“Different calls but one with each other.” Rev. David Stough shared from John 15: “I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener.” He continued “While the life of the vine calls and guides us as branches into a wide variety of ministries, all ministries are equally connected to, empowered by, and sustained through the same source: the Savior of our world, Jesus the Christ.” These words shaped the theme of our worship as we celebrated the ministry of those called to a variety of types of ministry in God’s church.

Rev. Doug Posegate recalled a time when a colleague said to him “Please pray for me, as I pray for you.” He also recalled the force with which Bishop Felton May had pulled down forcefully on his stole at ordination, telling him that God wasn’t messing around! He lifted up the role of song in our worship, saying that “Singing puts everyone on a level playing field.” He then shared a song, “Well, Well, Well”; “Well, Well, Well, Who’s That Callin’? Well, well, well, hold my hand. Well, well, well, night is a-fallin’, Spirit is a-movin’ all over this land.”

Pastor Tina Hawkins based her remarks on the joy of baptism that comes from us worshiping together as the sacrament is shared. She admitted to not being able to carry a tune but shared that “When you listen to others singing, you can lift your voice too.”

Pastor Hawkins shared that “We can care for the masses together in a way we could not do alone,” recalling the differences that were put aside by former Methodist and EUB representatives so that the United Methodist Church could be created. There was also a sense of lament as she recalled a time when pews and Sunday school rooms were filled to overflowing, but “we have gotten lost. The world has changed but we have not. We got hung up on our needs and forgot that we are disciples.” She went on to assert that “We may be a dysfunctional family, but dysfunctional families can love.”

After Bishop Park conducted the historic examination of the ordinands, Certified Lay Minister Mrs Patty DeCapria offered a testimony. She recalled the two times in the life of her church that pastors tragically lost sons. She recalled crying out to God, seeking guidance on how to serve in the midst of the crisis. She finally realized that the answers were not in theology, but in community. “We were better together” she recalled. “We are better together because we allow God to make us who we were called to be.”

The body was invited to share in the Wesley Covenant Prayer, reaching across the full spectrum of our calls to ministry. We then recognized and celebrated our 2019 retirees and closed singing “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!”

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park leads the annual conference in celebrating the ministries of the 2019 class of retiring pastors.
What's Up for Today

8 a.m. – Fourth Plenary
We will begin our worshipful work session in a Bible Study with J.C. Park, president of The World Methodist Council.

Our morning will continue with a report of the Bishop’s Partner in Mission, and celebration of the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women.

Clergy appointments will be read and set, and the dates for our next Annual Conference will be announced.

Noon – Lunch

1 p.m. – Ordination Service
This afternoon we will commission four pastors as provisional elders and ordain four pastors into as elders.

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SPECIAL OFFERING
FOR TODAY
Bishop’s Partners in Mission (7090) calls us to Imagine No Malaria and Imagine No More Debt! 100% of the proceeds from this fund go to Imagine No Malaria (the UMC’s global campaign to fight malaria) and paying down the debt of Mission Central so they can focus on their core mission of connecting God’s resources with human need. Bishop Park is inviting individuals, congregations and church groups to join him and be Partners in Mission, committing to $100 or more a year. Whatever you can give helps the lives of those locally and around the world. God is still calling us to imagine great things, he is calling us to Imagine What We Can Do Together!

Service of Commissioning & Ordination

ORDAINED ELDER MEMBERSHIP

Ordained Elders
Left to right:
Joseph Samuel Hopkins, Joshua Stephen Wargo, Stephanie P. Rupert, and Joshua W. Davinsizer

COMMISSIONING/PROVISIONAL ELDER MEMBERSHIP

Commissioning/Provisional Elder Membership
Left to right:
Beth A. Pyles, David R. A. McElwee, David Neal Layser, and Daniel L. Wilt

Drop your tools and equipment at the Disaster Response table outside of the Great American Hall. Your financial support can also be dropped off there or sent directly to the Conference office noting Disaster Response Ministry Advance #8055.

