Holy Spirit, Make Us One
United’s Prayer for the Church | General Conference 2012

Espíritu Santo, haz que seamos uno • Banal na Espíritu, Gawing Amin One
Espírito Santo, nos tornar uma • Святой Дух, делают нас одной
Heiliger Geist, machen uns zu einem • 성령, 우리 하나, 만들기

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Spirit Led, Renewing the Church!
United Theological Seminary • 4501 Denlinger Road • Dayton, Ohio 45426
Holy Spirit, Make Us One!
Letter from the President

Dear alumni/ae and friends,

Church History is about to happen. The Holy Spirit, as always, will hover and blow mightily in the midst of God’s people and lead the way to fulfill God’s purposes within and beyond us. This will happen in your life, your congregation, your region, the world. Question: what will it look like? What will each of us do about it in response?

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church will convene later this month in Tampa, Florida. This is just one of the many times and places where God will move powerfully and inspire human cooperation. In such a situation, how can faithful leaders begin to know how best to respond to the opportunities before us? Certainly a great place to begin is with prayer.

In a Church of many denominations, nations and even factions, the prayer of Jesus “that they may be one as we are one” is instructive. As a sponsor of The United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, United has adopted a prayer, inspired by Jesus himself, for this historic event: “Holy Spirit, Make Us One”.

It is my privilege to be part of a dynamic, history-making extended United community. Thank you for your prayers, your faithful ministries and as always, your support for the Seminary and its mission. Holy Spirit, make us one!

Yours in Christ,

Wendy J. Deichmann, President
A Celebration in Honor of Kendall Kane McCabe

May 17, 2012

Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Christ United Methodist Church
3440 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH

Cost (includes lunch and refreshments): $75.00 (general); $35.00 (student, I.D. required)

Registration Deadline: May 5, 2012

For John and Charles Wesley, few things were more important for both theology and ministry than attentiveness to the Lord’s Supper. In recent years, Wesleyan theologians and church leaders have lamented a decline in attentiveness to the Eucharist in Wesleyan theology and ministry. Some have gone so far as to suggest that a decline in sacramental vitality is at the heart of the wider pattern of decline in Wesleyan churches.

At this event, seventeen Wesleyan theologians will call for the restoration of the Eucharist to its rightful place as the heart of theology and ministry in the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, what will be offered is nothing less than a vision of theology and ministry in which the Eucharist is understood both as a vital means of grace by which Christians participate together in the Trinitarian life of God and the well-spring from which the whole of Christian life and ministry flows.

Featuring
William J. Abraham
Ron Anderson
Daniel Castelo
Paul W. Chilcote
John Drury
Richard Eslinger
Elaine Heath
Sarah H. Lancaster
Rebekah Miles
Andrew Sung Park
Brent Peterson
Don E. Saliers
Jason E. Vickers
Geoffrey Wainwright
Robin Knowles Wallace
Karen B. Westerfield Tucker
Edward P. Wimberly

Special Event: Dinner to Honor Kendall McCabe

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Dayton Marriott
1414 S. Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, OH

Cost: $25/person

Kendall Kane McCabe came to United Theological Seminary in 1980, and has served United’s students for more than 30 years as Professor of Homiletics and Worship, Dean, and currently as Professor of Evangelization in the Heisel Chair. Kendall will retire in June of 2012.

Event Sponsors
Miami Valley District, UMC
Ohio River Valley District, UMC
United Theological Seminary

For more information or to register visit www.united.edu under Events or call the seminary at 937.529.2201 by May 5.
Class of 1948
Edward D. Auchard, Bryan, OH, published a new book in 2011, Quest for Truth. Edward is 91 and his wife, Elma, is 92. He has attended Eden Theological Seminary, United, and another seminary to which he sends $100 each year. Thank you, Edward and Elma.

Class of 1955
Larry Althouse, Dallas, TX, attended “the first, 50th and probably last reunion” of the class of 1961 at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He relates the following upon first visiting Union in 1960: Larry was interviewed by Professor Cyril C. Richardson who told him he had never heard of United Seminary “and certainly never Bonebrake or the Evangelical School of Theology!” But Richardson decided to allow Larry to take one course and then reviewed his application. Larry took what turned out to be Reinhold Niebuhr’s last class, “The Structure of Nations and Empires,” got an “A” and the subject was never mentioned again.

Leonard S. Buxton and James L. Harring were featured speakers at the 50th anniversary celebration of the merger of Salem and First Evangelical United Brethren churches in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Buxton and Harring served as pastors of these congregations one block apart when they voted to consolidate into one church in 1961. Following the merger, they were appointed to serve as co-pastors of the merged congregation and designated the building on Dana Street to serve as the worship site.

Class of 1959
Edwin Griswold, Sun City, AZ, has relocated from Defiance, OH. According to classmate, Ivan Kurtz, of Penney Farms, FL, the Griswolds are involved in St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church.

