

1 Societies, Institutions & Foundations

2 AFRICA UNIVERSITY

3 *James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*

4 101. In 2019, Africa University's story was one of resourcefulness, steadfast investment and ministry growth.

5 102. Thank you, Bishop Thomas Bickerton, the Cabinet and the committed lay and clergy leaders who nurture
6 vitality in the local congregations of the New York Conference for all that you do to affirm the United
7 Methodist connection and global mission. The New York Conference graciously maintained its investment
8 in the Africa University Fund apportionment at 100 percent of the asking in 2019. Thank you, New York
9 United Methodists, for giving sacrificially to resource ministry at the general church level.

10 103. The leadership and generosity of the New York Conference enable Africa University to educate and equip
11 leaders who think for themselves, are contextually relevant and have a passion to serve. Since opening in
12 1992, Africa University has trained more than 9,000 graduates who lead and serve across sub-Saharan
13 Africa and beyond. These young people are responsible and responsive leaders who offer the best of
14 themselves in serving the needs of their communities.

15 104. **Institutional Update:**

- 16 • Africa University has an annual student population of around 2,800, with 25-30 African nations
17 represented in the student body each year.
- 18 • The university's three colleges operate as centers for teaching, research, innovation, community
19 engagement. Learning and the testing of ideas impart crucial skills that help communities to feed
20 themselves, remain healthy, be at peace and move steadily towards a sustainable future. Africa
21 University leads as the only university in Zimbabwe currently accredited to offer online degree
22 programs.
- 23 • Students, faculty and alumni contribute ground-breaking solutions to Africa's current challenges.
24 These include graduate programs in migrant and refugee protection, articulated by refugee
25 students, as well as doctoral level training for military chaplains in Africa.
- 26 • The university is increasing its use of solar power with the support of the General Board of Global
27 Ministries of The United Methodist Church. A residence hall for women and a new wing of the
28 student union building—gifted to the university by the Dallas, Texas-based Highland Park United
29 Methodist Church—will be the first solar-powered facilities on the campus.

30 105. Africa University affirms its commitment to The United Methodist Church, its Cross and Flame, and the
31 denomination's global mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

32 106. Through its faithfulness, the New York Conference invites and encourages new people to join in the
33 mission and change the world. Thank you, New York United Methodists, for engaging faithfully and
34 sharing the love of God through your prayers, gifts and service.

35 107. Thanks to your stewardship of God's blessings, Africa University has gone beyond what some thought was
36 possible. "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Luke 18:27 NKJV

37 BLACK COLLEGE FUND

38 *Veronica Fulmore-Darby, Chair*

39 101. The Black College Fund (BCF) supports the 11 historically black colleges and universities related to the
40 United Methodist Church. Since 1972, the Black College Fund has been an apportioned fund of the

1 Church. The objective of “BCF” is to marshal financial support for the programs and ministries of the
2 HBCU’s related to the United Methodist Church.

3 102. Regular and consistent funding support is essential in continuing these colleges important work. Most of
4 these member institutions are well into their second century of service. They still need the continuing
5 institutional support of this Church connection to continue their work of opening doors and extending
6 opportunities to deserving student.

7 103. The historically Black Colleges and Universities, today have increasing enrollment of Asian, Hispanic, white
8 and international students. Several religious denominations, support private HBCUs, however, the United
9 Methodist Church supports the largest number of fully accredited HBCUs in the United States.

