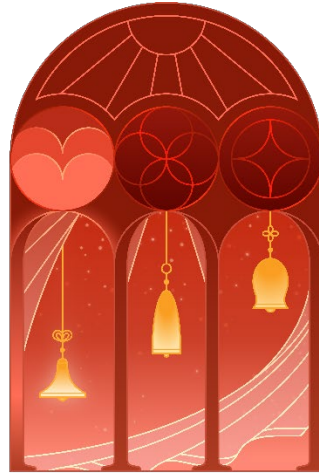


55th
Alaska United Methodist
Annual Conference
2026



Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

ALASKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 2026

Pre-Conference Handbook

In Person & Virtual Session
June 11 - 13, 2026

Table of Contents

Working Agenda_____	4
Conference Committees and Leaders	
Leadership Team_____	5
Board of Trustees_____	5
Board of Pensions_____	6
Pastor Compensation Report_____	7
Commission on Equitable Compensation_____	8
Treasurer Report_____	10
Council on Finance & Administration (CFA)_____	10
Professional Ministries Unit (PMU)_____	12
Vitality Team_____	12
Committee on Native American Ministries_____	12
Outdoor Ministries Committee_____	13
Conference Council on Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CCYYAM)_____	13
Commission on Archives & History_____	14
United Methodist Men (UMM)_____	14
United Women in Faith (UWF)_____	15
United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM)_____	16
Disaster Response & Preparedness_____	16
Committee on Lay Servant Ministries_____	17
Deaconess & Home Missioner Report_____	18
Superintendent Report_____	18
Connectional Ministries Report_____	19
Lay Leader Report_____	20
Nominations Committee_____	21
Equity and Intercultural Competency_____	24
Circle of Indigenous Ministries_____	25
Conference Related Agency Reports	
AK Child & Family_____	27
Birchwood Camp_____	27
Eagle River United Methodist Camp_____	28
Hope Retreat Center_____	29
Alaska Pacific University Campus Ministry_____	29
Nome Community Center_____	30
Willow Community Food Pantry_____	30
Faith Foundation Northwest_____	31
Jurisdictional Boards and Committees	
Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy_____	33
Western Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries_____	33
Western Jurisdiction Communicators_____	33
General Boards and Agencies	
Conference Secretary for Global Ministries_____	35
General Board of Global Ministries_____	35
Native American Comprehensive Plan_____	36
Colleges, Universities, and Seminaries	
Africa University_____	37
Boston University_____	38
Candler School of Theology_____	39
Drew University_____	40
Gammon Theological Seminary_____	41

St. Paul School of Theology	42
United Theological Seminary	42
Wesley Theological Seminary	43
<i>Other Reports</i>	
2025 Statistical Report	45
2025 Statistical Charts and Tables	46
General Conference 2028 – Statements of Candidacy – Clergy	58
General Conference 2028 – Statements of Candidacy – Laity	62
Rules Committee Report	65
Rules Changes/Petitions	66

Working Agenda
Updated as of 5-15-26

Pre-Conference Activities

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 10

- 4:30 – 6:00 pm Love Boldly: Cultivating Generosity and Witness Through Intentional Discipleship Workshop – Rev. Dr. Scott Hughes Associate General Secretary (World Service) Discipleship Ministries
- 6:30 – 8:00 pm Clergy Session (in person and online)

Conference Session

THURSDAY | JUNE 11

- 8:30 am Registration Opens
- 9:00 am Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, and Opening Devotional
- 9:30 am Acts of Reflection – Wellness Event
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Opening Service – Celebration of Ministry, Service of Commissioning
- 3:15 pm Opening Plenary Session
- 6:00 pm Dinner

FRIDAY | JUNE 12th

- 8:30 am Morning Devotional
- 9:00 am Plenary Session Two
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Plenary Session Three
- Acts of Repentance and Repair
- Laity Session
- 5:00 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm In Loving Memory: Service of Remembrance

SATURDAY | JUNE 13

- 8:30 am Opening Devotion
- 9:00 am Plenary Session Four
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Acts of Service
- Delegation Election
- 4:00 pm Closing Worship – Sending Forth to Love Boldly

Reports to the Annual Conference

Conference Committees and Leaders

Leadership Team – David Means, Chair

The Leadership Team is composed of 20 members including many who have leadership duties elsewhere in the Alaska UMC Conference. The Leadership Team is responsible for implementing the AUMC priority strategies and coordinating the work of its many units. It serves as the non-program unit covering such diverse areas as equitable salaries, pensions, board of church location and building, trustees, and rules committee, among its other responsibilities. The Leadership Team acts as the executive committee similar to a local church council.

Much of the Leadership Team's work will be reported elsewhere: The Board of Pensions report; the Trustees report; the Commission of Equitable Compensation report; and the Rules Committee Report.

In other business the Leadership Team:

- 1) Approved a request from CF&A for bookkeeping services so that conference leaders can better understand conference finances and budgets.
- 2) Established a process for outdoor ministries and youth ministries to apply for funds. This process should help align their budgets with conference missional priorities and improve clarity.
- 3) Assumed the role, responsibilities, and duties of the Unalaska UMC Trustees until Unalaska UMC can reconstitute its trustees. The Leadership Team recently learned that an upstairs hot water fitting corroded causing extensive water throughout their parsonage. Damages will exceed \$100,000, and insurance will not cover a potential claim.

Board of Trustees – Von Cawvey, President

Actions on Conference property over the past year include:

- The transfer deeds from the Conference to the Ola Toe Fuatana UMC for the church and parsonage properties were officially recorded with the State of Alaska on May 1, 2025. The Leadership Team approved reimbursing Ola Toe Fuatana UMC for parsonage repairs and deferred maintenance in the amount of \$11,797.50 at the February 4, 2026 meeting.
- Sitka UMC was able to sell a vacant lot following receipt of a letter from the Conference Leadership team in early 2025 approving the sale.
- At the October 30, 2025 meeting, the Leadership Team approved the construction of a pole-barn style maintenance building for the Eagle River Camp and approved the construction of a memorial sports pavilion for Birchwood Camp. Both projects are expected to commence in the summer of 2026.
- The Leadership Team authorized the Anchorage Korean UMC to sell two vacant lots next to their church at the December 4, 2025 meeting.

Conference Board of Pensions – Bruce Galvin, Conference Benefits Officer

In 2025 the Benefit Trust Fund saw a gain of 12.9% on its investments with Wespath Benefits and Investments which amounted to a paper gain of approximately \$190K. Because of some accounting issues, I don't have the overall change in the operating account at this time. The reserves now stand at \$545K, which is a gain of 52k. There are sufficient reserves to carry through volatile financial markets that we are currently experiencing with the war in Iran and increasing gas prices. There are no apportionment funds for board of pensions operations.

The leadership team approved opening a separate operating and investment account in 2023 for the Dakotas Fund. The balance at the end of 2025 is \$282K which is a decrease of \$40K because there was more use of funds than earnings. With the 2025 investment gains, the overall assets held at Wespath increased in value by \$80K to \$3,732K. As of this writing, we don't have an accurate accounting for the cash held locally. It will be available soon.

The Benefit Trust Fund was created in 2010. The earnings from the trust fund are used to support the work of the conference board of pensions in the Alaska Conference as approved by the leadership team. The board of pensions had a small operating balance prior to 2010.

In 2012 a pension reserve fund was established to hold funds that might be necessary to cover additional funding in a worst-case scenario for Alaska Conference's two defined benefit pension plans (Pre-82 and Ministerial Pension Plan annuities). As a missionary conference there is no defined benefit pension obligation with pension plans starting in 2007 but beginning this year (2026) there is a new retirement plan called Compass causing a small cost increase with the board of pensions' budget covering the increase to the local church/conference budgets. Compass is a defined contribution retirement plan.

Because of the favorable earnings with conference pension assets, funding surplus, the derisking strategies at Wespath and the ability to use Wespath's Comprehensive Protection Plan assets, the need for pension reserves held locally will be minimal in the future. There will be a petition coming to annual conference next year from the leadership team that will provide future funding for the Pre-82 past serve rate changes beginning in 2028. With this change there will no longer be the need to approve a Pre-82 past serve rate each year. At the April 13th meeting of the leadership team it was approved recommending to annual conference a 2% increase in the 2027 Pre-82 past service rate to \$1,003. The leadership team will review the use of the pension reserves for operating budget of the board of pensions.

Our conference HealthFlex claims ratio for 2025 was 117% compared to 82% in 2024. With the overall health industry costs trending much higher than inflation and the high claims of the overall HealthFlex program the medical/pharmacy rates in 2027 will be up by 16.4%! The 10-year average is 4.85% increase per year. Dental and vision rates remain the same in 2027 compared to 2026. We encourage all participants to participate in the numerous well-being programs provided through HealthFlex. Higher participation does impact claims, the resulting rates and health of participants. In 2025 about 60% of clergy participants completed the three well-being incentives. Each salary paying unit received a \$1,000 credit off their health cost in early 2026 when participants completed the well-being incentives in 2025. The incentives will remain at \$1,000 in 2026. If your church did not receive the well-being credit, please encourage your pastor(s) to complete the incentives. It will also put money in their pockets. It is a win-win situation for both the financial well-being of the church and the health of your pastor(s).

To accommodate such a large increase in 2027 the board's active health budget will increase to \$105,000 which brings down the church's share to 7.5% increase. Premium credit to

participants will increase approximately 15% so only slight increase to them in 2027. The board also understands that not all churches have pastors that receive benefits so the 2027 budget will cover the cost of health insurance for district superintendent. The estimated health cost for DS in 2027 is \$18,060. This will help the council on finance and administration when they prepare their overall conference 2027 budget which is mostly funded by apportionments. The overall 2027 board of pensions budget is \$168,360. This is an increase of \$43,010 compared to 2026 budget! Besides the health insurance support, the budget provides funding for conference benefits officer (area wide support too), well-being incentives and Compass support.

I will be retiring July 1st. I have served the Alaska Conference as CBO since 2010. I want to thank the leadership team and especially Nico Reijns, the pension board liaison, for my ability to serve the Alaska Conference. I also want to thank Joe Talbott for his many years of service as the pension liaison before Nico took over and all the active Alaska clergy I have worked with over the last 17 years. It has been an amazing experience. Kristi Durham has been serving for about 1 ½ years as Human Resource director for the Episcopal Area. She also serves as CBO in Oregon Idaho Conference and will take over as CBO for the Episcopal with my retirement.

The board of pensions is in a strong financial position as I leave. When I arrived in 2010 the board had assets of \$146K. The total assets of the board now are more than \$3.7 million. The biggest challenge for the board in the future will be the affordability of healthcare and maintaining the wellness in our clergy

I have enjoyed many visits to Alaska. Before becoming the CBO, I had never visited Alaska even though I have resided in Seattle since 1975. I will also be retiring from the Pacific Northwest Conference with 50 years of service. I will be around for a while after July 1st to make sure the transition goes smoothly.

Pastor Compensation Report – Bruce Galvin, Conference Benefits Officer

This compensation information reflects action by the Charge Conference setting the pastor's compensation, effective January 1, 2026. The following notes are applicable:

1. Housing allowance is designated by an "H", parsonage by a "P" or "N" for none. If pastor lives in a parsonage the Plan Compensation column is increased by 35% of the Total Cash Salary column per the new Compass retirement plan.
2. Total Cash Salary is the total of Cash Salary + Housing Exclusion
3. Housing Exclusion includes compensation designated for utilities and furnishings (nontaxable) not paid directly by local church.
4. Cash Salary includes salary reductions for flexible spending account, health savings account and/or Compass retirement contributions.
5. ARP stands for Accountable Reimbursement Plan professional expenses. The expenses are not included in cash salary. This represents the budgeted amount set by church to cover professional and business expenses of pastor.
6. The plan compensation is the combination of the Total Cash Salary and Housing. It is used by the denomination to determine benefit costs.
7. 2026 minimum salary for full-time appointment (Total Cash Salary) is \$52,300 plus area cost of living adjustment and experience factor.

Charge	Cash Salary	Housing Exclusion	Total Cash Salary		Housing Allowance	Plan Comp.	ARP
ANCHORAGE: ANCHOR PARK	54,040	6,000	60,040	P	0	81,054	2,000
ANCHORAGE: FIRST	54,915	0	54,915	H	42,566	97,481	3,500
ANCHORAGE: JEWEL LAKE PARISH	61,330	0	61,330	P	0	82,796	7,700
ANCHORAGE: KOREAN & CHRIST FIRST	50,773	0	50,773	H	25,000	75,773	4,000
ANCHORAGE: OLA TOE FUATAINA	39,225	0	39,225	P	0	52,954	2,000
ANCHORAGE: ST JOHN	96,588	0	96,588	H	39,759	136,347	4,000
ANCHORAGE: ST JOHN	59,354	0	59,354	H	30,000	89,354	4,000
ANCHORAGE: ST JOHN	52,300	0	52,300	H	22,500	74,800	4,000
ANCHORAGE: TURNAGAIN	34,500	20,000	54,500	H	26,004	80,504	2,500
CHUGIAK	75,163	0	75,163	P	0	101,470	2,500
DOUGLAS COMMUNITY	40,172	1,000	41,172	P	0	55,582	2,000
FAIRBANKS: FIRST	62,010	0	62,010	H	30,000	92,010	4,000
GIRDWOOD CHAPEL	56,916	0	56,916	P	0	76,837	0
HOMER	59,205	6,000	65,205	H	24,000	89,205	3,000
JUNEAU: ALDERSGATE	47,093	0	47,093	P	0	63,576	5,000
JUNEAU: KUNEIX HIDI NORTHERN LIGHT UN	72,030	2,400	74,430	P	0	100,481	3,000
KENAI & NORTH STAR	30,334	0	30,334	N	0	30,334	1,500
NOME: COMMUNITY	4,209	34,992	39,201	N	0	39,201	1,500
PALMER	13,622	0	13,622	N	0	13,622	1,500
SEWARD MEMORIAL & MOOSE PASS	45,675	0	45,675	P	0	61,661	4,000
SITKA & KETCHIKAN	59,187	0	59,187	P	0	79,902	1,500
SOLDOTNA, KENAI & NORTH STAR	61,364	0	61,364	P	0	82,841	2,000
WASILLA: CHRIST FIRST	12,038	15,000	27,038	N	0	27,038	0
WILLOW	59,920	0	59,920	P	0	80,892	4,000

Commission on Equitable Compensation – David Means, Chair

The Leadership Team received requests from local churches for salary aid support, mission aid, and assistance with clergy benefits paid from the Dakotas Fund. It formed a task force to review these requests and to make a recommendation for 2026. The Leadership Team then approved:

Type of Support	Number of churches	Total Amount Approved
<i>Salary Subsidy</i>	3	\$23,650
<i>Mission Aid</i>	5	\$64,500
<i>Benefit Support from Dakotas Fund</i>	1	\$10,000

The increase in Anchorage’s cost-of-living index increased 1.9% from December 2024 to December 2025, but when housing is excluded from it, Anchorage’s cost-of-living index rose 1.1%. The Leadership Team recommends to the Annual Conference that Alaska’s minimum salary be set at \$52,900, which is a 1.1% increase over 2026 (rounded to the nearest \$100).

The Leadership Team researched the area cost-of-living adjustment concern raised during last year’s annual conference. Annual conference members said the area cost-living factors may be outdated. The Leadership Team is recommending that the Conference use a 2024 study to determine area cost-of-living adjustments. This is the most recent comprehensive, intrastate study. It does not report data for two church communities so the Leadership Team recommendation adjusts those cost-of-living adjustments for travel to a nearby larger community.

The Team recognized that by reducing the area cost-of-living adjustments in some communities, some pastors could see a reduction in their compensation. Its recommendation keeps their minimum compensation at the current 2026 level (after increasing it for an additional year of experience) in those situations.

Recommendation to the 2026 Alaska Conference

For 2027, the AUMC Clergy Minimum Base Salary shall be ~~\$52,300~~ **\$52,900** (proportionately reduced for pastors working less than full time.) The amount of the Minimum Base Salary includes the sum of the pastor's cash salary, locally-provided social-security allowance, and locally-provided tax-sheltered annuity contributions, each determined between the pastor and the charge.

Additionally, each pastor's Minimum Base Salary shall be increased by an Experience Factor of \$200 per lapsed (rather than full-time equivalent) service year starting from the date of his/her initial appointment as a pastor.

Finally, a pastor's Experience-Factor-increased Minimum Base Salary shall be increased by the Area-Cost-of-Living-Adjustment percentage appropriate to the location of her/his assignment, using the following:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----|
| • Anchorage | 0% | |
| • Fairbanks | 6% | 5% |
| • Juneau | 13% | 8% |
| • Girdwood | 8% | 5% |
| • Kenai Peninsula | 16% | 11% |
| • Homer | 15% | 13% |
| • Ketchikan | 9% | 11% |
| • Nome | 46% | 45% |
| • Sitka | 9% | 14% |
| • Unalaska | 68% | 66% |
| • Wasilla | 3% | 2% |
| • Willow | 12% | 10% |

No pastor shall receive less than their 2026 salary plus \$200 if they are reappointed to the same charge at the same full-time equivalency.

Minimum compensation provisions also include:

- A parsonage and full utilities or reasonable housing allowance if the pastor is serving a fulltime appointment;
- A local transportation allowance to meet actual pastoral expenses in each situation; and
- A minimum of \$1,500 for Continuing Education expenses.

In keeping with ¶1359.6, a retired ordained minister appointed to a pastoral charge shall not have a claim upon minimum compensation from the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

Treasurer Report – Brant Henshaw, Treasurer

We are back on budget schedule!! After two seasons of special sessions for the budget we are now back to the regular approval during Annual Conference. Halleluiah!!! This did make for a compressed season of budget building but the Council on Finance and Administration worked hard to get things done (almost) on time.

The past years was not without some hiccups and glitches. We have had staff departures and movements, retirements, maternity and medical leaves. In the midst of that not all work was done in the manner, nor to the level of quality that we expect of ourselves. If you have suffered any frustrations with us, I apologize whole heartedly and promise that going forward we will do better!

As I mentioned in my report last year, we have been restructuring the administrative life of the Greater Northwest Area to bring in new expertise and better align our processes. Part of that transition includes celebrating — and saying farewell to — Bruce Galvin, whose decades of service to the Alaska Annual Conference have been nothing short of exemplary. Bruce's careful stewardship of clergy finances, health and wellness, and retirement planning has been a gift to this conference, and we wish him well as he enters a new season of life. Kristi Durham, who was introduced at last year's Conference as incoming Benefits Director, will be stepping into that role as Bruce departs.

Alaska currently contracts for accounting and benefits administration services with the PNW Annual Conference with staff serving all three Conferences. With the move of Oregon-Idaho and PNW Conferences to a Shared Services model this relationship remains intact until such time as Alaska chooses to take part in the full range of Shared Services.

We need to celebrate the connectional commitment that the Alaska churches made with their shared ministry apportionments in 2025. We as a community of Christ had a record payout to support the ministries in Alaska, the Greater Northwest, and around the world. We supported mission work, disaster response, and paved the way for new expressions of ministry here and abroad. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to bringing transformation to the world!

It is a pleasure to serve those of you who make administration part of their personal ministry and support and encourage churches to be a prophetic voice in their community.

Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CCFA) – Kim Poole, President

Most of the numbers that comprise the 2025 year-end reports as well as the percentages and dollars that comprise the 2027 budget proposal tend to be included in the Conference Treasurer's Report. In many conferences the President of the CFA and the Conference Treasurer write their reports together and file them as one report. Perhaps that would be a good idea, for another year.

For this year, I want you to know two things.

The generosity most of the churches exhibited in paying a much higher percentage of our apportionments in 2025 was tremendous. The past years had been around the mid 80 percentile. In 2025 that increased to just above 95%! Thank you for giving in faith so that faith may be shared.

The second thing I want you to know at this time is that we need to change the timeline for how we receive the budget requests and work on the budget for the conference.

Since our 2024 and 2025 budgets were written for the special called sessions of Annual Conference the rhythm of how budgets and reports were written from the CFA perspective became a bit compact, more so than it would be comfortable to continue. Yet, at least on my calendar the dates continued to remain compact this year. It is not a sustainable process to say the least.

In this report I am choosing to propose a tentative time frame for moving from compact to a bit more expansive, based on an older timetable for how the budget was written quite a few years ago. The operative word here is “tentative.” This is not set in stone, and after the dust from conference has settled, the CFA will meet to discuss how to expand the process and move it earlier in the year to allow for a bit more rethinking of how the budget can move more fluidly around priorities and unforeseen changes within local churches. Much of this may well change.

The one place where “tentative” is not the operative word is that each committee or council, each agency, each area and conference initiative needs to be ready earlier is the process to make their initial ask. Outstanding bills for expenses or reimbursements need to be processed in as timely a manner as possible in order for the books to be closed as early as possible after the end of the calendar/fiscal year. That takes all of us working together as well as disciplined planning.

Don't be surprised to see some of this change. You will receive word from CFA and in the conference newsletters. However, now you know. We need your help and we will be asking for your requests earlier this year. Start working with your teams as soon as possible.

