

Several stories in this issue were subject to change as this edition went to press on Sept. 23. Go to <http://www.gbmg-umc.org/canv/> and click on the "Conference news page" link to connect with the HTML version of this edition, which has the latest information, and links to other stories of continuing interest. The interim publication which will succeed the Review is the "UM Circuit" published twice a month, electronically for those of you with e-mail and in print for those without. Subscribe to the e-mail edition at "signmeup@calnevumc.org" and put "Here's my e-mail address" in the subject line.



California-Nevada United Methodist Review

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News BREAKS

Faithful aging event

All Methodists will find the first-ever Conference-wide "Symposium on the Art of Faithful Aging" challenging and rewarding. The Symposium will be held at Central UMC, Stockton Oct. 10-12. Through exceptional speakers, interactive workshops, discussions and creative exercises, participants will explore new ways of thinking about the physical well-being, emotional health, mental stimulation and spiritual growth of the older adults who comprise a substantial part of our congregations. Such a group of speakers who are experts in the field of aging may not be brought together again for a long time. Don't miss this opportunity! For information call Ron Lynch at 209-466-5046.

Hearing cancelled?

As the *Review* went to press Sept. 23, we learned that an involuntary suspension hearing set for a suspended Fresno pastor has apparently been cancelled. Set for Tuesday, Sept. 26 in Monterey, St. Luke's UMC pastor David Wainscott told the Fresno Bee it had been cancelled via a message on his answering machine. See the Saturday, Sept. 23 Bee story on-line for details: <http://www.fresnobee.com/localnews/story/0,1724,197630,00.html>

Selma pastor quits

Selma First UMC's pastor has resigned over issues of "liberalness" within the Conference. Rev. Raymond O'Neil's last sermon was Sunday, Sept. 17, according to the Fresno Bee. O'Neil joined another denomination. Selma UMC listed 315 members at the close of 1999. See the Bee story on-line at <http://www.fresnobee.com/localnews/story/0,1724,197627,00.html>

Santa Rosa opens site two



Santa Rosa First UMC/Joel Major
Youngsters enjoy singing as an adult plays the autoharp during the first worship service at Santa Rosa First UMC's second site. Now held in an elementary school multi-purpose room. The worship is just across the street from property where the second church location will be built.

Worship in elementary school extends downtown church

By Joe Major,
Associate Pastor,
Santa Rosa UMC

With balloons, pizza and ice cream, First UMC Santa Rosa held its' first worship service at a second location on Sunday, September 17. The service capped more than two years of planning by the downtown church, which had searched for a creative way to

expand its' ministry in Sonoma County.

Under the leadership of Senior Pastor Dave Slope, the rapidly growing congregation finalized the purchase of eight acres of property in southwest Santa Rosa last year.

The new worship service occurred just across the street from that property, at a local elementary school. Preaching to approximately 175 people who

filled the multipurpose room, Pastor Joe Major urged those in attendance to find their way back home to God's love and forgiveness. Local pastor Kelley Riggie prayed that Christ's peace and presence would enrich and vitalize the new congregation.

The one hour service fol-

See SITE on Page C4

Review's last issue marks transition

Interim replacement
publication will be
available to more
readers via internet

By Review Staff

After 11 years, four months and a total of more than 296 issues, the California-Nevada Annual Conference edition of the United Methodist *Review* ends with this issue, as the Conference transitions into improved forms of communication.

Beginning sometime in October, an interim "Newscope" style publication will become available as a temporary form of distributing Conference news and information to interested people. Called *Cal-Nevada UM Circuit*, it will be published twice a month, according to Bruce Hilton, who chairs the Conference Com-munication's Committee's print sub-committee. It oversees the *Review*, and development of the interim publication. Regarding the "Newscope" style-publication, Hilton emphasized that "it will be interim."

"Newscope" is a national United Methodist Publishing House publication, much like a digest-style newsletter: Short stories contained on four pages. It is laid out in a simple fashion, then printed on one folded 11" by 17" piece of paper. It is also available online at <http://www.umph.com/resources/publications/newscope/>.

Decisions about the design of the Conference publication, and exact content makeup were being decided at a Conference Communications Committee meeting, Saturday, September 23, as this *Review* issue was on the press in Dallas.

