

**Northwest  
District  
Iowa Annual  
Conference  
United Methodist  
Church**

# Letters from the Lakeshore



**Volume 5, Issue 5**

**July/August 2011**

## Disaster Response Training July 7-9, 2011

Have you wondered how you can get involved with Disaster Response here are three opportunities for you. Each District is working to have persons available to serve at times of disaster to help others find HOPE. Have you been called?

### **July 7-8**

Disaster Case Management Basic

Two day class to prepare caring helpers for their work in guiding survivors through to their recovery.

### **July 8-9**

Early Response Training (ERT)

Learn specific ways to be a caring presence while causing no further harm or being a burden to the affected community.

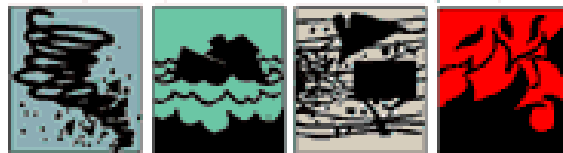
### **July 9**

Ministry of Caring Workshop that offers practical information and ideas to help people facing the unique emotional and spiritual challenges that accompany disaster.

At the Ankeny, First United Methodist Church their Christian Life Center 710 NE 36th Street

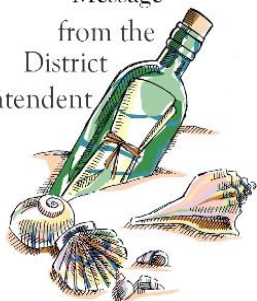
For registration and more information, check the District Website.

## DISASTER RELIEF



*Help those in need*

Message  
from the  
District  
Superintendent



## Cell Group Ministry

We have invited Kevin Applegate, Director of the Cell Group Ministry at Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio, to conduct two identical workshops in Cell Group Ministry. They have a very effective Cell group ministry and we want not only to learn from their experience but most of all for us in the Northwest district to be inspired and infected by their enthusiasm and joy in this ministry.

(Continued on page 2)

## Message from the DS

(Continued from page 1)

Kevin says, "This hands-on workshop will discuss the vital importance of small/cell group ministry and how to implement a working model into your faith community. Sessions will include creating a model that works for you, engaging people to do life together, the four key functions of a cell group, how to build authentic community in your groups, training people to lead life changing bible study and discussion, and the power of serving together as groups."

I was reading Malcolm Gladwell's book entitled "The Tipping Point" and as I think of small group or cell group ministry, this could be the tipping point that will just help our church grow.

Sometimes knowing a little about the workshop leader help prospect participants to decide to come, so here are some bio information about Kevin Applegate: He is the Director of Cell Group Ministry at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio, where he connects adults into cell groups based on location, life-stage and discipleship interests. He also disciples and trains cell group leaders, identifies and launches new cells, and provides tools and problem solving skills cell groups need to thrive in life-transforming cell community. Currently there are 260+ active cell groups with 2500+ active participants at Ginghamburg Church.

Kevin also spearheads the Ginghamburg house church ministry movement by facilitating the recruiting, training, pre-launch preparation, and ongoing support of house church leaders and new house church launches. Ginghamburg currently has 4 active house churches with plans for 2 new houses churches being launched by the end of 2011.

Prior to joining the Ginghamburg team in 2005, Kevin, who holds a Master of Divinity degree, served for nine years as Director of Youth and Young Adult Leadership Ministries within the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Living the United Methodist way,

*Rev. Bernie Colorado*



### **Cell Group Ministry Workshop: *The power of cell groups for discipleship, ministry, and life calling.***

September 23– Sioux City, Wesley UMC

September 24– Alta UMC

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Lunch provided (\$5)

Presenter: Kevin Applegate

Please make reservations by Thursday, September 1. Send RSVP to



**Iowa Annual  
Conference United  
Methodist Church**

**Northwest District  
Office**



**Bishop Julius Trimble**

**District Superintendent  
Rev. Bernie Colorado**

Email: [BColorado@iaumc.org](mailto:BColorado@iaumc.org)