Tentative Deadlines for 2028 Budget Development

Nov 20, 2026

Initial requests for 2028 funding due to CFA for the 2028 Budget

Some items cannot be completed due to later charge conference dates for compensation items or expenditures that occur in the months of November and December. The first draft of the form would be expected at this time with explanations of what items you are waiting on. CFA will contact you with the date your final request is due with that missing information provided.

January 2027

CFA will review requests and submit questions to committees and councils for clarification if needed for your budget requests

Early February 2027

Final draft for budget request forms for 2028 Budget due for CFA review.

Mid-Late February 2027

Budget development will occur.

Faithfully yours, and with gratitude to the members of the CCFA.

Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) – Charles Ensminger, Chair

The PMU has met several times over the past year via zoom. In our variety of roles we have met specifically with those working towards licensing and ordination as well as our responsibilities for the Committee on Superintendency.

While this committee is a combination of five different offices, DCOM, BoOM, Committee on Superintendency, Committee on Episcopacy, and Higher Education and Ministries, we have concluded that it is probably time for us to redesign the structure to more effectively meet the needs of these particulars.

To that end, we would propose that the PMU be restructured into two groups;

The first would be focused on BoOM, DCOM, and CLM. Working with PNW and Oregon-Idaho, we would work to develop relationships to facilitate the various processes towards ordination and licensing that would be more streamlined and rely less on our conference being the middle-person. We would continue to keep pastors working within the Alaskan Conference but rely more on our neighboring conferences for the proper structure and processes for everyone.

Our hope would be that we would have two people who, on behalf of the PMU, would sit on the DCOM and BoOM of both the PNW and Oregon-Idaho conferences to maintain contact and make sure our Alaskan candidates were represented. We wish to make sure that the process for ordination and licensing is as smooth as possible.

The second group would be focused on the Committees on Superintendency, Episcopacy, and Higher Education and Ministry. The Discipline outlines what requirements are needed for the first two. The focus on Higher Education and Ministry would allow us to offer and/or advertise continuing education opportunities, revitalize areas such as scholarships and Safe Sanctuary Training, and work with campus ministries and programs within our three-conference connection.

Vitality Team – Geoffrey Woods, Chair

The Vitality Team met in Sept. and discussed some areas in which we think the church is doing well, but also voiced some concerns and noted some areas we could focus on.

The Vitality Team is about to complete a survey of how we can help our local churches as well as the conference thrive and what it looks like to live into “Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously” After the completion of this survey we will be able to prioritize mission areas for the conference as well as local churches.

Committee on Native American Ministries – Murray Crookes, Chair

The Alaska Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (AK CONAM) meets at least bi-annually to affirm Native ministries and support Native leaders and initiatives. This year, Nome Community UMC, Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church, and Alaska Native HOPE have been doing great work locally to support Native people and communities. The AK CONAM decided this year to work closely with the Circle of Indigenous Ministry to consolidate our work and to expand our connection to Indigenous Ministries with the Greater NW area.

Outdoor Ministries Committee – Meghan Lambert, Chair
Eagle River Camp (Juneau), Hope Retreat Center (Hope), and Birchwood Camp (Chugiak) continue providing spaces for renewal and intentional community across the Conference for all ages.

The Outdoor Ministries Committee met three times this last year over Zoom. These meetings provide opportunities to share updates, new ideas, and collaborate on problem solving. This past year, the Outdoor Ministries Committee also piloted a new funding mechanism for the Alaska Annual Conference, using a grant-based process.

Each of our three Outdoor Ministries serves a unique setting. I encourage you to read the individual reports of those ministries. All three Ministries share a dedication to fostering closer relationships with God, creation, and one another.

Volunteers are a vital part of Outdoor Ministries in Alaska. Volunteers - thank you! You are valued ministry partners in this work we are called to do together!

Outdoor Ministries in Alaska also benefits from the financial support of the Alaska Annual Conference. Conference funding directly supports camp programming and our retreat center, as well as the Claudia Kelsey/Bea Shepard scholarship award. This level of investment in Outdoor Ministries allows the Committee and our three Outdoor Ministries to continue providing opportunities for people of all ages to grow in their journey of faith. Thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to the new things God has in store for us in the upcoming year!

Conference Council on Youth and Young Adult Ministries – Autumn Krueger, Convener
The past year has been filled with connecting, listening, discerning, AND creating! We had a group of 12 youth, from 3 churches, with 6 adults travel to Yakima, WA for the SLAM Trip in 2025. We kicked off the school year together with Fall Camp at Birchwood Camp with 21 students from 5 different churches. These youth spent the weekend learning about and building community based on Matthew 18:20. Our hope for fall of 2026 is to have 2 sites for Fall Camp (Birchwood Camp & Juneau area). This winter, we hosted the first Confirmation Camp with 5 students. This was a great group to test this format for confirmation, and we are exploring how often and where to offer it. We are currently gearing up for Service Learning Camp 2026 in Homer, AK and looking ahead to next summer making plans to attend Youth 2027 as a conference group. We are also exploring how to support young adults in our conference and in their local churches, ensuring there are pathways for connection and discipleship as we age. In addition to this formational event work, we are bringing forth a rules change to better reflect, serve, and equip our conference for young people's ministry. Each member of CCYYAM is building relationships with several of churches. We are seeking to listen to our local churches to understand the needs, challenges, and needed resources and equipping so we can effectively equip, support, and empower local churches in young people's ministry.

Commission on Archives & History – Larry Hayden, Chair

Chair was able to provide a report to a gentleman from Spain asking details about Ada Blackjack from Nome and also a story about Jesse Lee Home resident Ephriam Kalmakoff who held the record for speed on the Mount Marathon Race in 1928.

Chair represented the Alaska Conference at the Alaska Pacific University Newman Chair Lecture series which is part of the Religious History of Alaska course. Chair attends memorial services when appropriate and files the obituary and program in the conference files.

Rev. Walt Hays donated a scanner and a slide projector printer to the Archives.

We continue to file in the archives to keep information together and locatable. Many research requests were answered. Many articles were submitted for publishing in the conference weekly newsletter, the e-Aurora. The Chair continues to work with the Western Jurisdiction on Archives and History along with his local church, Anchor Park. Attendance is planned for the September 2026 Western Jurisdiction meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

We encourage each church to have a historian and have a written history of their church. The Conference also has a reference room for research and enjoyment. We encourage the Ministry of Memory and promote Heritage Sunday.

United Methodist Men (UMM) – Bob Jones, President

In the Alaska Conference we do have active chartered United Methodist Men's units as well as other men's ministries.

- **Kunéix Hídi Northern Light Church in Juneau** has a men's fellowship that meets on Fridays for breakfast, conversation and support. It includes those that do not attend the church but are supportive of the church's mission and ministries.
- **St. John's Church in Anchorage** has a chartered group and St John men continue to do monthly outdoor activities together (biking, skiing, snowshoeing, hiking), support prison ministry in Alaska, as well as sponsoring spiritual life and personal growth retreats and a variety of projects related to food banks and other causes. They also meet every Wednesday evening for mutual support and Bible Study.
- **First UMC – Fairbanks** has a chartered group that meets monthly for breakfast and to hear from invited guest speakers. In keeping with the historic link between UM Men and Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America), the group includes four adult Scouting America leaders and one youth leader. The UM Men at Fairbanks have been active in hosting summer UMM teams to Interior Alaska and hosting meals for the entire community at outdoor church events as well as an Easter breakfast that is open to all.

There may be men's ministries in our midst that simply may not be noticed like studies, discussion or work groups. This is certainly not a complete list. Men's ministry can provide a safe space to form relationships, ask spiritual questions, and can provide a back door into the life of the church that is more comfortable than a formal worship service.

Under the new leadership of Reverend Rick Vance, the General Commission continues to re-tool itself for today's United Methodist Man. Using technology, the GCUMM is connecting men

through on-line classes and conferences over ZOOM, and new downloadable applications with relevant devotions for the issues men face today in their faith, workplace or relationships.

One historic emphasis of United Methodist Men has been the support of scouting ministries, specifically of Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America). Since June 16 2022, a prohibition was placed on local United Methodist churches chartering Scout units. Although, I acknowledge the availability of Affiliation Agreements, they do not provide the same commitments as chartering which leaves many Scout units in need of a full chartering partner. Scouting America now has very robust youth protection trainings, policies, and procedures in place that is constantly being re-evaluated and adjusted based on input from various authorities including survivors of abuse. I am going to continue to question that prohibition on behalf of the ministry of UM Men.

United Women in Faith (UWF) – Susan Williams, President

United Women in Faith members are working hard across our state. We are a sisterhood, who through our faith strive to help women, children, and youth. Though the many programs and activities offered nationally, across the state and locally, “we seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.” (<https://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/>)

This past year, Jade Hayden taught the 2025 Mission u study. The curriculum used was *Practicing Hope* written by Tabatha Holley. *Practicing Hope* is an adult curriculum exploring hope, particularly when hope seems hard to find. The study’s purpose is to allow all our communities to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions, hope that is restorative when everything feels urgent, and hope that is possible even when we transgress. Three mission u events happened across the state- Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage area and in Juneau.

The 2026 Mission u curriculum, *In A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives*, author Linda Furtado invites you to encounter “God with us” in powerful, personal, and transformative ways. Watch for dates for the 2026 events. Throughout the year, United Women in Faith held book discussion groups online. We explored many different social justice themes.

In September, United Women in Faith held our Annual Gathering at Ola Toe Fuataina UMC. The theme was *Bring your Lunch*. Our focus scripture was *Jesus feeds the five thousand*. (John 6: 1-13). Sung-Ok Lee , United Women in Faith’s National staff for Connectional Officer on the Executive Leadership Board was the keynote speaker. Rev. Lisa Talbott led our worship services and Bible study. The weekend event included presentations: APU Kellogg Campus/Food Sovereignty with Rev. Kelly Marciales, Camping Ministries with Lydia Wilson and Refugee Services with Heba El-Hendi. The Ubuntu service project was held at Fellowship In Serving Humanity - F.I.S.H. food bank.

Throughout the weekend, monies were raised, and items donated. The following nonprofits benefited: Nome Community Center and AK Child & Family – UWFaith’s National Mission Institutions, and food collected for Willow Food Bank.

The 2025 Racial Justice award was presented to Marti Guzman. She is the heart and soul of Russian Jack Elementary School in Anchorage Alaska. She has worked there for nearly 25 years. Her passion for families extends far beyond the school year. Russian Jack, a Title 1 school, is one of the most diverse elementary schools in the nation. Marti has been involved with the Lions Club vision testing in the school, local providers providing free dental care, community food and clothing drives.

Many families come from other countries. Marti is there to help them navigate the red tape and myriad forms and paperwork needed to get started—in their new life—establishing residency, food stamps, Medicaid, interpreters, and language classes. She is a spokesperson for the Big Brothers Big Sisters. Marti knows how to love students and families in all the ways she knows how.

The **Annual Gathering 2026** will take place in the Anchorage area September 18-19, 2026, at UMC of Chugiak. The theme is: "Love your Neighbor". We will focus on Leviticus 19:18b,33-34. The Alaska Annual Gathering will be a time to learn more about the issues around immigration and refugee status in the US and Alaska.

In May 2026, several members will travel to Indianapolis for the UWFaith's Assembly. Assembly 2026 is a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. The theme is Dream it! Believe it! Do it! As we dream it, United Women in Faith will expand our work across the state of Alaska. There is so much justice work that needs to be done... to bring God's light to women, children, and youth.

United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) – Lori Staats, Coordinator

UMVIM-Volunteers In Mission continues to provide wonderful connections between projects and teams. Thank you to all who have participated as part of a team, as a host site and as support for this ministry.

There was an inquiry from a group asking if there was interest in sites forming long-term partnerships between churches and sites. This could be a project affiliated with a church or even a camp. The process of starting the partnership is asking for a team for a specific project. If your ministry would like to form such a partnership please contact staatslori@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting UMVIM

Disaster Response & Preparedness – Dan Wilcox, Chair

In the summer of 2025, we supported the final push to complete repairs to houses damaged by Typhoon Merbok in Hooper Bay. A load of lumber and other materials helped to finalize the recovery of 25 homes in the community. In all, we supported the recovery of five different villages, representing around 120 homes repaired, and in three villages, additional homes were moved or leveled to reduce future damage.

After that grant closed in late September, Typhoon Halong hit in mid-October. Initially, our support included deploying our 3-stall shower trailer to the Egan Center, one of two shelters set up for evacuees from the villages of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok. A Solidarity Grant was secured, providing us with this support and enabling ongoing collaboration with other disaster response

agencies and tribal organizations caring for both the evacuees and storm survivors still in the villages.

In all, 44 villages reported damage, with the worst-affected being Kipnuk, where 92% of the community's homes were destroyed. We began supporting the formation of the Long-Term Recovery Team, bringing together traditional disaster response partners and tribal and regional agencies. Through the LTRG, now named "Halong Area Recovery Team" or HART, we will offer ongoing support as needs are identified.

Through our cooperation with the State Emergency Management Office, we supported seven communities experiencing water system emergencies. With community-level water purification units, they had access to clean water while solving water system failures.

Committee on Lay Servant Ministries – Donna Singleton, Chair

"A certified lay servant is a professing member... who desires to serve the Church and knows and is committed to Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church and who has received specific training to witness to the Christian faith through spoken communication, to lead within a church and community, and to provide caring ministry." (BOD 1266.1) Lay servant ministries originated in early Methodism. John Wesley appointed lay people to preach, to visit the sick and imprisoned, and to become class leaders. The modern lay servant ministries is a program for laity to strengthen and expand their personal ministries in the areas of leading, caring, and communicating. All local church lay leaders and lay members at the annual conference are encouraged to become lay servants.

The Alaska annual conference established a lay servant ministries committee in 2021. The 2025 annual conference approved David Means, David Bates, Janice Nightingale, Julia Smith, Tyler Watson, Rachel Craig, Pastor Madonna Singleton, and Rev. Andy Bartel as committee members.

In the spring 2026, this committee met, recognized and approved (40) applicants as certified lay servants, certified lay speakers, certified lay ministers, and Stephen Ministers.

The lay servant ministries program recognizes laity who have met standards as a:

Certified Lay Servant: Through completion of a basic lay servant ministries course and at least one advanced course.

Certified Lay Speakers: Have taken the basic course and completed six specific advanced courses in the areas of leading worship, leading prayer, UM heritage, UM polity (i.e., church governance), discovering one's spiritual gifts, and preaching.

Certified Lay Ministers: Have done all the work listed in the previous categories and completed a specific block of four courses, which requirements meet and have been approved by conference committees, and gone through other screenings as set forth in our Book of Discipline.

Stephen Ministers: Have taken 50+ hours of specific course work to meet requirements of certification.

The lay servant ministries committee acknowledges, appreciates and thanks all of the lay servants throughout the Alaska Conference. Their involvement and dedication in local church

ministry in and beyond their local churches is valued by this committee as well as their Pastors, churches and communities.

Deaconess & Home Missioner Report

From Caesar Marciales:

Since the last Annual Conference, Caesar has continued serving as a mathematics teacher at Wasilla High School. In addition to his teaching role, he has taken on new opportunities in coaching. He is currently coaching girls' soccer at Palmer High School and is also involved with the club team Polar Vortex FC in Palmer. Through both teaching and coaching, he remains committed to supporting and mentoring students in both academic and athletic settings.

From Maria Silvia Capezio Crookes:

Since last Annual Conference, Chivi moved to Sitka and started a new appointment with the Faith Foundation Northwest as the Executive Assistant for the Director and Board Administrator. She is working on completing her MFA in Creative Writing at Alaska Pacific University. She continues to work with the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner as a member of the Committee on Deaconess & Home Missioner Service and as a Teaching Assistant for the Old Testament course. In Sitka, Chivi is involved with Sitka Pride, Manna meals, and other groups that support the local community.

Superintendent Report – Kristi McGuire

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This year has been marked by both challenge and deep encouragement. Across the Alaska Conference, I have witnessed congregations, lay leaders, and clergy embody a spirit of grit and creativity in the face of significant uncertainty in our communities and in the wider world. Again and again, you have said “yes” to the work before you...often without clear roadmaps, but always with faith, resilience, and a commitment to the Gospel.

It has been a particular joy to walk alongside several of our congregations in seasons of visioning and strategic discernment. I am grateful for the opportunity to journey with UMC Chugiak, Girdwood Chapel, Fairbanks First UMC, and Palmer UMC as they have named who they are and who God is calling them to become in this moment. These have been spaces of honesty, courage, and hope. I look forward to continuing this work in the coming year with Aldersgate UMC and Homer UMC, trusting that God is already at work preparing the way.

I want to express deep gratitude for my ministry partner, Crystal Feaster, our Conference Administrator. As we have begun the important work of restructuring including strengthening communication systems and transitioning charge conference responsibilities to presiding elders, Crystal has carried an increased load. She has navigated persistent roadblocks in our systems and tools while continually working to improve clarity and ease of use for our churches and leaders. It is a gift to collaborate with her, and we are all strengthened by her experience, wisdom, and steady commitment.

In recent years, most of our churches have experienced pastoral transitions. It is a sacred privilege to walk alongside both congregations and clergy in these moments of discernment, as

relationships are formed, ministries reimagined, and new chapters begin. This work is holy, and it requires time, attention, and care.

At the same time, I want to name honestly that the administrative workload we are carrying is neither sustainable nor just. One way we can care for one another as a connection is through attentiveness and follow-through. When communication requires multiple reminders or extended follow-up, it adds strain to an already limited capacity. I ask, with respect and hope, that pastors and church leaders remain courteous and responsive in these shared responsibilities, for the sake of the whole body.

We continue to strengthen our connection with our ministry partners in the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Oregon-Idaho Conference. Through shared learning and collaboration, we are building relationships that support and sustain our work. While we continue to face challenges with underdeveloped systems and limited area-wide support, we are making progress and learning as we go.

Even in the midst of complexity, I remain deeply hopeful. I see transformation happening - in congregations willing to ask new questions, in leaders stepping forward, and in communities finding new ways to embody Christ's love.

Thank you for your courage. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for saying "yes" to hard and holy work.

I look forward to another year of shared ministry and the continued movement of the Spirit among us.

Connectional Ministries Report – Kristi McGuire, Director

This past year has been a full and energizing one in my first complete year serving in this part-time role. I am grateful for the ways I have been able to walk alongside congregations, leaders, and partners across our Conference as we continue to adapt, collaborate, and discern our shared ministry in a complex and changing time.

Our Special Session in October marked an important milestone for the Alaska Conference. It invited us into deeper engagement with the details of our budget and clarified the kinds of reporting and accountability structures we will need moving forward. While this work continues to require focus and patience, it will strengthen our shared understanding of how we steward our resources for the sake of ministry.

We also hosted two highly successful learning events this year. In response to feedback and the realities of travel in Alaska, we shifted our fall gathering to November and our spring event to April. Both adjustments led to stronger participation and richer engagement. I offer special thanks to Girdwood Chapel for hosting our spring learning event so graciously and effectively. While we will continue expanding online learning opportunities throughout the year, these in-person gatherings have proven essential. In a time marked by significant change and conflict in our communities and world, being physically present with one another is not just beneficial, it is formative for who we are becoming as the expression of the United Methodist Church in Alaska.

We also launched a preaching and worship cohort in partnership with Candler School of Theology and the Oregon-Idaho Conference. This initiative has been a meaningful space for

growth, reflection, and shared learning. In addition, I have participated in two recruiting trips with the Greater Northwest Area, continuing to strengthen relationships and cultivate connections that support our shared ministry.

Collaboration has been a defining theme this year. Together with colleagues in the Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho Conferences, we have worked to live into our ministry priorities, align our goals, and begin shaping a more integrated approach to budgeting. These efforts are helping us move toward greater coherence and shared purpose across the connection.

I have also begun an important ministry partnership with Auburn Theological Seminary through their Center for Storytelling and Narrative Change, focusing on Indigenous Ministry. This work has been enriched by the leadership of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries, whose wisdom and guidance are shaping this collaboration in meaningful ways.

Additionally, our relationships with the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry have deepened, opening new opportunities to invite and equip leaders to serve in mission alongside us in Alaska.

This has been a year marked by collaboration, creativity, and generative partnership. I am grateful for the spirit of openness and commitment that continues to shape our Conference. I look forward to continuing this work together as we seek new and innovative ways to meet God where God is already at work in our midst.

Lay Leader Report – Melanie Venables

Over this last year as Conference Lay Leader, I have continued to see how important connection is across our conference. One of the greatest gifts of this role has been the opportunity to spend time with congregations in worship and fellowship and to witness the faithful ministry happening in many different places.

During 2025, I visited Anchor Park, Christ First, First Anchorage, Palmer, Kenai, Seward, Soldotna, Nikiski North Star, Ola Toe Fuatana, Jewel Lake and Anchorage Korean, either for charge conferences or for worship. These visits reminded me again that each church is carrying out ministry in its own setting and in its own way, yet all remain part of the shared life of our conference. It has been a joy to learn from these congregations and to experience their hospitality, faithfulness, and commitment to ministry.

Geography continues to be one of our greatest challenges in Alaska and remains a barrier to deeper connection. The distance between churches can make it difficult to gather, build relationships, and support one another as fully as we would like. At the same time, we made a considerable effort to make the Spring Learning sessions more available by Zoom, and we were thrilled that so many people were able to attend. We look forward to continuing to make more of these kinds of opportunities available online so that more people across the conference can participate.

