

AFRICA TASK FORCE

The Africa Task Force during the year continued its drive to get more churches in our Conference participating in the Adopt-A-Pastor program to help with the payment of salaries for pastors in the West Angola Conference. The average annual salary of a West Angola pastor is \$1,000.00. To be part of the program churches are requested to pay half of the salary (\$500.00) and so become partners in mission with a pastor and church in West Angola. A recent report from Frank Cassule, the West Angola Coordinator of the Covenant we have with the West Angola Conference reveals that the churches in their Conference are growing at a phenomenal rate but because of widespread poverty, most of the churches are unable to pay their pastors a regular salary.

Rev. Abiot Moyo, Founder-President of BIG (Balm in Gilead) Ministry led a BIG Team to Zimbabwe the focus country of their ministry, during summer, They provided help for 74 AIDS orphans, held an AIDS seminar for the grandparents of the orphans, paid for emergency surgery (\$500.00) for a pastor's child, and paid the salaries of 7 United Methodist pastors. They also bought 9 bicycles for pastors of rural churches and gave \$2,000.00 for the purchase of text books for students of Old Mutare Mission High School.

The Task Force is planning a trip to West Angola Conference and Africa University of 2008.

Ed Grant - Chair

ASIAN COMMISSION

We have contemplated on our role as Asian Commission last year. The primary concern was around our own identity and its contribution to the body of our Annual Conference. Our efforts all began with our initial gathering with Bishop Weaver in May of 2006. We wanted to listen to the Bishop and Conference's expectations. At the same time we wanted to voice our concerns and expectations to the Bishop and the Conference.

We also keep exploring the possibility of being connected with other minorities. We encourage all the churches and congregations to look around and identify who those minorities are in their presence and find ways to get connected with them. Asian Commission recognizes its mission to raise the awareness and promote the importance of all people through our connectional mission and ministry as New England Annual Conference.

Faithfully submitted,

Sang-Churl Bae - Chair

DIVESTMENT TASK FORCE

Background: The Divestment Task Force was created to implement Resolution 204, which was passed by the 2005 New England Annual Conference ("Resolution on Divesting from Companies that are supporting in a Significant Way the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian

Territories”). The task force includes eight members from four of the five states in the conference.

It is important to note that the resolution does not call for divestment from Israel. Many companies that profit from the Israeli occupation are American and international firms. Selective divestment as a tool to end the occupation is supported by the World Council of Churches and a number of Israeli and international Jewish organizations.

Initial Research and Contacts: Over the past two years, we have examined many companies to determine which ones profit significantly from the Israeli occupation. Our research has been commended by people around the world who are seeking an end to the occupation. We are also working with groups in other countries to build a shared base of knowledge.

After gathering evidence, we sent a letter to each company we identified as potentially profiting from the occupation. We outlined our particular concerns for each company, and asked that we be notified if our information was not accurate. If our information was correct, we asked that the company end its relationship to the occupation. A copy of Res. 204 was attached to each letter. Where incriminating photographs or other relevant materials were available, these were included. Each company had sixty days to reply, as required by the resolution.

Follow-up: Of the twenty-one companies that have been contacted, we have received five replies. One company notified us that our information was inaccurate, because members of its founding family, rather than the company itself were involved in investments related to the occupation. This company was removed from the list. In every other case, we found the excuses provided were inadequate, and we wrote detailed replies explaining why we did not accept the explanations.

Next Steps: The deadline for the last companies to reply is March 26, 2007. After reviewing all our information, the committee will publicize the list of companies from which we recommend that United Methodist churches and investment managers in the New England Conference divest. Reasons for recommending divestment will be provided along with the sources of information.

In addition, Resolution 204 asked for support for “those Israeli, Palestinian, and international organizations which bring Israelis and Palestinians together in dialogue, and work daily for peace with justice for both peoples.” A list of such organizations will also be made public by the Divestment Task Force.

Conclusion: Selective divestment is consistent with the United Methodist commitment to a just and sustainable peace for all the people of the Middle East. In 2004 the General Conference of the United Methodist Church passed Resolution 312 calling for an end to the Israeli occupation. The Divestment Task Force supports that resolution and offers a tangible way of working toward this goal.

William P. Aldrich - Chair

COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS

The Committee on Native American Awareness wishes to thank the conference for their generous support. We have been able to sponsor camper-ships, education, bibles in native

language, and support for shelter and clothing. The members of the committee have been active in education at Pow Wow events and teaching in churches and schools.

Your support has enabled many young people to learn of the heritage of the American native people across the nation and next door here in New England, We have had an active year and hope to double our efforts in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Doutaz - Chair

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Reverend Pat Thompson ended her duties as chair of the commission when she was assigned to the Troy Conference in June 2006. She still worked with our programs as needed. The commission has a diverse and dedicated membership. During the latter part of 2006 there was a continuing emphasis on women clergy in the United Methodist Church. At the September meeting of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church held in Harrisburg, part of the program honored the 50th anniversary of the inclusion of full clergy rights for women within our church. Rev. Pat Thompson received the Distinguished Service Award from the General Commission on Archives and History at this session. At our commission's annual meeting in November at Cape Cod, Anna Howard Shaw was featured at the church she once served. This meeting was held in cooperation with the New England United Methodist Historical Society.

The commission is served well by Kara Jackman, our conference archivist. In addition to her duties at the Boston University School of Theology, she conducted several records management workshops for church historians in our conference. The commission requested individuals and churches to submit works on aspects of history in the geographical area of the New England Annual Conference. This program follows up on a similar one held more than ten years ago. Eligible entries had to be produced from January 1997 through December 2006.

One other significant historical note for 2007 is the observance of the 300th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth. A special program will be held on this theme in Washington, D.C. in July.

David O. White - Chair

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

This year, in consideration of both the fiscal reality of the Conference, and the Consumer Price Index increase of 3.5% in 2005 (the latest year for which we have available data), the Commission makes the following recommendation for calendar year 2008:

- A 4.07% increase to a 2008 minimum salary of \$33,980 for Full Time Elders and Deacons and \$30, 582 for Local Pastors.

The Commission met on seven occasions in 2006 in person and by teleconference. The distribution of grants for the year 2007 is as follows:

District #	District Name	Grant Amounts	Percent of all grants
1	Northern Maine	\$ 19,673	16.604%

2	Mid Maine	13,687	11585
3	New Hampshire	13,788	11.63
4	Tri-State	13,000	10.97
5	CT/WMA	0	0 0
6	Central Massachusetts	9,622	8.12
7	Metro Boston HOPE	22,759	19.20
8	RISEM	26,000	21.94
	TOTAL	\$118,529	100
	Pension Payments @16%	28,447	

The new forms introduced in August 2006 are designed to help the Commission make fairer judgments regarding distribution of grants. Each applicant is required to submit comparable information in the same format. Our aim is to help meet the needs of congregations and concurrently apply church law and policies with justice and equity. Having been used for the first time in 2006, the forms will be refined and adjusted in time for the 2007 application season which begins in August.

2007 will be the third consecutive year that the Commission will host a listening session during Annual Conference. We have found these sessions to be helpful in clarifying policies and procedures and promoting mutual understanding between the Commission and congregations. We encourage grant recipients and potential applicants to send at least one representative to this session.

Congregations may direct their questions to any of the following members of the Commission:

Raymond Brady	Steuben, ME	207-546-3712	District 1
Alfred Gibbs	Contoocook, NH	603-746-3020	District 3
Cindy Edgerly	Rochester, NH	693-332-4496	District 4
Ralph Ellis	Holden, MA	508-829-2384	District 6
Laurel Scott	Boston, MA	617-698-2088	District 7
Beverly Blaisdell	Bath, ME	207-443-4574	District 2

BOARD OF LAITY/CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

We have extremely gifted and spiritually centered members in our Conference. It continues to be a challenge to recruit and place them in comparable and significant roles in the church. Equipping the laity has been a primary focus of the Board and some local churches for many years. Through the modeling of Bishop Weaver, our conference is beginning to practice and embrace true partnership of ministry with the laity and clergy. Such a process is witnessed by the attendance of laity and clergy at the "Great Event" held in Pennsylvania (for the development of laity and clergy), extended Cabinet meetings which include the Conference Lay Leader and other staff, and the changing of the Annual Conference time to June 8-10 in order to accommodate greater participation of the laity.

We have been involved on many conference committees such as the Leadership, Conference Transformation Team, etc. Some roles are as ex-officio members. I represent the conference as the Lay member on the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy. The District Lay Leaders have been involved in the District Committee Ministry meetings. The re-organization will hopefully help to involve greater local church participation.

The Board has worked extensively during the past two years on the development of the initially called "Lay Academy" which was designed to provide courses and workshops that would also be appropriate for the attendance of laity not interested in participating or being a lay speaker. The already established Lay Speaking Ministry program would be a part of the Academy. After the process was presented, discussed and supported by the Annual Conference, the Board selected a smaller committee for its further development. The members are Ruth Cannon, Ethel Franks, James McPhee, Ralph Oduor, Karen Staake and Oscar Harrell. The committee diligently worked in considering many models and possibilities. Finally, through the culmination of discussions, various in-puts, prayers, and extraordinary group creative thinking and cooperative efforts that were spiritually moving for all, we acknowledged the apparent presence of the Lord in our meeting. Since the term "Lay Academy" had been inadequate and limiting in its scope, our colleague, Ralph Oduor suggested "The New England Leadership Academy." The members unanimously agreed. The process is inclusive in establishing or creating an acceptable vehicle where all laity and clergy can learn and grow spiritually.

The initial session of the New England Leadership Academy "Methodist History and Heritage" was graciously hosted at the new Cressey Road United Methodist Church in Gorham, Maine on March 10, 2006 by the Rev. Linwood Arnold and members. According to responses from the attendees, presenters, and other persons present, it was an excellent beginning for the Academy. Significant work with the Districts is necessary.

Bishop Weaver, the Keynote Speaker, was superb in preaching and teaching. He provided a tremendous knowledge of our Methodist heritage and John Wesley. His interactive approach was inviting, warm and respectful of all persons. The afternoon small group leaders received high ratings from the attendees. The three small group leaders and their topics were: Rev. Linda Campbell-Marshall, "United Methodist Beliefs"; Rev. Dr. George Curtis, "Methodology of Preaching"; and Dr. Glen Messer, "Early Methodism in New England." The Rev. Ernest Farrar shared a chart and information on "Creating a Timeline" for some individuals. The Worship and Communion Service was jointly attended by the Academy attendees and the United Methodist Women (who had cooperatively scheduled their meeting at the church). The first session was extraordinarily led by our Registrar, committee member and Mid-Maine District Lay Leader, Ruth Cannon. The next Academy session will be held in the southern part of the Conference. One of the ultimate goals is to provide the spiritual learning and development opportunities in geographical areas as accessible as possible for all of the people in the Conference.

It is with a strong feeling of humility and a somewhat sense of inadequacy in verbally expressing my appreciation for your gifts and support for the Together For Tomorrow Campaign. Although the financial results are phenomenal, the relational experiences and personal commitments at all levels truly exemplify people working together to do the Lord's work. Thanks, Thanks, Thanks!!!

Blessings, Peace and Grace

Oscar W. Harrell II, Conference Lay Leader

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS

The major responsibilities of the Conference Board of Pensions are related to health insurance for clergy – both active and retired. A number of decisions that have been made recently by the conference have benefited the health insurance costs.

- The incentive to take the Health Risk Assessment was well responded to. Our conference had more participants doing the Health Risk Assessment percentage-wise than any other conference in Healthflex, the consortium of 25 conferences and agencies that buy health insurance together. Meeting that incentive garnered \$80,000 which has been applied to the blended rate. In 2007 Healthflex has added a second incentive of participants' getting a wellness exam. If both clergy and spouses get a wellness exam this year, we will earn another \$50,000!
- The mandated requirement that all churches with $\frac{3}{4}$ or fulltime pastors be in Healthflex has also lowered the increase in insurance costs.
- We are also thankful that persons have been well which means claims have been moderate thus not increasing the cost.

We do not anticipate an increase in the health insurance blended rate for 2008. Because of retirees' saying "no" to Medicare, Part D, we will not be increasing retiree's premiums in 2008. The "credits" we received covered the increased costs.

