Revelation 21:5

Behold, I am making all things NEW!

Featured Inside

All Things New ........... page 10
Alumni/ae Awards ........ page 3
United Residents ........... page 8
News and Notes ............ page 4
Renewal: An Extraordinary Calling
Letter from the President

Dear alumni/ae and friends,

How on earth can we expect a seminary and its graduates to play an important role in turning around decades of decline in the Church? Yet this is exactly what the United community expects and is working toward.

Led by the Holy Spirit, fortified with humble prayer and a God-given vision, the seminary and the Church must work together to reconnect our congregations and those beyond with faithful teaching, preaching, pastoral care, courageous leadership and a conviction that God is making all things new!

This is an extraordinary calling. Nonetheless, our prayer that the Holy Spirit will lead us to do our part in renewing the Church through faithful discipleship resonates with many who are being called into the ministry. It has been a main factor in more than doubling United’s student enrollment in the past four years. The annual number of credit hours taken at United has grown from 3,793 in 2008-09 to 9,283 in 2011-12 (now 567 students). In addition to the traditional subjects like Bible, theology and preaching, these students participate in the required coursework and spiritual formation that will prepare them not only as faithful pastors, but also as Spirit-led change-agents in renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. What could be more important than this?

Many of our students have come to United because of this commitment to renewing the Church and because you have referred them. Thank you for your prayers and your faithful work for renewal among God’s people! Thank you for supporting United, especially our current students, and for sharing the vision and expectation that God is making all things new!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Wendy J. Deichmann, President

United is a seminary of The United Methodist Church that welcomes students from many faith traditions.

Executive Staff
President
Wendy J. Deichmann
Vice President for Finance
Ronald N. Kuker
Vice President for Academic Affairs
David P. Watson
Vice President for Enrollment
Harold A. Hudson
Vice President for Development
Timothy J. Fairless
Executive Assistant to the President
Pat Lodge

Production Staff
Senior Assistant to the President
JoAnn Wagner
Communications Coordinator
Angela Kiderman
Graphic Designer
Michele Engling
Writer
Brice Thomas

2012 Alumni/ae Awards Presented
At its Alumni/ae Banquet on October 16, United’s Alumni/ae Association honored: The Revs. James H. ’77 and Billie Ann Maynard ’77 (top middle) as Effective Ministry Award recipients; Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram ’91 and Rev. Dr. Jessica Ingram ’94 (top right) as Distinguished Alumnus/a Award recipients; and Bishop Allyson Abrams ’00 ’05, (lower left) as Outstanding D.Min. Alumna Award recipient.

In the late 1970s, the Maynards opened Pleasant Vineyard Ministries (PVM) as a retreat center for pastors and laypeople. PVM’s ministry has expanded over the years into a camp facility and now offers programs to children in the U.S. and in military bases all over the world.

The Ingrams have made outstanding contributions to Christian ministry throughout the world as episcopal leaders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the First, 15th and 10th districts. Both have authored several publications and have served as senior pastors in Michigan.

Bishop Abrams founded Speak the Truth Economic Empowerment, MyVision Corporation, and Speak the Truth Baptist Church. She was the first female pastor of Zion Progress Baptist Church in Detroit and is the author of two books.

Three members of the class of ’72 were inducted into the Eckels Society. They include Rev. Joseph Easley, Rev. Daniel Nugent, and Rev. Kenneth Hutchinson (upper left).

The Eckels Society recognizes and honors United graduates of 40 or more years who have given dedicated service to Christ. The Society is named for Rev. Dr. Harry L. Eckels who earned a diploma and five degrees at United from 1941 to 1989.
Class of 1990

Ker Custer, Coal Center, PA, was appointed to Coal Center Grace UMC beginning in July 2012 after 16 years of Soegertown UMC in the Western PA Conference of the UMC.

Class of 1992

Edward McNulty, Walton, KY, writes exegetical material for LectionAid and reviews films from a Biblical perspective in viewablebible.com. As of this writing, Part 2 of his 3-part series on “Distopias in Science Fiction Films” has been posted on ReadTheSpirit.com, an online religious news service. It includes reviews of “The Hunger Games” and “The Lorax.”

Class of 1993

Jack Sullivan Jr., Greensburg, PA, was installed into the office of Regional Minister and President of the Pennsylvania Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on July 1, 2012, in Belmar, PA. The Regional Minister post is similar to that of bishop in other denominations to thousands of fellow Chin refugees resettled in the U.S. I visited Chin refugees in Malaysia who are waiting to go to third countries in 2009 and 2011. Having been a member of the Chin Baptist Mission Church in Washington, DC, for eight years now. There are 600 members who are Chin refugees from Burma. I am also the Executive Minister of Chin Baptist Churches U.S.A., which is organized with 56 Chin refugee churches [in a cooperative mission] to our own people in Burma as well as in the U.S.A.

Class of 1998

Stephen E. Ellis, Middlebury, IN, received his D.Min. in 2011. He relocated to Middlebury as Senior Pastor, and wrote a workbook for Bible studies and prayer titled Experiencing Prayer.

Class of 2000

David C. Piatt, Ogdensburg, NY, graduated Nov. 1, 2011, from Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, IN, with a D.Min. in pastoral ministry. He is pastoring the Morristown and Ogdensburg First UMC along the St. Lawrence River in New York.

Class of 2004

Michael L. Harris, Indian Trail, NC, just published an article in the May/June 2012 Circuit Rider magazine titled “Changing Neighborhoods: Remarketing, Not Reinventing.”

Brice A. Thomas, Xenia, OH, co-authored an article with Dr. Richard Eilinger which was published in the November/December 2011 issue of “The Clergy Journal” magazine titled “Encountering God Through Worshiping.”