Connect with us:
Facebook @SUSDisasterResponse
Twitter @UMCDisasterResp
Website - www.susmb.org

LIVE Streaming Archive
Available via susumc.org

Saturday, June 1, 2019
8 a.m. – Plenary Four
1 p.m. – Ordination Service
By Skip Spangler
Susquehanna Daily LINK Editor

For over two hundred and forty years, the finish to a United Methodist Annual Conference has included the reading of clergy appointments. It all began in the day when United Methodist priests would travel from settled towns and frontier circuits and gather for conference. They would learn who had died, and who was fit to serve a circuit of churches that might require miles of travel on horseback. They would also ask over questions of faith, connectional life, and mission. They shared their challenges and celebrated the ways God had prospered the churches. Their bishop organized the work, assigned each pastor to a charge, and sent them off each in a new year of mission.

We still keep that cadence. These days the work of setting appointments is done over many months. Charges are re-organized, and changes of appointment are announced before the annual conference gathers. Instead of horses, automobiles and moving vans carry pastors to a new location for mission. We are connected digitally, but a bishop still closes annual conference by sending clergy and lay members into a ministry of mission in an appointed location.

The church has always kept that cadence. Jesus called his first disciples, who left their nets to become fishers of souls. Peter ate breakfast with Jesus after Easter, and Christ sent him out to “feed my sheep.” (John 21:17) Saul met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. Three days later, Saul was told that Christ was appointing “to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.” (Acts 9:15) When the increasingly diverse church in Antioch needed a leader to equip its mission, Barnabas brought in Saul, also known as Paul. When it came time for Paul to move on, the Holy Spirit said: “Set apart for me Barnabas and Paul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2)

Now, as then, we gather to be sent. Elections were held to send clergy and lay to general and jurisdictional conferences. As recommendations were approved and ministries were celebrated, we were invited to consider new ways to be with Christ in your community. Perhaps you began a conversation focusing on the essential elements of vital ministry, or a visit to one of the many tables located around the halls of the conference has been a growing, equipping, or growing moment.

In one way or another, the Holy Spirit has you set apart for a new ministry. You are about to accept the work Jesus Christ has called you to do. If you have heard that call, live that call as go to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Conference Acts on Resolutions

By Rev. Bethany Wood and Rev. Skip Spangler

The Susquehanna Annual Conference acted resolutions focusing on Mental Health, Disability Awareness, and Socially Responsible Investments. The annual conference adopted a resolution calling on Susquehanna Annual Conference to observe Mental Health Awareness Month and receive a special offering on the third Sunday in May to benefit the ongoing efforts of educating members and the public, helping someone in need, and encouraging the resources necessary for early detection and appropriate treatment. The resolution also called churches to recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month through involvement in community and/or local and state activities, and set aside Tuesday, October 8 as a day of prayer for those who suffer from mental problems, their families, and those professionals who care for them and for a cure for all mental illnesses.

The annual conference also adopted a resolution calling the churches of the Susquehanna Annual to celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday on the second Sunday by promoting awareness about issues related to disabilities. The resolution also called on churches to provide space for a space for people with disabilities to participate in worship leadership and receive an offering for Advance Special #3021054 to benefit the ongoing efforts of disabilities ministries throughout the global United Methodist connection.

In a close vote following considerable discussion, the annual conference failed to adopt a resolution calling for the General Agencies of the United Methodist Church and its affiliated ministries to make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, governments, or funds with policies and practices that are socially responsible, and consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles. Much of the opposition focused on a provision encouraging church affiliates to not hold sovereign or government debt in states conducting prolonged military occupations.

Report: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

By Rev. Rebecca L. Holland

On the morning of Friday, May 31, 2019, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits report was presented by Michelle Bodle, the chair of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, and Jason Mackey, acting benefits administrator.

Working Hard to Serve the Susquehanna Conference

Michelle Bodle stated that the Board of Pensions was hard at work during this past year. The board expanded health care elections available to conference clergy to include six medical plans, three vision plans, and three dental plans. These same options will be continued in the coming year.

Two people were added to the retirement list listed in the workbook on page twenty-two under Recommendation Two. Jason Mackey stated that one of these names was added during clergy session on Thursday morning. Retirees are not actively retiring as of July 1, 2019 unless otherwise noted.