New stewardship resource

Cal-Nevada Conference leaders collaborate on 'Afire with God'

By Review staff

It's just in time—a resource for real stewardship, not merely fund raising. This book not only can lay a foundation for your fall stewardship campaign; it also gives your church leaders a year-round approach to stewardship as a lifestyle in response to the gospel—me, money, abilities, our whole lives

included, according to its' author.

"Afire With God: Spirit-ed Stewardship for a New Century" is the latest book by the Rev. Betsy Schwarzentraub, former pastor and stewardship consultant, and now director of stewardship development for the Cal-Nevada United Methodist Foundation. But the book also reflects the experience of three other leaders known in this

Conference and throughout the UMC: Paul Extrum-Fernandez, the Rev. Mariellen Sawada and Robert Williams.

"Afire With God," due out now from Discipleship Resources, says the church is a community of stewards called to a dynamic, Spirit-

See AFIRE on Page C3

See TRANSITION on Page C3

Small, Alameda UMC succeeding with many works

Editor's note: Because of space limitations, this is a shortened version of Tom Sartwell's submission. Please see our online edition for the full submission.

**By Tom Sartwell, Lay Leader
Court Street UMC, Alameda**

Court Street has had a congregation of around 70 (35 – 40 active) for 50+ years. Our members have been active in the community, but as a congregation we had been so concerned with staying alive that we didn't take risks. We looked at finances before we looked at what ministry needed to be done.

God acted, so we had to. Court Street's less than full-time pastor was being transferred, and the church couldn't afford to pay even less than the transferred pastor was paid.

Our new pastor, Stephen Lee, obtained funding and enrolled three of us in the school for congregational development. We came back Spirit filled and fired up – ready to move! The hardest part—what we will work on for a long, long time—is the internal part. We must change! We are moving from “they have to adapt to our ways” to “what can we do to be more inviting/hospitable”. PRAISE GOD!

Through prayer and “cottage meetings”, Court Street developed a new mission statement and then implemented it.

Already we need to re-examine it so as to “grow” the statement as God grows us.

We have had several new short-term bible studies, one on the other end of our town so that others could attend more easily.

Our youth group is from the community, and has grown from three youths to more than 30. We got some old couches and easy chairs, gave them part of a room, and they have created a wonderful, warm space. We now have 12+ adult youth leaders and facilitators instead of 3, and they all have received training in youth work.

A multicultural “Hip-Hop Youth Choir” with a nearby UMC didn't click, but sparked inquiries about starting a community adult choir. A new choir director and band is also on the agenda.

Court St. was the Alameda sponsor of the year 2000 “Season for Non-violence”. We have worked with the health community to create a “Community Wellness Center” to offer affordable treatment. We have an acupuncturist/acupressurist giving treatment at the church, and have started a “spiritual 12 step series”. Massage therapists will begin treatments in October. chiropractic adjustments, spiritual direction, yoga and tai chi in the near future.

Court St. is working with the Attitudinal Healing Center in Oakland to create a “drumming circle” in Alameda. Drumming is centering, restful, meditative, healing and is an excellent way to non-verbally create community. We need drums.

A “healing racism circle” will begin Monday October 2, and happen the first Monday of each month.

A group of Hindus from a nearby ashram approached us asking to use our kitchen. They want to provide food for a homeless

program operated by the Catholic Church. Food cooked by Hindus in a Methodist church distributed by a Catholic mission to the homeless! Praise God!

Court Street United Methodist Church does not have the money or the volunteers to do what we are doing. We have faith that we are doing God's work. We have faith

that God will provide. God has provided what we feel is a real miracle. We now know that, holding our Brother Jesus hand, we can accomplish the impossible. We also know that if we can help work miracles, you can. Our prayers are with you. Take His hand and start doing. *Full story is at <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/canv/review.htm>*

Communication Coordinator search continues nationwide

Communications Audit to be made available for general examination ‘in most practical ways’

By Review Staff

A search continues for the right person to fill the new Conference Communications Coordinator position.

Responsibilities include establishment of a conference-wide communication plan, public relations, and print and electronic media development.

