

## Institutions and Agencies Reports

### NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

5000 Saint Paul Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

President Fred Ohles

president@nebrwesleyan.edu

During the 2007-08 academic year, religious programming at Nebraska Wesleyan University was coordinated by Pauletta Lehn, University Minister; and C. Ebb Munden, Special Assistant to the President for Church Relations. Ongoing programs included chapel services honoring Peer Assistants and Resource Persons; Wesleyan Weekend Celebration, featuring Dr. Margrethe Ahlschwede; Service for Week Without Violence; Theatre of the Oppressed, featuring alumnus Tyler Richard; Thanksgiving Chapel, featuring the Women's Choir; Faith Journeys Celebration; and Martin Luther King, Jr., Service. Other ongoing programs included campus-wide revival stations during culmination and finals weeks, featuring support from campus Resource Persons and Residence Life Coordinators; the Peace Meal, co-sponsored by Multicultural Programs; and the Fair Trade Boutique, featuring items for sale from local store, Ten Thousand Villages. Dr. Sara Boatman, Vice President for Student Life and Campus Community, provided coordination of these programs and services. In her second year as University Minister, Rev. Lehn was involved on campus in many different capacities, including work on several different committees, and provided pastoral care in conjunction with a memorial service celebrating the life of Christina Kaup.

The University Ministries department recently co-sponsored the "Give Me Your Hand New York City Service-Learning Experience" over spring break, coordinating with The Office for Service Learning and the United Methodist Student Organization. The 15 participants involved attended a seminar on global citizenship through the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministry and toured the United Nations and The Church Center for the United Nations. While there, the students and sponsors took part in service projects through several organizations, including Urban Farming and Doc to Dock. The group also worked with the Coney Island Lighthouse Mission, the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist and the New York City AIDS Walk.

Additionally, Nebraska Wesleyan senior, Nicole Francavilla, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, one of the world's top academic research scholarships. Francavilla, a vocal music and religion double major, will use her scholarship to study religious diversity in Toronto, Canada. Upon her return, she plans to attend Harvard Divinity School and pursue a graduate degree with an emphasis on women, gender, sexuality, and religion. Francavilla is the first NWU religion major to earn the prestigious Fulbright.

**Wesleyan Live** is a series of continuing education courses for clergy, laity and community members. Courses are taught by Nebraska Wesleyan faculty and area clergy in Lincoln and are televised live across the state. The participants and professors are able to interact with each other throughout each telecast. The Fall 2007 Course, "Differentiated Leadership: Anchors in the Storm", was taught by Dr. Jerry Bockoven, Psychology Department Chair, Professor of Psychology, Nebraska Wesleyan University; and The Reverend Kelly Karges, Co-Pastor, Beatrice Centenary Methodist Church. This course was designed to take a hard look at real-life leadership dilemmas from the perspective of System's theory and revolved around case studies of real and relevant leadership problems, which were presented for discussion. The Spring 2008 Course, "Christ, Culture and the Drama of Congregational Life: What the Signs of Discipleship Will Do to You and Your Congregation If You Don't Think About It", was taught by Dr. Paul Williams, Department of Religion, University of Nebraska at Omaha; and Dr. Fred Richart, Campus Minister,

University of Nebraska at Omaha. This course focused on the six signs of discipleship and the relationship between the proclamation of the Gospel and contemporary culture. The participants explored the potential, limits, hopes and likely relationship problems that will be encountered if the signs of discipleship are taken seriously. Wesleyan Live courses are offered at satellite locations in Ainsworth, Beatrice, Grand Island, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha and Scottsbluff.

**Financial Assistance to United Methodist Students:** During the 2007-08 academic year, 298 United Methodist students received \$2,175,282 in scholarships and grants provided by Nebraska Wesleyan University. Included in this total are 146 students who received \$167,650 in Nebraska United Methodist Conference Scholarships and six ministerial dependents are receiving \$54,807 in ministerial discounts.

**Special Speakers and Events:** In April 2008, NWU will host two Distinguished Visiting Scholars, one for the Swan Lecture and one for the Mattingly Lecture. Dr. Rodney Petersen, Executive Director, Boston Theological Institute, will give the Swan Lecture on April 3 on the topic of *Christianity and Conflict Transformation*. Dr. Petersen has been Executive Director of the Boston Theological Institute since moving from Switzerland in 1990. He teaches in the areas of history and ethics, currently focusing on issues of religion and conflict.

Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, Associate Professor of Law, Director of the Law and Religion Program, University at Buffalo Law School, The State University of New York, will speak about *Prison Religion: Faith-Based Rehabilitation in the 21st Century* for the Mattingly Lecture on April 10. Professor Sullivan was scheduled to speak in the fall with a speech entitled *The Impossibility of Religious Freedom: The Perspective from Nebraska*, but was unable to attend due to a conflict.

**GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
653 BECKWITH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314  
404/581-0300  
(FOUNDED IN 1883)  
DR. WALTER H. MCKELVEY, PRESIDENT

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

Gammon will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> year of founding this year during the annual Founders' Day and Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series, October 6-9, 2008. "Remembering Who We Are: Seeking New Pathways" is our theme for our 125<sup>th</sup> celebration. Bishop Violet Fisher will serve as our Founders' Day Worship Service Speaker and Bishop Gregory Palmer will serve as our guest lecturer for the Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series. A Founders' Day Banquet and Gala will be held during this event to honor the alumni who have matriculated at Gammon and served The United Methodist Church for the last 125 years. The Methodist Episcopal Church founded Gammon Theological Seminary in 1883. Bishop Gilbert Haven and the officers of the Freedmen's Aid Society had purchased nearly 500 acres of high land in the southern suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. Gammon initially began as a Department of Theology at Clark University. Through the efforts of Bishop Henry White Warren and the gift of \$20,000 for endowment from the Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, a Methodist minister of the Rock River (Illinois) Conference. The enthusiasm of these two men led to the construction of Gammon Hall. The Rev. Wilbur Patterson Thirkield was elected dean, and Gammon School of Theology was officially opened on October 3, 1883.

Gammon is the United Methodist member of the consortium of theological schools, known across the world as The Interdenominational Theological Center located in Atlanta, Georgia.

We offer a broad curriculum in the scholar-minister tradition and also offers a holistic educational experience that continues to stress scholarship and service.

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

Madelyn C. Greene  
Alumni & Student Affairs Director  
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**PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**  
PO Box 750133, Dallas, Texas 75275

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

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

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

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

We were also pleased to welcome as director of Development Rev. Todd Rasberry, who is working to raise the necessary funds for the scholarship support of our students, the operation of our programs and the maintenance and improvement of our facilities. Only 50 percent our needed revenue is generated by tuition, the other half generated by our endowment earnings and the support of local congregations through the United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund.

The support of the Nebraska Annual Conference has helped fund for conference students the Perkins Annual Conference Endowment Grants, which in this past academic year provided on average an additional \$800 per student from the Nebraska Annual Conference beyond the general aid and scholarship awards.

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

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

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

**CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**  
1784 N Decatur Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30322

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

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

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

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

In our commitment to the practice of ministry, we partner with eighty churches to ensure that ministerial preparation takes place in both the local church and on the campus. Candler's Contextual Education program intentionally pairs a faculty member with supervisors from church

and community ministries so that teaching teams represent the church and the academy. Twenty-two teaching supervisors support our Contextual Education and Teaching Parish (student pastor) programs. The Rev. Dr. Alice Rogers has broadened the Teaching Parish program to include students appointed to churches in the Alabama-West Florida, North Alabama, North Georgia, South Georgia, and South Carolina Annual Conferences. We also taught more than 250 United Methodist students in the Course of Study in 2006-2007.

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

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

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

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

Jan Love  
Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

**NEBRASKA METHODIST COLLEGE**  
720 N 87th, Omaha 68114 800-335-5510

Nebraska Methodist College (NMC) continues to enjoy the benefits of the brand new, state-of-the-art, Josie Harper Campus which opened in January of 2006. The new campus has strengthened NMC's ability to realize its mission of "preparing graduates to positively influence

the health and wellbeing of the community". The new campus has also provided NMC the opportunity to offer new academic programs in the health professions. In 2007, new programs at the graduate level included an "Executive/Leadership" track leading to a Master of Science Degree in Nursing. A new program leading to a Master of Science degree in "Medical Group Administration" was also introduced and both programs are offered one hundred percent via the Internet. The online enrollment of graduate students has been very popular in all programs and currently NMC has students enrolled from over 35 different states. Two new undergraduate programs were also approved in 2007, with start dates of August 2008. Those programs are Surgical Technology and Physical Therapist Assistant. Student enrollment at NMC is at an all time high of over 600 students.

The physical footprint of the campus was expanded in June of 2007 when NMC purchased the Whispering Pines Apartment and Town home complex. In addition to the six acres of land, this purchase provides an excellent resource for campus based housing. The 67 one and two bedroom apartments provide for a total of 101 beds and projections for fall 2008 reflect occupancy to be very near capacity.

NMC is very fortunate to have Bishop Ann Sheerer and Rev. Dr. Randy Sailors as members of the College Board of Directors. Near the end of 2007 we lost a valuable supporter with the death of Rev. Dr. Alva Clark, a long time pastor in the Nebraska Methodist Annual Conference. Dr. Clark was a champion of NMC throughout his tenure with the Methodist Hospital Foundation and played a key role in promoting the college and establishing numerous scholarships which will continue to serve our students for years to come. In late 2007, the NMC Board of Directors approved the creation of a new "Center for Health Partnerships" that will further enhance our service to the community. The major purposes of the Center are to work with the community to address existing health disparities and to increase access to education for all members of the community. An endowment goal of \$8.5 million has been established to permanently fund the annual operation of the Center.

In November of 2007, NMC was awarded a four year, \$1 million TREO-Upward Bound grant from the Department of Education. Partners in the grant include Burke High School and the Wesley House. The focus of the grant is to work with low income, potential first generation college students to increase their graduation rate from high school and to increase their readiness for college. Over the past two years, NMC has been the beneficiary of a Peer Ministry Grant through the Nebraska Annual Conference, to fund our program on campus. Beginning this past year, the Methodist Hospital Foundation matched this grant which allowed us to broaden our program. The increase in funding has allowed us to provide a stipend to each Peer Minister and provide other types of spiritual life programming for and with our students.