The recommendation then went before the body for a vote. There was no further correction and no discussion. The report was approved

Wespath Continues to Support the Susquehanna Conference

After the report was approved, Terry Shoemaker, the conference liaison for Wespath and benefits, stood to speak. She stated that Wespath is here to support the conference. According to Shoemaker, Wespath has supported the Methodist Church for about 100 years. She assured the body that Wespath will continue to support the conference, “well into the future.” She stated that Wespath is, “working to make sure that we can assuage some anxieties,” regarding the future. She encouraged the body to visit Wespath’s website (wespath.org), where there is a comprehensive list of answers to frequently asked questions. This list of questions and answers is updated on a regular basis. She stated that those with questions can also submit a question to Wespath through the website.

At the conclusion of the report, the body showed their appreciation for the work of Wespath through applause. Members of the board of Board were invited to stand. Appreciation for the work of the conference and Wespath and Health benefits was shown through applause.
To begin the 2019 Executive Session of Annual Conference, Rev. Tim Baer quipped: “We could probably save a little bit of time if we approve the report of the Council on Finance and Administrative right now.” With a joyful attitude, Baer encouraged the conference body to “bless others in order to be a blessing!” He cited evidences of God moving in the 1,100 campers already signed up for 2019 camps in the Susquehanna Conference. Churches that, though they had been floundering, now have hope and new purpose, and numerous other examples of the Godly momentum that the Conference financial plan makes possible.

The last few months, admitted Baer, have been challenging in the finance office. The “bad news” has included the unexpected and unsolicited resignations of finance office staff, un-timely financial journaling, and a resulting inability to generate timely reports. Yet Baer cited much “good news.” Accounts receivable, payable, and payroll are all working. Likewise, many persons have stepped in to help in the time of transition. Joni Way, a retired treasurer from the Kentucky Annual Conference, has been serving as interim treasurer. The time and energy of Joni and many, many others, have kept the finance office moving.

Baer indicated that conference has narrowed its nation-wide search for a new treasurer from 21, to 15, to 5, and searches for benefits officer and controller are also underway.

Benevolent Goals

Baer indicated that the Benevolent Goals and special offerings for 2020 remained unchanged from years past. Dates were simply updated to reflect the 2020 calendar. The conference body voted to approve pages 28, line 9 through 29, line 2 of the CFA report with no discussion or clarifications.

General Policies

Baer placed before the conference body the general policies for CFA. He noted all of these policies had been in place previously as a result of Annual Conference action. This portion of the report simply compiled three conference’s worth of adopted resolutions and reports. The conference body voted approval of the recommendations listed on page 29, line 4 through page 30.

Celebrations

As a note of celebration, Baer recognized the work of Seedling Financial Ministry under the direction of executive director Lauren Hokamp, Jeff Bingaman, and Christine Sims. Under its various names and permutations, Seedling Financial Ministries celebrates 100 years of ministry this year. By video report, Seedling detailed its mission and work. They seek to connect investors and borrows to seed churches with funding to grow. Seedling’s constituents include churches and individuals within the conference who invest and pay their loans. The ministry originated in 1916 to assist churches secure loans for repair and property purchase. In 1969, the then Lending Fund made investments available to purchase, and in the 1980s the name Loan Fund was adopted. Now in 2019, the Loan Fund has rebranded to Seedling Financial Ministry. In their own words, “You are borrowing from and investing in something you can believe in.”

Special Recognitions

Baer presented the conference with a banner indicated that the Susquehanna Conference paid 100% of its portion to Africa University in 2018. Likewise, Baer presented Bishop Park with a plaque indicating 100% paid general church apportionments by the Susquehanna Conference in 2018. The bishop shared that he receives this plaque “with an amazing sense of my appreciation of who you are as God’s people…When our church has been in a difficult time, you have been so faithful.”