As we move forward, my hope is that we will continue growing in connection and shared support, lifting up one another and the work being done across the conference.

Nominations Committee – Kristi McGuire, Chair

Grace and peace to you in this season of discernment and renewed commitment.

Since our decision to remain an Annual Conference rather than transition to a Mission District, we have begun the important and ongoing work of restructuring our committees and right-sizing both the scope and the responsibilities of our shared ministry. This is not simply an administrative shift, but a faithful response to who we are called to be in this time and place - rooted in connection, shaped by our unique geography, and attentive to the movement of the Spirit among us.

We give thanks for the leadership of the Professional Ministries Unit and the Conference Committee on Youth and Young Adult Ministries, who have each taken meaningful steps to envision a future that is both sustainable and mission-focused. Their work offers a foundation upon which the broader Conference can continue to build.

At the same time, we acknowledge that several of our committees have not been able to meet regularly. We encourage those entrusted with leadership to prayerfully discern the essential work before them: what is ours to carry with excellence, and what might be more faithfully or effectively shared with or transitioned to sibling conferences within our wider connection. In all things, we are called not to do everything, but to do what we are given well.

The Committee on Nominations has worked diligently to bring forward leadership that reflects the diversity and breadth of the Alaska Conference. We have sought to ensure representation across regions, communities, and ministry contexts, trusting that our shared wisdom is strengthened when all voices are invited and honored.

We express our deep gratitude to each person who has said “yes” to serving in this season. To lead and to serve in Alaska is to embrace a profound commitment - one that spans vast distances, varied contexts, and the sacred work of staying connected across them all. Your willingness to serve is a testament to the strength of our connection and the hope we hold together.

May we continue forward with clarity, courage, and a shared commitment to the mission before us.

**2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

last updated on: 5/15/2026

Alaska United Methodist Conference: Commissions, Committees, Councils, & Units

**Please send editorial changes to the Conference Office -
Crystal Feaster: alaskaumc@gmail.com**

Status = C: Clergy L:Lay

Gender = F: Female M: Male NB: Non-Binary

Region = K: Kenai Peninsula N: Northern SC: SouthCentral SE: Southeast

Color Key:

Vacancy

Nominated

Pending

	Role	First Name	Last Name	Status	Gender	Local Church	Region	Start
AK	AK CHILD AND FAMILY BOARD - UMC REPRESENTATIVES							
AK-1	Member	Kerry	Madden	L	F	First: Anchorage	SC	
AK-2	Member	Brian	Anderson	L	M	St. John	SC	
AK-3	Member	Meghan	Lambert	C	F	Soldotna, Kenai, Nikiski	K	
AH	ARCHIVES & HISTORY, COMMISSION ON							
	¶ 641 (AK R5.1003): the Committee on Nominations shall nominate a Chair and five members, at least two clergy and two lay, to serve for a quadrennium. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate a conference historian and at least one and no more than two conference archivists. These persons shall serve as ex-officio members of the Commission and will be included in the total of six members of the Commission.							
AH-1	Chair & Conference Historian	Larry	Hayden	L	M	Anchor Park	SC	
AH-2	Member	Elizabeth	Nicolai	L	F	St. John	SC	
AH-3	Member	Tiffany	Siller	L	F	Seward	K	2026
AH-4	Member	Hyunghee	Kim	C	M	Girdwood	SC	
AH-5	Member	Daniel	Santos	C	M	Seward/Moose Pass	K	2026
AH-6	Member							
DR	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COMMITTEE ON							
DR-1	Chair	Dan	Wilcox	C	M	Anchor Park	SC	
DR-2	Member	Sandra	Woods	L	F	Anchor Park	SC	
DR-3	Member	Jennifer	Miller	L	F	Anchor Park	SC	
DR-4	Member							
DR-5	Member	Won Jea	Keum	C	M	Anchorage Korean	SC	
DR-6	Member	Thomas	Feaster	L	M	Christ First	N	
FA	FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, COUNCIL ON							
	¶ 612 (AK R5.1009): The membership of CFA shall be: Nine (9) persons; --- five (5) lay persons and four (4) clergy. AUMC Treasurer (ex-officio without vote) --- shall serve as Treasurer of the CFA. Any member of the General Council on Finance and Administration (ex-officio with vote providing their membership is not in conflict with any other provision of the Book of Discipline, in which case it shall be without vote). GCFA members cannot serve on an agency receiving funding from the CFA. The Presiding Bishop of the Area (ex-officio without vote), The AUMC Superintendent (ex-officio without vote), The CFA shall elect its own leaders according to R5.0503.							
FA-1	President	Kim	Poole	C	F	Douglas Community	SE	
FA-2	Member	Nico	Reijns	C	M	Turnagain	SC	
FA-3	Member	Hyunghee	Kim	C	M	Girdwood	SC	
FA-4	Member	Madonna	Singleton	C	F	Palmer Fellowship	N	
FA-5	Member	Alex	Brint	L	M	Aldersgate	SE	
FA-6	Member	Corinne	McVee	L	F	First: Anchorage	SC	
FA-7	Member	Larry	Bennett	L	M	First: Fairbanks	N	
FA-8	Member	Cosette	Kilfoyle	L	F	Soldotna	K	
FA-9	Member							
FA-10	Bishop	Cedrick	Bridgeforth	C	M			
FA-11	Conference Superintendent	Kristi	McGuire	C	F			
FA-12	Conference Director of Connectional Ministries	Kristi	McGuire	C	F			
FA-13	Conference Treasurer	Brant	Henshaw	L	M			
FA-14	Conference Assistant Treasurer	Sara	Goetze	L	F			
LS	LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES, COMMITTEE ON							
LS-1	Chair	Madonna	Singleton	C	F	Palmer Fellowship	N	
LS-2	Member	David	Means	L	M	Aldersgate	SE	
LS-3	Member	David	Bates	L	M	St. John	SC	
LS-4	Member	Janice	Nightingale	L	F	North Star	K	
LS-5	Member	Tyler	Watson	L	M	Turnagain	SC	
LS-6	Member	Julia	Smith	L	F	Sitka	SE	
LS-7	Member							
LS-8	Member	Andy	Bartel	C	M	St. John	SC	
LT	LEADERSHIP TEAM							
	AK R5.1006: It is recommended that the membership of the Leadership Team should be comprised of approximately 50% laity and 50% clergy. The following are members of the Leadership Team: The Presiding Bishop of the Area, The AUMC Superintendent, The AUMC Director of Connectional Ministries, The AUMC Secretary, The AUMC Lay Leader, The President of Conference United Women in Faith, The President of Conference United Methodist Men, The CF&A President or elected representative, The Professional Ministry Unit Chair or elected representative, The Committee on Native American Ministries Chair or an elected representative, The Vitality Team Chair or an elected representative, Any UMC member in the AUMC who serves as a director of any UM general agency, The AUMC Treasurer (ex-officio without vote unless the treasurer serves as a volunteer not employee by the AUMC), Communications Representative (voice without vote), Immediate Past Chair (voice without vote), Up to seven (7) members at large at least one of whom must be a youth or young adult. The Leadership Team shall elect its own leaders according to R5.0503.							
LT-1	Bishop	Cedrick	Bridgeforth	C	M			
LT-2	Conference Superintendent	Kristi	McGuire	C	F			SE
LT-3	Conference Director of Connectional Ministries	Kristi	McGuire	C	F			SE
LT-4	Conference Secretary	Meghan	Lambert	C	F	Soldotna, Kenai, North Star	K	
LT-5	Conference Lay Leader	Melanie	Venables	L	NB	Aldersgate	SE	
LT-6	United Women in Faith President	Susan	Williams	L	F	Anchor Park	SC	
LT-7	United Methodist Men President	Bob	Jones	C	M	First: Fairbanks	N	
LT-8	CFA President	Kim	Poole	C	F	Douglas Community	SE	
LT-9	PMU Chair	Charles	Ensminger	C	M	Kuneix Hidi Northern Light	SE	
LT-10	Native Ministries Representative	Murray	Crookes	C	M	Sitka, First: Ketchikan	SE	
LT-11	Vitality Chair	Geoff	Woods	L	M	Anchor Park	SC	
LT-12	General Agency Representative	Fran	Lynch	L	F	Willow	N	
LT-13	General Agency Representative	Andy	Bartel	C	M	St. John	SC	
LT-14	Conference Treasurer	Brant	Henshaw	L	M			
LT-15	Conference Assistant Treasurer	Sara	Goetze	L	F			
LT-16	Communications Representative (w/o vote)	Jim	Doepken	C	M	Chugiak	SC	
LT-17	Immediate Past Leadership Team President (w/o vote)	David	Means	L	M	Aldersgate	SE	
LT-18	At Large Member (Board of Pensions)	Nico	Reijns	C	M	Turnagain	SC	
LT-19	At Large Member (Board of Trustees)	Von	Cawvey	L	M	St. John	SC	
LT-20	At Large Member	Patricia	Vai	L	F	Ola Toe Fuataina	SC	
LT-21	At Large Member	Debbie	Pintsch	L	F	St. John	SC	
LT-22	At Large Member (youth or young adult)							

LT-23	At Large Member (w/o vote)	Autumn	Krueger	C	F	St. John	SC	
LT-24	President							
NA NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES, COMMITTEE ON								
	¶ 654 (AK R5.1012): The membership of CONAM shall be as selected by the Native Elders of the AUMC. It is recommended that representation be sought from each of the four program regions of the AUMC. CONAM shall elect its own leaders with the exception of the chairperson who is nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations and elected at annual conference.							
NA-1	Chair	Murray	Crookes	C	M	Sitka, First: Ketchikan	SE	
NA-2	Member	Charles	Brower	C	M	First: Fairbanks	N	
NA-3	Member	Patti	Atkisson	L	F	Kuneix Hidi Northern Light	SE	
NA-4	Member	Bertha	Koweluk	C	F	Nome Community	N	
NA-5	Member	Lily Fawn	White	L	F	Nome Community	N	
NC NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE								
	AK R5.1005: The membership of the CON shall be nominated from the floor at the first session of the AUMC following the general conference. The members shall serve for the succeeding quadrennium. Eight (8) persons shall be elected from the nominees: four (4) clergy and four (4) lay persons. The AUMC Superintendent and the AUMC Lay Leader shall also serve on the CON.							
NC-1	Conference Superintendent (Chair)	Kristi	McGuire	C	F		SE	
NC-2	Conference Lay Leader	Melanie	Venables	L	NB	Aldersgate	SE	
NC-3	Member	Daniel	Santos	C	M	Seward Memorial, Moose Pas	K	
NC-4	Member	Fa'atafa	Fulum'a	C	M	Aldersgate	SE	
NC-5	Member	Emily	Carroll	C	F	First: Anchorage	SC	
NC-6	Member	Bertha	Koweluk	C	F	Nome Community	N	
NC-7	Member	Bonnie	Miller	L	F	North Star	K	
NC-8	Member	Jo Anne	Hayden	L	F	Anchor Park	SC	
NC-9	Member			L				
NC-10	Member	Crystal	Feaster	L	F	Christ First	N	
OM OUTDOOR MINISTRIES, COMMITTEE ON								
	AK R5.1014: The committee will consist of at least eight (8) members with vote, four (4) laity and four (4) clergy, plus at least one representative each from the Birchwood Camp Committee, Southeast Camp Committee, and Hope Retreat Center. The representatives from the camps will serve with voice but not vote. Each committee will select its representative and the Committee on Nominations will select the others seeking regional balance, to be elected at the annual conference. The chairperson will be nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations, elected at annual conference.							
OM-1	Chair							
OM-2	Member	Alan	Dennis	L	M			
OM-3	Member	Lori	Staats	L	F	First: Anchorage	SC	
OM-4	Member	Nico	Bus	L	M	Kuneix Hidi Northern Light	SE	
OM-5	Member	John	Meyn	L	M	St. John	SC	
OM-6	Member	John	Redmond	C	M	Willow	N	
OM-7	Member	Bob	Jones	C	M	First: Fairbanks	N	
OM-8	Member	Blake	Langston	C	M	Homer	K	
OM-9	Birchwood Camp Director	Lydia	Wilson	C	F		SC	
OM-10	Eagle River UM Camp Directors	Kevin	Voss	L	M		SE	
OM-11	Eagle River UM Camp Directors	Nicola	Voss	L	F		SE	
OM-12	Hope Retreat Center Chair	Peggy	Finnigan	L	F		SC	
OM-13	Advisor	Alan	Rogstad	L	M			2026
PM PROFESSIONAL MINISTRIES UNIT								
	The membership of the Professional Ministries Unit will follow the Book of Discipline requirements for the Committee on Superintendency and the Committee on Episcopacy. As the PMU transitions off of its licensing responsibilities through 2028, it will reduce to 11 members.							
PM-1	Chair - Bishop Appointee	Charles	Ensminger	C	M	Kuneix Hidi Northern Light	SE	
PM-2	Conference Lay Leader	Melanie	Venables	L	NB	Aldersgate	SE	
PM-3	CS Appointee	Kelly	Marciales	C	NB	Christ First	N	
PM-4	CS Appointee	Hyounghee	Kim	C	M	Girdwood	SC	
PM-5	WJ COE Representative	Jo Anne	Hayden	L	F	Anchor Park	SC	
PM-6	DCOM & BOM Liason/ Candidacy Guide	Fa'atafa	Fulum'a	C	M	Aldersgate	SE	
PM-7	DCOM & BOM Liason/ Candidacy Guide	Steve	Lambert	C	M	Chugiak	SC	
PM-8	Bishop Appointee	Bob	Jones	C	M	First: Fairbanks	N	
PM-9	DCOM & BOM Liason/ Candidacy Guide	Autumn	Krueger	C	F	St. John	SC	
PM-10	DCOM & BOM Liason/ Candidacy Guide	Won Jea	Keum	C	M	Anchorage Korean	SC	
PM-11	Bishop Appointee	Stephanie	Mullally	L	F	Seward Memorial	K	
PM-12	Member	Betty	Burke	L	F	Chugiak	SC	
PM-13	Member	Geo	Abad	L	M	Aldersgate	SE	
PM-14	Member	Matt	Smith	L	M	Homer	K	
PM-15	Member	Ave	Fuamaila	L	F	Aldersgate	SE	
VT VITALITY TEAM								
	AK R5.1013: The membership of the Vitality Team shall be at least the following with others as elected on nomination by the Committee on Nominations: Four (4) lay persons, Four (4) clergy, AMC VIM Coordinator, Disaster Response Coordinator, Church and Community Workers Serving within the bounds of the AUMC. The Vitality Team shall elect its own leaders with the exception of the chairperson who is nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations and elected at annual conference.							
VT-1	Chair	Geoff	Woods	L	M	Anchor Park	SC	
VT-2	Member	Jennifer	Miller	L	F	Anchor Park	SC	
VT-3	Member	John	Redmond	C	M	Willow	N	
VT-4	Member	Adam	Richards	C	NB	St. John	SC	
VT-5	Member	Joe	Nightingale	L	M	Kenai, North Star	K	
VT-6	Member	Bonnie	Miller	L	F	North Star	K	
VT-7	Member	Lisa	Talbott	C	F	Homer	K	
VT-8	Member			L				
VT-10	Disaster Response Coordinator	Dan	Wilcox	C	M	Anchor Park	SC	
VT-11	Volunteer In Mission Coordinator	Lori	Staats	L	F	First: Anchorage	SC	
YA YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES, CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON								
	Amended AK R5.1007: Membership shall be as follows (minimum membership: 11; maximum membership: 22):a. 4-8 youth b. 3-7 young adults, c. 2-5 adults d. Additional ex officio members:i. Conference lay leaderii. Past president							
YA-1	President	Autumn	Krueger	C	F	St. John	SC	
YA-2	Member (SE)(A)	Fa'atafa	Fulum'a	C	M	Aldersgate	SE	
YA-3	Member (SE)(A)	Melanie	Venables	L	NB	Aldersgate	SE	
YA-4	Member (SC)(A)	Ane	Taiula	L	F	Ola Toe Fustaina	SC	
YA-5	Member (SC)(A)	Henry	Taiula	C	M	Ola Toe Fustaina	SC	
YA-6	Member (SC)(YA)	Cyrus	Hicks	L	M	St. John	SC	
YA-7	Member (SC)(YA)	Hope	Toland	L	F	St. John	SC	
YA-8	Member (K)(A)	Daniel	Santos	C	M	Seward, Moose Pass	K	
YA-9	Member							
YA-10	Member							

YA-11	Past-President (1 year)								
OTHER CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS/ROLES									
	Associate Lay Leader	Janice	Nightingale	L	F	North Star	K		
	Safe Sanctuary Coordinator	Geoff	Woods	L	M	Anchor Park	SC		
	Disaster Response Coordinator	Dan	Wilcox	C	M	Anchor Park	SC		
	Volunteer In Mission Coordinator	Lori	Staats	L	F	First: Anchorage	SC		
	Conference Statistician	Brett	Watson	L	M	Turnagain	SC		
	Annual Conference Secretary	Meghan	Lambert	C	F	Soldotna, Kenai, North Star	K		
	Secretary of Global Ministries	Fran	Lynch	L	F	Willow	N		
	Lay Servant Ministries Coordinator	Madonna	Singleton	C	F	Palmer Fellowship	N		
	Hospitality Coordinator	Jo Anne	Hayden	L	F	Anchor Park	SC		
	Disabilities Advocate	Maria	Del Rosario	L	F	St. John	SC		
	Creation Care Advocate	Teri	Inch	L	F	St. John	SC		2026
	Abundant Health Coordinator								
QUADRENNIAL NOMINATIONS									
	Conference Treasurer	Brant	Henshaw						
	Conference Assistant Treasurer	Sara	Goetze						
	Conference Statistician	Brett	Watson						
	Conference Secretary	Meghan	Lambert						
If you have editorial changes or would like to make a self-nomination or nominate another, please email Crystal Feaster at alaskaumc@gmail.com									

Equity and Intercultural Competency – Lisa Talbott, Assistant to the Bishop

Last year’s Annual Conference theme was “Blessed and Broken,” and those words stayed in my heart throughout the year as I took my first steps in this new role and met pastors, laity, churches, boards, and agencies from all around our Area. This report offers a snapshot of how our shared resources are being used to support the Area’s commitment to equity, justice, and intercultural competency—and where we are being invited to grow next.

In the midst of the blessing of new friendships with Christian kin, brokenness was revealed—both inside and outside of our system. The pressures of the world around us, including targeted attacks on immigrant and trans siblings, have increased fear and anxiety exponentially for churches and their communities. Our churches are rife with microaggressions and sometimes outright racism. Sexism and transphobia are unfortunately alive and well.

And yet.

And yet the data shows that our churches are also filled with people who are deeply well-meaning.

I say this with confidence because the data consistently shows it. Over and over again, our congregational aggregate scores on the Intercultural Development Continuum reflect a Perceived Orientation in Acceptance. This indicates a genuine desire within the body to be curious about cultural differences, to be open and accepting to others, and to continue learning. This is the intention.

The impact, of course, is different.

Again and again, the data shows that our churches, boards, and agencies are mostly in Minimization—the stage in which we emphasize commonality and comfort. While this often comes from a sincere desire for unity, Minimization can unintentionally erase lived experiences and prevent us from fully seeing and responding to harm. It can sound like “we’re all the same,” when the reality is that people in our communities are not treated the same.

There are notable exceptions to this pattern, including the Oregon-Idaho Board of Ordained Ministries and the outgoing Greater Northwest Area Cabinet. These groups have committed to intentional, long-term work on intercultural competency and have demonstrated measurable

growth over time. This matters because it shows that transformation is possible—and that these practices bear fruit when we engage them with consistency and care.

I feel greatly blessed by the talented team of Intercultural Development Inventory Qualified Administrators with whom I serve—Cynthia MacLeod, Rev. Karen Hernandez, Rev. Brett Pinder, Rev. Ethan Gregory, Rhondalei Gabuat, Rev. Dr. Troy Carr, Rev. Mark Galang, and Rev. Julia Nielson. Over the past year, this team has provided workshops, IDI interpretations, and follow-up support to:

- 3 churches and 3 events in Alaska
- 7 churches and 4 additional groups or agencies in Oregon-Idaho
- 5 churches and 2 additional groups in the Pacific Northwest

We have also worked with the Greater Northwest Area Cabinet, incoming Superintendency Teams, and the Circle of Indigenous Ministries Truth Telling Project.

In total, we have served 14 churches and 11 boards, agencies, or Area groups, assessed nearly 300 individuals—most of whom are laity—and provided individual interpretation and guidance.

These numbers matter because they represent more than participation; they represent capacity-building. This work equips leaders and congregations to move from good intentions toward more faithful, effective, and just ministry. Because of this investment, leaders are developing greater awareness of cultural difference, congregations are beginning to name and address harm, and people are beginning to see that our systems need to shift toward more equitable practices. This is long-term work, and these are meaningful signs of transformation.

