50 years later, still part of the Movement

Hillip Hunter greeted me at the door of his Bel Air, Md., home wearing a yellow shirt, a bow tie and crisp, new bib overalls. The overalls seemed out of place, given that Hunter, 67, is a retired lawyer and doesn't live on a farm. But there's a story behind the overalls, one that Hunter lived personally and one that he's sharing these days throughout the state.

Hunter, you see, knows a lot about the 1960’s Civil Rights movement in Selma, Ala. He should know. He was born and raised there.

A member of Ames UMC in Bel Air, Hunter was born in 1947. He has vivid memories of segregated bathrooms, drinking fountains, schools... you name it. The governmental systems in those days were all white; the Ku Klux Klan was frequently active in the community.

His father, the Rev. J.D. Hunter, was a Baptist minister, the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Selma, and a member of the Courageous Eight. The elder Hunter also was editor of the black newspaper in town, the Selma Citizen.

J.D. Hunter was harassed, going back to the 1940’s, said Phillip. “Because of his activities, my father was blackballed,” he said. “He couldn’t get a loan to support his business.” J.D. Hunter was also ordered to “cease and desist” all activities by the NAACP by none other than Sheriff Jim Clark, later notorious for his violent behavior on the Edmond Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965 – Bloody Sunday.

“My growing up experience in Alabama was good and bad,” Hunter said. “As you know, Alabama was highly segregated back then, more like Apartheid in South Africa.”

By Erik Alsgaard
UMConnection Staff

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He arose.
The tomb is empty;
the cross and grave defeated by grace.
As we celebrate this Easter season,
I invite you to join me
as we absorb the wonder,
live in blessedness

and seek to share God’s love
with a spirit of bold abundance.
Christ lives! So must we – daring to believe, daring to love.
May you be touched by God this Easter.
– Bishop Marcus Matthews

50 years later, still part of the Movement

See Selma, page 9
By Manly Satter
Pastor, Covenant UMC, Gaithersburg

ur daughter is in sixth grade, which means she’s too old to be a “kid” and too young to be a grown-up, or even a real “teenager” who gets to do teenage things, like drive her friends to the mall. She’s what is called a “tween.”

I can tell she’s planning her future and the things she would like to do when she is old enough. She tells me her first car will be a bright blue convertible, and that she is going to take French as a language in high school because someday, she wants to go to Paris. Her vocational aspirations swing from “famous novelist” to “computer animator.” She’s eager for her real life to start, even as we point out this is her real life.

I deeply understand, of course, the feeling of wanting to get on with it already, to have adventures and to truly live. Easter is a time when we celebrate that Jesus, who died, is now risen from the dead, and through that resurrection, we too can have life.

At first, of course, this seems like a celebration of a heaven and a triumph over physical death. And it is. But Easter isn’t just a ticket to a heavenly home in the sweet by and by. Easter and the life Jesus offers make a difference to us in the here and now, too. We may live in the “in between” Jesus’ first coming and his second, but we are not spiritual ‘tweens, left to do nothing but plan for the blue convertible of heaven in the world to come.

Because Jesus lives, “I can face tomorrow.” Because Jesus lives, “all fear is gone.” I would add to that classic statement, “you and for me and for every place where the shadow of the chocolate eggs do.” Easter is life, right now, today, for those who believe. Easter isn’t just a one Sunday event, lasting as long as the egg hunts and children’s eggs for Easter. Easter is life, right now, today, for you and for me and for everyone else where the shadow of death hangs out. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! And because he lives, life will never be the same again.

The theme is “Preaching for Transformation in the 21st Century.” The goal is to equip preachers to effectively address the pastoral and prophetic issues facing the contemporary church and society. In conjunction with the festival, a spring minimester course, “Preaching in the Black Church Tradition,” will be offered. It will be taught by the Rev. C. Anthony Hunt of Epworth UMC in Baltimore. Learn more at www.stmarys.edu/festival-of-preaching.

Pre-Conference Workshops:
A number of workshops are being offered on May 27 at the Waterfront Marriott Hotel. They include:

**Ministry and Money**
9:30 a.m. to noon; 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
With speakers from the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation Staff will explore the book “Ministry and Money.”

The Stewardship Journey, a Path for Life
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
The Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation stewardship committee will explore the life stages of Christian stewardship.

Bishop Marcus Matthews
Resident Bishop

Melissa Malagon
Assistant to the Bishop

Erin Leapman
Director of Communications

Alison Burdett
Managing Editor

Harrison Zepp
Multimedia Producer

Kayla Spears
Communications Associate
Police cadets, Glen Mar UMC, partner for homelessness

**By Erik Alsgaard**
UMConnection Staff

**H**omelessness is a hidden issue in Howard County, Md., one of the wealthiest communities in the United States. Glen Mar UMC, in Ellicott City, for more than 15 years, has been a leader in trying to do something about it. In mid-March, Glen Mar hosted 25 homeless “guests” for a week-long, cold weather shelter. And on Thursday, March 19, the church hosted an equal number of Recruiting Officers – Academy 39 – who spent the night outside, served meals to the guests at the church and got a taste of what it’s like to be on the outside looking in.

“The cadets will be camping out overnight beside the church,” said Poole, as tents appeared on the lawn outside his office. “much like a homeless person would camp out by Route 1 or near I-95.”

The Recruiting Officers were at Glen Mar because every Academy has to choose a community service project with which to be involved, said Gary Gardner, Chief of Police for Howard County. He came to the church to thank the Academy for their service.

“This is all about community policing, and that comes in many forms,” he told the cadets. “It’s all about problem solving and working with the community in partnership with organizations in problem solving.”

One of the organizations the Academy partnered with is Grassroots, a 24-hour crisis intervention and homeless shelter in Howard County. Recruitment Officers raised $10,000 for Grassroots.

“It’s really about our recruits, before they hit the streets, understanding more about our community. What some of the issues are, and are coming up with some solutions,” Gardner said.

“I’m very, very proud that they’ve raised more than $10,000 to help with Grassroots,” he said.

Mary Phelan, Public Information Officer for the Howard County Police Department, said the department is fortunate to have a strong relationship with its community. “We don’t see a lot of these issues that other communities are seeing,” she said. “But all that takes work, to foster those positive relationships. That’s part of the reason we take on projects like this.”

Ronald Wetherson, one of the Recruiting Officers in Academy 39, was part of the team that chose homelessness as their issue. “We’re trying to raise awareness about this issue,” he said. “We wanted to get some face time with the homeless population so that they don’t just see us as a figure driving by, they see us as a person, and do we care?”

Glen Mar takes pride in its outreach and involvement to the community, said Poole, including 25 hands-on partnerships with non-profit organizations. “We haven’t solved all the problems,” said Poole, “but it requires the community working together to get there.”

**W**esley Seminary leads fruitful conversation on race

**By Melissa Lauber**
UMConnection Staff

**W**hile political, media and grassroots leaders attempt to address how our “racial history still casts its long shadow upon us,” The United Methodist Church, to many, seems to have lost its voice. On March 17, Wesley Seminary’s new Center for Public Theology broke the silence.

In a panel discussion on “Moving Faith Communities to Fruitful Conversations” renowned journalists, the U.S. Attorney, seminary professors and area church leaders in Howard County, the Rev. David McCallister-Wilson, to explore how “faith informs us. The event was moderated by Mike McCurry, the executive director of the new Center for Public Theology.

The church’s involvement in issues of race, both past and present, is nothing new. During the Civil War, the Methodist Church split over the issue of slavery. During the Civil Right Movement in the 1960’s, “everything began and ended in a church,” said Krista Tippett, host of the radio program “On Being” who was one of the panelists.

Tippett had asked Methodist leaders to provide the civil rights leader U.S. Representative John Lewis. He who told her, in that Movement, everything was surrounded by preaching and by singing.

