Resurrection Thought

The resurrection of Christ brings hope. The late Emil Brunner once said, “What oxygen is for the lungs, such is hope for the meaning of human life.” As the human organism is dependent on a supply of oxygen, so humanity is dependent on its supply of hope. Yet today hopelessness and despair are everywhere. Peter, who himself was given to despair during the episode of Calvary, writes in a triumphant note, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again into a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

There is hope that mistakes and sins can be forgiven. There is hope that we can have joy, peace, assurance, and security in the midst of the despair of this age. There is hope that Christ is coming soon—this is what is called in Scripture “the blessed hope.” There is hope that there will come someday a new heaven and a new earth, and that the Kingdom of God will reign and triumph. Our hope is not in our own ability, or in our goodness, or in our physical strength. Our hope is instilled in us by the resurrection of Christ.

Happy Resurrection
To you and your families
From
The PAUMCS Executive Committee
FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

National PAUMCS and PAUMCS Great Plains invite you to Wichita, Kansas
April 14 – 16, 2016
“There’s No Place Like Home”

You can register NOW!

How to register:
Go to the PAUMCS website
www.paumcs.org
Go to the ‘Annual Conference’ tab
Click on ‘There’s No Place Like Home’
Listed below the Ruby Red Slippers, click on ‘Register’
Pay now or pay later, but register today!

Hotel Reservations:
9100 Corporate Hills Drive
Wichita, KS 67207
1-800-228-9290
or Click Here to Reserve your Room
Group name: ‘PAUMCS 2016 Annual Meeting’

See something you’ve never seen before!
Wednesday Pre-Conference Outing: Hutchinson Trip
Kansas Cosmoplace Kansas Underground
Strataca Salt Museum
http://www.cosmo.org http://underkansas.org

Fly into the new
Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport
ICT
Wichita, KS
http://www.flywichita.com

Great Speakers!
Rev. Adam Hamilton and his assistant, Sue Thompson
Bishop Scott J. Jones
Rev. Dee Williamson

There’s no place like home...
President’s Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Gospel,

There are so many things to do for the beautiful season of Lent here at work. I love this time of year when we celebrate the time of crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior! It makes me sad and happy all in one. Jesus died for our sins and was resurrected. He concurred death and we will too. What a beautiful thing. Praise be to God!

Flowers will be blooming soon and the world will look like our Heavenly Father painted it all for us. My prayer is that each one of you have a wonderful Easter Season enjoying church, family and friends.

The Lenten Season will be over before we know it and then it will be time to get ourselves packed and to Wichita, KS for our 34th Annual Conference. What a conference this will be. The Great Plains Chapter of PAUMCS wants us to follow the “Yellow Brick Road” and visit the Emerald City together. Our guest speakers are getting ready to be with us and present their sessions- (Adam Hamilton and his Administrative Assistant, Sue Thompson, Bishop Scott Jones and Rev. Delores “Dee” Williamston). What a conference this will be! If you have not registered yet, it is not too late. Go to our webpage and click on the ruby red slippers. I hope I get to see all of you there.

On another note - your Executive Committee is working diligently alongside GCFA to bring new exciting technology and program opportunities to PAUMCS. More information about these opportunities are in this edition of The Vital Link. Please keep a close eye in your inboxes as well. We will have a presentation on the new webpage at our conference in Wichita. I know you will be very pleased as we bring PAUMCS into the technology world.

I want to leave you with a quote from James M. Barrie, a Scottish writer: “Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.” This is what I remember most about our Annual Conferences, the smiles, the hugs, the laughter and the helping one another. You are truly a magnificent group of workers in the Kingdom of God. I am so proud to be a part of this adventure with each of you.

May God bless each of you,
Tish Schultheiss
Resignation Notice of Tina Whitaker

On March 2, 2016, Barbara Buck, Nominations Chair, received a letter from Tina Whitaker acknowledging her need to resign as Secretary from PAUMCS effective immediately. The Executive committee, with sadness, accepted her resignation due to personal issues.

We thank Tina for her years of service and wish her well in her future endeavors.

The Nominations Committee, along with the approval of the Executive committee, contacted Gail Douglas Boykin to serve as Interim Secretary and Lori Sluder to serve as Interim Communications Chair.

We are pleased to announce that both have accepted the positions.

Your PAUMCS Nominations Committee has been diligently working on the nominations for the 2016-2017 leadership. We hope to have a full slate to present during our business meeting in April. I would encourage all members to consider offering their gifts to the organization through serving on a committee. What keeps us from stepping out in faith and serving? Fear, insecurity, reluctance? If fear is holding you back check out what Psalm 27:1 says," The Lord is my light and salvation-whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid?" Perhaps you are insecure about what you have to offer. Philippians 4:6-9 has helped me on a number of occasions. If you are reluctant to serve, for whatever reason, let the gospel remind you, " Let every man, as he hath purposed in heart , give, not with reluctance, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."- 2 Corinthians 9:7

We ALL have something to offer and talents to be used to further the Kingdom of Christ. Those talents are needed in PAUMCS leadership roles. Please reach out to me or any of the nominations committee members, letting us know that you WANT to serve!