The major work of the Board this past year has been done by a special task force looking at Retiree Health Benefits. Bruce Pehrson has done an excellent job chairing this group. A major proposal is listed below.

January 2007 was the beginning of a new pension plan for United Methodist clergy and lay employees. Our conference treasurer and Pensions Benefits officer Charles Carnahan and Pensions Coordinator Janis Salesi held workshops around the conference to familiarize participants with the new plan. Moving to ACH for these payments has gone smoothly.

The Preachers' Aid Society continues to work closely with the Board of Pensions on issues relating to retirees. We are most thankful for their staff and their excellent, supportive, and creative work. We encourage congregations to celebrate the last Sunday in October as Retired Pastors' Sunday and to take a special offering for the Preachers' Aid Society.

We are blessed with excellent conference staff in Charles Carnahan and Janis Salesi and their support staff. They make our work easy.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP

Greetings!

It's hard to believe another year has gone by and the Committee on Leadership has been working on a number of things during the past year.

The Committee on Leadership was charged by Annual Conference at the June, 2006 session to form a Visioning Table for the Conference. After considerable discussion and numerous meetings, the Committee decided upon a process for our selection for the chairperson and identified committees mandated by Discipline which should be invited to have representation at the table. We are in the process of identifying persons who will be invited to be representatives from their respective districts or these committees. We will have a

complete listing which will be published as part of our report which we will distribute at Annual Conference.

The Committee has also identified areas of concerns which we have submitted to the Rules Committee for action. Some of these items will make our task more clear and spell out the process for election or nomination. We will also be submitting to Rules for consideration our recommendation for the Visioning Table nomination and election process to be presented at Annual Conference in 2008.

The major challenge for the Leadership Committee is identifying persons who are a good addition to conference boards and agencies. We always are seeking to identify persons and their gifts to make this happen.

2008 represents the beginning of a new quadrennium and we would challenge each of you to become involved and active on a district and/or conference committee.

Please be sure to look for our full report at Annual Conference.

Blessings,

Linda Reiber-Pike, Chair

CHOREOGRAPHER'S REPORT

Moving from Whole Hearted Wholeness to a Frame-Bending Outlook is an exciting adventure this year!

I give whole hearted thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to conferencing in 2006 and I know that our Frame-Bending Outlook will invite us to see new things or familiar things in new ways. We welcome a variety of familiar faces and new members, groups and special talents to Annual Conference 2007! We continue to work with Gordon College to improve meal and housing options and look forward to the new Science building which will provide additional meeting spaces much closer to the Chapel in 2008. I also give thanks to all who travel great distances to Gordon College. Our ongoing inquiry for alternative locations has yet to yield a location that can match Gordon's facilities, prices and support for our presence. When we gather at Gordon, we represent a great diversity of the ministry and cultures of New England! We pray for a weather reprieve this year, or maybe it is time to begin constructing an ark on the quad!

Thanks to these 2006 volunteers (my apologies to the many names that should be added to this list!) or ask them for information about how you can join the team!

Rich Hughen, Natalie Blake, Bruce Young, Allen Merrill, Vickie Williams Barrow, Valerie Robert-Toler, Mitchell Clyde Thomas, David Clyde Morse, Jeff Munson, Carroll Brown, Rick Smith, Errol Leslie, Evan Johnson, Phil McClintock, Mike Pike, Mack Hagins, Jim Paiva, George Walters-Sleyon, Cheryl L. Meachen, Jeannie Cunliffe, Sara Munson, Mary Hinds, Ann MacDonald, Walpole Friendship Community Drum Circle(Tsitsi Moyo), Cheryl Gates, Angela Lilly, Nancy Collins, Sharon Jones, Karen Munson, Charice Oliver, Jane Lawrence, Lynn Campbell, Laura and Landon Knittweis, Barbara Stone, Margaret Heseltine, Lyn and Jordan Kellis, Linda Mitchell, Ardis McNeil, Michelle Ewers, Cathy Anderson, Lisa Parker, Paula Fletcher, Juni Shepardson, Deb Shipp, Ernie Belisle, Wesley Palmer, Jung Sun Oh, Paula Payne, Joyce Whetstone, Vicki Woods, Barbara Schreier, Karen Peters, Nancy Collins and all the dancers, Debi Henry and Juni Shepardson and all the communion servers, Vadia

Beaudreau, Priscilla Hull, Mike Sanborn, Betty Bilodeau, Charice Oliver, Pam Smith, Sharon Lovejoy, Al Bunnell, Dan Bollen, Ron Jackson, Marilyn Rohdin, Julia Daley, Ira Cameron, Leslie Walseman, Deborah Holt, Norman Boulay, Lynne Campbell, Elizabeth Bailey-Roberts, Nancy Huntington, Len Mach, Janice Rhenow, Kelly Harvell, Annie Britton, Carol Cray, Geoffrey Gross, Bill Hartford, Sue Davidson, Carol Johnson, *Lehlohonolo Henrietta Montjane*, Ruth Tuttle, Bo Landsperg, Jan Rhenow, Diane Allard-Langley, Kristen Bjorn, Ron Jackson, Shallon Sullivan, John Morgans, Sandra Charbono, Pat Miller-Fernandez, Mary Ann Tourjee, Peter Hey, Bruce Arbour, Matt Davis, Jim Shook, Cam Howard, Bob Johnson, Marj Stark, Abraham Waya, Mike Stotts, Dan Yosua, Matt Yosua, Scott Newcombe, Carl Chalbeck, Basil Considine, Yong Ja Kim, Sherrie Oliver, Cynthia Astle/Zion's Herald, David Calhoun, Elizabeth Bailey-Roberts, Anna Beach, Sue Lacy, Shallen Sullivan, Carole Fish, Calvin Fish, George Button, Paula Fletcher, John Loker, Julia Doutaz, Paul Doucette, Brian Rooney, Melanie Fengler, Elisa Doucette, Amy Doucette, Dusty Barley, Dell Clough, Dottie Lamb, Sandy Lamb, Melanie Lamb, Fran Camacho, Norman Boulay, Ginni Wright, Gary Langenwalter, Russell Kirby, Chad John, Linda Evans, Eleanor Wood, Lorraine Creedon, Lois Sanborn, Susan Webb, Ami Sawtelle, Annie Britton, Susan Feurzeig, Candace Hallett, Angela Lilly, Katherine Mitchell, Sarah Mount, Kerri Saucier, Ami Sawtelle, Barbara Smith, Kristin White, Melissa Yosua, Rosanne Roberts, Michelle Andrews, Mary Cahill, Barbara Denis Fleurant, Steve Dry, Joyce Fontaine, Mildred Hartley, Nicole Kasper, Carissa Parish, Brittany Sudar, Sandra Lamb, Cindy DiLeo, Nancy Kenty, Jim Niro, David Abbott, Neil E. Gastonguay, Dick Thompson, Fran Doucette, Kathy Macedo, Kristen White, Amy Alletzhauser, Twila Broadway, all the presentors, staff, Bishop Pete Weaver and many more saints!

Abundant Blessings!

Bonnie Marden - Conference Choreographer

PREACHERS' AID SOCIETY OF NEW ENGLAND

A small group of laypersons met one day in Boston to establish a fund "to aid and relieve the sick, infirm and aged members of the New England Conference who have served the church and become unable to perform ordinary ministerial duty, and the needy and distressed widows and orphans." They may have known little of events surrounding them that year:

- The city of Jacksonville, Florida received a charter from the Florida Legislative Council.
- A young reservist by the name of Abraham Lincoln was fighting in the Black Hawk War in Illinois.
- Greece won its war for independence and became an independent kingdom.
- Louisa May Alcott, Lewis Carroll, Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico and Gustave Eiffel were born.
- Sir Walter Scott and Napoleon II died.

And the Preachers' Aid Society of New England began its 175-year tenure of ministry and mission! With each succeeding year the work of assisting our pastors and their families has grown in unique ways to meet the needs of the times. That ministry continues today in creative and exciting ways.

As we meet in Conference session several of our pastoral families will be packing to move into new retirement homes provided by the Society. For the first time in its history, the PAS will have the first of its “safety net” retirement homes available this summer. More are planned to open next year in Wells, Maine.

True to our charter, the Society focuses principally on the needs of our retired clergy families. Each year we make several hundred visits in the homes of our retirees and provide assistance to the best of our ability. The Rev. Catherine Howe Anderson and Ms. Lisa A. Parker carry out this important ministry.

We are doing more each year, as our resources allow, for our active clergy families. Our work with the “Tending the Fire” program is off to a wonderful start and we hope the results will be profound as more pastors participate over the years. Our Associate Director, Ms. Catherine MacGovern, directs our work in this and other areas of spiritual formation. Other staff who serve with us are; Ms. Rebecca U. Hewett, Office Administrator; The Rev. Charles A. Fowlie, Planned Giving Consultant; and Ms. Diane Peak, Health and Pensions Benefits Consultant.

We are deeply grateful for the financial support given to the Society each year by our laity, clergy and congregations. We are fortunate that a few people each year remember us in their wills and thus provide major resources for our work. Have you tithed your estate to our ministry or your local church?

Finally, we would like to thank our very committed active and ex-officio Board of Managers who give their time, treasure and energy to our ministry and mission. At present they are: C. Arthur Hughes, President; Clinton H. Blood; David MacMahon; Karen E. Wetmore; Tommye L. Reede; Kirk E. Birrell; Elizabeth Franklin; G. Neil Harper; Thomas S. Hemmendinger; Alan M. Kuzirian; John Lippincott; Joseph D. Moser; Suzanne Rudalevige; Elizabeth A. Sweet and Stephen L. Vincent.

For the Board of Managers
C. Arthur Hughes, President

Thomas J. Gallen, Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thank you!! Thank you for your commitment to helping women, children and youth around the world through United Methodist Women’s Mission Giving! Your Pledges to Mission, World Thank Offerings, Gift to Mission cards, Gift in Memory cards and Special Mission Recognition pins have helped improve their lives.

Many organizations and governments can and do give material assistance to persons in need. Through United Methodist Women you also provide the Good News of Jesus Christ. You offer hope and love. You are providing ministry in communities around the world, so when you hear about disasters and trouble happening, you can know that your giving is already helping and will continue to help for long term resolutions.

And to think it began long ago on a dark and stormy night when brave women got together right here in Boston to talk about what they could do to help the women and children in India. They made a plan, told their friends, gave their egg money, dressed in calico instead of more expensive fabrics and began the sacrificial giving which you carry on today.

The mission dollars that you give through your Local Unit of United Methodist Women provide health education and care, nutrition education and food, disaster relief, housing, leadership training, spiritual growth resources and opportunities, child care and parenting

education, start-up funds for women to earn a living, social justice resources and education and much more every day. And you are involved in mission right in your local communities as well. Isn't it awesome to be involved with a million women around the world making such a difference!!

Thank you for allowing me to be your conference president this past year. Thank you for welcoming me to your meetings and being my sisters in Christ. God is with you always. May you feel God's presence always in your life.

Blessings, Cindy Edgerly

DEACONESS ABUNDANT LIFE COMMUNITIES

Deaconess Abundant Life Communities, serving seniors since 1889 as the New England Deaconess Association has had as its mission, to provide retirement and healthcare facilities and services to meet the changing needs of older adults. Over a century of service has provided Deaconess with a unique perspective which is leading us to expand to meet the growing numbers of older adults that require the accommodations and services we provide. With dedicated staff and excellent facilities, we continue to adapt in order to provide high quality support and care to all of our residents. Our Core Values Statement highlights the foundation for all we do:

Deaconess Abundant Life Communities cares compassionately for our residents, staff, volunteers, and their families while sharing Abundant life with an attitude of joy, hope and commitment; reaching out to our community with a holistic focus on body, mind and spirit in an environment which leads to continued excellence and financial strength as we strive for new and innovative ways to better serve older adults.