However, on the heels of events in Ferguson, Mo., other incidents of African Americans being killed by white police officers, and the chanting of a racist song by white fraternity brothers in Oklahoma, “the church turned its face away from people who are marginalized. “Collectively, we’ve turned our face away from the very people and communities Jesus turned his face to; and we wonder why our churches are dying and why 12 percent of the population doesn’t go to a church, mosque or synagogue. People are waiting for the faith community to be relevant to their everyday reality.”

McCurry asked the panelists about the validity of the aphorism of Sunday at 11 a.m. being the most segregated hour of the week. The panelists affirmed that statistics bore this out. (In fact, Religion News Services reports that “two in three, or 66 percent, of Americans have never regularly attended a place of worship where they were an ethnic minority.”)

The panelists also commented on the shifting demographics of the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that in 2014, whites will be in the minority. Some commentaries believe this growing multi-racial culture is creating tension and an increase in racial inequality.

But Michel Martin, a correspondent for National Public Radio who is also pursuing a theology degree from Wesley, urged the overlying voice of the On Being program, not to follow the example of those in Jeremiah 6:14, who dressed the people’s wounds as if they were not serious, and cried, “Peace, peace, when there is no peace.”

“I am not one to see diacriticals as necessarily wrong,” she said. “I don’t believe that being uncomfortable is a failure when it leads to something important. And I don’t think it’s a wrong when people have uncomfortable conversations, if they’re conversations that need to be had.”

The panel agreed, urging the seminary and local churches to be having the conversations on race that they want to hear.

Silver Spring UMC has a leader in intentionally creating a multi-cultural congregation. “We have a long history of hospitality and engaging around this issue,” said its lead pastor, the Rev. Rachel Cornwell. “But as diverse as we are, it’s easy to be lulled into thinking we’ve done the hard work.”

Floris UMC in Northern Virginia is also a multi-cultural church. But it’s something they had to work at. “The question was no longer ‘can we be diverse,’ ” she said. “We had to decide that that was what we would be. It was never going to just evolve. It was not ever going to just happen,” said the lead pastor the Rev. Tom Berlin.

“Churches are unusually unchanging.”

To bring about change, Cornwall said, there needs to be fearless voices from the pulpit and the pew. “Leaders need to be both pastoral and prophetic. … Churches are one of those few places where sit together across lines of difference – across lines of theological, political, ideological, economic and sometimes racial difference. And so if we are just sitting in church, side by side with one another and not taking advantage of the opportunity to learn from one another, to encounter each other’s different perspectives and world views, then we’re not doing authentic community.”

Tippett encouraged those present to discover the role that the church can uniquely play, perhaps providing spaces for difficult conversations. “There’s a lot that’s broken, there’s a lot that’s not serving us. … We need to start having the conversations we want to be hearing,” she said. “This is a wonderful 21st century calling.”

Others on the panel expressed the need for the seminar and the church to claim its role in giving people courage and to cultivate risk-taking.

Do the one thing you feel called to do, Martin said, and “ask the question that should be asked, and listen to the answer.”

Tippett invited congregations and seminaries to purposefully frame the challenge in theological and prophetic ways. “Ask what would it mean to be a beloved community. How do we get better at loving our neighbor? Who is our neighbor? Live those questions,” she said.

During the discussion, McCurry and the panelists often came back to John Lewis, and at one point McCurry asked. “How do you make a difference?” Lewis’ answer was “You need to be a pilot light and not a fire cracker.” He also said, “Make good trouble,” and “When you pray, move your feet.”

The Center for Public Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary is designed to equip leaders of the church to engage and inform discussion that relates faith traditions to critical issues of public importance.

A free download of a video of the panel will be available mid-April. Church members can use it to continue the discussion on their own or to search for particular topics covered. To access the download, e-mail theinsitute@wesleyseminary.edu. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu.
"Instead of always trying to measure vibrancy and that’s what it means to share the good news of Jesus 8-track tape-making business today. I believe God has a sour," Acevedo said. But too often that’s what we do. than 475 people packed the sanctuary of the church to of numerous books, outlined both the problem and the effectiveness by how many people we can attract to our congregations to minister more outside of our holy huddles – to be local missionaries," said the Rev. Chris Graves 27.9 as one of its texts, Mc Neal said that the future of the church depends on the condition of our cities, towns and villages and whether or not they are being infused with the Kingdom. "How can we even pretend to be successful if our numbers are up but the city is down?" The strategy we have to employ, he said, is to change the fabric, the very DNA, of our mission. "When people brush up against us (Christians)," he said, "they expect to encounter the Kingdom, but instead, we give them church." In other words, in many instances, rather than offering God’s blessings or the new life that God brings, we cut people that come to church (a building) at a particular time and sit with a particular group of people, Mc Neal said. To make the shift in narrative, several things must change, Mc Neal said. One of those items is changing our scorecards.
Every church and denomination uses scorecards, Mc Neal said, which include how we count people who attend church, how much money we give, and how many new members we made. Mc Neal said that it is all well and good to count this way, but that’s “church-centered thinking.” In a Kingdom-centered world, different achievements are celebrated. "Currently, we ask 'how many people show up and how busy were they?" he said. "The Kingdom requires us to move beyond that and ask questions that deal with the welfare of the city." For example, he said, ask how many people served the poor in the past week. Ask who read aloud to first-graders in the past month. Ask how much money the church gave away last year. Ask who served their neighbor yesterday.
Sprinkling his talk with illustrations of congregations that have started to make the switch from church-centered thinking/speech to Kingdom-centered thinking/speech, Mc Neal said that focusing on the Kingdom brings life. "If 'the church story' is killing our clergy, why are we telling it?" he asked. "The Kingdom story brings life." And that Kingdom story, he said, is like an invasion force into the darkness of the world. Jesus is knocking on our door, he said, inviting us to “come out and play” in the Kingdom, not the other way around. Making the shift won't be easy, Mc Neal said. "You should not be caught off guard by the opposition you'll face," he warned. "We've gotten to the point where stress and tension in the church means that something must be wrong; it is, in fact, it might be because something's finally right." Owens said that the Southern Region invited Mc Neal to speak at Leadership Day because he is one of the world’s leading voices for the missional church. "He was able to affirm that we don’t have to spin our wheels in a futile effort to fix our churches," said Owens. "Instead, we can focus on the mission of God, which is all about blessing all people with abundant life."
NOTE: Six clergy and six lay delegates to the 2016 General Conference will be elected at the 2015 Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Session in May. In addition, six lay and six clergy delegates, plus alternates, will be elected to the 2106 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

The 2016 General Conference will be held May 10-20 in Portland, Ore. The 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 13-15 in Lancaster, Pa.

Both the General and Jurisdictional Conferences are quadrennial events, meaning they meet every four years. General Conference is the church’s highest legislative body and the only group that can officially “speak” for the United Methodist Church. It’s main duty is to enact legislation “over all matters distinctively connectional” (2012 Book of Discipline, para. 36). Jurisdictional Conferences are where bishops are elected and boundaries of Annual Conferences are set, among other duties.

During balloting, clergy vote only for clergy, and lay vote only for lay. Rules and guidelines for the election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference are found in the Baltimore-Washington 2014 Journal, pp. 577-583.

Per the 2012 United Methodist Book of Discipline, all clergy in full connection are eligible to be elected as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Lay candidates must be members of the Annual Conference, professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding election, and have been active participants in the church for at least four years preceding election (BWC 2014 Journal, p. 579). Lay candidates had to submit their nomination before April 1 to be considered for election; no nominations will be accepted from the floor of the Annual Conference Session.

Each nominee was asked to submit a short statement about themselves and a photograph. Campaigning is otherwise prohibited. The nominees are listed in alphabetical order.

Please bring this insert with you to Annual Conference. More information about the candidates, including their experiences on church, conference and General Church Committees, can be found at www.bwcumc.org/laitycandidates2015.pdf, and www.bwcumc.org/clergycandidates2015.pdf.

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**CLERGY CANDIDATES**

**Cynthia Belt**  
Pastor, Centennial Carolina Street UMC, Baltimore  
I am committed to helping make our church more inclusive and more responsive to this present age. I have been an alternate and a delegate to General Conference and fully participated in the process. I am able to look at the issues facing our church from a number of perspectives and I think my outlook would enhance our delegation.