Class of 1997

C. Du Ham, Frederick, MD, writes: “I am very thankful to United. I really got a great preparation for the Lord’s ministry from United. God has been helping me to carry wonderful ministries to thousands of fellow Chin refugees resettled in the U.S.A. I visited Chin refugees in Malaysia who are waiting to go to third countries in 2009 and 2011. Having been a member of the Chin Baptist Mission Church in Washington, DC, for eight years now. There are 600 members who are Chin refugees from Burma. I am also the Executive Minister of Chin Baptist Churches U.S.A., which is organized with 56 Chin refugee churches [in a cooperative mission] to our own people in Burma as well as in the U.S.A.”

Class of 2006

Richard and Jennie Thomas, Grove, IL. She appeared on a panel discussion, “What I Wished I Had Known.” Her book, The Buffed Bengali Maniac: Capers, was a finalist for the LCC Eureka Award for best first mystery novel.

Class of 2005

Paul F. Koehler, Little, IL, has published Telling God’s Stories with Power, William Carey Library, 2010.

Class of 2011

W. Darin Moore, Mt. Vernon, NY, became the 99th bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church on July 24. Dr. Moore is a pastor of Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church in Mount Vernon, NY, a mentor in United’s Doctor of Ministry program, and is currently co-leading the focus group “Leading Church Renewal” with Dr. Jason Vickers.

Class of 1977


Class of 1979

J. Robert Sandman, Brookville, PA, was born in 1948. After retirement, Bob and his wife, Olga, served for one year as volunteer missionaries, establishing the Istanbul, Turkey, Interparish Migrants Project. Later, he was interim Conference Minister in South Dakota, Acting Conference Minister in Illinois, Interim Association Minister in the Fox Valley Association, one of the Illinois Conference’s teachers of UCC History and Polity and an Annuitant Visitor for the Pension Boards. For 31 years he was an active member of First Congregational UCC in Downers Grove, IL.

Class of 1982

Richard and Jennie Thomas, Groves, IL. She appeared on a panel discussion, “What I Wished I Had Known.” Her book, The Buffed Bengali Maniac: Capers, was a finalist for the LCC Eureka Award for best first mystery novel.

Class of 1987

Sally Carpenter, Moorpark, CA, attended the annual Left Coast Crime convention for mystery writers and readers in April in Sacramento, CA.

Class of 1994

Michael L. Harris, Indian Trail, NC, just published an article in the May/June 2012 Circuit Rider magazine titled “Changing Neighborhoods: Remarketing, Not Reinventing.”

Class of 1980

Brice A. Thomas, Xenia, OH, co-authored an article with Dr. Richard Eilinger which was published in the November/December 2011 issue of “The Clergy Journal” magazine titled “Encountering God Through Worshiping.”

Class of 1997

C. Du Ham, Frederick, MD, writes: “I am very thankful to United. I really got a great preparation for the Lord’s ministry from United. God has been helping me to carry wonderful ministries to thousands of fellow Chin refugees resettled in the U.S.A. I visited Chin refugees in Malaysia who are waiting to go to third countries in 2009 and 2011. Having been a member of the Chin Baptist Mission Church in Washington, DC, for eight years now. There are 600 members who are Chin refugees from Burma. I am also the Executive Minister of Chin Baptist Churches U.S.A., which is organized with 56 Chin refugee churches [in a cooperative mission] to our own people in Burma as well as in the U.S.A.”

Class of 1998

Stephen E. Ellis, Middlebury, IN, received his D.Min. in 2011. He relocated to Middlebury as Senior Pastor, and wrote a workbook for Bible studies and prayer titled Experiencing Prayer.

Class of 2000

David C. Piatt, Ogdensburg, NY, graduated Nov. 1, 2011, from Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, IN, with a D.Min. in pastoral ministry. He is pastoring the Morristown and Ogdensburg First UMC along the St. Lawrence River in New York.

Class of 2004

Michael L. Harris, Indian Trail, NC, just published an article in the May/June 2012 Circuit Rider magazine titled “Changing Neighborhoods: Remarketing, Not Reinventing.”

Brice A. Thomas, Xenia, OH, co-authored an article with Dr. Richard Eilinger which was published in the November/December 2011 issue of “The Clergy Journal” magazine titled “Encountering God Through Worshiping.”

Class of 1997

C. Du Ham, Frederick, MD, writes: “I am very thankful to United. I really got a great preparation for the Lord’s ministry from United. God has been helping me to carry wonderful ministries to thousands of fellow Chin refugees resettled in the U.S.A. I visited Chin refugees in Malaysia who are waiting to go to third countries in 2009 and 2011. Having been a member of the Chin Baptist Mission Church in Washington, DC, for eight years now. There are 600 members who are Chin refugees from Burma. I am also the Executive Minister of Chin Baptist Churches U.S.A., which is organized with 56 Chin refugee churches [in a cooperative mission] to our own people in Burma as well as in the U.S.A.”

Class of 1998

Stephen E. Ellis, Middlebury, IN, received his D.Min. in 2011. He relocated to Middlebury as Senior Pastor, and wrote a workbook for Bible studies and prayer titled Experiencing Prayer.

Class of 2000

David C. Piatt, Ogdensburg, NY, graduated Nov. 1, 2011, from Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, IN, with a D.Min. in pastoral ministry. He is pastoring the Morristown and Ogdensburg First UMC along the St. Lawrence River in New York.

Class of 2004

Michael L. Harris, Indian Trail, NC, just published an article in the May/June 2012 Circuit Rider magazine titled “Changing Neighborhoods: Remarketing, Not Reinventing.”

Brice A. Thomas, Xenia, OH, co-authored an article with Dr. Richard Eilinger which was published in the November/December 2011 issue of “The Clergy Journal” magazine titled “Encountering God Through Worshiping.”

