

TO KNOW
Christ
& MAKE **HIM** KNOWN



Lake Union
Quinquennial
Session
REPORTS

Lake Union HERALD

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Transformed into the Likeness of Christ

On May 31, representatives from across the Lake Union will gather at Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, for the 24th Quinquennial Constituency Session. This gathering brings together delegates from our conferences and local churches for a sacred responsibility. During this session, delegates will receive ministry reports, reflect on the work God has accomplished during the past five years, and prayerfully seek His guidance for the future of His church in this territory.

Each conference has prayerfully selected and submitted its delegates to the union office. If you have been called to serve in this role, please know how grateful we are for your willingness to participate in this important moment in the life of the church. Our prayer is that the Lord will grant every delegate wisdom, discernment and a spirit of unity as we gather next month.

The theme of this session is “To Know Him and Make Him Known.” These words express the heart of Christian life and mission. The apostle Paul expressed this longing when he wrote, “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection” (Philippians 3:10). To know Christ is more than understanding His teachings. It is to experience His grace personally and to walk daily in fellowship with Him.

This spiritual journey begins in the quiet moments of devotion. As we open the Scriptures, spend time in prayer, and seek to follow Christ in daily life, the Holy Spirit shapes our hearts and renews our minds. Through that relationship, Christ transforms our lives and enables us to reflect His character to the world around us.

Ellen G. White beautifully expressed this truth when she wrote, “It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness.” Steps to Christ, page 70, 1892.

As Christ becomes the center of our lives, His influence naturally extends outward. Our churches become places of hope. Our schools nurture young people in faith. Our ministries become instruments through which God touches lives and draws people to Himself.

For this reason, we invite every member across the Lake Union to join us in prayer for the upcoming session. Pray that the Spirit of Christ will guide every conversation, every report and every decision. Pray for humility, wisdom, and a deep sense of unity as delegates seek the Lord’s will together.

Within this edition of the Lake Union Herald, you will find reports from the many ministries that serve throughout our territory. The Lake Union is richly blessed. Our field includes five conferences, eight academies, 73 elementary schools, junior academies, and early childhood centers, Andrews University, AdventHealth hospitals in Chicagoland, and numerous supporting ministries. Above all, it includes thousands of faithful members who continue to serve Christ in their communities.

These reports tell part of the story of what God has accomplished during the past five years. Yet they also remind us that the work of God continues. The Lord who has guided His church thus far is still leading His people forward.

As we approach this important moment in the life of the Lake Union, each of us might pause and reflect personally. How is Christ inviting you to know Him more deeply? In what ways might your life help someone else discover the hope of His love and the promise of His soon return?

When we truly know Christ, sharing Him with others becomes the natural expression of a transformed life.

Elden Ramirez

President of the Lake Union Conference

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PRESIDENT

A More Perfect Union

The past several years have not merely marked the passage of time in organizational life. They have been years in which the Lake Union has walked with a faithful God. In seasons of challenge and in seasons of blessing, He has guided His church and sustained His work throughout our territory.

As we conclude this term and look toward a new quinquennium, our focus is both simple and sacred: **To Know Christ and to Make Him Known.**

This conviction is rooted deeply in Scripture. The apostle Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 2:2, “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” Later, in Philippians 3:10, he expressed the longing of his heart: “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

These passages capture the essence of Christian life and mission. To know Christ is more than possessing knowledge about Him. It is to experience His love, mercy and grace; to reflect His character; and to live in the transforming power of His Spirit. To make Him known is more than speaking His name. It is to reveal His love through faithful witness and daily life. A church may be active and filled with worthy initiatives, yet still drift from its center. When Christ truly remains central, every ministry, every decision, and every priority finds its proper place.

Ellen G. White articulated this eternal focus with clarity: “The science of salvation is the science of all sciences ... the science that will be the study of the redeemed throughout endless ages.” *The Desire of Ages*, page 107, 1898.

Everything the Lake Union undertakes flows from this divine calling. Evangelism, education, health care, administration and pastoral

ministry are unified expressions of one sacred mission: leading men and women into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

During this reporting period, God has moved in powerful and unifying ways across Illinois, Indiana, Lake Region, Michigan and Wisconsin. Through the Pentecost 2025 initiative, our churches and schools joined a North America-wide movement of prayer, proclamation and Spirit-led outreach. Congregations and schools lifted up Christ with renewed conviction, inviting their communities to repentance, hope and new life in Him.

Mission has also been strengthened through intentional stewardship. The Lake Union allocated \$6,166,092, for the years 2021–2025, in evangelism funding distributed among its five conferences to support frontline gospel outreach. An additional total of \$133,500 was designated for youth evangelism initiatives in 2022 and 2024, ensuring sustained engagement of young people in evangelism and community outreach. Significant resources were also invested in organizing and equipping participants for the Youth Evangelism Congress, training youth and young adults for evangelistic leadership. These investments reflect a deliberate commitment to preparing the next generation to carry forward the mission of the church.

In support of Christian education, \$5,652,900 in educational appropriation was returned to the conferences between 2021 and 2025. These funds strengthened our schools and supported the spiritual formation of students who represent both the present and



Elden Ramirez
president



Sherrie Davis
administrative assistant

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the future of the church within the Lake Union territory. Beyond financial stewardship, the Union committed one million dollars in scholarships to Andrews University to support undergraduate theology and education programs. This investment seeks to prepare pastors, teachers and leaders who will serve faithfully in our churches and institutions for years to come.

Throughout these years, our schools have continued forming minds and hearts. Our churches have remained centers of worship. Pastors and lay leaders have served faithfully. Quietly and steadily, the Holy Spirit has drawn people to Jesus. Looking ahead, much work remains, and many opportunities for revival and growth lie before us. Yet the calling remains clear. The greatest danger facing any church is not opposition from the world, but distraction from Christ. Programs may expand. Structures may grow. But when Christ is not central, the church loses its power.

The Lake Union therefore recommits itself to knowing Christ more deeply through prayer, Scripture and spiritual renewal. At the same time, we recommit to making Him known through evangelism, education, health ministry and compassionate service. The Lake Union exists not for itself, but so that the people of this territory may know that there is a Savior who loves them, forgives them, heals them, and is coming again.

The same Jesus who has guided His church through these years will continue to lead in the years ahead. With gratitude for His faithfulness and confidence in His promises, we move forward determined to know Christ and to make Him known until He comes.

Elden Ramirez is president of the Lake Union Conference.



The Power of Mentorship and Measurement

If you've had a mentor in your life, you understand what a profound blessing that relationship can be. My first mentors were my parents. I can still feel their love and encouragement even though they both sleep in Jesus, awaiting the Second Coming. Their voices and words regularly resound in my mind.



Ted Huskins
executive secretary



Sherrie Davis
administrative assistant

Recently, while renovating the home we bought when we accepted the call to serve the Lake Union, I had my skillsaw ready to cut a board when my dad's words spoke to me as if he were standing beside me: "If you measure twice, you only have to cut once." I pulled out my tape measure and straight edge and measured the board twice, carefully considering the length I needed. "Measure twice, cut once" — a good rule of thumb for any carpenter.

What We Measure Matters

In business, common measurements include Profit and Loss, Working Capital, and EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization). In the church, we often measure success by donated dollars and membership growth. In Secretariat, we focus on membership, baptisms and church attendance.

How do you measure success in your personal or professional life?

Mathematician Richard Hamming said, "You get what you measure."

In Mark 4:24, Jesus — who wants to mentor each of us — said, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure, it will be measured to you."

This raises an obvious question: Are we measuring the right things?

The Value of Quantitative Data

Quantitative measures are primarily numerical. They fit on spreadsheets and graphs, giving us a way to chart progress at a glance. These measurements are valuable. If you're an investor, you can quickly see which instrument offers the highest rate of return or how well your stock portfolio is performing. If you're a leader in your local church and haven't had a baptism in five years while attendance numbers decline, those quantitative measures are important indicators that something is amiss. Conversely, if you're averaging 20 baptisms per year and your attendance has doubled in five years, that indicates God is blessing your efforts.

As a church, we will continue measuring attendance, baptisms and membership statistics for two reasons:

- 1. As an indicator** of how successful we are relative to our mission — and as a warning when we face challenges we might be tempted to deny.

EACH STATISTIC
REPRESENTS
A SOUL. EACH
MEASUREMENT
TELLS A
STORY. LET
US MEASURE
WISELY.

2. As a tool God values — the fourth book of the Bible is Numbers, named because God directed Moses to take a census of the Children of Israel. Numbers 1:1-2 says, “The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, saying, ‘Take a census of all the congregation of the sons of Israel by their families, by their fathers’ households, according to the number of names ...’”

10-Year Trends (2015–2025)

Looking at the past decade, we observe a trend of steady growth in the Lake Union. We have experienced 19,115 baptisms and professions of faith as God's Spirit has moved on hearts and we have faithfully shared truth. During this period, our membership has increased from 86,652 at the end of 2015 to 91,926 members at the end of 2025.

However, our net gain during these 10 years has only been 5,274 members. Several factors contribute to this lower net gain:

- 7,187 members have died
- 2,555 members have been removed due to apostasy
- 2,498 members have been removed and marked missing
- 8,673 members transferred out of our union, while 8,013 transferred in—resulting in a net loss of 660 members due to transfers

These combined factors prompt each of us to faithfully continue spreading the Three Angels’ Messages (Revelation 14:6–12) to those unaware of or uncommitted to the Eternal Gospel and present truth.

Notably, some years have seen over 1% net gain in church growth, but the annual average percentage gain over the past 10 years is 0.75%.

The Critical Importance of Qualitative Data

As a church, we must acknowledge that if we only look at quantitative measurements, we will miss perhaps the most important information — the truth about us that can only be gleaned qualitatively.

Qualitative data is observational. A loving, redemptive look at our own spiritual journeys, the journeys of members who attend our churches in the Lake Union, and how we are perceived by our communities can tell us so much more. Qualitative data reveals the kind of churches and people we are becoming.

We must continually ask ourselves:

- Are we exemplifying the Fruit of the Spirit — “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23)?
- Are we becoming more like Jesus or less like Jesus (Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 John 3:2)?
- Are we a blessing to those around us or a burden to them (Acts 3:25–26)?
- What kind of believers is our church producing — those who are nominal in faith or deeply devoted disciples?

A Holistic Vision

Though the office of Secretariat is responsible for monitoring and reporting quantitative measurements, if we do that without a heart for people and an understanding that each number represents a person for whom Jesus died, we will miss out on the most important data.

May God grant us His vision and focus that we might measure and evaluate holistically and honestly. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:22, “I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some.”

Each statistic represents a soul. Each measurement tells a story. Let us measure wisely.

Ted Huskins is executive secretary for the Lake Union Conference.





TREASURY

Funding the Mission

This quinquennium report of the Lake Union Conference is being written from financial data that is managed by a highly professional and spiritual treasury staff who are mission-focused and ministry-driven. We know and firmly embrace the reality that this session brings us closer to the second return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our department is empowered by the Scripture text engraved on the treasury department wall. The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live here. (Psalm 24:1 Clear Word).



Glynn Scott
treasurer



Richard Moore
associate treasurer

Our treasury team includes four individuals who are committed to the mission and ministry that happens across our Union: Richard Moore, Janna Quetz and Vicki Thompson. Jermaine Jackson was also a member of our treasury team for four and a half of the five years being reported; he accepted a call to serve outside of our Union effective January 2026, and we are grateful for his faithful service during his time at the Lake Union. As a team we have the honor of daily managing the resources entrusted to us for the advancing of God's Kingdom.