NMC continues to work with area United Methodist congregations, offering resources for the development and support of Health Ministry as well as BeFriender's programs. Our most widely used congregational resource, accessible to all United Methodist Churches in the Annual Conference, is our Parish Nursing Course. This 10 week course is offered on-line and thus we are able to overcome the barriers of time and distance. The course is provided each spring and results in 30 CEU's for nurses.

We also have students visiting with elderly parishioners at Grace UMC in South Omaha as a part of our community health curriculum, and student groups have utilized the excellent youth program facilities so generously offered by Pastor Scott Shreve and St. Luke UMC. Our current enrollment includes 66 students who are affiliated with a United Methodist Church, many from rural communities in NE.

**NEBRASKA METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.**  
8511 W Dodge Rd, Omaha 68114

Created in 1982, Nebraska Methodist Health System (MHS) is the oldest health care system in the region. Today, MHS consists of the following affiliates: Methodist Hospital, Omaha, Neb.; Jeannie Edmundson Hospital, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Methodist Physicians Clinic, Inc., eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa; Nebraska Methodist College – The Josie Harper Campus, Omaha, Neb.; Methodist Hospital Foundation, Omaha, Neb.; Jennie Edmundson Hospital Foundation, Council Bluffs, Iowa; and Shared Service Systems, Omaha, Neb.

Central to all of the affiliates of Methodist Health System is a mission of service to others. System successes in 2007 were tied to numerous growth initiatives, all focused on expanding both the quality and quantity of health care offerings available to the communities served by MHS.

Several personnel changes with the Health System in 2007 did not slow the growth and momentum that has been building for several years. John M. Fraser was named President and CEO of Methodist Health System when long-time top administration Stephen D. Long retired after 37 years with the organization. Fraser had served as the President and CEO of Methodist Hospital since 1997.

Stephen L. Groeser was named to replace Fraser at Methodist Hospital. He joined the organization in 2004 as a Vice President with responsibility for several areas, including the Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center.

A change in leadership also took place at the Health System's affiliate hospital in Council Bluffs. David M. Holcomb, a 40-year Jennie Edmundson Hospital employee, retired after 12 years as the hospital's top administrator. Steven P. Baumert was appointed to succeed Holcomb as President and CEO.

Methodist Hospital and Jennie Edmundson Hospital were both recognized with 2007 VHA Leadership Awards for Clinical Excellence. Jennie Edmundson was one of just three hospitals nationwide to be recognized in three clinical categories.

On the construction front, Methodist Hospital broke ground on a new \$120 million, five-story acute care inpatient hospital in West Omaha committed to excellence in women's health services. The 116-bed, 289,000-square-foot facility will include 28 neonatal intensive care beds, as well as amenities like private rooms, family space, green space, hotel-style room service, decentralized patient check-in and decentralized nursing stations.

Methodist also began work on a much anticipated project to replace its patient and visitor parking structure with a new, five-story garage. The new garage opened the end of March 2008.

Patient comfort and convenience was expanded in 2007 with the implementation of several new services. In May, Methodist Health System rolled out Care Pricer™, an automated Web-based patient out-of-pocket expense estimating tool. In June, the FamilyVue Surgery Patient Tracking System was implemented at Methodist Hospital to allow families to track their loved one's progress through a procedure. In July, Methodist rolled out hotel-style room service for patients and their families. In December, the hospital kicked off CarePages, a free private Web page service that allows patients and families to post patient conditions and progress.

Jennie Edmundson also implemented room service last fall. The hospital also signed an exclusive agreement to become the first health care provider in Council Bluffs to offer EMMI™ (Expectation Management and Medical Information) to its patients. EMMI was designed to educate patients through an online, step-by-step explanation of a surgical procedure or childbirth.

Methodist Physicians Clinic opened its newest and western-most clinic near 176<sup>th</sup> & Q Streets in Omaha. Services offered at this location include family medicine, pediatrics, OB-

GYN, X-ray and laboratory services. The building includes space to house rotating specialties on different days of the week.

On the technology front, Methodist Health System continued implementation of its Cerner electronic health record system which allows physicians access to patient medical records regardless of their location within the Health System. Digital mammography is now available throughout the Health System.

Students at Nebraska Methodist College – The Josie Harper Campus took time away from studying for finals to raise nearly \$1,700 for the Von Maur Victims Fund at First Westroads Bank. More than 100 people, including police officers and EMT personnel, stopped by to support the spaghetti dinner fundraiser hosted at the college one week after the tragic shootings.

Finally in 2007, Methodist Hospital Foundation and the Jennie Edmundson Hospital Foundation wrote checks for approximately \$7.1 million in charity care and capital contributions, most notably for funding of the Heidi Wilke SANE/SART Survivor Program at Methodist Hospital. More than 25,000 individuals received assistance through the two foundations in 2006.

The Foundations join all affiliates of Methodist Health System in thanking the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church for providing ongoing guidance and support in helping to meet the health care needs of our communities.

#### **REGIONAL WEST MEDICAL CENTER** 4021 Avenue B, Scottsbluff 69361

In 2007, Regional West Medical Center provided \$24.6 million in community benefits—including \$21.4 million in uncompensated care to patients who were unable to pay for necessary treatment. By providing programs and services as varied as the youth job shadow program, Cancer Survivors Day, health education scholarships and a diabetic youth camp, Regional West demonstrates its commitment to building a healthy, thriving community.

