

Good
News.
Great
Joy!

Luke 2:10 | Mark 16:15

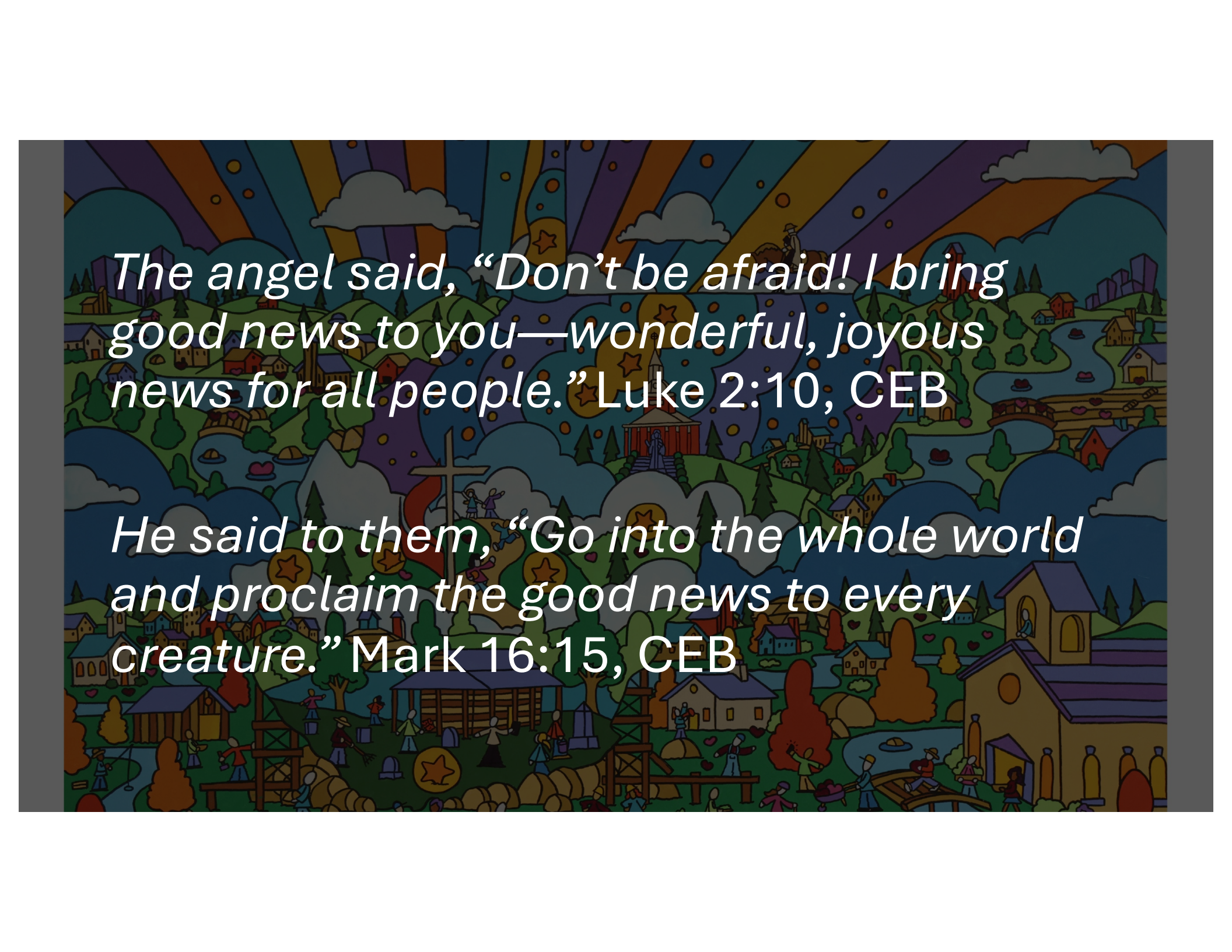
West Virginia Area

The United Methodist Church
2024 Annual Conference



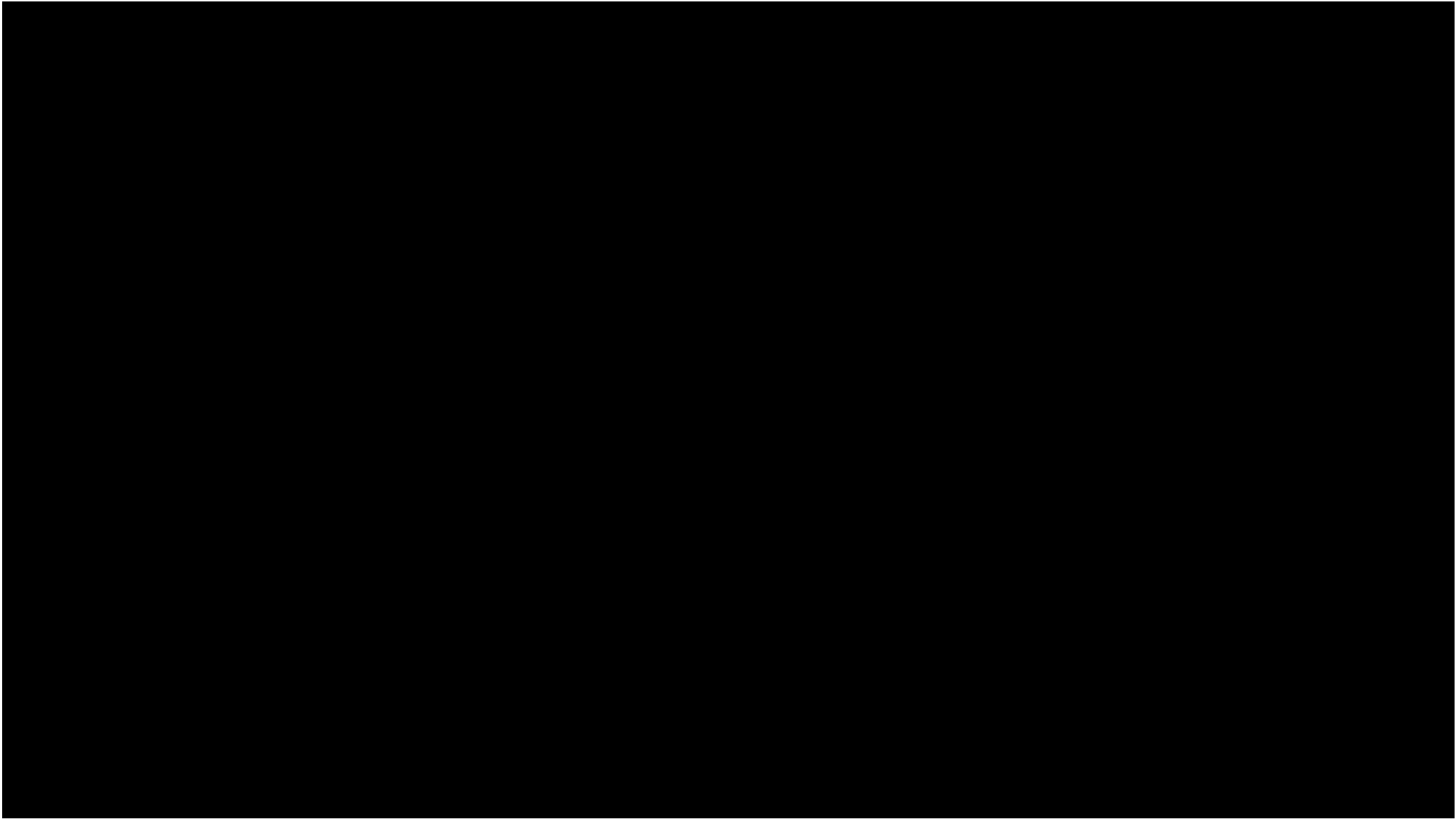
Pre-Conference Briefings

May 13-17, 2024



The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.” Luke 2:10, CEB

He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to every creature.” Mark 16:15, CEB





Our mission:

**Discover, Develop
and Deploy**

Passionate Spiritual Leaders

who make

Disciples *of* Jesus Christ

for the

Transformation of the World



District Ministries Highlights



KEN WILLARD

Director of Congregational Vitality
Co-Director of Connectional
Ministries



2024

- GOAL
- PLAN
- ACTION



Discipleship

Sense of
Connection

New Places ●
New People

THREE
AREAS
OF FOCUS

Sense of Connection

GOAL: In order to strengthen our sense of connection throughout the West Virginia Conference, we will equip and certify 10 Lighthouse Congregations by the end of 2024.





Connection

- The focus in our process is on improving hospitality, first-time guest experience and connections, and accessibility.
- Looking for congregations who will become training centers to share their learnings with other churches.

Discipleship

GOAL: Because the world needs us to be more like Jesus, we will build upon the foundation of prayer to transition 49 current expressions of faith formation in 2024 into the Wesley model of class meetings with a focus on the Bible.