Over this past quinquennium we have had two interns as part of our treasury team. They have been a direct blessing to our field. Our internship program allows us to send individuals to work directly with local conferences to obtain hands-on experience in church operations and non-profit accounting.

This report is one of three presentations that will be used to communicate to you as a constituent, the financial performance over the past quinquennium. This report will be the least complex and technical of the three presentations. My goal for this report is simply to share some key high points of our financial performance. On May 31, a PowerPoint presentation will be shared with Lake Union Conference session delegates to cover greater technical aspects of

our financial performance. Additionally, a full General Conference audited report will be provided to delegates, with the highest level of detail in a technical accounting format for this past quinquennium.

OPERATING FUND

The financial highlights in this Herald report cover the years 2021 to 2024. Due to the January 2026 Herald deadline for this written report, the financial performance for 2025, which is not finalized until February 2026, will be shared at our May 2026 constituency session.

The first financial highlight I would like to share is total tithe received (see graph A). Total tithe received at the beginning of the quinquennium 2021 was \$86,465,281 versus \$91,604,437 at the end of 2024. This represents an increase of \$5,139,156 or 5.9% over the four-year period. The decrease in tithe for 2024 is primarily due to a special tithe of \$2.6 million received in 2023.

Total income and expenses for the four years are captured on graphs B & C. Total income and expenses include appropriations from the North American Division (NAD) for programs that directly/indirectly support our five local conferences. Total income fluctuations year-over-year are directly attributable to tithe income, auditing cost subsidy from NAD, investment earnings and Herald



Vicki Thompson
associate director of
human resources/
assistant treasurer



Janna Quetz
administrative assistant

advertising. The increase compared to prior years in total income and expenses for 2024 is due to a change in accounting software and how financial activity is reported.

Our net worth (graph D) has grown over the four years reported. Our net worth for 2021 was \$10,643,073 and for 2024 was \$13,376,876. This represents an increase of 25.6%. Our growth is directly related to conservative budgeting and careful management of expenses.

We experienced operating gains (graph E) over the four years reported. This financial performance is directly related to tithe gains and departments that elected to carry forward fund balances for future ministry initiatives.

Our working capital (graph F) has been strong over the four years reported. NAD policy requires entities to have a minimum of six months of expenses as working capital (Assets minus Current Liabilities minus Current Assets Held for Donor Restrictions). Our target is to have nine months of working capital to assist our conferences should a major financial need take place and we are requested to give support.

In summary, as a treasury department we are inspired and challenged as we have experienced God's blessings upon our Union over this past quinquennium. Scripture states: "Yours, O Lord is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; ..." (1 Chronicles 29:11 NKJV) May we all commit to be faithful stewards as we wait for the 2nd return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "Even so, come Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20 NKJV)

ASSOCIATION/REVOLVING FUND

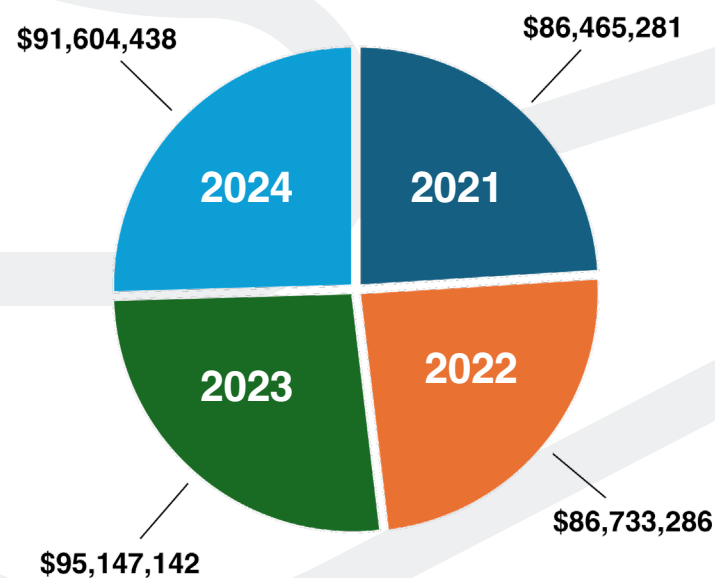
The Lake Union Revolving Fund provided \$15 million to 62 entities for various building/maintenance projects during the past quinquennium, 2021–2025. These funds were provided by deposits to the revolving fund by members, conference entities, and earnings from investments.

Total assets as of Dec. 31, 2024, were \$53,871,600 (graph G). This means that over the four years total assets increased by 10.4%. Total liabilities as of Dec. 31, 2024, were \$37,941,819 (graph H), or a 14.6% increase over the past four years. Over the same period, net assets increased to \$15,929,781 (graph I), or by 1.65%.

As a result of investing and lending activity from 2021–2024, the Revolving Fund Trust had an overall gain of \$355,950.

Glynn Scott is treasurer for the Lake Union Conference.

Graph A Tithe Gross Income





TREASURY

Office of Operation and Maintenance

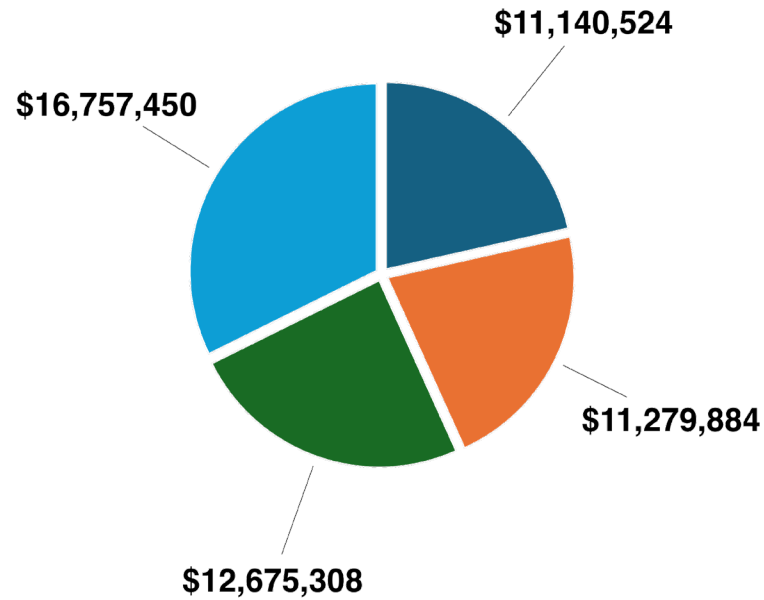


Lenay Edwards
janitor

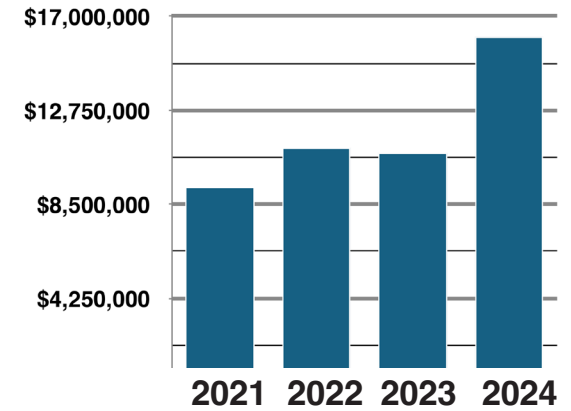


Jason Seigal
facility manager

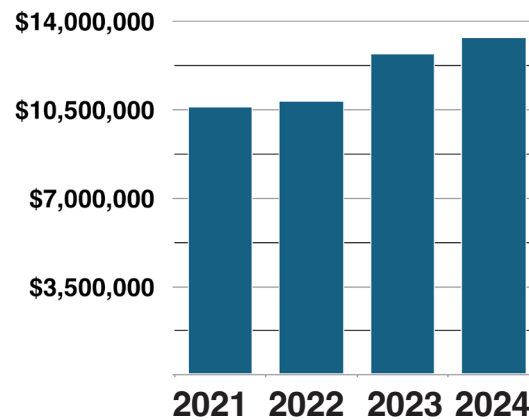
Graph B Total Income



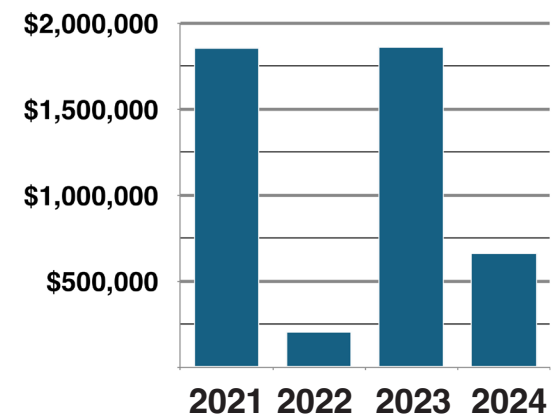
Graph C Total Expenses



Graph D Net Worth

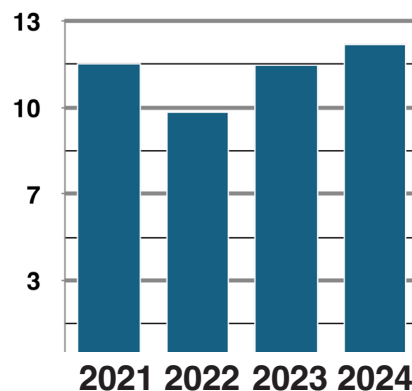


Graph E Net Gain

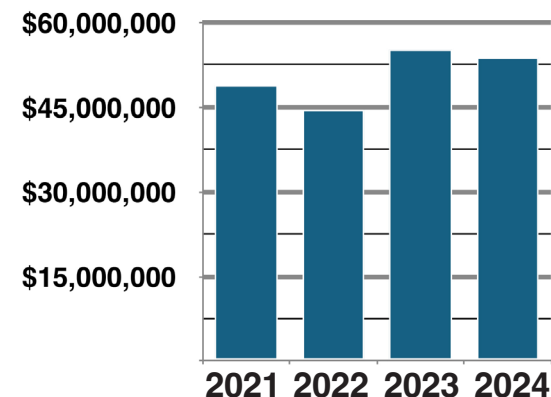


IN SUMMARY,
AS A TREASURY
DEPARTMENT
WE ARE INSPIRED
AND CHALLENGED
AS WE HAVE
EXPERIENCED
GOD'S BLESSINGS
UPON OUR UNION
OVER THIS PAST
QUINQUENNium.

