

Trustees

The twelve-person Indiana Conference Board of Trustees is responsible for the legal and property concerns of the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. In the performance of these duties during the last year, the Board has worked with the former Conference and District Boards to continue the transition from two conferences to one. We deeply appreciate the diligence and cooperation of the Boards of Trustees of the North Indiana Conference and the South Indiana Conference under the capable leadership of Susan Kirkpatrick and Brian Williams respectively, the invaluable support and effort of Conference Directors Brent Williams and Jennifer Gallagher and the advice and counsel of attorneys, Steve Fink and John Neighbours and Bishop Coyner and Executive Assistant David V. W. Owen.

Activities of the past year:

Under the direction of the Indiana Conference, the Trustees continued the process of selecting a site for the Indiana Conference office and upon recommendation of the Site Selection Team, arranged to lease 12,000 square feet of space in the Meridian Corporate Plaza 2, located at 310 Pennsylvania Parkway, at Interstate 465 and Meridian on the north side of Indianapolis. The former offices have been vacated and former and new staff began occupying the new space in October of 2009. Both former Conference office buildings are vacant and currently listed for sale. Currently, there are 4 former Conference and District parsonages for sale in Bloomington, Marion, Elkhart and Avon. As of annual conference, three additional parsonages will be vacated and will also be for sale in West Lafayette, Huntington and Muncie.

The Conference Trustees are finalizing their review of the potential of a Conference-wide Property and Casualty program for the churches and ministries of the Conference and will be completing the report this spring. An extensive report will be sent in a future Annual Conference mailing.

The Conference Trustees formed a task force to interview and select a legal firm for the Conference and selected the firm of Baker and Daniels in Indianapolis. Mr. John Neighbours will be nominated by the Bishop and offered to the Conference for election as the Bishop's Chancellor.

North Indiana Board of Trustees Report

Properties Sold: At the direction of the 2009 and prior Annual Conferences, the following properties that have been sold, transferred or are pending are Mount Pleasant (Muncie); Wilmore Memorial (Muncie); Roll (Marion); Blaine (Muncie); and Bethel Ridgeville (Muncie).

Trusts under the care of the Board of Trustees and their activity for 2009 (*unaudited).

- *Davis Trust* *Balance (12/31/2009)* **\$574,131***
An unrestricted trust used for the Capital needs of the Conference. During 2008, the Board began to use this fund to pay for the costs of the shutdown and sale of the Oakwood Park property. As of year-end \$366,114 is on loan for this purpose.

- *Pyle Trust* *Balance (12/31/2009)* **\$296,872***
A restricted trust, the proceeds of which are to go to World and National Missions. Each year, the income from the Trust is distributed at the request of the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

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| <i>Holle Trust</i> | <i>Balance (12/31/2009)</i> | <i>\$152,508*</i> |
| An unrestricted trust, the income from which is distributed ½ to the Council on Ministries for program needs and ½ to the Conference Service Center Equipment fund. | | |

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| <i>Legal Defense Fund</i> | <i>Balance (12/31/2009)</i> | <i>\$61,392*</i> |
| A fund for use by Board of Trustees in defense of the Annual Conference. | | |

Epworth Forest Pier Committee. The Trustees contracted with a management firm to handle the assignment of and communications regarding piers at Epworth Forest. During 2009/2010, a discussion with Camp personnel resulted in the Camp staff taking on the responsibility for representing the Conference on the EF Pier Committee and with the Pier management firm.

Oakwood Lawsuit. In March of 2008 the United Methodist Foundation of Adult Christian Ministries at Oakwood determined that they could no longer operate Oakwood Park as an Adult Christian Ministry. As required by the Annual Conference at the time of sale, and the By-laws of the Foundation, the Foundation acted to return the property to the North Indiana Annual Conference. The Board of Trustees, under the direction of the Bishop and Cabinet, received and listed the property for sale and are currently seeking interested buyers. It would be our joint desire that a buyer who would continue the rich tradition of Oakwood could be found. Upon the sale of the property, the Board will return to the Annual Conference with a recommendation on the disposition of the proceeds. The Oakwood Foundation operated the property through Labor Day, 2008, so that commitments to customers can be met. The Annual Conference provided needed financial assistance through reserve funds available to the Board of Trustees. In July of 2008 a lawsuit was filed by a former donor to the Oakwood Foundation challenging the transfer of the property to the Annual Conference. The Conference is currently preparing for trial to defend the matter and is in negotiations with the parties working towards a settlement.

North Conference-wide Property and Liability Insurance Program: In 2005, the North Indiana Conference Corporation approved the Annual Conference becoming a Funding Member/Owner of the United Methodist Property and Casualty Trust (UMPACT). Following on this decision the Conference joined UMPACT on October 1, 2005. In November 2005, Brent Williams was elected to the UMPACT Board of Directors by its members and will serve in that capacity for 3 years. UMPACT is a wholly owned United Methodist Insurance Program and serves the Annual Conferences and Denomination. (See 2005 Annual Report).

At the end of 2009, the balance in the Property Insurance Fund was \$981,427*.

The program is supported by Tony J, Grahn and Mary Sallee of Capitol Insurance Center in Indianapolis. They help local church boards of trustees in understanding the program, handling risk management at their local sites and claim filing and follow-up. Tony or Mary can be reached at 800/305-9856 and can answer all questions regarding invoices, billing, payments, coverage, risk management, new construction, and workers compensation.

As part of the services available through the program all churches in the Indiana Conference have access to reduced costs Background Screenings through Trak-1. You can contact Mary or Tony who can assist your church in getting online with Trak-1 and having access to this service.

