

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mission

The twelve-person¹ Board of Trustees is responsible for the legal and real property concerns of the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. We deeply appreciate the invaluable support and efforts of David Robinson, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Administration, Heidi Harding, Treasurer, and Jonathan Gerber, Finance Assistant; as well as Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Rev. Larry Whitehead, Executive Assistant to the Bishop; and Ms. Sarah Jenkins, Esq., Conference Chancellor.

Activities of the past year

Under the direction of the Indiana Conference, the Trustees continued to place on the market former conference property and closed and discontinued churches. From April 2022 to March 2023* nineteen discontinued or abandoned church and conference properties were sold for a total of \$5,014,910 in ten districts.

<u>Church</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Sales Proceeds</u>
The Promise UMC	North Central	\$3,300,000
Monrovia UMC	Central	\$350,000
South Bend Epworth Memorial UMC and Parsonages	North	\$300,000
Lebanon Otterbein UMC	North Central	\$215,900
Woodside UMC	Central	\$150,000
Goldsmith UMC and Parsonage	North Central	\$118,000
Columbia City Oak Grove UMC	Northeast	\$110,000
Crawford Consolidated UMC and Parsonage	South	\$100,000
Meese Chapel UMC	Northeast	\$81,000
Richmond Faith-Trinity UMC Parsonage	East	\$70,000
Twelve Mile Bethlehem UMC	Northwest	\$70,000
Spiceland UMC	East	\$50,000
Milton UMC and Parsonage	East	\$35,000
South Bend Faith UMC	North	\$30,000
Lena UMC	West	\$12,500
Bethel (Albany UMC)	East	\$10,000
Burney UMC	Southeast	\$7,500
Metamora UMC	Southeast	\$5,000
Evansville St. John UMC	Southwest	\$10

*The time since the Trustees' last Report to the Annual Conference

The Indiana Conference Board of Trustees wishes to thank our Bishop and the Extended Cabinet for including in their Conference Report and Presentation a Remembrance of Churches Closed since the last Annual Conference session. We realize that these are more than pieces of property. They are sacred spaces where persons professed faith in Christ, babies were

¹ The Board of Trustees currently has eleven members, due to the withdrawal and resignation of one member following the November 2022 disaffiliation of his church.

1 baptized, marriages solemnized, and lives celebrated after death. It is good and appropriate that we
2 recognize and honor them.

3
4 The Indiana Annual Conference continues to offer a voluntary Property, Casualty, and Workers
5 Compensation Insurance program insured by Church Mutual. The program offers a full range of
6 coverage for the protection of the ministry of our churches. Churches interested in receiving
7 information about this program may call Church Mutual at 1-800-554-2642.

8
9 **Trusts** under the care of the Board of Trustees and their activity for 2022 (*rounded & unaudited).
10 Please note: all funds had a loss for 2022.

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|----|---|--------------------|---------------|
| 11 | | | |
| 12 | ▪ Davis Trust | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 119,933* |
| 13 | An unrestricted trust used for the Capital needs of the Conference. | | |
| 14 | | | |
| 15 | ▪ Pyle Trust | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 667,454* |
| 16 | A restricted trust, the proceeds of which are to go to World and National Missions. Each | | |
| 17 | year, the income from the Trust is distributed at the request of the Conference Mission | | |
| 18 | and Justice Ministries. | | |
| 19 | | | |
| 20 | ▪ Closed Church Demolition Fund | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 138,858* |
| 21 | A fund for use by the Board of Trustees to help fund demolition of churches regardless of | | |
| 22 | location. | | |
| 23 | | | |
| 24 | ▪ Urban Closed Church Demolition Fund | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 35,040* |
| 25 | A fund for use by the Board of Trustees to help fund demolition of churches in an urban | | |
| 26 | environment. | | |
| 27 | | | |
| 28 | ▪ Daisy Wood Trust | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 22,122* |
| 29 | Temporarily restricted trust. Annual net proceeds to Decker Chapel UMC. | | |
| 30 | | | |
| 31 | ▪ Groat Estate | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 422,392* |
| 32 | Designated for Rural Ministries. Administered by Church Development. | | |
| 33 | | | |
| 34 | ▪ Groendyke Trust | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 146,680* |
| 35 | Permanently restricted trust. Annual net proceeds go to Conference Board of | | |
| 36 | Pensions. | | |
| 37 | | | |
| 38 | ▪ Carrie Legg Trust | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 14,861* |
| 39 | Permanently restricted trust. Annual net proceeds go to Charlottesville UMC. | | |
| 40 | | | |
| 41 | ▪ Kresge Trust | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 1,243,791* |
| 42 | Restricted for the purpose of church extension. Administered by Church Development | | |
| 43 | | | |
| 44 | ▪ Shera Trust | Balance 12/31/2022 | \$ 3,066,341* |
| 45 | Board Restricted. For Retired Ministers or Foreign Missions. | | |
| 46 | | | |