Class of 1997

C. Du Ham, Frederick, MD, writes: “I am very thankful to United. I really got a great preparation for the Lord’s ministry from United. God has been helping me to carry wonderful ministries to thousands of fellow Chin refugees resettled in the U.S.A. I visited Chin refugees in Malaysia who are waiting to go to third countries in 2009 and 2011. Having been a member of the Chin Baptist Mission Church in Washington, DC, for eight years now. There are 600 members who are Chin refugees from Burma. I am also the Executive Minister of Chin Baptist Churches U.S.A., which is organized with 56 Chin refugee churches [in a cooperative mission] to our own people in Burma as well as in the U.S.A.”

Class of 1998

Stephen E. Ellis, Middlebury, IN, received his D.Min. in 2011. He relocated to Middlebury as Senior Pastor, and wrote a workbook for Bible studies and prayer titled Experiencing Prayer.

Class of 2000

David C. Piatt, Ogdensburg, NY, graduated Nov. 1, 2011, from Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, IN, with a D.Min. in pastoral ministry. He is pastoring the Morristown and Ogdensburg First UMC along the St. Lawrence River in New York.

Class of 2004

Michael L. Harris, Indian Trail, NC, just published an article in the May/June 2012 Circuit Rider magazine titled “Changing Neighborhoods: Remarketing, Not Reinventing.”

Brice A. Thomas, Xenia, OH, co-authored an article with Dr. Richard Eilinger which was published in the November/December 2011 issue of “The Clergy Journal” magazine titled “Encountering God Through Worshiping.”

Class of 1997

C. Du Ham, Frederick, MD, writes: “I am very thankful to United. I really got a great preparation for the Lord’s ministry from United. God has been helping me to carry wonderful ministries to thousands of fellow Chin refugees resettled in the U.S.A. I visited Chin refugees in Malaysia who are waiting to go to third countries in 2009 and 2011. Having been a member of the Chin Baptist Mission Church in Washington, DC, for eight years now. There are 600 members who are Chin refugees from Burma. I am also the Executive Minister of Chin Baptist Churches U.S.A., which is organized with 56 Chin refugee churches [in a cooperative mission] to our own people in Burma as well as in the U.S.A.”

Class of 1998

Bonita Burtner, wife of the late Dr. E. Edwin Burtner (Professor Emeritus of Preaching at United), died on June 27 at the Otterbein Retirement Community in Lebanon, OH. She was 100 years old. Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Mary Burtner of Dayton; a sister, Alberta Messner of Pickerington, OH; grandchildren, Rob of Kansas City and Rochelle of Dayton; a sister-in-law, Margaret of Minneapolis; a great-granddaughter, Macy of Wichita, KS; and numerous nieces. Bonita graduated from Otterbein College in 1935 and was an accomplished pianist, teaching for many years. A celebration of life service was held on July 5 at Fairview UMC, Dayton.

Anna Claire Mauerhan: July 5, 1920 – June 7, 2012

Anna Claire Mauerhan, long-time trustee and friend of United, died on June 7 in Columbus, OH. She was a mentor, teacher, friend, counselor and anchor to many seminary students, pastors, lay persons and colleagues. She was a +elder in the Memphis Conference Town and Country Committee and served on the faculty at Lambuth University in Jackson, TN. Beginning in 1973 until his retirement in 1994, he was Professor of Church Administration for Methodist Theological School in Delaware, OH, and United. He was Director of the Center for Town and Rural Ministries, working closely with the East and West Ohio Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Harold McSwain, former Professor of Church Administration at United, died on June 17 in Columbus, OH, after an extended decline following a stroke in 2007. He was born in Memphis, TN, the son of Elvis and Ruby McSwain. He married Joyce DeShazo on July 25, 1948, when they were undergraduates at Lambuth University. They had three children: Harold (Hal) W. McSwain, Jr. of Ocala, FL; Kenneth W. McSwain (wife, Christine) of Columbus, OH; and Mara M. Weed (husband, Peter; children, Kaitlin, Timothy, and Gregory) of Cheshire, CT.

He was ordained an elder in the Memphis Conference of the Methodist Church, serving churches, academia and the parish for 63 years. In 1957 he became Executive Secretary of the Memphis Conference Town and Country Committee and served on the faculty at Lambuth University in Jackson, TN. Beginning in 1973 until his retirement in 1994, he was Professor of Church Administration for Methodist Theological School in Delaware, OH, and United. He was Director of the Center for Town and Rural Ministries, working closely with the East and West Ohio Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

Dr. McSwain helped to found the Rural Chaplains Association in response to the family farm crisis in the late 1980s, served as Staff/Dean until the beginning of 2008 and served several leadership roles including President of the United Methodist Rural Fellowship. Harold was a mentor, teacher, friend, counselor and anchor to many seminary students, pastors, lay persons and colleagues across the country. He was a visionary, a dreamer, an activist, one who stood against oppression and injustice. He had a lifetime commitment to God’s people of rural, town and country and small-smooth churches.

A memorial service was held on June 23 at Epworth UMC, Columbus, OH. Condolences may be sent to Joyce McSwain, 2871 Lakewood Drive, Columbus, OH 43231.
SPOTLIGHT ON UNITED ALUMS

By Ms. JoAnn Wagner,
Senior Assistant to the President

Two United alumni/ae and one current student are now serving in West Ohio United Methodist congregations through the conference’s Resident Program, which seeks to help young clergy be successful in ministry.

Wade Giffin, ’91 (also a United alum), who is serving as Director of the Office of Ministry in the West Ohio Conference, said the program began in 2007 as a way to find exceptional young leaders who could be mentored by an experienced pastor with proven leadership skills. The typical resident is either a recent graduate or in the last year of his or her seminary education, and would spend two - three years in residency.