Before the body voted for the acceptance of the entire CFA report, a question was raised over whether the entire Audit Report would be made available to the body. Baer indicated that the full report was available for any interested parties. He also stated he would ask about generating PDF documents for the Audit Report and the certification letters.
Report: UMSF Considers Merger with Western PA

By Rev. Rebecca L. Holland

On the morning of Friday, May 31, 2019 Rev. S. David Simon, president of the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation, and Rev. Nicholas Keeney, vice-president of UMSF, presented the report of the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation. After Simon greeted the body, he stated that the executive director of UMSF, Rev. Phyllis Bowers, could not be at annual conference, "due to medical and health reasons." The report was presented in her absence.

Rev. Ed Bailey, executive director of the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania, was also present.

Exploring "Common Bonds" & Expanding Bylaws

Simon expressed gratitude on behalf of the foundation for the Susquehanna Conference’s continued supportive prayers. Keeney then read three resolutions regarding UMSF. He emphasized that all the proposed resolutions and amendments had previously been approved by the board of directors.

The first resolution presented by Keeney can be found on page thirty-six of the conference workbook. Resolution 12A is a proposed amendment to the bylaws of UMSF. According to Keeney, the intent of this resolution is to broaden the language of the bylaws in order to prepare for “what may be coming forth for us as a denomination.” As such, the proposed change will insert the phrase, “organizations that contain common bonds,” with the United Methodist Church. This would allow UMSF to consider future partnerships with organizations that share such “common bonds.”

The resolution was approved and accepted.

Keeney then invited the body to turn their attention to page thirty-eight of the workbook, where the next two amendments are located. He stated that the intent of this resolution was to amend the articles of incorporation of UMSF. This would, "broaden the scope of those we are able to partner with in ministry." He said that these changes to the articles of incorporation have also been approved by UMSF’s board of directors.

The resolution was placed before the body and approved.

A Deeper Partnership with the UM Foundation of Western PA

Keeney stated that his third piece of business was to inform the annual conference that UMSF has been in discussion with the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. Keeney said that he was pleased to share that both organizations have agreed to explore ways to improve their relationship and deepen their connections with one another.

According to Keeney, the hope is that UMSF and the United Methodist Foundation of Western PA will, “come alongside one another and be better partners as foundations.”

A video clip was then shown to introduce the work of the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. The video used the analogy of teams, “In Western PA, we love our teams. We love our sports teams and local teams.” The body was invited to, “celebrate a team that has been around for almost fifty years, the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania.”

The UM Foundation of Western PA works to help congregations to invest their money in a way that will maximize returns and minimize risk.

After the video, Rev. Ed Bailey, executive director of the UM Foundation of Western PA, took a moment to speak. He said that he was excited to be able to share that, “both foundations have agreed to explore ways that we might leverage our relationship together to explore our future.” He also thanked the body for allowing him to be included in the proceedings of the 2019 Annual Conference.

Resolution number six was distributed on a separate sheet of paper. The intent of this resolution was to give permission for the board of UMSF to pursue a working relationship and operating agreement with the Western Pennsylvania Foundation. Keeney said that this resolution has been approved by UMSF’s board of directors. The resolution was placed before the conference, and it was approved.

A Possible Merger?

After offering a prayer, Simon stated that he had now concluded his one-year term as the president of The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation’s board. He then introduced the new incoming board president, Rev. Miguel Arenas. Finally, Simon moved for the complete adoption of the report. The report was placed before the body. It was approved.

Once the report was approved in its entirety, Bishop Park stood and made the statement that, “When I first heard about the possible merger, I was very excited.” Bishop Park asked for the body to pray, “that this process takes place.” He said that the possible merger between United Methodist Stewardship Foundation and the United Methodist Foundation of Western PA was an example of the church being “better together.”

Did you know that there is a ministry within our Conference that connects investors and borrowers to help equip churches to grow?

We are pleased to introduce a new name for a unique kind of Ministry – the Loan Fund has become Seedling Financial Ministry! The name represents what our ministry does – help investors and borrowers plant the financial seeds to equip churches and their ministries to grow.

Our ministry provides United Methodists a unique opportunity to make funds available in support of our Mission of Making Disciples for Jesus Christ! As we continue to receive more loan requests from growing churches across the Conference, we need to continue to raise the needed funds to meet the growing demand. By investing or repaying your loan (“planting”) your money will allow Seedling Financial to continue to “seed” the needs of congregations throughout the Conference.