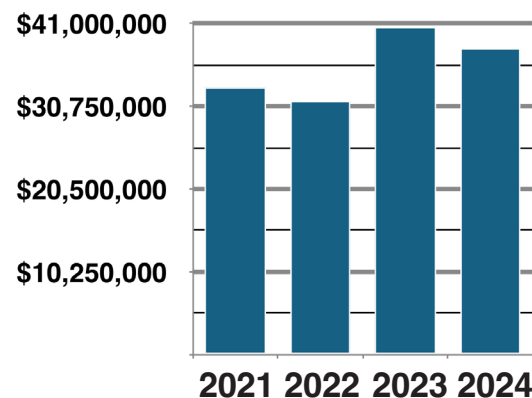
Graph F Working Capital in Months



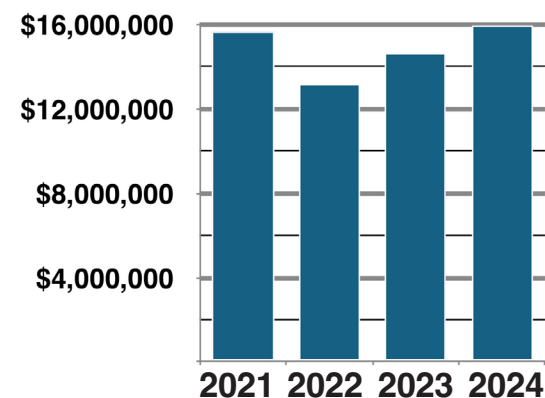
Graph G Total LURF Assets



Graph H Total LURF Liabilities

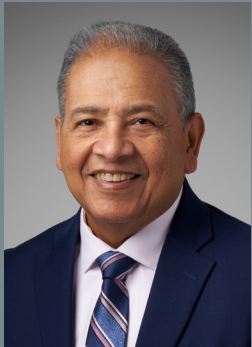


Graph I LURF Net Assets





MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES



Carmelo Mercado
vice president



Magaly Torres
assistant director

Going Forward in Unity

Our Lord had a dream and vision for the church of the future, which you can find in His prayer in John 17:20–21: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

The Lake Union adopted for this past quinquennium the theme “Together in Mission.” I am thankful that our Multicultural Ministries department and our immigrant and refugee pastors and churches have taken this to heart. We are pleased to report to the constituency that all our events and activities share a common goal: working together to fulfill the Great Commission. Here are some of the initiatives we are honored to report on.

Hispanic Youth Outreach and Nurture

In 2023 and 2025, Hispanic youth from our five conferences led two Youth Congresses held at Andrews University, popularly known as Conectate. Our featured speakers, such as Pastor Arnaldo Cruz and Yami Bazan, inspired our youth to stay close to God through prayer, Bible study and witnessing. At each of these congresses, the youth not only stayed on campus but also dispersed throughout the neighboring communities to share God’s love through practical service. In addition, we invited their pastors and wives to attend the same weekend and participate in the youth training program Creciendo Juntos, which is also known as Growing Young. The purpose of the training is to apply what they learn when working with youth upon returning to their churches.

Hispanic Women’s Congress

The largest Lake Union Hispanic Women’s Congress took place in 2024 at the Blue Gate Theater in Shipshewana, Indiana, with Cesar DeLeon

and his wife CarolAnne leading the weekend as our featured speakers. Under the theme Mujeres de Valor, the women received valuable information and encouragement on how to stay close to God and to their families. A special feature of this weekend was the provision of a separate track for teenage girls to address their concerns and challenges.

Immigrant and Refugee Ministry

We are truly a union of diverse people. So far, we have over 50 immigrant and refugee congregations, including Filipino, Haitian, Korean, Brazilian, Rwandan, Ghanaian, Malawian, Nigerian, Mizo, Zomi and several Eastern European churches. The work among immigrants involved the development of annual Mizo and Haitian camp meetings and the planting of new churches, such as the Living Hope Seventh-day Adventist church, which is largely composed of Ghanaian members. Work among immigrants and refugees is increasing across all nine unions, to the point that the North American Division has arranged for each union to establish a committee with representation from the five conferences to hear the churches’ needs and, as necessary, provide funding to address them.

Dental Clinics

It has been ten years since our department took on the challenge of encouraging dialogue and partnership among people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds for the sake of evangelism. Following the



Carmen Avila-Rivas
administrative assistant

THE LAKE
UNION IS
CONVINCED
THAT TRUE
UNITY IN
MINISTRY
CANNOT
HAPPEN
WITHOUT
PRAYER.

Indianapolis Pathways to Health Mega Clinic, Lake Union is pleased to support churches that partner with AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) to provide guidance and direction for dental and vision care in their communities.

In March 2024, pastors and churches in the Lake Region and Michigan came together to provide a day of free dental, vision and medical care for the medically underserved in that city. Over 150 volunteers from churches served more than 200 people from various ethnic backgrounds.

In that same year, the Hispanic, Haitian, Mizo, African American, and predominantly Caucasian churches in Indianapolis partnered with the Lake Region and Indiana conferences, and the Lake Union. More than 200 volunteers from all the churches served that day, and more than 340 people received treatment.

In August 2025, a third dental clinic was held in Troy, Michigan, serving over 280 people. We hope this unique service will expand and continue to give people the opportunity to learn about our church and be part of our fellowship.

United Cry Prayer Convocations

The Lake Union is convinced that true unity in ministry cannot happen without prayer. Before each clinic, churches from the state and regional conferences committed to praying together across the various churches for several months. In addition, we concluded our prayer journey with a United Prayer conference on the Sabbath prior to the clinic. People from diverse backgrounds and churches came together to pray for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in both the volunteers and the patients who would be coming.

Pentecost 2025

Almost all our immigrant churches participated in the Pentecost 2025 initiative. Praise God that in 2025, Hispanic evangelism yielded over 600 baptisms and professions of faith, the highest number of accessions in over 20 years. We are thankful for the caravan meetings held in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Berrien Springs, featuring Pastor Alejandro Bullon, with attendance almost standing-room-only, with many people making decisions for Christ.

Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative

In 2025, the Multicultural Ministries Department launched the

Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer initiative as a strategic investment in the spiritual formation of children across the Lake Union. Focused on strengthening intergenerational worship and cultivating a vibrant culture of prayer, the initiative increases meaningful participation and fosters a strong sense of belonging among children in multicultural, refugee and Hispanic congregations.

Funded by a \$1.2 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., this five-year initiative (2026–2030) is implemented in partnership with the children's ministries departments of the five conferences and local church leaders. Originally designed for 10 pilot congregations and expanded to 20 through shared union and conference support, the initiative reflects a united commitment to equip leaders, empower families, and intentionally invest in the next generation across our diverse territory.

“From one generation to another, they shall declare Your mighty works” (Psalm 145:4). We move forward in faith, trusting that as we nurture our children today, God is raising leaders who will proclaim His faithfulness for generations to come.

ASI Projects and Spring Fellowship

Our Lake Union ASI fellowship has long been an invaluable part of the Lake Union. Our chapter emphasizes the need for our lay members to partner with the church to support outreach initiatives. Every spring, we hold our union retreat to hear stories of God's blessing and ministry and to identify needs so we can support the work that needs to be done. In the past few years, we have been especially encouraging young entrepreneurs to join us and use their talents and abilities for God. We are also committed to raising funds for specific ministry projects that advance our mission.

Conclusion

Understanding the times we are living in, we believe that God is calling our union to set the example to demonstrate what true unity is all about. We close with this statement from the pen of inspiration: “The people of God will draw together, and present to the enemy a united front.... The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord. (Evangelism, 693.2)

Carmelo Mercado is general vice president for the Lake Union Conference.



COMMUNICATION

Telling God's Stories

At the heart of the Lake Union Herald is telling stories about what God is doing. Just as meaningful is hearing from readers who share how those stories have encouraged their faith and drawn them closer to Him. Sometimes, that encouragement comes to us in the simplest and most personal ways.



Debbie Michel
communication director/
editor of Lake Union Herald



Ruben Casabona
associate director

One early Monday morning, an enthusiastic voice greeted us on the phone. “Oh, I just love the teachers’ stories.” Doris Ferris called to share how deeply she appreciated the April 2023 issue featuring educators who reflected on why they chose to teach. The issue resonated personally. Her husband, Winston, had spent decades teaching in Adventist schools across the Lake Union. Though he had passed away, Doris, then 91, found joy and encouragement in reading about teachers who continue to serve faithfully despite increased challenges.

Another call came from beyond the Lake Union. A reader from the Pacific Northwest who received the magazine from a friend paused over a story about a Chicago school offering free tuition to families unable to pay. Moved by what she read, she reached out not only to express appreciation but also to partner with the school through a financial gift.

Stories like these affirm why we do this work. Now, 118 years after the Lake Union Herald first launched, or 123 years if you include its forerunner, the West Michigan Herald, the mission continues.

That mission is even more vital in a world crowded with distractions, misinformation, and competing voices. We continue to prayerfully search for ways for our storytelling to remain Christ-centered and relevant. With the urgency of the hour before us, our commitment is clear: keep proclaiming the Three Angels Messages; keep heralding the good news of Christ’s soon return; keep telling the stories of what God is doing in the lives of His children. Why? Scripture

powerfully reminds us, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” Revelation 12:11.

Expanding How and Where Stories are Told

As the mission focus gains momentum, we continually look for ways to grow and improve. One important avenue has been our affiliation with the Associated Church Press, the oldest religious press organization in North America. Alongside training opportunities, we submit our work for professional review to gauge how our journalism measures up. In 2025, the Herald received several writing, design and marketing awards, including recognition as one of the top three denominational magazines in North America. We praise God for this affirmation of our team’s effort in providing professional-level photos, design and writing.

At the same time, the Herald continues its pivot toward digital. We reduced our print schedule from nine issues to eight and reinvested those resources into expanding our digital footprint, with particular focus on reaching audiences under 50. We also began construction on a state-of-the-art studio and are prayerfully working toward fully equipping the space within the year. This will allow us to produce broadcast quality programming and promotional videos that extend the reach of our storytelling.

Beyond the magazine and video content, the communication department has partnered closely with our conferences and departments to promote key events across the territory. A significant



Katie Fellows
media specialist

IT REMAINS
A PRIVILEGE
TO PARTNER
WITH YOU
IN TELLING
STORIES OF
HOW GOD IS
STILL AT WORK.

milestone came during the 2025 General Conference Session. Over 10 days, we collaborated with our local conference communication directors to create live and recorded productions that highlighted leaders and delegates from our region. The effort generated strong engagement and pushed our Facebook following past 10,000. Growth also continued with the weekly newsletter, now reaching 6,000 subscribers with a healthy open rate above 30%. For those who do not yet receive it, we invite you to sign up at lakeunionherald.org.

Strengthening partnerships with our communication directors remains a priority. We hosted workshops on topics such as social media best practices and crisis communication, and we see great potential in leveraging our collective skills to accomplish more together than we could alone. We also provided training for the North American Division and supported communication efforts at churches, schools, camp meetings and conference events throughout the Lake Union.

Since the last quinquennium, we have had personnel changes. After seven years of dedicated service, we bid farewell to Felicia Tonga, and we welcomed Ruben Casabona as associate communication director.

Growth Goals

Looking ahead to the next five years, our focus is on expanding our reach. While much of our work has centered on internal audiences, we are developing plans to engage journalists in major media markets such as Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and South Bend. Our goal is to build broader awareness of Adventists and their expertise in areas such as religious liberty, health and education.

We are also excited about deepening our partnership with Andrews University and its communication students. In addition to ongoing collaboration through freelance writing, photography, design and video production, we hope to launch an event that brings together students and other young creatives across the Lake Union to strengthen mentorship and collaboration.

In closing, it remains a privilege to partner with you in telling stories of how God is still at work, still performing miracles and still saving souls. We do not take your trust lightly and we are grateful for the opportunity to share your God encounters. Get in touch with us at herald@lakeunion.org.

Debbie Michel is editor of the *Lake Union Herald* and Lake Union director of communication.