**Field Outreach Minister  
Sarah Stevens**

Email: [Sarah.Stevens@iaumc.org](mailto:Sarah.Stevens@iaumc.org)

**District Administrative  
Secretary  
Judi Calhoon**

Email: [Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org](mailto:Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org)

701 Seneca, Ste 2  
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

(712) 732-0812  
(712) 732-0955(Fax)

[www.iaumc.org/nwdist](http://www.iaumc.org/nwdist)

## Charge Conference Forms Workshop

Thursday, August 18 (10 am to 12 noon at Cherokee UMC)

or

Saturday, August 27 (2 pm to 4 pm at Okoboji UM Camp)

All pastors are encouraged to attend one of these workshops and bring along their staff and others who will be helping fill out the forms. We will be discussing how the forms need to be filled out and why it is important to make sure all the paperwork is done correctly. There are some changes to Form I that will be discussed and it is very important that this form is filled out correctly.

For more information will be available on the District Website by the end of July.



## True Vine Ministry

A Ministry of Encouragement for the Clergy Spouse

Clergy Spouses and interested Adults are invited to a Time Apart to share

“Prayer...is About Relationship II.”

October 8, 2011

Living Water UMC, 1155 Grand Avenue, Marion, IA 52302

Time: 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Registration Cost: \$25.00 (Your registration covers both your meals and all materials for the day)

Make Check Payable to: Iowa Annual Conference (Memo Section: True Vine Ministry)

Send to: True Vine Ministry Event, c/o Mrs. Betty Kiboko, P.O. Box 192, Norwalk, IA 50211

Deadline: Tuesday Following Labor Day—September 6

Late Registration Fee Will Apply. An additional \$5.00 will be in effect and assessed to any registration fees received after September 6, 2011. An onsite registration fee is \$10.00 on October 8, 2011, the day of the event.

Questions: Event Registrars: Mrs. Betty Koboko, 515.981-4585, [bkiboko@gmail.com](mailto:bkiboko@gmail.com)

Mrs. Lynn Louk, 515.276.7900, [jimlynnlouk@mac.com](mailto:jimlynnlouk@mac.com)



## Won't You Be Our Friend???

The Northwest District now has TWO Facebook Pages! The “Northwest District Office UMC” and “Western Iowa Flood Recovery” sites are now both available, and are used as two separate forums.

With the “Northwest District Office UMC” you can enjoy being part of the Northwest District through communicating with one another, finding out what is going on in the district, learning about upcoming events, prayers requested, district needs, praises...whatever might come to mind.

The “Western Iowa Flood Recovery” site is used primarily to keep in touch with those in both the Northwest and Southwest Districts in Iowa...to provide flooding updates, communicate any needs or concerns, give comfort to those affected, etc.




To be a part of these sites, go to your Facebook page, and type in the Name of the Site in your search engine. When the Site comes up on your home page, simply “Like” the site. You will then become a part of a wonderful communication ministry with United Methodist Family!



## Schedule of Events

- If you have any articles for the district newsletter, please send them to [Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org](mailto:Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org) by the 20th of the month.
- July 21 Pastors New to the Northwest District Orientation at the District Office
- Book groups will be meeting July 11, 12 and 28. See article on page
- August 27 District Picnic
- August 18 and 17- Charge Conference Forms Workshop.
- September 22-District UMW Annual Meeting
- September 23-24 Cell Group Ministry Workshops
- November 16- The Wright Lecture at Morningside will be given by William H. Willimon, Resident Bishop of the Birmingham Area of The United Methodist Church. He is the author of more than fifty books, including "Why Jesus (2010)."