Class of 1962
Earl Higgins, Lincoln NB, is helping United organize a 50-year reunion gathering for the Class of 1962 during Heck Lectures (see page 6). More details to follow this summer. Please contact Earl at eehiggins@windstream.net if you would be interested in assisting him with the planning.

Class of 1968
Leon W. Mindt, Englewood, OH, is now at the Englewood Manor Retirement Community. His wife, Esther, reports that he is “doing okay and loves to get cards and visitors.”

Class of 1970
David Thomas, Estes Park, CO, will retire at the end of March, 2012. He and his wife, Susan, have served for 11 years as mission co-workers with the Presbyterian Church (USA). For the first six years, they served on the U.S./Mexico border in one of the six local ministry sites of Presbyterian Border Ministry. For the past five years, they have been living in Cuernavaca, Morelos, while Dave has served as PC(USA)’s regional liaison for Mexico. After completing a speaking tour around the U.S. and an extended period of cultural re-entry, they plan to return to their home in Estes Park.

Class of 1972
Charles Fowler, Leechburg, PA, will retire at the 2012 Western Pennsylvania UMC Annual Conference after 42 years of ministry. In July, Carol and Chuck will move to Slippery Rock, PA.

Class of 1979
James A. Ellison, Oberlin, OH, has just completed his dissertation for a Ph.D. in England with the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, IN.

Class of 1988
Bradford G. Olson, Xenia, OH, is the current Power Lifting Champion, American Record, as of August 2011. Congratulations, Brad!

Class of 1989
Lois Fortson (’89, ’97), Dayton, OH, recently exhibited a sculpture at the Schuster Center in Dayton. The show was titled “Visual Voices 2012: The African American Experience” and ran through the month of February.

Class of 1991
Janice Wagner West, Centerville, OH, has 21 piano students – high school, middle school, and a four-year-old. She took her students to present a Halloween recital for Bethany Lutheran Village residents and they also participated in a Scale Olympics at Wright State University.
Class of 1994

Kathy (Slaughter) Cadarette, Reed City, MI, was appointed to Reed City UMC in July 2011, her third appointment since graduation. Her husband, Dave, was ordained this year in the Mennonite Church. (They refer to themselves as an “M&M” household – Methodist and Mennonite.)

Class of 1996

John Christianson, Carthage, MO, was awarded the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA, in May 2011. His thesis, entitled “The City of Artemis: A Home for Christ’s People,” was an exploration of the history, religion, and social context of First Century Ephesus, including aspects of the Pauline, deuteron-Pauline, and Johannine Churches during the New Testament period.

Class of 2000

Allyson Nelson Abrams (’00,’05), Oak Park, MI, will be consecrated to the episcopacy on April 14, 2012, in Detroit by the College of Bishops. She will continue her mission and vision as overseer and founder of Pneuma Christian Fellowship, an international training, outreach, and worship fellowship ministry. She serves as senior pastor of Zion Progress Baptist Church in Detroit.

Class of 2010

Robert L. Hogg, Kingsport, TN, recently retired from the Federal Bureau Prison as a Supervisory Chaplain at the U.S. Penitentiary in Lee, VA. Now he is hoping to get an appointment in the Tennessee Conference of the UMC.

PASSAGES

Our prayers are with the families of:

Samuel S. Emerick, Faculty Emeritus: Jan. 13, 2012

Dr. Samuel Emerick of Port Charlotte, Florida, 96, a retired elder of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, died in Port Charlotte, FL, on January 13, 2012. A memorial service was held on February 11 at South Port Square Town Hall in Port Charlotte. He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Mattie Lou “Patsy” Emerick, who died in 2010. Emerick served Indiana churches at Philadelphia/Maxwell; Mitchell Street in Kendallville; First in Wabash; Decatur; First in Bluffton. From 1957-1973 he was director of the Yokefellow Institute in Richmond, Indiana. Following a year at the Eli Lilly Foundation in Indianapolis, he served as an adjunct professor at United Theological Seminary. Upon retirement in 1979, he moved to Port Charlotte where he served on the staff of the Port Charlotte UMC. Emerick was the first president of the board of Habitat for Humanity International and was instrumental in establishing the Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity. Survivors include: three sons, Craig (Trudy) Emerick of Dallas, TX; John (Elaine) Emerick of Fort Wayne, IN; and Stephen (Debbie) Emerick of Centerville, OH; seven grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, 1750 Manzana Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