10 104. The eleven United Methodist Historically Black Colleges and Universities are:

- 11 • Bennett College for Women Bethune-Cookman College Claflin University
12 Greensboro, NC Daytona Beach, FL Orangeburg, SC
- 13 • Clark Atlanta University Dillard University Huston-Tillotson
14 Atlanta, GA New Orleans, LA Austin, TX
- 15 • Meharry Medical College Paine College Philander-Smith College
16 Nashville, TN Augusta, GA Little Rock, AR
- 17 • Rust College Wiley College
18 Holly Springs, MS Marshall, TX

19 105. We presented to the New York Annual Conference a 2019 Lina H. McCord Ambassador, Mr. Christian
20 Menzi. He is a proud April 2019 graduate from Rust College of Holly Springs, MS with a Bachelor of
21 Science degree in Business Administration and is a native of Zimbabwe. While at Rust College, he served
22 as the 2018-2019 Student Government Association Vice-President. He plans to pursue a Masters Degree
23 in Business Administration in the fall of 2020. An offering of \$6,433 was collected.

24 **BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

25 ***Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean***

26 101. I am grateful to have one last opportunity to thank you for your moral, prayerful, and material support of
27 the Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH), and also to highlight the promising future of the School
28 as a new Dean joins our stellar faculty, staff, and students in summer 2020 to carry on the mission of the
29 School in partnership with all of you.

30 102. BREAKING NEWS:

31 103. Students: We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating opportunities for
32 in-depth exchanges and a rich community life.

33 104. Faculty: We welcomed two faculty this year: Filipe Maia as Assistant Professor of Theology, and Luis
34 Menéndez-Antuña as Assistant Professor of New Testament. Both are extraordinary teachers who delight
35 in working with students.

36 105. Scholarships: We continue to offer free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and to
37 build student scholarships and housing as key priorities. BUSTH also offers leadership fellowships to
38 support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies: Raíces Latinas, Sacred Worth, Howard Thurman,
39 Indigenous Studies, Korean Studies, Women in Leadership, and African Studies.

40 106. Two new Programs: Faith and Ecological Justice (FEJ) and Raíces Latinas Program in Theology, Leadership,
41 and Research (RL). FEJ leads programs to build ecological awareness, theological research, church

- 1 collaborations, and community activism in ecological justice. RL sponsors programs to expand Latin
2 American and Latinx theological study and research, and to enhance the leadership of students, young
3 people, and leaders in Latino/Latina communities.
- 4 107. Online Lifelong Learning: We have launched an exciting new program, offering online mini-courses,
5 workshops, and reading groups for professional and spiritual enrichment.
- 6 108. Theology and the Arts Initiatives: Exhibits highlight sacred spaces in Boston; wilderness photography; a
7 1619 visual lament of 400+ years of slavery; voices and faces of Colombia; and paintings of a gay man
8 struggling with the church.
- 9 109. Campaign: Our BUSTH development campaign concluded with the raising of \$29.4 million to support
10 students, faculty, and vital programs.
- 11 110. Website and Viewbook: Check out our new BUSTH website (www.bu.edu/sth) and Viewbook.
- 12 111. PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION:
- 13 112. Creative Callings: In partnership with local churches, we seek to create “a culture of call.”
- 14 113. Engagement with the UMC: Many of our students are delegates, volunteers, and singers in General
15 Conference 2020.
- 16 114. Continuing Scholar Program: BUSTH courses are open to alums and local clergy for small lifelong learning
17 fees.
- 18 115. Doctor of Ministry: The DMin in Transformational Leadership flourishes with lively student cohorts that
19 are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and
20 faculty mentoring.
- 21 116. Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic: The Clinic provides internships in local churches and
22 organizations that foster just peacebuilding.
- 23 117. Travel seminars: Immersion journeys open worlds to students in the borderlands of Arizona and Mexico,
24 Cuba, Peru, Israel-Palestine, Civil Rights landmarks, and centers for ecological-spiritual renewal.
- 25 118. Ecumenical partnerships: We now have four denominational Communities of Learning:
26 Wesleyan/Methodist, Episcopal/Anglican, United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalist.
- 27 119. Partnership with Hebrew College: Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint
28 courses and public events, and also co-sponsor *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* and the *State*
29 *Formation* for emerging leaders.
- 30 120. TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:
- 31 121. Campus action: Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School
32 in BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative. We have also been named as one of the “Seminaries
33 that Change the World.”
- 34 122. Internships in global service and peacemaking: Students participate in apprenticeship ministries across the
35 world.
- 36 123. COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:

- 1 124. Faculty and students have been active in UMCOR efforts to support victims of hurricanes and fires, and in
2 collaborative services to support people suffering the consequences of immigration practices, disability
3 inequities, or racial violence.
- 4 125. In Town Hall meetings, the community has deep conversations on issues that divide, seeking to develop
5 capacities for relating across difference and to create a community based on the dignity of all.
- 6 126. BUSTH looks to the future. We celebrate transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church, who
7 love with their whole hearts and follow Jesus Christ with their whole lives. Your legacy and witness give us
8 hope and courage for the future.

9 **CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

10 ***Jan Love, Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity*** 11 ***and World Politics Candler School of Theology***

- 12 101. Since our founding in 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated more than
13 10,000 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders who are dedicated to
14 transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.
- 15 102. This is especially important to note amid the current shifts in our denomination. It is an honor and a
16 privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the
17 Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan
18 family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ
19 Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and
20 prayed alongside United Methodists, and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This
21 diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward, we will continue to invite and
22 welcome those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all
23 those who follow Jesus Christ.
- 24 103. This year, Candler has continued to strengthen our deep commitment to alleviating student debt and
25 promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded \$6.3 million in financial aid, with 100 percent of
26 master of divinity (MDiv) students receiving support and financial coaching. In fall 2019, we announced a
27 major expansion of our financial aid program to include full-tuition scholarships for all MDiv students who
28 are certified candidates for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, and new merit scholarships
29 covering 75% of tuition for qualifying MDiv students who identify as pan-Wesleyan, and those pursuing
30 chaplaincy through Candler's new chaplaincy concentration. In addition, all incoming students in the
31 master of divinity, master of theological studies, and master of religious leadership programs will receive
32 awards covering at least 50% of tuition.
- 33 104. This year also saw the launch of two pilot "formation communities," off-campus student housing that
34 focuses on intentional living and spiritual formation. Students from multiple degree programs applied to
35 take part in these pilot groups. At the start of the year, the housemates created a "rule of life" to guide
36 their days together, emphasizing prayer, fellowship, and celebration. A house chaplain—a Candler faculty
37 member or church leader—supports them and shares in the journey. The ten students who took part this
38 year describe feeling a richer sense of community and deeper connections to God and one another in the
39 midst of their busy lives. It is clear that this fulfills a need for our seminarians, and we eagerly anticipate
40 the program's growth in the coming years.
- 41 105. Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an
42 enrollment of 470 from 12 countries and 38 states, with 40 percent people of color (U.S.) and a median

1 age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 42 denominations, with 45% of all students and 50% of MDivs
2 coming from the Methodist family.

3 106. We offer six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international
4 development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so
5 students can remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees.

6 107. Candler draws strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability
7 to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the
8 world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you
9 advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us in person or online at
10 candler.emory.edu.

11 **DUKE UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL**

12 ***Dean L. Gregory Jones, Dean of the Divinity School***

13 101. Dean L. Gregory Jones, Dean of the Divinity School and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished
14 Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, had his term as dean extended for a full five years through
15 2023.

16 102. The Duke Endowment awarded Duke Divinity School a \$12 million grant in support of DDS's three core
17 priorities and traditions: Thriving communities enlivened by healthy congregations and gifted pastors,
18 embodied wisdom through rigorous intellectual vitality, and creative institutions that inspire imaginative
19 and transformative leadership including the Thriving Communities Fellowship program, which will provide
20 52 new full-tuition scholarships over the next four years.

21 103. Duke Divinity School launched the Duke Divinity: Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration which will draw
22 on original research in Black church traditions and historical examples of effective Black church leadership
23 to train and build networks of effective leaders for the Black church. The collaboration will be led by the
24 Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, research professor of theology and Black church studies and director of the
25 Office of Black Church Studies.