**Rudy Bropleh**  
Pastor, Asbury UMC, Shepherdstown  
As the 20th of 23 children, I learned at an early age the importance of communication, cooperation, collaboration, and compassion. I am passionate about equipping and empowering the church, using my background in economics and education to strengthen the UMC by providing training in economic empowerment and leadership development. I have served the Church here at home in many countries including Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Israel, South Korea, Haiti, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Palestine, Colombia, Nigeria, and Kenya. I believe the church is the hope of the world, and I desire to help keep that hope alive, in as many places as possible. I would make a good delegate because of my world view, ability to communicate and persuade, commitment to the renewal of our church, desire to balance biblical integrity with social justice, and maintain the unity of our Connection. I envision a Church that prioritizes winning souls.

**Joan Carter-Rimbach**  
Pastor, First UMC, Hyattsville  
As a Director on the General Board of Global Ministries and member of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters and Global AIDS Fund, I offer a global perspective of the church and our mission with an awareness of the issues we share with others around the world. I bring the passion for inclusiveness and justice and a gift at working with others that is required if we are to move forward to be the Church that God calls us to be. It would be an honor to represent the BMC as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. I have served as a clergy delegate in the past to both Conferences, gaining the experience and knowledge required to make informed decisions. In this critical time in the church’s life, I will be fully engaged in the rigorous schedule and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**Joseph Daniels**  
Greater Washington District Superintendent; Pastor, Emory UMC, Washington, D.C.  
Having served as a district superintendent hire, a provisional member, an elder and pastor in our annual conference for 23 years, and now having served as a district superintendent for the past two years, I believe I possess a strong understanding of the church at multiple levels. In addition, in leading a growing ministry in the conference, I understand what is necessary for growing healthy congregations and communities of diverse sizes in this day and age. I have served on the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegations for the past three quadrennium. Furthermore, I bring extensive global experience to the church through my work with the Zimbabwe Partnership for more than 10 years, and mission service in other parts of the world. I believe these varied experiences help me serve the Baltimore Washington Conference broadly and faithfully.

**Laura Easto**  
Baltimore Suburban District Superintendent  
General Conference is the United Methodist Church at our best! A sacred space gets created, people representing the church from all over the world are called, elected, and gather to be embraced by the belief that we are one in Christ Jesus united by our theological undergirding of Wesleyan thought. It is an honor to represent our annual conference. Understanding the process of working in legislative committees is essential to the work of General Conference. I have chaired the Judicial Administration Legislative Committee. That group carefully evaluates the petitions that pertain to the Disciplinary language and processes around fair trial, chargeable offenses, the Judicial Council, and Administrative trials and appeals. It is my hope to influence the work of the 2016 General Conference with my faith and knowledge.

**Terri Rae Chatten**  
Pastor, Sykesville Parish  
I bring a life-long passion for congregations and advocacy on behalf of God’s full humanity. As a 5-time delegate to General Conference and 6-time delegate to Jurisdictional I offer vast experience. Through leadership entrusted to me as head of 2012 delegation, Secretary (1996, 2012) and Chair (2008) of GC Church and Society Legislative Committees, I encouraged respect and compassion for diverse voices. I was a GCSPW member (1996-2000) and liaison to Deaf Ministry & GBCS. With more than 35 years in pastoral ministry my conference leadership has included: Board of Pensions; Ordained Ministry; Camp director/counselor; Episcopacy Committee; Co-founder Baltimore-Washington Chapter of MFSA; Founder of Quality of Life Retreats for Persons with HIV/AIDS; Teacher in Africa University Pastors School, BWARM, Leader/participant in 31 VMR trips; Conference Staff (1983-1987); and Fredericks DS (2005-2013). Committed to our UMC witness locally and globally, I would be honored to contribute to the 2016 delegation.
Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ but to you.

Church. Conference since 1997. I want to be the delegate for Council on Ministries Task Force on Racism, to name Methodist who is passionate

In 2014, I was honored to become the first woman I have served. I have been a featured teacher and

I humbly submit myself to serve on our delegation.

New York Annual Conference. With a focus on engaged Methodist Men, Strengthening the Black Church for generations. As one of the youngest and newly appointed as Senior Pastor of historic Foundry UMC in Washington, DC.

a Full Elder. I have served on a staff, on my own in a small church and as the lead pastor of a multi-staffed church. I care deeply for the United Methodist Church.

a Graduate of Yale Divinity School, I've served a variety of the great commission: “to win disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” I suggest if the church is going to fulfill its holy mission, and if the kingdom of God is going to grow, we need to build bridges of faith, lead people to the cross and into a relationship with Jesus Christ. For decades The United Methodist Church has been looking for a “way forward.” Having served four churches that have all grown by the grace of God, I have found the best “way forward” is to lift up the timeless traditional teachings of our faith: grace alone, faith alone, and scripture alone. If we remain faithful to these basic tenants of our faith, the kingdom of God will grow and the world will never be the same. Soh Dee Chilton!

The glorious purpose of our Church is to live out the command of the great commission: “to win disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” I believe in our evolving future. After serving in the local church for over 20 years, participating in this moment of holy conferencing where the people called United Methodists reorient together to be confirming of me as I bring the richness of the BWC and my own experiences to this table of conversation.

I want to make every effort to refocus our church on the larger vision of building the kingdom of God. We have been so distracted by internal debates, threats of schism and in reverting decline that we have largely lost touch with our main objective of bringing the life and blessing of Jesus Christ to the world as his living body. I will work to bring a common sense to the issues that divide us while working for unity around the mission of God. I will encourage the General Church to do everything possible to remove all impediments to missionally engage their communities with the good news of Jesus. I bring an ability to deeply listen, to think creatively and strategically, and to remain biblically grounded and centered by the Holy Spirit while productively working with people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

A new church into the future unafraid and to grow vital faith communities through which disciples are made who shape the world. Lending my voice to these and other pertinent issues facing our church today and tomorrow is important to me because I believe in our church … our rich history, our dynamic present and our evolving future. After serving in the local church for over 20 years, participating in this moment of holy conferencing where the people called United Methodists reorient together to be confirming of me as I bring the richness of the BWC and my own experiences to this table of conversation.

The United Methodist Church has a beacon of hope for people from all walks of life for generations. As one of the youngest and newly ordained clergy persons in our conference, I’ve been inspired to be part of continuing the challenging, yet critical and compelling work of making disciples for the transformation of the world, not only for my generation, but for those that are still to come. I believe that lending my ear and voice to the important conversations in 2016 is necessary to make disciples of Jesus Christ. As your 2016 delegate I will serve with my ear and voice to the important conversations in 2016 to think creatively and strategically, and to remain biblically grounded and centered by the Holy Spirit while productively working with people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

I want to make every effort to refocus our church on the larger vision of building the kingdom of God. We have been so distracted by internal debates, threats of schism and in reverting decline that we have largely lost touch with our main objective of bringing the life and blessing of Jesus Christ to the world as his living body. I will work to bring a common sense to the issues that divide us while working for unity around the mission of God. I will encourage the General Church to do everything possible to remove all impediments to missionally engage their communities with the good news of Jesus. I bring an ability to deeply listen, to think creatively and strategically, and to remain biblically grounded and centered by the Holy Spirit while productively working with people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.
Charles Parker
Pastor, Metropolitan Memorial UMC, Washington, D.C.

This is a critical moment in the life of our denomination, as we discern what it means to be a global church, how to realize our aspiration to be a church of “open hearts, open minds, and open doors”; and how to engage a new generation of Christian disciples. I believe that my background as a church pastor, a conference staff person, a non-profit leader, and Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry has provided me with a broad range of experience to be part of this discernment process. I pray that we create a General Conference in which we celebrate our diversity and engage one another in constructive, Spirit-led ways. I believe that the Holy Spirit works through that diversity to advance the life of our denomination, as we move around us to recognize the transformative power of life in Christ.