“The churches that are chosen must have a congregation that understands what it takes to raise up a leader.”

Residents are not to be placed in one area such as youth or children’s ministry, but are to participate in all aspects of ministry.

“The churches that are chosen must have a congregation that understands what it takes to raise up a leader,” Giffin said.

The vision for the Residency Program began in 2006 when Bishop Bruce Ough began to see the need for an intensive program to grow young leaders for medium to large-sized churches. The program started with one resident in 2007 and now has five residents and two graduates. Residents receive a full-time salary, health insurance, pension and a parsonage or housing allowance funded by the conference and a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

“Our hope was that the resident pastor would experience ministry at a pace they ordinarily would not,” said Giffin, “and that when they were finished they would have shaped their pastoral identity, feel competent to lead a congregation and know what to do on the first day.”

The Office of Ministry and the Bishop covenant with the resident and the mentoring pastor, and check in on a regular basis to see how they’re progressing. New this year is a cohort of residents led by the two graduates, with the hope that they will gain even more insights from each other as they share their unique experiences.

“We’re learning as we go,” said Giffin, “but this program has been a real success and now other conferences are looking at it as a leadership development model.”

Seth Oiler ’12

Seth Oiler ’12 is in his second year as a resident at Pickerington Peace UMC, Pickerington, OH, having applied and been accepted in 2011, his last year of seminary. He was placed with mentor Bill Lyle, who also mentored the first resident in the program, Rachel Billups, back in 2007. Oiler and Lyle began a new appointment together in July of 2011.

“It’s been amazing,” said Oiler. “I’ve learned more in the past year than I learned during my entire student appointment, where I was on my own.” He said the high expectations and accountability have made a big difference for him.

Peace UMC had been languishing at 300 in attendance for several years and was ready to grow. Oiler was able to be a part of that process from the beginning. He serves as director of worship and discipleship and is responsible for directing staff and lay people.

“I have learned things I never would have learned on my own,” he said. “I like how to manage a budgeting process and how to run a capital campaign. It’s been a great experience for me and is absolutely where I need to be right now.”

Mic Mohler (M.Div. student)

Mic Mohler (M.Div. student) heard about the program from Giffin. He applied and was placed at Troy First UMC in Troy, OH, with mentor Dave Leckrone, Lead Pastor. Mohler was already working there as an associate, and when he, Leckrone and the church were selected, his position was converted from Associate to Resident Pastor in July of 2012. The Resident Program allows Mohler to get hands-on experience in all the church’s various ministries. He will lead the Stewardship Campaign in 2013, will take part in leading change in Adult Discipleship, is helping to transform the church’s committee structure into teams, is re-inventing the contemporary services and is preaching each week in the contemporary services.

“But even though I preach at the contemporary services, I function as a pastor on staff. I am in ministry with the whole church,” said Mohler.

“I have been blessed with a great mentor who allows me to try new things and be creative in ministry,” said Mohler. “He [Leckrone] helps me see things in ways that I am not accustomed to. I will leave the Residency Program and become a lead pastor with experiences and knowledge that I would not have gotten without this program.”

Mohler recommends residency to any young pastor who is looking to change the world through serving God.

This program is all about preparing you to be a successful and effective pastor. Why would anyone not want to be a part of it?” he asked.

Marie Smith ’08

Marie Smith ’08, has been out of seminary for four years, having served at Stillwater UMC, Dayton, OH, at its Miller Lane Campus under senior pastor Duane Anders ’91,’92,’03. At first glance, she doesn’t really meet the requirements set out for the program – she’s not just out of seminary and has already had an appointment.

After a series of interviews, the Residency Council felt she fit the spirit of the program because of her passion for ministry, her gifts and graces for leadership, and her previous appointment, which was a one-on-one with a senior pastor who was a proven leader. They offered her a “hybrid” residency at Clough UMC in Cincinnati, OH, where she is lead pastor and is mentored by Mark Rowland, Senior Pastor at Anderson Hills UMC.

“This program has been so valuable for me,” said Smith. “If I’m stuck, I go to Mark and he helps me get unstuck.” She meets with him once a month and attends Anderson Hills staff meetings to learn about their systems, but has no responsibilities there.

“We’re very aware at Clough that we’re never going to be Anderson Hills, and I know that what they do there may not work for us,” said Smith. “But the value of having a mentor is learning what questions to ask and what expectations to have for ministry.”
New Faculty Contribute to Renewal

By Dr. David Watson, Academic Dean and Associate Professor of New Testament

When we talk about church renewal at United, we aren’t talking about just one program, model or concept. Rather, we are engaging in a vital conversation through the myriad avenues available to us for the renewal of the church in our time. Our underlying theological conviction is that all renewal, whether of individuals, churches or the Church Universal, is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to discern prayerfully and follow the Spirit’s leadings. Church renewal may look very different in different contexts, but God is the one source of all true renewal within the Christian life.

United faculty members contribute to this conversation about renewal in unique ways through their particular fields of specialization, including our newest faculty members, Dr. Felicia LaBoy, Dr. Luther Oconer and Dr. Horace Six-Means. Dr. LaBoy is teaching a required course for all M.Div. students called Foundations for Church Renewal. This course helps students to learn about and to consider various theological proposals and models for renewal. Dr. Oconer and Dr. Six-Means offer historical perspectives on church renewal through courses such as Holiness, Pentecostal and Charismatic Renewal Movements and Methodism as Revival Movement.

Each year we offer courses connected with our Light the Fire conference and the Change the World conference in partnership with Ginghamsburg UMC. Dr. Michael Stautffer offers students hands-on, practical experiences on church renewal through his yearly course, The Missional Church. Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, Director of Connectional Ministries for the West Ohio Conference of the UMC, teaches a course each year called Leadership for Ministry.