Class Meeting Definition

- Group of 6-12 people
- Focus on Bible study and application & accountability
- Not focused on a curriculum or led by a teacher
- Focused on conversation and discussion

**Information + Application
= Transformation**

new new New Places • New People

GOAL: In response to Jesus' call for us to go where people are, we will equip, resource, and support the launching of 15 New Places • New People (fresh expressions) connected to existing churches/charges in 2024.

PLACES PEOPLE
context • connection • community

New Place • New People Definition

- Began meeting in 2024
- 6-20 people [at least 51% not connected to any church]
- Elements of worship, moving toward intentional discipleship
- Led by laity & connected to an existing church/charge



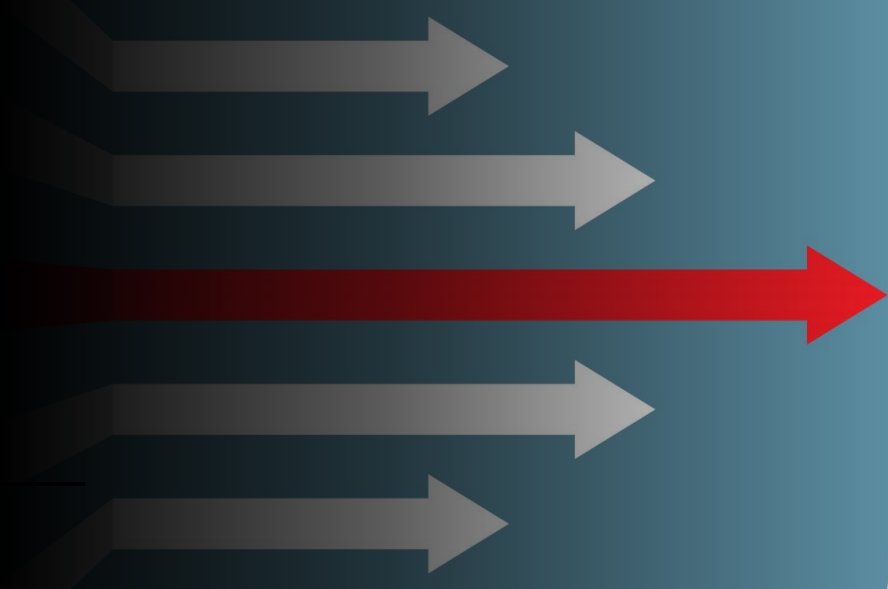
The background of the image shows a blurred library or bookstore with rows of bookshelves. In the foreground, a silver laptop is open on the left, and a stack of four books is on the right. The books have various colored spines: yellow, red, light blue, and white. The overall lighting is warm and soft.

