budget</b>
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>I. Ministerial Support</b>	2,877,815	2,801,350
<b>II. Conference</b>	2,376,232	2,557,327
<b>III. General Church/ World Outreach</b>	826,653	795,061
<b>IV. South Central Jurisdiction</b>	172,915	170,365
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>6,253,615</u></b>	<b><u>6,324,103</u></b>
		Increase of 1.13%
<b>I. Ministerial Support</b>		
A. Conference Claimants (Board of Pensions)	1,200,000	1,100,000
B. District Superintendents Fund	491,550	520,792
- Episcopal Fund	169,999	165,204
C. Equitable Compensation Fund	205,000	185,000
D. Ministerial Education Fund	211,266	210,354
- Supplemental Health Insurance Fund	600,000	620,000
<b>Total Ministerial Support</b>	<b><u>2,877,815</u></b>	<b><u>2,801,350</u></b>
<b>I. A. Conf Claimants (Board of Pensions)</b>		
Pension Requirement	1,599,118	1,419,656
Administrative Budget	44,225	45,500
Sub Total	<u>1,643,343</u>	<u>1,465,156</u>
Apportionment not received	443,343	365,156
<b>Apportionment Needed</b>	<b><u>1,200,000</u></b>	<b><u>1,100,000</u></b>
<b>Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBPHB) Administrative Budget</b>		
Administrative Travel/ Meetings	3,000	3,000
Office Expense	4,000	4,000
New Equipment/Computer Program/Maintenance	3,000	3,000
Continuing Education	1,000	1,000
Benefits Officer- Subsidy	51,450	53,000
Health Wellness	10,000	10,000
Retirees Moving Expense	5,000	6,250
Retirees Conference Expense	8,000	7,000
Special Dinner	2,000	1,750
Special Needs Grant	1,000	2,000
<b>Total Administrative Budget (CBPHB)</b>	<b><u>88,450</u></b>	<b><u>91,000</u></b>
<b>I. B. District Superintendents Fund</b>		
District Superintendent's Salaries	277,450	301,692
Vouchered Business Expense in District	40,000	44,000
Insurance	65,000	66,000
Beyond District Travel	40,000	40,000
Moving Expense - New District Superintendents	2,500	2,500
Pension Payments – Clergy Pension Plan/Comprehensive Protection Plan (CRSP/ CPP)	59,000	59,000
Cabinet Office Expense (Lubbock District Office)	3,600	3,600
Worker's Compensation	4,000	4,000
<b>Total - District Superintendent's Fund</b>	<b><u>491,550</u></b>	<b><u>520,792</u></b>
<b>I. C. Equitable Compensation Fund</b>		
Church Support	202,500	182,500
Administration	2,500	2,500
<b>Total- Equitable Compensation Fund</b>	<b><u>205,000</u></b>	<b><u>185,000</u></b>
<b>I. D. Ministerial Education Fund</b>		
Ministerial Student Financial Aid Grants - Seminary	20,520	20,520
Ministerial Student Financial Aid Grants - Non-Seminary	30,780	30,780
Pastoral Ministry School (Pastor's School)	1,000	1,000
License to Preach School	1,000	1,000
Probationer's Seminars and Retreats	2,000	2,000
Health Academy (Support Seminars)	5,000	5,000
<b>Total- Ministerial Education Fund</b>	<b><u>60,300</u></b>	<b><u>60,300</u></b>

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	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>II. Conference</b>		
A. Board of Ministry	25,000	25,000
B. Camp Operations and Programming	245,000	271,400
- Chaplaincy Service (Covenant)	110,000	110,000
- Church Extension/Revitalization	300,000	300,000
C. Conference Ministries	150,000	200,000
D. Conference Services	752,090	813,740
E. Hispanic Ministry (Northwest Texas Conference)	50,000	50,000
History of Northwest Texas Conference (Archives & History)	10,000	10,000
F. Homes For The Aging	100,000	100,000
- Stabilization Fund	127,500	127,500
- Wesley Community Center	50,000	50,000
G. Wesley Foundation and Campus Ministries	456,642	499,687
<b>Total Conference</b>	<b><u>2,376,232</u></b>	<b><u>2,557,327</u></b>
<b>II. A. Board of Ministry</b>		
Board Meeting Expense	3,000	3,000
Connectional Meeting Expense	1,700	1,700
Telephone	800	800
Postage, Supplies, Printing	500	500
Ordination/Consecration Expense	1,000	1,000
Psychological Services and Exams	3,500	3,500
Supervisor's Expense	1,000	1,000
Seminary Relations	6,000	6,000
Educational/Training Expense	5,000	5,000
Ministerial Development Program	2,000	2,000
Southwest Career Development	500	500
<b>Total- Board of Ministry</b>	<b><u>25,000</u></b>	<b><u>25,000</u></b>
<b>II. B. Camp Operations and Programming</b>		
Butman Supplement	85,000	90,700
Ceta Canyon Supplement	110,000	125,700
Summer Program Supplement	50,000	55,000
<b>Total Camp Operations and Programming</b>	<b><u>245,000</u></b>	<b><u>271,400</u></b>
<b>II. C. Conference Leadership</b>		
Administration	15,000	15,000
Deploy Ministry Team	54,700	54,700
Invite Ministry Team	10,000	50,000
Nuture Ministry Team	28,100	38,100
Equip Ministry Team	42,200	42,200
<b>Total - Conference Ministries</b>	<b><u>150,000</u></b>	<b><u>200,000</u></b>
<b>II. D. Conference Services</b>		
1. Annual Conference Administrative Committees	5,000	5,500
- Annual Conference Expense/Journals	20,000	25,000
2. Archives and History	34,150	34,150
- Area Administration Fund		
(Northwest Texas Conference Part)	12,000	12,000
3. Area Resource Center	7,140	7,140
- Audit Treasurer's Financial Records	5,000	6,000
- Board of Trustees	1,250	1,250
4. Conference Service Center	614,550	657,700
5. Council on Finance and Administration	5,000	5,000
- Episcopal Residence	16,000	20,000
6. Legal Fee's/ Directors' & Officers' Liability	20,000	20,000
- UM Review	12,000	20,000
<b>Total-Conference Services</b>	<b><u>752,090</u></b>	<b><u>813,740</u></b>

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	2008 Budget Amount	2009 Budget Amount
<b>II. D. 1. Conference Services-Annual, Jurisdictional, and General Conference</b>		
Annual Conference Administrative Committee	1,500	2,000
Alternate Expense to General/Jurisdictional Conference	3,500	3,500
<b><i>Total- Annual, Jurisdictional, and General Conference</i></b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,500</b>
<b>II. D. 2. Conference Services- Archives and History</b>		
Conference Archives Operation:		
Salaries	15,000	15,000
Part-Time Archivist Salary	6,000	6,000
Employee Benefits	1,350	1,350
FICA and Medicare	1,700	1,700
Worker's Compensation	150	150
Continuing Education & Training	1,500	1,500
Equipment	1,000	1,000
Supplies	1,000	1,000
Commission Expenses	1,000	1,000
Texas Methodist Historical Society Dues	150	150
Printing and Mailing	300	300
Centennial Celebration	5,000	5,000
<b><i>Total -Archives and History</i></b>	<b>34,150</b>	<b>34,150</b>
<b>II. D. 3. Conference Services- Area Resource Center</b>		
Staff Subsidy to Conference Off	6,000	6,000
Acquisition	2,500	2,500
Travel and Meeting Expense	750	750
Postage and Office Expense	1,000	1,000
Continuing Education	500	500
Computer Support/ Equipment	500	500
Equipment Maintenance/ Repair	350	350
New Equipment	300	300
<b><i>Total- Area Resource Center</i></b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>11,900</b>
Northwest Texas Conference Part (60%)	7,140	7,140
<b>II. D. 4. Conference Services- Conference Service Center (CSC)</b>		
a. CSC Building Expense	70,000	70,000
b. CSC Office Expense	51,500	62,000
c. CSC Staff expense	493,050	525,700
<b><i>Total Conference Service Center</i></b>	<b>614,550</b>	<b>657,700</b>
<b>II. D. 4. a. CSC Building Expense</b>		
Utilities	14,000	14,000
Improvements and Maintenance	8,500	8,500
Insurance on Building and Equipment	16,000	16,000
Janitorial Service	5,500	5,500
Capital Improvement/Replacement	10,000	10,000
New Equipment	8,000	8,000
Computer/ Equipment Replacement	8,000	8,000
<b><i>Total Building Expense</i></b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>
<b>II. D. 4. b. CSC -Office Expense</b>		
Computer Program Support	15,000	20,000
Supplies	12,000	12,000
Maintenance and Rental of Office Equipment	13,000	15,000
Telephone	7,500	10,000
Postage	4,000	5,000
<b><i>Total Office Expense</i></b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>62,000</b>

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	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>II. D. 4. c. Conference Service Center</b>		
Conference Service Center Staff Salaries/Housing	374,400	400,000
<b>Staff Salary Related Items</b>		
Travel and Expenses	37,000	43,500
Staff Continuing Education	2,000	0
Staff Development	1,500	0
FICA and Medicare	25,000	26,000
Hospitalization Insurance	63,600	65,000
BPP Disability/ Death Benefit	3,000	3,000
Pensions	37,000	40,000
Worker's Compensation	5,000	5,000
Bonuses	4,000	4,200
<b>Total Conference Service center Staff</b>	<b><u>552,500</u></b>	<b><u>586,700</u></b>
<b>Staff Related Income:</b>		
From Area resource Center- Staff Subsidy	(6,000)	(6,000)
From Interest Income Conference Parsonage	(2,000)	(2,000)
From Insurance and Pension - Staff Subsidy	(51,450)	(53,000)
<b>Total Staff Related Income</b>	<b><u>(59,450)</u></b>	<b><u>(61,000)</u></b>
<b>Net Conference Center Staff</b>	<b><u>493,050</u></b>	<b><u>525,700</u></b>
<b>II. D. 5. Council on Finance and Administration</b>		
Meeting Expense	1,000	1,000
Workshops	1,500	1,500
Benevolence Interpretation	2,500	2,500
<b>Total Council on Finance and Administration</b>	<b><u>5,000</u></b>	<b><u>5,000</u></b>
<b>II. D. 6. Legal Fees/Directors and Officer's Liability</b>		
Legal Fees	11,000	11,000
Directors and Officers Liability	9,000	9,000
<b>Total Legal Fees and Officer's Liability</b>	<b><u>20,000</u></b>	<b><u>20,000</u></b>
<b>II. E. Hispanic Ministry (Northwest Texas Conference)</b>		
Training	25,000	25,000
Leadership	14,000	14,000
Expanding Ministries	6,000	6,000
Camp Amigos	5,000	5,000
<b>Total Hispanic Ministries</b>	<b><u>50,000</u></b>	<b><u>50,000</u></b>
<b>II. F. Homes For The Aging</b>		
Sears Methodist Retirement System	50,000	50,000
King's Manor- Hereford	50,000	50,000
<b>Total- Homes for the Aging</b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>
<b>II. G. Wesley Foundation and Campus Ministries</b>		
Wesley Foundation Texas Tech University	219,500	226,000
Wesley Foundation-West Texas A & M	150,000	154,500
Wesley Foundation-South Plains College	70,500	72,600
Wesley Foundation-SMU	3,642	3,329
McMurry- Campus Ministries	13,000	13,400
New Campus Ministries	0	29,858
<b>Total- Wesley Foundation and Campus Ministries</b>	<b><u>456,642</u></b>	<b><u>499,687</u></b>
<b>III. General Church/World Outreach</b>		
World Service Ministry	650,042	608,197
Africa University Fund	18,577	18,782
Black College Fund	84,125	83,918
General (Administration Fund) Services	57,223	67,770
Interdenominational Co-op. Fund	16,686	16,394
<b>Total General Church/World Outreach</b>	<b><u>826,653</u></b>	<b><u>795,061</u></b>

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	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>IV. South Central Jurisdiction</b>		
Lydia Patterson Institute	28,282	26,636
Mission and Administration Fund	13,848	12,658
Mt. Sequoyah Methodist Assembly	5,785	6,071
Texas United Methodist College Association	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>
<b>Total South Central Jurisdiction</b>	<b><u>172,915</u></b>	<b><u>170,365</u></b>

**BYLAWS OF THE NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**I.** The Northwest Texas Conference shall structure itself in such a manner so that all areas are in compliance with the Book of Discipline.

**II. Lay Membership**

Bylaw 2.101 Additional Lay Members

In addition to the lay members provided by the Book of Discipline the following shall be lay members of the Northwest Texas Conference:

1. The district president of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men in each of the districts of the Conference
2. A lay member from the additional churches where there is more than one church on a pastoral charge
3. Each Associate Conference Lay Leader
4. Two youth from each district to be selected by the District Youth Coordinator or District Superintendent
5. The executive officer or president, if a member of a local United Methodist Church within the boundaries of the Conference, of the following Methodist institutions:  
 Butman Methodist Camp and Retreat Center, Merkel  
 Ceta Canyon Camp and Retreat Center, Happy  
 King's Manor Methodist Home, Hereford  
 Lubbock Methodist Hospital System, Lubbock  
 McMurry University, Abilene  
 Sears Methodist Retirement System, Inc., Abilene  
 Wesley Community Center, Amarillo
6. One representative from each United Methodist Campus Ministry unit located within the boundaries of the Conference
7. Lay persons who serve as chairs of Conference agencies or officers of the Conference (if not a local church lay member or alternate to the Annual Conference)
8. One additional lay member above those otherwise authorized for the churches with large membership, beginning with the church with the most members and proceeding down the list of churches arranged in order of membership as far as necessary to make the total number of lay members equal to the total number of clergy members

Bylaw 2.102 Determination of Additional Lay Members

The Statistician shall determine which churches are entitled to an additional lay member for the next year under Bylaw 2.101, item 8. The Statistician shall notify the churches of their entitlement, and provide the information to the district superintendents.

Bylaw 2.103 Terms of Office

Lay members shall be elected annually. Lay members shall take office on the first day of January following their election, and they shall remain in office until their successors are duly elected.

**III. Officers**

Bylaw 3.101 List of Officers

The officers of the Conference shall include the Bishop, the Director of Mission and Administration, the District Superintendents, the Chancellor, the Lay Leader, the Secretary, the Statistician, and the Treasurer.

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Bylaw 3.102 Director of Mission and Administration

There shall be a Director of Mission and Administration who shall serve the Conference by coordinating and facilitating the discharge of its various functions. The Director shall serve as the executive officer of the Conference and of the Personnel Committee. The duties and functions of the Director shall be those assigned to him/her by the Bishop and the Personnel Committee. After consultation, the presiding Bishop and the Personnel Committee shall name the Director. In naming the Director, the Bishop and the Personnel Committee shall observe the provisions of Bylaw 4.102. The Director shall be amenable to the Bishop and the Personnel Committee.

Bylaw 3.103 Chancellor

The Chancellor shall be elected annually during a business meeting of the Annual Conference. The Chancellor shall take office upon adjournment of the Annual Conference session at which the election of the Chancellor was held. The Chancellor shall remain in office until his or her successor is duly elected.

Bylaw 3.104 Lay Leader

The Lay Leader shall be elected annually during a business meeting of the Annual Conference. The Lay Leader shall take office upon adjournment of the Annual Conference session at which the election of the Lay Leader was held. The Lay Leader shall remain in office until his or her successor is duly elected.

Bylaw 3.105 Secretary

In addition to the responsibilities provided in the Discipline, the Secretary shall record the minutes of each session of the Annual Conference, produce and distribute such minutes, and keep the annuals of Annual Conference activities. The Secretary shall be elected during a business meeting of the first regular session of the Annual Conference that follows a regular session of the General Conference. The Secretary shall take office upon the adjournment of the Annual Conference session at which the election of the Secretary was held. The Secretary shall remain in office until his or her successor is duly elected. The Secretary shall have the authority to nominate his/her assistants, whose term of office shall begin with their election and continue until the opening of the next session of the Annual Conference. If the Secretary is an employee of the Conference, the tenure rule, Bylaw 5.401, shall not apply.

Bylaw 3.106 Statistician

The Statistician shall compile and record the statistical reports of the local churches and the Conference. The Statistician also shall fulfill the requirements of Bylaw 1.102. The Statistician shall have the authority to nominate his/her assistants, whose term of office shall begin with their election and continue until the opening of the next session of the Annual Conference. The Statistician shall be elected during a business meeting of the first regular session of the Annual Conference that follows a regular session of the General Conference. The Statistician shall take office upon the adjournment of the Annual Conference session at which the election of the Statistician was held. The Statistician shall remain in office until his or her successor is duly elected. If the Statistician is an employee of the Conference, the tenure rule, Bylaw 4.501, shall not apply.

Bylaw 3.107 Vacancies

When a vacancy occurs in the office of Chancellor or Lay Leader between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Cabinet shall have authority to fill that vacancy until the next regular session of the Annual Conference is adjourned.

*IV. Staff*

Bylaw 4.101 Duties and Accountability

If staff is provided by the Conference, the duties and functions of the staff shall be defined by the Director of Mission and Administration. The staff shall be amenable to the Director of Mission and Administration and the Personnel Committee.

Bylaw 4.102 Employment of Staff

Employment of staff shall be governed as follows:

- a. As much as possible, employees of the Conference shall include women, racial and ethnic persons, lay, and clergy, at every level.

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- b. Ordained ministers shall be subject to appointment to the Conference staff by the presiding Bishop in consultation with the Personnel Committee. The Conference shall pay ordained ministers appointed to the staff their actual moving expense, up to \$1,250.00.
- c. The appointment and/or employment of executive, administrative or program director(s) and associate directors of the councils and boards of the Conference shall be reviewed annually.

**V. Agencies of the Conference**

**A. The Conference Leadership Team**

Bylaw 5.101 The Conference Leadership Team

There shall be a Conference Leadership Team which shall provide servant leadership:

- a. The Conference Leadership Team will assume authority for developing and maintaining the focus of the Conference by refining and implementing the values, mission, vision, structure, and strategies.
- b. The following shall be members of the Conference Leadership Team:
  - 1. Presiding Bishop
  - 2. Director of Mission and Administration
  - 3. Conference Lay Leader
  - 4. Eight at large members, nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference
  - 5. A representative of the Council on Finance and Administration (ex-officio without vote)
- c. At least one half of the Conference Leadership Team shall be laity.
- d. At least one member of the Conference Leadership Team will represent the Conference Leadership Team on each of the Ministry Teams
- e. The Conference Leadership Team shall meet at least quarterly
- f. The Conference Leadership Team will inform the Conference Committee on Nominations of positions that need to be filled on any of the Ministry Teams, Boards, or Agencies
- g. The Conference Leadership Team will structure the Ministry Teams, ensuring that the functions and connections required by the Book of Discipline are maintained.

Bylaw 5.102 Access to the Conference Leadership Team

Task Forces created by the Conference Leadership Team shall have access to the Conference Leadership Team for the purpose of requesting personnel and funding to carry out their respective responsibilities.

**B. Ministry Teams Amenable to the Conference Leadership Team**

Bylaw 5.201 Deploy Ministry Team

The Deploy Ministry Team exists to send called persons to engage the culture inside and outside the church.

Bylaw 5.202 Invite Ministry Team

The Invite Ministry Team exists to develop meaningful relationships with others and incorporate them into the church.

Bylaw 5.203 Nurture Ministry Team

The Nurture Ministry Team shall be to connect people to Jesus Christ and care for people so they can care for others.

Bylaw 5.204 Equip Ministry Team

The Equip Ministry Team exists to identify spiritual gifts, provide tools and knowledge, and teach and train to lead.

**C. Agencies Amenable Directly to the Conference (in alphabetical order)**

Bylaw 5.301 Board of Ordained Ministry

In addition to the ex-officio members mandated by the Discipline, the Board of Ordained Ministry shall have the following members:

- 1. **Fifteen** clergy members as defined by the Discipline elected by the Annual Conference
- 2. **Four** lay members elected by the Annual Conference.

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Bylaw 5.302 Board of Pension and Health Benefits

There shall be a Board of Pension and Health Benefits, which shall be governed as follows:

- a. The Board shall have charge of the interests and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of The United Methodist Church, its institutions, organizations, and agencies within the Conference.
- b. The Board shall provide oversight for the Conference health insurance program.
- c. The Board shall have not less than **twelve** members elected by the Conference in addition to the ex-officio members mandated by the Discipline.
- d. Members shall serve a term of eight years. **A new person who serves an incomplete term of less than three years is eligible to serve an additional eight years.**

Bylaw 5.303 Board of Trustees

In addition to the members mandated by the Discipline, the Conference Chancellor shall be an ex-officio member without vote.

Bylaw 5.304 Commission on Equitable Compensation

The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall have the following members:

1. At least **four** clergy
2. At least **four** laypersons
3. One District Superintendent, named by the Cabinet, with vote, as mandated by the Discipline
4. One Conference Service Center Staff Member, as designated by the Director of Mission and Administration, without vote

Bylaw 5.305 Committee on Bylaws, Rules, and Resolutions

There shall be a Committee on Bylaws, Rules, and Resolutions, which shall be governed as follows:

- a. The responsibilities of the Committee on Bylaws, Rules and Resolutions shall include:
  1. Making editorial changes in the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Rules of Order that reflect decisions of the Annual Conference
  2. Publishing such editorial changes in the next edition of the Conference JOURNAL
  3. Receiving suggestions for bylaws, rules of order, and changes in the bylaws and rules of order from the agencies of the Conference
  4. Receiving and referring petitions addressed to the Annual Conference to the appropriate Conference agency
- b. The Committee on Bylaws, Rules and Resolutions shall have six members, elected by the Annual Conference.