Educating With Eternity in View

“The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul.”
— Ellen G. White, Education, page 15

This guiding principle serves as a compass for the Lake Union Education Department as we seek to inspire, transform and empower those leading our 73 Lake Union PreK–12 schools and early childhood programs. Our mission — to help every student become more like Jesus through a deep and abiding connection to His love — continues to shape our work and inform our priorities. With this clarity of purpose, we intentionally pursue the vision of Adventist Education: providing Something Better.

Continuing Collaboration

We support teacher service, growth and professionalism through collaborative initiatives designed to strengthen instruction and student learning, including:

- The Andrews University and Lake Union Conference Professional Day, which prepares pre-service teachers for future employment
- Superintendent and principal meetings, along with leadership development opportunities such as the ASDASA Conference, where administrators learn from experts and one another
- Professional learning communities for academy teachers that provide hands-on, subject-specific training
- Lake Union Early Childhood (ECE) Advisories focused on the unique needs of early childhood programs, preschools, and Pre-K classrooms

- Lake Union Curriculum Advisories that guide thoughtful curriculum review and advancement
- Educational outreach at the International Camporee, including participation in a Guinness World Record event, to share the mission and impact of Adventist education
- The NAD National Teachers Convention, uniting educators to celebrate, learn and renew their commitment to serving students with excellence

Focused Support

Our department supports teachers and schools as we help all students reach their learning goals through targeted resources and intentional care, including:

- Continued curricular, relational and financial support for our partner island, Kosrae
- Grant writing that expands service-learning opportunities for students and STEM training for educators
- Funding to support student mental health initiatives across the Lake Union
- The addition of a Special Education expert and an Instructional Coach to better meet diverse student needs
- Research-based literacy training in the Science of Reading, along with aligned instructional resources
- A week-long induction experience for new multigrade teachers



Nicole Mattson
director



Laura Frary
associate director/
registrar



Wadzanai Bepe
special education
consultant/
instructional coach



Luz Otero
administrative assistant



Carmen Avila-Rivas
administrative assistant

that builds instructional capacity, relationships and spiritual focus

- Ongoing support for the implementation of Standards-based Learning to bring clarity, intentionality and consistency to classroom instruction

Growing Empowerment

We build leadership capacity in administrators and teachers through strategic development opportunities, including:

- A Small Schools Leadership Development cohort that supports principals through coaching and shared learning
- High Reliability Schools (HRS) training to help leaders guide their schools with clarity, purpose and consistency
- A Secondary Leadership Conference that equips student leaders across the Lake Union to lead with faith and integrity

Responsive Accountability

We support Adventist education in honoring and glorifying God through meaningful accountability to our schools, our communities and Christ by:

- Providing training in Continuous School Improvement planning and implementation
- Accrediting all Lake Union early childhood centers, preschools, and PreK–12 schools

- Offering access to the 360 School Culture Survey to inform school culture, decision-making and goal setting through actionable data
- Supporting teacher certification and continuing education through scholarships and targeted funding
- Working alongside administrators and teachers to ensure data-driven learning informs instruction and supports student growth

Looking Forward with Faith

The Lake Union Education Department seeks to honor God by faithfully supporting Adventist education through collaboration, empowerment and accountability. Rooted in the purpose of restoring the image of God in every student, we invest in teachers and leaders through professional learning, leadership development, curriculum support, and research-based instruction, while also addressing the spiritual, academic, physical and emotional needs of students. Through these collective efforts, our schools are strengthened to reflect Christ's character more fully and to prepare young people to live lives of faith, service and purpose — always with eternity in view.

Nicole Mattson is director of education for the Lake Union Conference.





INFORMATION
SYSTEMS

Powering the Mission

It has been an eventful three years in the Lake Union Conference Information Systems Department since our last Constituency Session, and we have felt and experienced blessings from the Almighty One in so many unique ways that we just feel honored to work in His vineyard at this time.

From guidance that helps us in our day-to-day activities to the divine appointments where we are able to assist users through challenging technical issues, and when we are able to solve programming problems in unexpected ways, we know that He is with us and His Spirit is present in our ministry.

We are blessed with our current staffing levels that continue to make it possible for us to support many areas of ministry across the Lake Union footprint. Kong Yoong continues to be our primary support technician for many business applications and is assisting with implementing new accounting software. Ben Rietman has now been on our team for several years and has helped build an excellent web application to support the Religious Liberty campaign and is a top-notch technician to assist users with their daily needs. With Ben Freeman's departure in September, we had an opening last fall, and we are pleased to welcome Ricky Moore to our staff. He is handling the workload for overseeing our firewalls, servers, cloud systems and much more and is no stranger to the Lake Union, as his dad has been an associate treasurer here for many years. Sean Parker continues to lead the department and is primarily responsible for LUCIS Software and software implementations.

One of the major changes over the course of the last five years is a decision to transition the Lake Union Treasury department from using LUCIS software to AASI software. AASI software is provided

by the North American Division and is currently in use by most of the Unions and Conferences within its footprint. This was a challenging decision, as the department has developed and supported LUCIS Software for over 50 years, but the decision was made with treasury staff and administration, and we have now completed nearly two years on AASI software. Subsequently, we have assisted both the Wisconsin and Illinois Conferences with successfully implementing AASI software and have plans for the Indiana Conference to transition soon. As other entities are interested, we will assist with their implementation and transition, as well.

LUCIS software is still widely used across our territory and in other conferences by churches, schools, academies and a smattering of conference offices. We continue to support and maintain this software and will do so for some time. We have also delved into building a new web app for the PARL department, which will aid in managing the Religious Liberty campaign. We believe this is a user-friendly system that will reduce the workload in collecting subscription information from churches. Big thanks to Ben Rietman for his work on this project.

Another area we have been working in these last five years is moving from on-premises Active Directory to Microsoft Entra. We have completed the move at the Lake Union office and are starting the process of assisting conferences in this direction. This transition



Sean Parker
director



Kong Yoong
systems analyst/
programmer



Ricky Moore
systems administrator/
ITS support specialist



Ben Reitman
systems analyst/
programmer

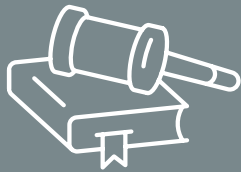
allows us to manage all devices via a cloud-based system and reduces the cost and maintenance time of having on-premises servers. We also believe it will provide better security for our users. In addition, we continue to maintain network infrastructure at four of our conferences and provide technical assistance as needed for the conferences and academies.

Our motto is Philippians 2:3–4, which reads in the NIV: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

The Lake Union is an awesome place to work in multiple ways, but one characteristic stands out for us above the others — the staff at our conferences, academies, churches and schools are dedicated to self-sacrifice and serving others. It is our desire to replicate that principle as our guiding mission as we move forward together in service for Him.

Sean Parker is director of information systems at the Lake Union Conference.





PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AND RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY

Advocating for Liberty

It has been a blessing to serve as director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) for the Lake Union Conference over the past three years, continuing the impactful work of Nicholas Miller. Our church has a long and meaningful history of defending religious liberty, an effort deeply rooted in our eschatological understanding of the Great Controversy.

We believe that the freedom to worship is not merely a civic right but a spiritual imperative. Scripture reveals a cosmic conflict between God, who grants freedom of choice, and Satan, who seeks to compel worship. As Seventh-day Adventists, we anticipate a time when individuals will be forced to worship against their conscience. This conviction drives our commitment to protect religious freedom for all people, including those with no religious affiliation.

Central to our advocacy is the principle of church-state separation. We view this separation as essential for religious expression to thrive. Accordingly, we support the rights of both Adventists and non-Adventists to worship freely, without coercion or interference from government authorities. Each year, our Liberty Campaign reminds members of the importance of this mission.

Unfortunately, many within our Union continue to face discrimination for their beliefs. They are often forced to choose between their jobs and their convictions. Over the past quinquennium, the PARL department has assisted dozens of members with Sabbath accommodations, exam scheduling, prisoner religious liberty rights, issues with labor unions, and other challenges.

Beyond legal advocacy, PARL also works to share the identity, message and mission of the Adventist Church. We've built relationships with local officials and monitored legislation and court cases that could affect religious liberty. Our outreach has included events

such as the Union-wide "Adventist Pioneers and Civic Engagement" gathering in Battle Creek, our webinar on political engagement, and presentations at camp meetings and local churches. We've also reestablished the Lake Union Adventist Attorney Fellowship to strengthen our legal network.

Recent years have brought significant developments in religious liberty. The reinterpretation of the Johnson Amendment raised questions about political endorsements from the pulpit. Policy shifts have challenged the First Amendment's free exercise clause, with concerns about government intrusion into houses of worship. Courts have redefined the boundaries of the establishment clause, while some legislatures have attempted to infuse Christian nationalism into public spaces. These trends underscore the urgency of PARL's work.

Our efforts are not only civic but prophetic. Ellen White warned that the United States, founded on principles of civil and religious liberty, will one day abandon both. She wrote, "The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented ... By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy" (The Great Controversy, page 442). She further stated, "In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so



Jennifer Gray Woods
director



Cyndi Baskin
administrative assistant

control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends” (The Great Controversy, page 443). We know that this country will one day infringe on both the civil and religious liberties it has championed since its founding 250 years ago and the time is coming when the religious freedoms we have experienced will no longer exist.

So, as we enter a new quinquennium, our mission remains clear: to proclaim the good news that our God is a God of liberty, and in Him there is no coercion of conscience. Let us continue to stand as advocates for religious freedom, not just for ourselves, but for all.

Jennifer Woods is the Lake Union Conference public affairs and religious liberty director, as well as its legal counsel.

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WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Strengthening Bonds of Sisterhood

Women's Ministries across the Lake Union Conference represents five conferences working together to create opportunities for women of all ages to serve and fellowship together through a variety of events and initiatives. The ultimate goal is to create an environment that strengthens bonds of sisterhood, promotes and fosters spiritual growth, and encourages discipleship and mentorship. Ministry is most effective when women feel known, supported and invited into a deeper relationship with Jesus while also being encouraged to use their gifts in service.

Leadership

In January 2023, Jane Harris began serving as Lake Union Women's Ministries Director. Since that time, women's ministries' leadership across the Lake Union has continued to grow in unity and purpose, with a clear focus on strengthening local women's ministries teams and providing encouragement and resources for conference and church leaders.

Collaboration and Growth

Over the past three years, the Lake Union Conference Women's Ministries directors have met twice each year for intentional collaboration. These gatherings have created a consistent rhythm of connection, support and shared learning. Together, directors have reported and shared ministry updates from their conferences, celebrating victories and addressing challenges with honesty and care.

These meetings have also provided a dedicated space for meaningful discussion about how to welcome, mentor and train new women's ministries leaders in local churches. As leadership transitions occur, it is vital that women stepping into ministry roles feel supported, equipped and encouraged. Through thoughtful dialogue and practical planning, the directors have worked toward developing stronger leadership pathways and healthier ministry foundations.

In addition, guest speakers have contributed leadership development training and "value-added" learning experiences, strengthening skills, and renewing vision. Directors have also participated in hands-on experiences focused on learning how to thoughtfully and creatively gift others — reinforcing the importance of kindness, hospitality and personal connection as powerful ministry tools. These gatherings have strengthened unity across the Union, provided mutual encouragement, and sharpened leadership skills for the work happening in local churches.



Jane Harris
director

THE GOAL IS
TO CREATE A
SPACE WHERE
WOMEN CAN
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READY TO SERVE
AND DISCIPLE
OTHERS WITH
RENEWED JOY.