26 104. In 2019, Duke Divinity School welcomed 215 new students from 33 different states and seven other
27 countries, including Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Zimbabwe. The
28 Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) and Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.) degree programs
29 received record enrollments of 35 students and 22 students respectively. The Master of Theology (Th.M.,
30 14 students), Doctor of Ministry (D.Min., 20 students), and Doctor of Theology (Th.D., 4 students) all had
31 strong enrollment. The D.Min. program was named the top online program by TheBestSchools.org. DDS's
32 new Certificate in Theology and Health Care will enroll 8 students, all of whom are fellows with the
33 Theology, Medicine, and Culture (T.M.C.) Initiative. The M.T.S. program also includes 8 students who are
34 T.M.C. fellows, for a record year of 16 total fellows. The M.Div. degree program gained 110 new students,
35 with minority students comprising more than 32 percent of the incoming M.Div. class, and Black students
36 comprising 18 percent of the incoming M.Div. class. Female students made up 44 percent of incoming
37 M.Div. students, while males were 56 percent.

38 105. Two new faculty members, Brent Strawn and Brett McCarty, joined the DDS faculty in July 2019. Strawn,
39 Professor of Old Testament, is an ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference. Strawn has a secondary
40 appointment as a Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law. Prior to joining the Duke faculty,
41 Strawn taught at Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

- 1 106. McCarty, Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics, is a theological ethicist whose work centers
2 on questions of faithful action within health care. He is associate director of the Theology, Medicine, and
3 Culture Initiative, and he holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine's Department of Population
4 Health Sciences.
- 5 107. Randy Maddox, William Kellon Quick Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, general editor of the
6 Wesley Works Editorial Project, and elder in the Dakotas Conference, retires at the end of the 2019-2020
7 academic year.
- 8 108. United Methodist faculty member Brittany Wilson received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate
9 Professor.
- 10 109. Tito Madrazo joined the administrative leadership of the Divinity School as Senior Strategist for the
11 Hispanic House of Studies and a consulting faculty member.
- 12 110. The Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative is currently in its fifth year of providing high quality theological
13 education to current and aspiring Hispanic-Latino/a ministers. 21 students from multiple denominations
14 are taking courses this year.
- 15 111. The Duke Endowment has also awarded Duke Divinity School a grant of \$5.5 million over five years to
16 cultivate meaning and purpose across diverse professional schools at Duke. The Lilly Endowment has also
17 awarded grants to Duke Divinity School to coordinate initiatives on "Thriving in Ministry" and "Thriving
18 Congregations" across the United States.
- 19 112. Duke Divinity School has a partnership with Huntingdon College and Virginia Wesleyan University to create
20 streamlined admissions process in order to better equip students from those institutions with a calling to
21 serve the church. In an effort to expand access for quality theological formation to students, pastors, and
22 lay leaders in the Nashville Episcopal Area, DDS is partnering with the Turner Center at Martin Methodist
23 College to offer theological training for innovative and entrepreneurial ministries.

24 **UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, DAYTON, OHIO**

25 ***Dr. Kent Millard, President***

- 26 101. For nearly 150 years, United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, has been preparing faithful, fruitful
27 leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- 28 102. **Students:** In the Fall 2019 semester, United equipped **459** women and men for leadership in the Church,
29 including **272 masters' students** and **187 doctoral students**. An ecumenical community of many
30 denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from **11 countries, 42 states, and 37**
31 **denominations**, with the student body comprised of **49% African American, 42% Caucasian, and 10%**
32 **ethnic/racial minorities**.ⁱ The Seminary prepared **165 Course of Study students** and served **36 students**
33 through the Hispanic Christian Academy, a 3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for
34 Hispanic/Latino lay pastors and leaders.ⁱⁱ Altogether, approximately 660 students followed God's call
35 through United Theological Seminary.
- 36 103. **Alumni/ae:** United graduates are making an impact in their communities as they spread the Good News.
37
 - **88%** of alumni/ae are currently employed in or retired from ministryⁱⁱⁱ
 - **70%** serve in local parishes^{iv}
 - **Rev. Dr. Brad Kalajainen** (DMin '99) received the 2019 Effective Ministry Award for his transformative
39 leadership of Cornerstone UMC in Grand Rapids, MI.