Bylaw 5.306 Committee on Nominations

There shall be a Nominations Committee, which shall be governed as follows:

- a. The responsibility of the Nominations Committee shall include making nominations for all non-salaried officers and members of Conference agencies, except when the Discipline or the Bylaws of the Conference provide otherwise.
- b. The membership of the Nominations Committee shall be as follows:
  1. Presiding Bishop, as chair
  2. District Superintendents
  3. Two laypersons and one clergy elected annually from each district by nomination as the District Conference determines
  4. The President and the Vice President of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (or their designated representatives)
  5. The Director of Mission and Administration, with vote
  6. Conference Service Center Staff Member, as designated by the Director of Mission and Administration, without vote
  7. The Lay Leader
  8. The President of United Methodist Men
  9. The President of United Methodist Women
- c. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least once a year.

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- d. At the end of each calendar year the Director of Mission and Administration shall prepare for the Nominating Committee and District Ministry Teams lists of vacancies on Conference agencies. For help in selecting nominees, the District Ministry Teams shall prepare for the Nominating Committee a resource pool of persons who could serve on Conference agencies.
- e. Nominees for agencies shall be consulted by a member of the Nominating Committee and shall agree to serve before the nomination is placed before a meeting of the Annual Conference.

Bylaw 5.307 Committee on Personnel

There shall be a Personnel Committee, which shall be governed as follows:

- a. The responsibilities of the Personnel Committee shall include the management of employee relationships with the Director of Mission and Administration and any other staff of the Conference.
- b. Members of the Personnel Committee shall be:
  - 1. Bishop, as chairperson
  - 2. Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry
  - 3. Chairperson of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits
  - 4. Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
  - 5. Chairperson of the Conference Leadership Team
  - 6. Conference Lay Leader
  - 7. Dean of the Cabinet
  - 8. President of the Council on Finance and Administration

Bylaw 5.308 Council on Finance and Administration

In addition to the ex-officio members mandated by the Discipline, the Council on Finance and Administration shall have thirteen elected members.

**D. Membership in Agencies of the Conference**

Bylaw 5.401 Tenure

Except for Ex Officio Members, persons serving as members of Conference agencies shall serve for no more than eight consecutive years **in a particular office**. Service of one year or less in an unexpired four-year term shall not be considered as a part of the four-year term.

Bylaw 5.402 Commencement of Term in Office

The term in office for elected members of Conference agencies shall begin upon adjournment of the District Conference Session, or Annual Conference Session at which the election of those members was held.

Bylaw 5.403 Extension of Term in Office

Upon taking office, elected members of Conference agencies shall remain in office until their successors are duly elected.

Bylaw 5.404 Vacancies

When a vacancy occurs in the membership of an Conference agency between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Cabinet, **Conference Leadership Team, or the DINE Ministry Teams** shall have authority (unless the authority is otherwise assigned by the Discipline) to fill that vacancy for the remaining part of the term; however, in the case of terms exceeding one year, the Cabinet shall not fill the vacancy beyond the adjournment of the next regular session of the Annual Conference. If the Cabinet fills a vacancy under this bylaw, the Cabinet shall report its action to the next regular Annual Conference session.

Bylaw 5.405 Restriction on Simultaneous Membership

A person shall not serve simultaneously on more than one of the following Conference agencies: Board of Ordained Ministry, Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Commission on Equitable Compensation, and Council on Finance and Administration. This bylaw shall not apply if simultaneous service is the ex officio result of membership in a Conference, general, or jurisdictional agency.

Bylaw 5.406 Unexcused Absences

If a person who has been elected to serve on a conference level position has not attended any meeting in two years without a justifiable reason, that person may be replaced by the Conference Nominating Committee or the Cabinet.

**VI. Administration**

Bylaw 6.101 Budget Requests

All requests from program agencies for allocations from the Conference Ministries budget shall first be referred to the Conference Leadership Team for study and inclusion in Conference Leadership Team budget recommendations to the Council on Finance and Administration.

Bylaw 6.102 Financial Administration

The finances of the Conference shall be administered as follows:

- a. The Treasurer's office shall be the central accounting office for the Northwest Texas Conference. All funds received by the agencies of the Conference for or on the behalf of the Conference shall be deposited with the Treasurer for distribution as directed by the Conference. The agencies authorized to expend Conference funds shall certify to the Treasurer a responsible person or persons, authorized to draw vouchers against funds to the credit of said agencies. The Treasurer shall issue checks to the designated payee(s) upon receipt of properly executed vouchers covering authorized expenditures.
- b. All institutions and agencies receiving apportioned financial support from the Northwest Texas Conference shall deposit copies of their audit, made by a certified public accountant or other auditor acceptable to the Council on Finance and Administration, with the Treasurer for the Council on Finance and Administration. Funds to an institution or agency shall be withheld until its audit is filed with the Treasurer.

Bylaw 6.103 Tax-Exempt Provisions

In order to maintain the tax-exempt status of Conference property, the Conference shall be governed as follows:

- a. The Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, Incorporated, shall not engage in activities or use its assets in manners that are not in furtherance of one or more exempt religious purposes, as set forth in Internal Revenue Code Section 501c(3), Section 170c(2), and related regulations, rulings, and procedures as amended from time to time.
- b. Upon dissolution of the above-named corporation, all of the Corporation's assets shall be distributed to the State of Texas or an organization exempt from taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501c(3) for one or more purposes that are exempt under the Texas franchise tax.
- c. The Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, Incorporated, shall not operate in such a manner as to permit the accrual of profits, the distribution of profits, or the realization of any other form of private gain.

**VII. Districts of the Conference**

Bylaw 7.101 District Conference

The District Conference of each district shall be governed as follows:

If a District Conference session is held, the membership of the District Conference shall be composed of:

- a. All commissioned, licensed, ordained, and diaconal ministers, and ministers in extension ministries to United Methodist institutions within the bounds of the district
- b. District Lay Leader(s)
- c. District President of the United Methodist Women
- d. District President of the United Methodist Youth
- e. District Ministry Team Chair(s)
- f. Chair of the Church Council of each local church within the district
- g. Local Church Lay Members of Annual Conference elected by the Charge Conference of each local church in the district.

Bylaw 7.102 District Nominations Committee

In each district, there shall be a District Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee of each district shall be governed as follows:

- a. The responsibilities of the Nominations Committee shall include nominating, at the District Conference sessions, persons for such places of leadership in the District as the District Superintendent of the district and the Conference deem advisable for the ministries of the district.

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- b. The Nominations Committee shall have the following members:
  1. District Superintendent of the district as chair
  2. Nine elected members divided into three rotating classes. The elected members shall be elected for three-year terms and shall be composed of:
    - a. Three clergy
    - b. Six lay persons
- c. The District Superintendent of the district shall set the date and time for meetings of the Nominations Committee.

**VIII. District Superintendents**

Bylaw 8.101 Financial Report

District superintendents shall file with the Treasurer, by April 1 of each year, a financial report of the receipts and expenditures of the District Administration and Programming Fund.

Bylaw 8.102 Limitation on Membership on Quadrennial Committees

No district superintendent shall be a voting member of any Conference quadrennial agency except when the Discipline provides otherwise. This bylaw shall not apply to membership on boards of trustees of any of our United Methodist-related institutions.

Bylaw 8.103 Moving Expenses

Actual moving expenses of the incoming district superintendents shall be paid out of the District Superintendents Fund, up to \$1,250.00 (Effective January 1, 2006).

Bylaw 8.104 Representation of the Cabinet

The Cabinet shall designate from its membership one representative to be assigned to each of the following areas: the Council on Finance and Administration, the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the Board of Ordained Ministry. These representatives shall serve in a liaison capacity and on the respective executive committees. These representatives shall have voice but not vote, unless otherwise provided in the Discipline or these Bylaws.

**IX. Local Church**

Bylaw 9.101 Consultation Prior to Relocation or Creation of a Church

Before any person or group of persons establishes or relocates a church, that person or group shall consult with the Commission on Church Extension and Revitalization in order to determine:

1. The procedures required by the Conference in establishing or relocating a church, and
2. The assistance available from the Conference in establishing or relocating a church.

Bylaw 9.102 Moving Day for Pastors

There shall be an annual moving day for the pastors of the Conference. Moving day for pastors shall be determined annually by the Cabinet.

**X. Local Financial Administration**

Bylaw 10.101 Credit on Statistical Reports

The Council on Finance and Administration shall set the date that all monies will be in the hands of the Treasurer to be counted on a given year's statistical report.

Bylaw 10.102 Debt for Benevolences or Pastor's Salary

If money has been borrowed by a church to pay either benevolences or the pastor's salary, the pastor shall submit to the Secretary a statement of the amount involved. This statement shall be published in the Conference JOURNAL.

Bylaw 10.103 Group Health Insurance

The group health insurance program of the Conference shall be governed as follows:

- a. Premiums for all participants shall be remitted monthly by the local church or the salary-paying unit to the Benefits Officer of the Conference.
- b. The group health insurance apportionment to the local church shall be considered as a mandatory item as are all apportioned items.
- c. Churches which are in three months arrears in payment of the Conference group health insurance apportionments shall be reported to the church's district superintendents. The district superintendent, the pastor, and the Staff Parish Relations Committee shall explore the reasons for lack of payment. The district superintendent shall report these findings to the Board of Pension and Health Benefits as soon as possible with a recommendation as to corrective action.

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Bylaw 10.104 Moving Expenses

All churches shall pay the actual moving expense of an incoming pastor, up to \$1,250.00.

**XI. *The Ministry***

Bylaw 11.101 Memoir of Deceased Clergy Members of the Conference

The clergy in charge of the funeral of a deceased clergy member of the Conference, or of the funeral of a clergy member's spouse, shall be responsible to prepare and send a memoir to the editor of the Conference JOURNAL, at the request of the editor.

**XII. *Amendments to the Bylaws***

Bylaw 12.101 The Amendment Process

The Bylaws of the Conference shall be subject to amendment. An amendment to the Bylaws shall be void unless:

- a. Submitted to the Annual Conference for information **at least one business session** prior to the business meeting in which the proposed amendment is to be considered, discussed, and voted upon, and
- b. Adopted by simple majority of the voting members of the Annual Conference casting votes on the amendment.

**THE FOLLOWING BYLAWS WERE REMOVED AND ARE NOW INCLUDED  
IN THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION POLICIES**

Bylaw 4.415 Permanent Fund Committee

There shall be a Permanent Fund Committee, which shall be governed as follows:

- a. The responsibilities of the Permanent Fund Committee shall include:
  1. Promoting donation to the Permanent Fund throughout the Conference
  2. Making annual recommendations to the Council on Finance and Administration on how to spend the interest earned by the Permanent Fund.
- b. The members of the Permanent Fund Committee shall be:
  1. One member at large from each district
  2. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, or the member of the Board of Trustees appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
  3. The Chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration or the member of the Council on Finance and Administration appointed by the Chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration
  4. The Conference Director of Mission and Administration
  5. A representative of the Texas Methodist Foundation, without vote

Bylaw 5.103 Financial Projects and Campaigns

Financial projects and campaigns of the Conference shall be governed as follows:

- a. All financial projects and campaigns that involve asking funds from all churches in the Conference shall be approved by the agency involved, by the Council on Finance and Administration, and by the Annual Conference before the beginning of the said financial campaign or project; provided, however, that this bylaw shall not apply to those projects or campaigns having the approval of the general church or Council of Bishops.
- b. Any financial project or campaign so approved shall state a duration (how long the project or campaign will run) and termination date. These shall be strictly observed.
- c. All requests for funds, special days, or authorization of appeals for funds shall be submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Council on Finance and Administration shall make its recommendations concerning such requests before they are submitted to a business meeting of the Annual Conference.
- d. When quotas or apportionments are established to individual churches for a special project or campaign, said quotas shall continue unchanged through the duration of the campaign.
- e. All projects of Conference-owned institutions and agencies which will result in the incurring of indebtedness against Conference-owned property shall be submitted to the Conference institution or agency involved. These projects also shall be submitted per the policies of the Council on Finance and Administration, and shall be approved by a business meeting of the Annual Conference before the beginning of the project. Between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Council on Finance and Administration shall have authority to grant the required approval if

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1. the institution or agency involved presents satisfactory evidence that means of repayment of the indebtedness is adequately committed.
2. the project has been presented per the policies of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

Bylaw 6.104 District Finance Committee

In each district, there shall be a District Finance Committee. The Finance Committee of each district shall be governed as follows:

- a. The responsibilities of the Finance Committee shall include:
  1. Recommending to the District Conference for its action and determination a budget of anticipated income and proposed expenditures for the district
  2. Reviewing at least semiannually and accounting to the District Conference for the disbursement of funds in accordance with the budget approved by the District Conference.
  3. Providing for an audit of the accounts of the District Treasurer(s) for the preceding fiscal year within 120 days after the close of the Conference fiscal year and receiving, reviewing, and reporting such audit to the District Conference.
- b. The Finance Committee shall have the following members:
  1. The chairperson, elected by the District Conference
  2. District Superintendent
  3. District Treasurer(s)
  4. Chair of the District Ministry Team
  5. Chair of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry
  6. Chair of the Committee on District Superintendency
  7. Chair of the District Board of Trustees
  8. Additional members as may be determined by the District Nominations Committee or the District Conference
- c. The election of District Finance Committee members shall be as follows;
  1. The District Nominations Committee shall make nominations for the District Finance Committee.
  2. The District Finance Committee shall be elected at a District Conference session.
- d. The District Finance Committee shall meet at least two times a year and, additionally, at the call of the District Superintendent or a District Treasurer.

**CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

*Mike Alexander, Eddie Allsup, Richard Edwards, Ron Enns, Randy Hollums, Al Martin, Murray Murphy, Jimmy Nunn, Francie, Pittman, Bishop Max Whitfield, and Sharon Wiese*

The Conference Leadership Team will assume authority for developing and maintaining the focus of the Conference by refining and implementing the values, mission, vision, structure and strategies.

The above job description from the Bylaws, Rules and Resolutions has helped guide the work of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) during this first year of its existence. The CLT has met 10 times during this conference year for a full day of work. It has organized its day around the L3 Incubator style, Loving, Learning and Leading.

A major emphasis of the CLT this first year involved preparing for and leading the called session of Annual Conference, January 12, 2008. This called session enthusiastically approved a new structuring of ministry around the DINE Ministry Team Model (Deploy, Invite, Nurture and Equip).

The CLT also entered into a consulting relationship with Shane Skeens and IndigoSpin Productions to help develop a long range communications strategy for the Annual Conference. This relationship has already proven very beneficial.

The CLT is comprised of 8 members elected by the conference, three ex-officio members and a representative of the Council on Finance and Administration (without vote). There are six lay persons and six clergy.

Members of the CLT have been assigned relationships to the four ministry teams. They are: Deploy-Richard Edwards, Sharon Weise; Invite-Ron Enns, Al Martin; Nurture-Randy Hollums, Murray Murphy; Equip-Mike Alexander, Jimmy Nunn.

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**BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

*Daniel Echols, Chairperson*

The Board of Church and Society is reminding everyone of our invitation, as voted by the Annual Conference Session in 2007, for you to share a ministry with us! This past June, the BC&S presented a conference-wide project inviting each church to send us a short summary of a ministry you are doing that “Cultivates Wholeness in Places of Brokenness.”

Brokenness can manifest in many ways, including isolation, abuse, poverty, broken relationships, and many more . . . So ministry that cultivates wholeness can range from homebound visitation to marriage enrichment to overseas missionaries to . . .

WE PLAN TO CREATE A NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE MINISTRY BOOKLET by compiling your responses. We will distribute the booklet back to you, full of new ideas and contact information for starting new ministries.

You can find the form in either Word format, PDF format, for downloading, or you can complete the form online at [www.nwtxconf.org/cultivating\\_wholeness](http://www.nwtxconf.org/cultivating_wholeness)

If you have not sent us your summary, please do by August 31, 2008.

**AIDS**

*Jim Guest, HIV/AIDS Resource Consultant*

There is some encouraging news in the HIV/AIDS statistics for 2007.

**Number of people with HIV/AIDS** - 33.2 million

Adults – 30.8 million      Children (under 15) – 2.5 million      Women – 15.4 million

**Newly infected in 2007** - 2.5 million

Adults – 2.1 million      Children – 420,000

**AIDS deaths in 2007** – 2.1 million

Adults – 1.7 million      Children – 330,000

In specific countries such as Kenya there has been reduction of prevalence (percentage of population infected) of the disease and there has been stabilization of prevalence in others. There has a reduction in number of new HIV infections worldwide. However, we are unsure if this improvement is a result of more effective prevention programs or a result of natural trends in the epidemic.

Despite this good news, we must still remember that AIDS remains the leading cause of death in Sub-Saharan Africa. Women occupy an increasing percentage of those infected worldwide; and, in Sub-Saharan Africa, women represent 61% of those living with the infection. Improvement in the statistics out of India probably is very likely a result of more intense efforts in accuracy of reporting for 2007 rather than a result of true improvement in the status of the epidemic in that country. The disease is increasing in incidence in Indonesia and in Eastern Europe where the number infected has increased by 150% to 1.6 million.

While there are some who believe that the epidemic peaked during the 1990's, others are much less confident that this disease is waning. Many, especially in Africa, who are infected do not have modern treatment available. People who are not treated have a life expectancy of only 11 years from initial infection to death. Antiretroviral therapy greatly extends this lifespan and allows a much more productive life with the infection. Additionally, treatment reduces the transmission rate from mother to newborn to about 1%.

Again, I take this opportunity to remind the conference of their pledge to contribute \$1 per member to the UMC Global AIDS Fund. This resolution passed unanimously at Annual Conference 2006. We have yet to fulfill completely that pledge; and the end of 2008, the deadline, looms. There may be some improvement in statistics; but people are still dying untreated, children are being orphaned and regions are being depopulated by what may be the worst plague ever to afflict humanity. Let us renew our commitment to do what we have resolved to do.

**COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE**

*LaQuita Jones, Chairperson*

**The purpose of the Commission on Religion and Race is to assist and enable the Northwest Texas Conference to be more racially and ethnically inclusive at all levels including; local churches, Conference boards, commissions, committees, and institutions.**

The year has been one of hard work and accomplishment for the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR). As the team worked to formulate an Inclusiveness Plan for the Conference we realized that we would need to clarify two issues before we could present a plan that was workable and practical. The first issue was to reach consensus on the duties of the CORR. The second was a review of the progress/lack of progress made toward compliance with the 2002 On-Site Review by the General Commission on Religion and Race.

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The CORR spent time reviewing the responsibilities outlined in the 2004 Book of Discipline (pp. 421-424), and familiarized ourselves with what the CORR is called to do. We then compared those functions with what we have actually done the past 6-7 years. Historically, CORR has served as a networking and funding source for the NWTX Conference, funding scholarships and grants that assist minority students and programs that promote ethnic and racial inclusiveness. However after reviewing our total responsibilities we discovered we have fallen short of our role as a monitoring body. In our role as a monitoring body, we should act as a “mirror” for the Conference. In its work, CORR should keep before local churches, Conference boards, commissions, committees and institutions progress/lack of progress toward full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency of the NWTX Conference in the total life and mission of the Conference. Out of these reviews and discussions, consensus was reached. We believe that both areas of responsibility are equally important. Under our new DINE structure we recommend that a vehicle be put in place for funding and monitoring.

Our next step was to review the progress/lack of progress made toward complying with the recommendations made by the General Commission on Religion and Race

On-Site Review conducted in 2002. Various members of the CORR followed up with the appropriate Conference commission, committee, or agency to determine what progress had been made. We then met with the Cabinet for their input and assessment. What we discovered was that there are “pockets” of success with regard to racial and ethnic inclusiveness in our Conference. This is good news, but Conference wide much work still needs to be done. The CORR recommends four areas as priorities when CORR becomes part of the DINE model: racism, pastoral leadership, communication, one size doesn’t fit all.

In other work the CORR awarded \$1,700.00 in scholarships to minority students, \$2,080.00 for leadership development grants that strengthen minority leadership, and \$1,019.00 to assist local congregations with specific programs that promote inclusiveness.

Although we were unable to complete an Inclusiveness Plan to present to the Conference this year, we believe the necessary groundwork has been completed so that a practical and user friendly plan can be developed and implemented under the new DINE leadership structure.

The following tables are a brief picture of the NWTX Conference area demographics and membership statistics:

***NWTX Conference Population by Race/Ethnicity***

	2000 Census	2007 Update	2012 Projection
White (non Hispanic)	794,172	762,924	739,556
African American	68,465	70,891	72,681
Hispanic/Latino	335,710	378,989	417,782
Asian/Other	29,816	31,573	34,504

\*Ministry Area Profile; Percept Group: ID# 37241:8000; 9/7/07

***NWTX Conference Reported Membership Statistics***

Northwest Texas Conference	2002	2007
Total Membership	68,733	65,772
Asian American	97	106
African American/Black	364	353
Hispanic/Latino	691	1,062
Native American	16	25
Pacific Islander	22	16
White	67,258	63,243
Multi-Racial	not recorded	339

\*2002 On-Site Review; General Commission on Religion and Race: NWTX 2007 Conference Journal

***BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP***

*E. C. “Buddy” Payne, Chairperson*

The Conference Board of Discipleship, according to Paragraph 628.1.a in the Book of Discipline, is “to lead and assist the congregations and districts in the conference in their efforts to communicate and celebrate the redeeming and reconciling love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ . . .”

We, as a Board, have attempted to accomplish the mission set before us by the Discipline in the following ways.

In the area of youth ministries, the group responded that they have had victories in holding each other accountable in their CCYM group. They have developed, studied, and signed covenants moving forward in grace and forgiveness. They have also had challenges in different areas throughout the Conference. From these challenges came the seen need of a Response Team from the Conference to help deal with these hard issues that surface (such as abuses of different sorts). The Board has begun research into such a possible crisis team that would contain some professional counselors, lawyers, gifted and experienced youth workers. We are hoping for some real fruit for the forming of this “team” in the process of this coming year.

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In the area of Spiritual Formation, we are looking to having a spiritual formation retreat in the Big Spring District. Many possibilities are growing from this step, but looking to grow further in spreading it throughout the Conference. We are looking for input from those who are attending the many varied workshops in this subject to help us further our growth and knowledge in order to share with churches in the Conference. Also, in the area of spiritual formation, we are looking to take this process to the kids. It is never too early to plant the seeds of faith in Jesus.