Calvin H. Reber, Faculty Emeritus: March 10, 2012

Dr. Calvin H. Reber, of Menno Haven, Chambersburg, PA, died Saturday, March 10, 2012. He was preceded in death by his wife, Audrie E. Fox Reber, who died in 1987. Reber served as the Vera B. Blinn Professor of Missions and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program from 1951 until his retirement in 1983. He was a 1936 graduate of Lebanon Valley College, a 1939 graduate of Union Theological Seminary and received his Ph.D. from Columbia University. He served as a missionary in China and served as pastor of Gravel Hill United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and the Association of Professors of Missions and had published numerous articles. Survivors include one daughter, Vera Blinn Reber, two grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and a brother, James Reber. Services were held on March 15 in Pennsylvania with Bishop George Bashore ’58, ’76 and Rev. Vern Isner officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Menno Haven Employee Appreciation Fund, 2075 Scotland Ave., Chambersburg, PA, 17201 or the EUB Center at United Theological Seminary, 4501 Denlinger Rd., Dayton, OH 45426. Condolences may be expressed at www.fogelsanger-brickerfuneralhome.com or to Vera Blinn Reber, 1500 Northfield Dr. #2101, Chambersburg, PA 17201-4048.

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Classes of ’42, ’52, ’62, ’72, ’82, ’92, and ’02: See page 6 for details about Heck Lectures Alumni/ae Reunions!

Interested in helping to plan a reunion? Contact bthomas@united.edu | 937.529.2256.
Heck Lectures 2012

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Noon – 2 p.m. | Reunion Luncheons: Classes of ’42, 52, ’62, ’72, ’82, ’92, and ’02
Cost: $10

6 p.m. | Alumni/ae Banquet: Class of ’72 to be inducted into the Eckels Society; Effective Ministry, Outstanding D.Min. Alumnus/a, and Distinguished Alumnus/a awards to be given

For more details and registration visit www.united.edu

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Lecturer: Dr. Amos Yong is the J. Rodman Williams Professor of Theology at Regent University School of Divinity in Virginia Beach, VA. His graduate education includes degrees in theology, history, and religious studies from Western Evangelical Seminary, Portland State University, and Boston University, and an undergraduate degree from Bethany University. He has authored or edited more than 15 volumes.

LECTURE 1 | The Bible and Disability: Redeeming an Ableist Hermeneutic
LECTURE 2 | Theology and Disability: Healing an Ableist World
PANEL DISCUSSION

Christians and Disabilities: Renewing the Church and Healing the World
October 16 – 17

Nomination Form for 2012 Alumni/ae Awards
Submit information online at: www.united.edu under the Alumni/ae section or mail this form to: United Theological Seminary, Brice Thomas, Associate Director of Alumni/ae Services and Development, 4501 Denlinger Rd, Dayton, OH 45426.

FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15, 2012

Your Name: ________________________ Your Phone: (_____) ____________ Your E-mail: ________________________

Name of Nominee: ________________________

Select one award for recognition:

☐ Effective Ministry Award: Nominee has developed outstanding (new or unique) ministries, is engaged in a particular local expression of ministry and witness, and serves in challenging areas of ministry defined by characteristics such as geographic region, cross-cultural appointments, etc.

☐ Outstanding D.Min. Alumnus/a: Nominee has developed an outstanding program or ministry outreach as a result of effective work in United’s Doctor of Ministry program.

☐ Distinguished Alumnus/a: Nominee has obtained denominational, ecumenical, or professional distinction

Reason Nominee’s Ministry Merits Recognition: ________________________

6 | Keeping in Touch: Spring/Summer 12
United Launches Exciting **New** Learning Opportunity for Seniors

United Theological Seminary has combined scholarship with senior citizens in an exciting concept called Seminary for Seniors. With an array of courses, Seminary for Seniors offers non-credit learning opportunities for adults 55+. Six times during the year, five-week courses are taught by professors, pastors, and laity from a variety of denominations. Courses are currently held at two Ohio locations, Christ United Methodist Church in Dayton and Otterbein Homes in Lebanon.

Directed by Dr. Rodney Kennedy, lead pastor at First Baptist Church, Dayton, and Brice Thomas, Director of Alumni/ae Services at United, the program offers courses in business ethics, the evolution of creation, literalism in the Bible, the Bible and the constitution, and many more. A new session begins April 17 at Christ UMC and April 19 at Otterbein, and registration is available online at www.united.edu or by calling 937.529.2201.

Plans for the future include expanding the offerings at Trinity Baptist Church in Columbus, OH, Hyde Park UMC in Cincinnati, OH, and St. Paul’s UMC in State College, PA.

Seminary for Seniors is an open arena for discussion and debate with an atmosphere that encourages questions, considers alternative truth claims, and offers an amazing amount of freedom. The relationships developed among folks from different churches and denominations has been a big plus for the program. “The people taking classes,” said Dr. Kennedy, “are highly motivated to learn. They read the assigned textbooks and they come to class prepared. It is a joy to teach.”