We have helped hundreds of churches build sanctuaries for growing congregations, repair church buildings and expand current facilities to provide more community outreach. These ministries that were funded represent changed lives and as an investor or borrower you are our partner in this ministry!

Having Seedling provide loans to churches allows you to have the confidence of knowing your money is working according to your values. It gives meaning to your money and aligns your faith and your finances.

Please contact Seedling if you are interested in learning more about our investments and loans. Together we can connect to fulfill our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Did you know that you could be part of this ministry?

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Contact information:

Lauren Hokay, Executive Director
lhokay@susumc.org (717) 766-5275 ext. 3502

Christine Sims, Investment Specialist
csims@susumc.org (717) 766-5275 ext. 3500

Jeffrey Bingaman, Lending Specialist
jbingaman@susumc.org (717) 766-5275 ext. 3808

www.new.org/seedling

Peace with Justice Sunday - June 16
YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINISTRY

Time is Running Out!

Did you get your Better Together Polo or T-shirt yet? ... There’s still time

Grab a friend and bring them to the Young People’s Ministry Table to get yours. Proceeds from the polo and t-shirt sales will be used to fund Youth scholarships to Annual Conference.

Polo Shirt
- Adult Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large - $24
- Adult 2XL and 3XL - $27

T-Shirt
- Adult Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large - $10
- Adult 2XL and 3XL - $13

Young People’s Ministry

By Rev. Bethany Wood

Forgoing many year-end school activities, 16 young persons took the stage for the Young Peoples Ministry Council Report. Kicked off by Julia Brinselli, the report included testimony by several young people as to their growing faith through their involvement with YPMC.

Madyson Bennett spoke of her mission trips to Henderson Settlement with her youth group – getting into a pronunciation war of the word “Appalachian” with her clergy member father, Randy. Jacob spoke about how involvement in YPMC has helped and influenced his growing leadership skills both in his local congregation and in high school. Hannah Carter, who graduated only on Tuesday, shared how she was a very quiet, shy, and introverted teenager. However, her involvement in Young People’s Ministry Council has helped her blossom into a confident young woman of faith. She went on to relate how Young People’s Ministry Council raises money for Youth Service Fund – to provide grant money on the Youth Service Fund and how youth groups can apply for Youth Service Funds. She reminded the delegates of the various fundraising activity here at Annual Conference designed to benefit the Youth Service Fund.

Lydia Zarefoss spoke about communication in the community of faith. She talked about ways to keep in touch and connected with our teens through the annual conference. Among those are: Facebook (igniteyoungpeople), Instagram (@youngpeopleministry), twitter (@ynoplministry) or email (ypmc@susumc.org)

Finally, a video clip was shown detailing the experience of two of the young people as they travelled to Africa for the Global Young People’s Convocation in 2018, a multi-cultural, multi-national, spirit-filled gathering.

Susquehanna Daily LINK - June 1, 2019
Annual Conference Award Recipients

The Rev. Dr. Maud K. Jensen / Rev. Dr. Karen E. Layman Memorial Scholarship
Rev. Anna Layman Knox, Taylor Johnston - recipient, and Bishop Jeremiah J. Park

Thomas K. Cartwright Scholarship
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Emily Buonocore - recipient, and Rev. Suzanne Elliott

The Earl N. Rowe Memorial Scholarship Award
Bishop Jeremiah J.Park, Pastor Steven Small - recipient, and Rev. Nick Keeney

J. Marlene Atanasoff Spiritual Formation Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Cynthia Willis of Wesley UMC, Bloomsburg - recipient, and Rev. Kathy Harvey Nelson

The Marty Cox Award for Christian Unity
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, United Youth of Lewisburg District - recipient, Mindy Moore, Pastor Daniel Wilt and Pastor Laura Kincaid.