We were honored for being recognized in the Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study. Regional West Medical Center was ranked number one in Nebraska for overall orthopedic services for the third year in a row and among the top five percent in the nation for five years in a row. These awards are a credit to the orthopedic surgeons from Scottsbluff Orthopaedic Associates and Western Regional Orthopedic Center as well as to our nursing and clinical staff whose fine work and quality patient care have helped Regional West achieve this national recognition.

Additional recognition came from the Joint Commission as Regional West Medical Center and our Behavioral Health Unit both received full accreditation.

In 2007, Regional West Health Services reached a milestone with the opening of Medical Center of the Rockies—a 136-bed hospital built in partnership with Poudre Valley Health System of Fort Collins, Colo. This unique partnership affords Regional West the opportunity to own a 12 percent interest in the new \$240 million hospital. MCR offers a full spectrum of services while specializing in trauma and cardiac care and serves as the tertiary care provider for Regional West Medical Center. The hospital is located northwest of Interstate 25 and U.S. 34 in Loveland, Colo.

Regional West also partnered with several physicians to build a new ambulatory surgery center, which opened in August. The cooperative effort allowed the facility to be built on property owned by and adjacent to the hospital. Scottsbluff Surgery Center, as it is named, is dedicated exclusively to outpatient procedures.

Our radiology department underwent major construction with the complete renovation of the angiography suite. The new unit allows our radiologists to expand interventional radiology services.

In February, we welcomed Shirley Knodel, RN, BSN, MS as our new vice president of patient care and chief nursing officer. She brings extensive clinical and administrative experience in orthopedics, neurology, pediatrics and surgery, as well as home health, education and resource management. She holds a Master of Science degree in administrative studies, health care administration from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion and a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from South Dakota State University, Brookings.

One of the major administrative undertakings of 2007 was a comprehensive overhaul of pay practices to ensure that our compensation and policies are consistent across the organization, allowing Regional West to remain competitive in recruitment.

Much hard work was also invested in preliminary plans for a physician integration initiative, which will help Regional West recruit and retain physicians, expand outreach, promote physician involvement and ensure long-term sustainability as a regional medical center.

As always, we appreciate the continued support of the United Methodist Church, which has played a vital role in the growth of our hospital.

Todd S. Sorensen, M.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

### MOUNT SEQUOYAH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

150 NW Skyline Dr, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

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

Significant increase in leadership training programs saw a **surge in attendance from laity leadership and clergy from the Nebraska Conference and from other conferences across the South Central Jurisdiction.** Some of these programs are: a first annual conference for young UM clergy; on-going New Church Leadership Institute for new church development; clergy for interim training conferences. Laity initiatives included Lay Speaking Ministry Conferences; a healthy lifestyles "train the trainers" seminar for leadership from each of the fifteen SCJ conferences; marriage retreats; youth ministry training; the environmental Caring for Creation Conference with national recognized leadership. Mount Sequoyah hosted the first meeting between national VIM Conference coordinators and the Disaster Relief Coordinators. This meeting was planned and sponsored by the GBOGM. Meetings, training sessions, and ministry partnerships held at Mount Sequoyah in past months have reintroduced the Mount Sequoyah mission of service and hospitality to the national training and executive staff members of the general boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church. Mount Sequoyah has recently hosted international meetings for The Middle East and Islamic Studies International Symposium; Vision Conquista, Partners of the Americas.

## 2007 JOURNAL Reports

Forty-six buildings have new exterior paint and most building interiors have received a fresh refurbishing. Several hundred volunteers gave their time and skills for thousands of hours of labor to include the renovation of the eleven lodging units in the New Mexico and Sequoyah Cottages. **WE ARE GRATEFUL that the Nebraska Conference has begun the effort to renovate the four-unit facility named for this Conference. We offer a special thank you to the volunteers from the Nebraska Conference** who worked on these important Mount Sequoyah project, and other projects, while continuing to share their skills and talents. A significant recent gift, by a local hotel developer, benefits Mount Sequoyah with new furnishings to complete each sleeping room. New bed linens and drapes are also in every room. **This gift of hotel room furnishings is valued at over \$300,000.**

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*John and Sheri Altland, Executive Team*

[www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org) 1-800-760-8126

### LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE

517 S Florence, El Paso TX 79901  
[www.lydiapattersoninstitute.org](http://www.lydiapattersoninstitute.org)

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

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

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

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

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

will perform at both General Conference 2008 and Jurisdictional Conference 2008.

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

Respectfully,  
Socorro Brito de Anda, President

**INTERCHURCH MINISTRIES OF NEBRASKA**  
215 Centennial Mall South Suite 300  
Lincoln, Ne 68508 402-476-3391  
im50427@alltel.net [www.interhurchministries.org](http://www.interhurchministries.org)

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***“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20***

Throughout 2007 “two or three” gathered in the name of Jesus Christ to carry out the work of Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska. Twelve member communions reached across denominational lines to be “*Christ’s Church: Partners Alive and At Work in Nebraska.*”

IMN is blessed with partners who affirm that the more our churches *are* together, the more they can *act* together. Even as Christ was made the sure foundation of the Church, fellowship has become the cornerstone of ecumenism. It is through the “*Life and Work*” aspect of ecumenism that this fellowship is nurtured and our commitment to one another is strengthened.