Harold Recinos
Perkins School of Theology/ MMU, Professor of Church and Society

I am deeply moved by the witness of King and Romero who in their own ways instructed the church to preach the subversive witness of the Beatitudes, to be a bruiser church on the street, and a community that says Yes to justice, and No to injustice. I cannot agree more and have wondered for some time how to enact that vision of discipleship at this stage in my life. I am convinced that in Christ Crucified, God elected what established morality and the State rejected, while at once directing us to find the divine presence at the side of the forsaken. I think leading the church in its walk with the weary in the capacity of delegate will extend the reach of my social ethical ministry.

Kirkland Reynolds
Pastor, Chevy Chase UMC

The church is always discerning what the Great Commission looks like in its present age. This time is no different. I feel called to work for a church that reflects our global faith, faithful to local community, and rich in diversity. As a clergy member of our conference, I am keenly aware that new times call for new approaches. This legacy calls my attention to practices which support and encourage discipleship, including nurturing call amongst young people, and mentoring and nurturing clergy. As a member of BOOM, I have had many opportunities to be involved in this work already, but I look forward to broader involvement as a delegate. Having attended GC2012 as an observer, I was saddened to see the pain and brokenness embedded in not only the topics discussed, but the manner these topics were addressed. I look forward to carrying the faithfulness of previous delegations into new generations while seeking to increase our ability to lovingly join in holy conferencing.

Edgardo Rivera
Frederick District Superintendent

Our United Methodist Church, the church which I am committed to serve and support, is undergoing profound challenges that are calling for hard decisions to continue the path of transformation required to respond to the current realities of our ministry context. I consider it a blessing to serve in a geographical area rich in diversity. As a clergy member of our conference I seek to join others in engaging in valuable dialogue considering the many issues facing our church today in an effort to find new ground. It is my hope to honorably represent the BW Conference at the Jurisdictional Conference.

Melissa Rudolph
Pastor, North Carroll Cooperative Parish

It would be an honor to represent the Baltimore-Washington Conference as a delegate. I was raised at Auburn UMC in Charles Town, WV from the time I was an infant until I was sent to pastor my first congregation -- Kabletown UMC. When I studied abroad in Zimbabwe while an international relations student at American University, I met other United Methodists both from our conference and from those in Bulawayo. That is when I realized the international scope of our work together as the body of Christ. What I have always valued is the United Methodist Church is a global, connectional church that speaks with one voice -- the General Conference. I seek to go as a delegate with no agenda, save to obey what my covenant discipleship group at Wesley Theological Seminary referred to as “the promptings and warnings of the Holy Spirit.” That is a sacred and prayerful task.

Sarah Andrews Schliekert
Pastor, Arden UMC, Martinsburg, WV

I am passionate about advocating for the health, vibrancy and longevity of our clergy, faith communities and denominational. As a fourth generation clergy with roots in the EUB tradition, I am keenly aware that new times call for new approaches. This legacy calls my attention to practices which support and encourage discipleship, including nurturing call amongst young people, and mentoring and nurturing clergy. As a member of BOOM, I have had many opportunities to be involved in this work already, but I look forward to broader involvement as a delegate. Having attended GC2012 as an observer, I was saddened to see the pain and brokenness embedded in not only the topics discussed, but the manner these topics were addressed. I look forward to carrying the faithfulness of previous delegations into new generations while seeking to increase our ability to lovingly join in holy conferencing.

Marlon Tilghman
Pastor, Milford Mill, Randallstown

As a delegate, I would utilize the gifts of my vocations, education, military experience and social justice advocacy to revitalize our denomination in the areas of active listening and discipleship for equality, serenity and energy. We have a rich history but a short term memory in the areas of treating everyone like a child of God. I will advocate for social justice as is our biblical mandate to love unconditionally and holistically. My Annual Conference committee roles are probably my deepest passions. I want the ordination process to be fair, reasonable and realistic. I want us to manage our finances and resources with a liberal and conservative conscious. And let’s create more partnerships and re-purpose infrastructures for better usefulness. Serving a multi-ethnic and diverse congregation has also groomed me in relation dynamics. Combined that with testifying in Congress for fair housing, wages and education, I’m willing to serve.

Mary Kay Totty
Pastor, Dumforton UMC, Washington, D.C.

Our beloved United Methodist Church is in the midst of tumultuous times as we discern our way forward in our rapidly changing world. In this discernment process, I will lift my voice for justice and inclusion; for scriptural theology relevant for today’s world; for the value of shared leadership between clergy and laity at all levels of the church; for intergenerational ministries; for dismantling racism, sexism, and homophobia; and for the church structure which reflects our shared values of mission, equality, and advocacy. I am mindful and appreciative of our conference’s rich diversity 1) geographically: serving churches in West Virginia, rural Maryland, and DC and 2) among our clergy having the honor of working closely with deacons, elders, retirees, provisional members, local pastors, and associate members. I would be honored to serve as a General and Jurisdictional Conference delegate.

Charles Parker
Pastor, Metropolitan Memorial UMC, Washington, D.C.

This is a critical moment in the life of our denomination, as we discern what it means to be a global church, how to realize our aspiration to be a church of “open hearts, open minds, and open doors”; and how to engage a new generation of Christian disciples. I believe that my background as a church pastor, a conference staff person, a non-profit leader, and Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry has provided me with a broad range of experience to be part of this discernment process. I pray that we create a General Conference in which we celebrate our diversity and engage one another in constructive, Spirit-led ways. I believe that the Holy Spirit works through that diversity to advance the life of our denomination, as we move around us to recognize the transformative power of life in Christ.

Harold Recinos
Perkins School of Theology/ MMU, Professor of Church and Society

I am deeply moved by the witness of King and Romero who in their own ways instructed the church to preach the subversive witness of the Beatitudes, to be a bruiser church on the street, and a community that says Yes to justice, and No to injustice. I cannot agree more and have wondered for some time how to enact that vision of discipleship at this stage in my life. I am convinced that in Christ Crucified, God elected what established morality and the State rejected, while at once directing us to find the divine presence at the side of the forsaken. I think leading the church in its walk with the weary in the capacity of delegate will extend the reach of my social ethical ministry.

Kirkland Reynolds
Pastor, Chevy Chase UMC

The church is always discerning what the Great Commission looks like in its present age. This time is no different. I feel called to work for a church that reflects our global faith, faithful to local community, and rich in diversity. As a clergy member of our conference, I am keenly aware that new times call for new approaches. This legacy calls my attention to practices which support and encourage discipleship, including nurturing call amongst young people, and mentoring and nurturing clergy. As a member of BOOM, I have had many opportunities to be involved in this work already, but I look forward to broader involvement as a delegate. Having attended GC2012 as an observer, I was saddened to see the pain and brokenness embedded in not only the topics discussed, but the manner these topics were addressed. I look forward to carrying the faithfulness of previous delegations into new generations while seeking to increase our ability to lovingly join in holy conferencing.

Edgardo Rivera
Frederick District Superintendent

Our United Methodist Church, the church which I am committed to serve and support, is undergoing profound challenges that are calling for hard decisions to continue the path of transformation required to respond to the current realities of our ministry context. I consider it a blessing to serve in a geographical area rich in diversity. As a clergy member of our conference I seek to join others in engaging in valuable dialogue considering the many issues facing our church today in an effort to find new ground. It is my hope to honorably represent the BW Conference at the Jurisdictional Conference.
Advocacy groups disrupt our meetings, and no one stops the decline. Those sitting in the pews have some of the answers. I want to be apart of the change. I want to be a disciple who makes a difference.

Lay Ministry, am training a new class of CLM’s, and through whom all things are possible. A Savior, as an example of the overcoming life we can live, relying on Jesus who lives to intercede for us.

I am very concerned about the diversity of our Conference, but the denomination as a whole is a life-long follower of Jesus Christ and United Methodist Church, I have the honor of being a delegate to General Conference.

I hope to be elected as a GC delegate because I love the UMC and want the UMC to become a growing, thriving denomination that attracts younger and more diverse people. I am familiar with many of the issues that will likely come up at the 2026 GC, including a possible new structure and matters relating to inclusion of LGBT people. I have served as a leader at every level of the church, including our leaders at all levels. We can and should do these things, and I am ready to help!