In working through Communication in the Conference, not much is happening right now with Igniting Ministries as it has reached a virtual saturation point. So Communications is looking at the possibility of developing teams to do workshops in the districts about the DINE model we just adopted for our Conference in January, 2008. Further, the team is looking to be more intentional in how well communication is done on the local and Conference level. Also, in the Big Spring district there will be a very intentional effort to reach the regular folks in churches through the BIG EVENT, May 3, 2008, at Lamesa, Texas.

Roundup had 600 plus last year and the Roundup Task Force is looking to keep moving and do even bigger things. They are planning to have more worship next year. They are also looking into the possibility of making Roundup a two-day event. A new bright point is that they are trying to insert a youth portion back into the mix this coming year and, begin an outreach to older children.

In working in the Singles Ministry portion, a blog site has been started. There are many difficulties in this ministry. The singles group is so diverse, the needs so many, it becomes quite the arduous task. The ideas are flowing to possibly having a district event with singles, as well as some positive workshops. They are going to push churches to come together to support the singles where they are. One final idea is the possibility of having a single adult retreat.

In the Young Adult Outreach part of the Board, are looking at a Generation X - Young Adult/Clergy and Laity Event at Annual Conference. The ministry is looking to begin an incubator and create a website for bigger outreach and mutual contact over a larger area.

The Board's reach to the Small Membership Church has an event planned March 28 - 29", at Ceta Canyon led by Dr. Shera Atkinson. Over one half (½) of the churches in the Northwest Texas Conference are small churches. This is a very significant figure for the whole Conference to look at and act.

There are other facets that encompass the Board of Discipleship Ministry such as Evangelism and Conference Camping both of which are growing. The key to the Board is that we are to help in the making of Disciples on the local level of the churches a living, breathing possibility and fact! We have done some good work this year, BUT we must do much more. With Jesus, of course, we can!

### **BOARD OF CONFERENCE CAMPING**

*Eddie Marcum, Chairperson*

Our Summer Camps continue to be one of the best avenues to reach youth with the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Northwest Texas Conference. Last summer alone, we had over 2,000 campers come through our wonderful camps at Camp Butman and Ceta Canyon Retreat Centers. Each year we have several who make first time as well as recommitments of their life to Jesus Christ. Every year there are reports of campers who are called into full time ministry either in the local church or through missionary work throughout the world.

We want to provide the safest camps possible so all our adult volunteers have to go through a criminal background check each year as well as an online training test for sexual ethnics every two years. We are always looking for devoted adult volunteers who love God and youth. If you are interested, be sure to get online on either camp's website and tab on to [www.findgoodhelp.com](http://www.findgoodhelp.com) to register as an adult volunteer. You will also be asked to give three names for references.

Our goal this year is to have a volunteer for each eight kids that each church sends to camp. We would also love to see at least one nurse working at each one of our weekly camps.

If money is an issue, a camper can apply for a camp scholarship through the conference office.

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

*Toni Bailey, Chairperson*

The mission of Conference Communications Team is to help local churches make disciples through communications that equip, inform, encourage, educate, facilitate, and provide resources for clergy, lay leadership, and church members. Communications will include an effective combination of mediums and styles that provide access to everyone and would support and utilize our available United Methodist connections and resources.

Church is about relationships. Communications should connect and build community through strengthening those relationships. Everyone wants to be in the information loop. Effective communication makes people feel valued, significant, cared for, and supported. Communications is important:

- \* To make informed decisions (about giving for example)
- \* To grow spiritually
- \* To feel connected and valued
- \* To be active in the life of the church
- \* To be uplifted
- \* To help staff, volunteers, and churches do their jobs more effectively
- \* To enable our churches to make disciples through effective communications and resources

The Communications Team is actively involved in developing and producing these communication tools for our churches, our leadership, and our conference.

The Communications Team had two successful grant cycles. The first cycle was in the spring of March 2007, nine applications were received with a total of \$14,068.00 of requested funds. Six churches were awarded matching grant money, totaling \$5000.00. The second cycle was in the fall of September 2007, nine applications were received with a total of \$17,849 in requested funds. Eight churches were awarded matching grant money, totaling \$7,900.00. Each church receiving grant money is to submit a report and a newspaper article for completion of the grant process.

The Communications Team received two more team members in 2007. Karla Abernethy-Thetford came aboard as our new Area Director of Communications for Northwest Texas and New Mexico Conferences, and Shane Skeen also joined our team. Shane is a communications and marketing Strategist for Indigospin. Shane came on board with our conference to develop a communication strategy and then work to implement that strategy.

The Communications Team is considering developing a quarterly journal-type publication in the future that would be dedicated to relaying church programs and ideas for churches. The publication would serve as a resource to all churches for ideas and assistance.

Since the Annual Conference has created a new structure the Communications Team and the Conference Leadership Team agreed that communications primary function would be to equip churches to be better and more effective disciples for Jesus Christ.

## ROUNDUP TASK FORCE

*Ann Carter, Kevin Deckard, Donna Echols, Anthony Inman, Lee Ann Love, Marilyn Murfee,  
Maribeth Williams, Eddie Allsup and David Cameron*

The Roundup Task Force appreciates the great response each year to this annual Leadership Event sponsored by the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Conferences!

Each year Roundup strives to

- empower the laity,
- offer workshops that provide the local churches new ways of offering Christ to people outside their walls,
- help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God, and
- encourage the love of our neighbors in the church, community and worldwide.

Various tracks are emphasized which strive to offer creative ways for making disciples by strengthening the local church's witness through inviting, nurturing, equipping and deploying. These tracks target small membership churches, as well as sharing ideas to strengthen ministries related to Communications, Evangelism, Stewardship, Christian Education, Worship and Outreach. In addition to the variety of workshops offered in English, there is a series in Spanish equipping the Hispanic congregations in the two sponsoring conferences and Rio Grande Conference.

Roundup is held annually on the 4th Saturday of August at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock. Most workshops are offered twice during the day giving participants more flexibility in scheduling their day. Participants can attend five different one-hour workshops throughout the day. Each workshop is either one or two hours in length. Facilitators are recruited nation-wide, through the General Boards of the United Methodist Church, and from among the invaluable leadership provided by members of the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Conferences. In addition to the opportunity to attend five workshops, the registration fee also includes a sack lunch, childcare for children through the 5th Grade, and a chance to shop at the Cokesbury Bookstore Display.

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In 2007 Roundup offered 70 different workshops to over 600 lay persons and clergy. Evaluations included comments such as “Every workshop was beneficial and got the juices flowing.” “I wanted to attend more than half of the break-outs, but was only able to attend five.” “I loved it!” “More congregations should be here,” “Great boost to new teaching session each year!” “I feel truly blessed.” “I learned so much and it was great to see some old friends.” “Once again you have done an excellent job of choosing subjects and leaders, and organizing the whole day.” “Thank you for the useable tools.” “Jesus spirit was everywhere!” “What a wonderful program! I am sorry that I have passed up the opportunities to attend before.”

Roundup 2008 will feature close to 80 workshops. Leaders will include

- Tom Albin, Upper Room
- Alyce McKenzie, Perkins School of Theology
- Ron Crandall with turn around strategies for small churches
- Susan Crawford, United Methodist Communications, with web page ideas for welcoming the seeker
- Rudy Heintzelman, Frazier Memorial UMC
- Eric SpeLlman regarding internet safety
- Dean McIntyre and Betsey Heavner from the General Board Of Discipleship
- Joyce Brown and Linda Zastovnik-Royer, United Methodist Publishing House

Other workshops will include: Young Adult Home Huddles, Developing Systems for Making Disciples, Caring for the Terminally Ill, Consensus Decision Making, Blended Worship, How the Bible Came to Be, Sins of the Scriptures, Need for Single Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> C., Christian Response to Immigration, How to Lead Meetings, Spiritual Gifts, Children and Grief, Parenting Older Children, Worship by Design, True Colors, Divorce Care, How to Increase Financial Stewardship, What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty, Living the United Methodist Way, Risk Management, Birds in the Bible, Islam, church growth, curriculum resources, teaching helps, Bible studies and more.

Registration booklets are available at the meetings of the two annual conferences, mailed to each local church and to persons that attended the year before, as well as placed on the two Conference web pages for downloading. Registration books are printed in such a way they can be reproduced by the local church. Additional booklets can be picked up at the Lubbock Cokesbury Bookstore or Northwest Texas Annual Conference Center.

We encourage each church to bring a team to Roundup 2008!

### **BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

#### **LUBBOCK METHODIST HOSPITAL SYSTEM AND COVENANT HEALTH SYSTEM**

*Catherine S .Porter, LMHS Board Chair and Sharon Prather, Vice President*

As a ministry of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and of the Lubbock Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, Covenant Health System (CHS) managed mission and margin to provide \$27.5 million in inpatient charity care for the uninsured, indigent, and poor in Fiscal Year 2008, from July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008. In addition, outreach to the poor and broader community benefits totaled \$15.6 million.

Since the merger of Lubbock Methodist Hospital and of Saint Mary of the Plains Hospital in 1998, the governing boards have achieved a steady and productive working relationship that provides healthcare and a witness to the power of unity in the midst of differences.

Current members of the Lubbock Methodist Hospital System Board include: John Anderson, Virginia Black, Raymond Brigham, Mike Cunningham, Rev. Ted Dotts, Rev. Jay Horton, Rev. Gerald Jackson, Greg Jones, Charles Key, Roger Key, Jack McCutchin, Kevin McMahan, Rev. Jimmy Nunn, Barry Orr, Dan Pope, Catherine Porter, Craig Rhyne, MD, Linda Robins, MD, David Seim, John Simpson, Pricilla Snodgrass, MD, Sunny Shaver, and Karen Worley.

The Lubbock Methodist Hospital System Board reviews the work of the Covenant Health System Board and furnishes eight members to that board of seventeen. Eight other members are selected by the Saint Joseph Health System and the CEO of Covenant Health System is also a member. The Board stands ready to receive the option taking leadership should necessity arise. In addition, the Board sponsors the DeBakey Lectureship Series, a unique offering to the entire area.

#### DeBakey Lectureship Series:

The Lubbock Methodist Hospital System voted in 2004 to sponsor and underwrite an annual event to feature a nationally recognized physician in the field of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery. This Lectureship Series was made possible by an agreement between famed Heart Surgeon, Dr. Michael E. DeBakey of Houston and Covenant Health System arranged by Dr. Robert Salem, Emeritus Chief Medical Officer of Covenant Health System and a former student and a long time friend of Dr. DeBakey.

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The first event in 2004 featured Dr. DeBakey, who spoke on a Heart Assist Device (VAD) that he had developed in conjunction with NASA engineers in Houston. In 2005, the featured speaker was Dr. O. Wayne Isom of NYC, a prominent heart surgeon in NYC and native West Texan. He spoke about the Heart-Lung Machine and its role in Open Heart Surgery. The speaker in 2006 was Dr. George Noon of Houston, Chief of the Heart Transplant Surgical Program of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and he discussed the current status of Cardiac Transplantation in America. The 2007 speaker was Dr. John Ochsner, Sr. of the famed Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans and one of the most renowned Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons in America. This year's speaker, Dr. Edward B. Diethrich, is the Medical Director and Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery and Endovascular Surgery at the Arizona Heart Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. His presentation, "The Influence of the DeBakey Era on the Future of Cardiac Care" was well-received by the more than 225 people who attended the luncheon and lecture held in the Knipling Education and Conference Center at Covenant.

These events keep the citizens of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico informed on the latest advances in health care related to the heart and have become one of the most anticipated events of the year at Covenant Health System. The Lubbock Methodist Hospital System Board has voted to continue sponsorship of these events in honor of Dr. Salem.

### Spiritual Services:

Every day chaplains serve up to 800 patients, 600 physicians, 2,000 nurses, 3,000 staff members and numerous persons who relate to CHS. Like local ministry, the job is too great, but the dying and the grieving and the troubled all receive ministry from clergy endorsed by the Roman Catholic Church, the United Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Episcopal Church, the Pentecostal Church, the Nazarene Church, and a Non Denominational Church. Those who train for the chaplaincy are taught Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and they serve as they learn. There are currently nine (9) residents in the CPE program with 5-6 externs a year and an addition of 5-6 summer intern students who help the 14 chaplains.

### Foundation:

Covenant Health System Foundation, Lubbock Methodist Hospital Foundation and St. Mary of the Plains Hospital Foundation are separate corporations, and operate under the name of Covenant Health System Foundation since the two foundations merged in May of 2000. The first Covenant Foundation Board of Directors was comprised of seventeen members from the Methodist Foundation Board and seventeen members from the St. Mary's Foundation Board, with two ex-officio members. A strategic plan was developed to move the newly formed foundation forward, which included working with and reporting to the Department of Resource/Development of St. Joseph Health System, which was formed in 1999.

At the time of the merger of the two foundations, the total of combined funds was \$7,457,287. Fundraising goals were established as a part of the strategic plan, which included Annual Giving, Special Events, Planned Giving and Major Gifts, Corporate Gifts, and Foundation Gifts (local, state and national). The Foundation staff, members of the Board of Directors, Covenant Health System Administration, physicians and employees, as well as donors and private foundations in our communities, all pulled together to move forward with the strategic plan. On January 31, 2008, Covenant Foundation had total assets of \$21,199,892. Our greatest strength lies in our shared religious values and our shared dedication to those we have committed to serve.

### Auxiliary:

Covenant Medical Center Auxiliary consists of more than 300 members of whom at least 150 are working members at the Medical Center Campus on 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 150 working members at the Lakeside Campus. Volunteers serve in vital positions through out the hospital such as Greeter Service, Information Desk, Messengers, Guest Services, Patient Library, Gift Shop, Endoscopy, Adult ER, Children's Hospital, Surgery Waiting Room, SICU Waiting Room & other Waiting Room areas .

Financial contributions from Covenant Medical Center Auxiliary during the last fiscal year were \$226,000. The total service volunteer hours recorded for the last fiscal year were close to 62,300, inclusive of both campuses. In addition, 1849 hours were given by Junior Volunteers last fiscal year. When multiplied by Covenant's minimum wage of \$7.80 per hour, it totals \$500,362.00 in donated wages to the health system in Lubbock.

### Summary:

Covenant Health System is pleased to be a faith-based healthcare ministry of the Methodist and Catholic Churches and is grateful for the continued support of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the people we serve throughout West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. Our mission of "extending Christian ministry by caring for the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – and working with others to improve health and quality of life in our communities" is the foundation on which we base our day-to-day work.

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**LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE**

*Socorro Brito de Anda, President*

It is with great respect and appreciation that I render this report to the Bishop and members of this conference. Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI) prides itself in the fact that it is an inspiration to the mission of the United Methodist Church. LPI is the face of ministry at work.

This has been one more successful year for Lydia Patterson. This year marks the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its ministry. Over one hundred years ago, Mrs. Lydia Patterson had a vision. She heard God's call to justice as she saw the young boys in the "Segundo Barrio" or "Second Ward" of south El Paso being left behind with no education and no hope for the future, simply because they had the misfortune of being born the children of immigrant parents. She taught them English and the word of God.

Nearly a century later, Lydia Patterson Institute continues to change the lives of the less fortunate and displaced. We are providing an opportunity to children of deported families. These children cannot attend school in Mexico because they are U. S. citizens, and they cannot attend school in the U. S. because they are not residents. In a time when immigration has become a platform issue for political candidates, Lydia Patterson sees no boundaries or lines of distinction. To us, a child in need is simply our business. Students that might drop out of school in the sixth grade level are instead going to college.

Equally important for us is to form leaders for the church. The Student Lay Ministry Program has become a model among the agencies and institutions of the United Methodist Church. Students that graduate from this program will serve in internship in a local church or agency while attending college. They have been trained to assist the church in developing Hispanic ministries. They serve as interpreters, Bible teachers, youth leaders, etc. They also teach English or Spanish, as the need may be. Students have served in fifteen different states. After graduating from college, one is in seminary, five are in the Christian education field, three are youth leaders, and one is leading a small church. One other student is about to enter theological school.

The students at Lydia Patterson take pride in their heritage and culture, and it is their wish to share it with you. It is with a sense of gratitude and appreciation that the *LPI Mariachi Band* will perform at both General Conference 2008 and Jurisdictional Conference 2008.

The mission of Lydia Patterson will continue into the next century. Our strategic plan is on target. It is our wish to provide the best education, leadership, and spiritual nurture to many more students to come. It is for this reason that a capital campaign will kick off by mid year to rebuild our campus. This is the haven of so many lost and lonely young men and women. This is the place God made to bring them hope and a promise of a better life. Pray with us that we continue to touch the hearts and minds of our supporters so that they may join us in this venture. To you, members of this conference, I offer my deepest gratitude for your apportionments and gifts beyond. To the generous friends in the conference who support a student by providing a scholarship, I congratulate you for making a difference. On behalf of our faculty and staff and student body, please accept our most sincere appreciation.

**METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME**

*President, Mr. Bobby Gilliam*

*Chairperson, Board of Directors, Dr. J. Clayton Oliphint*

**Report I**

Methodist Children's Home is nearing our goal of serving 1,000 at-risk children and youth. This will be the culmination of our strategic plan and provide an opportunity to establish a new goal. If we are to become the most redeeming, faith-based childcare organization in the nation, we must continue to challenge ourselves. The at-risk children in our society need us to remain vigilant and not become complacent. Supporters, like those we have in the Northwest Texas Conference, will help the Home do even greater things for our children.

The Home benefits from the hard work of our staff, the faithfulness of our benefactors and partnerships with churches committed to the vision and mission of the Northwest Texas Conference. The Home invites congregations and individuals within the conference to align with our ministry as we seek to change the lives of at-risk children. Guided by our core values of Christian Principles, Relationships, Responsibility, Growth, Service and Hope, the Home has recently accomplished the following for the glory of God:

- Provided services for nearly 1,600 children during the year.
- Expanded to meet the needs of more than 800 young people in daily care.
- Successfully reached the first of three annual matching gift campaigns to provide resources for expansion opportunities as they become available.
- Expanded the services offered through our Lubbock Outreach Office.
- Created a residential foster group home, the Sammy Baugh Cottage, in Jayton.

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The future will provide the Home with as many, if not more, opportunities to positively impact the lives of children, youth and families in Texas and New Mexico. For example, during the spring of 2008, the Home served 51 high school seniors. Each student worked with the staff in our Transition Services Program to develop plans to pursue advanced education or employment. Some of these graduates will attend college on MCH scholarships, while others will benefit from our resources to enter a trade program or obtain a career certificate. All will have opportunities to continue their growth and success.

Our staff remains passionate about our work with young people. We will be ready to meet these new challenges in order to help change lives and, in the process, empower our children to one day be productive members of society and this faith community.

We are grateful for the leadership and support of the Northwest Texas Conference. Our achievements in the past, and those yet to come, are directly related to the men and women who give their time, talents and resources to bless our children. We are grateful to the following individuals for their service on the Home's Board of Directors:

Bishop D. Max Whitfield, Northwest Texas Conference

Rev. T. Todd Dyess, Amarillo District Superintendent

Mr. Wesley Masters, Cotton Center, TX

These individuals, along with the Home's benefactors, enable our ministry to daily achieve our mission of offering hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community. As a result, the Home is helping transform our world, one child at a time.

You can help Methodist Children's Home impact the lives of at-risk young people by contacting our central offices at 1111 Herring Avenue, Waco, Texas 76708 or by phone at (254) 753-0181 or (800) 853-1272.

Churches, classes and individuals are encouraged to visit our web site at [www.methodistchildrenshome.org](http://www.methodistchildrenshome.org) to download stories and resources to help educate your congregation on the Home's ministry.

If you would like to schedule a speaker, arrange a tour or need resources to designate a Methodist Children's Home offering, contact Trey Oakley, Vice President for Development, at the phone numbers listed above or by e-mail at [toakley@mchwaco.org](mailto:toakley@mchwaco.org).

Please, do not hesitate to call Mr. Bobby Gilliam, MCH President, if you have questions about the Home's mission, endowment, fundraising or future expansion.

We encourage pastors and lay leaders to provide feedback on ways we can better align our services with the needs facing the churches in this annual conference. While we cannot serve every child in need, the Home will continue to partner with the Northwest Texas Conference as we work together to reshape the lives of hurting children, youth and families.

Our strong relationships and common goals help us do great work for God's glory. At least every four years, Methodist Children's Home asks the annual conference to affirm our statement of covenant relationship. The Home is grateful for the faithful and ongoing support provided by the Northwest Texas Conference.

**Report II**

**For Conference Action**

**STATEMENT OF COVENANT RELATIONSHIP**

**BETWEEN**

**NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**AND**

**METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME**

This is a statement of the relationship between Methodist Children's Home and the Northwest Texas Conference.

I. PURPOSE, MISSION, AND GOALS OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

The purpose of Methodist Children's Home is the charitable care and ministration for children residing within the bounds of the patronizing Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church. To carry out this purpose the Board of Directors shall have the authority and responsibility to develop and direct a program of child care which shall effectively meet the needs of the children served. This program may include institutional care, foster home care, group home services, residential treatment for emotionally disturbed children and youth, social services for children in their homes, and any other services which the Board of Directors shall deem appropriate in meeting the needs of children and youth.

**METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME MISSION STATEMENT**

Methodist Children's Home offers hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community.

**METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME GOALS**

In order to accomplish the above stated mission, Methodist Children's Home has an obligation to recognize and share the spiritual values that make Christian child care unique. Therefore, Methodist Children's Home shall strive to develop the following:

1. A professional staff that is supportive of and dedicated to Christian values,
2. Children, youth and families who sincerely feel that Methodist Children's Home has their best interest at heart,
3. An atmosphere of caring,
4. A spirit of unity and purpose,
5. An understanding of the need for responsibility and accountability, and

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6. The sharing of God's grace through acceptance and affirmation that allows children and their families to build on existing strengths.

II. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT

Methodist Children's Home shall be governed and managed by a Board of Directors selected from members of the United Methodist Church in the following patronizing Conferences of the United Methodist Church, to wit: Texas Conference, North Texas Conference, Northwest Texas Conference, Central Texas Conference, Southwest Texas Conference, Rio Grande Conference, and New Mexico Conference. All references herein to "patronizing Annual Conferences" shall be to those seven Conferences, and such Annual Conferences as may hereafter become patronizing Annual Conferences. The Board of Directors shall govern and manage the Methodist Children's Home on the basis of the Methodist Children's Home's best interest.

Should any of the patronizing Conferences at any time desire to withdraw as such, then such patronizing Conferences shall cease to elect representatives as members of the Board of Directors and shall no longer be included in the definition of "patronizing annual conference" for purpose of the Statement of Covenant Relationship. Should any additional Conferences desire to become patronizing Conferences, they may become such by making application, in the manner prescribed by the Board of Directors, providing a majority of the Board of Directors shall vote to accept such Conferences.

The Board of Directors of the corporation shall be constituted or elected as prescribed in the Bylaws. The Bylaws presently provide as follows:

"Tenure and Qualifications. The Board of Directors of the corporation (each member of which shall be entitled to vote) shall consist of twenty members (unless changed by reason of a change in the number of patronizing Annual Conferences) and shall be appointed, elected or determined as follows:

A. One representative, either a minister or a layperson, from each patronizing Annual Conference, shall be nominated by the Bishop of such patronizing Annual Conference and approved by such patronizing Annual Conference. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors with respect to such a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by nomination by the Bishop of such patronizing Annual Conference and approval by such patronizing Annual Conference.

B. One active Bishop from among the patronizing Annual Conferences shall be elected by a majority vote of the Bishops of the patronizing Annual Conferences. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors with respect to such position shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by a majority vote of the Bishops of the patronizing Annual Conferences.

C. The serving chairperson of the Methodist Children's Home Commissioners, or any successor to such body, shall automatically serve. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors by virtue of a vacancy in such position shall not be filled, but shall remain vacant until the successor to such vacant position is duly qualified, at which time such successor shall become a member of the Board of Directors.

D. Eleven Directors at Large from the territory of the patronizing Annual Conferences, either ministers or lay members of the United Methodist Church, shall be elected by the Board of Directors of Methodist Children's Home after considering the nominations proposed by the Nominating Committee hereinafter described; provided, that the election of each Director at Large shall be effective only after approval or confirmation by the patronizing Annual Conference of the location in which such Director at Large resides. Such nominations and Board election with respect to expiring terms shall take place at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Methodist Children's Home held in the spring of the calendar year in which the terms of the Directors at Large which are to be filled expire. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors with respect to one or more of the members elected at large whose term has not yet expired shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the Board of Directors at any regular meeting after considering nominations proposed by the Nominating Committee.

E. Each Director shall be appointed or elected for a term of three years and shall hold office until his or her successor has been elected and qualified, or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal from office by the Board of Directors.

F. No Director shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive three-year terms as a Director. Following a period of maximum service under this provision, the duration of that former Director's ineligibility shall last for three years. Provided, that any former Director may retain or be elected to membership on any one (but not more than one) committee of the Board without tenure limitations.

G. Should any patronizing Annual Conference cease to be such, then the representative from such patronizing Annual Conference appointed in accordance with paragraph A above shall immediately cease to be a Director, the total number of Directors shall decrease accordingly and the affairs of Methodist Children's Home shall be governed and managed by the remaining members of the Board.

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H. Special Transitional Provisions. Prior to the adoption of the preceding portions of this Section 2, the Board of Directors of Methodist Children’s Home consisted of a substantially larger number of directors. In order to accomplish the transition of the number of Board members from its previous number to the twenty members described above, no new Board members shall be elected to fill vacancies on the Board while the number of members is greater than twenty, although the re-election of existing members whose terms expire shall be permitted. Only after the total number of directors is reduced to twenty or less through a combination of resignations, removals and expirations of terms (without re-election) shall the method of selecting directors set forth above become effective. For the years immediately after the total number of directors is reduced to twenty or less, the manner in which new members are selected may utilize any of the methods provided in subsections A, B, C and D above as the Executive Committee, with the approval of the Board, may determine best, provided that within three years after the number of members of the Board has been reduced to twenty members or less the manner of selection set forth above shall be fully phased in and effective. While the exact method of such transition shall be determined by the Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Board, all members of the Board of Directors selected prior to the full implementation of the above selection procedure shall be selected either by re-election by the Board or by one or more of the methods set forth in subsections A, B, C or D above.”

III. RELATIONSHIP

Methodist Children’s Home is related through a common religious heritage and a common commitment to Christian service to the Northwest Texas Conference. The Conference, recognizing this shared commitment, annually authorizes and promotes a special offering in each local church for the support of Methodist Children’s Home. The Conference assumes no other financial responsibility for Methodist Children’s Home. In return for the encouragement of financial support for Methodist Children’s Home by the Conferences, the Home submits an annual audit to the Conference. Any time a gift is given directly to Methodist Children’s Home and the gift is designated for credit to a local church, Methodist Children’s Home shall forward notice to the Conference treasurer’s office to ensure proper recording of the gift.

The Conference supports the mission of Methodist Children’s Home by approving directors to serve on the Methodist Children’s Home Board of Directors. The Board governs and manages Methodist Children’s Home on the basis of Methodist Children’s Home’s best interest. The Conference does not exercise any ownership or control over Methodist Children’s Home and does not accept any legal or financial responsibility, other than the above-mentioned special offering, for Methodist Children’s Home.

To keep the Conference informed about Methodist Children’s Home’s activities, Methodist Children’s Home presents an annual report at the Annual Conference to be published in the Conference Journal, provides updates and presentations at conference and district meetings, prepares appropriate news releases, publishes the Sunshine Monthly magazine, and encourages tours of Methodist Children’s Home facilities by local church groups and appearances in local churches by Methodist Children’s Home staff members and residents.

Methodist Children’s Home seeks accreditation of its program by outside accrediting bodies in order to assure the Conference of the quality of its program. Currently the Home is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services For Families and Children, Inc. and licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Should Methodist Children’s Home be dissolved, the assets would be distributed as set forth in the Distribution of Assets on Dissolution in ARTICLE XII of the Bylaws of Methodist Children’s Home, revised, April, 2006, as follows:

In conformity with the provisions of ARTICLE NINE of the Second Restated Articles of Incorporation of Methodist Children’s Home, all assets of the corporation are pledged for use in performing the corporation’s charitable functions, and upon discontinuance of the corporation by dissolution or otherwise, the assets that remain after the satisfaction of all liabilities and obligations shall be divided proportionately among the Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church that are patronizing Annual Conferences of Methodist Children’s Home at the time such distribution is made, and are also recognized as charitable organizations under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, such distribution to be based upon the membership of each conference at the last annual report preceding the dissolution. Any assets so distributed shall be dedicated for use by each patronizing Annual Conference for the charitable care and ministrations for children. Provided, however, that if any patronizing Annual Conference is not, at the time of such distribution, an organization that is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, then its share of such assets shall be distributed to one or more charitable organizations, recognized under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, engaged in child care or ministrations and affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

IV. PERIODIC REVIEW

The provisions of this Covenant Relationship shall be reviewed and revised if needed every four years or more frequently if needed.

The above Statement of Relationship has been approved by the respective bodies and its approval is attested:  
for Northwest Texas Conference Health and Welfare Ministries,

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NAME	POSITION	DATE
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for Methodist Children’s Home Board of Directors,

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NAME	POSITION	DATE
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**METHODIST MISSION HOME**

*Jennifer Sample, Executive Director*

*David Kinder, Chair, Board of Trustees*

We thank you, the Northwest Texas Annual Conference, for your partnership in this ministry we call Methodist Mission Home (MMH). “Partnership” truly means serving our neighbors together as we are changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ. Working as a resource to your churches and congregations, MMH brings hope and joy to the children, youth and families we serve . . .transforming our world to the glory of God.

One by one, thousands have been welcomed faithfully by Methodist Mission Home. For 113 years we have sheltered and empowered God’s children, from the vulnerable and confused pregnant teen who wants a loving home for her unborn child, to the youth with disabilities seeking to learn how to make their own home in the world. With your help, our work has given God’s Children a Faith, a Family, a Future.

**Quick Facts**

Founded: 1895, San Antonio

Website: www.mmhome.org

Campus Headquarters: 6487 Whitby, San Antonio, TX 78240

2007 FY Budget: \$3.1 million

**MMH Ministry**

Today, the mission of Methodist Mission Home is to serve people who are experiencing major life transitions so they may reach their goals and realize their dreams. MMH fulfills this mission through the following programs:

- Family Services has placed 5,680 children into loving homes through domestic, older child, and international adoptions. We provide counseling for birth parents and adoptive families throughout the adoption process. Our maternity services include campus housing for pregnant teens and young women considering adoption. Post-adoption counseling is available for birth parents, adoptive families, and adoptive children. “Is Parenting Harder Than You Thought?” provides training through our Parenting Alternatives curriculum to teach teens and the professionals who work with at-risk youth about the alternatives to parenting – adoption and voluntary foster care.
- The Southwest Center for Higher Independence (SCHI) For many teens, graduation from high school means moving on to college. For students with multiple disabilities, college is not always the next step. For these young adults, ages 18 and older, SCHI is the next step. Established in 1974, SCHI was founded as a transitional education center for people who were deaf and hard of hearing. Today, our services have expanded to accommodate more diverse disabilities, including high functioning MR, autism, Asbergers, cerebral palsy, and learning disorders. SCHI has assisted hundreds of young adults with disabilities in learning the vocational and life skills to achieve their personal best.
- The Genesis Cooperative is a self-supporting collaboration of five nonprofit agencies on the MMH campus serving youth and young adults with disabilities, pregnant teens and young women, women recovering from substance abuse and their children, and adults who are deaf/blind.

**2007 Year in Review**

- Family Services served 70 pregnant teens and young women considering adoption, 21 resided in our 13-bed Maternity Center. 28 babies and children were placed with loving adoptive families. 60 adoptive families were served.
- The “Is Parenting Harder Than You Thought?” initiative trained 97 professionals who work with at-risk youth, trained 22 teens in the Parenting Alternatives curriculum, and received 7 intake calls. Next year, this initiative expects to increase the impact on reducing child abuse and the number of children in state foster care through education and resource referrals to at-risk teens.
- SCHI, Southwest Center for Higher Independence, served 63 students with a monthly average enrollment of 35 young adults with disabilities from across Texas and the U.S. The customized transitional education for young people with multiple disabilities, such as hearing impairment, learning disorders and physical disabilities helps them to overcome barriers and achieve their personal best through vocational and life skills training.
- The Genesis Cooperative partners participated in campus community activities and events, such as Easter & Thanksgiving church services, Las Posadas, and Fall Festival. In collaboration with the San Antonio Food Bank, we have provided a basic culinary training program for 22 SCHI students that opens the door for job placement in a commercial kitchen.

Many of our residents emerge from the isolation of being considered “different” within their families, neighborhoods and communities. Our MMH community welcomes them as one who has unfulfilled potential. As a result, Methodist Mission Home has been transformed into a vibrant, interactive community – a place where our neighbors are empowered and enriched in their spiritual and physical lives.

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**How We Can Help YOU Serve Your Neighbors?**

- Adoption counseling for birth parents
- Counseling for adoptive families considering domestic or international adoptions
- Post Adoption Services – Search/Reunion, Medical Information
- Guidance in developing a Walk With Jesus (an Emmaus-like experience for adults with special needs)
- Transition planning for families and youth with special needs ages 16 and older
- Training for teens and professionals who work with at-risk teens on Parenting Alternatives

**How YOU Can Help MMH Serve Our Neighbors**

- Support our Annual Church Offering in your church by designating one Sunday to help promote our ministry. We provide brochures and envelopes at your request. Methodist Mission Home does not receive apportionments.
- Make a gift without writing a check. Remember Methodist Mission Home in your Will or Charitable Estate Plan. Contact Mike Countryman, Major & Planned Gifts Director, for more information.
- Volunteer to become an MMH Ambassador to assist us with outreach in your church and community. Contact Mary Luna, Development Assistant, for more information.
- Pray for our ministry that we may continue Giving God's Children a Faith, a Family a Future.

Please accept our sincere appreciation to Bishop Whitfield and the members of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference for your continued generosity toward our ministry.

MMH Trustees from the Northwest Texas Conference: Rev. Richard Edwards

Advisory Board: Jackie Blair, Raymond Brigham

**MOUNT SEQUOYAH**

*Sheri and John Altland, Executive Director Team*

***“Celebrating, serving, preparing...we invite you to be open with us, to what God can do.”***

This heartfelt and challenging statement ended the jurisdictional institution report delivered to delegates and attendees during the 2004 South Central Jurisdictional Quadrennial Conference. The actions taken by the Mount Sequoyah Board of Trustees, and the support and increased attendance from Methodist from all Conferences across the Jurisdiction show a renewed commitment to revitalize the nine-decade mission and the programs of ministry of the Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center. Our continued purpose of eighty-six years is to partner in fulfilling our church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.

In 2008, we report the response to program changes made during the past 36 months. During 2003, three jurisdiction-wide Methodist training events were held at the campus of Mount Sequoyah. Beginning in July 2006 and extending through December 2007, fifty-eight jurisdictional and national events for Methodist laity and clergy leadership met at Mount Sequoyah. When comparing the number of guests using the facilities at Mount Sequoyah, we see that 2,200 guests registered to use Mount Sequoyah for meetings and training events or for retreat in 2004. During each of the past two years, Mount Sequoyah hosted just fewer than 12,000 individuals registering for events and programs, and personal retreats. Methodist laity and clergy gather at Mount Sequoyah for discipleship training; for renewing their soul, and for energizing their focus for being a disciple of Jesus Christ actively participating in transforming our world.

Significant increase in leadership training programs saw a surge in attendance from laity leadership and clergy from the Northwest Texas Conference and from other conferences across the South Central Jurisdiction. Some of these programs are: a first annual conference for young UM clergy; on-going New Church Leadership Institute for new church development; clergy for interim training conferences; Jurisdictional Song Writers Workshop Weekend; Senior Adult Leadership Training; Jurisdictional Singles Retreat; Bishop led United Methodist studies training for persons entering United Methodist ministry; Laity initiatives included Lay Speaking Ministry Conferences; a healthy lifestyles “train the trainers” seminar for leadership from each of the fifteen SCJ conferences; marriage retreats; youth ministry training; the environmental Caring for Creation Conference with national recognized leadership. In early 2007, Mount Sequoyah hosted the first meeting between national VIM Conference coordinators and the Disaster Relief Coordinators. This meeting was planned and sponsored by the GBOGM.

Meetings, training sessions, and ministry partnerships held at Mount Sequoyah in past months have reintroduced the Mount Sequoyah mission of service and hospitality to the national training and executive staff members of the general boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church. Mount Sequoyah has recently hosted international meetings for The Middle East and Islamic Studies International Symposium; Vision Conquista, Partners of the Americas; Leadershape for college and university student leaders; and regional Emmaus walks.

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Physical renovations to the campus facilities and grounds continue to be a priority. The Martin Building interior meeting and classrooms rooms have been renovated with new ceilings, better lighting and furnishings. Forty-six buildings have new exterior paint and most building interiors have received a fresh refurbishing. Several hundred volunteers gave their time and skills for thousands of hours of labor to include the renovation of the eleven lodging units in the New Mexico and Sequoyah Cottages. The Nebraska Conference has begun to renovate the four-unit facility named for that Conference. Lodging facilities that once “sank hearts” are now show-piece renovations. We offer a special thank you to the volunteers from the many conferences who worked on these important Mount Sequoyah projects.

A significant recent gift, by a local hotel developer, benefits Mount Sequoyah with new furnishings to complete each sleeping room. New bed linens and drapes are also in every room. This gift of hotel room furnishings is valued at over \$300,000.

The serenity and beauty of this historic campus continue to provide our South Central Jurisdiction with a very unique urban training and meeting facility. A new facilities master plan has been approved by the Trustees and provides leadership with a vision for what this ministry at Mount Sequoyah can offer to United Methodists across the Jurisdiction and around the world.

Mount Sequoyah will heed the call to action and partner in the new and exciting direction for our Church. Mount Sequoyah will continue to provide a place to help disciples of Jesus Christ to understand and to act on God’s call for transformational ministry.

**SEARS METHODIST RETIREMENT SYSTEM, INC**

*D. Keith Perry, President/CEO*

Greetings on behalf of the campuses of Sears Methodist Retirement System, Inc. (SMRS). We proudly continue to serve residents and their families in Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, Odessa, Waco, Big Spring, El Paso and McAllen.

SMRS provides leadership in response to the needs our aging population offering independent living, assisted living, nursing and Alzheimer’s care on thirteen campuses across Texas. Our ministry includes home health, pharmacy, hospice and full-spectrum therapy services. We seek to place “Resident’s First” in a quality and Christian environment.

We depend on 2,000 employees to care for over 2,000 residents. In November of 2006, *US NEWS & WORLD REPORT* recognized SMRS in the article “Taking Care of Your Parents: Our Guide to Trends in Senior Living Choices” for our leadership in developing high-tech services to assist seniors who choose to stay at home.

SMRS began construction in April 2008 on our newest development in Tyler – Meadow Lake, A Senior Living Community. Meadow Lake is a full continuum of care community located off the Old Jacksonville Highway; this 92-acre community will meet the growing need for senior retirement living and long term health care in the area. Tyler recognizes itself as a “Certified Retirement City” in Texas and SMRS is excited to be a part of this exciting project.

Also in April 2008, SMRS acquired Mesa Springs Retirement Village and Health Care Center from Hendrick Health System bringing the total campuses served in Abilene to four. We will bring the same high quality service to the residents of Mesa Springs that has become a tradition on all SMRS campuses.

We are grateful to the 164 churches that made contributions through the Northwest Texas Conference in support of *Homes for the Aging Fund* to assist in providing spiritual support to our residents and family members. We are also thankful to the many United Methodists who see the growing need for charitable care for our seniors who have outlived their resources. This is especially important due to the continued cuts in Medicaid. In 2007, SMRS provided more than \$4.3 million dollars in unreimbursed charitable care and in 2008 we anticipate that number to be even greater as we know the needs continue to grow.

As we remember the vision of those who began Sears Methodist more than 40 years ago and look to the future, more lives will be touched than ever before. Please continue to be in prayer for our ability to serve all residents and family members.

SMRS is proud to be a part of exciting growth and development as our organization positions itself in the forefront of providing health care to an aging population.

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**SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION (SCJ)**

*David L. Severe, Director of Mission and Administration*

This is the year of Jurisdictional Conference and representatives will gather at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, July 16-19, 2008. During this time four new bishops will be elected and assigned across the Jurisdiction. Hopefully a number who live within easy driving distance will visit the Conference and view the process of electing a bishop.

We are grateful for the contributions given to the Apportionments during 2007. The total payout was 92%, which was about the same as 2006.

Hope to see you in Dallas.

**TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION**

*Tom Locke, President*

The Texas Methodist Foundation's purpose "to empower the Church in the achievement of her God-appointed missions" was strengthened last year as our total assets under management grew to \$330 million. The real significance of this figure is what it enables us to do help build strong congregations, both financially and spiritually, so they can reach out in God's name to love their neighbor.

During 2007, the TMF Institute for Clergy and Congregational Excellence (formerly the Clergy Leadership Initiative) continued to provide a "safe" place for pastors to develop a community of mutually sustaining relationships and learn the skills required for self-care and competent, creative leadership in today's church with 83 pastors participating in nine Clergy Development Groups. Eight District Superintendents from around Texas and the 11 active Bishops serving in the South Central Jurisdiction were also involved in group processes. A critical need for strategic planning was addressed as well with support for teams of clergy and laity to focus on congregational discernment of God's purpose by developing Holy Conversations Communities of Learning.

Our Investment Services area continued to serve an increasing pool of individual investors with overall growth in the Individual Fund of \$9.9 million during 2007. Individual Fund investments helped fund our current \$259.7 loan portfolio consisting of 430 loans to United Methodist churches and agencies for new construction, capital improvements and expanded facilities to better serve their communities through ministry.

Our Grants Ministry refined its focus to give priority to programs that address the root causes of poverty. Grants totaling more than \$2.2 million, including several significant gifts from donor advised funds to support the Perkins School of Theology building program, were funded in 2007. Other grant recipients include programs managed by local churches, community outreach centers, and conference ministries.

The Texas Methodist Foundation, located in Austin, serves United Methodist individuals, churches and agencies within the five annual conferences in Texas and the Rio Grande Conference of Texas and New Mexico. We appreciate the opportunity to report the numerous ways we assisted United Methodists last year.

How can we help you to help others?

**We are pleased to report to you the assistance we provided in 2007:**

**Within the Northwest Texas Annual Conference:**

- Loans from the Foundation to churches in the Northwest Texas Annual Conference totaled \$5.8 million.
- Churches and related agencies within the Northwest Texas Annual Conference had \$23.6 million invested with the Foundation's Methodist Loan Fund.

**Throughout the state:**

- As of December 31, 2007, total assets under management by the Foundation were approximately \$330 million, up from \$318.1 million at the beginning of the year.
- New Individual Fund investments of \$9.9 million helped support the Foundation's loan program. The Methodist Loan Fund currently funds 430 loans to United Methodist churches and agencies. Our balance ended 2007 at \$259.7 million.
- The TMF Institute for Clergy and Congregational Excellence ministry (formerly the Clergy Leadership Initiative) supported 83 pastors from the Texas annual conferences participating in nine Clergy Development Groups. Eight District Superintendents from around the state and the 11 active Bishops serving in the South Central Jurisdiction were also involved in group processes. The Institute conducted four special educational events attended by 63 pastors from the Texas annual conferences, focusing on ways to foster excellence in ministry.
- During 2007, the Foundation funded grants in excess of \$2.2 million including several from donor-advised funds. These grants benefited a variety of programs managed by local churches, community outreach centers, and conference ministries. The Foundation's Grants Ministry gives priority to programs that address the root causes of poverty.
- Our Stewardship staff consulted on six capital campaigns, resulting in pledges totaling more than \$6.5 million. They made more than 304 consultation visits to churches offering counsel and guidance in areas of specific need related to funding ministry. Stewardship staff also conducted 21 annual stewardship workshops in local churches and several district and conference level workshops.

