

To: Mark Calhoun, Yellowstone Annual Conference Secretary

From: Marvin Lansverk, BHECM Chair

RE: BHECM's Annual Report

Date: June 11, 2017

Four campuses in our conference have United Methodist-related campus ministries. Valuing diversity in many ways, each of these ministries uses different organizational models: MSU-Billings has long had a "pastoral model," within an ecumenical ministry (United Campus Ministries), with seven participating denominations and Pastor Rob Kirby as clergy staff. Bozeman's College and Young Adult Ministries, CYAM, moved to a "modified parish based" model a number of years ago, with Bozeman United Methodist Church as the sponsoring local congregation, and paid lay staff (Ann Dickensheets, director), with many activities carried out in the Christus Collegium, the old Wesley House but with significant interaction and support from BUMC. Missoula has made use of a "Wesley House Model," though this past year has been experimenting with a new model: with Todd Scranton, pastor at Missoula Grace UMC also assigned part time to the campus ministry duties. And the campus ministry at Rocky Mountain College has a pastoral model, with Kim Woeste as Chaplain.

Instead of being fully funded ministries and programs, as was true "in the not-so-old days," the ministries at MSU Bozeman, MSU Billings, and UM Missoula now receive "seed money" through YAC budget via BHECM (all four ministries also receive money through the Per Member Asking, each year), and then magnifies/ multiplies/grows these funds through fundraising and other partnerships, to allow them to engage their campus communities.

And engaging students and their communities they do. The notion that college campuses are "ministry deserts" is simply not true for the YAC.

A few highlights of this past year are as follows:

At MSU-Billings, Pastor Rob Kirby started leading the United Campus Ministries there in August, 2013. They have a vital and active presence on campus averaging over 40 participants a week, sponsoring many campus and community activities including ski trips, retreats, Dialogues Across Difference series, hiking the Rims together, bible studies, recording Another Voice TV show, spring break mission trip, hosting various speakers, and so much more. They also host fundraisers for various ministry programs, including their 50th Anniversary Dinner with Bishop Oliveto this fall. Pastor Rob will be leaving for Oregon State University this fall but the search committee is well on their way to finding an interim or permanent replacement.

At MSU in Bozeman, the ministry sponsors Tuesday Nights Together (TNT), a weekly gathering with dinner and an evening program, averaging 20 students per week this past year. Dinner is provided by members of Bozeman United Methodist Church, programming is led by Janna and Bobby Lauver, with a student music team. Additional activities this year have included a student led weekly bible study, pizza and bowling, a Seder meal, fall and winter retreats. They are also active in mission and service, volunteering monthly at the Community Café, walking in the suicide awareness march, sorting clothes for a clothing give-away, and teaching Sunday school and helping with youth group at Bozeman United Methodist Church. Six of the students spent their spring break serving at various organizations in Phoenix. Many of the students also volunteer at CONVO and at Luccock and Flathead camps and several attended the NEXT Conference (to encourage students to explore careers in the ministry) in Atlanta.

At UM in Missoula, Pastor Todd Scranton reports that they continued our Thursday night meals, offering worship, Bible Study and Communion in some combination each night. They hold game and movie night meals on Sunday evenings. Wesley Students tabled on campus and visited area churches. The ministry sent students to the NEXT ministry conference in Atlanta, as well, and participated in a dialogue on race relations in the spring in cooperation with other campus area churches and ministries. There is a new core group of students in residence for the next fall, and the ministry is in the process of seeking a more permanent ministry presence by creating a full-time position in cooperation with Stevensville United Methodist Church.

And finally, **At Rocky Mountain College in Billings**, putting faith into action is a main focus for Spiritual Life programming. Every week students make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for The HUB, an agency in Billings that assists persons facing mental health and homelessness issues. This project is part of a larger effort to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness, and is just one example of the many ways students are invited to put faith into action and to make a difference in Billings, and beyond. Students also meet weekly to discuss and plan volunteer activities. They stay busy helping with Special Olympics and Family Promise. They support efforts at Rose Park Elementary, RMC's Partner in Education school. They "Lunch and Learn" with agency representatives. They've begun renovating the outdoor chapel. They've even travelled to Salt Lake City in 2016 and 2017 to engage in service with the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the Salt Lake Valley Habitat for Humanity. On Thursdays, students meet in the chapel for activities that include Bible Study and dialogue, crafts and games. Several times a semester, students gather for special worship services and church visits. Spiritual life programming focuses on helping students ask big questions, care about others, find wellbeing, make a difference, embrace diversity, learn and grown spiritually. And thanks to the support we receive from the Yellowstone Conference, you are a part of this programming. When you give to the Per Member Asking, a portion of your gift helps fund these opportunities! When you give the Per Member Asking, you are impacting students at all of our college ministries!

Finally, plans are now gearing up for a re-introductory Wheatley Lecture series, an event supported by an endowment established in honor of Bishop Wheatley in order to perpetuate his

contributions and ideals. The theme for the event is “Creating Community in Fracturing Times” and will feature the Rev. Dr. Gary Mason, Director of Rethinking Conflict, a non-profit in Northern Ireland focusing on peace building and conflict transformation. Bishop Karen Oliveto of the Mountain Sky Area of the United Methodist Church and Uri Barnea, rabbi from Billings, will also participate. More details will be forthcoming, but save the date for March 8-9, 2018 at Rocky Mountain College! This event will be open to the public.

Be sure to check out the individual ministries’ Facebook and web pages for more details and consider additional ways you can support them, as we work through our connectional system on our college campus and our communities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.