

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

# Letters from the Lakeshore



**Volume 5, Issue 3**

**May 2011**

## District Conference

Sunday, May 1, 2011

2:30 p.m.

United Church of Primghar (465 Heritage Park Rd,  
Primghar)

## Pre-Conference Legislation Workshop

Saturday, May 7, 2011

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Lake Park UMC (1471 135th Ave , Lake Park)  
or  
Ida Grove UMC (312 Main St , Ida Grove)

The district conference is composed of all clergy, diaconal ministers, church lay leader, president of UMM, president of UMW, and president of UMYF from each local church, lay member of the annual conference from each charge, equalization lay members of the annual conference, the district lay leader, president of District UMM, president of District UMW, the Field Outreach Minister.

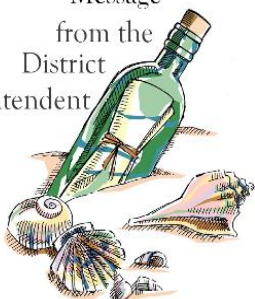
There will be reports, Rainbow Covenant Recognition, election of officers and committees, approval of 2012 district asking, and other business of the district.

Let's come together for holy conferencing. It's the United Methodist way.



## Small Group is Not Optional Ministry

Message  
from the  
District  
Superintendent



I continue to emphasize the importance of small group ministry in the local churches. It is a fact that a healthy church is a church with good small group ministry. During the early church and early Methodism, small group is not an optional ministry. It is natural for the church of Christ to have small groups of different kinds and functions for the primary purpose of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Ginghamsburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio, is a growing church which encourages their members to be part of a cell group and also be active participants in worship service. Other healthy and growing churches also have strong small group ministry. Northwest District through its

(Continued on page 2)

## Message from the DS

(Continued from page 1)

Parish Development Committee has invited the Director of Cell Group Ministry at Ginghamburg UMC to conduct workshops in the district. My hope is that through this workshop we will catch the same spirit and enthusiasm that they have and become more intentional in growing the church, in quality and quantity.

There will be two workshops that will be held in two different places in the district. First workshop will be on September 23 (Friday) at Sioux City, Wesley UMC and the second will be on September 24 (Saturday) in Alta UMC. I would like each church to send at least 4 persons including the pastor. NW District has 102 churches so there is a possibility of 306 lay participants and 73 pastors. Registration will be required to determine the number of participants for the purpose of planning meals and also number of materials to be printed. Registration fee will be \$5.00 which is for meal and refreshments.

As we grow the church during these different and changing times, it is good to know that the early church Christians' and early Methodists' focus on small group ministry still works and is still effective. St. Paul said, "Let us not give up meeting together ...." in small group and in worship. John Wesley "was driven to multiplying 'classes' for these served best as recruiting groups, as ports of entry for new people, and for involving awakened people with the gospel and power."

There is no doubt that it can be done. What is needed is that we covenant to do it. And part of our covenant is to come to the Cell Group workshop.

Living the United Methodist way,  
*Rev. Bernie Colorado*



**Prepare yourself to** Join with other United Methodists making a difference Plant a tree with us at one of our 3 UMC Camps!



- Camp Pictured Rocks Saturday May 7th 9 AM – 12 Noon (lunch provided!) RSVP with Gary at (319) 465-4194

- Camp Wesley Woods Saturday May 14th 1-4 PM Snacks provided! RSVP with Deke at (515) 961-4523

- Camp Okoboji Saturday May 14th 2 PM RSVP with Keith at (712) 336-2936 Snacks provided!!!

Trees are being planted to off-set the paper used by the Iowa Annual Conference each June. This is a ministry of the Iowa UMC Camps and the Iowa Conference Board of Church and Society.

For bulletin inserts see the District website under Letters from the Lakeshore.



## Iowa Annual Conference United Methodist Church

### Northwest District Office



**Bishop Julius Trimble**

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**Rev. Bernie Colorado**  
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(712) 732-0812  
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[www.iaumc.org/nwdist](http://www.iaumc.org/nwdist)

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

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. The workshop will be lead by Kevin Applegate who is the Director of Cell Group Ministry at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio.



Mark your calendars now **for September 23 or September 24.** More information will be available at a later date!



**We're on Facebook!!**

Did you know the District Office has a page on Facebook? Just search for Northwest District Office UMC and then like our page. Post your local church happenings, find out what's going on in the District and other important information.



**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)

## 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.
- May 1** Northwest District Conference to be held at Primghar—Mark your calendars now!!
- May 7** Annual Conference Legislative Meeting at Ida Grove and Lake Park 9:30 am to noon
- Judi will be out of the office **May 6** and **May 9**. She will be on vacation **May 23-27**.
- The District Office will be closed Monday, **May 30** in observance of Memorial Day.