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• Our Development staff worked with more than 80 churches to help them initiate or revive Permanent Endowment Fund programs. Additionally, they worked with individual donors on planned gifts totaling more than \$3 million to benefit United Methodist churches and agencies. Just over \$1 million closed in 2007.

The following people residing in the Northwest Texas Annual Conference serve as board members to the Texas Methodist Foundation in either an elected or advisory capacity:

Rev. Ava B. Berry, Mr. Randy W. Brillhart, Mr. Harold O. Harriger, Mr. Charles King, Mr. Bynum Miers, Rev. Clifford E. Trotter, and Bishop D. Max Whitfield

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY**

*Rev. Les Hall, Chairperson*

Our Campus Ministry Directors share a common goal: to have a place on campus that lifts up Jesus and changes lives. Students have opportunities to give their lives to Christ and to grow in that relationship on a daily basis.

The directors and their staffs are committed to serving the students and providing opportunities for them to mature in their faith. They are also devoted to raising up a new generation of Christians who will lead spiritually wherever God places them.

- These campus ministries are training grounds for college students.
- They learn to share their faith in many situations.
- They attend leadership conferences.
- They speak to youth groups, Sunday school classes and fill pulpits in local churches.
- They share the good news of Jesus in dorms on campus and apartments off-campus.
- They learn to be like yeast in bread, making an impact for Christ upon whatever group, dorm or social club they are a part of.
- They are learning God’s word through Bible study and many are leading Bible studies for non-believers.
- There are some students who realize their call to ministry as a result of being involved in a campus ministry.

This is a small list of what is happening in our Campus Ministries. This is directly due to your faithfulness, members of the Northwest Annual Conference to support these ministries financially. It makes a difference in the lives of these students when you pray and give financially to these Campus Ministries.

We have fantastic, God-ordained minister at each of the campuses listed below. Take a moment to pray for each campus and the director as you read this report.

McMurray University	Tim Kennedy
South Plains College	Kaylee Gillie
Southern Methodist University	Andy Roberts
Texas Tech University	Greg Haseloff
West Texas A&M University	Mikey Littau

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION**

2420 15<sup>th</sup> St., Lubbock, TX 79401

*Greg Haseloff, Director*

The Wesley Foundation at Texas Tech has been very fruitful in 2007-2008. Our Welcome Week ‘07 kicked off by reaching out to at least 300 new students coming to campus and engaging older students who have yet to connect with Christian community. The week included a hamburger cookout, a scavenger hunt, a concert, a night of worship, and a dance - all aimed to “deploy” our current community and “invite” new students into our ministry.

With UnderGround Bible Study on Thursday night, Lunch and Last Lecture on Tuesday, and nine different LifeGroups we were involving more than 150 students every week across the course of the fall semester. All three modes of gathering reach students in different ways, inviting them into relationship with Christ and deeper discipleship, with each mode exercising varying degrees of inviting, nurturing and equipping.

Seven Denman Interns have been part of our staff this year. They have helped lead our weekly worship time at UnderGround, our Leadership Team gathering, and two retreats during the year. They have led a total of 5 small groups, infiltrating campus and leading groups on intercessory prayer. They have initiated “24 Hours of Prayer” along with a weekly outreach to the campus when they pray for students entering the Student Union Building. They have averaged praying with 25 to 30 students every week during their Thursday afternoon ministry.

◆◆◆◆2008 NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE◆◆◆◆

Mission Teams expanded this year by adding an outreach after New Years. The five teams this school year consisted of: 1) A Christmas outreach team of 11 to help with Hurricane Katrina recovery in New Orleans, which was our fifth team to send to the devastated region to join UMCOR's work; 2) In January a team of 8 traveled to Juarez to construct a home for a family of four; 3) A team of 5 traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in prayer ministry and learn more about our government's work with social issues; 4) At the end of the spring semester 9 students traveled to Guatemala to work with a children's home in Villa Nueva; and 5) the month of July will involve 9 students traveling to India to spend time in a children's home, one of the Mother Theresa homes, and a new church in Bombay. This means 42 people were deployed for kingdom work, being the hands of Christ and growing in their faith through the challenge of cross-cultural issues.

Our involvement with intramurals grew this year as students created more teams as a "safe place" to introduce students to the Wesley community. Serving the Lubbock community was a strong emphasis of the Spring semester – with our students volunteering in a local soup kitchen, tutoring in two different after-school programs near the Tech campus, and taking food weekly to the homeless in order to build relationships with them. Our students have boldly lived into being "missional" and engaging people outside of Wesley's walls.

Our Lunch & Last Lecture program has grown this year drawing a broad cross-section of students from the campus. In our ongoing discipleship we have 26 students involved in SaltShaker, which helps prepare students for leadership. They will soon have the opportunity to join the 20 students who made up our Leadership Team this year. We also experimented with a new venue called "OverGround" to offer teaching and dialogue on a broad range of topics – from spiritual warfare to the 2008 elections.

The Wesley Foundation at Texas Tech set a course to be "missional" this year. "Raising up a new generation of Christian leaders" has involved releasing them to lead now, exercising their gifts, and sharing their faith. This year has included boldness to be "missional" – meaning they have taken seriously the commitment of disciples to "make disciples of all nations." We are very grateful for your partnership and investment in reaching college students with the Gospel - for the college campus is one of our greatest mission fields!

**WEST TEXAS A&M WESLEY FOUNDATION**

4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Canyon, TX

*Mikey Littau, Director*

My name is Michael Littau, but everyone calls me Mikey. I want to introduce myself because I think that it is important to know who is leading this ministry. A ministry usually takes the shape of its leader. I'd been in campus ministry for six years before I came on staff at the WTAMU Wesley Foundation. This has really been a release to do true Christian ministry on this campus. I've transferred into the United Methodist movement from another denomination, and what a blessing it has been. You truly do have "Open hearts, open minds, and open doors." In my previous assignment, I spent most of my time raising funds and getting on campus when I could.

I just want all the pastors of the conference to know and feel that we truly appreciate your help. When I found out how much the United Methodist Movement supports its ministers and local missions, I nearly wept. It releases us to change lives for the cause of Christ. The churches have jumped in and have served lunches on Tuesdays, which I found out that they have been doing this for years. You also put a high priority on campus ministry and it is shown in your apportionments!

Last summer, my friend, Kendal Meek resigned and moved on to another assignment. After many meetings and searching the board hired me as the next Wesley Director. We also hired a new associate director because Staci Leonhard moved to Guatemala with her new husband to be long term missionaries. The new associate director is Amy Thompson, a WTAMU graduate. She heads up our Cell group ministry of which we now have five cells. We started with three cells and added two more this semester. Our international cell group runs about fifteen students from almost every continent every Friday night. Most of these have never heard the gospel! Some have already come to know Christ. We also have two girls' cell groups and a guys' cell meeting weekly in the dorms. A co-ed cell meets off campus. These cells are growing week by week, and we'll probably have to start new ones in the fall.

We got a lot of students involved in Wesley life through the fall outreaches like the Luau, freshman party, and drive-in movie night. Many of these joined our leadership team, and some of those rose up to be cell leaders. We've also been able to funnel many students into the local church.

We started a weekly worship service on Tuesday nights. In the fall about sixty to eighty students came out weekly to worship and hear about relationships and dating. This semester we are focusing everything around being a "Powerful, outwardly focused, community." It really is amazing to watch these students taking hold of this. We have about fifteen students involved in the worship team on a rotation basis, which has been a great way to get students plugged into doing something for the kingdom.

We've done a lot of remodeling around the facilities and invite anyone passing through the area to come by for a tour.

Again, thank you so much for believing in this ministry! I truly believe that if we can impact the campus, we will change the world.

**MCMURRY UNIVERSITY**  
1400 Sayles Blvd, Abilene, TX 79605  
*Dr. John H. Russell, President*

With a record fall enrollment, campus improvements and a new academic structure, changes abound at McMurry University.

- McMurry's new Bedford and Oneta Furr Welcome Center opened in September and serves as a home for the school's alumni office and provides a meeting and gathering place for McMurry alumni and friends.
- The university is currently in the midst of a \$2.35 million renovation to the Bynum Band Hall to better accommodate the school's growing band program. New features will include acoustic upgrades and alterations in existing floor plans to accommodate more storage and practice space. The facility will be ready for use by the Fall 2008 semester.
- McMurry's record enrollment consists of its largest numbers since 1993 at 1,466 students. The bump represents a 5.3 percent increase over last year's 1,393. In addition, a record 482 new students enrolled for the school's fall semester.
- All of McMurry's incoming freshmen have their own tablet-style, wireless PC computers as standard equipment, known as the "Mobile On Line Visionary Education (MOVE)" program. All students are expected to have such a computer in-hand by the year 2011.
- The school changed its structure this past year so that it now has six academic schools instead of more traditional departments. The reason for the change is to encourage more opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and to make deans and professors more accessible to students.
- A new, 30-foot-wide by 20-foot-high scoreboard, costing \$182,000, now illuminates McMurry football games with a 9-by-12 foot video screen. The scoreboard, as well as new turf on McMurry's field, has served to attract playoff games and other events to campus.
- An initiative by the alumni department, McMurry on the R.O.A.D., which stands for Reaching Out and Developing partners for the future, is a series of gatherings designed to reach out and develop relationships with the school's alumni and friends.

The first such gathering happened in September, when 60 alumni and friends of the school gathered in Montgomery, Ala., at a McMurry away game. In November, more than 30 alumni and friends traveled to Colorado Springs, Colo., for a McMurry on the R.O.A.D. event.

All these accomplishments reflect the strength and stability at McMurry University as we prepare for our future – a journey we enthusiastically embrace.

McMurry University will conduct its 100<sup>th</sup> year of classes in 2022-23 and celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 20, 2023. Until then, McMurry will be actively improving our facilities, our ability to recruit top faculty and providing our students the financial assistance needed to complete their college education.

I believe McMurry University must continue to fulfill its role among today's colleges and universities by offering a unique experience to its students. We accept our challenge to enable McMurry to remain skilled in its mission of educating students and sincere in its passion for caring about and shaping students.

This is a pivotal point – a defining moment – in the history of McMurry University. We have repositioned and strengthened our university so that assuredly it is better equipped to educate the next generation of young people. But I foresee even greater achievements for McMurry University.

What will McMurry University look like as we advance toward the significant milestone of our centennial in 2023? What is our vision for this university as it prepares for its second century?

In order to provide the financial resources to make our vision come true, McMurry has launched a capital campaign, *Shaping the Future*, which will provide the needed resources to reach our goals. We have already made significant progress on reaching these goals.

Our vision for this campaign will encompass four major areas the University sees as vital for McMurry to continue providing a quality Christian education in the future. Those goals are:

**Enhancing Academic Achievement**

To create opportunities for more students to achieve higher learning, McMurry will increase its current endowment by \$6 million for merit and need-based scholarships.

**Engineering an Ideal Environment for Living and Learning**

The campaign has a goal of \$17 million for expansion of programs and facilities to enhance spiritual development, support healthy lifestyles and cultivate leadership, excellence and virtue.

**Creating a Faculty for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

To help the University recruit and retain outstanding faculty members, the campaign will provide \$10 million for endowed positions and for a faculty development endowment.

**Building on Strength in the Natural and Computational Sciences**

McMurry University will make a transformational investment in a signature academic facility that will clearly elevate McMurry as an innovator in answering the national need for more graduates in science and math.

The *Shaping the Future* campaign is only the beginning of many new and innovative actions McMurry University is actively pursuing as we prepare to celebrate our centennial in 2023. We invite you to join us as we continue to prepare young people for their futures.

**CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

500 S. Kilgo Circle, Atlanta, GA, 30322

*Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics*

Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concerns. Our mission is *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*. Candler is one of the thirteen official seminaries of The United Methodist Church and is one of nine schools at Emory, a top twenty research university, founded in memory of Methodist Bishop John Emory and his commitment to "mold both character and intellect."

Unlike other large research campuses, Emory is neither indifferent to nor embarrassed by religion. Rather, this university is eager to address an urgent need at home and abroad: helping different faith traditions cooperate rather than collide. Emory prides itself in being a destination university internationally recognized as an inquiry-driven, ethically engaged, and diverse community whose members work collaboratively for positive transformation in the world.

At Candler, we proclaim the Gospel and nurture students' growth in the Christian faith. A stellar faculty, a dedicated staff, and vibrant students form an active community of teaching and learning that prepares excellent leaders for Christian ministries. We carry out this mission, however, in an extraordinary university-based educational environment where hearts and minds engage across deeply held religious differences, preparing our students to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Candler's faculty continues to be among the most distinctive in theological education. Forty-three members hold full-time appointments, and five hold part-time appointments. An additional twenty-three serve in an adjunct capacity. Woodie White and Jack Meadors serve as the United Methodist bishops in residence. Bishop L. Bevel Jones III remains at Candler working with the Development Office.

In our commitment to the practice of ministry, we partner with eighty churches to ensure that ministerial preparation takes place in both the local church and on the campus. Candler's Contextual Education program intentionally pairs a faculty member with supervisors from church and community ministries so that teaching teams represent the church and the academy. Twenty-two teaching supervisors support our Contextual Education and Teaching Parish (student pastor) programs. The Rev. Dr. Alice Rogers has broadened the Teaching Parish program to include students appointed to churches in the Alabama-West Florida, North Alabama, North Georgia, South Georgia, and South Carolina Annual Conferences. We also taught more than 250 United Methodist students in the Course of Study in 2006-2007.

This year, enrollment was 535, with 440 in the Master of Divinity program, 54 in the Master of Theological Studies program, 12 in the Master of Theology program, 10 in the Doctor of Theology program and 19 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. Eighty-three percent of students are enrolled full-time. The student population is 25 percent US ethnic minority, 11 percent international, and 52 percent women. Nearly 50 denominations are represented with 52 percent of MDiv students being United Methodist from 37 Annual Conferences. Other denominations of the Methodist family represented at Candler include African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Church of the Nazarene, Free Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, and the Methodist Church of Korea. The average age of our students is now 31, with 57 percent under thirty. The median age of our MDiv students is 27.

## ◆◆◆◆2008 REPORTS◆◆◆◆

Lots of wonderful new initiatives are underway. We will move into Phase I of our new building in early August 2008. It offers 65,000 square feet for classrooms, offices, and community life. We hope construction on Phase II will begin late in 2008. It will hold the Pitts Library and the Wesley Teaching Chapel. The first year of implementation of a new MDiv curriculum is nearly complete. This program deepens faculty roles in advising and mentoring and requires a course in a religion other than Christianity. A new director of lifelong learning should be in place by fall 2008 to initiate a renewed emphasis on programs that benefit congregations and their leaders in continuing education. Designed to address the changing needs of church and society both at home and abroad, this program will work cooperatively with local churches, judicatory leaders, and denominational agencies to strengthen the church and its ministries.

At the center of our upcoming capital campaign is a program to boost financial support for students. This year, 76 percent of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 71 percent of tuition. Among these awards, more than \$2.4 million was provided to 198 United Methodist students. Gifts from the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this support. However, so much more needs to be done. More than 60 percent of Candler's MDiv graduates leave school with educational debt. This burden undermines their effectiveness in ministry, such that some seek alternative employment. Your continued support, gifts, and prayers mean a great deal as we work to provide a strong educational program as well as support for the courageous and committed students who choose to undertake the challenge of theological education.

Thank you for your support of Candler. Candler exists to serve the church of Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church in particular. If you have insights on what we could do better to fulfill this service, please let me know.

### **GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

653 Beckwith Street, Atlanta, GA 30314

*Dr. Walter H. McKelvey, President*

Gammon Theological Seminary is one of thirteen accredited theological institutions of The United Methodist Church. Gammon is the only historically African American graduate theological school related to the United Methodist Church.

Gammon will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> year of founding this year during the annual Founders' Day and Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series, October 6-9, 2008. "Remembering Who We Are: Seeking New Pathways" is our theme for our 125<sup>th</sup> celebration. Bishop Violet Fisher will serve as our Founders' Day Worship Service Speaker and Bishop Gregory Palmer will serve as our guest lecturer for the Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series. A Founders' Day Banquet and Gala will be held during this event to honor the alumni who have matriculated at Gammon and served The United Methodist Church for the last 125 years. The Methodist Episcopal Church founded Gammon Theological Seminary in 1883. Bishop Gilbert Haven and the officers of the Freedmen's Aid Society had purchased nearly 500 acres of high land in the southern suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. Gammon initially began as a Department of Theology at Clark University. Through the efforts of Bishop Henry White Warren and the gift of \$20,000 for endowment from the Rev.

Elijah H. Gammon, a Methodist minister of the Rock River (Illinois) Conference. The enthusiasm of these two men led to the construction of Gammon Hall. The Rev. Wilbur Patterson Thirkield was elected dean, and Gammon School of Theology was officially opened on October 3, 1883.

Gammon is the United Methodist member of the consortium of theological schools, known across the world as The Interdenominational Theological Center located in Atlanta, Georgia. We offer a broad curriculum in the scholar-minister tradition and also offers a holistic educational experience that continues to stress scholarship and service.

Students prepare for administration and leadership, counseling, teaching and preaching and a range of other spiritual and secular roles, with a blend of scholarship in the classroom and practical experience in the community. The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates theological studies with preparation for the ministry, merging theory with practice to equip the student for scholarship in the academy, service in the parish, and leadership in the community. Degree programs offered are Master of Divinity; Master of Arts in Christian Education; Master of Arts in Church Music; Dual Degrees and Doctor of Theology and Doctor of Ministry with a Specialty In Pastoral Counseling;

### **PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

5915 Bishop Blvd., Dallas, TX 75275-0133

*William B. Lawrence, Dean and Professor of American Church History*

The mission of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University is to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry. As an official school of theology within the South Central Jurisdiction, it is part of our strategy to continue to prepare leaders for the Northwest Texas Conference by focusing this year on four key areas – formation, faculty, finances and facilities.

◆◆◆◆2008 NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE◆◆◆◆

The first step in forming faithful leadership for the church of Jesus Christ is to partner with the church to identify those called to ministry, particularly the ordained and pastoral ministry. To this end Perkins welcomed persons dedicated to this task, including Herbert Coleman, who joined us as our new director of Recruitment.

Formation for faithful leadership not only requires attention to identifying those called to the pulpit and other pastoral ministries, but to preparing the next generation of Biblical scholars, theologians, ethicists, church historians and practical theologians, such as teachers of preaching and pastoral care. Perkins has taken steps to increase financial and faculty support for its Graduate Program in Religious Studies, and has partnered with other schools of theology to support the Hispanic Theological Initiative to fund Latino and Latina students, both at the Ph.D. and master's level.

Regarding our own teachers, our graduates tell us that the quality of our 35-plus member faculty in one of the most valuable assets which students encounter here at Perkins. Every time we conduct a search for a new faculty member, it is our goal to enhance the quality of teaching and research for the good of the church and its mission. This past year we welcomed Professor of New Testament Sze-Kar Wan, Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures Hugo Magallanes, Assistant Professor of Church History Jessica Boon, Associate Director of the Intern Program Barry Hughes, and Director of Bridwell Library Roberta Schaafsma. We said farewell to Professor of New Testament Jouette Bassler, who retired last summer, and will soon bid *adios* to Edwin Sylvest, associate professor of History of Christianity and director of Extension Learning, who will retire after 38 years at Perkins.

We were also pleased to welcome as director of Development Rev. Todd Rasberry, who is working to raise the necessary funds for the scholarship support of our students, the operation of our programs and the maintenance and improvement of our facilities. Only 50 percent our needed revenue is generated by tuition; the other half generated by our endowment earnings and the support of local congregations through The United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund. The support of the Northwest Texas Conference has helped fund for conference students the Perkins Annual Conference Endowment Grants, which in this past academic year provided on average an additional \$7000 per student from the Northwest Texas Conference beyond the general aid and scholarship awards.

Finally, to prepare leaders for the church requires appropriate facilities in which to teach. To those ends on September 7, 2007 we broke ground on a building and renovation project that will increase the number of classrooms, add a dedicated preaching laboratory, provide state-of-the-art educational technology, as well as address accessibility and environmental needs and concerns. We look forward to the opening of the new Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Building next year, with all renovations in our existing buildings on the SMU campus completed in time for Fall 2009 classes.

With this focus on formation, faculty, finance and facilities, we are confident that Perkins will continue to form leaders for Northwest Texas and The United Methodist Church who will have the theological, spiritual and practical preparation to move the church toward its mission of proclaiming the Gospel, and welcoming and gathering persons into the body of Christ, that the church may be one, and the world might be transformed.

**SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

5123 Truman Rd, Kansas City, MO 64127

*Myron F. McCoy., President*

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church that educates persons for leadership in the ministry of the church, which is called to be the continuing incarnation of Jesus Christ. In the fall of 2007, 303 students from 22 states, Korea, and the United Kingdom were enrolled in degree programs at Saint Paul School of Theology. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 277 students from 23 annual conferences.

Saint Paul was awarded a \$70,000 grant from the Wabash Center to fund faculty development in pedagogy for the next three years. The project will specifically address teaching three distinct groups of students: digital natives and distance learners, students with diverse learning styles and abilities, and diverse racial/ethnic generations.

Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion, and Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., Assistant Professor of Evangelism, received the Faith as a Way of Life Award focusing on pastoral excellence from Yale Divinity School for their Advanced Praxis Seminar, *Theology in Black and White*.

The seminary's partnership with Hyupsung University in Hwa-Seong, South Korea to offer a Korean Doctor of Ministry track in "Wesleyan Spirituality and Congregational Renewal" began June 2007 at Hyupsung University. In January 2008, the students met for classes at the Saint Paul campus in Kansas City.