The “Book Tour”

One unique and meaningful initiative has been the Women’s Ministries book tour. At each directors’ gathering, every director receives two to three new books focused on spiritual growth, leadership development, event planning ideas, and cultivating a prayer-filled life. These resources are selected to inspire personal growth while also offering practical tools for ministry leadership.

The book tour has become more than a resource exchange — it is a consistent reminder that effective ministry flows from a living connection with Jesus. As directors learn, grow and share, the emphasis remains clear: lead with prayer. When leaders are spiritually nourished, they are better prepared to nurture others, and local ministry becomes more Christ-centered, steady and fruitful.

Vision for the Future

God willing, planning has begun for a Union-wide Women’s Ministries Convention in 2027 or 2028. This gathering will be an opportunity to unite women from across the Lake Union for encouragement, training, worship and renewal. The goal is to create a space where women can be refreshed spiritually, strengthened through practical leadership training, and inspired to return home ready to serve and disciple others with renewed joy.

My prayer is for each conference women’s ministries director to be paid a part-time wage, a budget so they will be able to have leadership and development classes for each of the women’s ministries leaders in the local churches in their conference. Resources are always needed as well to be able to share and to have value-added information for furthering mentorship and evangelism and helping to educate.

Moving forward, Lake Union Women’s Ministries is pursuing a clear and practical vision. One goal is that at least 80% of Lake Union churches will have an active Women’s Ministries program — even a simple one. Women’s Ministries does not have to be large or busy to be effective. Simple, prayerful ministry can make a powerful and lasting impact when it centers on relationships, discipleship and consistent care.

The vision also includes recognizing each Conference Women’s Ministries director through adequate budgeting for resources, training and retreat opportunities. In addition, there is a commitment to providing excellent “value-added” leadership training and retreat weekends that strengthen leaders and help them return to their churches equipped and encouraged.

Jane Harris is the Lake Union women’s ministries director.





CHILDREN'S, YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES



Ron Whitehead
director



Cyndi Baskin
administrative assistant

“Limitless”

Luke 1:37 (LJV) “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

The Lake Union has a rich youth ministry history that goes all the way back to 1879 when Luther Warren and Harry Fenner, ages 14 and 17, gathered for prayer in Hazelton, Michigan, to establish the Adventist Missionary Youth Society. This was the beginning of organized youth ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1901, the General Conference voted to establish a youth department, and in 1916 (one year after Ellen White’s death), the Lake Union Conference established a youth department to better serve youth and young adults.

For 30 years, Ron Whitehead has been honored to serve as the Lake Union Youth director. He has served for seven union presidents and with many outstanding conference youth professionals.

Our Union and each of our five local conferences value this generation and see them as important participants in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There are so many ways that the local church, conferences and Union partner together to support the spiritual growth and mission participation of this generation. Here are a few.

Missions

Each year, hundreds of Lake Union youth take the Matthew 28:19 commission to heart. Our local congregations and church schools partner with Maranatha, Share Him, GYC Missions, CYE – WeCare, Quiet Hour and other organizations to provide domestic and international hands-on ministry opportunities to share the gospel story of a living and loving Christ.

Summer Camp Evangelism

In 1926, the first North American summer camp was held in

Townline Lake, Michigan. The first summer camp for girls was held in Wisconsin. The Lake Union local conferences offer some of the most effective resident camp ministry programs in North America in the following ways: young adult leadership training and mentoring, baptisms, and hundreds of decisions for Christ.

Pathfinder/Adventurer Evangelism

There is no stronger congregation-based youth ministry program in the Adventist Church than club ministry. The Lake Union has some of the most dedicated and passionate local club ministry leaders anywhere. Local clubs are supported by some of the best-trained youth professionals and area coordinators in North America.

On Sept. 24–27, 2026, the Lake Union Pathfinder Camporee will host around 3,000 Pathfinders at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds. The theme is “UNBREAKABLE,” and many Pathfinders will make a decision for Christ and begin study for baptism. For more information, visit luc.camporee.org.

Over 60,000 Pathfinders from 99 countries, including 4,875 from the Lake Union, came to Gillette, Wisconsin, in 2024 to attend the “Believe the Promise” International Camporee. Many Pathfinders came with plans to be baptized. Others, inspired by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Camporee speaker and nightly Moses story, also chose to be baptized, making a total of 1,215 baptisms. More than 3,000 Pathfinders went home to study for baptism. More information is at camporee.org.

Children’s Ministry

The Lake Union has partnered with the North American Division Children’s Ministry Department, Pioneer Memorial Church and the

LAKE UNION
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AND THE
WORLD.

Seventh-day Adventist Theology Seminary to provide annual leadership training. Our Union works with five conferences to provide a quarterly newsletter and website support. If we take care of our children, we also are taking care of our young adult families.

Public Campus Evangelism

Over the last 10 years, our Union Youth Ministries Department and its conferences have doubled down on serving the spiritual needs of Adventist students on public campuses. Our Union has established local conference PCM coordinators to build leadership structures for training and more effective campus evangelism outcomes.

Youth Evangelism Congress

The Lake Union is the only union in the world that invites local pastors to identify senior youth and young adults (ages 16–35) to attend a Youth Evangelism Congress every two years. Delegates receive

inspiration, training and funding to return to their local church and implement traditional and innovative evangelism plans. During this past Feb. 13–15, more than 200 were in attendance. To see all the congress details, go to lucyouth.org.

Closing Thoughts

Just like youth in 1879, this generation wants to make a difference for Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Lake Union youth and young adults have the energy, creativity, passion and leadership skills to evangelize their communities and the world. To this end, the Lake Union Youth Ministries Department stands ready to support its youth.

Ron Whitehead serves as the Lake Union Conference director of children's, youth and young adult ministries.



Supporting the Mission in Motion

The Illinois Conference (ILC) is home to more than 14,000 members, 113 churches (including companies and groups), and nine schools. Our roots go back 164 years when we, with our northern neighbor, were known as the Illinois and Wisconsin Conference.

The conference serves its members by supporting the development of healthy, disciple-making churches and schools. This mission is born out of our conviction that our prime directive is to support the mission that is already taking shape in our churches, schools, and in the lives of our members. This report highlights some of the wonderful ministry happening in our midst.

EVANGELISM

We thank God for the 1,000 people who have joined the church through baptism or profession of faith over the past four years. Each of those accessions is a credit to God's mercy and the faithfulness of our pastors, teachers and members.

Many of our churches also took advantage of Pentecost 2025, using the funds to do effective and innovative evangelism. The Marion district, led by Pastor Sam Negrea, held three evangelistic events, resulting in 12 new members, including a Methodist minister.

Meanwhile, North Shore's pastor Jonathan Burnett began recording evangelistic videos to post online. "We decided to try something different," Burnett said. "Like many churches since the pandemic, we have a greater number of people who connect with us online." In the first ten days after posting the videos to the North Shore YouTube channel, they witnessed a 2,300% increase in subscribers.

Hispanic evangelism continues to be one of the most vibrant areas of outreach in the Illinois Conference. Hispanic congregations lead annual evangelistic efforts, elders' trainings, a camp meeting, and community engagement initiatives that combine felt needs with gospel proclamation.

CAMP MINISTRY

In 2025, we celebrated 25 years of ministry at our summer camp, Camp Akita, during Homecoming 2025. We were pleased to be joined by the Lake Union Conference's youth director, Ron Whitehead, who had been instrumental in helping us secure that property. During Homecoming, we also paid tribute to our two previous youth camps: Camp Reynoldswood and Little Grassy.

At Homecoming, we announced plans to build a new chapel at Akita, which will be named the Ken Denslow Chapel, in recognition of his deep support for Camp Akita as conference president in its earliest years.

Summer camp attendance at Akita remains robust. Summer camp remains one of the most effective and inspiring ministries in our conference. It is the premiere opportunity each year to introduce our children and youth to Jesus and invite them to decide to follow Jesus in baptism.



EDUCATION

Our nine schools also speak to that commitment to our children and youth. Judie Rosa, formerly the principal at Hinsdale Adventist Academy, became our new education director in 2025. Her dual focus has been on ensuring that our schools are places “where excellence in education meets intentional discipleship.”

YOUTH

Over 1,000 Illinois Pathfinders caravaned along I-90 through the prairie of South Dakota for the International Pathfinder Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming. The Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers and the North Shore Stars excelled in basic and fancy drills. Beset by storms and encouraged by a double rainbow, it was a camporee that shall never be forgotten.

During this quinquennium, the Youth Department has experienced an incredible change. Our previous youth director, Michael Campos, stepped into a new role as executive secretary. Josant Barrientos was called to be the new youth director, with Stacey DePluzer accepting an associate youth director role with children and camp ministry in her portfolio. In addition, Roberto Gonzales joined our conference family as another associate youth director, focusing on youth and young adults. Together, these moves reflect our concrete conviction that the strength of our conference is tied to the strength of our commitment to our children and grandchildren.

COMMUNICATION

Another personnel change during this quinquennium was the appointment of Matthew Lucio to the role of conference communications. Communication ministry is about telling the stories of what God is doing in our midst, both past and present. Our communications department has also been assisting churches who feel called to do digital ministry, such as by helping them set-up or level-up their Sabbath livestream.

BEST IS YET TO COME

Embedded in this report are some clues about the future direction of ministry in the Illinois Conference. The changes introduced over the past four years demonstrate our commitment to doing everything we can to reach our children, youth and young adults with the gospel. Furthermore, the addition of a communications specialist acknowledges our need to help our churches and schools be present on the internet as well as to effectively tell stories of what God is doing in our midst.

As we proclaim the everlasting gospel from frantic Michigan Avenue all the way to the serene Garden of the Gods, we believe that God’s best is yet to come for the Illinois Conference.

John Gry is president of the Illinois Conference.

... WE BELIEVE
THAT GOD’S
BEST IS YET
TO COME FOR
THE ILLINOIS
CONFERENCE.



Making Disciples

No doubt our world is in turmoil. We see global conflicts, political divisions, deadly shootings, economic hardships, and natural disasters occurring all around the globe. Jesus Himself warned us that when we see all these things, know that His coming is very near (Matthew 24:33).

Sensing that the end is close at hand, we as a conference take the gospel commission of Jesus very seriously when He commanded: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Everything we do, the reason we exist as an organization, is to advance God’s mission by helping others to come to know Jesus and prepare for His soon return. Clearly, there are a lot of forces working against the cause of God today. Yet, despite the growing challenges, God continues to sustain His church and financially provide for what is needed, just as He has done in times past.

The Indiana Conference, through much prayer, has developed a strategic plan with eight focus areas. These provide the mission template with which we operate as a conference.