There are still significant gaps that require our collective attention and follow-through. This includes the Action Learning Groups that were intended to be the culmination of the Equity Cohort trainings, as well as continued engagement with churches that participated in the Congregational Cohort. The investment—both in time and in financial resources—has been too great for this learning to be lost or left on a shelf. Strengthening these next steps will be a key focus of my work in the coming year.

I will also prioritize deepening follow-through, strengthening ongoing learning structures, and ensuring that the investment already made leads to sustained and embodied transformation in our churches and leadership.

As an Area, we are broken, and we are blessed. My heart is filled with hope when I hear the enthusiasm and passion of laity who are eager to help their churches become more welcoming and more just, and who are committed to learning how to love their neighbors more boldly.

This is the work of transformation. This is the work of grace. I am grateful that we are called to do this work together.

Circle of Indigenous Ministries – Allen Buck, Director

The GNW Circle of Indigenous Ministries is grounded in relationship-building with Tribes and Indigenous communities across the region. Staff and volunteers continue implementing the WJ Plan for Indigenous Ministries, with Truth Telling Teams (TTTs) at the center of this work.

Sarah Augustine and Allen Buck meet monthly with members of six TTTs, who also gather in smaller groups to deepen their research. All teams have completed Intercultural Development training through the GNW Equity Team. Two TTTs reported at last year's Annual Conference, two are scheduled for 2026, and two more in 2027, with a collective report planned for the 2028 Jurisdictional Conference.

The Doe-Kag-Wats (Indianola) Team presented at Seattle First in November 2025, met with the Suquamish Tribal Council, and received feedback from approximately twenty Tribal members that is shaping the next phase of their work. The Father Wilbur Team conducted extensive archival research, uncovering previously uncatalogued materials and renewing relationships with the Confederated Bands and Tribes of Yakima.

The Circle has also supported District events, United Women in Faith gatherings, and national Native American Comprehensive Plan conversations throughout 2025–26.

As Truth Telling, Land Genealogy, and Land Acknowledgement efforts deepen, a central question emerges: *So what?* This year's Annual Conference conversations will focus on faithful next steps in relationship with Indigenous relatives.

Looking ahead, the CIM Director position becomes full-time on July 1, 2026, and an official CIM Board - led by Indigenous Native American and Alaska Native voices - is being established. *Wado (thank you).*

Conference Related Agency Reports

AK Child & Family – Anne Dennis-Choi, President/CEO and Kelli Williams, Director of Spiritual Life

Thanks be to God for our connection to the Alaska UMC Conference! We could not do this work without your generosity and support and are so grateful for all who uphold and sustain our mission. Thank you for being our partners in ministry! Your contributions make you a part of the great cloud of witnesses here at AK Child & Family.

Thank you for all the ways you faithfully share in our ministry! We could not do this work without you! Thanks to all who pray for our students, for the congregations and individuals who financially support our Spiritual Life ministry, and for Kerry Madden, and Pr Meghan Lambert who serve as members of our board of directors to ensure your UMC voice is upheld. We give thanks for Pr Brian Anderson serving on our board for a short while after being elected last Annual Conference and look forward to filling his vacant seat at this Conference.

Last Alaska Flag Day we were blessed to have our very own Music & Special Ministries Coordinator Chris Hawk as “the Band!” Please join us as always, July 9th from 5:30-8:30pm for this year’s celebration at the birthplace of Alaska’s Flag – our Jesse Lee Campus – 4600 Abbott Road Anchorage.

Last fall, Pr Zach Cupery joined our Spiritual Life Team as our Spiritual Life Minister. Amongst all his other duties, he has begun a new group for our students called “Spiritual Wonder,” that allows space for finding wonder beyond ourselves. Each week includes a physical or creative activity—whether shaping clay, drawing, or simple games. In and through all of these activities success is defined as students leaving with a deeper sense of wonder, and love.

In our Community Programs we continue to work with the National Center for Innovation & Excellence to adapt and deliver the evidence-based CARES (Coordination Advocacy Resources Education Support) program which continues to increase its census in our agency.

We also are continually recruiting for our Therapeutic Foster Homes so we can work to serve this growing need in our Alaskans communities. We know that some of our best Therapeutic Foster Parents come from our faith partners. Because it is a calling not a job. Go to our website at akchild.org or call 792-4111 for more info if your heart is curious.

Lastly, on March 26, 2026 we renamed and dedicated our Daybreak Building to be the Matsutani Community Center in honor of Dr Osamu Matsutani’s 4 decades as our Medical Director and all the other ways he has blessed the wider community beyond our walls. We’re so grateful for AK Child & Family’s connection to the Alaska Conference of the United Methodist Church. We look forward to another fruitful year of mission together, providing healing and hope to young Alaskan lives.

Birchwood Camp – Lydia Wilson, Executive Director

Birchwood Camp is filled with joy and gratitude after a landmark 2025 season marked by growth, expanded programming, and deepened community. The blessings of God and of the community that surrounds us is evident in every aspect of our ministry.

One of the most exciting pieces of the 2025 season was the substantial growth in campers. From 2024 to 2025, Birchwood Camp doubled its camper numbers! This is a testament to the power of the communities efforts in outreach, intentional community building, and transformative camper experiences. This momentum continues to build and we anticipate continued growth in our 2026 season.

In 2025, Birchwood offered a variety of camping opportunities to best serve all of our campers. We had a Fall and a Winter Youth Camp that offered campers a time apart to enjoy retreat in community. We also offered a UMC Confirmation Camp that offered a specially designed experience for youth preparing for Confirmation in the local community. This coming year we are exploring how to continue to meet the needs of our faith communities through intentional times to gather.

Birchwood Camp is now preparing for another full summer of programming! We will continue to offer faith based programming for young people to grow in community as well as our outdoor education camps. This year we will also offer camps exploring Science and Nature, Music and Art, as well as a Day Camp for an introductory experience to Birchwood, and a Family Camp. We continue to discern where we are called to expand our capacity to serve campers, families, and the wider church community. We are grateful for your prayers, partnership, and support for Birchwood.

Eagle River United Methodist Camp – Nico Bus, Administrative Director & Jane Ginter, Secretary

Finances/Admin:

- The main administrative issue this year was the cost of our Liability and Fire Insurance which increased 30%.

Our financial position as of December 2025 is:

	2024 (Dec)	2025 (Dec)	Changes:
Checking	\$15,926	\$25,915	From Savings
Savings	\$14,630	\$14,644	Transfer to checking
Investments	\$153,390	\$148,206	

User data:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Overnight users	1,570	223	600	974	1098	1095	1072
Day users	1,968	376	977	1206	1629	1446	1856
# Days	140	166	246	177	172	221	225*
# Nights	216	111	169	121	115	161	161*
Revenues	\$36.6	\$12.1	\$35.0	\$40.4	\$45.9	\$58.4	\$58.4

Groups Using the Camp:

Alaska Fellows, Alaska Ministry, Alaska Outdoor School, Alaska Robotics, Boy Scouts, Camp Get Ready, Charter School, Chop-a-thon, Cranberry Club, Douglas Bible Retreat, Family Reunion, Family Time, Friends Thanksgiving, Girl Scouts, Huskies, Individual (dozens), Jesuits, Juneau Charter School, Juneau School, Juneau Suicide Prevention, Juneau Youth Orchestra, LDS Church, Lynn Canal Running Group, Methodist Church, Methodist Thanksgiving, Michigan

Work Group, Montessori School, Nazarene Church, Nordic Ski Club, Pastor Charles, Polaris House, Quilting Club, Sealaska Heritage Foundation, Troop 4030, Wedding Anniversary, Weddings (Six)

Facilities

- Manager's Cabin. We worked on the old manager's cabin while working toward designing and funding a new managers cabin.
- We started converting the lodge's back room into a small chapel.
- Planning for a new Pole Barn:
- Purchased a used tractor. Sold the old snowplow and truck.
- The Michigan volunteers came and much was accomplished.
- A new sanitizer was acquired for free from Echo Ranch.

Hope Retreat Center – Peggy Finnegan, Board President

The Hope retreat Center is located in the old mining town of Hope, Alaska along Turnagain Arm and nestled between stunning mountains. Originally built in 1944 as a church, additional sleeping space and decking have been added over the years with the generous support of volunteer work parties. We are typically booked far in advance for most weekends during the year, and for 30% of weekends. The Hope Retreat Center has provided a quiet place for contemplation and spiritual renewal for many throughout the state and beyond.

There were difficulties maintaining the board during and after Covid, and as a result we lost our non-profit status with the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The board has been revitalized this past year with several new members who are committed to supporting this wonderful resource. We now have our state licenses renewed and are working on getting the non-profit status restored. We are also managing several repairs needed to the structure, including rotting logs and subfloor issues.

Alaska Pacific University Campus Ministry – Brian Anderson, Chaplain

The Chaplain ministry of presence is alive and well here at Alaska Pacific University. As the academic year winds down with graduation the end of April, the campus is busy. There is great joy and celebration as senior presentations, projects and papers come to fruition. Along with that comes the stress of getting it all completed. Graduation is such a wonderful time of connection, celebration and releasing the stress. I spend significant time in high traffic areas around campus to make connections with students, faculty and staff. The focus here right now getting to the end in healthy ways and being a grounded presence is foundational for continued relationship growth with the APU community.

Two highlights from this past academic year include taking a group to Birchwood camp for a Sweat lodge experience and follow up discussion while sharing a meal. Another was the creation of Sacred Snow space – a modification of the regular snow labyrinth. This sacred space is for all to walk and explore the mystical in their lives, find direction, or step away from the grind of expectations.

One-to-one check-in supports occur more often during the end of the semester. This provides opportunity for deeper conversations and faith supports that have been growing all year long.

The consistency through the years is beneficial to this ministry of presence and the ebb and flow of the college life dynamic.

The Jimmy Davis Meditation room where, ALL ARE WELCOME, continues to be a valued sacred space for students, faculty and staff. During visits to this sacred space, each can rest, explore, ask questions, and cultivate connections while finding grounding as needed.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. Through your prayers, presence and gifts this ministry of presence continues in creative ways to meet and support the Alaska Pacific University community.

Nome Community Center – Kimberly Bishop, Executive Director

Nome Community Center (NCC) has been providing supportive services in Nome since 1906. Our long history as a Mission Institution has kept us grounded in meaningful work to improve the quality of life for people of the Bering Straits Region, serving elders, youth, families, and those in need.

The programs include: XYZ Senior Center, Food Bank, Boys & Girls Club, Winter Shelter (NEST), Homeless Prevention and Supportive Housing, Family Services, Youth Court, Community Garden, and Camp CRAVE.

As economic demands increase, so does the need for services. We have seen an increase in the number of participants requesting support while facing fewer resources than in previous years. NCC staff continue to work tirelessly to provide quality and essential services to support our community. Collaboration within NCC and with local entities help to provide wraparound support, bridging gaps and tailoring specific needs for each client.

NCC's supportive housing program has expanded to include one additional rental unit, totaling 9 units altogether, and is currently offering longer-term rental assistance adjacent to the homeless prevention and financial assistance program. Nome Children's Home closed its doors in July of 2025, but NCC is reflecting on other solutions to support the children in the region. Boys and Girls Club in Nome became its own charter this year, which has allowed NCC to continue operating the club and to cater it to Nome's needs and cultural values. Family Services has started a diaper and baby supply bank to support families with young children.

Nome Community Center is continually evolving and adjusting to meet the needs of Nome and remains proud of their roots with United Women in Faith. NCC is at the center of the community in Nome and wants to be viewed as an organization that is intentional about their mission to serve those in need and improve quality of life.

Willow Community Food Pantry & Willow UMC – John Redmond, Pastor

The ministry of **Willow United Methodist Church** continues to make a meaningful impact through the **Willow Community Food Pantry**, serving neighbors across the Willow area with compassion and practical support. In 2025, the pantry distributed more than **26,000 pounds of food**, providing assistance to **around 500 people each month**. Among those served are **approximately 75 children each month** who receive food packets to help ensure they have meals during the school week.

During our harsh Alaska winters, the ministry also helps meet heating needs. Community members facing hardship are able to receive **a cord of firewood and fuel stipends**, helping families stay warm through the region’s brutal temperatures.

This past **Thanksgiving and Christmas**, the church and pantry were able to provide **holiday meals to nearly 200 families**, helping ensure that many households experienced comfort and celebration during the holidays.

This ministry is made possible through the generosity and commitment of the local congregation, as well as the support of partner churches across Alaska and beyond. Their financial gifts, food donations, and volunteer support make this work possible. Without these partnerships in ministry, the positive impact on the Willow community would not be sustainable.

In addition, **Volunteers in Mission teams** served alongside the congregation this past summer, helping prepare the woodshed for winter and assisting with needed maintenance projects around the church.

Beyond meeting physical needs, Willow UMC continues to nurture spiritual life in the community. Weekly worship services, small groups, and Wednesday gatherings—where neighbors share soup, coffee, and conversation during the pantry—help foster connection as the church continues forming disciples of Christ both inside and outside its walls.

Faith Foundation Northwest – Julia Frisbee, Executive Director

The Foundation’s mission is to support the long-term financial health of faith communities. As of December 31st 2025, we managed **\$119M** on behalf of **199** churches, agencies, and camps. 2025 year-end net returns were **14.20%** for our Diversified Moderate Portfolio, **16.61%** for our Fossil Free Moderate Portfolio, **17.31%** for our Fossil Free Aggressive Portfolio, and **4.08% for our Stable Value Portfolio**.

In 2025, Faith Foundation Northwest:

- Processed **\$7.48M** in withdrawals for ministry, and received and invested **\$11.67M** in deposits
- Taught **19** planned giving workshops
- Launched a free, online **Clergy Financial Education** tool
- Originated **3** new loans, bringing our total loan program to **2.18M** loaned out to **16** congregations
- Transferred more than **1.3M** in stock gifts to local churches, free of charge
- Awarded mini-grants to **4** congregations, totaling **13.4K**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Un-Audited 12/31/2025	Audited
	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,177,533	1,081,748

Marketable Securities	113,580,773	97,174,696
Loans Receivable	2,052,796	1,460,183
Accrued/Prepaid Interest	34,226	28,475
Property Held	124,000.00	124,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	118,969,329	99,869,102
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	55,199	1,561
Accrued Liabilities	-	-
Due to Others	108,083,099	89,790,415
Reserve Value Trust & Annuities	453,410	1,062,548.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	108,591,709	90,854,524
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	3,221,114	2,906,881
Temporarily Restricted	830,768	837,340
Permanently Restricted	6,325,737	5,270,357
TOTAL NET ASSETS	10,337,620	9,014,578
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	118,969,329	99,869,102

Jurisdictional Boards and Committees

Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy – Jim Doepken & Jo Anne Hayden, Members

Jo Anne Hayden (lay) and Rev. Jim Doepken (clergy) continue as Alaska's members of the Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy (WJCOE). This body essentially acts like a Staff-Parish Relations (SPR) committee for our bishops: supporting them and their families, helping navigate challenges within the College of Bishops across the West, serving as a conduit of information about our bishops, and addressing any formal complaints registered.

After the hard work of episcopal elections in 2024, the WJCOE has been supporting our active and retired bishops through one-on-one meetings and annual check-ins with the whole committee. Additionally, as The United Methodist Church looks to its future, Committees on Episcopacy across the denomination are engaged in discussion about the scope of the Episcopal role, financial realities across the church, and how bishops should be assigned in each Jurisdiction. Much of this might change as the church discerns its future.

Within the Alaska Conference, Jim and Jo Anne work with our conference Professional Ministries Unit (PMU), assisting them in fulfilling our conference responsibilities as the Conference Committee on Episcopacy as well as the Conference Committee on Superintendency.

It is about time for our current Alaska delegation to ride off into the sunset (either proverbially or literally) as new delegations will be elected in our conference and much of the denomination this year. These new delegates will vote at the 2028 Western Jurisdiction meeting, with one clergy and one lay person from each conference taking a seat on the Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy (WJCOE) at the close of that meeting. Until that time, Jo Anne, Jim, and the current WJCOE will continue working on behalf of The United Methodist Church; assisting with retirement observances, facilitating elections if any are held, and recommending assignments of Bishops for the next quadrennium.

Western Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries – Murray Crookes, Chair

The Western Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries (WJ CONAM) was established at the last Western Jurisdiction meeting (2024) with a focus on working with the seven conference CONAMs to live into the WJ CONAM Plan for Indigenous Ministries. As a part of this plan, The Circle of Indigenous Ministries was formed and is doing great work in the Greater Northwest Area in all three conferences. There have been local gatherings to support the work of the CONAMs in other regions, with a plan to meet as a representative body this Fall. Work has consisted of living into the WJ CONAM Plan, which will continue to empower Native people to determine where and how to develop Native leaders, with an emphasis of having a Native pastor in every Native ministry. Work is also being done to raise money to live into this reality.

Western Jurisdiction Communicators – Jim Doepken

As the Alaska Annual Conference communicator, Rev. Jim Doepken works with communicators across the Western Jurisdiction to manage, promote, and refine communications across our Western conferences. There are weekly meetings for the Greater Northwest Area, monthly meetings with communicators from the West, and opportunities to participate in denominational

communications. Some of this work includes helping with themes and graphics for annual conferences and Jurisdiction-wide events, assisting with crisis communication as needed, highlighting larger church initiatives, and assisting our own conference staff and leadership as needs arise.

Alaska is the one conference with a volunteer communicator and, therefore, relies upon our professional communicator siblings for some of the work. However, the role ensures that Alaska has a voice at the table when communications plans are being made. Moreover, since Rev. Doepken is the only clergy among the communicators, he has been able to address communications through a pastoral lens, explaining how our work can be applied in local churches in our diverse ministry settings.

General Boards and Agencies

Conference Secretary for Global Ministries – Fran Lynch

It is the role of the CSGM to encourage our churches and members to support the mission work of the UMC through the Advance. This provides an opportunity for donations to be given to a wide variety of programs and individual missionaries. All the funds donated goes to the designated project with nothing kept back for administration. This is a good way for our churches to live our “Connection”.

A few of our churches have maintained their relationship as an approved Advance Project. A few of our churches support a mixture of Advance Projects with most of those being part of the Emergency Disaster Response programs of UMCOR. None of our churches are currently supporting a UM missionary through the Advance. About half of our churches have individuals that provide financial assistance to various mission projects through the Advance.

Are you or your church ones of these in connection? It’s easy to get started. Contact me for details or visit the UMC Mission website.

General Board of Global Ministries – Andy Bartel, Director

The General Boards of Global Ministries and Higher Education and Ministry have been successful in continuing to align the two agencies under the leadership of a shared General Secretary, Roland Fernandes. These efforts have been noticed, and this Spring the boards of four separate agencies have all unanimously endorsed the alignment of not only GBGM and GBHEM, but also Discipleship Ministries and Communications.

A major focus in the past several years has been more intentional engagement and listening with partners. Two recent events occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Philippines focusing on how GBGM/GBHEM and others can best collaborate and partner with the churches in these areas in the present and future.

In the defunding of USAID and other program, GBGM has shifted focus to trying to fill the gaps and meet the needs where possible in the areas of Education, Migration, Health, Agriculture & Food Security, and Peace. The resources of the church clearly do not match those of the federal government, and so our efforts are stop-gap at best in very limited places. The loss of human life and decline in health outcomes from these cuts is now in the millions.

<https://www.impactcounter.com/dashboard?view=table&sort=title&order=asc>

The 2026 Board of Directors meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya where directors and staff were able to see firsthand new church plants in impoverished neighborhoods, new schools, a new church-based health clinic that will focus on treating non-communicable/preventable diseases, a new church building construction, and a new site of food production as part of the Yambasu Agricultural Initiative. It is likely that the board will meet outside the bounds of the US again in 2027 due to the current US administration’s isolationist policies on not issuing visas to United Methodists traveling from African nations and elsewhere around the globe.

Native American Comprehensive Plan – Murray Crookes, Executive Board Member

The Native American Comprehensive Plan (NACP) has traditionally been a group of Native leaders and supporters with members from the United States. It has prioritized establishing leadership training, workshops, and writing curriculum for retreats to support Native ministry in the UMC. The leadership of NACP and documentation of historical memory suffered during the pandemic and this year (2025-2026) has been a year of re-building. Representatives from all U.S. jurisdictions have met in person twice this year, the executive committee has met monthly, and plans have been made to pursue various committees that are charged with examining and forming the NACP to meet the needs of Native churches, promote Native leadership, and provide resources to the UMC.

Colleges, Universities and Seminaries

Africa University – James H. Salley, President & CEO
Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

2025 was a year of robust growth and momentum for Africa University (AU). In June, AU graduated its largest class ever—622 students from 20 African countries. In August, the university welcomed its most diverse incoming class, with students from 30 nations. They study in four colleges, a law school, and two institutes on a modern, fully debt-free campus built for learning and community.

Thank you to the congregations of the Alaska Conference of The United Methodist Church for your faithful and gracious support of Africa University. In 2025, Kentucky Conference congregations generously invested at 95 percent in the Africa University Fund.

Your steadfast commitment is making a profound difference in forming disciples who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously—across Africa and around the world.