While the search and hiring is expected to take several more months, the process of adjusting how the Conference sends and receives information is happening right now, according to Bruce Hilton, a long-time Communications Committee member who co-chairs the Communications Audit Task Force.

“The audit task force, which represents both the Conference Staff and the Communications Committee will work with the new Conference Communications Coordinator to examine what other Conferences have done, and talk to professionals in the field of publication and website design. With that expertise and the help of the information in the audit, we'll come up with the best possible printed publication and electronic website to serve the needs of this Conference,” Hilton said.

The audit was conducted from November 1999 through April 2000. The late start and late finish delayed presentation of results until May, which left no time to develop an understandable synopsis for presentation at Annual Conference Session, Hilton said.

“We're working out how to make the results and recommendations available in the most convenient, yet cost-effective way,” Hilton said.

The executive summary runs 48 pages, while the total research data fills several large binders. “We have to find the most practical way for people to access the results, without creating a huge expense,” Hilton said. One option being considered is creating a PDF file of the executive

summary, which can be posted on the Conference website and read with Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free piece of software commonly used for this purpose.

“We welcome the interest in improving communications around the Conference,” Hilton said, noting that the process has been going on for more than four years.

“The Communications Committee is doing its job of applying the suggestions in the audit to the needs of our Conference.”

Hilton is one of a number of people on the committee who have real-world experience in publishing and design. He has lengthy experience in secular and religious newspaper editing and publication.

Hilton also chairs the Communications Committee print sub-committee, which oversees the Review and its successor.

Like any Conference Committee, the sessions are open to anybody who cares to attend,” Hilton said. Meeting dates are noted in the Master Calendar, which is in the Coordinated Mail packet and on line at <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/CANV/calendar.html>.

Comments can be e-mailed to communicationscomments@calnevumc.org, or sent by US Postal Service to “Communications Comments”, California-Nevada Annual Conference, PO Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA, 9595798-0250.

Editor's Note: The application deadline for the Conference Communications Coordinator is Oct. 15. For a job description, see the link at <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/canv/>

For additional information contact the Rev. Charles Johnstone, 19806 Wisteria St, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Call him at (510) 581-3486. Resumes may be faxed to (510) 88-4864 or e-mailed as an Microsoft Word attachment to revchuckj@aol.com

Online Review generates positive rural resonance

Dear Editor,

I took the challenge and logged on to the online UM Review and was pleasantly surprised and delighted to find updated news of our Annual Conference.

Up here in the Mother Lode where the Review was routinely 2 weeks late, I'm feeling a bit more in touch.

If this is a sample of our increased commitment to communication, I say “Thank God! - and keep it up!”

**Rev. Sandra Exelby,
Pastor, Jackson UMC**

Appreciates Conference Review edition on internet

Dear Editor,

I've appreciated being able to access the Review online. Thanks for keeping us informed regarding the many ongoing stories and events in the UMC.

**Pat McCallister
Fort Jones UMC**

Conference's Primary Task

Our Primary Task is to provide and/or nurture listening, learning, teaching Christian spiritual leaders, both residential and itinerant, for each local congregation and for extension ministries.

—Adopted 1999 Annual Conference Session

Continue to send news, comment for new interim publication

News stories, event announcements and other items of interest should continue to flow to the Conference News Office, even though there's a change in publications.

You can still E-mail items to news@calnevumc.org, or mail them to “News Editor”, California-Nevada Annual Conference, PO Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA, 9595798-0250. The phone number remains (916) 374-1529 and the fax number is still (916) 372-5544

AFIRE: Fresh style, context, says former stewardship exec.

(Continued From Page C1)

led stewardship of the gospel. It boldly interprets aspects of our Hebrew tradition, the Trinity and Wesley's means of grace, and gives loads of practical stewardship ideas that work where it counts—in the local church.

The book invites readers to see "Spirit-ed stewardship" as a lifestyle based on the activity of God. It's written to clergy and church leaders (particularly finance, stewardship, nominations, church councils and retreat leaders) and to individuals seeking a wider scope of personal stewardship. With examples for

year-round practical stewardship activities, it gives resources for stewardship training, retreats and study groups.

As to collaboration, the book response team reflects both diversity and depth.