I believe the people of The United Methodist Church are the potential to transform the world. Since 2006--in my work as a facilitator in agencies, annual conferences, districts and churches across the US--I have been witness to the fact that God is not done with the people of the UMC. I would love to be a part of honoring and rediscovering our witness as a powerful missional movement and to work collaboratively to remove barriers and ignite the movement once more.

I am deeply moved by the power, beauty and potential of bold and joyful faith. I believe the people of The United Methodist Church really do possess the power to transform the world. It is my hope that General Conference will draw upon the best of our traditions of vital piety and social holiness. These two forces, working in harmony, are among the church’s greatest strengths. It is my prayer that the Church, through the General Conference, will embrace and employ creativity, wonder, innovation and hope as they address issues of poverty, inclusion, peace, and nurturing the dignity and wholeness of human life. The church is at a crossroad. We have the opportunity to reclaim our relevance as we live, giving glory to God.

I hope to be a positive influence to return us to focus on Jesus Christ, speaking his truth, in love. Telling the world about our wonderful Savior, through whom all things are possible. I want to be a disciple who makes a difference. I would love to be a part of the change. I want to be a disciple who makes a difference.

As the BWC Director of Communications I have the honor of sharing the stories of people and churches as they manifest the love of God. Their stories have taught me the power, beauty and potential of bold and joyful faith. I believe the people of The United Methodist Church really do possess the power to transform the world. It is my hope that General Conference will draw upon the best of our traditions of vital piety and social holiness. These two forces, working in harmony, are among the church’s greatest strengths. It is my prayer that the Church, through the General Conference, will embrace and employ creativity, wonder, innovation and hope as they address issues of poverty, inclusion, peace, and nurturing the dignity and wholeness of human life. The church is at a crossroad. We have the opportunity to reclaim our relevance as we live, giving glory to God.

I am the Chair-Elect of the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association. I was an activist in the passage of the same sex marriage bill in Maryland. I am committed to Jesus Christ’s example of inclusive love, care and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective.

I have been a member of the church’s life as a youth leader, Sunday School teacher, Staff-Farish Relations Committee member, and Lay Representative to Annual Conference. I currently serve as lay pastor at Deer Creek UMC and Mt. Tabor UMC in Forest Hill, MD. I have been an attorney for the past 18 years, concentrating my practice in all areas of family law. I am the Chair-Elect of the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association. I was an activist in the passage of the same sex marriage bill in Maryland.

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I am driven to making the Methodist Church relevant to all who believe and will work hard and faithfully to be a delegate the BWC is proud to send to GC.
Chett Pritchett  
Dumbarton UMC, Washington, D.C., Greater Washington District

The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads. Will we seek to be faithful to the task of making Disciples for the transformation of the world, or will we be burdened with worry and fear of what the future holds? In seeking to be a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, I endeavor to represent a Church who seeks to live out the Gospel beyond buildings by encouraging congregational development and revitalization, a Church seeking to reach new people in new places, including our growing global contexts; a Church that is willing to stand for racial, gender, and economic justice; and a Church who welcomes the leadership of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities at every level. As a lay member of the Baltimore Washington Conference, I have made many offerings to the local church, including listening, learning, and leading in ways that are faithful to the Gospel and the mission of the Church.

Mitte Quinn  
Dumbarton UMC, Washington, D.C., Greater Washington District

At General Conference 2016, members of the UMC, the second largest "mainline" protestant denomination, will have a unique opportunity to stand forth as an example of God's overwhelming grace and love in a world where there is brokenness, heartache, yearning, and hate and hope. I believe that God intended, as people of God, to demonstrate and find ways to live together in the midst of our vast diversity. As a delegate to General Conference, I will draw on my experience as a lifelong Methodist, a woman of faith, a psychologist, and a parent, to find a path to healing and reconciliation for the United Methodist Church. I will faithfully attend all meetings of the delegation and enter into holy conversations with my fellow delegates to discern God's call for us. It would be an honor and privilege to represent the Baltimore Washington Conference.

Kelly Robier  
Mill Creek Parish, Rockville; Central Maryland District

I'm Kelly Robier, a 20-year-old student at UMBC. Brought up in a United Methodist Family tracing its roots back four generations to England, I believe in the mission of United Methodism as embodied by "open hearts, open minds, open doors." The Church now faces significant challenges not limited to this conference or even this nation. Overcoming these challenges will require long-term effort and involvement of younger generations. Inter-generational connectivity is an integral part of the United Methodist Tradition. As a young adult, I am committed to the future of United Methodism and ask that I be given the opportunity to partake in the process of consensus-building that must exist at the heart of the global Church. I have served in leadership at the Conference and as CCYM president. I've continued my volunteer service as Director of Communications for the ROCK team and as a lay member to Annual Conference.

Christopher Schliecker  
Arden United Methodist Church, Martinsburg, WV, Frederick District

As director of Manidokan Camp & Retreat Center and a clergy spouse, I offer a unique perspective on the ministry of the church because I know the challenges of leading a ministry yet I'm seeking to be a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, I endeavor to represent a Church who seeks to live out the Gospel beyond buildings by encouraging congregational development and revitalization, a Church seeking to reach new people in new places, including our growing global contexts; a Church that is willing to stand for racial, gender, and economic justice; and a Church who welcomes the leadership of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities at every level. As a lay member of the Baltimore Washington Conference, I have made many offerings to the local church, including listening, learning, and leading in ways that are faithful to the Gospel and the mission of the Church.

Douglas Schmidt  
Grace UMC, Baltimore, Baltimore Metropolitan District

My calling for my church is to teach the youth with faith class in Sunday school. Our curriculum is steeped in the life and example of Jesus. Young people, in the face of a confusing world, yearn for the righteous and forgiving path that Jesus shows them. I admire our youth so much as they wrestle with the big questions of faith. Every week, I challenge my students to act upon my faith. For over two hundred years, people have been drawn to the Methodist message of faith in action. The 2020 General Conference must radically reaffirm our unity and remember our Christian mission. I believe in a United Methodist Church that can change the world, inspire youth, and rediscover our heritage in making disciples of Christ. My hope is to represent our conference in building bridges and helping to chart a new era for all who seek God's grace.

Matthew Sichel  
Wesley UMC, Baltimore Suburban District

I believe the United Methodist Church is at a crossroads. This General Conference may be one that charts the course of a Church that could take radically different directions than we have done in recent memory. Critical to this import should have delegates who adequately represent the whole Conference in a faithful manner, are excited by the Gospel, and have a heart for the future of the Church, as the living and breathing Body of Christ. I have spent my whole life in the United Methodist Church, and I am a Young Adult. I have seen our Conference and Church do amazing things for the Kingdom of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. When Methodism is at its best, the world has been transformed for the Kingdom of God. It is this UMC that I love, and I hope to push forward for our future.

Tom Starnes  
Metropolitan Memorial UMC, Washington, D.C., Greater Washington District

I am the son, brother and nephew of Baltimore-Washington Conference pastors (and the cousin of yet another pastor in the Detroit Conference), and grew up in churches all across Maryland and the District. I took a different path out of college and became a lawyer, but for the last 26 years have had the privilege of representing the Church and its people at every level, general (GCFA), jurisdictional (Counsel to the Committees on Appeals in the Beth Stroud and Frank Schaefer cases), annual conference (Chancellor) and local church. I think the Church faces a future that is daunting as well as hopeful; people have forged significant relationships across the denomination, and I welcome the opportunity to bring that experience together in my purposes of representing this beloved body before the General Conference in Portland in 2016.