The State of Nebraska, the mission field served by IMN ministries, faced many challenges in 2007; challenges that were brought to the IMN table where new ministries were developed and on-going ones were reaffirmed. IMN partners reached out to the victims of devastating ice storms, Katrina evacuees still finding their way, returning military personnel, farmers and ranchers, victims of domestic violence, Native Americans, college students, and people facing health challenges. IMN partners united their voices to impact public policy and advocate for others. Throughout 2007, as in the previous 36 years, member judicatories gave strong witness to Christian unity.

**IMN Programs include:**

The Farm Crisis Response Council and the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline  
Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day  
Peace and Justice Joint Strategy Action Team.  
Health Ministry  
Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence  
Nebraska United Ministries in Higher Education  
Grants to American Indians in Nebraska  
Angel Connection  
Ecumenical Disaster Response

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Ministry to Returning Military  
Ecumenical Lending Library

IMN co-sponsored two events in 2007. The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast in Lincoln was held on May 3, 2007. Bob Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, was the keynote speaker. In October an ecumenical service of remembrance followed a presentation by best-selling author, Kate Braestrup, *"From Death to Life, Learning to Love, Live, and Have Faith Again."*

Also in 2007 Nebraska denominations were invited to participate in Nebraska Day at the National Cathedral on August 19th. Presiding was Bishop Joe Burnett, Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska. The Rev. Roddy Dunkerson, Conference Minister, United Church of Christ, and Marilyn Mecham, IMN, participated in the service.

**Thank you, Members of the United Methodist Church Nebraska Conference, for your strong financial support and representation.**

Thomas Merton once said, "The unity of Christendom was the last will and testament of Jesus Christ." Through the ecumenical partnership of IMN, we are working together to make the most of our Biblical inheritance. Thanks be to God

For more information about IMN ministries and resources or to schedule a presentation in your church, contact Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

Marilyn P. Mecham, Executive

***"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*** John 13:35

**EPWORTH VILLAGE, INC.**

2119 Division Ave, PO Box 503, York NE 68467

[www.epworthvillage.org](http://www.epworthvillage.org)

"A change for the better . . ."

Written by: Kerry Hoffschneider, Community Relations Director

Let's fly back over 2007 and witness 186 boys, ages 7 to 18, as they enter the Epworth program. Their "wings" are deflated from cycles of abuse or their struggles with oppositional defiant disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, post traumatic stress disorder or bi-polar disorder, the top four diagnoses that were treated this past year. Picture also more than 500 family members, foster parents, aunts, uncles, grandmas, grandpas, moms, dads, sisters and brothers trying to strengthen their own wings to make a family stronger.

What does it mean to make "a change for the better?" At Epworth Village, it means facing what needs to be changed head on. At Epworth Village it means creating real, measurable goals to make change. At Epworth Village it means taking broken wings and reinforcing them with family-centered therapy, education, Life Skills, confidence and common-sense solutions so our neighbors, our children and their families can be prepared for all the joys and trials of life's flight.

In 2007, Epworth Village adopted a new logo, a fresh version of the "butterfly" that has become so indicative of our program. The orange and blue wings that shoot into the sky over our new "tagline" for the village, "a change for the better" are not just fancy artwork over new font. Rather, those five words under those wings of change reflect our five-level system-of-care that focuses on the positive metamorphosis that occurs in each of the children we serve. Those words represent the teamwork of 150 full and part-time staff from the Epworth Village Learning

Center, the Therapy Department, Life Skills Trainers, administrative staff and healthcare staff who support all areas with their expertise.

Our wings are expanding at Epworth Village. In 2007, we began the process of building yet another residential facility. This will become a reality in 2008. In 2007, we began looking at the potential expansion of our school, the Epworth Village Learning Center. This past year also brought with it continued leadership by the agency at the state and national levels as we work to transform the behavioral health system for the betterment of all citizens.

We are not only proud of our base in the United Methodist Church, but we recognize that this relationship is essential in order to build a program that will foster the metamorphosis we pray and work towards for each boy and family member we serve. In 2007, we had more than 30 United Methodist Congregations support us in the "12 Disciples Journey for Children and Families." We also held our second annual "tables" fundraiser, "An Appetizer Afternoon," where many of the 25 tables were filled with guests from United Methodist congregations. We anticipate another successful event in September of 2008! In addition, hundreds of United Methodist Women continue their prayers, collection of needed items such as Campbell's Labels and stitch love into the quilts that we give each and every boy we serve.

There is not ample room to describe the generosity that you have shown. Please visit us in 2008 to see firsthand your devotion in action. See how you are transforming broken wings into brighter lives. **Visit [www.epworthvillage.org](http://www.epworthvillage.org) to find out more. Contact Kerry Hoffschneider at [kerry@epworthvillage.org](mailto:kerry@epworthvillage.org) for mission opportunities and tours!**

#### CROWELL MEMORIAL HOME

245 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Blair Nebraska 68008  
William B. Willard, Executive Director

Crowell Memorial Home has passed the century mark in Christian care for the elderly and is continually evaluation new techniques and technologies as we strive to maintain our leadership role as a full continuum of care provider. We have, in the past few years, enlarged and updated our facility; and we continually provide our staff with on-going education in care for the elderly, ensure that our equipment meets our high standards and keep abreast of and adhere to all guidelines and regulations regarding care for our residents.