# May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> District Conference	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Judi out of the office	<b>7</b> Pre-Conference Workshop
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Judi out of the office	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Bernie in Los Angeles at GCORR Training Event	<b>16</b> Sarah in Des Moines	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bernie vacation	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Laity 2.0-Sarah in Ames
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Judi vacation	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Office Closed	<b>31</b> 				



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

May

- 1 Mari Samuelson
- 2 Catie Newman
- 4 Mariel Johnson
- 5 Len Garrison
- 5 Christy Rekwad
- 6 Gary McDonough
- 6 David Morris
- 7 Dan & Martha Anderson
- 7 Connie Carlson
- 8 Sheryl Ashley
- 8 Alice Church
- 9 Paul Rekwad
- 10 Donna Shelly
- 11 Carol Cotten
- 12 Alex & Joy Washington
- 12 Kwang-Seok Song
- 13 Dan Anderson
- 19 Carl Klein
- 21 Ramalee Pearson
- 21 Harold & Ruth (French) Werley
- 22 Gary Hollar
- 24 Mike & Suz Ann Shaffer
- 26 Charles & Alta Gilbert
- 26 Amy Miller
- 27 Opal Finley
- 30 Robert Stemme

## Bernie's May Calendar

- 1 Preach at Sioux City, St James District Conference
- 2 SPRC meeting at Emmetsburg
- 3 SPRC meeting at Langdon
- 4 SPRC meeting at Sibley
- 5 SPRC meeting at Peterson
- 6 SPRC meeting at Galva
- 7 NW District Legislative meeting at Ida Grove UMC
- 8 Preach at Mallard and West Bend
- 10-11 Cabinet
- 12 SPRC meeting at Spencer, Zion
- 15-18 Cross Cultural Appointment Workshop, Los Angeles
- 19-25 Vacation
- 27 SPRC meeting
- 29 Visit a Church

## SMALL GROUPS

In 2010, Bernie attended "School of Congregational Development" and attended the workshop on Small Groups. These are the first part of his notes. The rest will be printed in the next newsletter.

### WHY SMALL GROUPS?

- A. BIBLICAL MANDATE
  1. God exists in community (Trinity)
  2. It's not good to be alone. *The Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2:18*
  3. God wants your church to grow larger.
  4. God wants your church to extend its influence wider.
  5. Community groups are part of God's master plan for the church. *You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you, but have taught you publicly and **house to house**.* Acts 20:20
- B. PRACTICAL MANDATE (Five Reasons Why Your Churchy Needs Small Groups)
  1. Entry point into the church
  2. Builds spiritual growth
  3. Only way to effectively care for people
  4. Shifts the work of ministry to people (where it belongs)
  5. Effectively assimilates people, builds friendships, accomplishes task.

### HOW OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

- A. Articulate the goal.
  1. Main Goal: Help people form a deeper relationships with God, wider relationships with each other, and closer to becoming disciples
  2. Define the purpose (Acts 2:42-47)
    - a. Grow spiritually (devoted to teaching)
    - b. Fellowship (ate together with glad and sincere hearts)
    - c. Worship (breaking bread, praising God)
    - d. Minister to each other (gave to anyone in need)
    - e. Evangelize the lost (and the Lord added to their numbers daily).
- B. Recruit good leaders.
- C. Implement the strategy
  1. Establish a "movement program" like life link or life group.
    - a. New people invited
    - b. Testimonies of existing people
    - c. Start new groups with new people
    - d. Some connecting with existing groups.
- D. Train group leaders
  1. Agenda:
    - a. Refreshments
    - b. Encouragement and prayer
    - c. Practical training
    - d. Periodic mission together
    - e. 2 hour maximum
  2. Use easy formatted materials to start groups. Look for material that uses 10-12 mini DVD clips. All relate to Bible or use Bible alone.
- E. Keep the vision before the group
  1. 18-24 months and you have to split
  2. Take a vacation
  3. Send out a missionary
- F. Start new groups after "big" days.
- G. Encourage your hosts to find their own people
- H. Break during holidays.

## Fun Facts about Okoboji Camp!

Did you know...

...that May 6-8 is the famous Walleye Weekend in the Okoboji area? Or that you can come and stay at camp that weekend for fishing, meals and more?

...that Lake Okoboji Camp is the longest standing United Methodist Camp in operation in the entire country?

...that the summer camping program of the Iowa Annual Conference provides opportunities for children, youth and families of all ages to make new friends, connect with nature, feel good about themselves, grow in leadership, see Jesus in new ways, and draw closer to God and one another with hands-on experiences? All this in just a few weeks of summer camp!

...Okoboji is located on 1 of only 3 "Blue Water" lakes in the World? (The other 2 are Lake Geneva in Switzerland, Lake Louise in Canada. A blue water lake is a lake in which the water is supplied from an underground spring or source of fresh water rather than being produced by the collection of rainwater and runoff from the surrounding topography--actions that would produce a lake of murky and silt-laden water suspending all kinds of detritus.)

...that Okoboji's facilities and programming are available year round?

...that there is money set aside to help those in need attend the camp of their choice?

...that Okoboji camp complies with nearly 300 safety standards, is accredited by the American Camp Association and that across the country, only 1 in 4 camps seeks and earns this distinction?