"Mariellen, Bob and Paul offered invaluable input," says Schwarzentraub. "They've been involved in vital ministries all across the country. I wanted lots of ex-

amples in the book from small and large churches in different conferences—rural, city, with ethnic diversity. So as I wrote each section of "Afire", they talked about how it really works, and suggested congregations doing exciting things in

stewardship."

Extrum-Fernandez grew up in the Rio Grande Annual Conference. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and Boston Univ., Extrum-Fernandez has served as a Hispanic ministries intern in California and chairs the Western Jurisdiction Inter-Ethnic Commission. He is one of our two conference directors of connectional ministries, and secures loans and grants for church facilities.

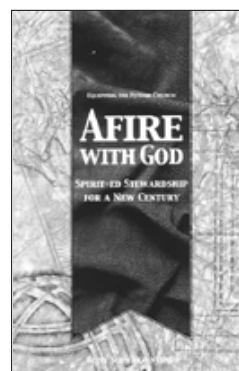
Rev. Sawada serves San Jose Wesley UMC and chairs the U.M. Japanese American Caucus. She grew up in Alabama, served a two-point charge and on a large church staff in the Kansas East Annual Conference. She was a two-year missionary for the denomination.

Author of two United Method-

ist Women youth study books and of UM curricula, she preaches often at national United Methodist youth events.

Williams is Lay Leader of San Francisco-Jones Memorial UMC, where he's been a leader for 34 years. A graduate of Cal Sate University, Hayward, he is president of the Berkeley Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the first Black-college fraternity in the U.S. Raised in Ohio, he has worked with community and street-wise youth in various settings.

"Afire With God" doesn't read like a typical finance book. The Rev. Tom Rieke, a former stewardship executive for the UMC, notes its refreshing style, fresh context, solid research and scrip-



tural grounding.

"Ms. Schwarzentraub knows her subject," says Rev. Mark Vincent, director of The Giving Project. "The book is fluid," he says, "moving from theology to application, to lists of resources with great ease. Her ecumenical range fills her writing and helps stewardship and finance

committees everywhere."

"Afire With God" is available from Discipleship Resources, catalog number DR273 through the Conference Cokesbury store in West Sacramento at (888) 768-0142, or through Discipleship Resources at (800)-685-4370. Ask for "Afire With God: Spirit-ed Stewardship for a New Century," by Betsy Schwarzentraub, ISBN: 0-88177-273-9.

TRANSITION: From Review to new

(Continued From Page C1)

Among other elements, the transitional publication will include news of what affects churches, Conference-wide, and will have—in story form—items, which used to be flyers in the Coordinated Mail. Other content was to be finalized at the Sept. 23 meeting. Look for a follow-up story in the on-line *Review* edition. Go to <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/canv/Review.htm>, and then click on the link to the Sept. 29 issue.

The interim publication will be mailed at no cost to current *Review* subscribers who do not have access to e-mail, according to the Communications Committee. Those who do have computer connectivity can get on the electronic mailing list by sending a message to signmeup@calnevumc.org with the subject, "Here's my e-mail address."

"This is an interim phase," Hilton reiterated, "because we want to make sure that whatever replaces the UMR (*Review*) and the Coordinated Mail is the best possible thing for the job." The first California-Nevada Annual Conference *Review* was published on May 26, 1989 as the Conference transitioned from a weekly edition of the regular newspaper-sized United Methodist Reporter, which began on June 23, 1972, following a sample which carried the pastoral appointments for that year.

The biweekly Conference *Review* edition consists of four tabloid pages wrapped around usually a dozen national and world

news pages edited by UMR Communications, Inc.

UMR Communications is the Dallas-based non-profit corporation, which publishes the *Review* and *Reporter* for United Methodist Conferences and congregations, and papers for several other denominations. It was originally started and owned by the Texas Annual Conference to publish the *Texas Methodist* newspaper.

Hilton co-chairs the Communications Audit Task Force, and is Communications Committee liaison with UMR Communications.

"For years, it's been increasingly obvious that the UMR (*Review*) was not meeting the needs of the Cal-Nevada Conference," Hilton said.

"Cal-Nevada editors handle only the four pages wrapped around the national edition. The majority of the pages are edited in Dallas, Texas, and—despite strenuous efforts by the communications committee—have continued to exhibit a conservative stance," he said.