Elizabeth Stenley  
Sharp Street Memorial UMC, Baltimore Metropolitan District

As President of the Baltimore-Washington Conference Leadership Team, United Methodist Women, I bring an array of fresh skills and ideas in mission and social justice issues facing children, youth, and young adults. I have experienced as a Master Social Worker and have twenty-two years in planning, administration, community organization and outreach. I work well within a team and am highly focused on getting the task completed in a timely manner. Of importance is the development of creative, supportive fellowship to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministry of the church. My skills can be used to bring about a shift in the administrative work of the future church in which a twenty-first century approach to listen, learn and engage has become a norm; I would be honored to serve as a delegate.
Title: Resolution to Amend the Rules of the Session to codify the “Circles of Grace” process for consideration of certain resolutions during Annual Conference.

Rationale: During Annual Conference 2014, the BWC tried a new thing. We found a way to avoid the usual debate with only three persons on each side of an issue.

Because The United Methodist Church is a denomination whose history is founded on the value of small group communication as a way to build community, and because the usual debate process does not always build community, the BWC created a process called “Circles of Grace.” This opened the door to a more broad conversation that left many wanting to continue their conversations and describing the process with words that included “grace-filled, moving, fulfilling, inclusive, spiritual, amazing, awesome, and uplifting.” The feedback received about the process was overwhelmingly positive.

Accordingly, the Rules Committee recommends that the Circles of Grace process be incorporated into our Rules of the Session so that it may be used without the necessity of first deciding a motion to suspend the rules.

Submitted by: Jen Ihlo, Chair, Rules Committee

To see the text to be inserted into this section of the rules, visit http://bwcumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Circles-of-Grace-Resolution.docx

Title: Resolution on Renewable Energy

Rationale: The purpose of this resolution is to support the efforts of all governments to reduce the adverse impacts of global climate change, as required by the UMC Book of Discipline, Social Principles, ¶ 160D (2012). The resolution would require the BWC to support doubling Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard. It would also require congregations in the BWC to implement 40% renewable energy usage in our own efforts to faithfully respond to global climate change.

Submitted by: The Rev. Delysne Hinten

Resolution: WHEREAS, global climate change is an issue of concern, interest, and action among many United Methodists; and WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state “The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions. We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions;” (The Natural World, ¶ 160C; Global Climate Stewardship, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church of 2009-2012); and WHEREAS, the State of Maryland is heavily reliant on electricity from fossil fuels, such as coal and natural gas, which give off potent greenhouse gas emissions that constitute almost half of our state’s total greenhouse gas emissions; and WHEREAS, Wind and solar energy do not have adverse health effects and do not contribute to global climate change;

We resolve to support sound practices surrounding renewable energy.

For a complete copy of the resolution, visit http://bwcumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Renewable-Energy-Resolution.docx

Title: Petition to General Conference 2016 regarding Aligning UMC Investments with Resolution on Israel and Palestine

Rationale: The Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies “that directly or indirectly support the violation of human rights.” We should not profit through our investments in companies that sustain Israel’s illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation wall, home demolitions and other realities of occupation in Palestinian territory.

Submitted by: Natalia Cuadra-Saez (Old Otterbein UMC, Baltimore, MD), Rev. Kenneth R. Graves (Hughes UMC, Wheaton, MD), David House (Metropolitan Memorial UMC, Washington, DC), Chet Pritchett (Dumbarton UMC, Washington, DC), Rev. Shannon Sullivan (Presbury UMC, Edgewood, MD) and endorsed by the Steering Committee of the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action.

Rationale: The Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies “that directly or indirectly support the violation of human rights” (¶ 756, The Book of Discipline).

We should not profit through our investments in companies that sustain Israel’s illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation wall, home demolitions and other realities of occupation in Palestinian territory.

BE IT RESOLVED that The United Methodist Church will end our financial involvement in Israel’s occupation by:

• Divesting from companies that sustain the occupation, specifically, Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard, with whom we have repeatedly engaged with on this issue.

• Instructing United Methodist general boards and agencies to immediately engage with other companies in their portfolios that have been identified by researchers in United Methodist general boards and agencies and annual conferences as being involved in the occupation (United Methodists’ Holy Land Task Force, “Companies of Concern,” November 2010, http://www.umbltf.org/Companies_of_Concern.html, Web, November 2010). If these companies do not change their involvement within two years, they should be removed from United Methodist portfolios.

• Requiring all United Methodist general boards and agencies to provide updates on their Web sites regarding the process of corporate engagement with and/or divestment from companies that support the Israeli occupation.

• Directing all United Methodist general boards and agencies to provide a report to the 2016 General Conference regarding their progress toward complying with this resolution.

• Calling on United Methodist general boards and agencies, annual conferences, local churches and individuals to prayerfully consider corporate involvement in Israel’s occupation when making investment decisions.

• Encouraging United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights and an end to the occupation.

For a detailed explanation of this issue, visit http://bwcumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Aligning-UMC-Investments-with-Resolution-on-Israel-and-Palestine.docx

Title: Petition to General Conference to Amend Paragraph 806 of the UMC Book of Discipline, Regarding Employee Disability Insurance in the United Methodist Church

Rationale: This resolution recommends that the BWC send a petition to General Conference regarding Employee Disability Insurance in the UMC. “The petition seeks an amendment to paragraph 806 of the UMC Book of Discipline. The rationale is included below in the Petition (using the General Conference formatting.)

Submitted by: Jackson Day, on behalf of Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave; and Nancy Webb, on behalf of Commission on Disability Concerns.

Co-Sponsors: Board of Ordained Ministry; Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Resolution: Be It Resolved that the 2015 session of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference commend the attached Petition to amend by Paragraph 806, UMC Book of Discipline by adding a new paragraph, as described below:

Amend: ¶806 to add a new paragraph following paragraph 8.

It shall be responsible for ensuring that no United Methodist board, agency, or other entity shall provide to their own agency, other agencies or to annual conferences disability compensation insurance for clergy or laity which offers different levels of protection based on whether or not the diagnosis is for a mental-nervous condition.

Rationale: Disability insurance which restricts benefits for “nervous-mental conditions” — common practice — discriminates against employees compared to others, violates Social Principle ¶162X and is counter to the principles of Resolution 3303, Ministry in Mental Illness. GCFA is the appropriate agency to enforce non-use of UMC funds for such insurances.

For more about this resolution, visit http://bwcumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Employee-Disability-Insurance.docx

Title: Petition to General Conference for Adoption and Placement in the Book of Resolutions Regarding Non-Discrimination in Disability Compensation

Rationale: This resolution recommends that the BWC send a petition to General Conference for a new resolution to be included in the UMC Book of Resolutions. The proposed new resolution is regarding Non-Discrimination in Disability Compensation. The rationale is included below in the Petition (using the General Conference formatting.)

Submitted by: Jackson Day, on behalf of Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave; and Nancy Webb, on behalf of Commission on Disability Concerns.

Co-Sponsors: Board of Ordained Ministry; Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Suggested Title: Non-Discrimination in Disability Compensation

Long term disability insurance protects employees around the world by providing continuing compensation in lieu of salary when an accident or illness prevents an employee from continuing their service to their employer. Ideally, such insurance provides for compensation based purely on the existence of a disability that prevents continuing employment, and continues for the duration of that disability.

In many countries such insurance is often subject to a limitation for disabilities based on “mental and nervous conditions.” The primary reason offered for such a discrimination between disabilities is the comparative difficulty of validating
Therefore be it resolved that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church petitions the General Board of Church and Society in such advocacy at state and regional legislative bodies.

Petition: Avoid Investment in the Production of Petroleum, Coal and Natural Gas

Suggested Title: Avoid Investment in the Production of Petroleum, Coal and Natural Gas

Rationale: The 2014 Annual Conference of the Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC) resolved to “empower our bishop and conference representatives, current and future, to work on behalf of the Baltimore-Washington Conference toward the eventual removal of all discriminatory references and policies in the Book of Discipline and Social Principles that are based on sexual identity.” In keeping with that resolution, the BWC should send this petition to the 2016 General Conference, seeking removal of the key discriminatory language contained in the Discipline.