We help people through important changes in their lives. And as an organization this year we continue to expand to meet the growing needs and changing expectations of the older adults we serve. But, despite these transitions, we continue to honor our heritage on a daily basis by being grounded in our core values and our unchanging commitment to caring and compassionate service. We surround every resident with a sense of abundant life that touches body, mind and spirit. Each of our staff members see what they do as more than just a job. We are called to help to bring fulfillment into people's lives, with whatever challenges they might face. As someone once said, "you may only be one person to the world, but you may also be the world to one person." On a day to day, moment to moment basis, we feel the responsibility we have to each resident and our dedicated to surround them with a love that reflects God's love for them.

This year we celebrated the groundbreaking for the construction of Seashore Point in Provincetown and Wesley Woods in Gilford, NH. We expanded our wellness and home care services, as well as starting an outpatient rehabilitation program on the Concord campus. At Rockridge in Northampton, The Gardens memory support neighborhood opened and is providing much needed services that are not available in that area. Two new developments, Parkview on the Fells in Malden and The Groves in Lincoln have approved municipal approvals and are welcoming new residents to secure an apartment as they look forward to construction starting late in 2007. At Wesley Woods and at a new project in Wells, ME we are proud to be partnering with Preachers Aid Society to support retired pastors and their spouses.

These new projects are in addition to our ongoing operations, which include the Rivercrest Skilled Nursing Care Center, the Chamberlin Apartments where many retired United Methodist pastors live and enjoy the nurturing environment, Newbury Court Independent living community, and Rockridge at Laurel Park in Northampton, MA.

We are proud of our historical connection with the United Methodist Church and look forward to providing leadership in elder care and ministry within the Conference in the future. Our Chief Executive Officer, Rev. Herb Taylor, is providing his leadership to help the New England Deaconess Association meet the changing needs of older adults into the future. Please feel free to contact us at (978) 369-5151 if you have any questions or needs concerning our organization, issues of long term care, or retirement living and we would be glad to assist you.

UNITED METHODIST ELDER CARE

For the United Methodist Elder Care community, 2006 ended with the loss of one of the Board of Trustees' most respected and revered members, Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr., PhD. Ridgway was a strong, active member and supporter of the mission and ministry of United Methodist Elder Care. From chairing the campaign to raise funds to develop what is now Linn Health Care Center to presiding as President of the Board of Trustees, Ridgway believed that this mission was an important element of the United Methodist Conference. We honor Ridgway for his years of dedicated service to this organization.

United Methodist Elder Care strives to provide services to the elder population in a loving, ethical manner that preserves the honor and respect due all human beings and maintains the dignity of the individual. United Methodist Elder Care subsidiary corporations, Winslow Gardens and Linn Health Care Center, have, over time, evolved to a full continuum of long term care services to address the changing needs of the elder population that we serve.

We are in need of funds to underwrite the gap between the state/federal reimbursement rate and the actual cost of care and support to supplement residents of Winslow Gardens and Linn Health Care Center.

In 2006, the staff and Trustees worked together to host the first annual United Methodist Elder Care Charity Classic Golf Tournament, raising \$12,138 toward underwriting the gap - to supplement residents of Winslow Gardens and Linn Health Care Center.

We commend the members of the Board of Trustees for their tireless efforts to promote United Methodist Elder Care's mission and objectives by reaching out to the legislative community, the church community and the East Providence community at large. In 2006, the Trustees efforts and energy resulted in raising \$180,501 towards the "Adding Life to Years" Comprehensive Campaign, which will ensure our residents safety and security while offering them a life of comfort, dignity, and purpose. Many thanks to the local churches for their support of the Campaign.

We are thankful for the funds received from our federal appropriations appeal in late 2005 that allowed us to install and upgrade many systems within the facilities in 2006. A new Nurse Call and Response System with the latest technology to address the communications needs of the health care center was installed. The system's software allows for versatile communications with wireless network and pocket-pager integration for efficiency in response time to residents in need of assistance. As the organization has evolved, so did the need for a new and expanded telephone system to connect the various locations and departments within

the facilities; as well as the addition of security cameras and monitors to enhance security of the facilities' perimeter. Also, a new generator was installed in support of the health care center's disaster preparedness plan. However, the most daunting but clearly necessary upgrade was the financial accounting software conversion.

The strength of the Conference's commitment and dedication to the mission and ministry provided by United Methodist Elder Care will be drawn upon over the next few years. The provision of ancillary programs and services, such as our Chaplain, are not allowable costs under the governmental reimbursement structure. Therefore, we must seek to provide these services in other ways. If this organization is serious in its intent to be a Christian institution providing a quality of life for our residents with Christian principles, we need increased direct financial support from this Annual Conference, its churches, individuals, agencies and foundations. On behalf of the Trustees and residents, thank you to all who expressed their support of the Centers through Golden Cross and other donations. Through the support of Conference churches and church groups, we received \$17,837 in Golden Cross dollars to fund bed reserves for hospitalized residents of Linn Health Care Center, and provided subsidy for personal care, housekeeping, and meal services for Retirement and Assisted Living residents.

We request that the Conference declare the first Sunday in May of 2008 as Golden Cross Sunday with offerings received to be used to assist residents of the three retirement/health care agencies within this Conference.

Number of Board Members: 28

Number Responding to Report: 23

Number Voting in Favor of Report: 23

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CFA)

Your Conference CFA continues to monitor and recommend actions that will enable the Conference to best utilize the funds available. The last several years have been challenges, and 2006 was no different. Our Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, The Rev. Charles Carnahan, continued to inform us of the financial health of Conference. During 2006, as part of our monitoring, CFA advised participants in the Budget of the Conference, that we could not guarantee funding beyond 65%. We took that action because we continued to be unable to see any trends to Conference income through Mission Shares. It appears that the Conference and Local Churches continue to seek what is the "right size."

As noted earlier, your CFA has not been able forecast any income trends. Because of this, and possible other significant legislation coming before the June session of Annual Conference, your CFA requested of Bishop Weaver that a separate and special session be held in 2006. This was granted and we met in September. The additional several months allowed CFA to

- better respond to actual income amounts,
- reformat the Budget due to the reduction of the number of major Funds which are apportioned through Mission Shares (4 Funds to 3), and
- adjust budgeting due to several significant and major items being removed from the budget and direct billed to the local church.

Other legislation approved by the regular Session, gave direction to CFA to

- become responsible for the continuing work of the Mission Share Review Committee, and
- review utilizing tithing as a method of determining Mission Shares.

Other significant process changes during 2006 included initiating a lock box service to speed depositing of incoming funds and better utilize the time of our staff, and offering automatic withdrawal of insurance, and direct billed costs.

The work of your Conference CFA could not be accomplished with the dedication of our Conference Administrative Staff. While reductions have taken place in other areas, the workloads of our Administrative Staff have not. We often do not realize how actions taken by the Annual Conference affect already high workloads. We express our thanks to all our staff lead by the Rev. Charles Carnahan, as they deal on a day-to-day basis with Pension and Health Care issues, Property Insurance, Accounts Payable and Receivable, Payroll, all camping and retreat center financial transaction, Capital Campaign Fund, Mission Share receipts and reporting. Like any committee, we have a core group of folks who as the saying goes, "if you need something done, ask a busy person!" My thanks to all who participate in the life of CFA!

Tom Davidson - President

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Book of Discipline sets three overall goals for the ministry of the Conference Church and Society Committee (paragraph 682, 1002-1004):

1. Challenge the Conference to be just in how it operates;
2. Work with churches to help them develop responsible social justice ministries;
3. Enable our conference to address the underlying systematic justice issues

Regarding the first goal, we try to monitor, evaluate, and challenge the institutional practices to be more just and fair by participating in the life of the conference and working with other agencies of the conference such as the Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, Resourcing Team and etc.

To carry out the other two goals, we continue to structure our work through the ministries of "Designated Passion" We have eight areas of designated passion. Each ministry is led by one or two members of the committee, who are responsible for organizing and carrying out its ministry. The following is the list of passions:

Addictions and Prevention Recovery Team – Philip McClintock- works on the issue of addiction/prevention and offers training workshops and healing and recovery services in the local church

Economic Justice/Affordable Housing – Gary Richard – works on the issue of economic justice, especially on affordable housing

Health Care Justice – Allen Ewing Merrill, Susan Webb- works for universal health care for all both in the states of New England Conference and at the federal level

HIV/AIDS- Donna Costa- works on the issue of global HIV/AIDS, especially on the United Methodist Global AIDS fund

Labor Justice/Workers' Right – Laurel Scott- advocates for workers' right and the labor justice

Mental Illness – Pam Brown- brings awareness to the issue of mental illness in the local churches and advocates for the right of the mentally ill

Middle East Justice/ Divestment – Peter Miano, Bill Aldrich- works on the issue of just peace in Palestine-Israeli relation

Reconciling Ministry – Susan Morrison, Mary Ann Haxton– works on challenging the conference on the issue of inclusiveness, especially on the issue of sexual orientation

Anyone who is interested in any of above areas of justice ministry is welcome to join one or more of these passionate ministries.

In addition to Designated Passion, Willard Robinson serves as our liaison to the General Board of Church and Society and works on teaching Social Principles both in local churches and in the annual conference. Year 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the first adoption of a Social Creed by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Inviting local congregations to learn about Social Principles and to actively engage in fulfilling the visions of the Social Principles in local communities and the world will be one of the main focuses for the next year.

Helping locally based community justice ministries through our grant program continues to be an important ministry of the committee. During the past year, we were able to provide \$3,000 grant funding to two community based ministries in New England.

Hearing the outcry of people who are suffering because of injustice and oppression and working to bring justice in our church and in our world is not an option but a calling for all Christians including United Methodists. We invite all in New England Conference to be the voice for the voiceless, the power for the powerless, and the hope for the hopeless.

We Chang - Chair

CONFERENCE TRANSFORMATION TEAM

The 2006 Annual Conference adopted Resolution 202 presented by the Conference Transformation Team, which presented a new plan for structuring part of the work of the Annual Conference. This proposal was developed after holding several focus groups, informational sessions and offering time for input and feedback. A brief synopsis of the new structure is listed below, followed by an update and final plans.

District Structure – District Ministry Teams (DMT) will be formed to develop, coordinate and evaluate a multi-year strategic plan for the ministries of the district that will strengthen ministry and mission in the local church. This is in direct response to requests of members of the annual conference that resources for mission and ministry need to be closer to the local church. While there are certain guidelines, as outlined in RS-202, each district has the flexibility to organize and plan according to the needs of their communities and churches.

Conference Structure – A Conference Visioning Table (CVT) will be formed to support the local church by sharing resources, leadership and gifts around a common table aligned by our vision, mission and critical issues. For the first time in our conference (and others), we will have a common table around which a broad and inclusive group of persons will gather in the context of vision, mission, and ministry for the annual conference. The CVT will be directly accountable to the Annual Conference. Full details of both the above elements of conference structure are in RS-202.

Update and Plans

Since Annual Conference 2006, the CTT has been busy supporting the implementation of this new structure. Several CTT members worked as “coaches” with the District Superintendents to help plan for the training and orientation of the District Ministry Teams. Each district has met to discuss and discern potential members to serve on the DMT. As of Annual Conference 2007, every district will have met for initial training, and will begin to plan for the future.

Many members of the Conference Visioning Table have been nominated and named, and plans are in place to hold a fall meeting for training and orientation. The leadership of the CVT has already begun the planning process for this meeting.

As described in RS-202, this concludes the work of the CTT. We will continue to follow up until the Conference Visioning Table has held its initial meeting. Thanks to all those who participated and shared in this emerging process for our life and ministries together as an annual conference.

Respectfully submitted by members of the Conference Transformation Team:

Beverly Abbott, Rick Black, Jim Cann, Charles Carnahan, Aida Fernandez, Clarice Gothberg, Oscar Harrell, Joan Humphrey, Don Job, Sue Job, Yong Ja Kim, Jim McPhee, Evelyn Johnson-Moore, Rebecca Mincieli, Steve Notis, Diane Peak, Wanda Stahl, Peter Weaver.

RECONCILING MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Reconciling Ministry Committee planned and shared a Fast and Feast Worship Celebration on the green at Annual Conference 2006. Rainbow stoles were made and sold and a workshop on Is Welcoming Really Welcoming was facilitated. A workshop on How to Become a Reconciling Congregation was held at Lexington UMC in April. Two new reconciling congregations (Brackett Memorial, Peaks Island, ME and Calvary UMC, Arlington, MA) brought the number of reconciling congregations in the New England Conference to 29. A reconciling celebration is planned for March 24, 2007. *Holy Hope: Committing to the Future of an Inclusive* UMC will bring together progressive leaders in our denomination for a morning panel and discussion, and a keynote address by Rev. Martin McLee on The Church and Race: Continuing the Conversation in the afternoon. The committee met 4 times this year.