Until last year, all seven Districts within the Conference edited and published two monthly tabloid pages of news from within their regions, but dropping circulation and rising costs caused three to abandon the publication.

They now send "camera-ready" newsletters to churches, which copy and mail with their local newsletters, or insert in Sunday worship bulletins.

The shift from the *Review* to completely-Conference edited and distributed forms of communication was sparked in part by a

lengthy communications audit, the results of which were laid out for Conference Staff at the end of May. (See sidebar: "Communications Audit to be made available" on Page C-2)

Participants in the audit said most often that they wanted information about successes at California-Nevada Conference churches, which could be used by other congregations in the Conference.

Declining subscriptions were another reason for making the shift. In the early 1990's, more than 7,500 papers were mailed to readers in congregations and homes across the Conference. That has dropped to under 2,500 with this issue.

The *Review* annual subscription cycle expires with this issue, Hilton noted. "We were forced to act quickly because of that," and the delayed Communications Audit. The Communications Committee and Conference financial managers wanted to avoid the confusion of accepting subscriptions for one kind of publication, now, then the complexity of issuing refunds if the publication changed in mid-year.

"The process of replacing the UMR will take six to nine months, during which comments and suggestions from people across the Conference will be most welcome," Hilton said.

Comments can be e-mailed to communicationscomments@calnevumc.org, or sent by US Postal Service to "Communications Comments", California-Nevada Annual Conference, PO Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA, 9595798-0250.

Dine with the Raiders!

Fred Finch Youth Center holds event at Coliseum

Dine with past and present Oakland Raiders, while helping the Fred Finch Youth Center continue its third century of service.

On Tuesday, October 24, 2000, Fred Finch Youth Center will host the Third Annual Ed Block Courage Award Foundation Oakland

Raiders Recognition Dinner, at the East Side Club in Oakland Coliseum. For information on this year's dinner and silent auction please call Vanessa Gregory, Development Associate, at (510) 482-2244, extension 266, or e-mail vannessagregory@fredfinch.org.



Peeks at conference business during the past 100 years.

"While we highly recommend all publications of our Church and pledge ourselves to do our best in their dissemination, we particularly urge that a special effort, in each charge, be made to induce our people to take our local paper, the California Christian Advocate, and that each member of the Conference hold up the hands of the new editor, Dr. F. D. Bovard, by sending items of interest from our special fields of labor, that we may all rejoice together."

Report of the Periodicals Committee to the Forty-Eighth session of the California Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Sept. 12-18, 1900 at Pacific Grove, California.

Calling all young people: Youth event beckons

'Break through... Push the limits with Jesus' is theme for this year's gathering

By Review Staff

"Fix your attention on God," says Romans 12:2. "You'll be changed from the inside out."

That's the message Schyler Rhodes will be presenting in the early fall climate of this year's Conference Youth Event.



Rhodes

The annual gathering Oct. 20 through 22, brings together for spiritual development and fun, kids who are changing into young men and women.

"With our theme, he will be helping us to understand that we can break through to the world, and that we, as youth, can be world changers through the message and spirit of Jesus Christ," organizers say.

"Rhodes has a passion for youth and bringing them to a closer relationship with Jesus," organizers add. He keynoted the 1997 UMC National Youth Ministry Convocation, and has spoken at other Conference youth events.

Rhodes now pastors Temple UMC in San Francisco, after directing the Wesley Foundation United Methodist campus ministry at University of California, Berkeley. He brings a small-town background flavored by

pastoring in churches like Washington St. UMC in New York City.

Listen for cutting edge Christian music in a variety of styles from "Save Soul," the multi-talented Christian band from San Jose-First UMC. With its music, the band wants to attract young people of all cultures.

The event returns to Jenness Park in Cold Springs for a second year. The Christian retreat is on Highway 108 about 26 miles east of Sonoma on the way to Yosemite.

With heated cabins, great food, plenty of outdoor activities (like a climbing wall, high ropes course and the Tuolumne River), it will be up early and to bed at midnight for the youngsters and advisors.

Open to young people in grades 7 through 12, the cost is \$80. Adults who volunteer as cabin leaders may attend for a special rate.

Checks, Visa and MasterCard are accepted for registration payments.