Endorsed or Supported By:
Churches/Organizations
Capital Hill United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Capitol United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Congregational Council, Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Copley United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Dumbarton UMC, Washington D.C.
Hampdens United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
James Early, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
John E. Price, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Lata Haddon, Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Paul Newhouse, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Rev. Frank Trottier, retired
Rev. T.R. Chatter
Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Senior Pastor, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Rev. James Early, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Rev. Jim Capps, Emanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel, MD
Rev. Joey Hearn, Associate Pastor, Silver Springs United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD
Rev. Dr. Charles A. Parker, The Metropolitan Church, Washington D.C.
Rev. Donna Claycomb Schultze, Pastor, Met. Church and Century Fellowship, Silver Spring, MD
Rev Rachel Cornwell, Silver Spring United Methodist Church
Rev. Rebecca Vaedem, Centenary/Zone United Methodist Churches
Rev. Kate Payton, Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church
Rev. Arthur Dan Gleckler, Hampdens United Methodist Church

Latty: Richard W. "Rick" Shives, Zone UMC
Ben Roberts, Director of Social Justice Ministries, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Louise Franklin, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Nancy Groth, mother of transgender son, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Christian Marble, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Dan and Mariana Vock, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
James Early, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Ann Brown-Birkel, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Bill Smith, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Tracy Collins, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Chuck Lisslee, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Jan Lawrence, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Lindu Lewis, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Wilson Rumble, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Chris Hong, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
T.C. Morrow, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Michael Tyler, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Eddie Gouge, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Daniel Gri, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
James Abbott, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Ray Goodfellow, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.

Paul Newhouse, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Suzaane Forsyth, Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.
Sam and Kathy Rawlings, Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, Washington D.C.

Kern Towler, Metropolitan Cooperative Parish, Washington D.C.
The United Methodist Church opposes the legislation of any faith-based accounts, which is not in keeping with the principles of church and state relations, which has served the cause of religious liberty, should not be misconstrued as the abolition of all religious expression from public life. The rightful and vital separation of church and state, which has served the cause of religious liberty, should not be misconstrued as the abolition of all religious expression from public life.

The United Methodist Church opposes the legislation of any faith-based accounts, which is not in keeping with the principles of church and state relations, which has served the cause of religious liberty, should not be misconstrued as the abolition of all religious expression from public life. The rightful and vital separation of church and state, which has served the cause of religious liberty, should not be misconstrued as the abolition of all religious expression from public life.
Selma: A footsoldier for Civil Rights looks back, 50 years later

From page 1

We were skeptical about holding such an event in a funeral home. But there was a method behind the madness.

Philipp Hunter recites one of his original poems, “Stand Up,” written in 2007. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2ov-Gw1cwo

Asbury UMC Jessup: no longer dead, but growing

The judge, in the end, simply threw the group out of court. Most in the group were never formally charged. Access to legal council was never available.

The diploma given to Phillip Hunter in 1965, signed by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We nibbled at the word, but I didn’t go.

The pastor invited members and the choir from her home church of Mt. Zion UMC in Magothy to come to the Homecoming service. The funeral home was packed. The funeral was on October 17, 1995, at the age of 69. The obituary said, “He was my opportunity to sell Jesus.”

Weary Sunday Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the successful march from Selma to Montgomery. That makes him a “foot soldier.”

The judge, said, “I saw that the congregation needed to have some flavor, something to move them.”

One of the first things the new pastor did was a Homecoming Weekend. Just up the street from the church is a funeral home. Phillip Green-Carden said, and that was where the event was held. Church members, however, were skeptical about holding such an event in a funeral home. But there was a method behind the madness.

For God,” she said. “I saw that the congregation needed to have some flavor, something to move them.”

The-Civil Rights Movement, Hunter said, was 14 years old.

The Rev. Chris Holmes, superintendent at the time, had worked with Green-Carden for several years. Green-Carden had spoken with Holmes, telling him that she felt God was calling her into ministry.

One day, Holmes called. “I have an opportunity for you to be a beacon for God.”

Hunter’s generation, though, wasn’t one to simply stay in their place. The Civil Rights Movement, Hunter said, was already at work before he was born, long before Martin Luther King, Jr., arrived.

“King couldn’t have come to Selma if there hadn’t been an organization already at work,” Hunter said.

In 1962 or 63, Hunter attended his first Civil Rights meeting in the basement of his home church, Tabernacle Baptist Church. James Foreman and James Baldwin spoke. Those meetings were the precursor to Dr. King’s coming, Hunter said. It was at that time that various marches were held throughout Selma, demonstrating for the right to vote and for getting facilities.

1965 was also the year of the March on Washington. Hunter wanted to attend, but for lack of money to buy a $295 round-trip ticket, he didn’t go.

At one of the marches, Hunter was part of a group that was rounded up and incarcerated for two weeks. He was 14 years old.

“They rounded us up and took us to the National Guard Armory in Selma,” he said. From there, they were shipped to Camp Thomasville outside Selma.

Hunter said that he and the others would have been released immediately if they had signed a statement that said, in essence, they wouldn’t march or demonstrate for five years.

“I didn’t read it fully,” Hunter said of the statement. “In essence, as young folks, signing that would have shut us up.”

At Camp Thomasville, people were segregated by gender, finger-printed and placed in cow pens. With no beds, no facilities, on dirt floors. The clothes they wore when they entered the facility are what they wore for two straight weeks. No baths were available and the food was watered-down mushy grits and fat-back bacon.

“Part of the strategy of the march at that time,” Hunter said, “was to fill up all the jails in Selma. Make them pay to house us. We crowded out the jails in Selma, and an organist couldn’t pay, the congregation appeared all but dead.

“I love a church with workers who wanted to be ignited for God,” she said. “I saw that the congregation needed to have some flavor, something to move them.”

One of the first things the new pastor did was a Homecoming Weekend. Just up the street from the church is a funeral home. Phillip Green-Carden said, and that was where the event was held. Church members, however, were skeptical about holding such an event in a funeral home. But there was a method behind the madness.

The purpose of the march had been achieved.

Her course work, however, has been put on temporary hold, she said, because the church is growing so fast.

When she was called by God to preach, she had never delivered a sermon. Her first one was titled “Will Work for Food.” That experience, she said, solidified her call.

“I believe that young people are hungry for the Word,” said Green-Carden, so the church places a heavy emphasis here. “What I want to do is find out what they need.”

Today, Asbury UMC is thriving. In mid-March, more than 175 people packed the small sanctuary. The most recent new membership class had 35 people in it, said Green-Carden, and she holds these classes quarterly.

The church has also paid 100 percent of its connectional giving, or apportionments, for the past several years, and is up to date in 2015.

Asbury has partnered with a local elementary school, providing tutoring, meals, supplies and, perhaps most importantly, prayer. The church’s school partnership was one of the first such relationships in Maryland.

The emphasis on being in and part of the community doesn’t come by accident. It’s a key component of the church’s strategy for growth.

“If I had my way, there would be no walls in this church,” said Green-Carden. “Sometimes, our walls/cripples as us. I believe that if we continue to leverage our presence in the community, this church will continue to grow.

“When you love people, and love God, it will draw in the people.”

Weary Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday – where King led the marchers across the bridge only to stop, kneel and pray – had five times more participants.

The rest, as they say, is history.

On March 7, 2005, President Barack Obama and George W. Bush visited Selma to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first March. More than 40,000 people gathered to hear speeches and make a symbolic walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

One of those people was Phillip Hunter. “I wouldn’t have missed it,” he said. “It was a great honor to shake the president’s hand and to see what 50 years later. God has allowed me and others to survive to see the day when President Obama could get the votes and be elected that, in 1965, we did not imagine.”

Also that day, President Obama signed into law a bill that awarded the Selma foot soldiers the Congressional Gold Medal. Hunter is grateful for the recognition.

“If you look at photographs from the 1965 marches, you’ll see young black men wearing bib overalls,” Hunter said. “That was a sign you were part of the movement,” Hunter said.

It’s what we must do, Hunter said. Hunter said that law enforcement caught on and if you were spotted wearing bib overalls, you were targeted as being part of “that group” and you were in trouble.

Hunter, you’ll recall, wore bib overalls for the interview for this story.

On purpose.