Highlights from 2025:

- A self-funded solar power plant now supplies 100 percent of AU campus electricity, easing pressure on Zimbabwe’s national grid and benefiting nearby communities.
- A new collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health advances research in food security, sustainable agriculture, and environmental resilience. Faculty and graduate researchers are developing evidence-based responses to climate stress, water insecurity, and agricultural vulnerability—equipping communities to adapt and thrive.
- An expanded partnership supporting applied research with The United Methodist Church’s Global Ministries agency focuses on at-risk agriculture and malaria prevention, strengthening rural communities.
- In partnership with United Methodist Communications, AU is training African church communicators in digital engagement and media strategy—strengthening the Church’s witness across diverse contexts.

The growth and impact of Africa University are directly connected to your generosity. As this quadrennium continues, Africa University thanks every congregation in the Alaska United Methodist Conference for striving to achieve 100 percent AUF funding each year. AU also invites churches to explore becoming “Keystone Congregations” by committing \$7,000 annually in direct scholarship support for one undergraduate student—and walking alongside that student with prayer and encouragement throughout their degree journey.

Africa University remains a living expression of our worldwide connection. Your continual engagement is pivotal. Because you pray, Alaska United Methodists, leaders are called and formed. Because you give, research advances. Because you believe in Africa University, hope expands across nations.

Thank you for standing with AU across almost three and a half decades of transformational ministry. Together, we are shaping a generation equipped to lead Africa—and the Church—into a resilient and faithful future.

<https://support.africau.org> | www.africau.edu

Boston University – G. Sujin Pak, Dean

Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as BUSTH seeks to serve the church and the world! In a year like 2025, BUSTH's commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

NEWS:

- **Students:** The academic year 2025-26 entering class was among our most diverse, with 106 new students, 40% of whom are international students from 17 different countries.
- **Faculty:** In July, Rebecca Copeland and Luis Menéndez-Antuña were promoted to Associate Professor. In September, Nicolette Manglos-Weber became Associate Dean of Students & Community Life, and Rady Roldán-Figueroa ('05) started as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Timothy Adkins-Jones ('09,'21) joined as Assistant Professor of Homiletics.
- **Expanding Online/Hybrid Programming:** BUSTH launched a fully Online Master of Divinity (OMDiv) program in November and the first cohort is planned for Fall 2026. Learn more at bu.edu/sth/omdiv. In May, the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program graduated its largest class ever, 18.
- **Faculty Research:** Professor Steven Sandage is a co-principal investigator for "Training and Treatment Integration Research for Virtue and Flourishing in Mental Healthcare: A Team Science Project," which received a \$5.2 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to address a growing need among therapists for training on how to integrate relational virtues and human flourishing in clinical practice. Faculty published more than 130 books, scholarly articles, op-eds, presentations, and book reviews during 2025. Many were interviewed by media publications or featured on podcasts for their scholarship in topics such as trauma-informed care, humility among religious leaders, and biblical agriculture. Selected stories: bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/.
- **Scholarships:** BUSTH continues to benefit from nearly 125 scholarships overall, donated to by school alumni, other BU alumni, and friends of BU including more than 20 named scholarships from living alumni and/or their family members.
- **Contextual Education:** Funded by the Lilly Endowment, Director of Contextual Education Anastasia Kidd and Director of Enrollment Chad Moore will lead "The New Wineskins Network" \$1 million initiative to build sustainable, collaborative infrastructure for student and clergy formation across the Boston region.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include "Digital Ministry as Contemplative Practice." Learn more at bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include a generous pledge to endow a Praise & Worship Fund as well as some new operating funds including the Manoog C. Peters Chaplaincy Fund to further support the school's chaplaincy curriculum, and the Center for Global Christianity and Mission Film Project Fund to promote the Center's ministry.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- BUSTH's inaugural Fr. Vincent Machozi ('15) Colloquium will be held in February to honor the life's work of our alumnus, martyred in the DRC for his work advocating for civilian victims of political violence. "Ecologies of Peacemaking" will bring together

scholars in the areas of social conflict, economic inequalities, and environmental degradation. Register at bu.edu/sth/machozi-colloquium.

- Our Fall 2025 [Lowell Lecture](#) presented the work of Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary, whose topic “Leading Through and Beyond our Wounds” focused on becoming trauma-responsive leaders.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing as written in our [2030 Strategic Plan](#). BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU.

Candler School of Theology – Office of Communications

As **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** continues in its second century of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world, we are heartened by the work and witness of The United Methodist Church and look forward to our enduring partnership as the denomination moves into its next chapter with a vision to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler has a strong Methodist presence among our students, faculty and staff, while holding true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 507 from 11 countries, 42 states, 45 denominations, 34 UM annual conferences, and 50% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ’s love in and among us.

Last fall Candler welcomed its largest incoming class in over a decade. This strong enrollment reflects years of intentional work to reimagine programs, continue to invest in faculty excellence, and offer robust scholarship support through the generosity of alumni and friends. And even more importantly, it reflects that God is still calling people to join the holy work of transforming the world in Jesus’ name.

Candler offers six degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler’s Teaching Parish program, earning course credit by serving as student pastors in local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a remarkably high 94% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler’s recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God’s call to ministry.

Reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education remains a top priority at Candler. This year, we are on track to award nearly \$8.5 million in scholarship support across degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarships, with those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receiving full tuition.

Several programs beyond our formal degrees make Candler a true hub of Christian learning. The Candler Foundry, our public theological education initiative, offers in-person and online courses, events, and certificate programs. The United Methodist Course of Study School at Candler worked with 19 annual conferences to educate licensed local pastors in 2025. The Candler Center for Christian Leadership, which trains United Methodist leaders in best business practices, now has certified facilitators in 33 annual conferences. And a recent \$10 million grant

from Lilly Endowment will further develop Candler's La Mesa Academy, a multicultural, multilingual program dedicated to the theological education of lay ministers.

We are preparing for a leadership transition in summer of 2026, as Jonathan Strom completes his tenure as dean of Candler in July. We invite your prayers as we search for the school's next dean.

When we talk to Candler alumni and students about their call, one thing becomes clear: The specifics may be different, shaped by their unique gifts, contexts, and life experiences, but their drive to join God's work of transforming lives and the world is a constant. We recently launched a series called "Candler Changemakers" highlighting the range of fascinating ways our alumni are leading change as they fulfill their call. Follow along on our website (candler.emory.edu) and social media to see how God is working through them. You'll be inspired!

Drew University Theological School – Rev. Edwin David Aponte, Dean

Drew University Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church. Drew Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience, reflecting an ongoing trend among theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while others meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry program in South Korea. Regular chapel services are offered in a hybrid way on Tuesdays and Thursdays with people participating from Seminary Hall as well as online. Chapel worship is live-streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate.

In Fall 2025 Drew Theological School welcomed 88 new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2025 semester being 365. Enrollment of international students at Drew is very strong at 140 students in Fall 2025. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promote adaptive leadership skills, and encourage innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across in the teaching, learning, and the formation of students. These values are: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School continues to experience an increase in United Methodist students, including United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences of The United Methodist Church across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

Gammon Theological Seminary – Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President – CEO

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY remains the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) of The United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary's mission is to provide academic and degree-granting programs that help prepare individuals who understand their vocation as working in partnership with God in forming a just and generative world for all, for the practice of Christian ministry and public leadership.

Accreditation

- Launched Gammon's independent Master of Divinity program in 2024 as a key step toward separate accreditation with SACSCOC and ATS.
- Hosted initial SACSCOC site visit in October 2025, received affirmation of 93% compliance on all SACSCOC Standards, final review pending the June 2026 SACSCOC Board meeting. Starting the ATS Accreditation process in 2026 with a goal of full ATS accreditation awarded by December 2027.

Enrollment

- As of Spring 2026, Gammon enrolls 41 students (10 new and 31 continuing), reflecting sustained growth since the Fall 2024 launch of the independent MDiv program.
- Student body includes 30 United Methodist-affiliated students (73.2 percent), with 28 specifically identifying as UMC (68.3 percent), demonstrating Gammon's deep denominational roots.
- More than 70 percent of students are directly engaged in or preparing for ordained and licensed ministry: 42.5 percent actively discerning call and 30 percent already certified candidates or licensed local pastors.
- Student-to-faculty ratios have remained healthy (4:1 to 7:1), with more than 70 percent of students enrolled full-time each term, demonstrating stable instructional capacity and careful scaling.

Fund Development

- Secured a three-year, \$975,000 capacity-building grant from GBHEM to underwrite Gammon 3.0 operational expansion and strengthen institutional infrastructure.
- Received a \$375,000 grant from the William I. H. and Lula E. Pitts Foundation to support Phase III renovations, modernizing classrooms, offices, and the faculty hub for collaborative learning and academic planning.
- Obtained a \$250,000 scholarship grant from The SOMA Foundation to provide current-use aid for students in the 2025–2026 academic year, directly reducing educational debt.
- Launched the "Become 1 of 1 Million" endowed scholarship campaign fund to raise \$1 million in scholarship funds for Gammon students, enabling students to answer their call to ministry without incurring significant debt.

We offer profound thanks to God and to the entire United Methodist connection—bishops, cabinets, annual conferences, congregations, alumni, donors, and friends—for your faithful partnership in this season of renewal. Your prayers, apportionment support, special offerings, and generous gifts are establishing the work of our hands and making it possible for the vision of Gammon 3.0 to become a lived reality for current and future students. Together, we are strengthening Gammon as a vital, sustainable, and innovative seminary forming leaders for the church and the world.

St. Paul School of Theology – Jay K. Simmons, President

What does God require of us? To act justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with God. At Saint Paul School of Theology, this call from Micah 6:8 shapes everything we do. Centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, we are committed to forming innovative leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A Year of Growth and Vitality

2025 has been marked by remarkable momentum. Our Course of Study School educated 248 students with 628 course registrations, representing 6% and 14% growth, respectively. These servant leaders are making a tangible difference: 42% serve rural communities with populations under 2,500, and 22 students serve as pastors of three or more churches. We celebrated 21 students completing the 20-course program.

Seminary enrollment grew by 9%, with a 33% increase in new students for Fall 2025. Our commitment to diversity is bearing fruit, with 29% racial diversity among students. Students from 31 states and 220 cities connect with us through flexible online and hybrid learning options.

Living Our Vision

Our new Doctor of Ministry track in *Spirituality, Innovation, and Adaptive Leadership* develops change agents grounded in contemplative spirituality and equipped with emotional intelligence and intercultural competence. Saint Paul remains financially healthy, operating with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment ten times our annual expenses, enabling us to invest in scholarships and evolving academic programs.

Together, we are preparing leaders who embody justice, mercy, and humility as they serve Christ and the church.

United Theological School – Dr. Kent Mallard, President

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the seminary served 642 graduate students, 275 doctoral and 375 masters,* reflecting approximately 30 percent enrollment growth since 2021 and placing United among the largest United Methodist seminaries in the United States.

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 38 states, 24 nations, and 54 denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest denominational group within the student body.

Academics

United's academic programs remain grounded in the historic Christian faith, scriptural holiness, and a commitment to the renewal of the church, preparing graduates to serve with wisdom, integrity, and hope.

United introduced a Doctor of Theology in 2024 to support pastor-scholars called to ministry at the intersection of the church and academy. The new degree program welcomed 13 students in its first year.

The seminary's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract experienced ministry leaders seeking advanced professional education focused on faithful leadership. In the 2024-25 school year, 262 students participated in the mentor-led program.

Master's programs include eight houses of study, serving nearly 200 students in the United States and around the world, with programs offered in English, Spanish and Korean. In July 2025, 11 students attended the first Contextual Ministry Retreat for the African House of Study, held at the Kenya Methodist Conference Center in Nairobi. The Hispanic House of Study will celebrate its first class of graduates in May 2026, with candidates from across the United States, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru.

Through rigorous scholarship, intentional mentoring, worship, and community life, as well as practical engagement with the church's needs, academic life at United advances the seminary's vision of *Spirit-led leaders, a Christ-like Church, and a transformed world*.

Finances

United continues to focus on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind Campaign to raise \$10 million for the endowment is expanding scholarship opportunities for current and future students. The campaign has raised more than \$9 million toward this goal, by the grace of God and through the generosity of alumni/ae, churches, and friends of the seminary.

Looking Ahead

United enters the coming years with gratitude for God's faithfulness and confidence in God's future. Several senior leaders have answered new calls, and President Dr. Kent Millard has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2026, concluding ten years of service marked by encouragement, vision, and stability. A Presidential Search Committee is at work to identify United's next president, who will begin service on July 1, 2026.

Trusting God's promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19), United remains committed to preparing Christian leaders who boldly proclaim the gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

**12-month unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2024-25 fiscal year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.*

Wesley Theological Seminary – Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

As I conclude my tenure as president of Wesley Theological Seminary (Wesley DC), I do so with deep gratitude and confidence in the leadership of Dr. Carla Works, the Seminary's 11th President. Dr. Works, a distinguished New Testament scholar, educator, and church-centered theologian, brings wisdom, clarity, and faithful vision to Wesley DC's next chapter.

Rooted in Washington, DC, and connected globally, Wesley DC serves the United Methodist Church and the wider Christian community by offering Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theological Studies degrees through residential, hybrid, and fully online formats. The Seminary maintains one of the nation's largest Doctor of Ministry programs, serving experienced leaders from diverse ministry contexts. As the Course of Study school for the Northeast Jurisdiction, Wesley DC equips Local Pastors with flexible, high-quality preparation

for ministry. Through Wesley Pathways for Ministry, the Seminary also provides certificates and lifelong learning opportunities that support vocational discernment and leadership development.

Wesley DC's centers and institutes extend this work into the life of the Church and the public square. The Hub for (Re)imagining Ministry partners with congregations to engage new generations. The Lewis Center for Church Leadership equips leaders through research and leadership formation. The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion integrates theology and creativity. The Center for Public Theology prepares leaders for faithful public witness, and the Community Engagement Institute forms leaders for justice-centered, community-rooted ministry.

Wesley Theological Seminary. *For the Church. For the world. For such a time as this.*

2025 Statistical Report

Dear Friends in Ministry,

Attached is my report on the state of the Alaska United Method Conference in 2025.

In addition to a description of the data reported by our congregations and the AC Treasurer.

While every operating church started the statistics process this year for the first time since 2021, four churches were not able to complete the process and submit. I would recommend consideration of incentive and informational mechanisms to increase future response rates. This year saw an important improvement; churches are no longer asked to self-report data already collected by the AC Treasurer saving them time and reducing the confusion that previously existed when churches reported different numbers than those reported by the AC Treasurer. We must continue to find a balance between the reporting burden placed on churches and the accuracy and precision of our collected data. Where the conference falls on that continuum depends on the true cost of accurate and precise data collection and the value of more accurate information for conference decision making.