Susan Morrison and Mary Ann Haxton - Co chairs

CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTER-RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

During 2006-2007, the committee on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns (CUIC) has met alternately by e-mail and phone calls to discuss our ecumenical and inter-religious commission and to be in prayer together about those things with which we as a people of faith continue to struggle. Through these conversations, CUIC has attempted to be faithful to our larger commission, which is to address issues of racism, sexuality and inter-religious concerns.

The CUIC has been kept up to date on what occurred at the Methodist World Federation meeting held in 2006 in Seoul, Korea, and continues to maintain contact with the General Commission in New York. Five committee members from our conference have an on-going relationship with a committee from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to discuss and review the interim full communion proposal and are planning a future co-denominational educational guide to be shared and implemented in our churches by September 2007. Likewise,

many committee members are actively committed to the Council of Churches in the states that make up our conference.

For the Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns committee, the previous year has been a slow and deliberate journey. We continue to passionately engage our commission through our conversations with one another, our communities of faith and the world around us. We pray that our common work will continue to bear God's love and grace for the world.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Hope N. Luckie - Chair

Members

June Carter, Hailani Chan-Williams, Diana Eck, Paula Fletcher, Althea Jackson, Sam Johnson, Hope Luckie, Michael McShane, Roland Pugsley, Carol Szculc, Sakena Young-Scaggs

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Rules Committee is responsible to make sure that the Annual Conference Rules and our Policies and Procedures are followed. This quadrennium we have tried to make sure they were consistent and not repetitive within themselves. This year we have made recommendations changing the Financial Rules to be in compliance with the new Budget outline. We are writing new rules to be sure that the new organizational structure of the Annual Conference will comply with our Rules and the Policies and Procedures and that they are in compliance with the Discipline. We remind the Annual Conference that any legislation that would change the Rules or the Policies and Procedures must come before the Rules Committee before being presented at the Annual Conference Session.

Samuel Johnson - Chair

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry represents all of the local United Methodist Churches across New England in our efforts to identify, train and care for those who provide ministry leadership on our behalf. The work of the Board continues to grow in complexity as we respond to new initiatives of the General Church and to the needs of our own Annual Conference.

The Board has continued to deal with issues arising from decreased funding at the Conference level. In particular, we have had to shift a portion of the cost of Psychological testing to the candidates. We know that this imposes a difficult burden on those who are still in school and we encourage local churches to support candidates when possible with funds to underwrite these and other costs of their candidacy.

The Board continues to work with a Co-chair process both at the full board level and in all of our key committee structures. This process has served us well spreading the large workloads over more persons and providing varying styles of leadership depending upon the situations that are being addressed. We recommend this model to other groups within the church who are seeking new ways to accomplish their work together.

The Board has continued its commitment to the work of anti-racism in our own process as individual persons and in our work as a Board. We have created a dedicated committee to shepherd this important aspect of our lives together. They have helped us to identify books and other resources which have fed our ongoing dialogue and educational work. We have covenanted to educate ourselves at every meeting of the Board on the issues of racism and how we can better recognize when it is functioning around us or within us. We also monitor one another when we recognize racism present in our meetings or deliberations.

We have continued our work in conjunction with the Cabinet to create an expectation of transformational and effective leadership among the clergy in New England. We have created a definition of Transformational Pastoral Leadership which was shared with the clergy at the 2006 Executive Session. This definition has become the basis for a new Pastoral Evaluation which was tested in two districts in 2006. That Evaluation will be used across the entire Conference in 2007. The Task Force on Transformational Leadership is also preparing guidelines that will encourage continuing education in response to areas where growth is needed. They are also preparing a process for Intervention when ineffectiveness in ministry is identified.

The Board continues to address the issues that have been raised by the decreasing numbers of full time appointments available in New England. This has been particularly difficult for those who have just completed their education and are hoping for their first appointments as Probationary members of the Conference. We have had several individuals over the past two years who have passed the Board's examination for Probationary membership and commissioning, but they were unable to move forward because they could not be appointed full time. We continue to be in discussion with the Cabinet about this issue and we are seeking to institute procedures which address the needs of the individuals who have been affected in this way.

The Board continues to appreciate the openness of Bishop Weaver and the Cabinet in addressing issues that we have mutually identified as affecting the work of ministry here in New England. We appreciate their leadership in many vital areas and we acknowledge that only in working together can we assure continued effective leadership for ministry in New England.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION INITIATIVE

The Spiritual Formation Initiative has just completed its first full year of ministry in our annual conference. Our purpose statement, adopted in March 2006, is "to develop, implement, promote and evaluate a cohesive and effective multi-year program of spiritual formation for the New England Annual Conference."

Some highlights of this year were:

- Hosting a breakfast at annual conference to have conversation with folks interested in ministries of spiritual formation. Over 30 people attended.
- Initiating a one-day retreat program called Taste and See. While the participation in this initial offering was quite low, we're in the process of reworking it into a user-friendly format that can be implemented by local churches, clusters, and districts throughout the conference
- Resourcing from Alexx Wood to help with a "spiritual formation" section on the conference website

- Continuation of a comprehensive brochure listing spiritual formation offerings for clergy in our conference
- Meeting with the Cabinet to share our work and receive feedback on what would be most helpful from their perspective

In the coming year, we hope to continue this work as well as focus on the following:

- Explore and implement additional ways to support spiritual formation ministries in local churches. We hope to support the new District Ministry Teams in this area.
- Continue building a list of persons offering spiritual direction within the bounds of the annual conference.
- Continue exploring the most effective ways to meet needs of clergy for spiritual formation
- Explore and implement ways to support clergy mentoring.

If you have ideas, comments, and questions about our work, and/or would like to become involved, please contact Larry Peacock (RevLPeacock@rollingridge.org - 978-682-8815) or Wanda Stahl (stahl@neumc.org - 978-682-7676 x. 221).

Key members of our group include: Yoo Yun Cho-Chang, Susan Daneau, Cheryl Gates, Cynthia Good, Don Hegeman, Sam Johnson, Cathy MacGovern, Susan MacKenzie, Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp, Larry Peacock, Wanda Stahl, and Marion Styles-McClintock.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Congregational Development Committee seeks to support the vision of United Methodists who are transformed by the Holy Spirit, united in trust, and responding to God's call to proclaim Christ boldly to the world.

Demographics: For the past several years Percept has been our channel for local church demographic information. The committee has seen a fall off of use from this resource and concluded that it is not cost effective to continue at this time. The good news is that Ray Brady has archived the information for congregations that would like it: look him up in the Conference Journal.

Denman Award: Sponsored by the Foundation on Evangelism and named for Harry Denman, faithful layperson and evangelist during the fifties and sixties, the committee will present Denman Awards to pastors and laity who have worked effectively to proclaim Christ and build up the church.

School of Congregational Development: Last fall the Committee presented a school of congregational development in Worcester, MA, and is at work planning one this November.

District Teams: As the new Conference structure unfolds, the committee will be connecting with those at the district "table" working on congregational development.

Natural Church Development: During the past year, scores of persons have been trained as coaches and dozens of presentations made. NCD helps congregations to identify and work on the "minimum factor" that is preventing them from health and growth. A process, not another program, it helps people take the next steps to integrate growth decisions into the fabric of the life of the congregation.

Office of Congregational Development: The director, the Rev. Curtis Brown, has traveled throughout the Conference, assessing situations and offering resources and

guidance. The support for this connection is truly “your Mission Shares at work” in an incredibly effective way.

Get Excited: One of the most effective ways to raise the commitment level in your congregation may be to establish a mission, a ministry at another location, a cooperative effort with other congregations to start a new church. That is what the Holy Spirit guided the United Methodist movement to do at the beginning, and that is what will move us forward.

We are here to help.

Ed Deyton - Chairperson

URBAN MINISTRY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Urban Ministry Committee met quarterly over the course of the 2006 program year. Meetings continued to be held in key urban areas of New England as a way of providing participants with opportunities to experience a variety of urban contexts within our annual conference boundaries. The dominating committee conversation over the past year has revolved around the pressing issue of advancing urban ministry in the New England Annual Conference under demanding fiscal circumstances within the conference, local church and community. Committee members’ discussions included, but were not limited to, researching alternative sources of urban ministry funding such as the Minneapolis, MN initiative known as Grace in the City where United Methodist urban property and assets are protected and pooled by a non-profit organization for the advancement of urban ministry. Committee members also discussed the role and purpose of a conference-wide urban ministry committee in light of the district re-organizing effort that is now underway.

Currently, committee members are undertaking the task of developing a funding protocol for a grant process that local urban and inner-city churches can access for the development and support of urban ministry. Funding for this new initiative comes by way of conference trustee-held funds designated for urban ministry. The committee looks forward to sharing information about the urban ministry grant program at the 2007 annual conference.

During 2006 Urban Ministry Committee members Gary Richards and Garvin Warden have been representing the annual conference at meetings of the Northeast Jurisdiction Urban Ministry Network. The network leadership is currently in the process of planning jurisdictional urban ministry events for 2007 and 2008. Information on these events will be forthcoming and shared with urban churches and leaders.

The Urban Ministry Committee looks forward to furthering the organization of an urban ministry constituency in the annual conference and developing new funding opportunities while serving alongside the sister committees of the Committee on Congregational Development.

Respectfully submitted

Gary Richards

NEHEMIAH HOUSING LOAN FUND

The 2006 Annual Conference wholeheartedly endorsed the Nehemiah Housing Loan Fund when it passed an amended version of resolution 204. The members of the Nehemiah Housing Loan Organizing Committee wish to express their appreciation to the members of the annual conference for supporting this challenging and exciting initiative. Since its formal organization in July of 2003 the Nehemiah Housing Loan Fund has involved the connectational efforts of the United Methodist Foundation of New England, five local churches and one cluster organization in securing commitments to providing over \$150,000 in 0% interest loan funds for the purpose of affordable housing construction for first time homebuyers within the boundaries of the annual conference. Over the course of 2006 members of the organizing committee have continued to meet on a regular basis. While the committee was challenged by the complexity of partnering in the not-for-profit affordable housing sector and the ability to increase local church commitments, members remained committed to identifying a fiscally appropriate avenue for making the first Nehemiah loan.

In February of 2007 the Nehemiah Housing Loan Fund issued its first 0% interest loan to Greater Worcester Habitat for Humanity. The \$36,000 short-term loan will be used for the purpose of purchasing property for new housing construction. The Nehemiah Housing Fund Organizing Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the financial and legal services of Calvary UMC members and founding members of the organizing committee Wesley K. Blair, III and Atty. Eugene Lucarelli.

The Nehemiah Housing Loan Fund Organizing Committee looks forward to widening the scope of local church and annual conference participation in this ministry of stewardship and economic justice. Local church leadership is encouraged to contact the Nehemiah Housing Fund Loan at the United Methodist Foundation of New England for additional information.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Nehemiah Housing Fund Organizing Committee,

Gary Richards

UNITED METHODIST ECONOMIC MINISTRY WESTERN MAINE RURAL REGIONAL MINISTRY

2006 was a very challenging year for this mission area in western Maine. The local economy continues to suffer a downturn and the needs of the rural poor increase. The biggest change is the number of the working poor who now find that they must use our services in order to make ends meet. Paired with the loss of our conference funding, this has created a very difficult time for clients, staff and communities who have come to depend on the United Methodist Church to be a compassionate presence in their lives.

With only four full-time staff and two part time staff everyone has gone far above and beyond their original job descriptions. All staff has a firm belief in the work we do and in their own call to be here in ministry. God has blessed this mission with extremely dedicated and

caring people who not only know the area, but also share in the struggles of living and working in this isolated area.