# July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3 	4 Office Closed	5 Judi-vacation	6	7	8	9
10	11 Book Group	12 Book Group <small>Cabinet</small>	13	14 Ministry Cabinet	15	16 
17	18 	19	20	21 Pastors New to the District Orientation	22	23
24	25 Judi- vacation	26	27	28 Book Group	29	30
31						



# August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 Superintendancy Committee	8 Book Group	9 Multi-staff Training in Ames	10	11	12	13
14	15 Book Group	16	17	18 Charge Conference Forms Workshop	19	20
21	22	23 Bernie at HCI Training in Indianapolis <small>FOM meeting in Des Moines</small>	24	25	26 	27 Charge Conference Forms Workshop
28	29 Book Group	30	31 			

Just a reminder that Charge Conference Forms and Schedules and Pastoral Interview Forms and Schedules are on the District website. Please check when yours is scheduled!!!





**Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!**

**July**

- 5 Brian Ashley
- 8 Joel & Angela Gafford Asmus
- 9 Jim Perdue
- 11 Bernie Lewiston
- 17 Lucille Hansen
- 18 Roger & Amy Madden
- 21 Joy Washington
- 23 Julie McCullough
- 26 Jennifer Hesebeck
- 30 Luann Benge
- 17 Heather Monthei
- 30 Karl & Jo Watkins

**August**

- 7 Tom Connors
- 7 Chad & Joy Lierman
- 9 Clint Fraley
- 10 Evelyn & Bernie Lewiston
- 10 Suz Ann Shaffer
- 11 Jennifer & Treven Hesebeck
- 11 Lon Lewis
- 12 Chuck & Holly Kellogg
- 15 Doris & Marvin Lindley
- 15 Amy Madden
- 19 Nancy Lewis
- 19 Lyndon Roesler
- 19 Tim & Nancy Walker
- 23 Steve Pohlman
- 24 Lola Rosenberger
- 26 Thorne & Linda Wittstruck
- 28 Jerry & Amy Miller
- 30 Lisa Swenson
- 31 Lyndon & Tonia Roesler



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

**Carolyn Hollar** who had shoulder surgery. Carolyn is the pastor at Quimby-Washta.

**Ron Dewey** who had shoulder surgery. Ron is the husband of Kim Dewey who is the pastor at Rembrandt-Peterson.

**Leela Prince** and family on the passing of her husband, Prince Swamikan. Leela is a retired local pastor.

**Evelyn Lewiston** and family on the passing of her mother, Mary McCasland. Evelyn is the pastor at West Bend-Mallard.

The **family of Gladys Teasdale**, surviving spouse of Rev. Calvin Teasdale, who passed away on June 14.

The **family of Helen Mason**, surviving spouse of Rev. Charles Mason, who passed away on May 18.

Please forward all prayer requests to Judi at the District Office. Please remember that we can not put you on the prayer list if you don't inform us!

**Bernie's Calendar**

**July**

- 3 Preach at Emmetsburg
- 4 Office Closed to Celebrate Independence Day
- 6 Ministry Expectations Workshop- at Galva
- 7 SPRC Meeting at Hinton
- 10 Preach at Sioux City, Wesley  
Cluster Conference at Peterson  
Ministry Expectations Workshop- at Peterson
- 12-13 Cabinet
- 14 Ministry Cabinet
- 17 Ministry Expectations Workshop/Chg Conf at LeMars  
Charge Conference at Seney
- 18 Ministry Expectations Workshop at Marcus
- 19 Ministry Expectations Workshop at Schaller
- 21 Pastors New to the Northwest District Orientation
- 27 Ministry Expectations Workshop at Rock Rapids
- 28 Ministry Expectations Workshop at Spencer, Zion
- 29 Charge Conference at Lester, Seeds of Faith
- 31 Ministry Expectations Workshop at Spencer, Grace  
Ministry Expectations Workshop at Langdon

**August**

- 2 Ministry Expectations Workshop at Storm Lake
- 3 Ministry Expectations Workshop at Ocheyedan
- 7 District Superintendency Committee
- 18 District Training for Charge Conference Forms
- 23-25 Healthy Church Initiative Training in Indianapolis
- 27 District Picnic  
District Training for Charge Conference Forms

## Welcome 2011 Okoboji Campers!

The 2011 camping season is in full swing at Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp! Children, youth and families from all across the mid-west are attending camping events RIGHT NOW! Got the afternoon off...want to sing around the campfire...want to spend the afternoon soaking in beautiful West Lake Okoboji...JUST STOP BY! We'd love to see you!