Sincerely,

Brett Watson

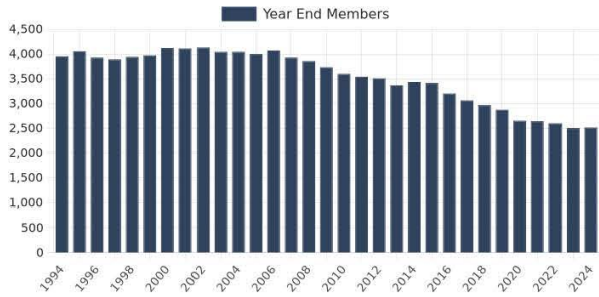
Conference Statistician

Charts for Alaska

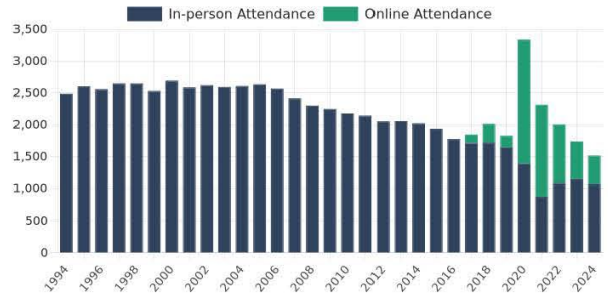
Conference: Alaska

Conference #: 931

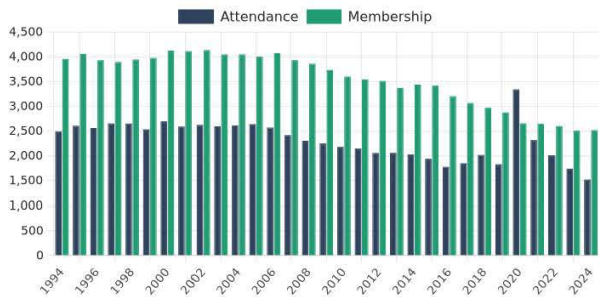
Year End Membership



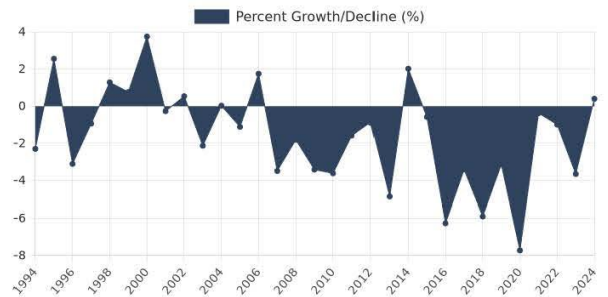
Average Attendance



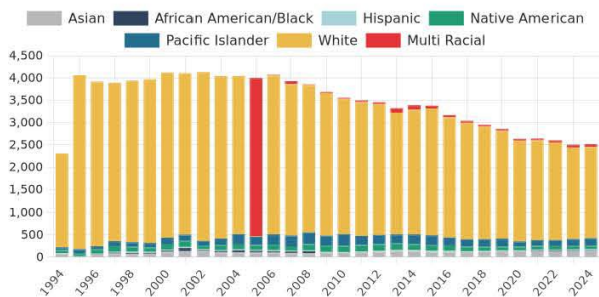
Attendance and Membership



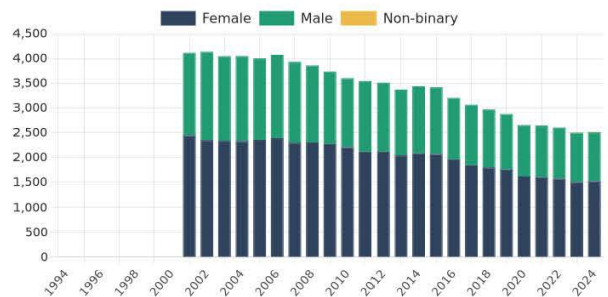
Membership Growth



Membership by Ethnicity

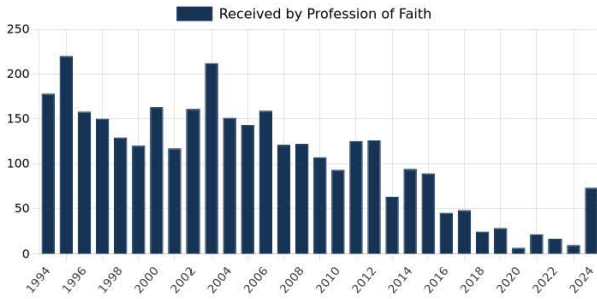


Membership by Gender

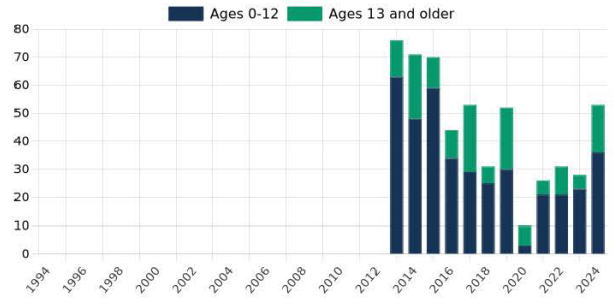


Charts for Alaska

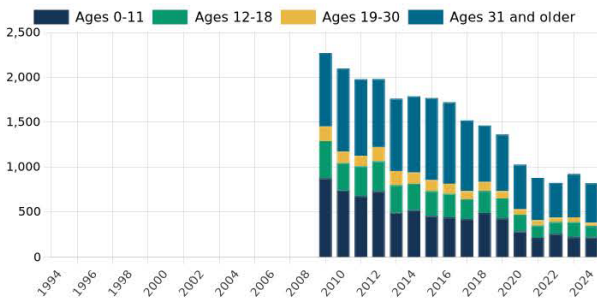
Received by Profession of Faith



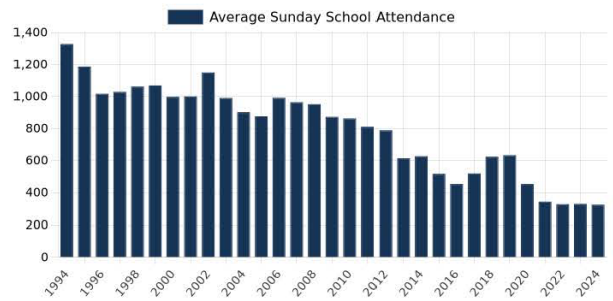
Baptisms



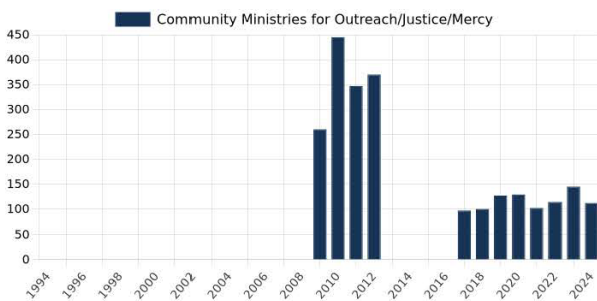
Christian Formation Groups



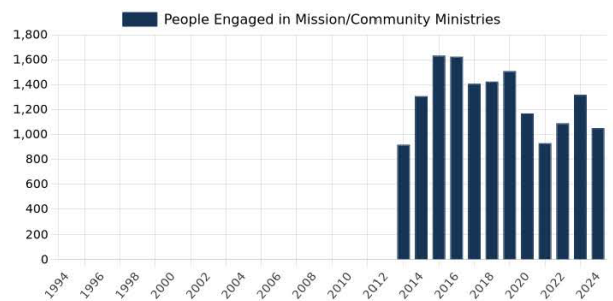
Average Sunday School Attendance



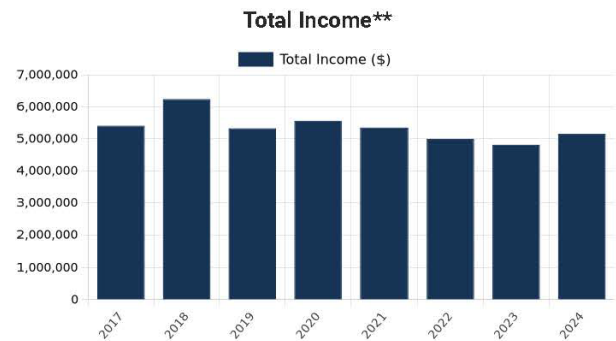
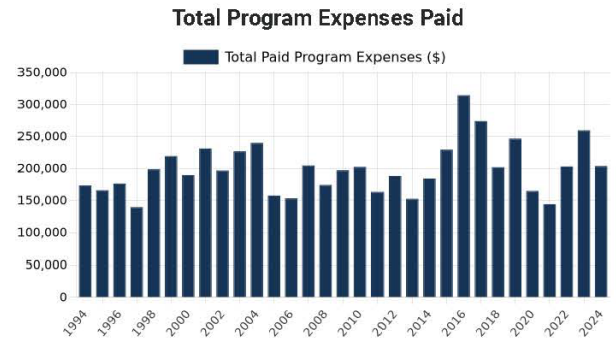
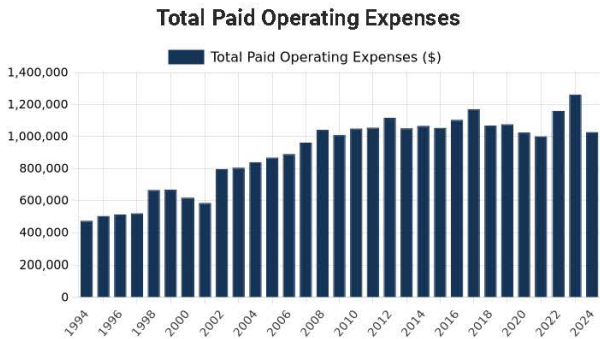
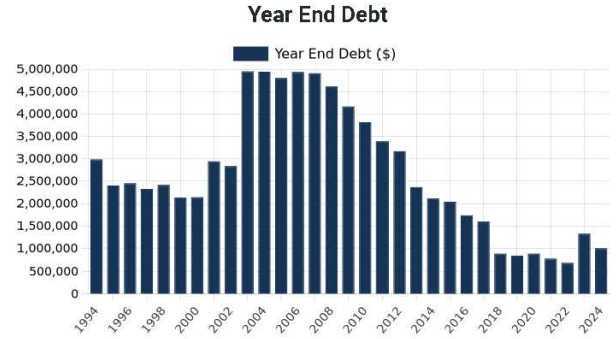
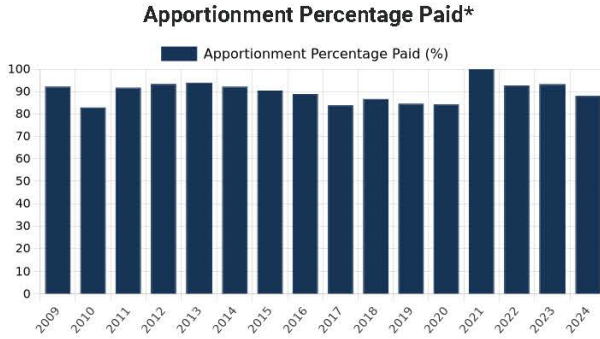
Community Ministries for Outreach/Justice/Mercy



People Engaged in Mission/Community Ministries



Charts for Alaska



* Data collection began in 2009
 ** Data collection began in 2017

TABLE 1.- Page 1 of 4		ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025															
IDENTITY		CHURCH MEMBERSHIP															
INDEX	CHURCH	Total Professing Members at Close of last year	Received this year by Profession of Faith through Confirmation	Received this year on Profession of Faith other than through confirmation	Membership Restored by Affirmation of Faith	Correct previous year's reporting errors by addition	Transferred in from other United Methodist Churches	Transferred in from non-United Methodist churches	Received from closed United Methodist Churches*	Removed by Charge Conference Action	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Correct previous year's reporting errors by subtraction	Transferred out to other United Methodist Church	Transferred out to non-United Methodist Churches	Removed by death	Total Professing Members at close of this year	INDEX
	Data Line Item:	1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	3a	3b	3c	3d	3e	3f	4	
1	Anchor Park	159		2			3									164	1
2	Anchorage-First	118			2											119	2
3	Anchorage-Korean	34						3						6		31	3
4	Chugiak	168			4											172	4
5	Douglas Community	61										2	1		2	56	5
6	Fairbanks-First	208	3	1				1		64		2	2		4	142	6
7	Girdwood Chapel	49		1				1							4	51	7
8	Huneix Hidi Northern Light	73	2	1				3			2					77	8
9	Jewel Lake Parish	30								3						27	9
10	Juneau-Aldersgate	72														72	10
11	Kenai	26													2	24	11
12	Keetchikan-First	32	1	1							9		1		2	22	12
13	Moose Pass	29									2		1		2	26	13
14	Nikiski-North Star	67								17	4					46	14
15	Ola Toe Futaina	108														108	15
16	Palmer Fellowship	30		3												33	16
17	Soldotna	67								4			1		2	60	17
18	St. John	707	7	10	3	1	2	7		21	33	2	7	1	6	667	18
19	Turnagain	92	1	2			6	6								107	19
20	Wasilla-Christ First	43		7											1	49	20
21	Willow	68											1			67	21
Totals 2025		2,241	14	30	7	1	11	20		109	50	4	14	7	20	2,120	
Totals 2024		2,218	6	71	2	23	21	50		36	39	31	13	5	26	2,241	
Change		23	8	(41)	5	(22)	(10)	(30)		73	11	(27)	1	2	(6)	(121)	
Churches with Incomplete/Missing Data																	
22	Seward	35		4	2								1			40	22
23	Homer	146														146	23
24	Nome	33														33	24
25	ANHOPE	1														1	25
26	Sitka	59													2	57	26
27	Unalaska	-														-	27
Grand Total 2025		2,515	14	34	9	1	11	20		109	50	4	15	7	22	2,397	

TABLE 1-- Page 2 of 4		ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025																	
INDEX	CHURCH Data Line Item:	RACIAL/ETHNIC							GENDER			WORSHIP		BAPTIZED					
		5a	5b	5c	5d	5e	5f	5g	5	6a	6b	6c	6	7	7a	8a	8b	8	9
1	Anchor Park	13			3	30	105	13	164	92	71	1	164	60	15	1		1	1
2	Anchorage-First	13	3	7	6	9	77	4	119	62	57		119	57	5	1		5	6
3	Anchorage-Korean								31	19	12		31	21	18				20
4	Chugiak	4					167	1	172	102	70		172	53	12	2		1	3
5	Douglas Community	15	2		2	-	37		56	41	15		56	12	-	-		-	27
6	Fairbanks-First	1	1		3		137		142	89	52	1	142	55	27			-	6
7	Girdwood Chapel	4	1	2			42	2	51	31	20		51	25	3	1		1	21
8	Huneix Hdi' Northern Light	3			14		59	1	77	51	26		77	88	28			-	8
9	Jewel Lake Parish		1		1		25		27	14	13		27	30	3	-		-	9
10	Juneau-Aldersgate	11	4		2	12	43		72	37	33	2	72	48	5	2		2	10
11	Kenai	1				2	21		24	21	3		24	11	1	-		-	11
12	Kechikan-First	1					19	2	22	16	6		22	15	3		1	1	12
13	Moose Pass						26		26	14	12		26	7		2		2	13
14	Nikiski-North Star				3		43		46	24	22		46	24	4	-		-	14
15	Ola Toe Fualaina					106	1	1	108	57	48	3	108	80	3			-	15
16	Palmer Fellowship						30	3	33	22	11		33	17	3			-	11
17	Soldotna					1	59		60	44	16		60	35	12			-	18
18	St. John	28	2	7	9	11	602	8	667	410	255	2	667	262	101	2		7	115
19	Turnagain	1	2	5	3	13	83		107	63	41	3	107	59	8	3		3	19
20	Wasilla-Christ First				5		39	5	49	38	11		49	26	3	7		-	20
21	Willow						64	3	67	42	25		67	39	5	-		1	1
Totals 2025		126	16	21	54	184	1,679	40	2,120	1,289	819	12	2,120	1,024	256	21	15	36	195
Totals 2024		127	15	24	51	167	1,816	41	2,241	1,354	880	7	2,241	951	384	34	15	49	239
Change		(1)	1	(3)	3	17	(137)	(1)	(121)	(65)	(61)	5	(121)	73	(128)	(13)	-	(13)	(44)

TABLE 1-- Page 3 of 4

ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025

INDEX	CHURCH	CONST.	CHRISTIAN FORMATION GROUPS					CONFIRMATION/SUNDAY SCHOOL/VBS/OTHER CLASSES					INDEX		
			11a	11b	11c	11d	11	12	13	14	15	16		17	
1	Anchor Park	10	6	7	-	26	39		19	12	12	12	2	6	4
2	Anchorage-First	52	-	-	-	15	-						1	2	2
3	Anchorage-Korean	1		1	-	26	16		1				18	3	3
4	Chugick	60	6	2	2	26	36						3	1	4
5	Douglas Community	23					-							3	5
6	Fairbanks-First		6	8		16	30		3	6			2	3	2
7	Girdwood Chapel	15				24	24		3	6			2	3	6
8	Huneix Hidi Northern Light	12				12	14		5					2	1
9	Jewel Lake Parish	10	2	1	1	7	11		7	7			2	2	9
10	Juneau-Aldersgate	17	8	14	3	7	32		25	25			3	3	10
11	Kenai	-	3	1	1	8	13		-	-			-	-	11
12	Keetchikan-First	9				7	7		5				1	1	12
13	Moose Pass	6					-								13
14	Niiski-North Star	14	-	-	-	20	20		7	7			1	4	14
15	Ola Toe Flatina						-								15
16	Palmer Fellowship	16	4				4							1	16
17	Soldotna	93	11	3		25	39		5	5			2	2	17
18	St. John	494	106	74	15	182	377		136	136			11	25	18
19	Tumagain	70	16	1	2	27	46		8	8			2	3	19
20	Wasilla-Christ First		-	-	-	5	5		5	5			1	1	20
21	Willow	83	4	2	-	16	22		-	-			2	4	21
Totals 2025		1,061	172	114	26	423	735		242	242			30	59	32
Totals 2024		1,011	197	120	24	372	713		280	280			55	75	27
Change		50	(25)	(6)	2	51	22		12	(38)			(25)	(16)	5

Churches with Incomplete/Missing Data

22	Seward		3	1		3	7		1		2				22
23	Homer														23
24	Nome														24
25	ANHOPE														25
26	Sika		10	9	-	13	32		5				1	2	26
27	Unalaska														27
Grand Total 2025		1,061	185	124	26	439	774		18	249			83	61	33

TABLE I.- Page 4 of 4

ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025

INDEX	CHURCH	UMM		UMW		UMVIM		MISSION & OUTREACH			INDEX	
		18a	18b	19a	19b	20a	20b	21	21a	21b		22
	Data Line Item:											
1	Anchor Park			40	12,334			14	14	14	46	425
2	Anchorage-First							5		5	35	1,975
3	Anchorage-Korean			19							4	4
4	Chugiak			7	150			2		2	40	1,150
5	Douglas Community							3		3	9	6,000
6	Farbanks-First	12	769	4	300			5	1	5	24	1,366
7	Gridwood Chapel			12				9	6	3	30	1,058
8	Hunvik Hidi Northern Light			17	4,000			7	2	6	9	60
9	Jewel Lake Parish							1	1	1	5	30
10	Juneau-Aldersgate			2				4		4	38	3,213
11	Kenai							1	-	1	15	3,800
12	Ketchikan-First							3	2	3	10	650
13	Moose Pass											
14	Nikiski/North Star			20				6	6	6	25	1,500
15	Ola Toe Fuataina							6		6	17	276
16	Palmer Fellowship							6	3	6	25	1,550
17	Soldotna	-	-	25				6	3	5	25	7,980
18	St John	32	312	22	250			32	14	30	746	2,500
19	Tumagan							10	2	4	60	150
20	Wasilla-Christ First							4	-	4	30	967
21	Willow	1	-	14				6	6	6	31	34,640
Totals 2025		45	1,081	182	17,034	-	-	124	60	103	1,199	34,640
Totals 2024		41	2,310	180	17,277	-	-	105	55	101	1,007	35,661
Change		4	(1,229)	2	(243)	-	-	19	5	2	192	(1,021)

Churches with Incomplete/Missing Data

22	Seward											
23	Homer	-	-									
24	Nome	-	-									
25	ANHOPE											
26	Sitka	-	-	9				4		4	20	50
27	Unalaska											
Grand Total 2025		45	1,081	191	17,034	-	-	128	60	107	1,219	34,690

TABLE II - Page 1 of 3		ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025										
IDENTITY		PROPERTY (Debts and Assets)					APPORTIONMENTS		ADVANCE SPECIALS			
INDEX		CHURCH		PROPERTY (Debts and Assets)		APPORTIONMENTS		ADVANCE SPECIALS			INDEX	
Data Line Item:		24	25	26	27	28a	29a	30	31			
1	Anchor Park	5,256,000	131,210	-	-	25,257	25,257	-	-	1,648	1	
2	Anchorage-First	10,000,000	1,547,566	-	1,119,873	31,902	31,902	-	-	-	2	
3	Anchorage-Korean	800,000	50,087	-	-	12,671	3,165	-	-	-	3	
4	Chugiak	3,554,984	236,123	120,182	-	29,338	29,338	-	-	-	4	
5	Douglas Community	1,951,200	317,100	-	-	17,447	13,470	-	-	-	5	
6	Fairbanks-First	2,389,724	459,810	-	-	32,089	32,089	-	-	-	6	
7	Girdwood Chapel	4,034,840	58,618	154,430	-	16,082	16,267	-	-	-	7	
8	Huneix Hidi Northern Light	552,214	755,475	-	7,425	21,030	22,783	-	-	-	8	
9	Jewel Lake Parish	2,060,000	108,000	-	-	9,196	9,196	-	-	600	9	
10	Juneau-Aldersgate	3,000,000	28,000	114,346	-	14,221	-	-	-	-	10	
11	Kenai	949,200	61,559	-	-	8,063	8,063	-	-	-	11	
12	Keitchikan-First	1,762,300	625,000	-	-	14,752	14,752	-	-	-	12	
13	Moose Pass	320,000	-	-	-	1,611	1,611	-	-	-	13	
14	Niiski-North Star	1,081,300	34,293	-	-	7,002	8,138	-	-	-	14	
15	Ola Toe Fuataina	-	-	-	-	3,507	3,507	-	-	-	15	
16	Palmer Fellowship	-	130,484	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	16	
17	Soldotna	2,632,000	398,388	-	-	16,327	16,327	-	-	498	17	
18	St John	10,000,000	815,870	-	28,354	118,098	118,098	-	-	7,360	18	
19	Turnagain	3,200,000	79,076	-	-	11,643	11,643	-	-	-	19	
20	Wasilla-Christ First	1,561,700	15,931	-	-	12,075	12,075	-	-	-	20	
21	Willow	1,573,000	418,361	-	-	14,971	14,971	614	614	200	21	
Totals 2025		56,678,462	6,270,951	388,958	1,155,652	418,282	393,652	614	10,306			
Totals 2024		53,220,242	4,696,729	471,322	530,172	417,318	389,720	1,968	5,755			
Change		3,458,220	1,574,222	(82,364)	625,480	964	3,932	(1,354)	4,551			
* 28-31 are from the Conference Treasurer.												
22	Seward	NA	NA	NA	NA	13,512	13,512	-	-	-	22	
23	Homer	NA	NA	NA	NA	21,344	21,344	958	1,300	23		
24	Nome	NA	NA	NA	NA	9,272	4,200	-	-	24		
25	ANHOPE	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	25		
26	Sitka	NA	NA	NA	NA	14,701	23,277	-	-	26		
27	Unalaska	NA	NA	NA	NA	10,067	10,067	-	-	27		
Grand Total 2025						487,178	466,052	1,572	11,606			

IDENTITY		OTHER BENEVOLENT GIVING - Reported by Conference Treasurer													Other Giving	
CHURCH	INDEX	32	34	35	36a	36b	36c	36d	36e	36f	36	37	38	INDEX		
Data Line Item:		Conference Advance Specials	Total amount of all other funds sent to AC Treasurer for connectional	Alaska Conference Special Sunday	Human Relations Day	One Great Hour of Sharing UMCOR Sunday	Peace with Justice	Native American Ministries	World Communion	UM Student Day	Total Special Sunday offerings	Total amount given directly to United Methodist causes	Total amount given to non-United Methodist benevolent and charitable causes			
1	Anchor Park	-	-	-	1,100	-	-	-	-	40	1,140	-	12,760	1		
2	Anchorage-First	-	-	-	-	1,300	-	-	-	-	1,300	87	6,652	2		
3	Anchorage-Korean	-	-	-	-	530	-	-	-	-	924	-	2,318	3		
4	Chugiak	1,200	-	-	170	125	-	-	-	224	924	-	3,400	4		
5	Douglas Community	1,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	125	-	7,640	5		
6	Fairbanks-First	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30	1,349	266	6		
7	Girdwood Chapel	-	-	-	-	2,318	-	-	-	-	2,318	518	31,950	7		
8	Huneix Hidi Northern Light	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	14,900	8		
9	Jewel Lake Parish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,632	9		
10	Juneau-Aldersgate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	10		
11	Kenai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,845	11		
12	Ketchikan-First	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,034	12		
13	Moose Pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	175	13		
14	Nikiski-North Star	-	-	-	-	160	120	-	-	-	280	-	50,494	14		
15	Ola Toe Fuatana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,336	15		
16	Palmer Fellowship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,911	16		
17	Soldotna	-	-	-	561	126	517	495	-	46	1,745	-	5,442	17		
18	St John	20,397	-	-	919	1,525	415	2,088	1,028	190	6,165	-	96,284	18		
19	Turnagain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	157,044	19		
20	Wasilla-Christ First	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	241,490	20		
21	Willow	614	-	-	97	-	98	98	100	-	393	100,781	175	21		
Totals 2025		23,461	-	-	2,847	6,084	1,150	2,681	1,128	530	14,420	130,691	157,044			
Totals 2024		1,968	-	-	1,558	4,043	2,400	2,751	4,087	1,261	16,100	96,284	241,490			
Change		21,493	-	-	1,289	2,041	(1,250)	(70)	(2,959)	(731)	(1,680)	34,407	(84,446)			

Churches with Incomplete/Missing Data

22	Seward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
23	Homer	958	-	-	100	585	480	640	100	200	2,105	NA	NA	23
24	Nome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	24
25	ANHOPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	25
26	Sitka	2,000	-	-	100	310	-	100	90	-	600	NA	NA	26
27	Unalaska	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Grand Total 2025		26,419	-	-	3,047	6,979	1,630	3,421	1,318	730	17,125	130,691	157,044	