Saint Paul announces a new Doctor of Ministry degree track in Wesleyan Spirituality, Leadership, and Congregational Renewal to begin January 2009. Students will work as a cohort, combining academic study, practice of spiritual disciplines, and communal collaboration.

## ◆◆◆◆2008 REPORTS◆◆◆◆

A diverse coalition of organizations came together to provide \$14 million in medicines to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The efforts of Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo.; The United Methodist Church of North Katanga; United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and others brought the shipment February 2 to Kinshasa. The airlift is the culmination of the efforts of Rev. Jim Glass, Vice President for Development and Dr. Pamela Couture, Vice President and Dean at Saint Paul School of Theology. Dr. Couture has been working in the North Katanga area to document oral history surrounding the peace building efforts following the Congolese War.

The Boards of Trustees at both Oklahoma City University and Saint Paul School of Theology approved the plan to establish an extension Saint Paul site at Oklahoma City University. The first phase of the accreditation is complete.

New faculty books include *Child Poverty: Love, Justice, and Social Responsibility* by Pamela Couture (Chalice Press, 2007), *What's the Shape of Narrative Preaching? Essays in Honor of Eugene L. Lowry* edited by Mike Graves and David J. Schlafer (Chalice Press, 2008), *Preaching Matthew: Interpretation and Proclamation* by Mike Graves and David May (Chalice Press, 2007), and *Formation in Faith: The Congregational Ministry of Making Disciples* by Sondra Matthaëi (Abingdon Press, 2008).

The trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Saint Paul thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

### SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

6425 Boaz Lane, Dallas TX 75205

*R. Gerald Turner, President*

SMU continues to advance among the nation's major private universities as it moves toward the Centennial celebration of the University's founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Listed below are some highlights of the past year:

- SMU's total fall 2007 enrollment was 10,829, including 6,176 undergraduates and 4,653 graduate and professional students. The minority enrollment is 21 percent of the student body. The average SAT score of the first-year class rose nearly 80 points in the last seven years.
- The campus community gained strong new leadership in the past year. New administrators include Paul W. Ludden, provost and vice president for academic affairs, previously at the University of California, Berkeley; Lori S. White, vice president for student affairs, coming from the University of Southern California; Christine Casey, vice president for business and finance, from the University of California; James E. Quick, associate vice president for research and dean of graduate studies, from the U.S. Geological Survey; and David Chard, dean of the School of Education and Human Development, from the University of Oregon. Roberta A. Schaafsma, formerly at Duke Divinity School Library, is the new director of Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology.
- Perkins School of Theology broke ground in September for a major expansion of its facilities. The building program includes extensive renovation of two classroom and office buildings and construction of a new building to be named in honor of Elizabeth Perkins Prothro. The Perkins-Prothro family of Wichita Falls, Texas, provided the lead gift of \$6 million for the project. The Texas Methodist Foundation, through anonymous donors, has committed \$1.4 million toward the \$13.1 million project, which to date has received gifts and pledges of approximately \$11.1 million from nearly 300 donors.
- A \$20 million gift from Harold C. and Annette C. Simmons of Dallas provided endowment for SMU's School of Education and Human Development and the lead gift for a new building to house the School. The School was renamed the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.
- A \$10.1 million gift from the W.W. Caruth Jr. Foundation at Communities Foundation of Texas endowed the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education at SMU and provided the lead gift toward a new engineering building.
- Other recent major gifts include \$5 million from Dallas business leader Edwin L. Cox to support merit-based undergraduate scholarships in the school that bears his name — the Edwin L. Cox School of Business; a \$3.3 million bequest from the estate of Catherine Perrine to fund scholarships and an endowed chair in the Department of English; and \$3.6 million from Caren Prothro and the Perkins-Prothro Foundation to support teaching and research in the Department of Biological Sciences.
- SMU has added new Ph.D. programs in English, emphasizing English and American literature; and in Education, focusing on literacy, language and learning. This brings to 25 the number of fields offering doctorates at SMU.
- David J. Weber, the Robert and Nancy Dedman Professor of History at SMU, was inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences last fall. SMU Statistical Science Professor Wayne Woodward received the United Methodist Church University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award for 2007.

◆◆◆◆2008 NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE◆◆◆◆

- Perkins School of Theology conducted a conference for scholars and pastors on *Albert Outler and the Wesleyan Spirit* in conjunction with SMU's annual Ministers' Week in January 2008. The conference examined contributions of the late Perkins professor, who influenced countless pastors and academicians worldwide during his more than 25 years at SMU.
- Andy Roberts, formerly associate pastor in Georgia, became director of the SMU Wesley Foundation in July. The Foundation's ministry includes Wednesday night services of contemporary worship, teaching and prayer in Perkins Chapel; weekly small group gatherings for Bible study, fellowship and prayer in student residence halls and apartments; and weekly community lunches. Plans are underway for a mission trip to Ghana in summer 2008.
- In accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, one-half of the members of SMU's Board of Trustees are United Methodists, including three bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction (currently Bishop Scott Jones, Kansas Area; Bishop Alfred Norris, North Texas Conference; and Bishop Ann Sherer, Nebraska Area). Current trustees include pastors Kirbyjon Caldwell of Houston and Mark Craig of Dallas, as well as laity of the denomination.
- SMU's Board of Trustees benefits from the diverse voices of *ex officio* members representing faculty, students and alumni, who rotate annually. This year's *ex officio* members are Gary Evans, Faculty Senate president; Andrew Galloway, student representative; and Connie O'Neill, Alumni Association president.

SMU treasures its Methodist heritage and its ongoing relationship with The United Methodist Church. We ask your continued prayers and support as SMU moves forward in the coming year.

**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**

1001 University Ave, Georgetown, TX 78626

*Jake Schrum, President*

Founded by Methodist leaders as Texas's first institution of higher learning, Southwestern University continues to align its activities with the vision and mission of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference.

One highlight of 2007 was our signing of the Talloires Declaration, an international treaty related to sustainability in higher education. Our students are extremely committed to this cause, as was exemplified by the fact that 12 of them recently went to College Park, Maryland, to attend the "Power Shift 2007" conference. Thirty-five students are taking a sustainability class offered on campus this semester, and three students are serving as sustainability interns.

On Jan. 31, Southwestern will join more than 1,000 colleges and universities around the country participating in a national "teach-in" on climate change called "Focus The Nation." Many other environmentally related events are planned for 2008, including a workshop in March for local high school students who are interested in environmental careers.

**Enrollment — Fall 2007**

Southwestern had a Fall 2007 enrollment of 1,294 students. Our first-year class of 371 students was the second-largest in the University's history. Nearly half our first-year students were in the top 10 percent of their high school class, and the average SAT score for incoming students was 1220. Twenty-two percent of our incoming class was minority students.

One hundred and seventy-one first-year students participated in Living-Learning Communities in the fall of 2007—an increase of 22 students from Fall 2006. This program has now become so popular that it was expanded to include the first floor of an additional residence hall.

**New Faculty**

Southwestern also welcomed five new tenure-track faculty members this fall. Shannon Winnubst, a professor of philosophy, was appointed to the Carolyn and Fred McManis Chair in Philosophy.

**Paideia®**

In the spring of 2007, we had a record number of students apply for our Paideia~ Program, which helps students make connections between what they are learning in the classroom and the world around them. All program participants fulfill requirements in civic engagement, intercultural and diversity experiences, and undergraduate research and creative works. In 2007, all sophomore cohorts set aside time to explore the meaning of civic engagement. Several cohorts read and discussed "To Hell With Good Intentions," and the introduction to "The New Student Politics: The Wingspread Statement on Civic Engagement in Higher Education," while others read works about service and community engagement. Here are some of the projects that Paideia cohorts are working on this year:

## ◆◆◆◆2008 REPORTS◆◆◆◆

- Professor Daniel Castro's cohort is working on a project to reconfigure and send 120 computers to the community of La Esperanza, Honduras. The cohort, along with the Office of Civic Engagement and the Director of Foundation Relations, secured \$3,000 from the Trull Foundation to fund this project, and several students in Professor Castro's cohort, as well as Professor Castro himself, will travel to Honduras in the summer of 2008 to set up the computers. Professor David Gaines' cohort is partnering with Professor Castro's cohort to reconfigure the computers.
- Cohorts led by Professors Maria Cuevas and Mary Grace Neville secured holiday gifts for 35 local Boys & Girls Club members who did not receive any gifts last year. They enlisted both the campus and greater Georgetown communities to sponsor the children. Professor Cuevas' cohort also fulfilled the wish list for a low-income family with a mother in the late stages of breast cancer.

Forty-eight students graduated from the Paideia® Program in May 2007, and 230 students are participating in the program in 2007-08.

### **Student Life**

Students enrolling in Southwestern in the fall of 2007 had a new housing option to choose from with the opening of the Dorothy Manning Lord Residential Center. The center, which consists of three buildings with two-bedroom apartments, houses 64 students plus a residence life professional. All the units are fully furnished and have their own kitchens. With the addition of these new residence halls, approximately 85 percent of Southwestern students are able to live on campus. One of the residence halls serves as a "Community Engagement/Green Hall," where students work together to build a community dedicated to sustainable living and community service.

The new housing area has enabled Southwestern to convert some of its other residence halls to special interest housing. In the fall of 2007, sophomores participating in the Paideia® program were allowed to live in one of the buildings in the McCombs Residential Center — a privilege previously reserved only for juniors or seniors.

### **Construction Projects**

2008 will bring a flurry of new construction projects to campus. In January 2008, we will break ground on the \$11 million Charles and Elizabeth Prothro Center for Lifelong Learning, which will consolidate many student services into a single building, as well as provide a home for the Paideia. program. In February 2008, we will break ground on a new Admission Center. When this building is completed, it will enable us to move forward with a comprehensive renovation of the historic Cullen Building.

In March 2008, we will have the official dedication for our newly renovated Alma Thomas Theatre. The Theatre has been open since November and gives Southwestern as good a performing arts facility as any liberal arts college in the country. This spring the larger stage is enabling us to host a performance by the Austin Civic Orchestra and a performance of the musical "Fiddler on the Roof."

### **Community Engagement**

In addition to the community service mentioned above related to the Paideia~ Program, many other Southwestern students are involved in the community, both as part of their coursework and as extracurricular activity. In Fall 2007, Southwestern students contributed more than 7,200 hours to 53 different community agencies or programs as part of their coursework. Examples of community involvement incorporated into coursework include the following:

- Biology Professor Romi Burks started a new program called SMArT that matches Southwestern students with 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to work on a project of scientific inquiry. The students present their research projects at a science fair.
- The Theatre Department provided free tickets and set up special performances of "Seussical" for more than 1,300 local elementary school students at the end of November 2007 as part of its new Theatre for Young Audiences program.
- Students in Professor Elaine Craddock's First-Year Seminar titled "You Are What You Eat: Religious Conceptions of Food" brought their final projects to life before an audience of more than 90 5th grade students at Cooper Elementary School in Georgetown. Dividing into "cultural centers," students shared traditions and rituals practiced by Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims Jews, and Christians with their younger counterparts.
- Students in a First-Year Seminar taught by Professors Laura HobgoodOster and Jimmy Smith were required to volunteer at a local animal shelter to better understand our society's policies toward these animals.
- Some examples of community involvement outside the classroom include the following:
- Seventy Southwestern students tutor and mentor middle school students through the University's Operation Achievement program.
- Southwestern students have started a chapter of Best Buddies, which pairs college students with local youths who have disabilities. Recent activities have included an ice cream social, pumpkin painting, T-shirt dyeing, and a Christmas party.

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- Kappa Delta Pi sponsored a school supply drive benefiting students in the Georgetown Independent School District.
- Students from several different organizations, including Alpha Phi Omega, volunteered for R.O.C.K. (Ride On Center for Kids), which provides horse therapy.
- Kappa Upsilon Chi helped a church in Granger repaint their historic building in 2007 and is looking for new ways to support the church in 2008.
- Sigma Phi Lambda sponsored the 2007 Salvation Army Angel Tree Program, a project that provided holiday gifts for less fortunate children under the age of 12 as well as seniors and disabled adults 62 years or older. They also worked with Habitat for Humanity and spent time at Down Home Ranch in Elgin, a residential center for people with disabilities where they helped organize a barn dance and carved pumpkins, among other projects.
- The men's basketball team made regular visits to Annie Purl Elementary to mentor students, and the women's basketball team conducted a basketball clinic at the Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown.

In August 2007, Southwestern received a four-year, \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue its Upward Bound program. Established in 1999 at Southwestern, this program offers year-round academic support for students who would be the first in their families to attend college. The program currently serves 50 students in grades 9-12 from Georgetown, Jarrell, and Granger high schools. The program had 100 percent of its graduates enroll at accredited colleges and universities across Texas in 2004, 2006, and 2007. Each year, Southwestern offers two full-tuition scholarships, valued at over \$102,000, to Upward Bound graduates who are admitted to the University. Currently six Southwestern students are recipients of the scholarship.

Southwestern also has partnered with an organization called College Forward that provides free college preparatory services to motivated, economically disadvantaged students. Southwestern's participation will enable the Austin-based organization to expand its services to serve students at Georgetown High School. The organization began working with 21 juniors from Georgetown High School in January 2007.

### **Faculty Achievements**

Southwestern University faculty members continue to excel as teachers and scholars. In August 2007, Sociology Professor and University Scholar Ed Kain received a national award from the American Sociological Association in recognition of his contributions to the teaching of sociology. In November 2007, seven Southwestern faculty members received awards from the Sam Taylor Fellowship Fund, which provides monetary awards for the continuing education and development of full-time faculty members of United Methodist colleges and universities in Texas. Southwestern's award recipients plan to use their funds for projects ranging from cancer research to private lessons with some of the country's leading musicians.

### **2007 Distinguished Alumna**

Southwestern's 2007 Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Award will be presented to Gwen Sherman, a 1980 graduate who serves as director of finance and administration for the Seattle-based Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Her position with the Gates Foundation allows her to help address some of the world's most pressing concerns.

### **Thinking Ahead Campaign**

Southwestern has reached the mid-point in its "Thinking Ahead" comprehensive campaign to raise \$125 million. Funds are being sought for initiatives in four areas: Students, Faculty, Diversity Enrichment, and the Living-Learning Environment. As of December 31, 2007, the campaign total had reached \$72,847,716.

### **Endowment and the Economy**

As of June 30, 2007, Southwestern's endowment stood at \$314 million—a continued improvement since 2006, but still not back to what it was before 2001. In 2006-2007, the University had a balanced budget for the 30th consecutive year. The estimated economic impact the University had on the Georgetown-Williamson County area was more than \$94 million in 2006-07.

### **Major Speakers**

Southwestern continues to attract prominent speakers for its major lecture series. The 2007 Writer's Voice speaker was Amy Tan, who attracted a sold-out crowd. The 2008 speaker will be Azar Nafisi who will be on campus November 12, 2008. The Writer's Voice series is sponsored by Southwestern's A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library Center.

### **Symposia and Conferences**

2008 will mark the 30th year for Southwestern's Brown Symposium. The Symposium will be held April 3-4 and will explore the self-worlds of human and non-human animals. Speakers will include writer and poet Diane Ackerman, who has published significantly in the areas of natural history and poetry; Christopher

W. Clark, who holds the Imogene Powers Johnson Senior Scientist Chair at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and heads their Bioacoustics Research Program; David B. Fogel, chief executive officer of Natural Selection Inc. and a leading expert in the area of artificial intelligence; and Michael S. Gazzaniga, who heads the new SAGE Center for the Study of the Mind at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

As the General Conference prepares to meet in Texas later this year, we look forward to renewing ties with all the Bishops, committee members, and other church members who have supported Southwestern. Your support and guidance is helping us continue to build an institution that engages minds and transforms lives.

## TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

*Bishop Dan E. Solomon, President*

### TUMCA OPENS DOORS FOR FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS

A large number of students attending one of The United Methodist Colleges and Universities in Texas are first generation college students. As scholarship recipients, under the auspices of The Texas United Methodist College Association, these students are furthering their Christian higher education because of the generosity of United Methodist congregations across Texas.

Through the apportionment in the Annual Conferences in Texas, each local congregation is asked to support TUMCA Scholarships. Scholarship recipients are United Methodist students from Texas congregations. Every TUMCA scholar personifies United Methodism's historic commitment to "knowledge and vital piety."

When TUMCA scholars share their "thank you" witness in their home congregations, a common testimony emerges. "I could have never attended a United Methodist School if it were not for United Methodist scholarship assistance!" These students are depending upon, and thriving, because of the church's commitment, "We will be there for you in every stage of your life."

TUMCA scholars, for over fifty years, have gone on to become the leadership core of congregations and conferences as pastors, laity, youth ministers and community leaders. Generous giving for scholarships for these committed students continues to open doors of achievement for over 100 TUMCA scholars each year. **IN REPRODUCING ITS LEADERSHIP, THE CHURCH IS UNDERGIRDING ITS MISSION!**

The Northwest Texas Conference can be quite proud of the following TUMCA scholarship recipients:

Hope M. Anderson, St. Luke's UMC, Lubbock, McMurry University  
Anna K. Gillette, St. Paul UMC, Abilene, McMurry University  
Kristen A. Gilmore, St. Luke's UMC, Lubbock, McMurry University  
Marlee K. Hager, St. Paul UMC, Abilene, McMurry University  
Jennifer L. Hall, First UMC, Midland, McMurry University  
Heather E. Hyde, First UMC, Abilene, McMurry University  
Jodi L. Tucker, First UMC, Quanah, McMurry University  
Cassandra J. Willis, First UMC, Big Spring, McMurry University  
Nicole E. Young, Wylie UMC, Abilene, McMurry University  
Ted Wilson, Hamby UMC, Hamby, Southwestern University  
Stuart Martin, First UMC, Spearman, Texas Wesleyan

## TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

1201 Wesleyan, Fort Worth, TX 76105-1536

*Harold Jeffcoat, President*

As we enter the spring at Texas Wesleyan University, we are reminded that the season always symbolizes new growth and a sense of fresh beginnings. That is also true at Texas Wesleyan. With a generous \$1.3 million pledge from the Mortons, a new challenge campaign has been kicked off to raise \$1.7 million for The Jack and Jo Willa Morton Fitness Center. This will promote wellness on campus and add to the quality of life for faculty, staff and students.

Our Admission Office has been working hard and as a result our student population is growing and retention is up. Student Life activities continue to blossom as well with a wide range of activities available on a daily basis for students to be involved in whether they are commuters or on campus residents. Furthermore, this past year, global travel opportunities for students grew with more places for them to broaden their horizons such as: Mexico, England, Ireland, Spain and the list goes on.

One of the most exciting developments on campus has been the creation of the Texas Wesleyan University Press with the publication of its inaugural book: *Days of a Chameleon: Collected Poems*. The collection of poems is by Jeffrey DeLotto, professor of English at Texas Wesleyan. Texas Wesleyan University Press, in conjunction with Xlibris, a print-on-demand publishing house, will publish all types of manuscripts, including scholarly, creative, or community interest works.

We're in an exciting time at Texas Wesleyan University. Come by the campus. Attend a musical or theatrical performance. Visit your friends. Take a look at all the wonderful developments at Texas Wesleyan; you'll be proud of this fine Methodist related institution!

**UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

4501 Denlinger Road, Dayton, OH 45426

*Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President*

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

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

Here are some current highlights from United Theological Seminary:

1. A new Master of Divinity degree Concentration in Church Renewal!
2. A continuing, central role for orthodox Christian doctrine and deep grounding in the study of the Bible.
3. An emphasis upon the world as our context for theological education, including the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.
4. New initiatives in Distance Learning to serve the underserved—including five new online courses in the fall of 2008!
5. Growing partnerships with African American church leaders and institutions.
6. New partnerships with other schools, judicatories, agencies and congregations!
7. An opportunity to lead the church in reflection on the Wesleyan theological tradition through the work of our faculty and the Center for Evangelical United Brethren Heritage.
8. Increasing enrollment in our Masters degrees, Doctor of Ministry degree and non-degree programs as we respond to new needs for clergy and lay education
9. Our fine students, faculty and staff!
10. A state-of-the-art, completely accessible campus.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership with us in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

***CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRY (CCYM)***

*Donald Ward, Youth Ministry Resource Consultant*

God has really been at work in the CCYM this past year. We had a very committed youth leadership team, which planned and implemented five events last spring, including four district wide youth rallies and one conference wide lock-in. Hearts were changed at Annual Conference last year, and, in spite of hard challenges and setbacks, accountability covenants were established and the new leadership team continued to plan activities for the upcoming year.

The district youth rallies were well received in all districts and were well attended in the Abilene and Big Spring Districts. Donald Ward spoke at the Abilene and Lubbock District rallies. Duke Underwood spoke at the Amarillo and Big Spring District youth rallies. A praise band from McMurry University, *In His Arms* (organized by Jason Owens), led the worship at three of the rallies. Although the cards were lost, at least thirty students made decisions for Christ at the Abilene rally. We know of at least one who accepted Christ as His Savior at the Lubbock rally, and numerous hearts were touched and changed at the other two rallies. Both Donald Ward and Duke Underwood spoke at the conference lock-in. The students were both challenged and encouraged, and at least ten students sought further "counseling" throughout the night after the message had been spoken.

The youth rally held at Westover Fellowship UMC in Amarillo last May at Annual Conference was well attended and the ministry was extremely well received. About 200 youth and adults attended. God moved in such a way that youth from rival towns in the Panhandle prayed with one another, and at least one student surrendered her life to ministry, even to the point of giving up volleyball and basketball in the coming school year.

I have heard it said that when God is really moving, the devil is too. We had some major disappointments and setbacks in the fall. One student was asked to step down from the CCYM for reasons that cannot be disclosed in this report. A youth minister also committed suicide (this is common knowledge in Amarillo and surrounding areas) who was on the CCYM. Since then, after a time of grief (that is still being dealt with, by the way) and shock, we have had a retreat in which we not only planned events but had teaching on the importance of being in covenant with God and each other and accountability as well as the importance of repentance, restoration and revival as aspects of God's wonderful sanctifying grace in our lives.