Our most recent up-date is the expansion of our therapy rooms. Crowell Home is proud of our therapy department and the outstanding work and full-time therapists do to improve the quality of life for our geriatric residents. We offer physical, occupational and speech therapy and have recently added a wellness program for our nursing home and assisted living residents.

In a greatly expanded area of our lower level, we have set up a beautiful home-like environment including many of the basic furniture and appliances you would normally find in your home such as a bed, chair, chest of drawers, tub, refrigerator and washer. Using these everyday furnishings, our therapists work with residents needing rehabilitation in various ADL (activities of daily living) areas.

A significant goal at Crowell Home is to rehabilitate as many as possible of our residents so they can return to their homes and to the quality of life they previously experienced. A goodly number of our rehab patients are able to do so. In additional, the abilities and strength gained through the therapy program benefit our Assisted Living residents so they can longer maintain the quality of life they are accustomed to.

Our objective with this program is to not only fully meet the therapy needs of our residents but to eventually expand our rehab program to the elderly still in their own homes who would benefit from this service.

The Crowell Home of 2008 with its use of up-to-date technologies and our expertise in

skilled care were beyond imagination in 1905, when Christopher and Polly Crowell generously donated their mansion in Blair to the Methodist Church to be used as a retirement home to Methodist ministers and their wives. The services we currently provide would undoubtedly amaze the Crowell's...independent and assisted living apartments, skilled nursing care geared to geriatric residents, an Alzheimer's unit, onsite therapists and restorative nurses and an on-staff chaplain. The rooms at Crowell Home are predominately private with attached baths and the facility is Medicare and Medicaid certified. The new Centennial Chapel is truly a beautiful and tranquil place for worship and meditation.

The Crowell Home Foundation and Crowell Home Endowment Fund offers opportunities for friends of Crowell Home to help ensure that our Home will be serving residents for generations to come through their generous gifts.

As we continue our "dream" for Crowell Home, we realize that what has been accomplished is possible only because of God's love and blessings and the help of our 'family of friends' of Crowell Home. We gratefully thank God and all who support our Home as we strive to serve our residents with Christian love and skillful care. As our mission statement pledges, "To be a thriving health care community in which the residents' needs and desires direct and shape life, all taking place in a loving, Christian environment."

**UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY CENTER - WESLEY HOUSE**

2001 N 35th, Omaha 68111

Paul Bryant, Director

***"TO EMPOWER YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN NORTH OMAHA"***

The Wesley House Leadership Academy aspires to be the model for Academic Excellence in after-school programming. We are located in North Omaha, an area overwhelmed with high unemployment rates, low graduation rates, crime, violence, teen pregnancies and single parent families. Unfortunately, some of the most visible forms of leadership in North Omaha are gang members, drug dealers and other social deviants. In order to combat the prevalence of negative images and their impact on youth, the Wesley House created the Leadership Academy of Academic and Artistic Excellence (LAAE).

The organization is growing strong and we truly appreciate your interest in supporting our efforts to transform and renew the lives of Omaha's inner city youth.

The LAAE is the only youth leadership program in North Omaha designed to show students that the American dream is achievable for anyone who works hard and prepares him or herself. We are accomplishing this goal by helping children identify their talents at an early age and steering them toward opportunities that will utilize their abilities in the future.

Designed to nurture and develop future leaders, the three components of the LAAE are Citizenship, Financial Literacy and Healthy Living. The Academic Summer Academy (ASA), Extended School Program (ESP) and the Wesley House Community Learning Center (CLC) at Franklin Elementary are the cornerstones of our programming. Our methodology is simple; we concentrate on the basics (Reading, Writing, Math and Public Speaking). Our goal is achievable; to prepare a critical mass of future leaders from North Omaha to enter local universities and the workforce.

Our participants are elementary students from surrounding public and private schools; they are trained in the etiquette of citizenship, economics, finance, healthy living and social responsibility. We believe that by giving our students a mastery of the basics they will have the foundation necessary to succeed in future endeavors.

During the 2007 Academic Summer Academy we experienced a 62% increase in enrollment over 2006 by serving 48 children. This is a 75% increase over enrollment in the pilot program

during the summer of 2005. Participants not only continued academic stimulation through the Academy's curriculum, but also visited several corporate offices where they had an opportunity to meet local business executives. Businesses visited since inception of programming include Union Pacific, Qwest, American National Bank, Weitz Funds, Mutual of Omaha, SilverStone, Quantum Alliance; ConAgra, Omaha Mayor's Office, Wells Fargo Bank, Valmont Industries, Conley Investments, Davis Insurance, First National Bank, Strategic Air Command and the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. Fun activities during the summer included golf lessons, swimming and ice-skating. Our program operates ten hours a day, five days per week, for twelve consecutive weeks during the summer. Our program runs five days a week from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the school year.