His faithful and loving servant,
Barbara Buck
Proposed Slate of Officers for 2016-2017 PAUMCS

The Committee on Nominations, in accordance with the By-Laws, is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for presentation during the business meeting at the Annual Conference of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries in Wichita.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>E.C. Current</th>
<th>E.C. Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>*Tish Schultheiss</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>*Dianne Beam</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>*Gail Douglas-Boykin</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>**Rhonda Ramsey</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Secretary</td>
<td>*Chris Grosson</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Committee Chair</td>
<td>*Josie Hickom</td>
<td>GA</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS Committee Chair</td>
<td>*Mary Schramm</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Chair</td>
<td>*Barbara Buck</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Chair</td>
<td>*Lori Sluder</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>(0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Class of 2017 ~ *Josie Hickom ~ GA ~ *Evi Melberg ~ MD
Class of 2018 ~ *Nancy Gardner ~ TN ~ Lesley Baskette ~ GA
Class of 2019 ~ *Lisa Gleason ~ OH ~ OPEN

**PTS COMMITTEE**

Class of 2017 ~ **Bev Amperse ~ AZ ~ *Judy Gross ~ LA
Class of 2018 ~ *Debra Blackburn ~ IA ~ *Mary Schramm ~ MD
Class of 2019 ~ *Amy Johnson ~ NC ~ *Brenda Lockhart ~ TN

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Class of 2017 ~ *Lori Sluder ~ TN ~ *Casey Smith ~ OH
Class of 2018 ~ *Gwen Ceretto ~ CO ~ Angela Dean ~ NC
Class of 2019 ~ *Stacye McCain ~ TX ~ Jennifer Kinne ~ VA

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Class of 2017 ~ *Lynn Campbell ~ FL ~ *Tonia Bennet ~ MD
Class of 2018 ~ *Barbara Buck ~ MO ~ **OPEN**
Class of 2019 ~ **OPEN**

**Nominated from floor at business meeting**

*Certified Members
**Advanced Certified Members

Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of years the person has served in this office and total number of years served on the executive committee.

Names in bold and italics indicate new members on the slate for this year.
Dear PAUMCS Friends,

Welcome to Kansas...

Great Plains PAUMCS is delighted to be hosting our National PAUMCS Conference this year. There has been so much praying, planning and prepping going on over the last two years and we are thrilled it is finally here! We have outstanding speakers lined up for you and trust you will learn and grow. We hope that you will be able to return to your work settings ready to tell your pastors, SPRC chairs and others all that you have gained from this conference.

We love Kansas! We are pleased that you are our guests. If you need anything or have questions, just ask a Great Plains PAUMCS member. We can be identified by the red aprons we are wearing. Thank you for joining us in There is No Place Like Home - Working Together for an Eternal Purpose.

2017 PAUMCS National Conference

Come to Chicago...

We are so excited to be hosting the next PAUMCS Conference. Our theme of “Feel the Spirit in the Windy City” is based on Diversity in Ministry. We have a great line up of speakers for you and some surprises along the way... Look for our next announcement!
Calling All Chapters!!!

We are looking for Chapters to host our 2018 and 2019 Annual Conferences. We will be in Chicago in 2017. Where will 2018 be? North? South? East? West? We look forward to seeing what is in store. If you are interested in hosting, talk with your Chapter and send us a letter. Have you hosted before? Think about doing it again. If your Chapter has not hosted, we would love to come to your area!!

News from Membership Secretary

We have just finished up our membership renewal season and the first attempt at online membership! Thank you to all who took the time to comment and critique. We will continue to accept membership renewals at any time, however, certified members should remember that remaining a member in good standing is one of the requirements of remaining certified – please do not let your membership lapse! We are currently in the testing phase of the new data website; your comments have been valuable as we tweak the site. We expect to launch the website this spring. With this website, you will be able to:

- Pay your membership fees online
- View your membership status
- Track your CEU status
- Update your personal data instantly

I am so excited and looking forward to this new tool. Thanks be to God! I would also like to welcome and give thanksgivings for our two newest local chapters, Baltimore-Washington (President Tonia Bennett, tbennett@bwcumc.org) and Middle Tennessee (President Robin Stanfield, robin.stanfield@tnumc.com). If you are in or near these areas and have not yet become involved, please contact the presidents. I have my ruby red slippers and I look forward to meeting you in Wichita and putting faces to all these names!