The Howard and Elizabeth Brinton Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Wenda Harman, Shepherd Closet at Trinity UMC, Hummelstown, Harrisburg District - recipient, and Rev. Mark Messner

The Laity Denman Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, George Baird of Trucksville UMC, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District - recipient, and Rev. Marian Hartman

The Bishop D. Frederick Wertz Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Rev. Debbie Heisley-Cato (accepted the award for Dr. Russell Hart - recipient), Chip Edmonds, and Rev. Dr. John Piper

Photos by Stacy Eckert
**2019 Class of Retirees**


*Rev. Robert G. Wood was incorrectly pictured in yesterday’s edition of The Susquehanna Daily LINK. The LINK regrets its error and offers its apologies to Rev. Wood.*

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**Recognizing CLMs, LLPs and COS Grads**

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**Licensed Local Pastors**

**Certified Lay Ministers**

**Course of Study**

*During its Friday session, the annual conference recognized two Certified Lay Ministers, and congratulated six local pastors for completing a six year course of study.*
Black College

By Rev. Ed Preston

Mr. Russell R. Williams, III presented the Black College Fund report. Williams is a Political Science major at Philander Smith College and has a passion for social justice and community development. He has plans to further his education by completing a Master in Public Service and Juris Doctorate degrees.

“Strength” said Williams “can be defined as the capacity of an object or substance to withstand great force or pressure. Power is the ability to do something or act in a particular way. I stand before you today to express something or act in a particular way. I stand before you today to express

United Methodist Children’s Home

By Deb Steransky

A three-strand cord braided together is stronger than a single strand. With that in mind, the United Methodist Home for Children and the Board of Child Care of the United Methodist Church have merged. With a shared history and passion for the welfare of children and families, it just made sense to join together to be better together.

Laurie Anne Spagnola, CEO of the BCC, reported that by joining together each organization’s skills and services will complement each other and have a bigger impact on the communities of the Mid-Atlantic areas. Benefits of the merger have already been realized. On January 1, 2019 the association was awarded the Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) Accreditation.
**Report: Equitable Compensation**

*By Rev. Ed Preston*

Rev. Bill Pipp brought the report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation. Rev. Pipp reported that the Commission is recommending a 3% increase in the minimum salary level for 2020. After a brief discussion, the recommendation was approved.

The Rev. Troy Howell presented a brief report on the conference’s parsonage standards. The Commission has been examining the current standards, with an eye to the concern that they are too “checklist-heavy” and are in fact impeding local church progress in keeping parsonages properly maintained. Over the coming year, new standards will be written with the aim of making them more realistic for local churches to meet. The Commission is proposing that clergy/clergy family accessibility issues be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

**Advance Specials**

*By Rev. Bethany Wood*

Rev. Mark Messner, Chairperson of the Missional Board, presented the resolution on Advance Specials. These encompass projects both conference and district wide. The Missional Board is the connection part of the process whereby various mission endeavors are reached out to. They also have an educational component to the Board.

One Matters

*By Rev. Bethany Wood*

State College District Superintendent Rev. Lori Steffenson presented the One Matters Award to the Laurel Run United Methodist Church located in Clinton County. This is an award given by the General Church in celebration of Baptisms and two professions of faith last year they have welcomed six adult baptisms and two professions of faith. Rev. Steffenson explained that Laurel Run Church is a rural, rural church and yes, there is no plumbing. However, in the past year they have welcomed six adult baptisms and two professions of faith. Paula Smith, CLM assigned to the churches’ behalf, indicating that she had been given two pieces of advice when she was sent there: love the people and preach Jesus.

**Trustee’ Report**

*By Deb Steransky*

Mark Shover (?) convened the 2019 session of the Conference Board of Trustees meeting. The minutes from last year were approved and corrections to the report for this year were made. Several resolutions were presented that proposed to close churches who felt they could no longer fulfill their original mission. Penbrook Trinity in Harrisburg, Grace in Harrisburg, Whites Valley in Pleasant Mount, and Morris-Blackwell in Morris all asked Annual Conference to close them. Those resolutions were approved. The resolution to close Houselove, however, was defeated.

Lew Parks, chair of the property and casualty insurance committee, reported that all the churches have paid their premiums. He also addressed frequent questions he is asked about instituting armed security in the churches. Our insurance carrier says that security must be done by a certified company or by active law enforcement. To do otherwise would raise the possibility of catastrophic injury.