Teachers for the Seminary for Seniors volunteer their time, which allows the program to dedicate the funds generated to scholarships for United students. So far this year the program has generated approximately $7500 for scholarships, and it is projected that the $10,000 mark will be reached.

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**New Wesleyan-Methodist Studies Program**

The United Faculty has approved a new Wesleyan-Methodist Studies emphasis in the M.Div. curriculum to begin Fall 2012. Students may take nine credit hours from the offerings of eight or more courses in the history, theology and practice of the Wesleyan-Methodist traditions as part of the concentration.

As a United Methodist seminary with as many as ten Wesleyan-Methodist professors on the faculty, United is well-equipped to assist The United Methodist Church and other pan-Methodist denominations in strengthening Wesleyan/Methodist formation and theological identity among those preparing for leadership in ministry. For more details, please visit our website and catalog or contact Rev. Andy Wood at awood@united.edu or 937.529.2201, ext. 3704.
In the last two weeks, I have given lectures at conferences and retreats and preached at churches on three different United Methodist Conferences. I have spoken with the General Secretary of one of our General Boards, with three district superintendents, and with dozens of clergy and laity. In all of these conversations, one theme occurred again and again, namely, the upcoming General Conference. Sadly, not one person I spoke with had anything positive to say. No one expressed anything approaching optimism or enthusiasm about what many believe is the most important gathering of the people called United Methodists. On the contrary, most expressed something bordering on dread.

At this stage, I must confess that I am tempted to give up on General Conference. As a theologian, it is difficult not to fall back on the notion that the local church simply is the church; that what happens at General Conference is theologically and sacramentally meaningless. I am tempted to believe that the body that will gather in Tampa is not a divine body, but a merely human body bound together by what may well be the most telling sign of our sinful condition – our need for enemies.

I am also tempted to give up on General Conference on pragmatic grounds. Why not simply split into two or three churches based on theological and political sensibilities? Amid the seemingly endless number of Protestant denominations in America, what would a few more hurt? Besides, when it comes to the issues that divide us most deeply, I simply don’t anticipate any solutions that will satisfy everyone. Would we not get more done for the Kingdom of God if we went our separate ways?

Despite how much I would like to give up on General Conference, I cannot do so. As a Trinitarian theologian, I am especially fond of Jesus’ farewell discourse in the Gospel of John. It is here that Jesus promises that he will send the Holy Spirit. It is here that Jesus speaks of his unity with God the Father. And it is here that Jesus prays for his disciples and for those who will come after them.

What does this have to do with not giving up on General Conference? In Jesus’ prayer in John 17, he asks his heavenly Father to make us one, even as the Father and the Son are one. Indeed, no theme is more prominent in Jesus’ prayer than the theme of unity, both God’s unity and ours.

Under the weight of this passage, I simply cannot regard “amicable separation” as a serious option. On the contrary, I believe that we should not settle for anything less than the unity about which our Lord speaks. At the same time, my doctrine of sin is sufficiently robust that I have very low expectations that anything resembling the unity that Jesus has with God the Father will result from the upcoming General Conference. If anything, like so many people I have spoken with in recent weeks, I will not be surprised in the least if we leave Tampa more deeply divided than when we arrived.

What, then, should we do? I suggest that we should not so much give up on General Conference as we should give up General Conference to God in prayer. In other words, I think that the time has come not solely for a Call to Action but also for a Call to Prayer. More specifically, I believe that we should pray that God will help us to follow our Lord in making unity our first priority. Having said this, I have no illusions about how deep our divisions are. But I also believe that Jesus has not left us to our own devices, political or otherwise. I believe he has made good on his promise. I believe that, with the Father, he has sent the Holy Spirit into the world precisely so that we might be one, even as they are one. Even so, come, Holy Spirit. Make us one.
An Opportunity to Find Our Way
By Pastor Michael Mohler, United Master of Divinity Student

As a young clergy person, I am excited to see what God has in store for the United Methodist Church at this General Conference and in the years to come. Not because of certain issues that may be voted upon or certain languages to be changed in the Discipline, but rather for the vision and calling God has for The United Methodist Church.

Why is it that the Central Conference holds 38% of the total vote at this year’s General Conference? Why does the West Ohio Conference only send 18 delegates while the Congo sends 58 delegates? The United Methodist Church is the fastest growing denomination in the world, but at the same time it is decreasing rapidly within the United States. I believe we have lost our way at times and we have been focused on the politics and committees and not on the saving of souls. That is the very reason why the Central Conference holds 38% of this year’s vote. They are saving souls and growing rapidly while we in the United States are, for the majority, aging older white people who are too concerned with our buildings, committees, and status quo.

