

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mission

The twelve-person 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 & Director of Administration; Rev. Robert Johnson, Associate Director of Financial Service & Controller; and Jonathan Gerber, Asset Manager; 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 properties and closed and discontinued churches. From April 2023 to March 2024,* fourteen discontinued or abandoned church and conference properties were sold for a total of \$1,114,903 in nine districts.

Church	District	Sales Proceeds
Walkerton UMC and Parsonage	North	\$596,000
Oaktown UMC and Parsonage	Southwest	\$92,500
Lake Chapel UMC and Parsonage	Northeast	\$80,000
Washington Wesley UMC	Southwest	\$77,000
Liberty Greenwood UMC	East	\$76,403
Andrews UMC and Parsonage	Northeast	\$65,000
Oolitic UMC	South	\$60,000
Point Isabel UMC	North Central	\$29,000
Pilot Knob UMC	South	\$20,000
Dover Hill UMC and Parsonage	Southwest	\$10,000
Weaver Chapel UMC	Northwest	\$8,000
Burns City UMC	Southwest	\$1,000
Morris Street UMC Parsonage	Central	\$0**
Terre Haute First UMC	West	\$0**

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

**These properties were donated to community organizations

The Indiana Conference Board of Trustees wishes to thank our Bishop and the Cabinet for including in their Conference Report and Presentation a Celebration of Legacy Churches 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 baptized, marriages solemnized, and lives celebrated after death. It is good and appropriate that we recognize and honor them.

The Indiana Annual Conference continues to offer a voluntary Property, Casualty, and Workers Compensation Insurance program insured by Church Mutual. The program offers a full range of coverage for the protection of the ministry of our churches. Churches interested in receiving information about this

1 program may call Church Mutual at 1-800-554-2642. In light of recent issues related to insurance that many
2 of our churches have experienced with insurance coverage, the Trustees and Conference staff are
3 investigating via our third-party church insurance consultant whether there are any carriers interested in
4 covering the Conference as a group. In the meantime, the Trustees recommend that all churches reach out
5 to renew their insurance early rather than waiting to receive notice from their insurance carriers that either
6 it is time for renewal or that the carrier may be considering dropping them.
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8 Trusts under the care of the Board of Trustees and their activity for 2023 (*rounded & unaudited).
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|----|---|--------------------|---------------|
| 10 | ▪ Davis Trust | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 135,168* |
| 11 | An unrestricted trust used for the Capital needs of the Conference. | | |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | ▪ Pyle Trust | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 799,407* |
| 14 | A restricted trust, the proceeds of which are to go to World and National Missions. Each year, the | | |
| 15 | income from the Trust is distributed at the request of the Conference Mission and Justice Ministries. | | |
| 16 | | | |
| 17 | ▪ Closed Church Demolition Fund | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 138,858* |
| 18 | A fund for use by the Board of Trustees to help fund demolition of churches regardless of location. | | |
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| 20 | | | |
| 21 | ▪ Urban Closed Church Demolition Fund | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 35,040* |
| 22 | A fund for use by the Board of Trustees to help fund demolition of churches in an urban | | |
| 23 | environment. | | |
| 24 | | | |
| 25 | ▪ Daisy Wood Trust | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 24,932* |
| 26 | Temporarily restricted trust. Annual net proceeds to Decker Chapel UMC. | | |
| 27 | | | |
| 28 | ▪ Groat Estate | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 476,049* |
| 29 | Designated for Rural Ministries. Administered by Church Development. | | |
| 30 | | | |
| 31 | ▪ Groendyke Trust | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 165,313* |
| 32 | Permanently restricted trust. Annual net proceeds go to Conference Board of | | |
| 33 | Pensions. | | |
| 34 | | | |
| 35 | ▪ Carrie Legg Trust | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 16,749* |
| 36 | Permanently restricted trust. Annual net proceeds go to Charlottesville UMC. | | |
| 37 | | | |
| 38 | ▪ Kresge Trust (under review) | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 1,399,147* |
| 39 | Restricted for the purpose of church extension. Administered by Church Development | | |
| 40 | | | |
| 41 | ▪ Shera Trust | Balance 12/31/2023 | \$ 2,003,776* |
| 42 | Board Restricted. For Retired Ministers or Foreign Missions. | | |
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1 **Shera Trust Distribution:** The Shera Trust had a net loss in 2022, and therefore under guidance adopted
2 by the Trustees previously, there was no distribution in 2023. Under the distribution guidelines previously
3 adopted, the Trust must recoup its losses before the net earnings can be allocated for distribution in future
4 years. These losses were not recouped in 2023, therefore there will be no distribution in 2024 as well. The
5 chairs of affected committees were notified.

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

11
12 As a special note, various distributions from the Shera Trust had been approved and made over the past
13 several years (2014-2022), but not charged to the Trust. This has been rectified, which explains some of the
14 significant drops in the total balance reported.

15 16 **Litigation in Defense of the Trust Clause**

17 Certain congregations attempted to leave the Annual Conference with property subject to the Trust Clause,
18 but without making use of BOD ¶2553 (prior to its sunset date) or any of the other provisions in the *Book of*
19 *Discipline* under which a congregation may leave the Annual Conference. After attempting to settle the
20 matter amicably, the Board and Conference had to take legal action to protect the Trust Clause. We expect
21 these lawsuits to be concluded satisfactorily shortly.

22 23 **Disaffiliation Under BOD ¶2553**

24 Following the final vote at the 2023 Annual Conference on those congregations electing to disaffiliate from
25 the United Methodist Church, no further congregations were permitted to disaffiliate. However, the
26 Conference and the Board of Trustees worked diligently to assist those congregations which were ratified
27 for disaffiliation to work through all issues remaining following Annual Conference. The provisions of ¶2553
28 expired on December 31, 2023, as per its sunset clause.

29 30 **Sale of the Episcopal Residence**

31 The Board voted to offer the Episcopal Residence for sale to Bishop Julius C. Trimble and First Lady Racelder
32 Grandberry-Trimble after the Trimbles expressed an interest in purchasing it as Bishop Trimble's appointment
33 as Resident Bishop of the Indiana Conference comes to an end and he retires. This transaction, if and when
34 completed, will be reported in next year's Trustees Report.

35 36 **Board Member who will be Leaving the Board**

37 The Board of Trustees thanks Ms. Shannon Priddy as her current term of office on the Board comes to an
38 end. Because Ms. Priddy is now the Conference Lay Leader and has numerous obligations on other
39 committees *ex officio*, she will be leaving the Board of Trustees. We are grateful for the service to the Board
40 she provided.

41 42 **Motion**

43 I respectfully submit this Report and move that the Board of Trustees Report be accepted as presented.
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- 1 *The Rev. Teri Crouse*
- 2 *President, Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc.*
- 3 *Chair, Indiana Annual Conference Board of Trustees*