PORTICO

a place to learn and grow

—

Goals In The District



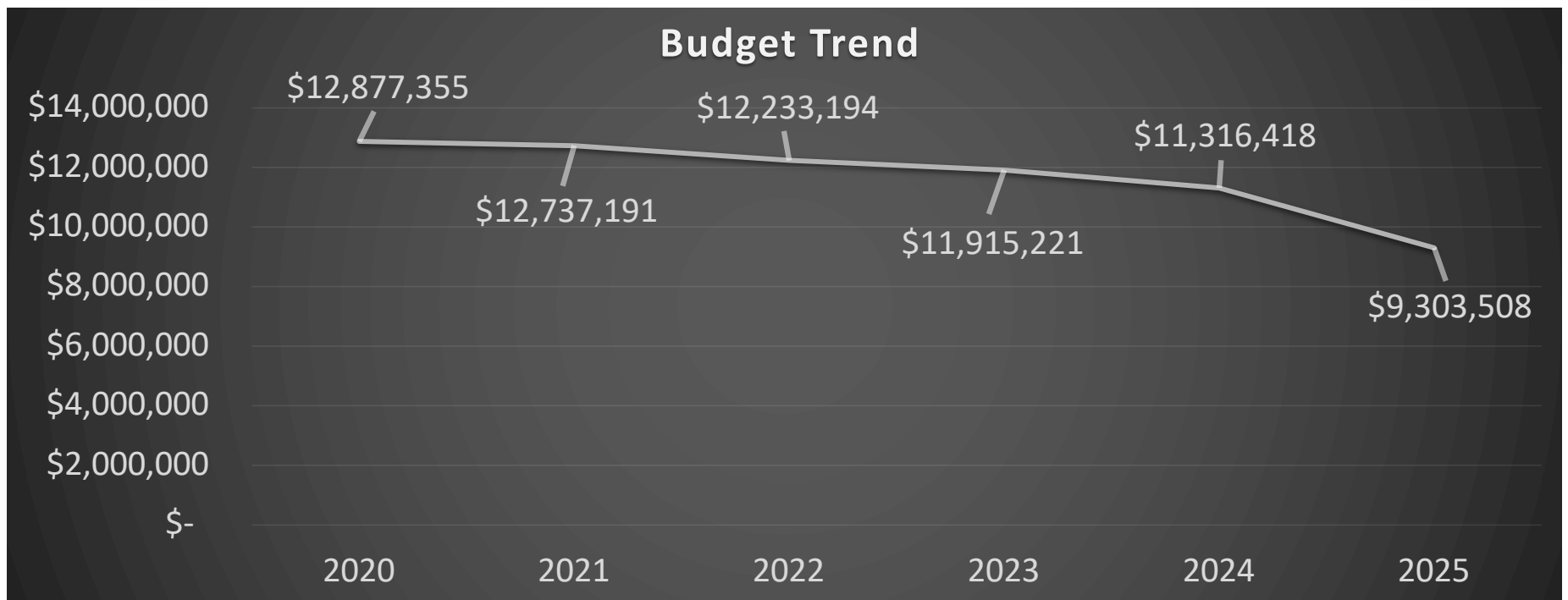


JAMION WOLFORD

Treasurer, Benefit Officer, & Director
of Administrative Services

WVUMC – Conference Budget Trend

Over \$3.5 million or 28% reduction in the Conference budget in 5 years



Highlights of Conference Budget Changes



2025 Recommended Budget \$9.3 million which is a \$2 million reduction from 2024 and less than the 2000 Conference Budget!

Highlights of Conference Budget Changes

Areas of Strategic Change

- **HealthFlex**
 - Continued transition to Church and Participant paying health insurance premiums
 - **\$1.2 million reduction**
 - **10% Wespath premium rate reduction!**
 - 2025 church/employer HealthFlex premium will be \$12,000
 - Transition grants available for 2025 and 2026

Highlights of Conference Budget Changes

Areas of Strategic Change

- **Higher Ed**
 - Conference no longer employing campus pastors
 - \$200,000 reduction
 - The Higher Ed Team will be providing grants to support campus ministries
 - New partnerships and ministries already underway

Highlights of Conference Budget Changes

Areas of Strategic Change

- **Global Ministries**
 - Conference Mission Projects paid based upon fair share collection rate
 - Additional program reductions
 - \$200,000 reduction
- **WV General Church Apportion**
 - \$300,000 reduction

General Church Budget '25 – '28

- Approximately \$347 million over the 4 years
- Nearly a 43% reduction from previous budget
 - Approximately a 22% reduction in the WVUMC's General Church apportionments for 2025
 - WVUMC pays 1.3% of the overall budget



Pensions – Retirement Plans Update

Current Plans

- All programs are well funded
- CRSP benefit accruals will end December 31, 2025




New Plan – Compass

- Will begin January 1, 2026
- Retirees prior to January 1, 2026, will not be impacted
- Similar to a 401k plan
 - Defined contribution plan with personal investment account for each pastor
- Will be billed by the Conference

Grants Process

- Consolidating Information
 - Conference website
- Partnering with the United Methodist Foundation of WV
- Increasing grant opportunities





**REV. DR. BONNIE
MACDONALD**

Director of Leadership Formation
Co-Director of Connectional
Ministries

Welcome!

Bryan Beaty

Director of
Communications



2024 Annual Conference

June 6th -9th

- Agenda
- Helpful Information
- Ministry Reports
- Financial Section
- Resolutions
- Policy Updates

Good
News.
Great
Joy!

Luke 2:10 | Mark 16:15



Annual Conference 2024

CONFERENCE WORKBOOK

wwumc.org



 **West Virginia Conference**
The United Methodist Church



Join in celebrating Bishop Steiner Ball's twelve years of fruitful leadership in the West Virginia Conference.

Saturday, June 8 | 7:30 p.m.

2024 Annual Conference June 6th -9th

Laity Zoom Meetings

- 5/19, 4pm –
Newcomers Intro to A/C
- 6/2, 4pm – Laity
Session



Questions?



WEBINAR
RECORDINGS



WEBSITE
WVUMC.ORG