We emphasize renewal, however, not only in these specialized courses, but in more general course offerings as well. For example, Dr. Lisa Hess and Dr. Peter Bellini teach Methods of Interreligious and Intercultural Encounter, a course connected with a trip each M.Div. student takes outside of the United States. Within our current global context, the ability to engage respectfully with people of other cultures and religious traditions is essential for any Christian leader. In this course, students experience widely varied, yet nonetheless legitimate, forms of Christian worship and practice. They also learn how to engage people of other faith traditions respectfully and to learn from them, yet without giving up their own commitments to the Christian faith. Dr. Emma Justes, who teaches courses in pastoral care and pastoral theology, also contributes to our conversation around renewal. Dr. Justes holds that when churches become healthier institutions, they are more likely to move forward into renewal. Dr. Jim Eller and Ms. Phyllis Ennist teach a course together called Web Design and Digital Ministry, which helps pastors think through ways in which we can reach people and bring renewal to communities through the various social media so prevalent within our culture.

It is not only through teaching, but also through publishing, that our faculty participates in this conversation around renewal. In 2008, Dr. Thomas Dozeman published a book called Holiness and Ministry: A Biblical Theology of Ordination, which will be the subject of a panel discussion at the upcoming meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society. Last year, Dr. Jason Vickers published Minding the Good Ground: A Theology For Church Renewal (Baylor University Press). He is now writing a follow-up volume on clergy renewal. I myself have a book coming out next year, co-authored with Dr. William J. Abraham, called Key United Methodist Beliefs (Abingdon Press). This book is a ten-chapter account of the Christian faith, written from a Wesleyan perspective, intended to help facilitate the doctrinal renewal of United Methodism.

There are many more things that could be said about the great work by the United faculty in service to the renewal of the church. It is a privilege to work with this group of Christian people who are so deeply dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ through the ministry of education. We ask for your prayers that our work together may be Spirit-led and faithful to God’s purposes.
New Songs and Hymns for the Church

By Ms. JoAnn Wagner, Senior Assistant to the President

United recently concluded its first annual music competition, New Songs and Hymns for Renewal: A Competition for Writers and Composers. In the spirit and guidance of United’s commitment to church renewal, this competition called for new creations based on the theme of renewing the 21st century Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

More than 79 entries came in from all parts of the country and even from the United Kingdom.

“We are truly thrilled at the overwhelming response from composers and writers with their submissions,” said Jeremy Winston, United’s Director of Music Ministries and chairperson of the Hymn Competition committee. “The quality of the submissions are a testament that renewal is alive and well in the church!”

The competition was divided into three categories: Category One for hymns with a new melody and text; Category Two for hymns with traditional text set to a new tune; and Category Three for hymns with a new text set to a traditional tune. Styles included traditional congregational-style songs, contemporary songs and gospel.

WINNERS FOR CATEGORY ONE

Dorothy Frisch (melody) and John Dalles (text) with their composition O God, Renew Your Church We Pray. Ms. Frisch is the Associate Organist and Composer-in-Residence at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Southbridge, MA. Mr. Dalles, an ordained minister, serves as Senior Pastor of Wekiva Presbyterian Church in Longwood, FL.

WINNERS FOR CATEGORY TWO

Sarah Howell with her composition for the traditional text Behold, the Savior of Mankind. A recent graduate of Duke Divinity School, Ms. Howell recently began a new appointment as Associate Minister for Worship and Young Adults at Centenary UMC in Winston-Salem, NC.

THE WINNER FOR CATEGORY THREE

Jann Aldredge-Clanton with her composition Renewing, Reforming the Church in Our Day, set to the tune of ST. OSENI. An ordained minister, author, teacher and chaplain, she currently serves as adjunct professor at Perkins School of Theology and Richland Community College in Dallas, TX.

On Friday, July 27, the competition was concluded with a hymn concert presented at Precious Blood Catholic Church in Dayton, OH. With Dr. Elize Edinger as Master of Ceremonies, this evening of great music was headlined by a Dayton-area mass choir and featured many of the entries along with the winning selections. The performance included Spirit Renew Us by Jeffery Lowery from Veneta, OR; Oh, To Be by Jackson Henry from Murfreesboro, TN; Revive Us Again by John Slate from Dayton, OH; and My Song Is Love Unknown by Stephen Burtonwood from Greater Manchester, UK. Video footage of this concert is still at United’s YouTube page at www.youtube.com/user/UnitedSeminaryOH.

United is pleased to continue with this great call for songs to renew the church. Entries for the 2013 competition will open on January 7, 2013. Please look out for further information at www.united.edu.
New Name, New Partnerships in Non-Degree Programs

By Dr. Peter Bellini, Assistant Professor in the Practice of Missiology in the Vera Blinn Chair; Director of Non-Degree Programs

We are pleased to announce that the Institute for Applied Theology, the lifelong learning component of United’s non-degree programming, has changed its name to the School for Discipleship and Renewal, effective October 1. We feel the new name identifies more clearly what the former Institute does in terms more familiar to both laity and clergy. It also captures the “church renewal” emphasis that is a feature of our theological education and life at United. We invite you to go online www.united.edu and explore the School for Discipleship and Renewal’s various Spirit-filled learning and equipping opportunities.

The working vision for our ministry in non-degree programs is “Renewing, Retooling, Refueling – Refreshing the Church for the Mission of Jesus Christ to Make Disciples for the Transformation of the World.” Along with our existing programs, courses, and events, there are two new emerging ministries, the Hispanic Christian Academy and our partnership with Aldersgate Renewal Ministries. These new partnerships will be mutually beneficial in reaching a growing and receptive group as well as providing institutional and theological grounding for a cutting-edge apostolic movement.

Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, affiliated with the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church, is also partnering with United to offer its Methodist School of Supernatural Ministry series in hybrid format. The first class in the series is being offered this Fall and will culminate on December 1 with the Holy Spirit Seminar, a practicum of praise and worship, teaching, prayer, laying on of hands and ministering in the gifts of the Holy Spirit with Terry Teykl. Aldersgate and United share a common commitment to renew the church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

Please visit United’s website at www.united.edu for more information.

United Sponsors “Chorale Methodiste de Duplan” in New York | By Pastor Lee Capodagli

The 32-member Haitian “Chorale Methodiste de Duplan” (Methodist Choir of Duplan, Haiti) gave the final performance of its four-city tour of New York State this past August at the Embury (Cambridge) United Methodist Church.

The Choir’s appearance at Embury was sponsored by United Theological Seminary and was organized by Rev. Stephen Crowell ’10, pastor of Embury and Centenary UMCs and Special Assistant to the President of United. Wendy Deichmann, The concert was planned in cooperation with Rev. Edzaire Paul of the Duplan United Methodist Church, Director for General Education in the Methodist Church of Haiti.

The Choir toured the U.S. as a fundraising effort directed at three areas of relief in Haiti: Housing for those who remain in “tent cities” 30 months after the earthquake, a hospital/ orphanage and funding for another humanitarian mission trip to Haiti. The Choir’s performance and the moving testimony of Rev. Edzaire Paul resulted in a free will offering of more than $1,200.

Student Spotlight

Jonathan C. Augustine, M.Div. Student


Augustine, who lives in Baton Rouge, LA, graduated from Howard University before earning his law degree from Tulane University and serving as a judicial law clerk in the Louisiana Supreme Court. “I went into law,” he said, “because I was interested in social justice and I thought law would be a way to serve the community.”

He served as executive counsel to the Louisiana Workforce Commission; was vice president of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, and has been an adjunct professor at Louisiana State University and Southern University Law Center.

Now an M.Div. student at United and a member of the Louisiana Conference of the A.M.E. Church, Augustine said he finally answered the call that had been on his heart for years. “I was guided by faith when I was serving in public office,” he said, “and I finally realized that if I was going to serve God’s people, I needed to accept His call—that’s when I came to United.”

Last year in History of Christianity II, Dr. David Whiford assigned a paper that could be written on any aspect of history. Because it was the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders, Augustine wrote a paper that focused on the civil rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King and the redemptive nature of suffering. Augustine chose to do directed study with Dr. Whiford to expand and revise the original paper into a journal article that could be published.

“Dr. Whiford went above and beyond,” said Augustine. “He worked with me to develop my interest in doing a law and religion scholarly article that would be accepted for publication.”

Augustine believes the article was only possible because of United’s online/hybrid program. “This program has made it possible for me to answer God’s call,” he said. “It is a testament to how United is developing leaders and academics across the United States.”

Gathering Week at United

A group of students gathered for a picture during Gathering Week, held September 24 – 29 with approximately 150 students attending. Gathering Week is held twice a year at the Dayton campus and allows students who are taking online classes to complete the required face-to-face portions of the degree.
Dr. Kenneth Pohly receives 2012 Helen Flanders Dunbar Award

The 2012 Helen Flanders Dunbar Award, which is given annually by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP), was presented to the Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Pohly, Director Emeritus, Pohly Center for Supervision and Leadership Formation at United Theological Seminary. The award was announced at the March 2012 Plenary of the CPSP in Pittsburgh, PA. Annually CPSP honors one who has made significant contributions to clinical pastoral training, education and transformation.

Because Dr. Pohly can no longer travel, Dr. Robert Charles Powell of the CPSP traveled to Dayton on April 2, 2012, and presented the award to him in the presence of family, friends and colleagues. At the presentation, Dr. Powell noted Pohly's seminal book, Pastoral Supervision: Inquiries into the Personhood of the Pastor, which was published 35 years ago and revised twice, had "greatly broadened and deepened our grasp of supervision – what it can be where we need to revisit the appreciation he had of supervision as covenant, relationship, incarnation, plus an optimal amalgam of judgment and grace."

United's Academic Dean, Dr. David Watson, was recently elected by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The UMC to serve on the University Senate of The UMC.

"I was surprised and delighted to have been selected," Dr. Watson said. "I certainly didn't see it coming." He said he is honored to represent United on The University Senate.

"It's a great opportunity to give United a voice at the table that we haven't had for a while and to represent what I see to be the interests of the broader Church," he said.

As a member of The University Senate, Dr. Watson will be one of the 25 voting members. He said he will attend his first meeting as a member of The University Senate in late January.

Faculty/Staff News

Faculty/Staff News

Faculty News

Dr. Emma Justes, Distinguished Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling in the Emma Toussaint Chair, spoke at "Celebrating Love, Legacy, Laughter: A Hands-on Experience for Enriching the Third-Quarter of Your Life" on May 5 in Lancaster, PA. The Rev. Ann Gilbain, who is completing her Doctor of Ministry degree at United, arranged the event with speakers Dr. Richard Haid (a D. Min. mentor), Dr. Richard L. Morgan author of Remembering Your Story and Chaplain Dennis E. Stalvey, a storyteller and also a United D. Min. candidate. Dr. Justes topic was "Having Secrets, Keeping Secrets, Telling Secrets: Moving Toward Wholeness." Dr. Justes has also published an article, "Finding Respect Amidst Sacred Wrinkles: Laying the Groundwork for a Ritual of Reclamation" in "Finding Respect Amidst Sacred Wrinkles: Laying the Wholeness." Dr. Justes has also published an article, "Remembering Your Story: A Hands-on Experience for Enriching the Third-Quarter of Your Life" on May 5 in Lancaster, PA. The Rev. Ann Gilbain, who is completing her Doctor of Ministry degree at United, arranged the event with speakers Dr. Richard Haid (a D. Min. mentor), Dr. Richard L. Morgan author of Remembering Your Story and Chaplain Dennis E. Stalvey, a storyteller and also a United D. Min. candidate. Dr. Justes topic was "Having Secrets, Keeping Secrets, Telling Secrets: Moving Toward Wholeness." Dr. Justes has also published an article, "Finding Respect Amidst Sacred Wrinkles: Laying the Groundwork for a Ritual of Reclamation" in "Finding Respect Amidst Sacred Wrinkles: Laying the Wholeness." Dr. Justes has also published an article, "Finding Respect Amidst Sacred Wrinkles: Laying the Groundwork for a Ritual of Reclamation" in "Finding Respect Amidst Sacred Wrinkles: Laying the Wholeness.