One of the high points of 2006 was the hosting of the first official NOMADS site in Maine. NOMADS are one of the many blessings of the connectional United Methodist Church. Nomads on a Mission of Divine Service are retired United Methodists who travel the country in their motor homes, visiting and working at UM camps, mission sites and churches. We were privileged to host a team of three couples who stayed for three weeks at Salem. During that time they did several projects at Salem as well as building a handicap ramp at a local church, painting the addition on another church, and doing some work in the community. We have applied for another team for the summer of 2007.

During the year, many local churches stepped up and offered support to UMEM. Some have made monetary commitments on a monthly or quarterly basis. Others have done creative fundraising to benefit UMEM. We thank all of these churches that continue to have the vision of healthy, sustainable individuals, families and communities in western Maine. The staff and Board of UMEM extend our sincere thanks to all who have taken this mission to your hearts and prayers.

Our thrift shops, food cupboards, housing repair, back-to-school and outreach programs continue to struggle to meet increasing needs with decreasing funds. Our furniture repair program continues to provide some of the income for our programs, but we still rely on the donations from individuals and churches. Our Advance Special number is 311870 for donations sent to the New England Conference. Donations sent directly to the Salem site are also encouraged.

As we move into 2007, we ask that you keep this ministry in your prayers. Our continued presence in these communities brings hope to the individuals who live here, the communities who struggle with the economic downturn, and the churches that struggle with moving to less than full-time ministry. Those of us who remain in these communities will continue to embody God's heart for the poor, while working against economic injustice.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay D. Webb, Executive Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The members and officers of the Trustee Team sincerely appreciate the extraordinary stewardship efforts of the United Methodist people in New England. Your ministries inspire us to trust and live more fully in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ would not be astonished at the amazing things you are doing to bring Christ's light, love and justice-seeking ways into your communities. It never stops surprising us how innovative you are in this ever changing world of laws, protocols and accountability requirements. Thank you!

Our biggest stumbling block in ministry is the inadvertent effects of the merger and the effects of itinerancy. Namely, there is a lack of historical recall based on a lack of continuity in leadership as well as an inability to understand historical record keeping. Usually, the inability of the committee to find a piece of history relating to land, property or assets creates anger and frustration for members of the Conference. Although the Trustees are often blamed for this, we must remember how the Conference and itinerant systems also contribute to the dilemma.

We need to create a more effective means and management of creating and passing on history.

The year was filled with highs and lows in ministry. They include but are not limited to:

- The continuing pursuit of being in connection with you by attending cluster and district events through which we mutually communicate knowledge of resources
- We faithfully maintained buildings and properties, like Local Trustees, on limited resources; better decisions can be made with further resources
- The connections to those who assist us in protecting and assessing your assets: the local UM people, the United Methodist Foundation, Acadia and Fred C. Church, The United Methodist Federal Credit Union, the staff at the Conference Office and the Cabinet, as well as the Camps, Investments and Insurance Committee members
- We continue to struggle with organizing and sorting through legal issues that consume a great deal of time and energy
- Receipt of buildings and properties of closed or abandoned properties
- Recognizing that Resolution 225 requires clarity in order to implement and bring to your communities resources for faithfully following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ
- Dealing with changing code enforcements, aging buildings, the complexities of law and the sometimes deserved, and not deserved, anger of local church members

Please find the Annual Report of the Insurance committee as a separate report to this.

We met faithfully during the year on the second Saturday of alternating months from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. We held emergency meetings by telephone and consulted weekly by email and telephone. The members of the Trustees were faithful to their duties of keeping your resources safe.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Trustees with your concerns, questions, and observations or email me at trustees@neumc.org

In Gratitude For What You and Jesus Christ are bringing into the World,

Amy Alletzhauser, President

THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Insurance Committee of the New England Conference Board of Trustees will have met three (3) times since the last annual conference to monitor the Conference Unit Insurance Plan. For the period 8/1/2006- 7/31/2007, Acadia Insurance Co. continues to be our primary insurer, providing coverage for Property, General Liability, Crime, Automobile and Excess/Umbrella Liability as well as our Workers' Compensation coverage that renewed in January 2007. Fred C. Church Insurance of Lowell, MA continues as the Conference's broker, providing you service on claims, loss prevention, risk management and general insurance questions.

The average increase to all local churches for the 2006/2007 year was 13% to 40%+ compared to 17% and 4.5% increases that occurred during the past two years. There are four key reasons for this magnitude in our increase:

- Poor claims experience since 2002; over \$2 million paid out in property claims in 2002/2003 and over \$5 million in claims against just under \$5 million in premiums

collected since August 2000. Acadia values the New England Conference as a Client, but no fiscally responsible insurer will allow results like this to continue without increasing rates

- All buyers of property insurance are feeling the impact of the three Gulf Coast storms of 2005. Coastal properties, of which we certainly have many in New England, are even more prone to rate increases for coverage such as Windstorm and Flood – critical coverage for us to maintain as a Conference
- Insurance to value. The double-digit construction cost inflation of the past few years has left us with many churches which are substantially underinsured. Several recent claims have highlighted this issue, with insured values as low as 60% or 70% of actual replacement value. In the meantime, this pushes underwriters toward higher rates as they try to compensate for understated values
- Unfortunately, property insurance accounts for over 70% of the total premium cost to the churches of the conference

We are very pleased to continue the New England Conference's relationship with these excellent service providers. Despite a property/casualty insurance market which continues to be unfavorable for churches, Fred C. Church worked the market hard this year to bring us competitive alternatives. Even with Acadia's increases, three different insurers who specialize in churches, including the United Methodist General Conference own captive insurance program, provided proposals that were either more expensive , or significantly inferior in coverage, or both, during the past two years.

In this coming year, both Acadia and Fred C. Church will be working throughout the Conference to improve the accuracy of our replacement values. Acadia has a goal of visiting 100 churches this year, to do risk management reviews as well as replacement value appraisals. And Fred C. Church will be in touch with many more churches by mail to address the valuation issues.

As an ongoing process, all outstanding claims are reviewed periodically during the year with Fred C. Church and Acadia.

The Insurance Committee continues to monitor local church payments of their insurance billings and challenges every church to make payments on time and in full. The committee thanks all of the churches that paid their premium in full by October 15, 2006 with the 9% discount or enrolled in the Automatic Clearinghouse Account process with a 7% discount through the OAS and Vanco Services, LLC.

For the upcoming renewal period, the Insurance Committee with the help of Fred C. Church, our agent, will provide the best coverage and rate possible for the 2007/2008 renewal period.

The committee also especially thanks Fred C. Church our agent, for the wonderful cooperation with our churches.

Finally, we ask you to take risk management and loss prevention especially seriously in the coming year. It is critical for every church that they do everything possible to minimize insurance costs. Acadia, Fred C. Church, the Conference Insurance Committee and the Conference Administration are all committed to providing as much guidance and assistance as you need.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Maxwell, Chairperson

ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP/DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

In my combined roles as Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) and Assistant to the Bishop, I am privileged to be present in a wide variety of settings. My DCM responsibilities deal with oversight and coordination of programs, ministry, and staff of the Annual Conference in the context of the vision and mission (Book of Discipline paragraph 607). As Assistant to the Bishop, I continue to support various aspects of the Bishop's work. Therefore, my functioning takes me from Cabinet meetings to local church events, from meetings of a campsite board or Board of Laity or CFA to gatherings for the Lawrence staff and local church preaching opportunities.

With the Conference Staff, there were several changes during 2006:

- We welcomed Alexx Wood in June 2006 as the new director of communication for the annual conference. Alexx has extensive communication and marketing experience in the private sector, and is a leader in the Calvary UMC in Arlington, MA.
- Following the departure of the Rev. Jeffrey Thomas in September 2006, we welcomed Jennifer Carpenter in October as the new executive director of Camp Aldersgate. Jenn comes to us from outdoor ministry experience among Lutherans, primarily in the Midwest.

You will read other reports here from significant ministry areas in our conference as well as reports relating to the ministries of our staff persons in Christian formation (Wanda Stahl), congregational development (Curtis Brown), and communication (Alexx Wood). It is truly a blessing to work with these gifted and dedicated persons as well as with the directors of our camps (Norm Thombs, Mike and Jean Moore, Jennifer Carpenter), the director of our conference center (Larry Peacock), our administrative assistant in Lawrence (Rosemary McNulty), our conference consultant network (coordinated by Evelyn Johnson-Moore), and our conference choreographer (Bonnie Marden). Along with dozens of volunteers, the Staff and ministry leadership of the Annual Conference are dedicated to Christ and to new forms of ministry and mission through the church.

I relate to many committees, boards, and work areas in our conference. This past year I have especially been active in supporting the Conference Transformation Team, as well as being part of the Bishop's Financial Summit and offering staff support for the Board of Laity, Rules Committee, and the Conference Leadership Committee.

Other specific programs and initiatives with which I have been working closely:

- Coordinating the Special Session of Annual Conference and special clergy meetings.
- Hosting a staff person from the General Commission on Religion and Race as we consider how to provide future training and work in dismantling racism and white privilege.
- Supporting the reorganization of our Latino Ministries group together with new support from the National Hispanic/Latino Ministries office.
- Offering ongoing programmatic support and coaching for local churches in their Together for Tomorrow campaigns.

- Participating in planning the UM Foundation sponsored Faith and Money stewardship series, including leading “Good Sense” financial workshops

As many of our local churches continue to face challenges, we are blessed by the witness and leadership of many lay and clergy persons serving among us in transformational ways. I celebrate all the ways God is at work in our Conference, and am grateful to serve among you.

James T. McPhee

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

This program year has been very exciting and challenging in the ministry of Christian formation in our annual conference. Some of the highlights included:

- Sowing Hope workshops undertaken with Curtis Brown, Alexx Wood, and others in ministry throughout our conference
- Implementation of the Conference Transformation Team recommendations, including coaching of District Superintendents and the training of District Ministry Teams
- Work on the Transformational Leadership Task Force and the development of a definition document and evaluation process to assess clergy effectiveness
- Participation in the Pastoral Excellence Task Force initiated by Preachers’ Aid Society which resulted in bringing the “Tending the Fire” program to our Annual Conference
- Being part of the leadership team for our third Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in October
- Working with the Spiritual Formation Initiative (their report is also included in this booklet) on ways to better resource the spiritual growth of clergy and laity in our conference. This included helping develop the worship resources and provide leadership for the clergy meetings in the winter of 2007.
- Seeing the regional youth ministry programs begin to take shape at our camping and retreat sites
- Supporting the ministry of Rolling Ridge, particularly through supervision of the Executive Director and connection with the Board of Directors
- Resourcing many local churches, clusters, and districts through consultations, workshops and retreats in a variety of areas, most focused around the Natural Church Development quality characteristics of Passionate Spirituality, Gift-Oriented Ministry, and Holistic Small Groups

Many of these emphases will continue into the coming year. I hope to continue to work in partnership with leaders in our local churches, districts, and conference to explore additional ways to effectively resource ministries in Christian Formation.

God has given our conference many wonderful and abundant gifts! My prayer in the coming year is that we can continue to mobilize and strengthen these gifts to more faithfully implement our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda J. Stahl

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

It has been my joy and privilege to serve the New England Conference as Director of Communications since June 2006. I started in this position just after the 2006 Annual Conference had wrapped up, and since that time have been learning, growing, teaching, and planning. In my first few months on the job, I spent considerable time auditing our existing communications activities, and developing a broad communications plan that has been approved by Bishop Weaver and the Cabinet. In these most recent months, we have begun the process of enhancing existing communications programs and resources, as well as creating new ones – all with the goal to help the Conference, the Districts, and local churches create and implement simple yet powerful communications that help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through this land, and indeed, this world.

The strategies and tactics in the plan include activities to inform, educate, and support local churches in their communications efforts. Some of these activities have already begun; in just the past few months we have completed regional and district workshops on topics such as Igniting Ministry, Evangelism & Welcoming, and Multimedia in Worship. Other activities are in progress, such as upgrading our web site and our intra-conference communications – the UMCatalyst and e-Clergy online newsletters, and the SpiritNET print newspaper.