- 1. Spiritual Growth and Revival:** For members to have a meaningful devotional life which leads to spiritual growth and personal involvement in the mission of the church
- 2. Evangelism:** To cultivate a culture of evangelism so that local churches can effectively reach their communities for Christ
- 3. Empowering/Equipping Laity:** For every member to discover and use their gifts, talents and passions for ministry
- 4. Adventist Christian Education:** For every child to receive a quality Adventist education that prepares them for a life of mission and service
- 5. Youth and Young Adults:** To support and empower our youth and young adults where they can spiritually grow, feel part of the church community, and develop into local church leaders

6. Multicultural Ministries: To provide leadership, training, programs and materials for the various ethnic groups in our conference

7. Pastor & Teacher Growth and Support: To provide opportunities for our pastors and teachers to grow professionally, spiritually and relationally

8. Conference Finances: To raise additional non-tithe funds and to develop endowments in order to meet the long-term needs of the Conference for mission and outreach

We praise God for how He has led since the last Lake Union Constituency Session. There have been many answered prayers, many miracles witnessed, many sacrifices made for God’s cause. Last year, our conference participated in the North American Division initiative Pentecost 2025. Over 80+ churches, companies, groups and schools were involved in some sort of public proclamation event throughout the state. It was exciting to see churches in action as they reached out to friends, family members and neighbors. The Holy Spirit moved and several people, young and old alike, made decisions to follow Christ and His truths. For the next several years, we are partnering with the Center for Community Change at Andrews University so that our churches can be more effective in reaching their communities with the gospel of Christ. In these final days, God’s work is advancing forward in this great Hoosier state.

At the same time, we also recognize there is still much to do. There are over seven million people who live in Indiana. Presently, we have



10,400 members in the Indiana Conference, which means there are still many to reach with God's final message for these last days.

None of us knows what the future holds. However, we do know the One who holds the future in His hands. In Isaiah 41:10, God says, "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

During these difficult times, let us seek God more deeply. Let us unite our hearts together in mission as we prepare the world for Christ's soon return. Our greatest hope and desire can be summed up in the words of the apostle John in Revelation 22:20, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

Vic Van Schaik is president of the Indiana Conference.

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Sowing Seeds, Reaping the Harvest

This report provides information under spirit-led leadership of Garth Gabriel, who was president of the Lake Region Conference from July 2022 to Jan. 1, 2026. Abraham Henry, along with the administrative team, had the privilege to support him at the time of these accomplishments. The Lake Region Conference is made up of more than 32,000 members in 111 churches, reflecting a rich and historic African American Adventist legacy alongside vibrant African, Filipino, Haitian, Hispanic and Korean-speaking congregations.



Our vision is to be a united conference of churches passionately engaged in mission and ministry as we anticipate the return of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to make disciples, share the gospel in the context of Revelation 14:6–12, and prepare people for the soon return of our Savior. This shared calling continues to shape the ministries across the conference.

Camp Wagner Enhancements

Camp Wagner has continued to receive important upgrades that strengthen its ministry to families, youth and local churches. Improvements include upgraded RV slabs, a resurfaced basketball court, and the installation of central air and speakers in the cafeteria. The historic red cabins have begun remodeling, while other cabins were fully refurbished with new roofing and siding. A new entry gate and camp sign were also installed, creating a more welcoming and functional environment for all who use the camp.



Educational Advancements

Lake Region remains committed to strengthening Adventist education. Through the leadership of Deirdre Garnett, superintendent of education, all schools received smart boards in 2025.

Shiloh Christian School completed a new library and installed a new gym floor, enhancing both learning and student life. Peterson-Warren Academy underwent building updates as well. South Suburban School also faced a major heating challenge, and the conference was generous in providing financial assistance towards resolving the heating need, made possible through an anonymous donor.

Strategic Plan

Alongside these improvements, the conference continues to move forward under a shared strategic plan developed through a collaborative process involving administrators, pastors, department leaders, Bible workers and Executive Committee members.

“AND THIS
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AND THEN THE
END WILL COME.”
MATTHEW 24:14

The mission driven plan guides decision-making by focusing on spiritual vitality, leadership responsibility, discipleship, education, and mission engagement. It calls the conference to strengthen Christ-centered ministry, build trust and accountability in leadership, nurture members through discipleship and mentoring, renew commitment to Adventist education, and engage members in service using their gifts while building healthy churches and preparing people for Christ’s soon return.

Grant Writing Success

This commitment to growth is reflected in the conference’s investment in grant writing. With a dedicated grant writer in place, more than \$2 million has been secured to support improvements to school and church buildings and after-school programs across the conference, expanding what is possible for ministry and infrastructure development.

Conference Evangelism and Pentecost 2025

Lake Region has also seen significant spiritual growth through evangelism. During Pentecost 2025, a North American Division-wide initiative, the conference recorded more than 630 baptisms, the highest total reported in 10 years, with additional reports still coming in from the 109 churches that conducted evangelistic meetings.

These baptisms reflect a conference-wide spiritual awakening. Students have led outreach in schools; churches that have not seen baptisms in years are rejoicing again; and congregations are becoming more engaged in mission.

Lake Region’s full-time conference evangelist, Cody Miller, played a key role in Pentecost 2025, especially following the passing of

ministerial director Kenneth Elliott. Pastor Miller coordinated trainings, coached churches, and helped lead evangelistic efforts in cities such as Minneapolis and Indianapolis. The revival was marked not only by powerful preaching, but by intentional acts of compassion that opened doors to lasting transformation.

Leadership presence further strengthened the revival effort. Henry attended several Pentecost 2025 programs, offering visible support and encouragement that uplifted members and visitors, reinforcing the unity and shared mission of the conference family.

This season of revival has reaffirmed a powerful truth: God multiplies the harvest. Communities are being impacted, churches are reconnecting with their neighborhoods, and individuals who had never stepped inside a sanctuary are now becoming part of God’s family.

The conference also continues to invest in young adult leadership development. Through the work of James Doggette, young adults have been equipped through leadership conferences, retreats and summits, preparing them to lead now.

Youth ministry has also seen momentum. In the Detroit area, a community Pathfinder club led by Sandrew King began in a non-Adventist school and has already contributed to 28 baptisms, demonstrating the impact of creative, community-based ministry.

As Lake Region moves forward, the conference remains anchored in the mission of Matthew 24:14: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (NIV)

Abraham Henry *is president of the Lake Region Conference.*





Evangelism, Outreach and Changed Lives

Over the past five years, God has been powerfully at work across the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Through churches, schools, camps, community service and faithful members, the gospel has reached thousands of people in meaningful and practical ways. Lives have been touched, families supported, and many have chosen to follow Jesus.



Today, the Michigan Conference is home to more than 27,000 members worshipping in 185 churches and companies, served by 105 pastors, 31 schools, and 141 teachers. Together, this church family has embraced a mission that shares hope through both words and actions.

Lives Changed Through Evangelism and Bible Study

Public evangelism and personal Bible study remain central to the work of the conference. From 2021 to 2025, Michigan churches celebrated over 2,000 baptisms, along with hundreds of professions of faith and recommitments to Christ. These decisions came through public meetings, small group Bible studies, health programs, community outreach, and personal relationships built by members who simply shared what Jesus means to them.

Each year, churches host evangelistic meetings and outreach events — some large, others small and personal. Hundreds of people gathered to hear the gospel preached. At the same time, countless Bible studies happen quietly in homes, churches, schools and online, often led by lay members who answer God's call to disciple others.



Schools Leading Young People to Jesus

One of the greatest blessings of the past five years has been the evangelistic impact of Adventist education. Our schools are places where faith is nurtured daily through prayer, Bible study, worship and caring relationships.

In recent years, about one out of every three baptisms in the Michigan Conference has been connected to Adventist education. Students and families are choosing baptism because of what they experience in classrooms, chapels and friendships centered on Christ. This fruit reflects the dedication of teachers and staff who see education as ministry and students as disciples in the making.

Camps That Build Faith and Community

Michigan Conference camps continue to be life-shaping environments. Between 2021 and 2025, nearly 5,000 campers including more than 3,300 youth campers and 1,500 family campers — experienced Christ-centered programming at camp.

Both Camp Au Sable and Camp Sagola offer young people a place to grow spiritually, form lasting friendships, and see faith lived out

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in joyful ways. Many individuals return home with renewed commitment to Jesus and stronger connections to their local churches.

Children's Ministries and Family Outreach

Children's Ministries has expanded resources that support families and churches year-round. Weekly videos, Sabbath School tools, outreach ideas, and children's stories help make faith engaging and accessible for kids.

Vacation Bible School continues to be one of the most effective outreach tools. Since 2022, Michigan Conference has produced multiple original VBS programs, with over 140 kits used by churches and about 50 churches each year hosting VBS. For many families, VBS is their first connection to a church — and often the beginning of an ongoing spiritual journey.

Serving Communities Through Adventist Community Services

Michigan Adventist Community Services (ACS) has been a powerful expression of Christ's love in action. Over the past five years, 86 churches have operated community service centers or outreach programs, with four new locations added in 2025.

Through the dedication of 2,783 volunteers, ACS ministries contributed more than 321,000 volunteer hours, serving over 60,000 families across Michigan. During this time, churches distributed over 1.6 million pounds of food, 780,000 pieces of clothing, 60,000 bedding items, and thousands of personal care supplies and emergency kits.

ACS outreach has also opened doors for spiritual ministry, leading to Bible studies, literature distribution and baptisms directly connected to community service. Beyond material assistance, ACS centers offer programs that support emotional and spiritual health — such as grief recovery, addiction recovery, health education, and ministries for veterans, seniors and single mothers.

Planting Seeds Through Literature and Relationships

Literature evangelism continues to play a vital role. From 2021 to 2025, student canvassers distributed or sold more than 135,000 books, knocked on hundreds of thousands of doors, and prayed with families across Michigan. Many Bible study interests and future baptisms began with a simple knock and a caring conversation.

A Growing, Caring Church Family

The story of the past five years is ultimately a story of people — children learning to pray, students choosing baptism, families finding hope, volunteers serving with compassion, and members discovering new ways to share Jesus.

As we look ahead, we praise God for what He has done and remain committed to reaching more hearts with the everlasting gospel — until Jesus comes.

Jim Micheff is president of the Michigan Conference.





WISCONSIN
CONFERENCE

I Will Go

The Wisconsin Conference Constituency theme, “I Will Go,” reflects a shared commitment with the General Conference, North American Division, and Lake Union to advance God’s mission with purpose and faithfulness. Guided by the vision of “Advancing the Adventist Mission in Wisconsin,” the conference has remained focused on developing a culture of transformational and intergenerational discipleship, where Jesus is multiplied in the life of every member. Throughout this term, that mission has shaped ministry priorities, strengthened leadership, expanded education, and energized evangelism across the state.



Discipleship

During this term, the conference focused on fostering spiritual renewal through Bible study, prayer and worship, which deepened faith and strengthened our relationship with Christ. Churches aimed to create welcoming environments for members, guests and new believers, encouraging integration into church life. Discipleship centered on relationships built on love, grace and belonging.

Intergenerational discipleship opportunities were expanded to encourage spiritual growth across all ages and stages of life. These efforts supported greater retention and reclamation by nurturing long-term engagement, commitment and spiritual maturity. In addition, the conference promoted a strong climate of Biblical stewardship, encouraging churches to serve faithfully, responsibly and sustainably as they fulfilled God’s mission in their communities.

Leadership Development

A culture of excellence was promoted among pastors, teachers and church administrators by upholding high standards of spiritual

leadership, integrity and effectiveness. Intentional pastoral training and leadership development programs equipped leaders at every level, strengthening their capacity to serve with clarity, confidence and vision. Pastors, teachers and leaders were supported in pursuing advanced professional and academic degrees, enhancing their effectiveness and long-term impact in ministry.

The Volunteer Lay Pastor Program was expanded to increase leadership and support. Mentorship resources aided new pastors and teachers with guidance and accountability, leading to growth, confident leadership, and a strong church foundation.