- 1 • **Rev. Dr. James Bushfield** (MDiv '79, DMin '92) received the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award for his
2 leadership and ministry in the Indiana Conference of The UMC.
- 3 • **Rev. Dr. Sandra Coley** (DMin '14) received the Outstanding Doctor of Ministry Award for her advocacy
4 of organ donation among African American communities.
- 5 104. **New at United:** United introduced a 36-hour **Master of Arts (MA)** degree, designed for those who wish to
6 earn a degree while completing the requirements for **Advanced Course of Study** in pursuit of ordination in
7 The United Methodist Church. The MA program is available fully online, on-campus or in a combination.
- 8 105. United continues to offer innovative learning through its **Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE)**
9 **environment** introduced in 2018. In the first year, 59 students participated in LIVE courses, connecting
10 with classmates on campus in Dayton, OH, and across the country by attending classes in real-time via
11 simultaneous webcast.
- 12 106. **Becoming Debt-Free:** United remains committed to becoming debt-free by the seminary's 150th
13 anniversary on October 11, 2021. Thanks to the support of generous donors, United has received more
14 than \$2.5 million toward its goal of raising \$4 million to "burn the mortgage." Becoming debt-free as an
15 institution will enable United to focus on generating income for scholarships that lighten the load of
16 student debt for seminarians.
- 17 107. In Romans 10:14, St. Paul writes: "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how
18 shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A
19 PREACHER?" For 150 years, United has been preparing faithful and fruitful Christian preachers and leaders
20 who proclaim the Good News of God's unconditional love which has come to us in Jesus Christ. Thanks be
21 to God!

22 ¹ Data represents Fall 2019 headcount enrollment, unless otherwise specified.

23 ¹ Data represents unduplicated headcount enrollment in the 2018-19 academic year.

24 ¹ United Theological Seminary 2019 Alumni/ae Survey, sent in April 2019 to alumni/ae who graduated with a degree or certificate from
25 United in years ranging from the 1940s to 2018, for whom the seminary had email contact information. Data collected represents a 25%
26 response rate (520 respondents) of the 2,043 alumni/ae contacted.

27 ¹ Or if retired, were serving in this capacity at time of retirement. United Theological Seminary 2019 Alumni/ae Survey.

28 **RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRIES**

29 **Rev. Richard Witt, Director**

- 30 101. We give great thanks for your support and prayers throughout this year. It has been a year of mixed
31 blessings. One of the blessings has been your partnership. Thank you. Here are some highlights of our
32 efforts this year of Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc.
- 33 102. **Responding to the Pandemic.** Through our Centers and rural network, we were positioned to:
- 34 103. Deliver over 10,000 masks across the State. Each mask has been packaged with information about
35 worker's health, rights and contact info. We continue to collect and distribute masks.
- 36 104. Raise over \$100,000 in foundation support for emergency relief which was distributed to farmworker
37 families.
- 38 105. Provide food, access to legal and health services, and mental and pastoral support for hundreds of
39 workers, as well as link workers and their families to other support services throughout the State.