I am empowered and encouraged by General Conference because it is there the conversation begins about how we can become more relevant in a world that does not care about church. It is at General Conference where the question, “What does it mean to bring people into the church?” is discussed and dreamed about. I look around our churches and rarely do I see someone close to my age or in their 20’s. We have lost our way. Luckily for The United Methodist Church at the end of April, with the Holy Spirit’s guidance and our obedience, we once again can find our way.

A Way to Understand the Church
By Ms. Heather Rutherford, United Master of Divinity Student

I am part of United’s General Conference course, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Jeff Greenway, a West Ohio pastor and General Conference delegate, and Rev. Chris Roberts, a pastor in the Indiana Conference. We will meet twice in Dayton and then travel to Tampa, FL, at the end of April.

I have been anticipating the beginning of this class since I registered for courses last fall. I have a desire to learn more about the higher workings of The United Methodist Church, and I know my colleagues in the class feel the same way. It is only through learning and experiencing how the Church functions that we will become most effective in our own ministries. Most of us have attended our annual conferences, so we have some basic understanding of the Church’s ins and outs, but General Conference will be more intense.

Part of our role at General Conference is to interact with various groups that interest us, to be present at sessions and then be able to reflect upon our experiences as we dialogue throughout the conference. These interactions will provide understanding of particular areas, but also allow for a time to connect with our individual conference delegates.

My greatest expectation for this class is to walk away with a deeper level of understanding of the intricacies of The United Methodist Church. As for my greatest expectation for General Conference, simple in words, but challenging in actions, move The United Methodist Church forward.
A Landmark General Conference

By Mrs. Ruth A. Daugherty, United Board of Trustees; Western Pennsylvania delegate to General Conference (11th General Conference as a delegate)

Only the General Conference of The United Methodist Church can determine policies, church structure, social principles, etc. for the Church. I think the 2012 General Conference will be a landmark conference for many reasons. A major fact for this assessment is the increased globalism of the church evidenced by the fact that almost 400 of the 998 are coming from central conferences in the Philippines, Africa, and Europe. In addition, there is an awareness of the growing number of members in Southeast Asia where central conferences have not yet been established.

Deliberations in Legislative sessions will be impacted by input from the delegates from different cultures, traditions, and societies. Among the decisions that have potential for major changes are: proposed general church structure to be effective in administration and providing resources for making disciples for the transformation of the world; parts of the Discipline applicable to United Methodist members world-wide and sections that central conferences can determine; inclusiveness issues; requirements for ordination; guaranteed appointment; and changes in pension provisions.

It is my hope that delegates will prepare by becoming knowledgeable about the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as well as materials related to the Resolutions. And in the midst of the deliberations there can be unity of spirit even when there are different points of view. May all delegates practice the Holy Conferencing Principles adopted by the Northeastern Jurisdiction:

Every person is a child of God; Listen before speaking; Strive to understand from another’s point of view; Speak about issues, do not defame persons; Disagree without being disagreeable; Pray, in silence or aloud, before decisions; Let prayer interrupt your busy-ness; Strive to accurately reflect the views of others.

Discernment, Debate, and Sometimes Delight

By Bishop Linda Lee ’84, ’94, Bishop of Wisconsin Conference, UMC

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19 – 20)

The theme for the 2012 United Methodist General Conference is “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ to Transform the World”.

General Conference is a time of discernment, debate, and sometimes delight. We agree and we disagree about the laws and life of our denomination and our mission and ministry in the world.

I believe the joy, the pain, the conflict and the times of reconciliation draw us closer to the truth that we are one in Christ. Like the first Church, we are not the buildings, but the people who are Christ’s representatives in the world. We are disciples, and through the witness of our lives, others are drawn to know Christ for themselves. As those who believe in Jesus Christ, we faithfully do all we can to live out our understanding of what it means to be 21st century disciples, and who together with other believers, are Christ’s agents for the transformation of the world.

My prayer for the 2012 General Conference is that United Methodists will weather the monumental shifting and unprecedented change now occurring in the world, and therefore in the Church, and that we will turn the corner into the future as a body, strengthened by its past and inspired by our possibilities in Christ Jesus.
Jeremy Winston, United’s Director of Music Ministry and Director of the Wilberforce University Choir, traveled with the Wilberforce group to Washington, D.C. in December to perform at the White House, and received an unexpected visit from President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. The President and First Lady shook hands with the choir members and posed for a photo with them.

“Meeting the President was the highlight of a great trip,” said Winston. The group spent a week on the road, performing at churches and high schools in New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia to get the word out about the university and to encourage students to consider attending.

Winston had requested the performance date months before and in November, the group was invited to perform in the East Wing. The audience included those who were touring the White House and guests who were attending a White House party.

Winston said the choir was pleased with the overwhelming response they received from the audience, but he was most pleased with the Obamas’ reaction. “I think both the President and the First Lady were impressed with the sound of the group,” he said.