In the fall of 2006 we partnered with the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) to plan, implement and manage a Community Learning Center (CLC) at Franklin Elementary School. The CLC provides before and after school programming that enhances the students school day. We served over 50 youth and families during the school year and 75 during the summer of 2007. Enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year is currently at 65 with a waiting list of 20 students. In our first year evaluation by the Nebraska Department of Education we attained a 4.5 grade out of a possible 5.

We believe the best way to re-build a community is to invest in its future leaders. Opinion leaders with a vested interest in prosperity and development will be effective advocates for community development. Our programs are designed specifically to address the long-term needs of society. The old saying, "*You give someone a fish and they eat for a day, but if you teach them to fish they will eat for a lifetime.*" represents our approach to solving the problem.

Reading is an important key to unlocking the door to children's unlimited potential and their dreams. Our literacy program has paired college students from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Creighton and Metropolitan Community College with Academy students. During literacy sessions our students engage in recreational reading, reading aloud, and they conduct research on history and community service. Our community outreach program, Each One, Reach One, Teach One, takes our students into the community to read to pre-school students. Our goal is to develop a mind-set of community service in our children so they feel empowered to make a difference within their families, community, country and world.

Healthy lifestyles and Physical fitness are important goals in the Academy. Our Health and Physical Education Program focuses on the importance of Physical fitness, basic First Aid, Personal Care, Cancer prevention and awareness, Dental Hygiene, proper Nutrition, understanding Body Systems, Environmental Education, and the effects of Alcohol, Tobacco & illegal Drugs. We have partnered with the Dobleman Cancer Institute and the Smile Design Studio to offer community health screenings. Through this partnership, Dr. Dobleman and Dr. Stanosheck, will teach monthly health classes at the Wesley House. Future plans are to create a health program/curriculum to be offered throughout the community. The challenges in North Omaha did not happen overnight and will not be solved with a quick fix solution. As in the medical field, we believe the best way to achieve and maintain good health is prevention through early intervention.

Parents are the most influential factor to a child's education. In today's environment many parents must be offered the support and skills they need to help their children succeed. In the LAE parents are required to demonstrate their commitment to their child's success by their participation in the parent association. During our mandatory orientation, expectations for participation are reviewed with parents. Weekly debriefings between parents and staff are a key component of our program. During these sessions staff members are required to give meaningful feedback to parents addressing their child's work and development. Further, parents are required to physically come into the building to pick up their child daily. This encourages daily interaction with staff members. Parents are invited to serve as volunteers in the classroom, participate in activities, plan and chaperone fieldtrips, and get involved in their child's social interactions.

## Reports

## CAMPUS REPORT

We are home to the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Composite Squadron. Activities include moral leadership, aerospace education, emergency services and insight into a military career. Cadets have soared in sailplanes with the Omaha Soaring Club and flown in small aircraft with pilots as they work through the CAP flight-training syllabus. In addition, they attended three 2 ½-day mini-camps at Camp Ashland, Nebraska, a 3-day CAP Wing conference and a 7-day encampment at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Our cadets performed Color Guard for the **Woodmen of the World** flag presentation on National Flag Day and the "In Honor and Remembrance" ceremony, paying tribute to the heroes and victims of 9/11. They also served as volunteers for the Offutt Air Force Base Air Show, Wesley House Fundraisers and other community events. In November of 2006, the unit tied for first place in the CAP Nebraska Wing Color Guard Competition. One of our cadets received the highest test score for the competition as well as the highest one-mile run score. Other individual awards and accomplishments include Outstanding Staff member at Encampment and Cadet of the Year.

**Community Outreach**

Wesley House continues to serve as a Toys-for-Tots distribution site, providing toys to more than 450 children. We are the only community agency to accept applications beyond the normal deadline for the annual campaign. During this time all applicants across Nebraska and Western Iowa are referred to Wesley House for toy distribution.

During the summer of 2007 we served over 4900 meals in cooperation with the State Health Department. For some, these meals may be the only balanced meals they receive to meet their nutritional needs.

In connection with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, United Methodists for Missions and Justice, and the BIG Garden grant, the UMCC Wesley House Community Garden was built in early 2006. The property started as a hill the size of ½ city block. It is now a successful terraced community garden serving more than 11 families and three food pantries. We have incorporated gardening as part of our curriculum to empower youth and their families through a holistic approach to basic nutrition and gardening skills. Over 50 community youth were taught the basics of gardening, the value of fresh vegetables and the importance of good nutrition.

**Growing Strong**

Wesley House has formed partnerships and strengthened community collaborations. The Wesley House has representation with the Bright Futures Initiative, Clean Solutions Omaha and Community Empowerment Network. Wesley House hosted Tom Becka's KFAB radio program during our "Community Garden Fall Harvest Celebration" and hosted several local agencies, including Christ Child Society, Family Services, and Girl Scouts. In March of 2008 LAEE will coordinate the first community spelling bee at Girls Inc. in cooperation with the Ruth K. Solomon Girls Center, Franklin Elementary and the Boys and Girls Club of Omaha.