For more information, and a registration form, contact Conference Coordinator of Youth and Camping Ministries Colin Kerr-Carpenter, at (916) 374-1514, or by sending an e-mail to him at colinkc@calnevumc.org.

The event is sponsored by the United Methodist Youth Council of the California-Nevada Annual Conference.



Colin Kerr-Carpenter photo

A group of Conference youth enjoy the early morning among the pines at last year's Conference Youth Event at Jenness Park, Cold Springs. This year's event will be in the same place, Oct. 20-22. San Jose-First UMC's band "Save Soul" will enlighten during a concert Saturday night. Schyler Rhodes will speak.

'Holy Boldness 2000' is here

'Powerful, prophetic, anointed preaching' about God's plan for you, say organizers at Downs UMC in Oakland

By Horace Gipson
Downs UMC, Oakland

Powerful, prophetic, and anointed preaching will come from Rev. Dr. Cynthia R. James and Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., as Downs Memorial United Methodist Church holds its first revival of the fall season.

Set for Monday, Oct. 2 through Thursday, Oct. 5 at 7 p. m., emphasis will be focused on "Personal Renewal To Release Your Potential."

Host pastor Kelvin Sauls says the theme for the four-night evangelism and discipleship celebration is "Maximize the Moment: Pursuing God's Plan and Purpose for your Life" which is drawn from Philippians 1:6.

Rev. Dr. James is a Christian Psychologist who is pastor of Landmark Ministries Church of God in Oakland. She is also the Director of the Churches of God (Anderson, Indiana affiliation).

In her capacity as director, she oversees 50 churches and 150 ministers in the northern California, northern Nevada and Hawaii jurisdiction.

An international preacher, Rev. Dr. James has an intellectually sound yet thoroughly fervent approach to the ministry of the Word. She has preached in Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Johannesburg,

South Africa.

A former Earl Lecturer, for the Graduate Theological Union in nearby Berkeley, Rev. Dr. James' expertise and experience is proof that she is fulfilling God's plan in her life, and can witness that God

has a plan for you in your life. She will preach October 2 and 3. "A blessing is promised," says Sauls.

The Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. is the dynamic Senior Pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, in Oakland. Smith will conclude the *Holy Boldness 2000* revival preaching, October 4 and 5, also beginning at 7 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Smith has been a progressive leader in the Bay Area for many years. He is currently visiting professor at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Smith is known around the world for his ministry in West Africa, Jerusalem, Sweden, Denmark, Mexico, Canada, Switzerland and the Virgin Islands; as well as extensive speaking engagements at churches, universities, and seminaries nationwide.

"He has a wealth of experience

of the ministry and is an outstanding preacher, who will enlighten, inspire and enthuse a congregation," Sauls says.

"Making the most of the moment, pursuing God's plan and purpose for each life will be revealed when Rev. Dr. Smith delivers his interpretation of the text," he emphasizes.

Sauls says Smith's personal theology is a testament of BOLDNESS. "Powerful praise and worship, dynamic teaching and inspirational music from various choirs will fill every night," the host pastor promises.

A reception will follow each service.

For more information call Downs Memorial United Methodist Church at (510) 654-5888, or e-mail Sauls at downs@tdl.com.

The church is easy to reach from anywhere in the Conference, at 61st and Idaho Streets in Oakland, near Powell St. and San Pablo Ave.

From Interstate-80, take the Powell St. exit in Emeryville, and head up Powell. Turn left on San Pablo, go three blocks, turn right on 61st, then two blocks to Idaho.



James



Smith

SITE: Two locations

(Continued From Page C1)

lowed an extensive publicity campaign which included direct mail, newspaper and radio ads targeting unchurched members of the community, with an appeal to "come just as you are." Following the service, 25 teams took videos and welcome gifts to those who attended for the first time.

Unlike other large churches which have attempted to "spin off" new congregations, the Santa Rosa project is an effort to

become a dual campus church. "One Church in Two Locations" has been the slogan widely used by the church planning team. Members have worked for more than two years to put forth the vision of a single United Methodist congregation using its resources to minister from two different sites.

Financial assistance from the annual conference has enabled ministry to children, youth, and adults from each of the two locations, which are approximately 5 miles apart.