This GC May Radically Alter the Denomination
By Rev. Michael B. Slaughter, ’90 (D.Min.), Lead Pastor, Ginghamsburg United Methodist Church, Tipp City, OH and leader, West Ohio General Conference delegation

The 2012 General Conference will be a landmark conference for the United Methodist Church, with delegates voting on significant restructuring proposals. This is major! The Call to Action Recommendations for consideration have the power to radically alter the denomination. If key proposals are passed: The 9 boards and agencies will be consolidated into 5 offices; The directors of the boards and agencies will be replaced by a group of 15 people (including one non-U.S. member) selected on the basis of competence who will govern the work of the denomination; The Council of Bishops will elect a “set aside” bishop who will work with the group of 15 to lead the denomination as the ecumenical officer of the denomination as a whole; guaranteed appointment for ordained elders will be eliminated allowing cabinets to appoint effective leaders to congregations; leadership effectiveness will be the key driver across the denomination, with congregations and leaders measured by a common set of metrics.

Our United Methodist Church’s mission statement is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” These recommendations (with General Conference tweaks) are critical for ensuring that mission statement represents more than words on paper.

I have three key hopes for General Conference outcomes. First, the funds that support top-heavy administrative functions must be reallocated to provide strategic resources for ministry and mission at the local church level, where we are best positioned to serve the least and the lost. Secondly, we need to hold ourselves accountable for our lack of diversity. Less than 9 percent of our U.S. membership represents people of color. How can we make Kingdom of God diversity a local church reality and not just a token expression of oversized boards and agencies? Finally, the future of United Methodism depends on investing our best energies into identifying anointed young leaders who will create new faith places for new faces to reach our increasingly unchurched culture. One General Conference proposal calls for redirecting monies toward training young leaders.

All United Methodists have a critical responsibility for General Conference: Prayer. Above all, pray that delegates are sensitive to God’s Spirit – the Spirit that is always calling us to be prophetic, relevant, and willing to step out of our comfortable traditions to embrace God’s preferred future.
Dr. David Watson, Academic Dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Assistant Professor of New Testament, spoke at “A Faithful Response: Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence,” a West Ohio Conference event on March 17.

Dr. Lisa Hess, Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Contextual Ministries, has been selected as a presenter for the 2012 Global Conference of Chaplains in Higher Education to be held at Yale University this summer, entitled “Mosaics in Motion: Spiritual Leadership in a Multifaith World.” Her presentation is “Liturgical Hospitality? Sitting at Table in Multifaith Spaces.”

Dr. Andrew Park, Professor of Theology and Ethics, published a chapter entitled “Strengthen the United Nations and international efforts for cooperation and human rights” in Interfaith Just Peacemaking: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives on the New Paradigm of Peace and War, edited by Susan Brooks (Thistletwaite; Palgrave; 2012). Dr. Park was also a keynote speaker for the third Asian American Equipping Symposium (AAES) on March 19 at Fuller Theological Seminary (California). He was also keynoter on “Without Justice, Is Reconciliation and Forgiveness Possible?” for the annual Diversity and Intercultural program at North Park University (Illinois) on March 22.


Dr. David Whitford, Professor of the History of Christianity, continues to function as one of three editors of the Sixteenth Century Journal, a leading international journal in early modern history. Each year the SCJ prints 25-30 articles of original research and more than 400 book reviews, providing readers with thought-provoking research and inquiry.

United is pleased to welcome three new faculty members who will begin their teaching duties on July 1, 2012

Felicia Howell LaBoy, Assistant Professor of Evangelization in the Heisel Chair, has a B.A. from Lehigh University, an M.B.A. from Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, an M.A. from Indiana Christian University, an M.Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from Drew University.

As a pastor, community activist, entrepreneur and workshop leader, Felicia works with churches, businesses and community organizations to help reconcile and restore churches and communities by equipping persons. Felicia is an Elder in Full Connection of the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church and enjoys traveling, music concerts, cooking and gardening.

Luther J. Oconer, Assistant Professor of United Methodist Studies, has a B.S. from Mapua Institute of Technology, an M.Div. from Wesley Divinity School and an M.Phil. and Ph.D., from Drew University.

Luther has recently published essays on the Development of Methodism in Asia and the Pacific in T&T Clark’s Companion to Methodism (2010), and on the history of Methodism in the Philippines in Die Methodistische Kirchen (2011). He has also published articles in Methodist History and Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. He is an ordained elder in the Pampanga Philippines Annual Conference.

Horace Six-Means, Associate Professor in Church History, has a BA from the University of Pennsylvania, and an M.Div., a Th.M., and a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from Princeton Theological Seminary.