He’s still part of the movement.
Yes, kids CAN make a difference in the lives of other kids! Every Tuesday, elementary students arrive at Mt. Harmony UMC in Owings, Md., for an afternoon that is educational, spiritual and downright fun.

They have cooked meals for the homeless, filled and decorated bags of blessing for church members and recently joined in a pen-pal exchange with students from Zimbabwe who attend a United Methodist school.

Getting all of the kids to settle into their homework each week had been a challenge — until a student from Northern High School heard about the program and offered to help.

Megan, a volunteer from the 2014 Vacation Bible School, coordinated her fellow students in the National Honor Society to serve as mentors on Tuesday. They arrived and were paired with a kid-tastic student. Each student received 20 minutes of one-to-one homework help. The kids who didn’t have homework (what mom hasn’t heard that?) practiced reading out loud to the Honor Student.

They ended their time cooking Zimbabwean recipes as part of their exploration of life in Zimbabwe. Through a pen-pal exchange with the children at Murewa Mission School, the Maryland kids are learning about life in Africa and how we can share across the globe.

A local team of volunteers recently brought back 200 letters from the children that describe life in Africa, from a kids perspective, of course. David Bonney (Smithville UMC) said that for some of the Murewa students, it was the first letter they had ever written.

Caroline Fletcher (age 17) read some of the letters to the congregation on a recent Sunday. She is helping to ensure that every student receive a response from us.

When it was mentioned that the kids in Murewa could use a keyboard, JuliAnna Lewis (age 9) and Sophia Lewis (age 7) donated their Casio. Imagine their surprise when they saw a photo of their keyboard being enjoyed by kids halfway around the world (see photo above).

Connecting as United Methodists, our goal is to help build a digital library for the students of Murewa Mission School in Zimbabwe. Any donations received covers the costs of e-readers, e-books, customs and shipping fees, logistical support in the U.S. and Africa, and more. This would cost more than three times that if a single person tried to do it alone.

* The Rev. Faith Lewis is pastor of Mt Harmony Lower Marlboro UMC.

By Faith Lewis*
May is Mental Health Awareness Month

By Leo Yates Jr.

Andrew had difficulty keeping friends. He was being raised in a single-parent home, living with his mother and two younger siblings. Andrew’s father was very involved in his life, as well as his siblings’ lives.

For the most part, his parents got along and were able to work together in child rearing. The family, including both parents, attends most Sundays at The United Methodist Church near the family’s home.

The first time the school guidance counselor called Andrew’s parents, Ronnie and Shirley, the counselor shared with them some of the difficulty Andrew was experiencing in his sixth grade class. It was suspected that Andrew had Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The frequent inability to remain focused, the multiple disciplinary actions due to disruptive behaviors, and the social problems that were often accompanied by the disorder were taking its toll on Andrew and he was feeling a sense of sadness more days than not.

Shirley was convinced what was going on with their United Methodist pastor one Sunday soon after the first phone call from the guidance counselor. The pastor suggested that she meet with the parents for coffee after worship. Fortunately, the pastor was educated about mental health issues and was able to help normalize for Ronnie and Shirley what the family was experiencing.

The pastor explained that there were a number of families in the church who had their own struggles with some form of mental health disorder, such as substance abuse, depression, anxiety or dementia. The pastor referred Andrew to a mental health professional in the community where he was diagnosed with ADHD as the primary diagnosis, and depression as the secondary diagnosis.

For many mental health disorders, it is often the frequency of symptoms, and the severity of symptoms that determines a diagnosis. By having a diagnosis, it can actually be a blessing in disguise because the mental health professional can offer treatment options (e.g. talk therapy, a psychiatrist consultation, support groups, etc.). Andrew was prescribed medication for his ADHD, but it was done temporarily and other accommodations were able to be made within the class setting. The family was also educated about ADHD and depression, providing them with assurance that it’s treatable and giving them a deeper understanding of these.

After the conversation with Ron and Shirley, the pastor was convinced that the church should have a mental health awareness Sunday, not only for families like this couple’s, but for the other families who are secretly struggling with their own mental health issues.

The pastor worked it out with the Christian Education director and, instead of having Andrew as a class of 55 Sunday school students, the class was split in half, making the environment less intimidating for Andrew.

Also, the teachers were further educated about ADHD that helped to sensitize them. A faith and mental health small group study was also planned that included guest speakers. Further, informational brochures on a variety of mental health disorders and treatment options were made available in the fellowship hall where many worshippers gathered for coffee and donuts after services. In addition, the pastor planned two worship services a year that gave special attention to mental health in order to foster support and community.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It’s a good time to spread awareness and lessen the stigma around mental illness.

For bulletin inserts, sermon ideas, liturgy ideas and other resources, go to the Baltimore-Washington Conference Commission on Disability Concerns webpage at http://bwumc.org/ministries/conmissions-on-disability-concerns/ and/or contact the Rev. Nancy Webb, the chairperson of the disability commission, at nw Webb@verizon.net, for consultation.

Are you in debt so as to embarrass yourself?'

By Sarah Schlochter

In a couple months, a wonderful group of new provisional and full member candidates will stand before the Executive Session as well as the Annual Conference to be received. It has been a joy to work with them along with my colleagues on the Board of Ordained Ministry. They offer so many rich gifts for ministry in our ever-changing world. I have great hope and faith in what God will be able to do in and through them.

But I have a fear.

It is a fear born of personal experiences in my own life and in my family of pastors. It is a fear that rolls off the tongue along with the question, “Are you in debt so as to embarrass yourself?”

This question is one that every year seems to garner rolled eyes, chuckles, and even outright laughter. I suspect we have those reactions for a variety of reasons, not the least of which include the rising costs of seminary education, the slow pace of clergy compensation increases, and the challenges and required self-discipline of self-employment tax payments. We know what it is to move appointments and have significant fluctuations in employment tax payments. We know what it is to struggle, at times to stay current with their self-employment tax payments.

As too many of us know, it’s very difficult to catch up once you fall behind. I do not have all the answers. My husband Chris and I have learned as we have gone along, seeking out the wisdom of others and adapting as our circumstances changed. Chris and I, and many of our colleagues and family, have begun to look for ways to provide more opportunities for pastors, especially those new to this call, to start off on or regain healthy financial footing.

I want to call us all to stand with the Christian financial, and a willingness to speak openly with each other. God cares about far more than just our giving to church. Every dime we give is part of our stewardship of what God has given us. We need to learn from each other about what has worked. We also need to learn from how those of us who have found ourselves in financial pressure have worked out of it. We need to see the hope and wholeness at the end of it all.

May of all, I hope that we can consider this question, “Are you in debt so as to embarrass yourself in ministry?” with seriousness, but also with a conviction that no one need be ashamed or feel alone. We need to know we are in this together and we will all work to support and encourage each other along the way. I invite you to join me in opening this conversation in robust, authentic and healing ways. If you are in a difficult financial position now, please know that it gets better. Many of us have walked the same journey, and have come out the other side. Seek out resources, but also seek out colleagues. Ask questions. If you have experience, tell your stories. May our openness toward and support of each other be part of the hospitality and love we offer to each other.

“The Rev. Sarah Schlochter is pastor of Arden UMC in Arden, N.C.”
Is it time to BUILD, TEAR DOWN OR REPAIR?

(RE)building the way we think about ministry...together

No matter the season, the ministry of administration can be the strong and vital foundation upon which a church builds its witness and mission for Christ. Good administrators appreciate the value of exact blueprints and using the perfect tool designed to get a job done. This section of the toolbox helps church leaders remove the things that hinder ministry and build systems that enable a church to operate faithfully and effectively.

One excellent resource, the Administrative Year in Review, orients new leaders to the administrative flow of our connectional system. New tools are being added for those in finance, trustees, staff-parish relations to help improve operational excellence as the Kingdom of God is built.

What administrative or operational questions do you have? The first 100 people to share a tool, ask a ministry question or add knowledge to an existing tool will be eligible to receive a $100 Cokesbury gift certificate.

ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS
bwcumc.org/toolbox