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Future plans for the CCYM are to have quality events for youth that provide fellowship, fun and, more importantly, opportunities to experience God's grace at whatever level a student may be (prevenient, justifying or sanctifying grace). We hope these events will show the churches of our conference that we can have a quality, Spirit-filled connectional system. We are also hoping to provide quality training and education in Wesleyan theology for youth ministers in our conference. This goal may take more than a year to accomplish, but it is still a work in progress. In all we do, we need and covet the faithful support and prayers of the members of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference.

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

*Linda Elms, Conference President*

June 2007 found the Conference officers at Regional School in Winfield, KS, learning about Israel/Palestine and "Singing Across the Walls". We extended our knowledge about Globalization and got officer updates as we prepared to come back to the conference and lead our own Conference School of Missions.

In July we continued to use the four day format for our School of Christian Missions held in Levelland at South Plains College. With this format we are able to add more activities that make our time together more relaxed and enjoyable. We had very able leaders as Nancy Maples, from the Texas Conference led the study, Music and Mission. Ann Needham, from the Oklahoma Conference, led our study of Israel/Palestine, and our own Steve Campbell led the study on Globalization for a second year.

In September, Polk Street United Methodist Church hosted our Annual Meeting. This year we used a new format with participants moving between three workshops during the morning, learning about General Conference, singing old and new hymns, and listening to a panel discussion about racism in our world. We were inspired by our worship leader, Heather Sims, and challenged by our speaker Julie Tulloch, a staff person with the Women's Division.

At Annual Meeting four local units were honored with a Platinum Award, eleven local units were honored with a Gold Award, six local units were honored with a Silver Award, and six local units were honored with an Ivory Award for being Mission Today Units.

In October, the local units began a new year of working toward being Mission Today Units by using the Prayer Calendar, doing the Mission Studies, using Response Magazine and any number of other activities.

In January most local units celebrated United Methodist Women's Sunday using the theme, Singing God's Mission. We looked at how hymns have affected our mission throughout the years. We sang a lot, learned new songs and celebrated our heritage.

January also found 13 women from the Northwest Texas Conference at Legislative Event in Austin. Many of us had the opportunity to have extended visits with our legislators, since this year our state Congress was not in session. We came back with a commitment to visit the district offices of our legislators and to invite other women to do the same.

February found the Conference women at Leadership Training, hosted by Lubbock First United Methodist Church. We again divided participants into groups and had the leaders move from group to group, insuring that many local women had a good overview of the entire program of United Methodist Women. This format and total Conference training has been very well received.

In March over 30 United Methodist Women were able to attend the Jurisdiction Meeting in Albuquerque, where directors for Women's Division from the South Central Jurisdiction were elected. This will be the last Jurisdiction meeting that is held. The Women's Division feels there is a better more cost effective way to elect these women.

This year we were pleased to have two Retreats for Mothers of Young Children. One retreat was held at Ceta Canyon and one at Camp Butman. Attendance was good at both retreats. Ann Allison and Donita Lee were the retreat leaders. We again held the Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat at Ceta Canyon with leader Maggie Rogers helping us learn to "Praise, Play and Pray, Reflect, Renew and Rejoice." Participation in these events continues to be very good.

This year as we join with the New Mexico Conference for Annual Conference at Glorieta we will join our New Mexico sisters at a luncheon to celebrate the work done by United Methodist Women around the world.

### **BOARD OF LAITY**

*Randy Hollums, Conference Lay Leader*

This report will be in two parts. First, I will outline the activities of myself as Conference Lay Leader and then I will give a summary of the activities of the laity in the Northwest Texas Conference for the past year.

I attended each of the meetings of the Cabinet which did not deal with appointments, the Bishop's Week at Mount Sequoia, the annual meeting of annual conference lay leaders for the South Central Jurisdiction, the meetings of Bold New Directions Taskforce and the Conference Leadership team, the annual meeting for the National Association of Conference Lay Leaders, the meetings of our Conference Board of Laity, and the Convocation of Bishops and extended Cabinets held at Camp Lake Junaluska, N.C.. Counting travel days, I have spent 43 days attending meetings related to being the Conference Lay Leader.

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Each District has had numerous activities that involved the laity. Most have sponsored both Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking courses.

The Big Spring District sponsored the “Big Event” for laity and youth.

The Director of Lay Speaking, Jerry Marshall, assisted by numerous others, has offered the four modules for the Certified Lay Minister training. Approximately 25 to 30 individuals have completed the required training for that program.

A large number of lay persons have volunteered and served on the Boards and Agencies of the Conference, including six who have met monthly for meetings of the Bold New Directions Task Force and the Conference Leadership Team.

The United Methodist Women continue to meet and explore our church and its mission in the world. The United Methodist Men are attempting to renew themselves on a District by District basis.

The Laity continue to be involved in the planning and execution of “Roundup”.

The Laity will continue to be involved as we evolve into the DINE model.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Board of Laity and, in particular, Ron Enns, our associate conference lay leader, and Jerry Marshall, our Director of Lay Speaking.

**CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS**

*Toni Cox, Chairperson*

*We will continue to focus on Health and Wellness for 2008. Our conference was one of 19 conferences in Health Flex to receive an incentive for completion of the Annual Wellness Exams. This year the General Board has set the bar even higher. We could possibly get a 5% rebate on our Health Flex premiums and all the hard work our participants have done is paying off. Our claims data has never looked better. Keep up the hard work and look for information from Jan Roberts on how you can help this conference achieve the higher goal.*

**PAST SERVICE PENSION RATE:** On **January 1, 2009**, the Ministerial Pension Rate shall be **\$521**, and the Local Pastor’s Pension Rate shall be **\$521**

**SURVIVING SPOUSE BENEFIT:** In accordance with Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) supplement one, the Surviving Spouse Benefit shall be 75% of the Participant’s Formula Benefit.

**PAST SERVICE PENSION FUNDING:** In accordance with Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Supplement One, the Unfunded Liability as of **January 1, 2008**, has been actuarially projected to be **\$10,484,517**. Service funding Deposits are required to fund the Unfunded Liability and based on actuaries are anticipated to be in the amounts and for the periods shown below:

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PERIOD OF DEPOSIT</u>
<b>\$1,585,972</b>	<b>10 years</b>

**For Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program  
As of January 1, 2006 for 2008**

The **2008** Past Service Rate (PSR) is **\$505**, or **1.02%** of Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The conference intends to maintain the PSR at a level of at least **.8%** of CAC. For the past several years, CAC has increased by an average of 3% per year, and we expect that pattern to continue. Therefore, we expect future PSRs to increase by an average of about 3% per year.

As of January 1, **2006** for **2008**, assuming 3% annual PSR increases, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits’ actuarial valuation of the plan for the Conference shows a total liability of **\$21,673,071** and current plan funding of **\$9,139,743**. The difference of **\$12,533,328** represents the unfunded liability and the Conference intends to fund this amount by December 31, 2018. The annual contribution is currently estimated to be **\$1,585,972**.

The conference will fund the benefits through two funding sources, all of which are invested in the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits **Multiple Asset** Fund:

- The first source for the contributions to Supplement One is apportionments. The Conference expects to receive \$1,000,000 in apportionments each year through December 31, 2018. The present value of these apportionments is **\$7,498,678**.
- The second source of the contributions is the Pre-82 Deposit Account. Principle and investment earnings are both dedicated to fund our unfunded liability. All memorials received by the Conference board of pensions are deposited into this account. The balance of the Account as of 12/31/2007 is **\$15,312,935**. The Conference anticipates that **\$4,064,172** of the available funds will be needed to meet future contribution requirements.

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The funding plan as of January 1, 2006 for 2008 is summarized below.

	Present Value of Benefits* 01/01/2006	Plan Funding 1/01/2006	Funded Status ** 01/01/2008	Present Value of Future Costs
Supplement One Funding (3% PSR increases)	\$21,673,071	\$9,139,743	(\$11,562,846)	
• Apportionments, 01/01/2008				\$7,498,674
• Pre-82 Deposit Account, 01/01/2008				\$4,064,172
<b>Total, 01/01/2008</b>			<b>(11,562,846)**</b>	<b>\$11,562,846</b>

\*Assuming 7% interest and the RP-2000 Mortality Table.

\*\* Projecting 01/01/2006 Funding Status with interest and 2006 and 2007 contributions.

**PENSION CRUSADE FUND:** The Northwest Texas Annual Conference carried out a Pension Crusade Fund Campaign in 1982 for funds toward the Unfunded Past Service Liability of the Conference Pensions Program. A short fall in payments toward the pledged total of \$4,440,797 reveals that a total of **\$3,431,972.58** accumulative has been paid. Gratitude is expressed to those churches and individuals that have made contributions of **\$1,845** in 2007 toward earlier commitments. These funds are held by the Conference Board of Pensions and invested for benefit of the Conference Claimants, the annual earning making a significant factor in lowering annual apportionments for the Conference Claimants' Fund.

**FINANCE:**

**APPORTIONMENT:** That there be apportioned to the pastoral charges for the period January 1 - December 31, 2009, the sum of **\$1,100,000**, which together with pension income from other sources, will provide the financing of the recommended Pensions and Benefit Programs for the year of **2010**.

That the Conference depository for pension funds be the American State Bank of Lubbock, Texas, and the General Board of Pensions, Evanston, Illinois.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXPENSE FOR RETIRED:** That effective June 1, 2002, the Conference pay up to but not exceeding \$65 per clergy person per day for meals and lodging expenses of retired ministers or widows attending Annual Conference or \$75 per day for a retired minister and spouse for a maximum of three days. Those persons living within the city limits of where Annual Conference is being held will not be paid Annual Conference Expense. No travel expense is to be paid. Retired persons serving appointments or persons on disability leave will not receive reimbursement from the Conference Board of Pensions.

**RETIREE MOVING EXPENSE:** When a minister or local pastor of the Annual Conference, serving under appointment with annuity credit at the time of retirement or disability, becomes a conference claimant, the Conference Board of Pensions may pay the actual moving expenses, as a one time reimbursement from the last appointment with annuity credit to the first place of retirement, provided however, that such payment shall not exceed the conference approved moving rate.

A surviving spouse of a deceased active or retired minister or local pastor, who served with annuity credit, may also receive a one time reimbursement, at the time of the minister's or local pastor's death, provided however that such payment shall not exceed the conference approved moving rate.

**Note – As of 2006, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits has changed the reporting process for the Payment to Annuitant Report. It will now include participants receiving a benefit from MPP or entitled to a Defined Benefit Vested annuity as well as other categories.**

In 2007 the General Board of Pensions paid a total of **\$3,005,209.82** to Claimants of the Northwest Texas Conference. The breakdown is as follows:

For 139 Ministerial Members Inside the Conference	\$1,685,480.57
For 10 Local Pastor Inside the Conference	56,563.68
For 1 Lay Employee Inside the Conference	19,391.86
For 73 Surviving Spouses Inside the Conference	629,680.97
For 82 Ministerial Members Elsewhere	345,740.58
For 1 Local Pastor Elsewhere	411.24
For 1 Lay Employee Elsewhere	122.52
For 59 Surviving Spouses Elsewhere	148,956.93
For 28 Named Beneficiary	96,530.12
For 2 QDRO Participants	8452.56
For 4 Other Participants	13,878.79

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED OR DISABLED CLERGYPERSONS OF THE NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE**

The Northwest Texas Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for retired or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

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

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

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

**◆◆◆◆2008 REPORTS◆◆◆◆**

**INSURANCE STATISTICS**

PRESENT CENSUS

Active members	Single coverage	<b>38</b>
	Family coverage	<b>125</b>
	Retirees	<b>134</b>

COMPARISON OF TOTAL COSTS

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
HF PREM.		864,220	2,013,129	2,110,347	2,895,991	2,897,398	2,897,253
CLAIMS	1,138,930	840,142	0	0	0	0	0
RX DRUGS	624,309	509,962	316,567	392,257	31,252	0	0
OP. EXP.	89,991	38,387	24,779	34,544	36,355	24,117	44,215
PREM. EXP	1,085,827	697,995	365,255	347,622	1,235	879	2,336

TOTALS	2,939,057	2,950,706	2,719,730	2,884,770	3,001,189	2,922,394	2,943,804
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**COMPARISON OF TOTAL REVENUE**

PREMIUMS	2,351,400	2,279,870	2,470,811	2,466,833	2,656,631	2,769,410	2,604,142
APPORTN.	493,021	492,099	546,369	546,720	547,693	543,369	511,386
INTEREST	6,465	2,307	1,490	4,412	11,316	17,003	11,281

TOTALS	2,850,886	2,774,276	3,018,670	3,017,965	3,215,640	3,329,782	3,126,809
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**COMPARISON OF APPORTIONMENTS REQUESTED**

TOTAL AMT	580,000	580,000	650,000	640,000	640,000	640,000	640,000
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**COMPARISON OF RESERVES HELD**

	60,755	755	135,756	260,756	460,756	624,752	830,530
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**INSURANCE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS**

1. The administrative requirements of the group insurance program, as published in the current report of the commission on insurance, shall be observed as a rule of the conference and will be the official policy for the ensuing year.

2. Questions of interpretation of official policy coverage and limitations shall be decided by the conference board of pension and health benefits. The executive committee may act for and in behalf of the commission in emergency situations by conference calls.

3. Mandatory participation in the insurance program shall include the following:

- a. A member of a Conference appointed to full-time service to a local church who is:
  - an elder in full connection (§329.1),
  - an associate member (§366.2),
  - a probationary member on the elder track (§317.2).
- b. An ordained elder or ordained clergy from other annual conferences or other Methodist denominations appointed to a local church within a conference (§337.1).
- c. A full-time local pastor who is under episcopal appointment to a charge located in a conference (§343.1).
- d. An ordained elder (other than a missionary) appointed to extension ministries within the connectional structure to a unit of the conference [§335.1a(1)].
- e. An associate member or clergy member in full connection granted sabbatical leave (§350)
- f. Retired Full Time Clergy appointed as full time retired supply

\*\* Please note: When a member of annual conference is no longer in a mandatory category, but does not fit in one of the optional categories as described below, they can choose to participate in continuation coverage for 9 months.

Every church with a full-time pastor must provide at least single clergy coverage for their pastor. Payments of the premiums of the above participants are the financial responsibility of the local church.

The district superintendent shall inform all clergy of the provisions of the rule and shall notify the office of the insurance administrator of changes in status of clergy immediately before or immediately after such change becomes effective. Enrollment shall be completed within thirty (30) days of admission on probation, as associates, or by transfer into the conference.

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4. The following are eligible for the total Conference health insurance program, provided they agree that the salary paying unit is responsible for sending the total premium to the office of the Insurance Administrator on a monthly basis. They must work 30 or more hours. The church or agency must either offer the Conference Insurance Program to all full time staff or not offer it at all and there must be at least 75% participation level. The premium will be paid at least ½ (or larger percentage as required by law) on a uniform non-discriminatory basis by the church or employing agency with the employee or staff person responsible for payment of the balance. Each church is a separate small group and will have its own plan reviewed for lay coverage as permitted by state law.

- a. Full Time Lay Employees (including lay speakers and consecrated diaconal ministers)
- b. Full Time Conference Staff
- c. Full Time Camp Staff

5. Retired Clergy under age 65 may participate in the Conference Health Plan. (Rates for retired members and/or spouses and surviving spouses age 62 to age 65 will have the same premium rate as that of an active member with the Conference paying ½ of the premium. For those persons who are not age 62 the full active single rate or the full family rate will be applied until age 62 is reached when the Conference will then pay ½ of the premium.) Retired Clergy over 65 may be enrolled in the Medicare Companion Plan sponsored by the General Board of Pension. They will be required to pay ½ of the Medicare Companion Plan premium with the other ½ coming from the apportionment.

A participant who was enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program prior to July 1, 2002 and retires before July 1, 2007 will have satisfied the requirement to enroll dependents at the time of retirement.

A participant who enrolls in the Conference Insurance Program after July 1, 2002 must have been enrolled in the Conference Insurance Program for the five years prior retirement to be eligible for the Insurance Program in retirement.

Those who choose to opt out must request withdrawal in writing by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the date of termination. PLEASE REALIZE that persons who choose to opt out of the Plan will not have any part of their premium paid by the apportionment and will not be able to re-enroll in the Conference Insurance Program at a later date.)

6. It is the responsibility of the local church or director of the employing agency to notify the Insurance Administrator of newly eligible employees and dependents wanting to join the Conference insurance plan. Failure to notify the Insurance Administrator within thirty (30) days of employment will result in the employee not having coverage until the next election period. It is also the responsibility of the local church or director of the employing agency to also notify the Insurance Administrator of terminations of employment. Notifications are required by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to become effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month. Failure to inform the Insurance Administrator of termination makes the employing agency liable for premiums due for both clergy and lay persons enrolled in the Conference insurance program. In order to help churches take ownership of this new rate plan the Charge Conference Report of Compensation shall provide evidence of (equitable-comparable) "major medical" coverage for dependents of the pastor.

For churches selecting single coverage, funds for the dependent coverage will be negotiated in discussions between the church, pastor and superintendent.

7. When members of the Annual Conference are granted incapacity leave, such member may continue in the insurance program, provided the insurance commission receives written assurance that the current guidelines in the Book of Discipline have been followed, to be received prior to the effective date of the leave. He/She is required to pay ½ of the total premium and the balance will come from the apportionment. If the member does not return to full active service by the end of the twelve (12) month period, he/she will be terminated from the plan. If the member applies for social security disability the conference will cover them for up to twenty-four (24) additional months if necessary or until they are old enough to apply for retired status.

8. Payment of the total premiums for all participants must be mailed monthly by the local church or the salary-paying unit to the office of the Insurance Administrator. Premiums shall be due on the first day of the month and coverage shall terminate as of the first day of the month unless premiums are received on or before the 30th day of the month.

9. The insurance apportionment to the local churches for the conference insurance program shall be considered as a mandatory clergy support item related to the full payment of the salary of the pastor(s) regardless of whether the pastor(s) is enrolled in the conference insurance program. This apportionment pays ½ of the Medicare companion plan for all retirees/spouses and surviving spouses, ½ of the premiums for evangelists appointed by the conference, ½ of the premiums for students appointed to attend school by the conference and ½ of the premiums for those on incapacity leave, and administration expenses less interest received from the insurance trust fund.

10. A surviving spouse of a participant may continue in the insurance program. The surviving spouse will pay the full active single or family rate until age 62. At age 62 the surviving spouse will pay ½ of the full active single or family rate. At age 65, the surviving spouse will be enrolled in the Medicare Companion plan provided by the Conference and pay ½ the retired rate.

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11. Retired lay employees (as verified by the local church) may continue in the Conference Insurance program provided:

1. The participant has been on the insurance program for the past five (5) years.
2. The participant will pay the full-retired premium rate.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Melvin Dennis, President*

This past conference year has been relatively quiet for the Conference Trustees. There were no churches that were closed that needed to be sold. The trustees have made some needed improvements to the current conference center.

The trustees have worked with Clark Williams and the Build Renew Rejoice campaign to begin the work of moving to a new conference center. We have made some decisions indicating our preference in several issues related to a new center. They are:

- 1 Our first choice would be to stay in our current location and build on the land north of our current office. The revitalization of downtown Lubbock and proximity to FUMC Lubbock were major factors in this decision.
- 2 We intend to build a conference center capable of housing the Conference Archives, which are currently at McMurry University. This comes as a request from the Conference Commission on Archives and History. We realize this adds to both the size and cost of the conference center.
- 3 We recognize that the location of the Lubbock District office is not the responsibility of the Conference Trustees. However it is our intention to allow space for the Lubbock District in planning for our new conference center.

The above decisions are preliminary and any or all of them could be reconsidered as we move forward with our plans.

The Conference Trustees are also making plans to purchase the property immediately south of the current offices. We feel like this will enhance the value of our property if we decide to sell and move elsewhere, while providing for much needed parking if we stay in our current location. *Please note: the property had already been purchased before the Annual Conference Session. This purchase was affirmed by the vote of the Annual Conference Session.*

The trustees are grateful for the conference's support of the Build Renew Rejoice campaign and look forward to working together to provide the needed space for our conference to work from.

**COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

*Garry L. Nall, Chairperson*

The Commission on Archives and History continues its mission to collect, preserve and celebrate the heritage of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Conference Archives which is located in the Jay Rollins Library at McMurry University is the official depository of the church's historically significant materials. Among the collections are the records of the conference agencies, district offices and closed churches along with local church histories, interviews and retired ministers' papers. The Commission invites pastors, administrators, church historians and others interested in the history of the United Methodist Church to utilize the resources of the archives for research purposes. Our very able archivist, Mrs. Pat Williamson, who can be contacted by phone at (325)793-4696, by email at [archives@mcmurryadm.mcm.edu](mailto:archives@mcmurryadm.mcm.edu) or by mail at Northwest Texas Conference Archives, McMurry Station, POBox 218, Abilene, TX 79697 will be pleased to assist you.

At the 2007 Annual Conference in Amarillo Bishop Max Whitfield chose the theme, Celebrate the Power of Discipleship. In conjunction with this concept, steps were taken that may have a future impact upon the operational functions of the Commission. At a called session of the Annual Conference in Lubbock on January 12, 2008, the DINE model of leadership was adopted. Within this framework the Commission on Archives and History was placed under the purview of the Equip Team that exists to identify spiritual gifts, provide tools and knowledge, and teach and train to lead.

Dr. David J. Murrah who is in the final stages of completing the manuscript of the conference centennial history has negotiated with a publisher that offers the prospect of issuing the publication in 2009. Those who were in attendance at the 2007 Conference in Amarillo heard him telling the story of the University of Amarillo, an item included in the volume. Beyond his research and writing on this project, Dr. Murrah has been very generous in numerous ways such as conducting a second archival workshop at Roundup in August 2007. The Commission is also appreciative for the financial support of conference congregations through their payments of apportionments.