**CAMP SIGN-UPS** – There is still plenty of time to sign up for a camping experience at Okoboji! Families can register for events UP UNTIL THE DAY THE EVENT STARTS! There are camping events for ALL AGES EVERY WEEK of the summer in 2011! No children at home...how about a grandchild, co-worker's children, neighbors? Contact your local church, call TOLL FREE 1-866-856-9862 or email [info@okobojicamp.com](mailto:info@okobojicamp.com) for information or to request a free camping catalog and brochure.

**CAMPING DISCOUNTS** – **Family discount** - Receive an extra \$25.00 discount for each additional family member who comes to camp in 2011. Any camping event they choose! **Bring a Friend discount** - For each new camper\* you bring, we'll discount the cost of your event fee by \$25.00\*\*. Your friends have fun with you at camp, you save a little money, and everybody WINS!

\* New campers are defined as not having been to any Iowa UM Camps in the past 3 years.

\*\* Discounts cannot exceed the cost of your event registration fees.

**CAMPERSHIPS** – Need help paying for your camp experience? LET SOMEONE KNOW! No one has ever been turned away because they couldn't afford to pay. Pastors and church staff – do you need a copy of the campership form? Just let us know and we'll email you a copy!

**THANK YOU** – For making sure the children, youth and families at your churches know about camping opportunities. We couldn't do it without you!

Camping events provide children, youth, young adults and families with an opportunity to learn, play, experience God's love in the outdoors, grow in faith in a safe atmosphere, and to reach their personal best! The activities and opportunities that campers experience at camp will stick with them for the rest of their lives! Camp provides the acceptance and support of a Christian community and positive relationships with adult leaders who truly care about children and making disciples for Jesus. At Okoboji, Jesus Christ is shared in song, word, worship and example as campers live out their faith together in community. Okoboji provides an unforgettable summer experience, where campers can discover and explore exciting activities in a carefully supervised, Christian environment. Lives are changed forever!

“Camp gives kids a world of good!”

See you soon at camp!

Keith Shew  
Director

Okoboji United Methodist Camp & Retreat Center

21413 154th Street Place

Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Toll free: 866-856-9862

24 hr. Fax: 712-336-1822

866-856-9862



## Retreat Series for Pastors

The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness of the Rockies will begin Iowa retreat series in August.

When a church is anxious, for whatever reason, clergy are often seen as "the problem" that needs to be exorcised from the church. It is often scapegoating on the part of the church. In fact, when the "problem clergy" issue develops in a church system and all of the attention is focused on that person, it usually means there are deeper, more basic issues being ignored by the church. The scapegoating is a great way for the church system to eliminate looking at themselves. So how do we as clergy deal with this? This is what we address in The Center for Pastoral Effectiveness of the Rockies.

The Center series begins Aug. 17-19, at Broadway UMC, Council Bluffs. It includes six three-day retreats scheduled over 18 months and costs only \$1980 spread over that same time period. Don't let money be the deciding factor. The Center is designed to span three calendar years to make more Continuing Education funds available.

For more information, see the flyer on the District Website.

## A Note from the District Disaster Response Coordinators

Dear Friends in the Northwest District

As we see ever increasing water levels we all get a bit more anxious about what is to come..... several thoughts

**Be Prepared:** even if your home/business/church is not in the direct path of water we need to be prepared. High water can effect all of us directly or indirectly. Electrical or Sewer services could be disrupted even if there is not water in your yard/basement/ town

As we prepare to help when the water goes down, here is a list of some of the most helpful items in the first days. We are setting up distribution sites in the district for donating items and for getting items that will be needed. In the next weeks we will have that ready for you, and will let you know where to drop off items. If you have things to drop off, please contact us or the District Office. The District website has a list of items that are needed for the clean-up buckets.