47 **Shera Trust Distribution:** The Shera Trust had a net loss in 2022, and therefore under
48 guidance adopted by the Trustees previously, there will be no distribution. Under distribution
49 guidelines adopted; the Trust must recoup its losses before the net earnings will be allocated for
50 distribution in future years. The chairs of affected committees were notified.

1
2 As a reminder, once the losses are recouped, the net earnings will be distributed in future years
3 under distribution guidelines previously adopted: 80% of the net earnings available to the
4 Annual Conference to fund that year’s Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy; 20% to a mission or
5 missions selected by Missions & Justice; and 5% retained in the fund to build the corpus and
6 protect against inflation.
7

8 **Acquisition of Property at Epworth Forest**

9 Working with CF&A and Camping Ministries, the Board of Trustees approved the acquisition of
10 certain parcels of property adjacent to the Epworth Forest entrance where water/well rights were
11 at issue. The acquisition was satisfactorily completed in Spring 2023.
12

13 **Disaffiliation Under BOD ¶2553**

14 The Board approved a Disaffiliation Agreement for use in the Indiana Conference under the terms
15 of the *Book of Discipline*, ¶2553, as passed at GC2019. As of the writing of this Report, a number of
16 churches in the Indiana Annual Conference have requested information relating to the financial
17 aspects of disaffiliation; many congregations have held church conferences and voted to disaffiliate,
18 and others had church conferences scheduled. Congregations have until 10 days prior to the first
19 date of the meeting of Annual Conference to meet all the legal and financial obligations under the
20 Disaffiliation Agreement for it to be brought to the body of the Annual Conference for vote to affirm
21 their disaffiliation as required by BOD ¶2553. If all conditions for disaffiliation are met, the final list
22 will be presented, and there will be such a motion and vote brought by the Trustees.
23

24 **Sunset Provision of BOD ¶2553**

25 The terms of the disaffiliation paragraph of the *Book of Discipline*, ¶2553, as passed at GC2019,
26 contains a sunset provision that states: “The choice of a local church to disaffiliate with The
27 United Methodist Church under this paragraph [i.e., BOD ¶2553] shall be made in sufficient time
28 for the process for exiting the denomination to be complete prior to December 31, 2023. The
29 provisions of ¶2553 expire on December 31, 2023, and shall not be used after that date.”
30

31 Because the process for exiting the denomination under BOD ¶2553 includes an affirmation vote
32 by the Annual Conference, any congregation or church wishing to disaffiliate under ¶2553 had to
33 do so in time to accommodate such a vote at the meeting of the Annual Conference in June
34 2023.
35

36 **Motion**

37 I respectfully submit this Report, and move that the Board of Trustees Report be accepted as
38 presented.
39

40 *The Rev. Teri Crouse, President*
41 *Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.*
42 *Chair, Indiana Annual Conference Board of Trustees*