In 2006 Gale Sayers joined the fundraising efforts by adopting Wesley House as his Nebraska charity. On June 19, 2006 we hosted the first annual Gale Sayers Wesley House Golf Classic. This tournament attracted 128 golfers along with celebrities Johnny Rodgers, Bob Boozer, Marlin Briscoe, John Beasley, Mayor Mike Fahey and Dana Altman. The 2007 the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Gale Sayers Wesley House Golf Classic raised over \$200,000 in cash and in-kind gifts with 216 participants. Sponsors include First National Bank, Mutual of Omaha, Davis Companies, Performance Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge, Centennial Bank, Coldwell Banker, Redstone Communications, HDR, KFAB, Bank of the West, Deloitte, Frontier Bag, American National Bank, Universal Warranty Corporation, Wells Fargo Bank, ConAgra Foods, VIP Limousine, Security National Bank, Burger King, Marcotte Insurance, Great Western Bank, The Omaha Star, Conley Investment Counsel, Omaha Steaks, and the Silverstone Group, just to name a few.

Wesley House is a 135 year old, community-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a new focus of promoting excellence through academic achievement.

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

5123 East Truman Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64127

[www.spst.edu](http://www.spst.edu)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Reports**  
**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**  
PO Box 750133, Dallas, Tx 75275

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

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

- David J. Weber, the Robert and Nancy Dedman Professor of History at SMU, was inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences last fall. SMU Statistical Science Professor Wayne Woodward received the United Methodist Church University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award for 2007.
- Perkins School of Theology conducted a conference for scholars and pastors on *Albert Outler and the Wesleyan Spirit* in conjunction with SMU's annual Ministers' Week in January 2008. The conference examined contributions of the late Perkins professor, who influenced countless pastors and academicians worldwide during his more than 25 years at SMU.
- Andy Roberts, formerly associate pastor in Georgia, became director of the SMU Wesley Foundation in July. The Foundation's ministry includes Wednesday night services of contemporary worship, teaching and prayer in Perkins Chapel; weekly small group gatherings for Bible study, fellowship and prayer in student residence halls and apartments; and weekly community lunches. Plans are underway for a mission trip to Ghana in summer 2008.
- In accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, one-half of the members of SMU's Board of Trustees are United Methodists, including three bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction (currently Bishop Scott Jones, Kansas Area; Bishop Alfred Norris, North Texas Conference; and Bishop Ann Sherer, Nebraska Area). Current trustees include pastors Kirbyjon Caldwell of Houston and Mark Craig of Dallas, as well as laity of the denomination.
- SMU's Board of Trustees benefits from the diverse voices of *ex officio* members representing faculty, students and alumni, who rotate annually. This year's *ex officio* members are Gary Evans, Faculty Senate president; Andrew Galloway, student representative; and Connie O'Neill, Alumni Association president.

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

R. Gerald Turner  
President, Southern Methodist University

**UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
4501 Denlinger Rd., Dayton, OH 45426  
937-529-2201  
[www.united.edu](http://www.united.edu)

"Spirit Led, Renewing the Church!"

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

United Theological Seminary celebrates with you 137 years of service in the ministry of theological education since our founding in 1871. We are grateful to God for the privileges of

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### Reports

equipping faithful leadership for the Church, leading in reflection on Wesleyan theology, and assisting the Church in making disciples of all nations! We seek the Holy Spirit's leading so that we may do our part in the renewal of the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world!

Here are some current highlights from United Theological Seminary:

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

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

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President

### UNITED METHODIST MINISTRIES – MISSOURI RIVER DISTRICT

#### Report to Annual Conference

The past year has been a busy and fruitful one at United Methodist Ministries – Missouri River District.

Growth and change have occurred on a number of fronts, including:

- We have changed our name from United Methodists for Mission and Justice to United Methodist Ministries – Missouri River District. The name change includes specific reference to the District we serve. While we are engaged in justice work, we found that the UMMJ name led to some confusion regarding whether we were a non-profit with programs or an advocacy-only agency.
- The Big Garden continued to grow in our third year, growing to 24 sites in the summer of 2008. A new staff position was created to coordinate community garden programming for UMM. The Big Garden was the recipient of two national awards in spring 2008: The Sierra Club Faith in Action award, given to one faith-based group in each state; and the Fiskar's Orange Thumb award, given to 12 groups nationwide through a competitive application process.
- We have applied for funding from the USDA to extend the Big Garden to the rural areas of our District; additional funding will be sought from local foundations.
- We have added a staff position for grant writing and education coordination.
- UMM staff were invited speakers at the Living Faith, Seeking Justice event; the American Community Gardening Association national meeting; and the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism.

- UMM has completed a full year as a VIM site, receiving over 200 volunteers.
- We have begun a new initiative utilizing the arts to work with youth on the dismantling of racism.
- We have expanded our Mission of the Month to include additional categories of special giving, books, and events.
- We have seen an increase in leadership development via summer internships, workshops, presentations, and volunteer-emersion experiences.
- We continue to work to diversify our funding stream by applying for grants and assisting our collaborating agencies as they write grants and seek funding from outside sources.

We look forward to continued growth in 2008/9 as we continue to partner with the District and Conference to make Disciples for the transformation of the world.

Respectfully submitted  
Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede, Executive Director

**POLICY STATEMENT OF MISCONDUCT OF A SEXUAL NATURE** - See pages 270-271 of the 2006 Conference Journal.