Dr. Lisa Hess, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, has published "Encountering Habits of Mind: Kashrut, Jews, and Christians," in CrossCurrents, October 2012. The article is the latest publication on the pastoral-rabbinic ethnography study she has been conducting toward coursework development in United’s Contextual Theology and Immersion Program (see page 12). In May, Dr. Hess was installed as Vice Moderator for the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, an elected, political-spiritual role of leadership amongst the 59 PCUSA churches in the Miami Valley area.

Staff News

The following people have recently joined United’s staff:

Karen Payne as Senior Director of Enrollment Management; Max Fuller as DayView Project Assistant (part-time); Marcia Byrd as Director of Financial Aid; Victor Davis ’06 as Associate for Development (part-time); Jean Brindel ’76 as Director of Major Gifts (part-time); Amanda Wood as Development Assistant; Ginnene Peavie as Academic Administrative Assistant; Julia Roat-Abla as Coordinator for Course of Study (part-time); Jayne Corrigan as Admissions Associate; James Cotrell as Help Desk Analyst; Charity Edwards-Ruffin as Financial Aid Assistant; Jodi Rose as Administrative Assistant for the Business Office (part-time); Angela Klosterman as Communications Coordinator; and Stephen Crowell as President’s Assistant for Church Relations in Upper New York (part-time).

The following United staff members have recently changed positions:

JoAnn Wagner was promoted to Senior Assistant to the President; Bobbie Collins was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Dean; Laura Weber continues as Coordinator for Discipleship and Renewal Programs, but adds responsibilities in Special Events; and Brice Thomas continues as Director of Alumni/ae Relations but adds responsibilities as annual Events Coordinator.

STAFF NEWS

The following United staff members have recently changed positions:

JoAnn Wagner was promoted to Senior Assistant to the President; Bobbie Collins was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Dean; Laura Weber continues as Coordinator for Discipleship and Renewal Programs, but adds responsibilities in Special Events; and Brice Thomas continues as Director of Alumni/ae Relations but adds responsibilities as annual Events Coordinator.

STAFF NEWS

Dean David Watson Elected to The University Senate of The UMC

The following United staff members have recently changed positions:

JoAnn Wagner was promoted to Senior Assistant to the President; Bobbie Collins was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Dean; Laura Weber continues as Coordinator for Discipleship and Renewal Programs, but adds responsibilities in Special Events; and Brice Thomas continues as Director of Alumni/ae Relations but adds responsibilities as annual Events Coordinator.

STAFF NEWS

Dean David Watson Elected to The University Senate of The UMC

The following United staff members have recently changed positions:

JoAnn Wagner was promoted to Senior Assistant to the President; Bobbie Collins was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Dean; Laura Weber continues as Coordinator for Discipleship and Renewal Programs, but adds responsibilities in Special Events; and Brice Thomas continues as Director of Alumni/ae Relations but adds responsibilities as annual Events Coordinator.

STAFF NEWS

Dean David Watson Elected to The University Senate of The UMC

Dr. David Watson, Academic Dean and Associate Professor of New Testament, delivered two lectures at First UMC, Midland, MI, as part of the “Exploring the Faith” lecture series. The event was called “Belief Matters: Bible, Creed, and the Faith of John Wesley.”


Congratulations Dr. Watson!

Dr. David Watson, Academic Dean and Associate Professor of New Testament, delivered two lectures at First UMC, Midland, MI, as part of the “Exploring the Faith” lecture series. The event was called “Belief Matters: Bible, Creed, and the Faith of John Wesley.”


Congratulations Dr. Watson!

The following United staff members have recently changed positions:

JoAnn Wagner was promoted to Senior Assistant to the President; Bobbie Collins was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Dean; Laura Weber continues as Coordinator for Discipleship and Renewal Programs, but adds responsibilities in Special Events; and Brice Thomas continues as Director of Alumni/ae Relations but adds responsibilities as annual Events Coordinator.

Dr. David Watson, Academic Dean and Associate Professor of New Testament, delivered two lectures at First UMC, Midland, MI, as part of the “Exploring the Faith” lecture series. The event was called “Belief Matters: Bible, Creed, and the Faith of John Wesley.”


Congratulations Dr. Watson!

The following United staff members have recently changed positions:

JoAnn Wagner was promoted to Senior Assistant to the President; Bobbie Collins was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Dean; Laura Weber continues as Coordinator for Discipleship and Renewal Programs, but adds responsibilities in Special Events; and Brice Thomas continues as Director of Alumni/ae Relations but adds responsibilities as annual Events Coordinator.