**Build a Kit:** Pack three days of food, water and supplies (for each member of family) in a waterproof container. Also include important documents, list of medicines,[ how much you take, when, where get meds], contact information (these items are also good to have on flash drive), medicines, radio, first aid kit, map, money, tools, personal supplies, pet supplies (include any meds, medical history and Dr name). If you have children: diapers, a few small toys.

**Make a Plan:** Establish responsibilities to each member of your family and work together as a team. Tell everyone in the household where emergency information and supplies are kept. Develop a family communication plan ( who do you call if separated from rest of family to let know you are okay and where you are) Let your church disaster team/ or pastor know where you are going if you leave home.

**Be Informed:** Identify how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how you will get information, whether through local radio, TV, or NOVAA weather radio channels.

**Giving:** The following guidelines were developed by a coalition of government, voluntary agency and faith-based partners:

\* **Cash is the single best way to help disaster survivors.** Cash doesn't need to be sorted, stored or distributed, and it allows the voluntary agency to give donation towards the needs that most urgently need addressing. \* Use Advance #223 to help through the Iowa United Methodist Church.

Please keep all who are dealing with issues of water in your prayers.

Blessings,

Catie and John Newman

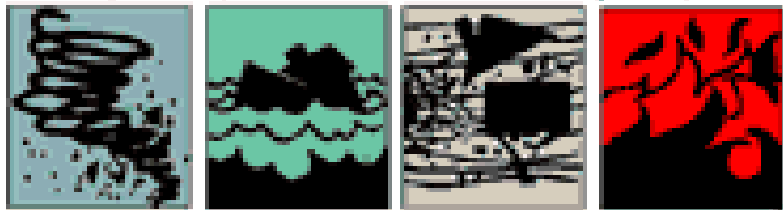
Northwest District Disaster Response Coordinators

712-874-3247

712-899-4067

[johnstruckfarm@wiatel.net](mailto:johnstruckfarm@wiatel.net)

# DISASTER RELIEF

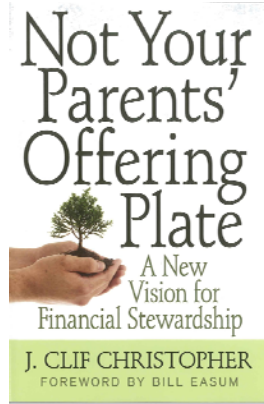


*Help those in need*

## Northwest District Book Discussion Night

You are invited to come to the first ever NW District Book Discussion Night. Our first gathering will be around Clif Christopher's *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate*. This is the first of what we hope to be many informal gatherings for group learning around some of the newest books that address the challenges and opportunities that we face in our shared ministries.

Everyone is invited! What a great opportunity to learn from great books and from one another. It will be most helpful to everyone attending if you read the book beforehand. Copies should be easy to purchase but are also available to borrow in the District Office.



**Monday, July 11**

6 pm

Sarah's home: 142 West Gilman Terrace, Sioux City

**Tuesday, July 12**

6 pm

District Office: 701 Seneca St, Storm Lake

**Thursday, July 28**

6 pm

Sarah's cottage: 21417 Prairie St, Spirit Lake (on the UM Campgrounds)

We will share simple refreshments provided by Sarah Stevens, our Field Outreach Minister. Please let us know if you are coming by 10 AM the day of the gathering you will be attending. Sarah.Stevens@iaumc.org or 712-253-9074

## Iowa 5-Day Academy of Spiritual Formation & Upper Room Ministries presents

### Rooted & Grounded Life in the Wesleyan Spirit

**July 11-16, 2011**

**Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA**

Presenters: Dr. Greg Clapper, Wesleyan Spirituality: A Matter of Heart, Mind, & Community  
Sister Kathleen Flood, OP Spiritual Disciplines: Rooted & Grounded in Everyday Life

This 5-Day Event uses the Upper Room model of Academy for Spiritual Formation. Each day includes 3 worship services, (Morning Prayer, Service of Word & Table, and Night Prayer). During Morning and Afternoon: 1 hour lecture, 1 hour for individual meditation, and a time of community feedback. Each evening there is small-group meeting time with 5-7 persons to process your learnings and/or experiences.