Rev. Andy Wood has recently joined United in a dual role, serving as Coordinator of Pan-Methodist Student Recruitment and Lecturer in Wesleyan Studies and Church History. A specialist in American Methodist history, Andy is completing his Ph.D. at Auburn University. In his recruiting role, Andy will be working among Wesleyan-Methodist denominations. He is excited about the new M.Div. emphasis in Wesleyan-Methodist Studies (see page 7). Andy can be reached at awood@united.edu or 937.529.2201, ext. 3704.
New Faculty Publications

Dr. Thomas Dozeman
Professor of the Hebrew Bible


The identification of literary works in the Pentateuch and the Former Prophets is a hallmark of the modern historical-critical interpretation of the Hebrew Bible. This volume explores anew, without presupposition or exclusion, the criteria by which interpreters identify literary works in these books as a resource for recovering the composition history of the literature. It also brings North American and European approaches to the topic into a common discussion.

Dr. David Whitford
Professor of the History of Christianity

T&T Clark Companion to Reformation Theology; David Whitford, editor; T&T Clark International; 2012.

Theology in the Reformation era can be complicated and contentious. This volume aims to cut through the theological jargon and explain what people believed and why. The volume begins with an essay explaining how one can approach the study of sixteenth century theology and includes a guide to major events, persons, doctrines, and movements. In-depth essays by noted scholars complete the volume.

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PASSAGES

Our prayers are with the families of:

Valerie Fuller Althouse, Dallas, TX, died on February 7, 2011. Cards may be sent to her husband, Larry ’55, at 4412 Shenandoah Street, Dallas, TX 75205-2028.

Frank R. Hollingsworth ’56, Muskegon, MI, died on June 6, 2011.

Malcolm Allen, Wilson, NY, died on June 30, 2011. Cards may be sent to his wife, Barbara Allen ’00, at P.O. Box 93, Wilson, NY 14172-0093.

Robert L. Herrick ’56, Green Valley, AZ, died on September 8, 2011. Cards may be sent to his wife, Darlene, at 271 W. Paseo Recortado, Green Valley, AZ 85614-3468.

Mattie Jackson ’91, Dayton, OH, died on October 1, 2011.

Geneva Aldridge, Dayton, OH, died on November 4, 2011. Mrs. Aldridge was a long-time friend of United.

Virginia Sheretz, Sammamish, WA, died on November 26, 2011. She was the spouse of William H. Sherertz ’53, who died in 1998.

Ann C. Ewbank-Ludy ’10, Tipp City, OH, died November 28, 2011. Cards may be sent to Mr. James Ludy, 7637 S. Boone Dr., Tipp City, OH 45371.


Erica Montgomery, Grand Rapids, OH, daughter-in-law of Mark Montgomery ’77, died December 12, 2011. She was 26 years old and leaves behind her husband Mark J. and 7 month old daughter, Peyton. Cards may be sent to Mark Montgomery at 1380 County Road 42, Gibsonburg, OH 43431.

J. Alan Coahran ’62, Crossville, TN, died December 12, 2011. Cards may be sent to his wife, Beverly, at 73 Santee Court, Crossville, TN 38572-6967.

Robert G. Callihan ’57, Johnstown, PA, died on December 13, 2011. Cards may be sent to his wife, Eleanor, at 40 Wesley Drive, Johnstown, PA 15904.

Millard Knowles ’93, Baltimore, MD, died on December 15, 2011. Cards may be sent to his daughter, Robin Knowles Wallace, 2170 Willowick Square, Columbus, OH 43229.

Carol Kuzera ’93, Dayton, OH, died on December 26, 2011.

Joe Carine, father of Kathy O’Donnell ’07, Eaton, OH, died on January 7, 2012. Cards may be sent to Kathy at 3330 Upshur-Northern Road, Eaton, OH 45320.

Glendon Carl Dixon, Sr. ’76, Brookville, IN, died January 14, 2012. Cards may be sent to his wife, Quannah, at 11021 Keeler Road, Brookville, IN 47012.

Martin Pierce ’76, Village of Palmetto Bay, FL, died on January 20, 2012. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Suzanne Pierce, 7620 SW 168th St, Village of Palmetto Bay, FL 33157-4817.

Bruce C. Souders ’47, Winchester, VA, died February 15, 2012. Cards may be sent to his wife, Patricia, at 208 Stafford Drive, Winchester, VA 22602-7431.

Robert Scott ’87, Springfield, OH, died on March 5, 2012. Condolences may be sent to Martha Scott, 2135 Northridge Dr., Springfield, OH 45504.
April 17 – 18
Vision to Victory is an annual celebration honoring the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., held each year around the time of his martyrdom. This year’s speaker is Dr. Margaret Mallory, who will speak on Tuesday, April 17, at Omega Baptist Church at 7 p.m., with a reception following. On Wednesday, April 18, Dr. Mallory will preach at chapel at 11:15 a.m. at the seminary.