But there are also elements of the plan designed to equip and encourage local churches to undertake your own communications activities and reach out in your communities. One of the ways to do this effectively is through consistency in how we communicate who we are as United Methodists. Fortunately, the New England Conference had done quite a bit of work around developing strong vision and mission statements. They are clear, concise, and effective statements that every United Methodist in New England should have in heart and mind. However, we can't stop there. Our vision and mission statements are targeted for those of us already within the 'system'. What is needed is a clear, consistent, meaningful message that we can deliver to 'external' audiences – the seekers, the unchurched, or those Christians not committed to a church – with an element of personality; an image or identity that tells people who we are.

Fortunately, United Methodist Communications has not only developed, but is also promoting widely, just this kind of who we are statement. I am encouraging every church to adopt and use the "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" statement whenever and wherever you can in your local church communications. Notice how this message is an external manifestation of our own Conference vision: Transformed by the Holy Spirit (open hearts), we will be united in trust (open minds), as we boldly proclaim Christ to the world (open doors).

I realize that we may not all interpret this statement in the same way, nor is it always wholly representative of who we are. But every positioning statement needs a visionary component – something for us to strive for. Only by saying it, using it, supporting it, and believing in its value will we be able to live into it more fully. I am always happy to discuss these thoughts, or any other communications issues, ideas, and resources with you. I am here to serve and support you in your efforts to reach others with the message of God's abundant and transforming love for us and for this world. I welcome opportunities to get to know you and to understand how I can better assist you in those efforts.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to three people who are part of the 'communications team' – Joy Mueller, Bert Whittier, and Patrick Fennelly. These wonderful volunteers kept the electronic communications, the SpiritNET newspaper, and the web site up and running in the period between the end of Mike Hickox's tenure and the beginning of mine. They have each helped me immeasurably in the time since I began this work. I have been incredibly blessed by their commitment, their spirit, and their work (as we all have been), and I look forward to their continued contributions as we move our communications programs forward. It is my great privilege to be serving Christ together with them, and with all of you.

Alexx Wood - Director of Communications

TREASURER

The members of churches that participated in the Together For Tomorrow Conference Capital Campaign demonstrated that United Methodist throughout New England are generous when challenged to respond to Ministry needs locally and throughout the world. Churches and members responded by pledging slightly more than \$15 million to the Conference Campaign and local church initiated capital campaigns conducted simultaneously. Mission Share receipts also ended the year ahead of last year. God is good all the time! And all the time God is good!

Financially, receipts from Mission Shares were up 1.85% (\$135,986) from 2005 levels. The Annual Conference, for the third straight year, ended the year in a positive position by keeping expenses inline with actual receipts. With our practice of more closely tying future expenditure levels to past receipt levels, the Council on Finance and Administration has been supportive of the Office of Administrative Ministries efforts to better manage the resources entrusted us by our members and local churches. Continued difficult choices will be called for in the months and years ahead.

While it is often reported that New Englanders are less generous than other parts of the country, the response to the "Together For Tomorrow Campaign" demonstrated that that information is not representative of our United Methodist New Englanders. Through the Campaign, churches and members pledged slightly over \$10 million for the Conference Capital Campaign and \$5 million for local church capital campaigns conducting in conjunction with it. By the end of 2006, the Office of Administrative Ministries had distributed back to local church and to the Conference ministry initiatives more than \$1.1 million.

On the insurance front, both of the conferences insurance programs were able to continue the recent trend of passing along moderate premium increases. The property/liability insurance program saw its most significant increase in several years with the average increase passed on to the local churches of the Annual Conference in 2006 of 22.5%. When compared with securing similar coverage individually, local churches throughout the conference save in excess of \$3.5 million annually in combined premiums, money that is available for local church ministries. While health insurance premium increases within the industry averaged 12% - 15%, for the third straight year, the average increase passed on to the local churches of the Annual Conference of 5.7% was almost a third of that of the industry. And with the introduction of the Automated Clearinghouse process, churches have been able to realize additional savings in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Office of Administrative Ministries continued its efforts to find new, better, and more efficient ways to perform the administrative ministries of the Annual Conference. With the ever-growing regulatory, financial, and record-keeping requirements of the Conference's insurance and pension programs, the need to develop a comprehensive administrative data management system grows more critical. We began to explore options that would also support the administrative work of the appointive Cabinet and program activities of the Conference. Our efforts to better manage the cash flow operations of the Annual Conference were completed over the summer of 2006, resulting in a 200% increase in return on our cash flows. We implemented a "lock box" receipts system that decreased the time it takes deposits to clear our bank by more than 75% and enabled us to re-deploy an annualized \$9,500 of staff time to other pressing activities.

I sincerely appreciate the contributions to ministry made by:

- Janis Salesi, Conference Benefits Coordinator
- Steve Hart, Financial Services Manager
- Merry Hoyt, Remittance Specialist
- Deborah Cannella, Administrative Assistant
- Daniel Sierra, Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Thelma Phelan, Benefits Assistant

I extend a special word of thanks to the members of the Council on Finance and Administration, Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, and Conference Trustees with whom I have the privilege of working, the local church treasurers I have had the opportunity to talk with and meet, and my colleagues in Ministry through out the Conference who have kept and continue to keep me in their prayers.

Charles R. Carnahan

Treasurer/Director Administrative Services/Conference Benefits Officer



EMORY

CANDLER
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. Its mission is *to educate—through scholarship, teaching and service—faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*. Candler, unique in its placement within a top twenty research university and its commitment to educate pastoral and academic leadership, is poised to play an active role in the positive transformation of the church and world. Ethically aware, theologically profound voices are desperately needed in our society, and Emory draws on its Methodist heritage and looks to Candler to bring wisdom, clarity, and compassion to the conversation.

Candler's faculty continues to be among the most distinctive in theological education with forty-six full-time, six part-time, and fifteen adjunct members. Bishops Woodie White and Jack Meadors serve as the United Methodist bishops in residence, and Bishop L. Bevel Jones III serves in development.

We partner with eighty churches to ensure that ministerial preparation takes place in both the church and university. 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-nine teaching supervisors support our Contextual Education and Teaching Parish (student pastor) programs, the latter including students appointed to churches in five Annual Conferences.

This year, enrollment was 510, with 396 in the Master of Divinity program and 59 in the Master of Theological Studies program. Eighty-three percent of students are enrolled full-time. The student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 10% international, and 51% women. More than 50 denominations are represented with 56% of MDiv students being United Methodist from 34 Annual Conferences.

The Groundbreaking on Phase I of our new building took place March 20, 2007. Our full project—two buildings—will provide faculty and administrative offices, state-of-the-art classrooms, new library facilities, a teaching chapel, and space for the University's Ethics Center. The University plans to gather its rich religious resources within and near the Candler facilities to create a "religious complex" centered around Candler.

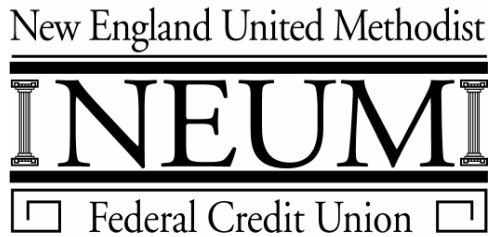
This year, 77% of eligible students received scholarship support from Candler with an average scholarship covering 78% of tuition. Gifts from the Methodist Education Fund (MEF) have played a large role in this support. However, so much more still needs to be done. More than 60% of Candler's MDiv graduates 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.

I am honored to be Candler's dean as of January 2007. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of Russell Richey in the previous six years and for his help in ensuring a smooth transition. I look forward to his continued, powerful presence at Candler as a leading scholar of Methodism, as a teacher, and as one who makes significant contributions to the life of the church. Thank you for your many expressions of welcome and for your support of Candler.

Sincerely and with thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Love".

Jan Love
Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology



Toll Free: (866)303-NEUM (6386)

www.neumfcu.org

Email: neum@neumfcu.org

In 2006 the New England United Methodist Federal Credit celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a gala Annual Meeting featuring dinner, the Hudson Praise Band and a message from Bishop Peter D. Weaver. Formed in 1956 to help Methodist clergy in New England secure automobile loans, your Credit Union has been dedicated to providing sound financial service for all kinds of people in New England, particularly those who are underserved or rejected by for-profit financial institutions.

The Credit Union Board of Directors, staff team, and I are honored to continue in this fine tradition of providing personal, financial service that is available to all members, employees and families of United Methodist churches and organizations of the New England Conference. We offer sound, affordable financial services to individuals, families and organizations through our free share-draft checking accounts and share savings accounts; free on-line account accessibility; free VISA Check Cards; IRA accounts and other investment opportunities; and vehicle, student, debt consolidation and personal loans. We continue to foster our partnerships with Enterprise Car Sales and Members Mortgage to offer our membership the best possible service.

We have been working diligently to enhance the offerings of the Credit Union. Since 2002, we have been proud to be a part of the United Methodist Credit Union Association. There are currently ten active United Methodist credit unions (across the country) working together in a collaborative effort to share ideas and suggestions regarding marketing, policies, regulations, and more. Through this collaboration, we are looking forward to offering loans to our churches in New England for building and improving facilities. We are also excited to add credit cards to our loan portfolio and continue to strive to become YOUR primary financial institution.

Throughout 2006 the Board of Directors have studied and wrestled with issues of office location and enhancement of services to members. Late in the year the decision was made [and announced in February 2007] to open a new branch located within the New England Deaconess Association in Concord, MA, and to open a new office in the greater Portland, ME area. We believe that this will extend our reach in the New England Conference, enhance our ability to grow, and offer expanded hours of operation.

As a not-for-profit organization, we depend a great deal on the support of volunteers. Our Board of Directors and various other committees meet regularly to guide and oversee the credit union and its staff team. Without their dedication, we would not be where we are today. We would like to thank Board members Louis Dumas and John Parker who stepped down in 2006. Their commitment and dedication to the credit union is greatly appreciated. We are deeply saddened by the death of John Parker who for 25 plus years graced us with his presence and wisdom. We will miss him!

I want to extend a personal thank you to our staff team, especially Debbie Berthiaume, for their exceptional work to extend friendly, personable and knowledgeable service to everyone who calls, writes, or walks through our doors. I also want to thank our Board

Members for their diligence in working together to strengthen and expand the work of the Credit Union.

Shelly Page

CEO

2006 Board Members:

F. Richard Garland, President

Curtis Brown, Vice-President

Gary Akeley, Treasurer

Matthew Wissell, Secretary

Elizabeth Bachelder Smith

Thomas Kachadorian

Abraham Waya

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND

2006 has been a busy and fruitful year for the Foundation. The conversion of our trust accounting software to the Windows-based Charlotte system in May and the installation of *new loan software* will both enhance the Foundation's superior service record in meeting the transactional and investment reporting needs of our churches and agencies. During this period, we also hired two new staff persons with the skills and expertise to complement our staff team.

In September 2005, the Foundation implemented a broadly diversified investment strategy for its equity portfolio. This investment offering for our investing churches has almost 1000 holdings, and includes international, large cap, mid cap and small capitalization companies in the portfolio. We are delighted to report that this "institutional caliber" portfolio has had excellent returns since the new strategy was initiated, and it has outperformed its benchmark of the Standard and Poor's 500 Index for the year ending December 31, 2006.

From its inception, the Foundation has intentionally adhered to a *Socially Responsible Investing* (SRI) policy for all its investments by excluding companies involved in the production of addictive products and services (tobacco, alcohol, and gambling industries), and the production of firearms or military weapons as well as avoiding companies that demonstrate poor environmental stewardship or disregard for human rights. Stewardship education is another important ministry priority for the Foundation.

The primary vehicle for this focus is our new "*Faith and Money*" financial stewardship program; this is a biblically-based, comprehensive, year-round resource that will help, in an integrated and practical way, to strengthen both *personal* stewardship and *congregational* (church committee/board) stewardship in our local churches. Various components of the "Faith & Money" resource incorporate ministries provided by the Foundation, and this underscores the Foundation's commitment to fulfilling its mission to assist United Methodist churches with spiritual formation through the promotion of "faithful stewardship". For example, the "Good \$ense Personal Finances Ministry" helps Christian disciples develop a biblically-based understanding of money in their daily lives, as does the "Planning for a Lifetime of Ministry" events conducted jointly with the Preachers' Aid Society. This latter program consists

of three financial planning seminars specially tailored for clergy at different phases in life and ministry. All-day "Faith and Money" training events will be conducted in all eight districts during the 2007/2008 program year, followed by *Phase II District Workshops* during the 2008/2009 program year for churches who desire additional training in the use of financial stewardship tools. To enable the Foundation to effectively deliver these training events and to accomplish our stewardship goals, Bonnie Marden was hired as our Development Associate to assist us in planning and coordinating these important seminars.