Retreat Leader: Kae Tritle, bktritle@msn.com - More information at [www.Iowa5day.org](http://www.Iowa5day.org)

Send registrations to: Karla Haynes, ASF Registrar- 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA 50321.  
Room, Board, & Tuition fees: \$425.  
\$100 due with Registration (Non-Refundable)



## District Picnic

for

**Pastors, Pastors' Families  
and Professionals in Ministry**

Saturday, August 27

11:00 am to 1:30 pm

Lake Okoboji UM Camp and Retreat Center

Bring a dish to share. Meat and Beverages will be provided.

## Northwest District Apportionments Update

One of the most powerful moments to me in the last session of the Iowa Annual Conference was the ordination. It reminded me of my own ordination when I gave myself fully to the ministry of Christ through the United Methodist Church. It was a long journey to ordination which included the seminary training, yearly interview with the Interview Team first with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and then with the Interview Team of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and now it includes regular attendance in the Residence in Ministry group. But one thing I want to point out is the fact that my ordination became possible because of the prayers and encouragement of my parents, church members and friends, and also because of the apportionment which paid part of my tuition and also paid the expenses related to my credentialing and eventually my ordination. The Conference Apportionment for Board of Ordained Ministry is \$56,000. There is also the Ministerial Education Fund which comes from the General Church Apportionments of about \$111,400. Thank you to all congregations which are committed to paying 100% of their apportionment. Rev. Bernie Colorado

ALTA	33%	MERRILL, FIRST	42%
SCHALLER	0%	ADAVILLE, FIRST	42%
ANTHON	33%	MILFORD, UNION MEMORIAL	5%
ROCK BRANCH	42%	MOVILLE	25%
ARCHER	0%	NEMAHA	42%
ARMSTRONG	12%	ODEBOLT	42%
ARNOLDS PARK	30%	ONAWA	0%
AURELIA, FIRST	42%	TURIN	0%
CHEROKEE, ST. PAUL'S	42%	PETERSON	43%
CORRECTIONVILLE	42%	PIERSON	22%
CUSHING, FIRST	23%	MEADOW STAR	30%
DANBURY	25%	PRIMGHAR	28%
DOLLIVER	50%	QUIMBY	33%
<b>DOON, FIRST</b>	<b>100%</b>	WASHTA	33%
<b>EARLY</b>	<b>100%</b>	REMBRANDT	0%
EMMETSBURG	34%	ROCK RAPIDS	42%
ESTHERVILLE	8%	ROCK VALLEY, PIONEER	18%
EVERLY	0%	ROLFE	0%
ROYAL	42%	RUTHVEN	42%
EXCELSIOR	11%	AYRSHIRE	0%
FOSTORIA	43%	SAC CITY	18%
GALVA, FIRST	4%	SANBORN, ST. ANDREW'S	0%
SILVER CREEK	33%	SENEY	42%
GILLETT GROVE	25%	SERGEANT BLUFF	25%
DICKENS	42%	SHELDON	33%
GRAETTINGER	0%	SIBLEY	34%
TERRIL	33%	OCHEYEDAN	42%
HARRIS	46%	SC, CHURCH ALL NATIONS	0%
LAKE PARK	33%	SIOUX CITY, CRESCENT PARK	0%
HARTLEY	26%	SIOUX CITY, FIRST	8%
HAWARDEN	42%	SIOUX CITY, GRACE	14%
IRETON	15%	SIOUX CITY, RIVERSIDE	9%
HINTON	3%	AKRON, WESLEY	27%
MERRILL, MELBOURNE	42%	SIOUX CITY, ST. JAMES	48%
HOLSTEIN	42%	SIOUX CITY, TRIMBLE	2%
HOPE PARISH	42%	SIOUX CITY, WESLEY	0%
HORNICK	42%	SIOUX CITY, WHITFIELD	33%
SALIX	1%	SIOUX CITY, RUSTIN AVENUE	0%
HUNTINGTON	0%	SIOUX RAPIDS	0%
IDA GROVE, FIRST	42%	SMITHLAND	27%
ARTHUR	50%	SPENCER, GRACE	25%
KINGSLEY	25%	SPIRIT LAKE	24%
LAKES	0%	STORM LAKE	0%
LANGDON	33%	SUTHERLAND	20%
SPENCER, ZION	25%	LARRABEE	38%
LAURENS	42%	VARINA	42%
LE MARS	42%	WEBB	25%
LESTER, SEEDS OF FAITH	8%	WEST BEND	33%
MAPLETON, ST. JOHN'S	7%	MALLARD	33%
TICONIC	42%		
MARATHON	35%		
MARCUS, GRACE	25%		
MELVIN	25%		
		<b>District Total Paid as of May 31, 2011</b>	<b>25%</b>