TABLE II-- Page 3 of 3 ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025

IDENTITY		CLERGY BENEF.	CLERGY SUPPORT--LOCAL CHURCH					STAFF	LOCAL CHURCH EXPENSES			TOTAL				
CHURCH		40	41a	41b	41c	42a	42b	42c	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	TOTAL
Data Line Item:																
1	Anchor Park	11,660	15,800	60,638	-	7,614	-	-	3,500	-	58,138	31,985	107,736	-	29,243	331,350
2	Anchorage-First	29,070	15,800	62,300	-	40,539	-	-	2,460	-	81,370	9,625	119,553	-	154,075	490,071
3	Anchorage-Korean	18,523	-	35,000	-	18,000	-	-	125	-	13,000	5,369	20,164	-	99,086	99,086
4	Chugiak	14,377	15,800	71,584	-	8,133	-	-	1,956	-	23,731	2,514	127,715	6,540	50,164	316,928
5	Douglas Community	-	-	39,098	-	6,782	-	-	-	-	7,103	450	55,923	-	-	109,356
6	Fairbanks-First	14,518	15,800	60,738	-	30,000	-	-	2,819	-	-	1,560	44,964	-	19,286	201,865
7	Gridwood Chapel	11,005	16,800	55,620	-	3,571	-	-	1,957	-	-	792	39,124	18,480	8,727	150,282
8	Hunek Hild Northern Light	11,137	16,800	33,068	-	12,612	-	-	2,731	-	41,757	10,418	51,981	-	9,428	203,684
9	Jewel Lake Parish	-	-	27,800	-	3,250	-	-	-	-	-	1,540	34,400	-	84,621	9
10	Jureau-Aldersgate	5,077	-	46,866	-	7,553	-	-	-	-	5,838	629	28,365	18,000	111,055	10
11	Kenai	-	-	26,000	-	26,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	22,648	30,468	-	90,813	11
12	Ketchikan-First	5,744	8,400	29,826	7,748	9,960	5,576	-	2,030	-	1,000	1,000	15,042	4,194	106,180	12
13	Moose Pass	-	-	6,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,250	-	13,625	13
14	Nihsik-North Star	2,429	-	22,662	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,800	27,286	23,223	-	94,035	14
15	Ola Toe Fuatiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	500	15
16	Palmer Fellowship	-	-	13,622	-	-	-	-	850	-	565	12,217	-	-	27,254	16
17	Soldotna	13,494	15,800	60,388	-	4,599	-	-	528	-	-	13,035	33,686	-	166,436	17
18	St. John	44,846	48,400	93,744	108,032	38,601	49,866	-	8,692	-	364,637	140,377	199,825	-	90,966	1,237,962
19	Turnagain	8,064	15,800	53,304	-	20,004	-	-	3,063	-	22,007	3,213	75,520	-	203,751	19
20	Wasilla-Christ First	7,593	-	15,123	25,956	-	7,000	-	2,526	-	633	2,997	5,820	-	58,894	20
21	Willow	6,064	15,400	58,800	-	7,293	-	-	2,504	-	1,603	2,997	29,046	-	4,500	228,909
Totals 2025		203,601	200,600	862,471	149,233	218,511	62,442	-	35,616	4,228	620,581	276,636	1,060,522	47,214	397,902	4,449,362
Totals 2024		181,014	176,350	736,198	116,064	235,891	34,628	-	31,151	4,797	661,548	199,291	930,769	179,176	339,457	4,579,619
Change		22,587	24,250	126,273	33,169	(17,380)	27,814	-	4,465	(569)	(40,967)	77,345	129,753	(131,962)	58,445	(252,662)
Churches with Incomplete/Missing Data																
22	Seward	3,905	NA	44,631	-	NA	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	62,048
23	Homer	13,050	15,800	NA	-	NA	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
24	Nome	5,058	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9,258
25	ANH/PE	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	16
26	Sitka	10,122	15,400	NA	-	NA	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51,399
27	Uralaska	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Grand Total 2025		235,736	231,800	907,102	149,233	218,511	62,442	-	35,616	4,228	620,581	276,636	1,060,522	47,214	397,902	4,449,362

TABLE III-- Page 1 of 2		ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025									
IDENTITY		ANNUAL OPERATING AND BENEVOLENCE BUDGET SOURCES									
INDEX	CHURCH	Number of households giving to the local church	Amount received through pledges	Amount received from non-pledging, but identified givers	Amount received from unidentified givers	Amount received from Interest and Dividends	Amount received through Sale of Church Assets	Amount received through building use fees, contributions, rentals	Amount received through fundraisers and other sources	Total income for annual budget/ spending plan	INDEX
	Data Line Item:	51	52a	52b	52c	52d	52e	52f	52g	52	
1	Anchor Park	293	119,640	122,973	3,418					246,031	1
2	Anchorage-First	34	88,500	82,800	8,659	4,267		133,859		318,085	2
3	Anchorage-Korean	15	52,659	23,088						75,747	3
4	Chugiak	66	160,101	18,129	982	2,954	-	34,125	22,107	238,398	4
5	Douglas Community	20		81,152	706	15		41,400	1,898	125,171	5
6	Fairbanks-First	76	203,579	9,006	6,954	43,165			1,822	264,526	6
7	Girdwood Chapel	37	92,452	17,991	5,045	16	-	20,020	15,453	150,977	7
8	Huneix Hidi Northern Light	47	67,446	66,562	2,664	66,253		14,235	804	217,964	8
9	Jewel Lake Parish	18		76,400	325	2,780		8,200		87,705	9
10	Juneau-Aldersgate	20		75,120	6,128	1,855		1,500	80	84,683	10
11	Kenai	23	15,410	38,732	1,911	69	-	9,900	17,652	83,674	11
12	Ketchikan-First	16		48,349	946	6,514		28,700		84,509	12
13	Moose Pass	8		15,070	257					15,327	13
14	Nikiski-North Star	17		71,678	6,955	2		900	3,860	83,395	14
15	Ola Toe Fuatina									-	15
16	Palmer Fellowship	17		40,967	240	2,352				43,559	16
17	Soldotna	51	73,360	56,793	3,533	13	-	630	22,871	157,200	17
18	St John	386	826,636	220,699	4,876	29,873		22,894	26,208	1,131,186	18
19	Tumagain	159	136,195	31,886	10,539	54		17,127	2,467	198,268	19
20	Wasilla-Chrst First	20	8,297	3,563	75,231	17		22,460		109,568	20
21	Willow	31		83,966	6,392	17			24,848	115,223	21
Totals 2025		1,354	1,844,275	1,184,924	145,761	160,216	-	355,950	140,070	3,831,196	
Totals 2024		1,330	1,640,119	1,356,458	116,326	117,635	1,700	262,257	122,866	3,617,361	
Change		24	204,156	(171,534)	29,435	42,581	(1,700)	93,693	17,204	213,835	

No other churches reported data.

TABLE III-- Page 2 of 2		ALASKA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025							TOTAL			
IDENTITY		CAPITAL AND SPECIAL SOURCES					OUTSIDE LOCAL CHURCH SOURCES		TOTAL			
INDEX	CHURCH	53a	53b	53c	53d	53	54a	54b	54c	54	55	INDEX
	Data Line Item:											
1	Anchor Park	69,414	27,722			97,136				-	343,167	1
2	Anchorage-First	108,840			10,163	119,003	16,800		66,026	82,826	519,914	2
3	Anchorage-Korean					-	20,129			20,129	95,876	3
4	Chugiak	173,229	720	2,523	1,519	177,991				-	416,389	4
5	Douglas Community	1,000			500	1,500				-	126,671	5
6	Fairbanks-First				6,123	6,123				-	270,649	6
7	Girdwood Chapel	14,640	-	-	3,053	17,693	8,000	-	-	8,000	176,670	7
8	Huneix Hidi Northern Light	2,242	49,023			51,265				-	269,229	8
9	Jewel Lake Parish		100		15,000	15,100				-	102,805	9
10	Juneau-Aldersgate					-	11,250			11,250	95,933	10
11	Kenai					-				17,650	101,324	11
12	Ketchikan-First		592,995			592,995	27,443			27,443	704,947	12
13	Moose Pass					-				-	15,327	13
14	Niiskik-North Star					-			5,096	5,096	88,491	14
15	Ola Toe Fuatina					-				-	-	15
16	Palmer Fellowship					-			25,000	25,000	68,559	16
17	Soldotna				2,877	2,877			29,790	29,790	189,867	17
18	St John	57,277	64,969	20,335	149,303	291,884		2,000	250	250	1,423,320	18
19	Turnagain		6,500			6,500			1,000	3,000	207,768	19
20	Wasilla-Christ First					-	8,000		19,000	19,000	128,568	20
21	Willow				1,151	1,151	8,000	102,237	52,820	163,057	279,431	21
Totals 2025		426,642	742,029	22,858	189,689	1,381,218	99,622	104,237	216,632	412,491	5,624,905	
Totals 2024		265,523	106,523	143,448	233,524	749,018	76,487	87,385	129,622	293,494	4,659,873	
Change		161,119	635,506	(120,590)	(43,835)	632,200	23,135	16,852	87,010	118,997	965,032	

No other churches reported data.

General Conference 2028 - Statements of Candidacy

Clergy

Murray Crookes

04/21/2026

Statement of Candidacy for General Conference

History of Service:

- 13 years of pastoral service, 8 years in the Alaska Conference, Ordained since 2023
- 6 years on AK Child & Family board as Methodist member
- 2 years on Leadership team
- 1 year Chair of Native Ministries Committee
- 2 years Chair of Western Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministry
- 1 year member/executive board member of Native American Comprehensive Plan
- 3 years Alaska Representative for SLAM trips
- 2 years on truth-telling group in Greater Northwest
- Faculty of Native American Course of Study

My name is Murray Crookes and I believe that I am an excellent candidate to be a delegate to General Conference representing the Alaska Conference for many reasons. The first is logistical: I will already be attending jurisdictional meetings because I'm the chair of the Western Jurisdiction CoNAM. As a conference, we have identified ministry with Alaska Native people as a top priority. I believe that I am an ideal candidate because of my perspective and experience working with Native ministries in Alaska and throughout our connection. During our Spring learning event, I noticed that many of the ministries that reach out to needy, struggling, or homeless people that were present were ministries that I am closely connected to. My practical theological perspective, commitment to liberation theology, and experience working with needy communities also make me a strong candidate. Some lesser-known things that I bring to the table include a firm commitment to people in the LGBTQIA+ community and with other persecuted people as my own identity intersects with the common struggle. I have shortcomings that should be considered as well. For example, I struggle with timeliness regarding paperwork and deadlines. My commitment to liberation can sometimes pit me against the institutions that I represent, especially when dealing with historical trauma of Native People. I also acknowledge that my plate is already full. It is from this perspective, however, that I put myself forward, because I know that a lot of work lies ahead for the candidates. I look forward to supporting our conference to the best of my ability.

Thank you very much.

-Rev. Murray Crookes

Declaration for Candidacy for General Conference **Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger**

I would like to formally declare my interest in being a candidate for General Conference. I am currently the pastor of Kunéix Hidi Northern Light United Church in Juneau, Alaska where I have been serving since July of 2023.

My heart and interest are in theology and how we define and express our understanding of that theology in the local church. Given the turbulence of the previous two quadrennium, I feel that it is with deliberateness that we, as a denomination, must work to continue to speak to a polarized world. To do that, we must approach General Conference with humility, sincerity, and hope.

-

Ordained Elder in 2002, I have served as a pastor in the United Methodist Church for 30 years, (four years as Probationary Deacon) predominantly in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. I also taught as an Adjunct Professor of Religion at Tennessee Wesleyan University for 16 years (2001-2011, 2017-2023).

I attended Drew University in Madison, New Jersey where I earned a Master of Divinity as well as an M.A. in Biblical Studies. I also hold a D. Min. degree from Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

I have written three books:

Crafting the Sermon: A Beginner's Guide to Preaching (2019)

Saturday Faith: Moving through the Crisis of Hopelessness (2021)

From Advent to Ascension: A Journey with the Christ (2022)

And the chapter: "And in the End" in the book *Now What? A Guide to the Gifts and Challenges of Aging* (2021).

Regarding Conference offices, while in the Holston Conference, I served on the following:

Board of Higher Education for the Holston Conference 2001-2004

Board of Directors for Camp Lookout, a UM camp in the Holston Conference 2001 – 2004

Cleveland District Board of Ordained Ministry 2004 – 2011

Cleveland District Discipleship Committee 2004 – 2009

Chattanooga District Development Team 2014 – 2018

Hiwassee (formerly Cleveland) District Board of Ordained Ministry 2020 – 2023

In the Alaska Conference:

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Professional Ministries Unit (current chair)

It would be a privilege to serve as a delegate to General Conference.

Meghan Lambert

I am Rev. Meghan Lambert, and I submit my name for the 2028 General Conference delegation.

Before becoming a clergy person, I actively participated in leading worship and youth group (as a youth) at UMC Chugiak as a youth, and at Anchor Park UMC (as an adult). While attending Anchor Park UMC, I served on the Birchwood Camp Board as the Board Chair.

While leading Birchwood Camp's Music, Art, Dance and Drama Camp in 2018, I received a call to ministry. In response to that call, I began seminary at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in the fall of 2019 and returned to Alaska as a Provisional Elder in 2022. I was appointed to Seward and Moose Pass UMCs and also joined the board of AK Child and Family and the Alaska Conference Outdoor Ministries Committee. In 2024, I was appointed to Soldotna UMC. I received ordination as an Elder in the Pacific Northwest Conference last June. Currently, I am appointed to Soldotna UMC, and North Star and Kenai UMCs as part of a pastoral team with Joe Nightingale. I am also currently serving the Conference as the Annual Conference Secretary.

Church is essentially a communal experience. I deeply believe and do my best to live this commitment. Relationships are necessary for the work of the church and I am willing to put in the time to build those relationships and form community. This commitment to working in the context of community and relationship will be vital as we reconsider how we structure our world-wide church. I would bring this orientation and commitment to the work.

One of my gifts is casting a vision - clearly verbalizing and articulating a way of being and relating, and inviting others to join in living the vision. As we, The United Methodist Church, enter this new part of our life and envision how to relate to one another in a new way, I feel called to share this gift of working in community with United Methodists worldwide to cast a vision of who we are, where we are, and where we might go next.

Another gift I offer is understanding how structural pieces relate with one another, how big parts influence small parts. In my training in Public Health, I saw how big structures interact with one another and how these interactions impact the health and well-being of communities and individuals. I believe this view and mindset will be helpful in the General Conference, as we discern what larger, structural changes might need to be made. I have practice in looking at large-scale changes and thinking about how these larger changes will impact smaller communities, like Conferences and individual local churches. That is a gift I feel called to share.

These are my gifts I offer. I would be honored to serve the Alaska Annual Conference in this way as we face a new part of our journey as God's people called United Methodists.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Meghan Lambert

Statement of Candidacy for Rev. Nico Reijns

After prayer and discernment with my spouse, my congregation's leadership, and trusted colleagues, I am making myself available for election as Alaska's clergy delegate to the 2028 General Conference, the first ever USA Regional Conference, and the Western Jurisdictional Conference.

I believe that 2028 will be an especially consequential year for the United Methodist Church as we must quickly make challenging decisions about our organization and structure. Some of our most important work is to decolonize our structures and attitudes, and to embrace our future as a smaller denomination, soon with a majority of membership outside the USA. Additionally, although we removed the language barring LGBTQ+ inclusion from *The Book of Discipline* in 2024, there is still a great deal of work to be done to become a church that is welcoming, inclusive, and liberating. As an elder with 30 years of active ministry still in front of me, I believe this work is part of my call and giftedness to order the life of the church.

My experience includes having attended the last five General Conferences in roles including delegation member (for PNW), advocate, and conference communications team member. I have also attended four of the last five Western Jurisdictional Conferences, twice as a reserve delegate and twice as communications team member. These experiences have given me in-depth insight into the preparation, the processes, and the work of delegates. Just as importantly, they have helped me form relationships with friends and colleagues around our global church. As experienced delegates told us at the Spring Learning Event, these relationships are immensely helpful for the work of a delegate before, during, and after General Conference.

In addition to having attended General Conferences, I have had opportunities to work for and with several of our General Agencies. As a college student I worked extensively with the Division of Young People's Ministries at Discipleship Ministries on national and international events. During seminary I was an intern at the General Board of Church and Society working on Global Health issues. For the past decade I have been involved with Wespath Benefits and Investments first on the Young Leaders' Advisory Board helping provide feedback on benefits design, communications, and educational materials, and now as the Alaska Conference's chairperson for pensions and health benefits. I have additionally provided input on white papers Wespath has published related to socially responsible investments, and in the fall of 2025 was part of a small group of leaders asked to contribute to rethinking paragraph 717 in the *Book of Discipline*. This paragraph governs how our church seeks to align our investments with our theology.

I ask for your prayerful consideration of my candidacy to bring not only my voice and experiences, but also Alaska's unique contributions and needs to our global church in 2028.

General Conference 2028 - Statements of Candidacy

Lay

**Candidacy Statement
Chivi Capezio Crookes, Deaconess
Sitka, AK**

Since moving to Alaska in 2018, I have served in various roles of the life of the church and Annual Conference. Most recently, I have been a member of the History and Archives committee, and I served briefly on the Leadership Team.

Before Annual Conference voted to discontinue them, I was a member of the Communications Committee, and the Mission District Task Force. In 2024 I was a member of the Commission for Equal Compensation.

I co-sponsored legislation passed during Annual Conference 2023, and successfully submitted a change for the rules of Annual Conference to prioritize retired Deaconesses and Home Missioners for equalizing votes at Annual Conference.

I have also supported the Annual Conference in the Worship Committee in 2023.

In 2022, I was Consecrated and Commissioned as a Deaconess and have been appointed to serve in three ministry settings since. My first appointment was as a consultant for the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner (D/HM). My next appointment was as an Office Specialist at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. My current appointment is at the Faith Foundation Northwest as Executive Assistant and Board Administrator.

As a Deaconess, I facilitated events and workshops for those discerning how God was calling them to ministry. For the D/HM Order I have written devotionals and articles for publication. I have been a member of the Commission on Deaconess and Home Missioners Service since 2024, and a TA for the D/HM course on Old Testament since 2025.

Besides my Labor Relations degree from Argentina, I have a Bachelor of Art in Creative and Professional Writing, and I am working on my thesis for my Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, with the goal of graduating in July 2025.

I have prayed and discerned the call to serve on the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation. I believe that the diversity of thought, experience, and ministry context will only serve to strengthen the Alaska delegation for the impact it will make. As an immigrant, naturalized citizen, Latine woman, clergy spouse, who parents a queer child, I believe I can bring a unique perspective to the table. I am convinced that we need to move forward the important work that our Alaska delegation and the General Conference achieved, especially in the past two General Conference sessions. I want to participate in building the church that I dream about, making it a reality for my children, and many generations to come. I envision a church that is inclusive of all our siblings, a church that holds herself accountable for past mistakes, works hard to correct them, and does not repeat them. In the name of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the whole world, to the exclusion of none.

Sr. Chivi Capezio Crookes

Alaska United Methodist Conference –
Statement of Candidacy Delegate for General & Jurisdictional Conference
Submitted by **Tyler Watson**

I'm writing to submit myself as a candidate for delegate to the 2028 General Conference. I have been a member of the United Methodist Church since 2019 and have been highly involved in both my local church, Turnagain UMC (TUMC) as well as in the Alaska Annual Conference and beyond. Locally I serve as Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference for TUMC. As a Certified Lay Speaker, I preach regularly at TUMC as well as provide pulpit supply for other UMCs in the connection. At the conference level I have served on multiple bodies including the Mission District Task Force, Leadership Team, and Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

Beyond our conference, I serve as a board member of Faith Foundation Northwest. Through my service within the UMC I have developed a broad understanding of the issues that General Conference will need to address in 2028.

In professional capacity as a State of Alaska employee, I have developed a strong skillset in policy, procedure, and administration for large organizations. I have an eye for detail, process, and strategy. I'm an active member of my union and am an effective organizer and member of multiple deliberative bodies. My knowledge and expertise in Roberts Rules of Order make me an effective voice at the table.

Joining the UMC in 2019 was directly in response to the decisions made at that Special Session of General Conference. As a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and a gay man I felt the call to serve in a greater capacity to urge the church to move towards a more open and inclusive posture towards the LGBTQ+ community. The actions of General Conference in 2024 made great strides in achieving the vision of a UMC that exemplifies the love of Jesus; however, the church cannot remain complacent. As a delegate to General Conference, I would serve a strong voice for not only my own community, but all marginalized groups long ignored or actively harmed by the global church.

A small conference like Alaska needs strong leadership and an effective voice at the table to ensure that our priorities and values are in the conversation at General Conference. The work that we in Alaska have done to live out our values and ask and address the hard questions can be a gift to the rest of the UMC. It would be an honor to be that voice.

Susan Williams

The United Methodist Church took historic steps towards becoming an inclusive global church in 2024. At General Conference 2028, the church will have to imagine how to become this paradigm shift. A constitutional amendment created regionalization. Gender can no longer be used to exclude. Article V states the UMC should be combating racism, inequality, colonialism and white privilege and White Supremacy.

In the book, [Our Unforming De-Westernizing Spiritual Formation](#) Cindy Lee states: “We need the powerful posture of imagination to see something that doesn’t exist. We imagine the society we want to live in... imagine... if (we) could live in a world without systemic barriers. Imagination is refusing to let the “buts” and “impossibles” get in the way. Only things we can first imagine are possible.” General Conference needs to be a time of un-forming and re-forming, the church. In my travel to Africa, I saw ways people were treated as European countries and the Americas “colonized” countries. What shocked me are the policies/practices implemented as places were “de-colonized”. Sixty-six years ago, treaties put in place systems, which continue to oppress. My travels around the world have given me better global understanding. As a United Women in Faith member, I was exposed to the concept of White Privilege. I own my ancestry and the need to use privilege to advocate for others.

I network with faith leaders across the country. I have served roles within UWFaith including at the Jurisdiction level, former National Director and current Alaska President. I serve on the Nome Community Center Board. While on the UWFaith Board I served on the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. I worked on initiatives dealing with international healthcare, environmental justice, and Indigenous rights. We strove to hold corporations accountable for global impacts.