- 1 106. Design and create informational flyers as well as develop several educational videos about the coronavirus
2 and worker rights and shared them across the State, in different languages, and on various media
3 platforms.
- 4 107. Provide Chrome Books to isolated families without computers
- 5 108. Participate in, and facilitate 'Town Halls' to get necessary legal and medical information to families.
- 6 109. Create regular phone 'Chat' groups for workers across the State to stay connected, and get information
7 they need in their own language.
- 8 110. Create an English, Spanish & French language Facebook group for the workers, and provide a platform for
9 them to ask questions and get necessary information.
- 10 **111. Social Transformation**
- 11 112. Through advocacy, we joined others in pushing the State government to recognize the humanity of
12 farmworkers as they were excluded from federal stimulus funds, suffered from a lack of safety protocols
13 within the farms and camps and struggled from exclusion from schools and safety information due to a
14 lack of computers and access to internet.
- 15 113. We also hosted caravans across the state involving over three hundred cars, thanking farmworkers for
16 their hard work in order to feed us during the Pandemic.
- 17 114. Worked hard to educate and sign up families to participate in the Census.
- 18 115. Joined with several prominent unions to begin implementing the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act, by
19 sustained outreach to farmworkers to tell them of their rights under the new law. We also informed
20 families of their rights to driver's licenses, the NY Dream Act, and DACA.
- 21 **116. Responding to the Legacy of Enslavement**
- 22 117. RMM joined with the Reparations Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York to welcome over two
23 hundred participants as we co-hosted *Knee on My Neck*, a five-week virtual retreat
- 24 118. Members of our Youth Groups also hosted a virtual presentation, *Unchained: A Panel Discussion on Racial*
25 *Injustices*. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=283955369706722>
- 26 119. Members of RMM's Youth Arts Group planned and led a march in Newburgh as a part of the Black Lives
27 Matter movement.
- 28 120. The Board of RMM has put together a Task Force to carry out a racial audit of RMM's own internal
29 practices and structures.
- 30 **121. Education**
- 31 122. RMM launched the Rural Academy of the People, a popular education program taking place throughout
32 our Centers for both grass roots people and for those who seek to be allies for rural justice.
- 33 123. Spoke and preached at numerous congregations, universities and labor locals - first in person and then
34 virtually.
- 35 124. Reached out to media to raise awareness of the plight of farmworkers, which resulted in numerous
36 articles, as well as pieces on ABC News, Univision and an editorial in the NY Daily News.
- 37 125. Hosted three Rural Women Assemblies.

- 1 126. Offered regular ESL-Literacy, Citizenship and Leadership Development classes
- 2 127. Trained a cohort of college interns.
- 3 128. We are now developing a sewing cooperative in Sullivan County.
- 4 129. **Youth Empowerment** Continued our high school Youth Leadership groups virtually, and celebrated the
- 5 graduation of all of our seniors
- 6 130. Initiated a new Kids for College program, helping isolated rural youth with the college application process
- 7 131. Offered two Summer Institutes for youth: College Preparation (five weeks) and *Keep Your Eyes on the*
- 8 *Prize*, an eight-week Institute for young people working for change.
- 9 132. The highlight of the Summer was again offering our Summer Leadership Camp - though this year it was
- 10 virtual – we still had a campfire! We were able to distribute lap-tops to our campers, and were joined by a
- 11 host of artists-in-residence.
- 12 133. This October, we are pleased to be moving to our new home in Cornwall on the Hudson. We are looking
- 13 forward to inviting you to an open house as we celebrate RMM's 40th Anniversary and Richard Witt's
- 14 Thirtieth Anniversary with RMM.