**Report: Mission Central**

*By Rev. Ed Preston*

Hope Harrison, Mission Central’s new Executive Director opened the report on the Warehouse of Wonders. She offered heartfelt thanks to the Annual Conference for its continuing support of ways Mission Central has served God’s people: a father in need of a wheelchair, churches who can’t afford VBS materials, children who spend each weekend hungry, all of whom have been cared for by the efforts of Mission Central. In 2018, Mission Central transformed every $1.00 donated into $2.00 of aid, all on an annual budget of only $570,000.00. Mission Central also recently opened its 40th HUB, giving it HUBs from Maine to Virginia. Rev. Tom Saligliver offered an update on Mission Central’s efforts to secure its own 501c:3 status, which has been a two-year process. The good news is that the effort has finally been successful, allowing Mission Central to work on accessing support through a variety of foundations which were previously not accessible. While Mission Central is now technically independent of the Susquehanna Conference, it is still a part of the faith family which gave it life many years ago. Volunteers and financial support are still needed, and active partnering with the Annual Conference will continue in the effort to glorify God and serve God’s people.

An effort to create a new strategic plan will soon get underway, which will seek to identify the next faithful step in the life and ministry of Mission Central.

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**A CLOSER COURSE OF STUDY**

ASK your DS or DCOM about the POSSIBILITIES

**Master of Arts in Ministry & Leadership**

- Earn COS equivalency and a Master’s Degree
- Eligible for scholarships, student loans, financial aid
- Convenient Schedules: Weekday or Friday/Saturday
- Lancaster is a UMC-approved seminary
Experience: Around our Conference and the world. These elements of Grow, and hope.

People to Jesus, investing in the neighborhood to bring new life

Parker is reaching out in a variety of ways and places to build

un-churched and de-churched in a growing community. Rev Tim

a new church plant in State College is dedicated to reaching the

ministry. To "Connect" is to leverage the strength of the many in

the carrying out of ministry.

Two living examples of these elements were shared. The Valley,

Impact Harrisburg is planting The Journey, a community that wants to love neighbors and introduce new people to Jesus, investing in the neighborhood to bring new life and hope.

But there is actually a fourth element; YOU! We are all called to be an active part of these and many other efforts to share Jesus around our Conference and the world. These elements of Grow, Equip and Connect require God’s children to faithfully embody and live them out in the world. A variety of voices were heard sharing their experiences of what this living out looks like in their experience:

• A Simplified accountability structure, providing for more effective and visionary leadership.

• The ministry of the Center for Spiritual Direction, helping God’s people to deepen their spiritual journeys.

• Relationships with others, connecting in faith to do God’s work.

• The Young Peoples Ministry Council, encouraging and supporting the leadership of young people within the church.

• Sharing knowledge and building Godly relationships.

• Effective communication to provide accountability in ministry.

• Camping - church camp immerses people in God’s creation and in relationships.

• Historically many calls to ministry have been received at church camps.

• Equipping laity to reach out more effectively.

• Serving in ministry with children, the homeless and the hungry.

• Training & equipping laity for their work.

• Moving from a maintenance to a missional mindset.

• Disaster response to bring hope and relief to those in places of natural disaster and loss.

• Growth in mission and ministry is when we are surrounded by others in serving and worshiping Christ.

• By Fresh Expressions of Faith to reach new people.

• Connecting through mission, which has the ability to empower God’s people in transformational ministry.

Information on “Navigate,” an event designed to equip and invigorate people in the living out of these essential elements. “Navigate” will be held August 22-24 at the Radisson Penn Harris in Camp Hill. To register visit the Conference web site: www.susumc.org.

The annual conference then adjourned to other spaces around tables with coaches, clergy and laity to share conversation about how these essential elements can be lived out in the life of the church.
ATTENTION CLERGY
Remember to have your photo taken for inclusion in the clergy pictorial directory.

Photographers are located in Cocoa Suite 6
(to the left at the bottom of the escalator)

Today: 8 am - 12 pm