Educational Excellence: Mentorship, Growth and Service

Over the past five years, Adventist education in Wisconsin experienced steady growth and renewed purpose, remaining firmly rooted in its mission to provide Christ-centered, academically strong learning environments. The education network expanded with the addition of Frederic Adventist Christian School and Wisconsin Inspire Academy, a virtual school developed in partnership with



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the Indiana Conference. These additions reflect a commitment to meeting diverse family needs through both traditional and online learning options while maintaining Adventist values, spiritual formation, and community.

Wisconsin Academy, the conference's boarding high school, also experienced encouraging enrollment growth, signaling renewed confidence in Adventist secondary education. Families continue to be drawn to the academy's balance of academic excellence, faith formation, and student life, supported by a wide range of scholarship opportunities. Conference-supported initiatives, donor-funded assistance, and partner scholarships have helped make Adventist education more accessible.

Alongside growth, Wisconsin Adventist education invested in professional development and student support, strengthening leadership, advancing literacy with Science of Reading, and enhancing special education to serve diverse learners. Focus on mental health and social-emotional skills helped educators support student well-being. These efforts foster a whole-child approach, nurturing students academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

Wakonda and Youth Evangelism

The summer camp at Camp Wakonda changed focus from size to health and spiritual impact, with smaller groups and improved programming. This strengthened spiritual atmosphere and increased baptisms. Hiring local youth boosted staff retention and connections. As they prepare for the 100th anniversary in 2027, planning aims to honor the milestone and ensure lasting impact.

Wisconsin's Club Ministries have also grown substantially. Recovering from the pandemic in 2022, the conference sent its largest delegation ever to the 2024 International Camporee. LeaderShop events continued investing in leaders of all ages, and while some long-serving staff transitioned out, new leaders stepped into key roles. The development of Master Guide clubs and camporees added a new dimension to leadership training, ensuring continued vitality in youth ministry.

Public Campus Ministries

Public Campus Ministries grew from small efforts to a statewide conference initiative, with hubs at Wisconsin-Madison, Milwaukee and Stevens Point. The conference received over \$200,000 for a

Campus Missionary program supporting young leaders. Growth in Young Adult ministries and Master Guide clubs has boosted impact on individuals in their 20s and 30s.

Proclamation Evangelism and Community Involvement

The conference involved all ministries and members in evangelism, combining gospel sharing with compassionate service. It provided training, resources and inspiration for pastors and evangelists, while financial support helped churches and small groups grow outreach and community ties. Direction unified churches around common goals, with almost every church hosting evangelistic campaigns to foster renewal, witness and connection.

God's Transforming Power Through Growth

The past five years have been a blessing for the Wisconsin Conference. Our churches recorded 853 baptisms and reached a membership of 8,066 in 2025. We have seen God's transforming power through growth. With gratitude and hope, we look forward to the opportunities God will provide as we connect, serve, and proclaim the gospel until Jesus returns.

Titus Naftanila is president of the Wisconsin Conference.





ANDREWS
UNIVERSITY

Founded in Faith, Forward in Mission

Founded in 1874 as Battle Creek College, Andrews University was the first Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher learning. In 2024, the Andrews family celebrated the University's 150th anniversary under the theme "Founded in Faith. Forward in Mission." This theme reflects not only our heritage, but the direction Andrews has taken over the past four years — moving forward in mission with purpose, faith and resolve.



Spiritual Mission

As a premier Seventh-day Adventist institution, Andrews University places spiritual growth at the center of its mission. Campus data indicates sustained and growing spiritual engagement among students. Participation in discipleship initiatives through the Discipleship Center and the IGNITE Summer Discipleship Program has strengthened small-group ministry across campus. The percentage of students reporting growth in their spiritual lives has increased year on year, exceeding benchmarks among peer Adventist institutions. Students also report strong growth in their commitment to the beliefs and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Student and faculty engagement in evangelism continues to bear fruit locally and globally. In 2024, undergraduate students partnered with churches in Grand Rapids, Michigan, through the Field School of Evangelism, engaging in preaching, visitation and Bible studies. That same year, Andrews faculty and students participated in the "PNG for Christ" campaign, resulting in 1,800 baptisms. In 2025, the "Malawi for Christ" campaign saw more than 3,000

baptisms in a single day — reflecting a powerful integration of faith, learning and service.

Mission expression also extends through professional service and community engagement. Physical therapy students served at a medical clinic in El Salvador, while speech-language pathology students provided services to more than 200 nonverbal children in Jamaica. The School of Social Work's International Center for Trauma Education & Care has trained over 15,000 individuals in the past five years, partnering with multiple divisions and ministries of the world church and serving communities across Africa, Asia and the United States.

Andrews continues to support the global Adventist Church through scholarship and leadership development. In 2024, Andrews University Press distributed 28,000 copies of the Andrews Bible Commentary to 10 world divisions. In 2025, 32,000 copies of the Andrews Study Bible were distributed to eight divisions. Additionally, the Global Leadership Institute's LeadLab program has now been completed across all 13 world divisions.

... CONFIDENT
THAT THE SAME
GOD WHO HAS
GUIDED THIS
INSTITUTION
FOR 150 YEARS
WILL CONTINUE
TO LEAD IN THE
YEARS AHEAD.

Academic Excellence and Student Success

Andrews University's academic reputation continues to strengthen. Andrews remains the only Adventist institution classified as a national university by U.S. News & World Report, placing it among 436 national universities nationwide. From 2023 to 2025, Andrews rose 78 positions in the rankings and is ranked higher for social mobility than nearly all Michigan national universities.

The University holds Minority Serving Institution status and is Michigan's first Hispanic-Serving Institution. Niche rankings place Andrews in the top 20% of private universities nationally, the top 10% of Christian colleges and universities, and among the most diverse institutions in the country.

Research and creative scholarship remain a growing strength. Undergraduate participation in faculty-led research increased from 33% in 2014–2015 to 43% in 2024–2025, a standout achievement.

Graduate outcomes also remain strong, with 92% of Andrews graduates in a recent survey employed in their field or accepted into graduate school within one year of graduation.

Donor Support

Generous donor support has enabled strategic capital improvements across campus. Renovations to Lamson Hall, in partnership with Maranatha Volunteers International, have fully remodeled more than half of the West Wing rooms. The Health Professions Simulation Center now features advanced AI-equipped simulation technology, including industry-leading childbirth simulation. Renovations to Timber Ridge Hall added more than 80 one-bedroom apartments for single graduate students, addressing a critical housing need.

Enrollment

Enrollment has stabilized over the past three years despite significant external pressures, including immigration challenges affecting international students. Growth in first-time-in-any-college students has helped offset these pressures, and residence hall occupancy is the highest it has been in six years.

Student success metrics continue to outperform. The undergraduate six-year graduation rate has increased by more than 10% over the past four years and remains significantly higher than peer averages, with particularly strong outcomes among minority students.

The launch of Andrews University Global Campus in 2024 represents a strategic expansion serving adult learners and global students. With more than 1,150 degree-seeking students, Global Campus integrates distance, adult and continuing education programs into a cohesive approach positioned for long-term growth.

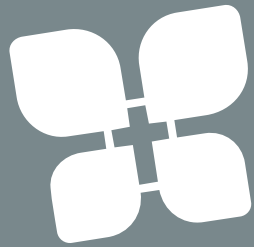
Commitment to Excellence

As Andrews University reflects on both recent progress and its 150-year legacy, we recognize that all growth and success ultimately reflect God's leading, carried forward through the faithful service of students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters.

Founded in faith and moving forward in mission, Andrews University remains committed to fulfilling God's purpose with excellence, creativity and faithfulness — confident that the same God who has guided this institution for 150 years will continue to lead in the years ahead.

John Wesley Taylor V is the president of Andrews University.





UCHICAGO MEDICINE
ADVENTHEALTH

Guided by Mission and Committed to Wholeness

Over the past four years, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth has entered a new chapter — one rooted in our mission, strengthened by partnership and centered on an unwavering commitment to the communities we serve.

When AdventHealth returned to operating independently in the Chicagoland suburbs in April 2022, we did so with a renewed focus on our mission and our commitment to whole-person care. Every decision, investment and strategic priority has been guided by our calling to extend the healing ministry of Christ in every interaction across our four hospitals in Bolingbrook, Glendale Heights, Hinsdale and La Grange, and more than 50 sites of care.

In January 2023, we launched our new affiliation with the University of Chicago Medicine, one of the nation's leading academic medical institutions. The partnership brings together the best of community-based care with academic capabilities, giving our patients greater access to specialty services and clinical research.

Through this affiliation, we have already expanded access to heart, brain, spine and cancer care, bringing highly specialized expertise into our communities. Patients can now see academic cancer specialists and participate in clinical trials close to home, supported by the compassion and whole-person care that define AdventHealth.

Across our Great Lakes Region, we continue to invest in technology and facilities that reflect our promise to provide whole-person care. At UChicago Medicine AdventHealth GlenOak, we introduced the da Vinci Xi surgical system, a state-of-the-art robotic platform that allows surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures with

greater precision. For patients, that often means less pain, fewer complications and a faster return home to their families, outcomes that matter deeply to us.

At UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale, we strengthened our stroke program with the addition of endovascular thrombectomy, a minimally invasive procedure that restores blood flow to the brain during severe stroke. This advancement brings lifesaving treatment to the community and moves us closer to our goal of becoming a comprehensive stroke center.

We also recently opened our new Level III neonatal intensive care unit at Hinsdale, a healing environment designed for both our tiniest patients and their families. The new unit features 23 private rooms — nearly doubling our previous capacity — each designed to give families comfort and privacy. This healing environment was made possible through extraordinary community generosity, as the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation not only reached but exceeded its \$5 million fundraising goal to bring this vision to life.

UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook is expanding access to specialized cardiovascular and cancer care through the construction of two new catheterization laboratories within a 15,000-square-foot addition. Scheduled to open to patients in 2027, the expansion will help us respond more quickly to heart emergencies and expand



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minimally invasive options for cancer care. This investment reflects the hospital's long-term strategy to advance cardiovascular services through innovation, clinical expertise and strong physician collaboration in support of Bolingbrook's growing community.

At UChicago Medicine AdventHealth La Grange, helping our patients feel whole begins with an unwavering focus on safe, high-quality care. The hospital's five-star Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services rating and national recognition from Forbes and U.S. News & World Report affirm the strength of our clinical outcomes and the compassionate experience our teams deliver. La Grange and Hinsdale both achieved Magnet re-designation for nursing excellence in 2025, a testament to the skill, collaboration and whole-person approach that define our care. Across our region, we are grateful for recognition from organizations such as Leapfrog and many others. However, what matters most is what those distinctions mean for our patients: trusted care and strong outcomes.

Each year, our region hosts free medical clinics in the community, providing medical care, screenings and essential resources to

neighbors who might otherwise go without. Alongside these clinics, our micro-pantries offer food discreetly and without barriers. It's a simple gesture, but it reminds people they are seen, valued, and cared for with dignity. We have active partnerships with local community organizations to reach those who are underserved or have limited access to care, ensuring our support extends beyond the hospital setting.

It has been my privilege to serve for the past two years as CEO during a season of meaningful growth and thoughtful leadership transition across our region. I am inspired each day by the dedication of our teams and the trust of those we serve, and I look to the future with confidence and hope. Guided by our calling and strengthened by our partnership with UChicago Medicine, we will continue moving forward with confidence, delivering compassionate, high-quality care that helps every person we serve feel whole.