May 7 – 11
Gathering Week

May 17
Theology, Eucharist and Ministry (See page 3)

June 2
Spring 2012 Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, at 1:30 p.m. at Precious Blood Catholic Church, 4961 Salem Avenue, Dayton. The speaker for the service will be Bishop George Bashore, ’58, ’76, retired Bishop and chair of United’s Board of Trustees.

August 6 – 17
FLEX Residency Weeks

August 20 – 24
D.Min. Intensive, “Preaching for Church Growth and Renewal” Dayton Marriott; Plenary speakers include Michael Slaughter and Joel Gregory. More details to follow.

September 5
Opening Convocation, 11:15 a.m.

September 24 – 28
Gathering Week

October 9 – 19
Annual Phonathon

October 15
Ryterband Symposium

October 16 – 17
Heck Lectures (See details on page 6)

Institute for Applied Theology 2012 Events

For more information visit www.united.edu and select Lifelong Learning.

June 19 – 23: UMC Certification Courses Teaching Biblical Faith/Bible Survey; Religious Education Theory and Practice;

June 5 – July 17: Principles and Practice of Supervision (Hybrid Format) Registration deadline, May 25; Contact revans@united.edu

July 25 – 27: District Superintendents and the Ministry of Covenantal Supervision; Registration deadline June 26, Contact revans@united.edu

August 14 – 16: 10th Annual Summer Preaching Retreat; Preaching Luke

August 6 – 24: Hybrid UMC Certification Courses; Theology for Practical Ministry; Specialized Music Skills Development; Urban Immersion; Ministry with Youth

For more details and registration, please visit www.united.edu under “Events”.

Dr. Charles E. Booth
Preaching Jesus Christ with a Prophetic Focus

MAY 22 – 24

Place: The Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, OH
Presenters: Dr. Joel Gregory; Dr. Mack King Carter; Dr. Marvin A. McMicle; Dr. Frank A. Thomas; Dr. Sir Walter L. Mack, Jr; and Dr. Carolyn A. Knight

For more information on all events contact United: 937.529.2201 | www.united.edu
Doctor of Ministry Phase Five Students

United’s Phase Five Doctor of Ministry students gathered with staff, mentors and faculty following lunch with President Deichmann on January 26, 2012. This is a traditional gathering for D.Min. students who are finishing the program.

President Deichmann Teaches in Vietnam

In January of 2012, President Wendy Deichmann taught a course in United Methodist History to 23 student pastors in Saigon. At left, students and some family members gather for a group photo.

Willow Valley Alumni/ae Gathering

Alumni/ae and spouses posed for a photo on January 30 in Lancaster, PA, while attending the annual Willow Valley Alumni/ae gathering. Dr. Alicia Myers, Assistant Professor of New Testament, lectured on the topic, “Jesus’ Mom: The Mother-Son Relationship in the Gospel of John.”

Thanks, Alumni/ae and Donors!

The United Community expresses gratitude for all of our alumni/ae and donors whose giving during the last fiscal year made it possible for the seminary to end the year in a cash positive position. Your generosity and the stewardship of those resources allowed United to enjoy significant enrollment growth while also providing over $600,000 in tuition aid. We give thanks to God and to you for all the gifts that keep United growing and strong.

Coming to Heck Lectures? Volunteer for 2012 Phonathon!

United’s Annual Phonathon is scheduled between October 9-19, 2012. If you are planning to attend the Alumni/ae Banquet or Heck Lectures on October 16-17 we would greatly appreciate volunteers to spend just a couple hours calling other alumni/ae during our annual seminary fund campaign. Please contact the alumni/ae office for more information at 937.529.2256 or bthomas@united.edu.

Post and read celebrations and prayer concerns online at www.facebook.com/unitedts. This is a public forum for communicating the needs of our students and alumni/ae.
2012 Annual Conference Gatherings

We are in the process of planning 2012 Annual Conference Gatherings. What follows is a tentative schedule. Please visit www.united.edu under Alumni/ae/Annual Conference Gatherings for up-to-date details.

**West Pennsylvania:** June 9 lunch  
**West Michigan:** June 6  
**Susquehanna:** June 8 breakfast, Brothers’ Restaurant  
**Indiana:** June 8 lunch, 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at The Ram, RSVP to eabla@united.edu  
**West Virginia:** June 7 dinner  
**West Ohio:** June 11 lunch  
**Tennessee:** June 12  
**East Ohio:** June 18 dinner at Gary and Sally Olins’ home, 5:30 p.m.

**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 Rd, 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.

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**Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee**

2011 – 12

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- **Sharon Beattie,** ’86 and ’95 (DMin) sharonum@columbus.rr.com • UCC  
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- **Brice Thomas,** ’04, Executive Secretary bhomas@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. Interested in being an Alumni/ae Ambassador to an incoming student? Contact Alumni/ae Services for more information about all of these responsibilities and opportunities.

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