I serve on the UMC Western Jurisdiction executive leadership team. At February’s meeting, we had a time of “prayer, and discernment about the connectional work of the Jurisdiction”. Our call to Love Without Limits, led us to identified priorities: Wellness and Healing in the Church and Faithful Resistance (https://westernjurisdictionumc.org/wjlt_feb2026/). At the 2024 Jurisdictional meeting, I learned about the UMC workings and decision-making politics as Bishops were elected.

I am on the Alaska UMC Leadership team. At APUMC, I have served in various leadership roles: Lay Member to AC, Lay Leader, Staff Parish, Nominations, Church Council. I am a past President of the Birchwood Camp Board and conference Outdoor Ministries Committee.

My skills include planning, administration, organizing, public speaking, and fiscal analyzer. A former Union officer, I had to mediate employee issues, writing summary briefs. Listening was a critical skill.

My love of God and the United Methodist Church led me to submit my name for consideration. I believe God has empowered me for such a time as this.

My childlike imaginative wonder sees us surrendering our church to God, letting go of conventional boundaries, making room for a glorious new church.

Let’s prayerfully unite, to hear God’s call for Alaska’s delegation to General Conference 2028.

Thank you. Susan

Rules Committee – David Means, Leadership Team Chair

The Leadership Team serves as the Conference's rules committee. There are two petitions before the Annual Conference that will revise Conference rules if approved by the Conference.

The first is a petition submitted by the Conference Council on Youth and Young Adult Ministries. This petition:

- Changes the name to the Alaska Conference Young Peoples' Ministry Team (YPM).
- Redefines membership to the YPM.
- Assigns the duty to select YPM members to the YPM itself but keeps the Committee on Nominations as a back up in case YPM is unable to select new members.
- Clarifies committee duties.
- YPM will meet quarterly instead of once a year.

The Leadership Team recommends approval of this petition. It understood that this petition may be slightly modified to incorporate Leadership Team comments to the petition's maker before the petition is introduced to the Annual Conference.

The second petition is from the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU). It transfers the duties of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry to its sibling conferences in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area over several years. The PMU will keep its duties as the committee on episcopacy, committee on superintendency, and Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. This transfer of duties will eventually remove conference rule R5.1015 and replace it with a new rule. The rules committee will submit a revised rule complying with the *Discipline* at the 2027 Annual Conference. The Leadership Team recommends approval of this petition.

Rules Changes/Petitions

PETITION TO THE 2026 ALASKA CONFERENCE

TITLE: R5.1007 CCYYAM Rule Change PETITION # 1

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON: *(Please state the motion in its simplest form, addressing one issue only, exactly what action is required. If you wish to submit additional supporting rationale, it must be typewritten on additional, separate sheets. Copies of up to two pages will be included in the Pre-Conference Handbook. Members will vote only on the action as boxed below.)*

Update and change to R5.1007 Conference council on youth and young adult ministries (CCYYAM)

(See attachment for full rewrite & phased transition plan)

RATIONALE:

Our current rule has not allowed for the quickly changing landscape that is young peoples' ministry. This change supports the work that is already being done, creates clarity around the work to be done, and aligns with BOD updates. We will take 1 year to implement these rules, equipping and empowering youth and young adults to fully lead this team with support and mentoring from adult members.

TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY: CCYYAM (YPM) & AUMC
(Name of committee, board, commission, agency)

COSTS: 0 If a cost is involved, what committee/board/agency will be responsible for including this cost in its budget? _____

If this cost impacts the Conference Budget, has approval been received from the Council on Finance and Administration? _____
If not, then from whom? _____

When will it be completed? January 1, 2027 How will you judge its effectiveness?
(be specific) _____
Young people will be empowered to lead at all levels of our church, local churches will be equipped for and have partners in engaging in young peoples' ministry.

CONTACT PERSON INITIATING THE PETITION: the Rev Autumn Krueger
Contact person's phone #: 907-308-1989
E-Mail Address: pastorautumn@stjohnanchorage.org

GROUP REFERRING PETITION TO ANNUAL MEETING: CCYYAM
Group Leader responsible: the Rev Autumn Krueger, convener
Group leader's phone # 907-308-1989
E-Mail Address pastorautumn@stjohnanchorage.org

SEND TO: alaskaumc@gmail.com
Alaska Conference
1660 Patterson Street
Anchorage, AK 99504

MUST BE RECEIVED BY
April 30, 2026

Additional RATIONAL:

A Phased Approach:

The team's currently active members consist of 4 young adults, 5 adults, and 0 youth. From this team we will recruit, encourage, and equip youth and young adults to apply to the team and support their leadership development, shifting the adult members role from building and creating to mentoring and supporting.

This team will be reaching out to local churches over the summer, building relationships between a YPM Liaison and local church leaders to understand the needs, gifts, and support wanted so we are better able to equip and support the work of young people's ministry in the local church. Through these relationships we will identify youth and young adults through local leadership who are spiritually mature and have the gifts for leadership.

The variable numbers for membership recognize the need for appropriate representation, growth potential, and space to determine what is the right size for this team.

Implementation Year: Applications will open October 1 and close October 31. Interviews will be in November with this crew of leaders serving January 1, 2027-June 30, 2028. All following years the application period will be in March, with interviews in April so that the names can be included in pre-conference materials.

PROPOSAL:

R5.1007 . . . CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES (CCYYAM) ALASKA CONFERENCE YOUNG PEOPLES' MINISTRY TEAM (YPM)

PURPOSE . . . To empower young people (youth and young adults) in their relationship with the Spirit of God as revealed in Jesus Christ, strengthening youth and young adult young peoples' ministries in local churches and organizations of the AUMC, and facilitate facilitating the youths' and young adults' young peoples' own efforts to invite others into relationship as disciples of Christ.

MEMBERSHIP/ORGANIZATION . . . The recommended membership of the CCYYAM is two (2) youth or young adult representatives and one (1) adult regional advisor from each of the four regions of the Conference.

YPM will be composed of youth, young adult, and adult representatives from each of the regions. The term will be for two years, July 1st of the first year, through June 30th of the second year.

Membership shall be as follows (minimum membership: 11; maximum membership: 22):

- a. 4-8 youth*
- b. 3-7 young adults*
- c. 2-5 adults*
- d. Additional ex officio members:*
 - i. Conference lay leader*
 - ii. Past president*

YOUTH MEMBERS must be a baptized or confirmed member of a United Methodist congregation in the AUMC & be regularly engaged with the UMC in some way. Youth must be

high school students (9th-12th grade) during the term of service. They should be young people with spiritual maturity. There should be proportional representation of gender, race, leadership skills, geography, and church size.

YOUNG ADULT MEMBERS must be a professing or affiliate member of a United Methodist congregation in the AUMC (for at least one year) & have a current background check and abuse prevention training via Ministry Safe on file with their local church. Young Adults are 18-35 years old. They should be young people with spiritual maturity. There should be proportional representation of gender, race, leadership skills, geography, church size, college students, and marital status.

ADULT MEMBERS must be a professing or affiliate member of a United Methodist congregation in the AUMC (for at least one year) & have a current background check and abuse prevention training via Ministry Safe on file with their local church. The role of adult members on YPM is to mentor young people in their leadership development; to inspire, encourage, and support the young people in their leadership.

Young adult and adult members may be lay persons or clergy, but clergy shall not outnumber lay young adults and adults. Additionally, young people shall hold at least two-thirds (⅔) of the YPM membership.

The YPM Youth members will be selected by application by the YPM Interview Team. The YPM Interview Team is a sub team of the YPM, composed of one third of the youth, young adult, and adult members representing each region of the AUMC.

Interested youth and young adults will submit applications and recommendations as directed on the application. The YPM President will share application information so that it can be publicized through conference communications and directly to local churches. The application period will be the month of March, with interviews in April. The YPM President will submit to the Conference Committee on Nominations those who have been selected and those who have ended their term.

In addition to the application, applicants must have a pastor, lay leader, or youth leader fill out the YPM Recommendation Form. After receiving the application, the YPM Interview Team will conduct a short, informal interview to assess the applicant's readiness for service on YPM.

If there are not enough applicants, a member of YPM will contact the Conference Nominations team to assist in filling the team. If the YPM is unable to fill the minimum number of members via application, the Conference Committee on Nominations is empowered to fill the minimum membership slate.

The adult members of YPM will be selected by the Youth and Young Adults serving on the YPM Interview Team. Adult Members must be approved by the conference superintendent and/or have a letter of recommendation from their Pastor or Church Council member. There should be at least one adult for every five young people.

The President(s) of the previous year may serve as an ex-officio member on YPM for one year following their year of service. The conference lay leader shall serve as an ex-official member on YPM. The lay leader will not count toward the total number of adults.

The youth and young adult representatives shall elect a President from within their body who has full voting rights in the AUMC. In addition, ~~CCYYAM~~ **YPM** regional youth and young adult representatives or designated alternates will have privilege of the floor without vote.

~~MEETINGS . . . It is recommended that the CCYYAM have an annual meeting. The YPM will meet quarterly.~~

~~DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES . . . The duties of the CCYYAM~~ **YPM shall be include responsibilities listed in BOD ¶649.3 and ¶650.3 and will advocate for youth and young adult leadership on the local church and conference level, supporting young people serving in leadership.**

- ~~• To initiate and support plans and activities and projects that are of particular interest to youth and young adults.~~
- ~~• To be an advocate for the free expression of the convictions of youth and young adults on issues vital to them.~~
- ~~• To support and facilitate, where deemed necessary, the formation of youth and young adult caucuses.~~
- ~~• To cooperate with the boards and agencies of the AUMC, receiving recommendations from and making recommendations to the same.~~
- ~~• To elect and certify AUMC representatives to the Western Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Convocation and the United Methodist Youth Organization. connectional opportunities.~~
- ~~• To receive and set the policy and criteria for its portion of the Youth Service Fund; establish the policy for YSF education, and be responsible for YSF promotion throughout the AUMC.~~

~~ACCOUNTABILITY AND LINKAGE . . . The CCYYAM~~ **YPM is linked by its President or other elected representative from YPM to the Leadership Team. The CCYYAM YPM is responsible to the CF&A for its operational budget and expenditures. The CCYYAM YPM will make a yearly report of its efforts to the annual conference of the AUMC.**

Petition #2 to the Alaska Annual Conference from Professional Ministries Unit

Transition of Licensing and Credentialing through Greater Northwest Episcopal Area Partnerships

WHEREAS, the Alaska Annual Conference is committed to raising up faithful, effective clergy leadership for the mission of the Church; and

WHEREAS, the processes of candidacy, licensing, and ordination in The United Methodist Church are rigorous and complex, requiring consistent guidance, accountability, and support; and

WHEREAS, candidates in Alaska—particularly those for whom English is as an Additional Language, those who are bi-vocational, and those who are less familiar with denominational structures—face unique challenges in navigating these processes; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of candidates to engage and progress through the credentialing process; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Annual Conference also bears responsibility to ensure that the credentialing process is accessible, supportive, and equitable; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Annual Conference has existing collaborative relationships with the SeaTac District of the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Columbia District of the Oregon-Idaho Conference within the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area; and

WHEREAS, these partnerships provide an opportunity to strengthen the support, consistency, and effectiveness of the credentialing process for Alaska candidates; and

WHEREAS, the transference of District Committee on Ordained Ministry (hereafter referred to as the DCOM) and Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) responsibilities to these sibling conferences will allow candidates to be better served through established and fully resourced structures; and

WHEREAS, the Book of Discipline requires that the DCOM include at least six clergy from the district yet does not prohibit the inclusion of additional members, which allows for Alaska participation and representation in the collaborative conferences the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Oregon-Idaho Conference within the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) of the Alaska Annual Conference shall be modified to adhere to the Book of Discipline to effectively work with those being licensed and commissioned, and

WHEREAS, intentional representation on behalf of the Alaska Annual Conference in these processes will ensure that candidates have voice, advocacy, and contextual insight during the credentialing journey; and

WHEREAS, the Conference Superintendent and the Bishop have exercised their responsibility to nominate individuals to serve in these roles, providing continuity of care and accompaniment for Alaska candidates during a period of transition; and

WHEREAS, this transition will occur over a defined period to ensure that current candidates are supported and that the Alaska Annual Conference responsibly transitions off direct responsibility for licensing and credentialing processes; and

WHEREAS, the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) of the Alaska Annual Conference shall be modified to adhere to the Book of Discipline pertaining to the roles of the Committee on Superintendency and the Committee on Episcopacy and Higher Education and Ministries, and

WHEREAS, this shift enables the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) of the Alaska Annual Conference to refocus its work on other essential areas of conference life, including the Committee on Superintendency, Committee on Episcopacy, and Higher Education and Campus Ministry, in alignment with the Book of Discipline;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Annual Conference approves the transference of the licensing and credentialing processes from its current structures to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and Board of Ordained Ministry of the Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho Conferences within the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this transition includes the phased movement of Alaska candidates into the DCOM and BOM processes of these sibling conferences to ensure consistent, effective, and well-supported credentialing pathways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska representatives to DCOMs and BOMs, nominated by the Conference Superintendent and the Bishop, will participate in these bodies to provide advocacy, contextual insight, and direct support for Alaska candidates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Annual Conference will continue to discern appropriate policies regarding the participation, responsibilities, and support (including travel considerations) for Alaska representatives serving in these roles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the transition will be implemented over the next several years to ensure continuity of care for current candidates and a faithful transfer of responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Professional Ministries Unit will focus its work on strengthening the functions of the Committee on Superintendency (§669), Committee on Episcopacy (§636), and Higher Education and Campus Ministry (§633) as it transitions out of licensing and credentialing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the language of R.5.1015 in the Alaska Conference Journal be removed in order to facilitate the modification of the Professional Ministries Unit (PMU) to adhere to the Book of Discipline, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this new structure and partnership will be monitored, evaluated, and collaboratively adopted in 2028 to ensure that it faithfully serves candidates, the Alaska Annual Conference, and the mission of the Church.

PETITION TO THE 2026 ALASKA CONFERENCE

TITLE: Contextual Authority and Collaborative Practices of Conference Administration PETITION # 3

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON: *(Please state the motion in its simplest form, addressing one issue only, exactly what action is required. If you wish to submit additional supporting rationale, it must be typewritten on additional, separate sheets. Copies of up to two pages will be included in the Pre-Conference Handbook. Members will vote only on the action as boxed below.)*

The Alaska Annual Conference affirms that any implementation of new processes, structures, or software tools originating from Greater Northwest Area staff must receive prior consultation with and approval from Alaska Conference staff; and final approval for such changes shall rest with the Alaska Annual Conference in session, or with the Leadership Team acting on its behalf between sessions.

RATIONALE:

Attached.

TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY: July 1, 2026
(Name of committee, board, commission, agency)

COSTS: Reduced Cost If a cost is involved, what committee/board/agency will be responsible for including this cost in its budget? CFA and Leadership Team

If this cost impacts the Conference Budget, has approval been received from the Council on Finance and Administration? _____
If not, then from whom? _____

When will it be completed? Annual Conference 2026 How will you judge its effectiveness?
(be specific) _____
Reduced workload of Conference Staff

CONTACT PERSON INITIATING THE PETITION: Rev. Kristin McGuire
Contact person's phone #: (907) 333-2304
E-Mail Address: akcs@alaskaumc.org

GROUP REFERRING PETITION TO ANNUAL MEETING: Leadership Team
Group Leader responsible: David Means
Group leader's phone # _____
E-Mail Address _____

SEND TO: alaskaumc@gmail.com
Alaska Conference
1660 Patterson Street
Anchorage, AK 99504

MUST BE RECEIVED BY
April 30, 2026

Petition #3 – Contextual Authority and Collaborative Practice of Conference Administration

Whereas the Alaska Annual Conference is a missionary conference with limited financial and staffing resources, and

Whereas the ministry context of Alaska, including an annual apportioned spend of less than \$500,000 and a simplified financial structure, differs significantly from that of other conferences within the Greater Northwest Area, and

Whereas the imposition of administrative processes, structures, and software tools without consultation has increased cost and workload, diverting energy from ministry and mission,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Alaska Annual Conference affirms that any implementation of new processes, structures, or software tools originating from Greater Northwest Area staff must receive prior consultation with and approval from Alaska Conference staff; and

Be it further resolved, that final approval for such changes shall rest with the Alaska Annual Conference in session, or with the Leadership Team acting on its behalf between sessions; and

Be it further resolved, that all shared work across the Area be grounded in mutual respect, contextual awareness, and a commitment to practices that support, without burden, the unique mission and ministry of the Alaska Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Kristin McGuire

Alaska UMC Conference Superintendent and Director of Connectional Ministries

PETITION TO THE 2026 ALASKA CONFERENCE

TITLE: PAST SERVICE PENSION RATE PETITION # 4

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON: *(Please state the motion in its simplest form, addressing one issue only, exactly what action is required. If you wish to submit additional supporting rationale, it must be typewritten on additional, separate sheets. Copies of up to two pages will be included in the Pre-Conference Handbook. Members will vote only on the action as boxed below.)*

Resolved: that effective January 1, 2027, the Ministerial Pension Rate and the Local Pastors Pension Rate shall be \$1,003 and the Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program be so amended.

RATIONALE:

See the attached statement for the explanation of this resolution. The past serv

TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY: Conference Benefits Officer transmitted to Wespah Benefits and Investments
(Name of committee, board, commission, agency)

COSTS: N/A If a cost is involved, what committee/board/agency will be responsible for including this cost in its budget? _____

If this cost impacts the Conference Budget, has approval been received from the Council on Finance and Administration? _____
If not, then from whom? Pre82 Pension Funding and Conf. Board of Pensions Assets

When will it be completed? Annual Request How will you judge its effectiveness?
(be specific) _____
N/A

CONTACT PERSON INITIATING THE PETITION: Bruce Galvin
Contact person's phone #: 206-579-6041
E-Mail Address: bruce.galvin@pnwumc.org

GROUP REFERRING PETITION TO ANNUAL MEETING: Leadership Team/Conference Board of Pensions
Group Leader responsible: Nico Reijns
Group leader's phone # 907-243-3963
E-Mail Address pastorreijns@gmail.com

SEND TO: alaskaumc@gmail.com
Alaska Conference
1660 Patterson Street
Anchorage, AK 99504

MUST BE RECEIVED BY
April 30, 2026

PAST SERVICE PENSION RATE

Explanation: Supplement One to CRSP is the name of Addendum A to MPP (ministerial pension plan) and CPP (comprehensive protection plan) that was originally adopted by the 1981 session of this Annual Conference and all other provisions of Supplement One/Addendum A continue as previously adopted. This new pension rate represents an increase of 2% over the 2026 rate. Plan rules do not require any increase in the past service rate. The leadership team recognizes the disparity of pension benefits between more recent retirees and those that have been retired for many years. The funding ratio with the preliminary 1/1/2025 actuarial valuation for 2027 is 98% with a 2% increase annually. There is no surplus, the leadership team recommends continuation of the 2% funding plan. In 2026 the PSR for Alaska is the 6th highest among all 50 conferences and only 8 conferences provide 100% to contingent annuitant.

PETITION TO THE 2026 ALASKA CONFERENCE

TITLE: Alaska Conference Camping Retreat Ministry Sunday PETITION # 5

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON: *(Please state the motion in its simplest form, addressing one issue only, exactly what action is required. If you wish to submit additional supporting rationale, it must be typewritten on additional, separate sheets. Copies of up to two pages will be included in the Pre-Conference Handbook. Members will vote only on the action as boxed below.)*

Establish the third Sunday of Epiphany as an Annual Conference-wide celebration of Camping and Retreat Ministries in the Alaska Conference.

RATIONALE:

Camping/retreat ministries are rich opportunities for youth and young people to experience God's love in community, for leadership development, and for discipleship and connection within local churches and the Conference. On this Sunday, local congregations are encouraged to establish or support a fund for their local outdoor ministries, or send money to the camping/retreat ministry within the Alaska Conference of their choosing. The Outdoor Ministries Committee will provide worship resources to support celebrating this Sunday.

TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY: Outdoor Ministry Committee, local churches, Annual Conference
(Name of committee, board, commission, agency)

COSTS: 0 If a cost is involved, what committee/board/agency will be responsible for including this cost in its budget? _____

If this cost impacts the Conference Budget, has approval been received from the Council on Finance and Administration? _____
If not, then from whom? _____

When will it be completed? Upon approval How will you judge its effectiveness?
(be specific) _____

Number of local churches celebrating Camping/Retreat Ministry Sunday _____

CONTACT PERSON INITIATING THE PETITION: Rev. Meghan Lambert
Contact person's phone #: 907-262-4657
E-Mail Address: pastormeghanw@gmail.com

GROUP REFERRING PETITION TO ANNUAL MEETING: Outdoor Ministries Committee
Group Leader responsible: Rev. Meghan Lambert
Group leader's phone # 907-262-4657
E-Mail Address pastormeghanw@gmail.com

SEND TO: alaskaumc@gmail.com
Alaska Conference
1660 Patterson Street
Anchorage, AK 99504

MUST BE RECEIVED BY
April 30, 2026