The following United staff members have recently changed positions:

JoAnn Wagner was promoted to Senior Assistant to the President; Bobbie Collins was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Dean; Laura Weber continues as Coordinator for Discipleship and Renewal Programs, but adds responsibilities in Special Events; and Brice Thomas continues as Director of Alumni/ae Relations but adds responsibilities as annual Events Coordinator.
Classes of ’52 and ’62 Visit During Alumni/ae Events

Representatives from the classes of 1952 and 1962 posed together after the Alumni/ae Banquet during Heck Lectures on October 16. During their visit, the classes also toured First United Methodist Church and the Class of ’62 had a gathering and a dinner at Fairview UMC.

Alumni/ae Meet Up in Colorado

Three United alumni/ae, Revs. Frank and Linda Hoover ’94, (left), and Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley ’86, ’07, (right), met up in Colorado Springs during a visit with VP for Development Tim Forbess.

Eugene ‘65 and Gladys Risch Donate Music

Eugene Risch ’65 and his wife, Gladys, pose on campus with Dr. Wendy Deichmann and the piece of vellum liturgical music they recently donated to United. Dr. Sarah Blair, Library Director, notes that her research indicates that the music is based on Psalm 24 (23 in the Vulgate) and that the “variety of square (or quadratic) notation known best nowadays is that of books written in Paris in the second half of the 13th and early 14th century, used not only for plainchant but also polyphonic music and the songs of the troubadours.”

December 1

Firepower for Your Ministry: The Holy Spirit Seminar is a one-day event featuring Rev. Dr. Terry Teykl. This practicum event offers a day of worship, teaching, anointing, prayer, impartation and ministering of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This event will be live streamed: registered Livestream viewers will receive a password. Speakers include Rev. Dr. Teykl, Dr. Peter Bellini, Dr. Felicia LaBoy and Apostle Arthur McGuire. United’s School for Discipleship and Renewal and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries are sponsors. For more details and to register, visit www.united.edu under “Events.”

December 14

Advent Commencement at Ginghamsburg UMC, 6759 S. County Road 25A, Tipp City, OH 45371, at 1 p.m. Bishop Michael Coyne, Bishop of the Indiana Area, UMC, is the commencement speaker.

January 20 – 21, 2013

Exploring the Faith Lecture Series in the Willow Valley area of Lancaster, PA, featuring Dr. Luther Oconer on the topic; “Spirit-Baptized: The Global Pentecostal Movement in United Methodist Contexts.”

January 28 – February 1, 2013

Doctor of Ministry Intensive, with the theme, “Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence: A Faithful Response,” will include speakers Dr. David Watson, Dr. Marie Fortune and Dr. Tony Talbott.

March 13, 2013

Minding the Good Ground: a Conference on Church Renewal at Northeastern Seminary, Rochester, NY, featuring Dr. Jason Vickers.

April 8 – 13, 2013

Spring Donor Thankathon

April 18 – 19, 2013

Third Annual Light the Fire Church Renewal Conference will be held at Ginghamsburg UMC with the theme “Divine Healing.” Featured speakers include Dr. William J. Abraham, Dr. Candy Gunther Brown, Dr. Virginia Todd Holeman, Dr. Craig S. Keener and Dr. Michael Slaughter. Additional leaders include Bishop Kenneth N. Carter, Florida Annual Conference, UMC, and Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., Mississippi Annual Conference, UMC. Watch for registration details at www.united.edu under “Events” or contact Laura Weber at lweber@united.edu | 937.529.2278.

May 21 – 23, 2013

The Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference: Preaching the Whole Counsel of God: a conference open to all preachers, pastors, associate ministers and seminary students to be held in Columbus, Ohio. For more details and to register, visit www.united.edu under “Events.”

For more information on all events contact United: 937.529.2201 | www.united.edu

Debbie Hills ’09, Wins Denman Award

Debbie Hills ’09, an ordained deacon in the West Pennsylvania Conference, won the Denman Evangelism Award on June 8, 2012, at her annual conference. Hills won for her work providing wheelchairs, Bibles and support in Latin America and coordinating ramp building ministries in the Erie-Meadville District. Harry Denman Awards from the Center for Evangelism recognize extraordinary efforts in the evangelism. At left, she poses with Patsy Ciampa ’95.
Keep In Touch with United

To submit any of the forms below, please do one of the following:
Visit www.united.edu and click Alumni/ae. Select “News and Notes” from the left menu, fill out the form and submit it to United.
Or mail to: United Theological Seminary, 4501 Denlinger Road, Dayton, OH 45426.

1. Update Your Contact Information
Please fill out the whole form if any of the information below has changed
Your Name:   Grad Year:
Address:
City:  State: Zip:
Home Phone: (   ) Office Phone: (   )
E-mail:

2. Entry for News and Notes Section
Provide alumni/ae news to be included in the News and Notes Section of KIT.

Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee

2012 – 13

Pamela June (PJ) Anderson, ’96 (DMin)
drpjanderson@aol.com • UCC
Sharon Beattie, ’86 and ’95 (DMin)
sharonum@columbus.rr.com • UMC
Leroy Coltrnan, ’99 and ‘02 (DMin)
lcothran@sbcglobal.net • Baptist
George Ferguson, ’89 and ’94 (DMin)
drferg248@hotmail.com • Baptist
Charles Holmes, ’83 and ’96 (DMin)
anmun4711@frontier.com • AME
Pauline Puckett, ’85 and ‘95 (DMin)
pnpuckett@sbcglobal.net • Baptist
Harold Stockman, ’67, Treasurer
hstockman@woh.rr.com • UMC
Pat Stone, ’05
pats@one.net • Baptist
Terri Tyson, ’06
terri.tyson@terrylyson.com • UCC
Alicia Myers, Faculty Liaison
amyers@united.edu • Baptist
Brice Thomas, ’04, Executive Secretary
bthomas@united.edu • UCC

Please consider serving on the Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee. We are specifically looking for alumni/ae who have graduated in the last 20 years to help discern and meet the needs of our younger graduates.