Dr. Monica Reed is president and chief executive officer of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Great Lakes Region.



MILEPOSTS

OBITUARIES

BARRONE, David M., age 73; born Feb. 3, 1952, in Fort Wayne, Indiana; died Nov. 30, 2025, in Hudson, Indiana. He was a member of the Angola SDA Church in Angola, Indiana. He is survived by his wife, Debra A. Dennis; son, Paul Barrone; stepson, Nick McCay; daughter, Kelley Haines; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was inurned in Fairhaven, Indiana.

CONWAY, John F., age 87; born Nov. 18, 1938, in Baltimore, Maryland; died Jan. 12, 2026, in Rolla, Missouri. He was a member of the Salem SDA Church in Salem, Missouri. He is survived by his wife, Joan A. (Renouf) Conway; sons, Beryl (Kathleen) Conway, John A. (Katy) Conway, Michael (Corina) Conway; daughters, April Paffrath, Tracy Conway, Jennifer (Conway) Ortega; foster child, Angela; sister, June Koontz; 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. A funeral interment was conducted by Pastor Craig

Wiles on Jan. 16, 2026, at Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Fort Leonard Wood. A card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam can be sent to 2882 N Hwy 19, Salem, MO 65560.

GRAVES, Shirley J. (Elmer), age 87; born June 3, 1938, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; died Feb. 6, 2026, in Whitewater, Wisconsin. She was a member of the Waukesha Community Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Berlin, Wisconsin. She is survived by her son, Roger (Vanessa) Graves; daughter, Jane (Thomas) Foll; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A funeral interment was conducted by Pastor Jeanmark A'Kessler on Feb. 15, 2026, in East Pine River Cemetery in Yuba, Wisconsin.

JUNTA, Carol J. (Petrulich), age 83; born Apr. 30, 1942, in Taylor, Pennsylvania; died Jan. 19, 2026, in Bolingbrook, Illinois. She was a member of the Bolingbrook Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bolingbrook, Michigan. She is survived by

her husband, Michael A. Junta; sons, Russell Ventanni, Jeffery Ventanni, Todd Ventanni; daughters, Lisa Ventanni Tiffany Junta; brothers, Michael Petrunich, Raymond Petrunich; sister, Betty Jane Dugan Petrunich; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was inurned at Neptune Society in Illinois. Cards of sympathy or gift in memoriam can be sent to Michael Junta, 5 Willow Court, Bolingbrook, IL 60440.

MUELLER, Franz, age 82; born Oct. 15, 1943, in Lintz, Austria; died Nov. 28, 2025, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was a member of the Fort Wayne First SDA Church in Fort Wayne. He is survived by his wife, Judy (Walzer) Smith Mueller; sons, Scot Moon; stepsons, Tim Smith, Mark Smith, Matt Smith; daughter, Tami Clements; brother, Reinhold Mueller; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and eight step-grandchildren. A funeral interment was conducted by Pastor David DeRose on Dec. 14, 2025, and interment at Linden Wood Cemetery in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

PIERSON, Cecile R. (Torkelson), age 90; born Oct. 18, 1935, in Ava, Missouri; died Dec. 31, 2025, in Danville, Indiana. She was a member of the Spencer SDA

Church in Spencer, Indiana. She is survived by her son, Darrol Pierson; daughter, Rhonda (Pierson) Foote; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was inurned at Light Memorial and Funeral Chapel in Monrovia, Indiana.

RANDALL, Dale "Randy" A., age 62; born June 11, 1963, in Belding, Missouri; died Jan. 17, 2026, in Gobles, Michigan. He was a member of the Paw Paw SDA Church in Paw Paw, Michigan. He is survived by his father, Kenneth Randall; mother, Eleanor (Korb) Randall; brother, Brian Randall; sister, Sherilyn (Randall) Bielas; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial was conducted by Pastor Sean Reed on Jan. 24, 2026.

WILDMAN, Louis, age 88; born Mar. 6, 1937, in Madison, Wisconsin; died Dec. 21, 2025, in Portland, Oregon. He was a member of the Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church in Portland, Oregon. He is survived by his wife, Reinette Boshoff; stepson, Kris de Bruin; brother, Gordon Wildman; and sister, Janet (Wildman) Schlunt. A memorial service was conducted on March 8, 2026, at the Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church in Portland, Oregon.

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at www.lakeunionherald.org. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside front cover.

APRIL CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

- 4 Local Church Budget
- 11 Hope Channel International, Inc. (GC)
- 18 Local Church Budget
- 25 Local Conference Advance

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENT

LEGAL NOTICE

The 24th business session of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, on May 31, 2026. The first meeting of the session will convene at 9 a.m. on May 31. This session is being held for the purpose of receiving reports for the three-year period ending Dec. 31, 2025; the election of officers, associate treasurers, departmental directors, associate directors, and executive committee for the ensuing five years; to consider proposed constitutional changes; and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Elden Ramirez, president Ted Huskins, secretary

EVENTS

Attn: Broadview Academy Graduates. Our 2026 School Reunion is April 24 & 25, 2026, at the North Aurora SDA Church, 950 Mooseheart Rd, North Aurora, IL. Let your classmates know. Honor classes: '56,'66,'76,'86,'96,'01 and '06.

Friday Night Vespers: 7:30 p.m.; Sabbath Services: 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Bring a dish for lunch to share if you can. All are welcome!

Come join the Cedar Lake (MI) SDA Church's 50-year celebration, May 8 and 9. After 97 years of ministry our church building was built and dedicated 50 years ago! Highlights: reminiscing, former pastors, Sabbath School and church, potluck, concert, bonfire and future vision. Information at cedarlakeadventist.church or 989-427-2484.

Hone your fundraising skills at the 2026 Missional Philanthropy Conference at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, July 14–16. Learn from nationally recognized experts in education, healthcare, corporate foundations and nonprofit work to effectively generate financial support for projects. Registration is open through July 1 at southern.edu/philanthropyconference.

EMPLOYMENT

Andrews University is seeking qualified Seventh-day Adventists who may fill open

roles in fulfilling our mission to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith, and Change the World. If this is of interest to you, please check out our current openings at: andrews.edu/jobs

Union Adventist University is searching for a director of Human Resources. This is a full-time, exempt position with excellent benefits. This position plans, leads, develops, coordinates and implements policies, processes and initiatives to support the University's human resource compliance and strategy needs. Please view the full description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

Union Adventist University is seeking applicants for two positions in the Student Success Department: Student Success career development program manager to oversee career development services including coaching and advising students in calling/vocational exploration and other related duties; life coach to implement strategic indicatives related to student retention, engagement and graduation. Both are full-time positions with full benefits package including tuition assistance for dependents. See job descriptions and apply at uau.edu/employment.

Union Adventist University seeks candidates for a Nursing faculty position. This is a full-time exempt position responsible for preparing undergraduate students to successfully complete the Union BSN curriculum and pass the National Council State Boards of Nursing Exam. Excellent benefits package that includes tuition assistance for dependents. Apply at uau.edu/employment.

Union Adventist University seeks applicants for Religion program director and professor to begin teaching fall 2026. Candidate must be ordained or commissioned to the ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church or on a track. Responsibilities include serving as program director for the Religion program, oversight of the SALT program, and teaching classes. Please see the job description and apply at uau.edu/employment.

Strong Tower Radio has a job opening for an engineering director. Prior broadcast

engineering experience a must. Having a General Radio Telephone Operators License preferred. Work is mainly at the STR headquarters in Cadillac, Michigan, but will involve travel. See StrongTowerRadio.org for complete job description or contact us at 231-468-2087.

SERVICES

Raise Smarter Kids — Kids grow better with radio! LifeTalkKids.net offers stellar educational and captivating programs 24/7. Building character for now and for eternity is what LifeTalk Kids is all about. Listen online or download our FREE APP at: LifeTalk.net

Need a vocation? Gain hands-on training in HVAC, welding, electrical, or other in-demand trades — and be equipped to share the Three Angels' Messages. The Streams of Light Training Institute is where trades meet mission. Learn more at StreamsOfLightInstitute.net or call 888-765-7654.

The Lake Union Herald cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The Lake Union Herald does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>.

April

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

GENERAL EVENTS

April 2, 11:30 a.m.: *Teaching & Learning Conference*

April 4: *Passion Play*

April 6–8: *Summit on Social Consciousness*

April 10, 1:30–5:30 p.m.: *Honors Thesis Symposium, Buller Hall*

April 10–12: *Gymnics Homeshow, Andraesen Center for Wellness*

April 10–13: *Andrews University April Weekend Experience*

April 12, 12–7 p.m.: *International Food Fair, Johnson Gym*

April 24: *Skywatch, Robert & Lillis Kingman Observatory*

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit howard.andrews.edu.

April 4, 8:30 p.m.: *Andrews University Choirs Spring Concert*

April 8, 7 p.m.: *Howard Center Presents: The Collingsworth Family*

April 9, 7:30 p.m.: *Andrews University Symphony Orchestra & WAUS Thank You Concert*

April 11, 8:30 p.m.: *Watchmen Reimagined*

April 12, 4 p.m.: *Sunday Music Series: Dmitry Rachmanov*

April 19, 4 p.m.: *Andrews University Wind Symphony Spring Concert*

April 24, 7:30 p.m.: *Stephen Zork Celebration Reunion Choir Concert*

April 25, 8:30 p.m.: *Howard Center Presents: Chi Yong Yun & Charles Reid*

ILLINOIS

April 7: *Kidscourse*

April 10–12: *Pathfinder Spring Camporee, Camp Akita*

April 18: *Couple's Retreat*

April 26: *Master Guide Training*

INDIANA

April 2–4: *Music Fest, Indiana Academy*

April 10–12: *Teen Leaders Training Campout, Timber Ridge Camp*

LAKE REGION

April 1–5: *Oakwood University Alumni Weekend*

MICHIGAN

April 3–5: *Hispanic Marriage Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

April 10–12: *Women's Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

April 17–19: *Women's Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

April 24–26: *Church Leader's Workshop, Camp Au Sable*

WISCONSIN

April 10–12: *Women's Retreat, Camp Wakonda*

April 18: *Wisconsin Academy Alumni Weekend*

LAKE UNION

April 24–26: *ASI Spring Fellowship, Troy, Michigan*

Events listed were scheduled to proceed at press time. Please call ahead or check event websites before making plans to attend.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
Berrien Springs, Michigan	8:14	8:22	8:30	8:37
Chicago	7:19	7:27	7:35	7:42
Detroit	8:01	8:09	8:17	8:25
Indianapolis	8:12	8:19	8:26	8:33
La Crosse, Wisconsin	7:35	7:44	7:52	8:01
Lansing, Michigan	8:08	8:16	8:24	8:32
Madison, Wisconsin	7:27	7:35	7:44	7:52
Springfield, Illinois	7:26	7:33	7:40	7:47

Scan to register:



ASI LAKE UNION
Spring Fellowship
April 24-26

20
26

ASI
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Seminar presenter:
Michael Cafferky

DBA, MDiv, MPH, MFA
Author, Speaker, Writing Coach



Keynote speaker:
John Bradshaw

President & Speaker
It Is Written



Seminar presenter:
Janine Lim

Associate Dean,
Online Higher Education
Global Campus Andrews University

For more program details and to register, go to: asilakeunion.org | 269-473-8247