15 **THE UNITED METHODIST FRONTIER FOUNDATION, INC.**

16 ***Ellen Knudsen, President and Executive Director***

- 17 101. United Methodists are generous. They love their church. They know that all they have comes from God.
- 18 They want to support the ministries of their church now and in the future. United Methodists have made
- 19 generous gifts to their church in the past that are still supporting the current ministry. Since 2005, the
- 20 United Methodist Frontier Foundation has been helping United Methodist Churches structure investments
- 21 that will provide income into the future.
- 22 102. The United Methodist Frontier Foundation (the Foundation) actively supports and sustains local churches
- 23 and the annual conference by providing financial tools, stewardship strategies and investment
- 24 management services. Our reach is broad – we service churches large and small throughout the New York
- 25 and Upper New York Annual Conferences – but our service is focused on the unique circumstances of each
- 26 of our clients. We provide financial acumen from a distinctly United Methodist perspective, such as
- 27 investment products screened to be socially responsible, as defined by The Book of Discipline, stewardship
- 28 services that have a basis in scripture, and personal attention to setting distributions and meeting capital
- 29 needs.
- 30 103. *Our investment management fees are reinvested to provide financial education and services to churches,*
- 31 *pastors, and religious institutions.*
- 32 104. **Donor Designated Funds:** More than \$3.5 million in donor designated funds are held by the Foundation to
- 33 benefit churches and other ministries. These are funds that have been given to the Foundation by donors
- 34 who want their gifts to support churches into perpetuity. Legacy gifts, given through careful planning, can
- 35 sustain the financial needs of churches. The Foundation holds these funds in trust and makes distributions
- 36 in a way that sustains the trust account into the future. More than \$55,000 was distributed to churches
- 37 and church organizations. This service is available to individuals who want to make a meaningful impact on
- 38 the future of their church. Churches may call on the Foundation for assistance in planning and managing
- 39 legacy gifts.

- 1 **105. Fiduciary Responsibility:** Trustees and finance leaders in the church have fiduciary responsibilities to
2 invest funds prudently for God’s work. The Foundation also has fiduciary responsibilities to the churches
3 and organizations who invest in our funds. Our board of directors meets twice each year with our
4 investment managers for a portfolio update. Our investment committee is comprised of investment
5 professionals who are also United Methodist. They apply the social principles of The United Methodist
6 Church. Our funds have been well-vetted to ensure a responsible balance of expected rates of return and
7 investment risk.
- 8 106. The Frontier Foundation understands the financial challenges of local United Methodist congregations. We
9 understand how church finances work and share best practices along with models that have worked in
10 other churches. Our field representatives can review church portfolios and explain asset allocations that
11 will serve the financial needs of the church. Churches received more than \$195,000 in regular distributions
12 from their accounts they have invested with the Foundation.
- 13 107. *Our investment management fees are reinvested to provide financial education and services to churches.*
- 14 108. **Legacy and Planned Giving:** Setting up an Endowment Program to receive legacy gifts can be a first step
15 for talking with members about remembering the church through planned gifts and bequests. When a
16 church has a clear policy for how endowment gifts will be managed and used for the benefit of God’s
17 work, donors will have a level of comfort in making large gifts to their church.
- 18 109. Imagine creating a fund that would generate your annual pledge into perpetuity. Planned gifts today
19 reflect your relationship with God and your faith in the future.
- 20 110. **Intergenerational Continuity:** Our relationships with churches are not with one person. We regularly meet
21 with Trustees and Finance Committees and any interested members who want to know more about how
22 the churches’ funds are invested. When there are changes in church leadership, the relationship with your
23 investment organization does not need to change. The Foundation has already established relationships
24 within your church and with your pastor.
- 25 111. **Investments:** The funds offered through the Foundation have been developed by our investment
26 managers, John G. Ullman and Associates, to comply with the Social Principles of The United Methodist
27 Church. The funds are: the Bond Fund, the Balanced Income Fund, the Growth and Income Fund and the
28 Diversified Equity Fund. All investments are screened using the Wespath Investment Management ethical
29 exclusions guidelines. The Foundation has also established a relationship with Wespath for the investment
30 of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration Reserve fund and Parish Development funds. At
31 the end of June 2020, the Foundation had \$40 million under management.
- 32 112. **Market overview:** The twelve months ending June 30, 2020 witnessed high stock and bond market
33 volatility as many economies across the world moved from full employment growth with price stability to
34 pandemic-driven drops in economic growth and employment coupled with burgeoning government
35 deficits. In the US, the S&P 500 stock price index reached a high level of 3386 on February 19, 2020 and a
36 low level of 2305 on March 20, 2020 –a price drop of 32% in a month. Ten-year US treasury bond yields
37 plummeted from a high of 2.65% on February 18, 2020 to 0.69% on June 30, 2020.
- 38 113. As of the end of June 2020, stock market volatility has calmed somewhat. The US market as measured by
39 the S&P 500 stock price index is up 4% over a year ago (6%, including dividends); markets in Europe as
40 measured by the MSCI Europe Index are down 6.5%; stock markets in the Pacific region as measured by
41 MSCI Pacific index are down just under 2% for the year; and Emerging Markets are down just under 3%.
42 US treasury bond prices continue to rise as yields decline. Price gains are near 9% since a year ago,
43 despite concerns about fiscal deficits.