At his invitation, the Foundation has participated with Bishop Peter Weaver in his "Bishop's District Days" where stewardship has been the theme; the Foundation affirms this partnership with the bishop and conference leadership in providing resources to strengthen local church stewardship in New England. The Foundation was also a participant of the *Bishop's Financial Summit* task group, a consultative group resulting from action of the 2005 annual conference. "Clergy Tax Seminars" were conducted by the Foundation at Bangor, Maine and East Providence, Rhode Island with leadership provided by Mark Conner and Foundation President, Wee-Li Tan. This ministry is important and needful for both clergy and local church treasurers in the specialized field of clergy taxes, and clergy compensation and benefits.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to both our hard working staff and a gifted Board of Directors. The 2006 Board of Directors consisted of the following persons:
Officers/Committee Chairpersons

David W. Fitts, Chair of the Board

John R. Regier, Vice-Chair

Edward W. Abrahams III, Secretary and Chair of Grants & Financial Assistance Committee

Cindy Sroda, Treasurer and Chair of Budget/Audit Committee

Joan A. Humphrey, Chair of Personnel/Nominating Committee

Patricia Deyton, Chair of Development & Marketing Committee

Robert B. Needham, Chair of Investment Committee

Board Members

Thomas J. Baziak

Rev. Barbara Cann

Philip Hall

Stephen Ives

Rev. Wendell Luke, Jr.

Diane Peak

M. Philip Susag

Bishop Peter Weaver

Wesley Blair III

Rev. Ha-Kyung Cho-Kim

Sophia Harrell

Marian Lippincott

Dave MacMahon

Rev. Alexander Stewart, Jr.

Rev. Herbert Taylor

Respectfully submitted,

Wee-Li Tan

President

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY OVERVIEW

The Boston University School of Theology is the oldest Methodist theological seminary in North America and the founding school of Boston University, established in 1839. As a university-based theological school, it is privileged to promote academic excellence in cooperation with other departments within the University. Its historic commitments, learning, virtue, and piety, are represented in the shield of Boston University.

The School has a rich history. Its personalist tradition of social ethics, as defined by former Dean Walter Muelder, reached its practical culmination in the activities of former student Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

The School of Theology also has a progressive legacy of well-known and highly respected doctoral candidates and theological professionals who encompass all races and ethnicities. In addition to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., prominent figures include Howard Thurman, Samuel Proctor, Edward Wimberly, and Anna Howard Shaw, the School's first female graduate.

STH typically welcomes more than 100 incoming students. In 2006, students, who were 46 percent men and 54 percent women, came from 28 states and 24 percent were international students, having arrived from countries such as Canada, China, Israel, Korea, Latvia, Nepal, Russia, and Taiwan. Recent STH graduates have continued a long tradition of serving in ministry around the world, including in South Africa, Mozambique, Korea, China, the Philippines, Brazil, Estonia, Kenya, and India.

The School of Theology continues its global orientation by providing an ongoing comparative theology program in which masters and doctoral students are encouraged to study Christian theology in tandem with other religious traditions. Several faculty members are well-versed in East Asian and African religions.

One of the major research collections in the theology library is related to mission studies and world Christianity. It includes mission society archives and the Bible collection of the Massachusetts Bible Society. In addition to mission studies, hymnal collections are important research collections within the theology library. Music and worship remain valued features of seminary life and instruction at Boston University. A small but significant Master of Sacred Music program is available in conjunction with the College of Fine Arts School of Music

Another recent area of inquiry is that of science and religion, which includes issues of bioethics, technology, and ecology. School of Theology faculty members play a pivotal role in the science and religion emphasis in the Boston-area consortium of theological schools.

Dean Ray Hart notes, "We send our graduates into the world knowing that we have equipped them with the skills not only to lead churches and instruct others in matters of faith, but also to resolve conflicts, to serve the poor and marginalized, and to be a prophetic voice, speaking truth to power."

Contact Information:

Stephen Morin, Development Officer
Pauline Jennett, Alumni Officer
Boston University
School of Theology
745 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

617-353-8972
pauljett@bu.edu
www.bu.edu/sth/alumni

METHODIST CONFERENCE HOME, INC. - Rockland, Maine

Methodist Conference Home's mission is to support older adults and people with disabilities in mid-coast Maine in ways that promote self-sufficiency and quality of life. This work has its roots in the United Methodist Social Principles and the gospel of Jesus Christ, who said: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Mt. 25:40)

MCH's major focus is on affordable senior housing provided at the Methodist Home, Rankin Center and Stevens House, all in Rockland, Maine. Our facilities offer independent housing along with a program of supportive services that make it possible for individuals to extend that independence for as long as possible. These services include housekeeping, meals, transportation and personal care, among others. We continue to have high occupancy rates, an indication of the need for this kind of housing, and our service programs are heavily utilized.

Budget challenges continue. The cost of utilities is volatile. An unexpected need to replace a major component in the elevator at the Methodist Home depleted building reserves. We struggle each year to get the state and federal housing authorities to understand the budget challenges we face at that facility. At Rankin Center we were successful in obtaining funding to do some major, long postponed, building upgrades.

This year, as an outcome of a collaborative transportation initiative in which we have been involved for the past two years, we were able to hire a fulltime transportation director to oversee our transportation programs. This is already opening many new possibilities for us to help underserved populations in the communities in which we operate.

In total we provide housing in 104 apartments in our own facilities and manage another 43 units for other owners, including the Knox Hotel Apartments in Thomaston and the Bartlett Woods Cooperative in Rockland. We also offer a services program at one of the senior housing facilities that we manage for an out-of-state owner.

We continue to serve many people in the community outside of our residential facilities. Our best known program in the community is the Meals on Wheels program that we operate in Knox County. We serve meals to residents at the Methodist Home, deliver approximately 100 meals a day, five days a week to homebound individuals in the county and also serve meals to another 40 individuals at senior meal sites. Our transportation program, Coastal Trans, served 2,056 individuals in the three counties we cover, and provided more than 2.3 million passenger miles of transportation.

Our Board of Directors has been working diligently on a new strategic plan for the organization. A Board retreat in the fall produced a new mission statement and identified areas in which the organization needs to focus its efforts over the next two or three years. Board and staff committees have continued the work since that time..

MCH is grateful for the continued support of the New England Annual Conference through the Golden Cross offering, the gifts of churches and individuals, gifts of time given by Board members and other volunteers and the prayers of many throughout the Conference.

Lee Karker - Executive Director

ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

2006 was a year of expansion as 218 groups and individuals held their event or retreat at Rolling Ridge. Thirty-five new groups found their way to the 38 acres and 40 room mansion that make up the retreat and conference center. Individuals also made private retreats in the newly redecorated and furnished Thomas Merton Room.

Programs offered by Rolling Ridge expanded in number and size. A "Day Apart for Busy People" was offered 12 times with attendance reaching as high as 38 for the single day retreat. A new "Evening at the Ridge" program brought many new folks for a shorter event. Drumming, dance, and yoga are now part of our regular classes.

Two multiple day retreats were offered in 2006. Oasis – A Spiritual Spa and Summer Fest drew a diverse group of participants from several states and provided participants with a healing and renewing experience. Becoming a licensed massage establishment added to the services we offer.

Our summer weeks provided a non-rustic experience of Christian education for junior high and senior high youth.

A new newsletter was published 4 times and brochures were developed for each event. The word about Rolling Ridge is spreading and we had guests about 65% of the time, with most weekends filled.

We have 30 programs scheduled for 2007 and we hope you will join us for a time of renewal. We have many open dates in the middle of the week for your group meetings and invite you to call us about weekend possibilities. United Methodist groups do receive a discount for their events. We have plenty of open dates for your group to use the picnic grounds and pool for your summer event.

This year the Site Committee became the Board of Directors and adopted a 5 year plan in order to build the new retreat lodge and renovate the main house as envisioned in the Master Plan.

Thank you for your donations to Rolling Ridge - we are a Conference Advance Special - #620! Your gifts helped us renovate the pool house, buy new lights and furniture, plant a flower garden and paint much of the main house. Thank you for including us in your estate planning. Thank you for your support of the Together for Tomorrow Campaign! Thank you for using Rolling Ridge as a place for retreats, meetings, and gatherings.

Please continue to hold us in your prayers as we develop programs, improve facilities and reach out to those yearning to feel the love and blessings of God.

Cynthia Good, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Larry J. Peacock, Executive Director

REPORT OF EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

The Episcopal Residence Committee continues to be small, but functioning. During the last six months of 2006. and continuing through the first six months of 2007, we have accomplished some projects and begun putting others in process.

This last fall, Bruce Maxwell and his wife, Phyllis, did a wonderful job of landscaping and planting flowers at the Episcopal residence. They worked hard and long with the appreciation of all as their reward. Also, repairs on the porch at the residence were completed.

Going forward we plan some porch repairs at the assistant's residence as well as gutter cleaning as needed at both houses.

The most important current project will be the renovation of a first floor bathroom at the Episcopal residence.

Our mission continues to be to provide good quality housing for our Bishop and Assistant to the bishop, as well as preserving this asset of the New England Annual Conference,

Committee Members

Diane Peak

Bruce Maxwell

James Stephen

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT

We celebrate the signs of life in the Central Massachusetts District. On the whole there continues to be a remarkable positive response to the Together for Tomorrow Campaign and Mission Shares payments in spite of the problems created by soaring energy, health insurance and pension costs. There has been a significant increase in the number of persons who have reported receiving a call to the ministry and who are in the candidacy process and seeking opportunities to serve in a local church.

Local churches are becoming increasingly involved in missional outreach in their communities. Many of them have shown a commendable responsiveness to current needs such as racial and ethnic inclusiveness, minority empowerment and support for national and global outreach.

Emphasis on the ministry of the laity is growing as evidenced by the increasing number of certified Lay Speakers, lay involvement in the worship life of the churches, and high interest in study courses and in prayer groups. This year the District Committee on Lay Speaking offered the first lay speaking course designed for youths. The vitality of volunteer involvement in District and Conference activities is abundantly evident. The shift in offering Conference programs in multiple settings has resulted in a wider variety of and a greater participation in training opportunities.

We express concern, however, about the following problems in our Conference life. Each year it is becoming increasingly difficult encourage the kind of clergy and lay involvement which is needed for the spiritual and missional health of congregations.

Working together and assisting each other for effective ministry has not been given the consideration it deserves. Many of our clusters are not meeting regularly and in some areas there are no clusters. Local church administrative costs continue to grow, with a corresponding decrease in funds available for missional outreach. Our membership rolls continue to shrink at an alarming rate, raising the question as to whether United Methodist in New England has lost its evangelistic zeal. While we rejoice at the excellent opportunities for church renewal and congregational development offered by the Office of Congregational Development, we are not clear about the overall Conference strategies for Urban and Hispanic ministries. Although we

are concerned about these problems, we do not despair. We believe the Holy Spirit is moving among us and we dare to hope.

The District Ministry Team and some of the ministry work areas have been meeting. Their goals for the year are all related to the building up of the local church and responding to its needs. Priorities include encouraging local churches to commit to a better and deeper spiritual life; evangelism and outreach, youth ministry. As the other work areas begin their work they will be seeking input from pastors and local churches in order to partner with them in addressing common concerns and needs. There is much to be done: some of the goals have only been named, not deeply explored. Enabling local congregations to be more effective and creative in their ministries is the main purpose of the District Ministry Team. The new efforts that will support growth and mutual ministry have only begun. We look ahead with great hope and ever increasing enthusiasm, thanking God for the opportunities we have been given.