Northwest District Office  
701 Seneca 404 E 7th St, Ste 2  
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

Phone: 712-732-0812  
Fax: 712-732-0955

**IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Open Hearts. Open Minds.  
Open Doors*

## Training Event for Multiple Staff Churches

**Collegiate UM Church in Ames,  
Iowa**

### **TWO SESSIONS**

**Session One:** Building a Terrific  
Team (For Lead Pastors and all  
Church Staff) - August 9 (10:00 a.m.-  
8:30 p.m.) AND August 10 (9:30  
a.m.—Noon)

**Session Two:** Leading a Church Staff  
(For Lead Pastors Only) - August 10  
(1:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.) AND August  
11 (9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.)

This event is sponsored by the Board  
of Ordained Ministry, District Super-  
intendents and Bishop Trimble.

Look for more information to come!

## Small Groups

In 2010, Bernie attended “School of Congregational Development” and attended the workshop on Small Groups. This is the conclusion of his notes. The first part was printed in the May newsletter and the second part was published in the June newsletter.

### **TYPICAL MEETING**

- Introduction
- Ice Breaker
- Sharing
- Singing
- Answer Prayers/Praise
- Appreciation of others
- Application of Bible
- Conversation Prayer
- Closing

First meetings spend getting to know each other. If this is Bible Study Group don't start Bible study right away. May do 3rd week.

### **GREAT CROWD BREAKER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FIRST MEETING**

1. If you could erase any verse out of the Bible, which one would it be?
2. Share the juiciest piece of gossip you know so we can pray about it.
3. What's your favorite of Ten Commandments to break?
4. If you could change anything about your life, what would it be?
5. If you could cheat and get away with it, what would it be?

### **MORE SERIOUS**

Draw a spiritual timeline for your life (give 15 minutes) and share it with the group. Include highs/lows in your life and your relationship to God.

### **MORE TIPS FOR LEADERS**

- Help everyone in the group participate in non-threatening ways
- Begin and end with prayer.
- Respond to needs if expressed.
- Use the bible as your foundation of authority and guidance
- Be an encourager of everyone in the group
- Don't allow divisive arguments to hurt group
- Be loving in your leadership
- Follow up between meetings with email
- Invite new members at break points
- Handle problem people one-on-one...but handle it
- Don't allow anyone to confess someone else's faults
- Don't allow anyone to do all the talking
- Be in tune spiritually
- Keep learning. You don't have all the answers.
- Hang loose and keep a relaxed fun atmosphere.
- Have a sense of humor
- When you need help seek out the church staff (pastor) quickly
- The atmosphere of a home usually works better than church
- Food is a definite asset and provides good fellowship time.

**Remember, Christ is leading through you.**