May the peace that only He can give be with every one of you! ~Chris
**A Message from Your PTS Chair**

Mary Schramm

The PTS Committee promotes and awards Scholarships to Annual Conferences from the Leslie Bayles Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Please remember that you do not have to be a National Member to apply for a Scholarship, but National Members will be given preference. Others may apply, but have to wait for notification until National Members are completed. Individuals and Chapters can make donations to the Leslie Bayles Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor and/or memory of coworkers, friends, and loved ones. An offering is also taken at our Annual Conference that is designated for this Scholarship Fund. Monies contributed to this fund enable us to help more people to attend our Annual Conferences. From 2009-2015 a total of 69 individuals have received assistance to help offset the costs of attending the Conference. Church Budgets, District Budgets and Conference Budgets have been cut so your contributions are crucial! I look forward to seeing all of you in Wichita in April 2016.

Please know that you can always contact me at mcmarbear@comcast.net

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**A Message from Your Financial Secretary**

Josie Hickom

I am so excited to be joining everyone in Wichita for the National Conference. I hope you are registered because this is going to be a great Conference. I also am excited to share with you some information pertaining to the Promotional Items. You will soon have the opportunity to order your favorite promotional items online. We are working on having a page on our new website where you will be able to order your favorite item or multiple items at your convenience. This will give us the ability to offer more items at reasonable prices. It will also help us to be better stewards of your money. We will let you know when it is up and running.

Because of this new opportunity, Wichita will be the last time that we offer our items at the Conference. So be sure to come by the promotional room and shop. We have denim shirts, socks, bottle holders, chargers, and many other items for sale. Also if you have a display table at your Annual Conference, come by and see me. We may be able to provide you with some samples for your table. If you have any suggestions or questions for the Finance Committee, do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

Josie Hickom
## Fund Balances (12/31/15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$108,120.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>$4,468.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotional Items Fund</td>
<td>($3,205.38)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Conference Fund</td>
<td>$23,380.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>$55,230.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>$187,994.10</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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## Account Balances (12/31/15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAUMCS Savings @ GCFA</td>
<td>$19,935.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Checking Account</td>
<td>$30,046.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Money Market Account</td>
<td>$82,736.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Savings Account</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund @ GCFA</td>
<td>$55,230.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Account Balances</strong></td>
<td><strong>$187,994.10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Gifts received for the Leslie Bayles Memorial Scholarship Fund:* $50 given in memory of Richard Coffelt and Gene Ball and $500 given by the Georgia Chapter.
Dear PAUMCS Members:

I bring you greetings on behalf of the staff at GCFA. Many GCFA staff members have been working with the "PAUMCS Website" team to finish the development of the new membership website. It will be finished in time for the PAUMCS Annual Conference when we will show you the easy to use functions that will enable to keep your contact information updated, make membership payments, and view your CEU history quickly. Thank you to the team for their dedication to creating this site for our members.

I am also very pleased to announce that I have received many inquiries on the online certification course. The price for the course is $300 and registration will begin in April. We are developing a plan to include Central Conference administrators to this online certification course in order to expand PAUMCS beyond the US truly becoming as global as The United Methodist Church. More information will be available at the Wichita Annual Conference.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Wichita!

Sincerely,
Natalie Schuette
PAUMCS Mission Statement
The mission of The Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of members in order to provide individual growth, professional development, continuing education, and spiritual enrichment.

TISH SCHULTHEISS | President
P: 336-812-4808
tschultheiss@wesleymemorial.org

DIANNE BEAM | Vice President
P: 704-996-1744
diannebeam@roadrunner.com

GAIL DOUGLAS-BOYKIN | Interim Secretary
P: 917-692-0919
gboykin903@yahoo.com

RHONDA RAMSEY | Treasurer
P: 269-685-5113  ~  F: 269-685-0602
rhonda.ramsey567@gmail.com

JOSIE HICKOM | Finance Chair
P: 706-291-6113
rocangc@bellsouth.net

LORI SLUDER | Interim Communications
lori@holston.org

CHRIS GROSSON | Membership
P: 615-776-2815
numc@nolensvilleumc.org

BARBARA BUCK | Nominations
P: 660-665-8497
mtdo8497@gmail.com

MARY SCHRAMM | Professional Training & Standards
P & F: 410-256-6479
mcmarbear@comcast.net

NATALIE SCHUETTE | GCFA Liaison
P: 615-369-2320  ~  F: 615.329.3394
nschuette@gcfa.org

CONNIE CHRISTOPHER | 2016 Site Chair
Conniechristopher72@gmail.com

BETSY LOVELADY-SMITH | 2017 Site Chair
bsmith@UMCNIC.org

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