Ronald V. Wilson, District Superintendent

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT

It has been a busy first year on the district. The District Parsonage/Office in Bolton was sold and new office space was acquired in Tolland, CT. It was an adventure (!?) last fall traveling around to find and visit most of the 68 churches during charge conference season. This is the second largest district in our conference. Our theme for the 2006 charge conference season was "connection." As a way for me to meet the church families and learn about their ministry, each church was asked to share how they connect to Christ, to each other and to the greater community. They were also encouraged to do the "Re-Connecting" study, a 7-week strategic planning study that encourages churches to return to our Wesleyan roots. During the 2006/2007 appointment year there were 56 charges on the district with the following breakdown: 40 full-time, 7 half-time and 9 quarter-time. 55% of our churches are served by men; 45% by women. Fifty-seven of the 68 churches reported having less than 100 in worship in their 2005 statistical reports. It is my prayer that the Spirit will use me on the district to rekindle a contagious enthusiasm for serving Christ creating a hunger and passion for intentional evangelism, mission and ministry. With Christ all things are possible! (Keep praying, listening and responding!)

Three new yoked ministries will begin July 1, 2007: Vernon and Wesley East Hartford; South Hadley and New Hope Springfield; and Bethel and Versailles. Three Viability/Possibility Studies were conducted: Griswold-Sprague (Bethel, Versailles, Baltic CT), North Adams (MA), and Wesley East Windsor (CT). Twenty-One churches are receiving a new appointment or appointment reconfiguration effective July 2007. In 2006, 33 churches had received a pastor in the past 4 years or less. We are a district in transition seeking to connect, listen and discern a vision.

I celebrate the faithful leadership of David Bolster our district lay leader who traveled with Bishop Weaver and I last fall visiting 13 churches in one day! I celebrate the birth of our new District Ministry Team (DMT) under the leadership of George Button! We have a wonderful team committed to working together to help meet the needs of our diverse district. We will concentrate in 2007 on leadership development by hosting our first "Leadership Academy" training event in October 2007. The DMT will be creating a DVD to be presented at

each of our 2007 charge conferences introducing the churches to the many wonderful mission and ministry programs happening on our district.

In October 2006, Bishop Weaver dedicated Wesley UMC in Hadley, MA – the newest church building in our conference. What a joyous celebration!

Lastly, I celebrate all the pastors and laity on our district and especially JoAnn Watson, our District Administrative Assistant, and the Cabinet. Your love and support during this year of transition was greatly appreciated.

HEIDI N. CHAMBERLAND, Superintendent

METRO BOSTON HOPE DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Federico Paruya, a former Bishop from Argentina, wrote a very powerful hymn “Tenemos Esperanza.” We have hope. This exquisite hymn has an elegant melody of a tango, but their lyric sings the ode of praise to the incarnated Christ.

“Because He entered in the world and in our history.

Because He broke the silence and the agony

Because He filled the earth with glory and illuminate our coldest night

Today we have hope...”

It is with that sense of believing in what we don’t see yet; it is with that conviction of the presence of Christ in our midst that the Hope District has moved this past year.

“Because we have hope,” the Laity and Clergy of the District continue to work in partnership learning from each other, encouraging each other to be the bold leaders Christ wants us to be. The Hope Academy Team (HAT) is not made of straw but from the fine fabric of people’s creativity, enthusiasm and commitment to leadership development.

“Because we have hope,” this past summer, the District took a new step in faith by launching a new church starting in Arlington-Boston area. Vision Community, led by Rev. Han Kim, has approximately 50 people worshipping on Sunday and a few bible studies in non-traditional places like the hospitals, schools and people’s homes.

“Because we have hope,” East Saugus Methodist Community committed themselves to the difficult but promising task of church revitalization. Under the leadership of Rev. Nizzi Digan-Santos, this congregation has been able to rediscover the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

“Because we have hope,” Welcoming Ministries celebrates its 5th anniversary this coming September. They may be small in numbers, but like the disciples were once, they are mighty in love and deeds. At this past annual conference, not one or two, but three loyal servants of Christ responded to Bishop Weaver’s powerful invitation to give their lives to God’s significant ministry. As a District, we will pray for Will, Marla and Sean as they enter into a journey that will change the rest of their lives.

“Because we have hope,” this past February, we witnessed the birth of the Hope District Youth Team. It was a privilege to see our young to come forward and organize themselves and commit themselves to make a difference for Christ. This group is on fire. Jonathan Roketenetz, the President and a member of the Woburn UMC, has a vision that goes beyond the shelter of his local church. This coming January, he is going to Cuba to mission with peace. Bryan Pretzer, Lauri Hezekiah-Cox and Susan Stewart stepped up and despite their very busy schedules, made the commitment to accompany, nurture and guide the Hope Youth

Team as they develop and grow. We pray for the best of the Youth Team so the good Lord may bless them in all their adventures of faith.

“Because we have hope,” we celebrate the rich diversity of our District. We have a Pentecost community that keeps announcing the good news of Jesus Christ in Portuguese, Korean, Spanish, French-Creole, Tagal and English and several African languages.

Praise God for the hope Christ has incarnated in our district through its wonderful lay and clergy teams.

Aida Irizarry Fernandez, District Superintendent

MID-MAINE DISTRICT

The Mid-Maine District finds itself alive and well as we end the 2006-07 Conference year. The district itself is comprised of 69 churches and 60 charges. Of those charges, 31 are full time, 15 are ½ time, and 14 are ¼ time. Our pastors are comprised of 22 elders, 7 retired elders, 2 probationary members, 17 local pastors, 3 pastors from other denominations, and 4 superintendent’s supply.

The increased financial pressures such as health insurance, pensions, fuel, and other costs continue to be a major concern. The number of persons in attendance in a congregation that have in the past supported a full time pastor can no longer do so. Because of this, some of the churches have had to make adjustments. Included in this group are the churches in Unity (from fulltime to ½ time) and Boothbay Harbor (from ¾ time to ½ time). These financial pressures will continue to affect the ways our churches respond to the spiritual and physical needs of our communities. The adjustments in size will continue.

Concern also continues for the United Methodist Economic Ministry that is located in Salem, Maine. This ministry has been and continues to be vital to the region. The struggle continues to fund the ministry. The Economic Ministry continues to change to meet the needs of people in this day.

Among the successes on the past year, the North Vienna church, after much prayer, planning, and hard work has completed their new addition. With the same ingredients of prayer, planning and hard work Cox Memorial United Methodist Church in Hallowell Maine has also put on an addition that makes the church fully handicapped accessible as well as adding a church office, class rooms and nursery. The dedication and commitment of the congregation of the Bath United Methodist Church has bourn fruit as the have moved to their new church building, a beautiful structure that will enable the continuation of ministry and new mission in Christ’s name.

Special congratulations go to the Bridgton United Methodist Church which has moved from a ½ time appointment to a full time appointment under the leadership of their pastor, Chong Wook Choi. In a similar way the Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church in Fryeburg Harbour, Maine is moving from a ¼ time appointment to a ½ time appointment status.

The ministry of our district continues to be strengthened and encouraged by our team of lay leaders. This year Ruth Cannon (Southern part of the District), Randee Bourgoin (Central part of the District), and Jack Hoyt (Western part of the District) continue to offer their gifts and talents. With regret we have lost the services of Harbour Mitchell as he has accepted an

appointment in the Northern Maine District. We anticipate a fourth lay leader joining the Leadership Team from the mid-coast region.

As I finish my seventh year as superintendent of these wonderful churches, pastors, and congregations, I give thanks for the faithfulness that results in powerful ministry in Christ's name in our communities.

David Svenson,
Mid-Maine District Superintendent

RISEM DISTRICT

In this conference time frame the RISEM District has seen new beginnings, changes and endings. It has been a year of reflection and renewal as the institutional church, laity and clergy have taken seriously the nature of transformational leadership and honesty. Until this year the district as a whole has been able to sustain all of its full time ministry sites; regrettably we added four churches to the 50+ that have reduced appointment time in other districts. Moving from full time to ½ time were: Somerset UMC (Somerset, MA), St. Paul's UMC (New Bedford), Barrington UMC (Barrington, RI) and Bryantville UMC (Pembroke, MA) moved from ¾ time to ½ time. We also recognized the faithfulness of the Marion UMC as they voted to close and whose service for deconsecrating was July 1, 2007.

In other settings:

- "The River; the United Methodist Faith Communities of Burrillville and Woonsocket" a new multi-site ministry in the district was established.
- Northside UMC (Brewster, MA) dedicated its new sanctuary and fellowship hall
- East Greenwich UMC (RI) has voted to move to new property and build a new church
- Faith Fellowship UMC (Mansfield, MA) voted to be part of a church revitalization project called "The 11th Hour."
- Vida Abundante UMC (Providence, RI) and the pastor Rev. Santos Escobar were awarded the Denman Award for Evangelism at Annual Conference 2007.
- The two new ministries from 2006: Martha's Vineyard Cooperative Ministry and Open Table of Christ UMC (Providence) continue with growing pains and new understandings of what it means to be the church.

The District lost a wonderful and visionary leader in the death of Dr. Ridgway F. Shinn Jr. (December 14, 2006). Ridg had been a conference regular, member of Mathewson St. UMC and a progressive force in United Methodism for many years. Services were also held for the Rev's William Bradley (May 6, 2007) and Edwin A. Trench Jr. (November 29, 2006). Brian Wood (Asbury UMC) was ordained an elder (Asbury UMC) and Jennifer Styers (Duxbury) was commissioned a probationary elder and appointed to Rockport/Gloucester UMC. There were no new candidates for ministry in the district and fourteen appointment changes in 2007. Retiring were: Rev's Julia Doutaz, Sandra Smith, Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp and Charles Bark.

In the fall of 2006 the Rev. Hailani Chan-Williams (Middleboro, MA) received threats from the KKK under the guise of Masonic letterhead. State, local and the FBI were called in to investigate the case. A rally was held in Middleboro in support of the Chan-Williams family and the local churches which was widely attended by townsfolk and surrounding United Methodists. That same week the Memorial UMC (Taunton, MA) suffered significant damage

when it was broken into and pillaged by unknown thieves. Lost in Woonsocket an independent documentary film premiered at the Stadium Theater in Woonsocket chronicling the lives of two homeless alcoholics and the work of the Matthew 25 Center at the Woonsocket UMC. Several "revivals", VBS, VIM trips and many campers at Aldersgate were generated in the district and I am sure that more are planned in this upcoming year.

There was a great deal of excitement in the district this year which should be helpful as we build toward strengthening our connection with one another. The work of the District Ministry Team should help us focus and renew our commitment to one another and to the work of Christ. As Bishop Weaver reminded us; "Look around, who is in our neighborhood."

Keep your eyes open for the view,

Gary L. Shaw; Superintendent

TRI-STATE DISTRICT JUNE 2007

The Tri-State District includes 75 churches in 3 states: Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The district covers coastal New Hampshire, the North Shore area of Massachusetts, and coastal Maine extending just north of Portland. The churches are in rural, urban, small town, and suburban settings. They are served by full time and part time pastors.

Many of our congregations have shown incredible faith, determination and grit as they've weathered storms within and without, taken risks for the Gospel, explored new avenues of stewardship and sought to reach their communities with the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. We see signs of new life and renewal throughout our district.

We are grateful for the many dedicated pastors and laity who have responded to the call to serve the church on the district level. The District Committee on Ministry, Board of Church Location and Building, District Superintendency Committee, Committee on Leadership, Lay Speaking and Mission Share Review have all been active and functioning effectively. Our new District Ministry Team has been formed. We have begun working together to discern where God is calling us to focus.

District events were well attended and received. One highlight was Bishop Peter Weaver's day on the district to lead us in a program around stewardship.

At our church conferences this year we included a learning time about either "Natural Church Development" or "Change?!!!". This gave us the opportunity to talk with each church about how we can work together to strengthen our churches' ministries.

This year we saw an increase in average church attendance and an increase in the percentage of mission shares paid. Praise God! We are also experiencing another kind of "natural church development" as we welcomed several babies into clergy families.

We celebrate the start of a new Hispanic ministry at Christ UMC in Lawrence, MA and the new facilities for mission and ministry for Milford UMC, Milford, NH and School Street UMC (now Cressey Road UMC) in Gorham, Maine. A new church start is also in process in Portland, Maine.

God's renewing Spirit is alive in Tri-State. May we continue to pray and support one another as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the sake of the world!

Revs. Jan and Mike Davis, Co-District Superintendents