- 1 114. Foundation accounts reflect these market conditions. Our investment advisor repositioned holdings in the
2 stock funds to reflect new realities in our economy and reduced the cash in the portfolios. Investments in
3 fixed income securities reflect concerns that government yields will likely rise as the world recovers from
4 the pandemic and fiscal tightening occurs.
- 5 115. **Stewardship:** Stewardship guides the work of the Foundation. We are all stewards of the gifts that God
6 has given to us. Our stewardship programs help churches increase annual giving. We encourage members
7 to listen to what God is calling them to return to the church for God’s work. This approach has been
8 successful in helping churches fulfill their mission.
- 9 116. **Grants:** The Foundation’s Board of Directors approved Ministry Grants totaling \$10,000 to be awarded to
10 six churches in the New York Annual Conference. The grants ranged in amounts from \$500 to \$3,000.
11 Ministries selected to receive grant awards are from New Paltz UMC, Great Hill UMC, North Blenheim
12 UMC, Olivebridge UMC, Clinton Avenue UMC in Kingston, NY, and Summerfield UMC in Bridgeport, CT. We
13 are honored to provide funding for vital ministries providing critical services in their communities.
- 14 117. **Financial Training for Clergy:** The Compass leadership program of the Board of Ordained Ministry requires
15 financial training for new clergy and the Frontier Foundation has been providing this training. This year’s
16 training was held in October 2019 at the Stony Point Center in Stony Point, NY. The retreat setting
17 provides opportunities for conversations and sharing experiences. Seminary does not teach our future
18 pastors about personal finances, clergy taxes, pensions and health benefits, stewardship, church
19 budgeting, planned/legacy giving or conference finances and completing the conference statistical tables.
20 These topics are covered during our retreat which continues to receive great reviews from participants.
- 21 118. **Our Church Partners:** We are honored to serve our church partners who have put their faith in the United
22 Methodist Frontier Foundation. I look forward to continuing our journey together.
- 23 119. **NYAC Support:** We continue to be blessed by the support of the staff at the Conference Center who each
24 have an incredible commitment to the churches of the New York Annual Conference. It is a joy to see
25 these colleagues every day.
- 26 120. **Our People!:** Members of our *Board of Directors*, who bring a broad range of expertise and experience,
27 are actively engaged in the mission of the Foundation. They provide strategic direction and advice that
28 undergirds our work. We have aggressive plans for expanding our services to more churches. Please check
29 our website for current performance information and services updates at www.umff.org.
- 30 121. The faces that you see are our trained *Field Service Representatives* led by our coordinator, Joe Andreaana.
31 We continue to bring on new Field Reps to serve an expanding number of churches.
- 32 122. And when you phone the office, you will reach Maureen Palumberi, our *Finance Manager* or me, Ellen
33 Knudsen, *Executive Director*. We support churches, the conference, our field representatives, and our
34 board.
- 35 123. There are not enough words to express my deep gratitude to the Foundation “People” who support me
36 daily. It is a privilege to serve as the President and Executive Director of the United Methodist Frontier
37 Foundation.
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