

THE UNITED METHODIST CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Routine maintenance and operations have been carried out during the year.

Over the five year period ending in January of 2008, churches of the conference contributed more than \$1.4 million to pay for the expansion and renovation of the UM Center. This equals 71.9% of the amount asked. The UM Center Board would like to thank those 627 churches that have paid their asking in full, and encourage the remaining 393 to make their outstanding contributions during this fiscal year.

Due to both the increase in interest rates during this five year period and the unexpectedly slow rate of payment by churches, the conference incurred significantly higher interest cost than anticipated. A balloon payment for the remaining balance of the construction loan will be due to the bank in February of 2009. We ask that even those churches that have paid their asking in full consider making a contribution over and above the original asking amount to help support the mission and ministry enabled and enhanced by the availability of a comfortable and updated Conference Center.

The Board would like to give our thanks and gratitude to the former chairperson of this Board, Clarence Gramling. He served this Board and this Conference well during his tenure, especially during the expansion and renovation of the UM Center.

Respectfully,

Franklin R. Garrett, Chairperson