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Since many of the resources included in this history came from the Conference Archives, the collection of additional materials for future use remains important. As prescribed by the *Discipline*, the records of the closed churches of Sylvester and Rochester founded in 1905 and 1906 respectively were deposited this past year. In addition, the archives received the papers of two distinguished Northwest Texas Conference pastors, district superintendents and supporters of the Commission who died in 2007, Dr. Charles Lutrick and Dr. Darris E. Egger, Sr. From both came cross-sections of their files, papers, sermons, books and tapes. Dr. Lutrick brought much wisdom to the Commission as a member for a number of years. Dr. Egger, an individual dedicated to the preservation of Methodist history, served the Commission as a member, a chairperson and was conference historian at the time of his death.

The rapid increase of the collection in recent years has resulted in the dwindling of space for the archival materials in the Jay Rollins Library. While McMurry University has been most generous in assisting with the problem, its library is in need of additional footage for its own programs. One of the suggestions being discussed is that of digitizing the records. Another is the movement of the collection from Abilene should a satisfactory facility be found in the more centrally-located Lubbock. A possible solution may be connected with the Build, Renew, Rejoice capital campaign launched at the 2007 Annual Conference a portion of which proposes the construction of a Northwest Texas Conference Service Center in Lubbock that might include a modern archival section. However, several elements remain to be resolved before any final action is taken.

Since the 2007 Annual Conference several churches celebrated anniversaries and special events. The Roscoe congregation commemorated 115 years in that community. Those marking centennials include Roaring Springs, Vigo Park, and Westbrook. A special groundbreaking was held on January 27, 2008, for the replacement of the Trent United Methodist Church sanctuary that was destroyed by fire on June 13, 2007.

The Commission encouraged congregations to reflect upon its past by observing Heritage Sunday on May 18, 2008, when the theme called for the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Methodist Social Creed. On May 24, 2009, some churches may want to designate the date as Northwest Texas Centennial History Heritage Sunday. As we look to the future, we as United Methodists should continue to be thankful for the work of those who came before us.

Finally, as Reverend Eddie Allsup retires as Conference Director of Missions and Administration, the members of the Commission on Archives and History are most appreciative for his dedication, assistance, superb guidance and unfailing commitment to the mission of collecting, preserving and celebrating the heritage of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**COMMISSION ON CHURCH EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION**

*Jim Smith, Chairperson*

The Commission on Church Extension and Revitalization (CCER) is responsible for starting new churches and helping revitalize existing churches. We provide financial support in partnership with local churches, city boards of mission, and districts to accomplish the following:

1. The organization of new United Methodist Churches.
2. The organization of second campuses for existing churches.
3. The relocation of existing churches.
4. The expanding of local church programs to reach people who are not currently being reached or provide new ministries that include both worship and discipleship training.
5. Leadership Development for church extension and revitalization
6. Emerging new styles of ministry.

The video produced for the Build, Renew, Rejoice conference capital campaign highlighted some of the ways CCER has been involved in expanding ministry in the Northwest Texas Conference. It included information about the newest church in our conference (The Journey UMC in Abilene) that held its first worship service in January, 2008. It also included information about second campuses being started in Amarillo by Saint Stephen UMC, in Midland by First UMC and in Lubbock by Aldersgate UMC. And it included information about two churches that have relocated with help from CCER (Amarillo San Jacinto which became Covenant UMC and Abilene Fair Mount which became Southwest Drive UMC). CCER has also partnered with several churches in our conference to start new faith-communities within their local churches.

In 2004, CCER provided support for the Incubator and Abide leadership development programs for pastors and laity, and out of these programs the conference formed the Bold New Directions team that initiated the re-organization of our conference leadership structure. With the help of Spiritual Leadership, Inc. of Lexington, Kentucky, over 100 of our pastors, district superintendents, bishop, and laity have been challenged to consider new methods of expanding the ministries of our churches.

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The response of the churches in our conference to provide an endowment fund from which the CCER will be able to use the interest income to expand and revitalize churches in our conference in the future has been tremendous. When the campaign is over and the funds are invested, CCER will be able to provide stronger financial support than we have been able to give in the past.

In 1992 CCER received proceeds from a loan fund administered by the Board of Global Ministries. At that time there were six church loans valued at \$263,327.89 and \$200,575.71 in available loan funds for a total of \$463,903.60. CCER has intentionally been moving away from offering loans to local churches and into providing grants for local churches. At the end of 2007 there were three loans valued at \$96,586.83 and available loan funds of \$741,008.36 for a total of \$835,594.83. CCER is recommending that the loan fund be discontinued and that all current and future available funds from the loan fund be combined with funds from the Build Renew Rejoice capital campaign designated for CCER projects. This change will require the approval of the annual conference.

### Action Item

CCER requests the discontinuance of the CCER Loan Fund and those current and future funds be combined with the Build Renew Rejoice funds administered by the CCER.

### **COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION**

*Charles Starnes, Chairperson*

The purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation (COEC) is to support clergy under appointment in the Annual Conference by (1) recommending conference standards for clergy support; (2) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (3) providing counsel and advisory material on clergy support to District Superintendents and Pastor-Parish Relations Committees (*Discipline*, 2000, ¶623.2).

Primary responsibility for pastoral base compensation remains with individual pastoral charges (*Discipline*, 2000, ¶623.5). The COEC provides supplements when support from the appointment must fall below the minimum established by the Annual Conference. Consistent with the provisions cited above, the Northwest Texas Annual Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation works toward the realization of the following goals:

(1) To establish a reasonable minimum compensation for pastors, considering their relationship to the Annual Conference (Members in full Connection and Probationary members, Associate Members, and Full-Time Local Pastors).

(2) To request and distribute the United Methodist Family Fund to the local churches that is sufficient to guarantee the minimum level of compensation for appointed pastors.

(3) To be stewards (effective Executive Directors) of funds derived from the United Methodist Family Funds to local churches.

(4) To assist all appointments to become self-supporting within six (6) years in terms of providing minimum compensation to appointed pastors.

(5) To assist Mission Station appointments, which are defined as any ministry setting where the Kingdom of God is actively being built through:

- a. making new Disciples of Jesus Christ
- b. maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ
- c. evidence that the surrounding community is being transformed by the mission and ministry of the church

That the following benchmarks or structures of accountability be put in place in order for a church to achieve and maintain its "Mission Station" designation:

- a. demonstrate evidence of its inability, alone, to meet its financial needs. (i.e. where a large percentage of the worshipping congregation is at or below the poverty line)
- b. show a commitment to paying 100% of its Equitable Compensation apportionment
- c. show an increase in worship attendance by a minimum of 2% annually
- d. show a minimum of three (3) Professions of Faith annually
- e. detail its ministries of transformation
- f. make an annual written report of the above to the District Superintendent and the COEC
- g. the District Superintendent must sign off on each "Mission Station" church's annual review and application

That the funding timeline for "Mission Station" settings is subject to the above annual review with a possible three (3) year limit

That the application process for "Mission Station" designation include completion of the standard request

With the above considerations, we present the following:

**MINIMUM COMPENSATION SCALE FOR 2009**

Minimum compensation refers to line 14 of the Northwest Texas Conference Pastor's Compensation Form  
**The minimum compensation figure will be based on the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) as announced by the Social Security Administration each year. Therefore the minimum compensation for 2009 will be:**

- 1. Full Connection (Elders and Permanent Deacons) and Probationary Members ..... **\$30,333**
- 2. Associate Conference Members ..... **\$28,000**
- 3. Ordained Clergy serving less than full time (¾, ½, ¼) ..... See E (below)
- 4. Full-Time Local Pastors..... **\$25,664**

Churches receiving assistance through the Northwest Texas Conference's United Methodist Family Fund will be listed in the final copy of the Conference Journal.

**1. OPERATING PROCEDURES**

A. The Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the Church Council of the local church are responsible for ensuring the pastor's salary is in line with the Minimum Compensation Scale set by the Annual Conference. In the event the salary does not meet minimum requirements, the Church Council should submit an application to the Chairperson of COEC and send a copy to their District Superintendent. Deadlines for submitting applications are: November 1 for the new year or May 1 for changes to be made at the following session of the Annual Conference. All applications for support will include a copy of the Pastor's Compensation Package Form used by the District Superintendent, Goals and Missional Statement, Pastor's statement Requesting COEC Support, Budget, Year-end Financial Reports (all accounts), List of debts and unpaid liabilities, and the most recent Stewardship Campaign results. The Request Form will be approved by the Church Council and signed by the appropriate individuals.

B. Every church or charge is expected to become self-supporting within a period of six years by assuming the full salary and benefits package of the church or by becoming a part-time appointment or part of a multiple point charge. No church will receive assistance from Equitable Compensation for more than 6 consecutive years.

C. For all new requests beginning January 1, 2004, COEC will not pay more than 50% of the compensation for a charge. This rate will be reduced by 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the first year's total each year thereafter.

D. Effective January 1, 2004 all existing churches classified under the former Missional Plan will be on the six-year plan and will have the amount they are receiving reduced by 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the total support in the year 2004 each year thereafter.

E. A church/appointment served by clergy appointed to less than "full time" is eligible to receive equitable compensation support according to the percent of "full time" devoted to the work. The Cabinet, in consultation with the local church, determines, in quarter time increments, the percent of full time service.

F. The COEC pays for each eligible participant that part of the required contribution to the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) that relates to the salary benefit. (See H)

G. Pastors living on the charge and serving multiple point charge appointments and who are receiving COEC support are paid by COEC an additional mileage compensation at the rate set by the IRS (**currently \$0.505 per mile to be raised to \$0.585 on July 1, 2008**) on fifty (50) round trips between charges annually. **The mileage amount will automatically be adjusted based on changes to federal business travel reimbursement rates.**

H. Formulas used to compute eligibility for COEC support for other than travel:

- 1. List all monies available for pastoral compensation (This includes money available for use on the following lines of the Pastor's compensation form: **1 - 13, and 16**). **Submit a Pastor's Compensation Form for each church on a multi point charge** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Subtract Insurance (-) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Total Salary and Expenses (=) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Subtract Professional Expenses (Lines **9 & 10 and 12 & 13**) (-) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Salary (=) \_\_\_\_\_
- MPP Calculation ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- CRSP= Salary Line 5 x 1.25 x .14**
- CPP Calculation ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- CPP = Salary Line 5 x 1.25 x .03**

Note: To qualify for COEC support for **2009** line 5 (above) must be greater than:

- \$15,167** for an Elder
- \$14,000** for an Associate Member
- \$12,832** for a Full-Time Local Pastor

I. Churches with multiple clergy staff must ensure that all clergy, including deacons in full connection and elders in full connection under appointment to that charge receive at least minimum compensation as established by the Annual Conference. COEC does not help multiple staff churches.

J. Equitable compensation is distributed monthly to the participating churches/appointments by the Conference Treasurer.

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K. There shall be an annual meeting of the COEC with the Bishop and the Cabinet at a date announced by the Bishop.

L. The names of churches/appointments receiving equitable compensation support and the amount received shall be published in the Conference JOURNAL as a part of the COEC report.

M. In consultation with the District Superintendent, churches receiving Equitable Compensation Funds shall have their charge conference before October 15 each year. A copy of the pastor's compensation form should be mailed to the COEC Chairperson after the compensation package has been approved.

N. Approval of assistance by the COEC constitutes an official adjustment, when necessary, of the "Pastor's Compensation and Expenses" form approved by the Church's Annual Charge Conference. The Conference Benefit's Officer will make necessary adjustments and provide the local church an adjusted form. This step is necessary to ensure that COEC funds do not duplicate local church support or result in compensation greater than authorized or intended.

2. GRANTS

A. Grants provide support for compensation related items.

B. The purpose of the request must be stated clearly. The terms of the grant are negotiated at the beginning and will be reviewed for compliance annually by the COEC and the District Superintendent.

C. Salaries are not limited to the minimum compensation level established by the Annual Conference; however, the maximum the COEC will grant will not exceed 50% of the salary for the pastor for the first year and will decrease 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the first year's total each year thereafter.

D. Because limited funds are available for grants, it is necessary that the District Superintendent apply for grants and have the approval of the COEC before making appointments based on grant funds.

2009 EQUITABLE COMPENSATION REQUEST FORM
REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

1. The following Family Fund items shall be paid on a monthly basis by each church receiving COEC support:

- Episcopal Fund
District Superintendent's Fund
Equitable Compensation Fund
Board of Pensions
Insurance for Retirees

2. Insurance premiums and pension payments made on behalf of the pastor must be kept up-to-date for COEC assistance to continue.

3. An annual Stewardship Campaign shall be conducted by each local church and the results of each year's campaign shall be sent to the chairperson of the COEC. The report needs to include:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Total budget income expected for current year, Pledges or commitments received in this campaign, Budget for next year, Membership, Average Attendance in worship, Number of Families in your church, Number of families making a commitment, and Average pledge or commitment amount.

4. Send a copy of your annual budget, year-end financial statement, and list of debts and unpaid liabilities to the chairperson of the COEC each year that you receive funds from the COEC.

5. Set goals for your congregation each year and send a copy to the COEC. A yearly update on the progress on achieving the goals set by the church should be reported at Charge Conference and sent to the COEC chairperson.

6. No church may receive assistance from the Commission on Equitable Compensation for more than 6 years.

7. The pastor is expected to send a written statement requesting COEC funds with supporting application, stewardship, and budget information, and the reasons s/he believes this church should receive assistance from the COEC. The statement and application should be made in full consultation with the District Superintendent.

8. It is the opinion of the Commission on Equitable Compensation that a church needs an average attendance of 50 or more to justify being a full time charge.

9. Equitable Compensation support will be reduced each year by 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the first year's total assistance.

10. Any new request for COEC support will not be funded above 50% of Total compensation.

REQUEST FORM

Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years on Equitable Compensation \_\_\_\_\_

Please Attach in this order the following labeled exhibits:

- A. Completed Current Pastor's Compensation Form approved by Charge Conference **for each church on a multi point charge.**
- B. Goals and Mission Statement as specified in number 5 above
- C. Pastor's statement for COEC Support as specified in number 7 above
- D. Budget and Year-End Financial Statement (all accounts), and List of Debts and Unpaid Liabilities as specified in number 4 above
- E. Stewardship Campaign and Results as specified in number 3 above
- F. Attach Worship Attendance Form as specified in number 8 above

Incomplete applications will not be considered

Equitable Compensation support is limited to six (6) consecutive years.

Signature of:

\_\_\_\_\_, Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_, Church/Ad Council Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_, Finance Chair

**Action Item**

The 2004 Book of Discipline defines the mission of the United Methodist Church as making Disciples of Jesus Christ and further states that the local church provides "the most significant arena through which Disciple-Making occurs." (P.120) Additionally, the Northwest Texas Conference, in accepting the recommendation of the Bold New Directions Team, has stated that our mission as a Conference is to "equip local churches to make Disciples . . ." Finally, the Bold New Directions Team has also adopted the following Vision Statement as the guiding principle for our common life and ministry as a Conference: "The Kingdom of God embodied in every community transforming the world." It is upon these doctrinal understandings that the Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation of the Northwest Texas Conference makes the following proposal.

1. That the designation of "Mission Station" status be added to the Commission's purpose statement, goals and operating procedures.
2. That the term "Mission Station" be defined as any ministry setting where the Kingdom of God is actively being built through:
  - a. making new Disciples of Jesus Christ
  - b. maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ
  - c. evidence that the surrounding community is being transformed by the mission and ministry of the church
3. That the following benchmarks or structures of accountability be put in place in order for a church to achieve and maintain its "Mission Station" designation:
  - a. demonstrate evidence of its inability, alone, to meet its financial needs. (i.e. where a large percentage of the worshipping congregation is at or below the poverty line)
  - b. show a commitment to paying 100% of its Equitable Compensation apportionment
  - c. show an increase in worship attendance by a minimum of 2% annually
  - d. show a minimum of three (3) Professions of Faith annually
  - e. detail its ministries of transformation
  - f. make an annual written report of the above to the District Superintendent and the COEC
  - g. the District Superintendent must sign off on each "Mission Station" church's annual review and application
4. That the funding timeline for "Mission Station" settings is subject to the above annual review with a possible three (3) year limit
5. That the application process for "Mission Station" designation include completion of the standard request application along with a questionnaire designed to show how a church plans to meet the above benchmarks

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**EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FUND DISBURSEMENT TO CHURCHES**

**January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007**

<i>Church</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Salary Benefit</i>	<i>Pension</i>	<i>Special Grants</i>	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Total</i>
Asbury, Lubbock	Lubbock	8,372	2,121	4,471		14,964
Grace, Abilene	Abilene				81	17,576
Southwest Drive, Abilene	Abilene	12,500	2,657			15,157
La Trinidad, Lamesa	Big Spring	11,960	4,689	25,164		41,813
Northridge, Lamesa	Big Spring	11,489	2,442	12,550		26,481
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>52,422</b>	<b>13,703</b>	<b>49,785</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>115,991</b>

**CAMP STUDY COMMITTEE**

*Richard Edwards, Jay Isaacs, Mark Hoover, Ellen Dunaway, Jack Reed,  
Jody Holland, Eddie Marcum, and Eddie Allsup*

We went back and reviewed the parts of our 2007 report to Annual Conference

1. As for ownership of the camps, we have deleted our previous recommendations and determined that, should this issue come up, we would recommend referring it to the Conference Trustees.
2. As for Capital Campaigns, the bylaws and CFA policies were acted on at the 2007 Annual Conference and those actions addressed this issue.
3. As for the Role of the Board of Conference Camping our report will not address this issue because of the restructure process related to the new DINE Model
4. As for the Accounting Issues, we referred these issues to the Council on Finance and Administration who are addressing these issues.
5. As for the Camp Rates/Costs and Apportionments we recognized the need for up-to-date data from the Board of Conference Camping, Conference Leadership Team, and both Camp Executive Directors related to the number of campers and counselors; actual use of programming funds, and the actual camper day costs; etc.

We are also recommending that:

In 2010, the amount paid to the camp for each camper/counselor would be 80% of actual camper cost as determined by the specific camp Board of Trustees.

In 2011, the amount paid to the camp for each camper/counselor would be 90% of actual camper cost as determined by the specific camp Board of Trustees.

In 2012, the amount paid to the camp for each camper/counselor would be 100% of actual camper cost as determined by the specific camp Board of Trustees.

The Board of Conference Camping would set the BCC Camp registration fee. The program cost for camps would be paid for through apportionments or could be added to the registration fee at the discretion of the Board of Conference Camping.

This money could be used for actual programming costs and/or as a supplement for camper or counselor costs.

**RESOLUTION TO RETAIN BISHOP AND MRS. WHITFIELD**

*Chairperson of Conference Committee on Episcopacy*

WHEREAS, the Northwest Texas Annual Conference has been blessed by the leadership, thoughtfulness, insight, and wisdom of Bishop and Mrs. Valerie Whitfield; and

WHEREAS the depth of faith and profound level of spiritual discernment embodied by both Bishop and Mrs. Whitfield are universally admired; and

WHEREAS the spirit of hospitality and compassion so clearly characteristic of Bishop Whitfield are clearly blended with his love for our church and the people of this Episcopal area; and

WHEREAS Bishop Whitfield has led the Northwest Conference to identify a strategic mission which has in turn led to new structure and energy for the Conference; and

WHEREAS Bishop Whitfield's continued presence with us will assure the implementation of that mission and structure for a strong future; and

WHEREAS whatever possible shortcomings and failings he may have, if any, are more than compensated by the joy, the courage, the graciousness and the unfailing good humor of Mrs. Valerie Whitfield;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference convened at Glorieta, New Mexico June 3 – 6, 2008, request in the strongest possible terms the reassignment of Bishop and Mrs. Whitfield to the Northwest Texas – New Mexico Episcopal Area for the 2009 – 2012 quadrennium.

*FINAL RESOLUTION*

WHEREAS, no one really knows what whereas really means we have decided not to use whereas any more. THEREFORE: we convened the 133<sup>rd</sup> New Mexico Annual Conference and 99<sup>th</sup> Northwest Texas Annual Conference, as we gathered to celebrate our gifts and graces as sisters and brothers yoked together through an arranged marriage facilitated by the Council of Bishops and the changing demographics of Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. We shared “the way we always do it” with one another and learned new ways of celebrating and doing ministry.

The dynamic preaching of the Reverend Tyrone Gordon met our great expectations through stories, LP’s, eight tracks, cassettes, and ipods. Through his message, we were inspired to welcome all people to the buffet of heaven. We heard the call to be a go church that reaches, teaches, trains, and deploys. We were reminded that God calls us to greatness not success.

We were blessed by the music leadership of Rev. Ruby Moultrie, organist Terry Lowe, pianist Marv Gregory, praise bands, choirs, bells, trumpets, and drums.

We were reminded that nets we cast catch every type of fish and save lives. Through flamingos, grass skirts, and basketballs, we found new ways to support missions. (And of course, we passed the baskets many times.)

We recognized the ministry of clergy and lay through the Denman Award, living archives, evangelism awards, and Cinco Estrallas. We continued to celebrate through over \$40,000 in scholarships, principled churches, a 30 year anniversary of the ordination of the first woman in NWTX and appreciation for camping ministry. We celebrated the saints who have gone before and ordination of those who will lead us into the future. We greeted our ordinands with a party in the tent the night the lights went out in Glorieta. With the angels in heaven, we celebrated professions of faith.

We have great hope that Bishop Whitfield, Valerie and their little dog, too, will not yet return to (Ar)Kansas, but will remain in the great state of Texas and the enchanted land of New Mexico.

With the guidance of the bishop through prayer and a padded seat, we met and met and sat and sat. New Mexico wrangled a bit over how to reorganize that we might be a eagle conference and not chickens, but with maybe a few ducks. While Northwest Texas continued a lively and greatly amended discussion on camping ministry.

THEREFORE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD according to Alltel, Verizon, and Sprint to do no harm, to do good, and love God. And in these general rules, stand up and go into the world and to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Steve Trout, Jan Archey, and Kim Kinsey