...there are summer camping events for all ages and interests?

...that we send out fun tidbits from Okoboji called "Bulletin Bites" every week to be included in your churches weekly worship bulletins?

...that Okoboji is hosting our first Annual Neighbor Night and summer kick-off on June 10th from 5PM - 9PM? It will be a GREAT TIME filled with camp tours, a BBQ, campfire, inflatable games and much more! Plan now to organize a van-full from YOUR church for this wonderful evening of fun and fellowship!

...we're still looking for a few male staff to join our ministry team for the 2011 camping season?

To find out more "fun facts" about camp...visit [okobojicamp.com](http://okobojicamp.com)!

Thank you for all you do to help the children, youth and families in your communities know about camping opportunities!

It just wouldn't be summer without camp!

Okoboji United Methodist Camp & Retreat Center

Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Est. 1915

866-856-9862

[info@okobojicamp.com](mailto:info@okobojicamp.com)



Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/okobojicamp](http://www.facebook.com/okobojicamp).  
Just "like" us and keep up to date on happenings at camp!

## United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Team Leader Training

June 11, 2011

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Marne United Methodist Church (303 Washington Street, Marne, IA)

There is no registration fee

A light lunch will be served on free-will offering basis

The training is based on standard North Central Jurisdiction UMVIM curriculum and on the General Board of Global Ministries UMVIM Training Manual that will be available at a cost of \$25.00.

Registration Appreciated by June 6, 2011. Registration Form is available on the District website under Letters from the Lakeshore

The next scheduled Team Leader Training is August 20, 2011 at Pictured Rocks in conjunction with the Roundup.

## 2011 Apportionment Update

Our apportionments remind us that our membership vow was as a member of Christ's universal church. We were then asked if we would be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in our power to strengthen its ministries. This means wherever you see the Cross and Flame, you belong and your support within your local setting is being shared with every other United Methodist Church. Apportionments help us fulfill our vows to Christ's entire church. Rev. Charles Smith, Treasury Notes.

ALTA	17%	MERRILL, FIRST	25%
SCHALLER	0%	ADAVILLE, FIRST	25%
ANTHON	17%	MILFORD, UNION MEMORIAL	2%
ROCK BRANCH	17%	MOVILLE	25%
ARCHER	0%	NEMAHA	25%
ARMSTRONG	0%	ODEBOLT	25%
ARNOLDS PARK	7%	ONAWA	0%
AURELIA, FIRST	25%	TURIN	0%
CHEROKEE, ST. PAUL'S	25%	PETERSON	25%
CORRECTIONVILLE	17%	PIERSON	16%
CUSHING, FIRST	15%	MEADOW STAR	19%
DANBURY	17%	PRIMGHAR	10%
DOLLIVER	25%	QUIMBY	17%
DOON, FIRST	100%	WASHTA	25%
EARLY	100%	REMBRANDT	0%
EMMETSBURG	25%	ROCK RAPIDS	25%
ESTHERVILLE	0%	ROCK VALLEY, PIONEER	11%
EVERLY	0%	ROLFE	0%
ROYAL	25%	RUTHVEN	25%
EXCELSIOR	0%	AYRSHIRE	1%
FOSTORIA	26%	SAC CITY	9%
GALVA, FIRST	0%	SANBORN, ST. ANDREW'S	0%
SILVER CREEK	25%	SENEY	25%
GILLETT GROVE	25%	SERGEANT BLUFF	25%
DICKENS	25%	SHELDON	17%
GRAETTINGER	0%	SIBLEY	17%
TERRIL	17%	OCHEYEDAN	17%
HARRIS	26%	SC, CHURCH ALL NATIONS	0%
LAKE PARK	25%	SIOUX CITY, CRESCENT PARK	0%
HARTLEY	22%	SIOUX CITY, FIRST	0%
HAWARDEN	25%	SIOUX CITY, GRACE	13%
IRETON	8%	SIOUX CITY, RIVERSIDE	1%
HINTON	1%	AKRON, WESLEY	20%
MERRILL, MELBOURNE	25%	SIOUX CITY, ST. JAMES	29%
HOLSTEIN	25%	SIOUX CITY, TRIMBLE	0%
HOPE PARISH	25%	SIOUX CITY, WESLEY	0%
HORNICK	17%	SIOUX CITY, WHITFIELD	17%
SALIX	0%	SIOUX CITY, RUSTIN AVENUE	0%
HUNTINGTON	0%	SIOUX RAPIDS	0%
IDA GROVE, FIRST	25%	SMITHLAND	0%
ARTHUR	50%	SPENCER, GRACE	10%
KINGSLEY	0%	SPIRIT LAKE	19%
LAKES	0%	STORM LAKE	0%
LANGDON	25%	SUTHERLAND	10%
SPENCER, ZION	0%	LARRABEE	13%
LAURENS	25%	VARINA	25%
LE MARS	25%	WEBB	0%
LESTER, SEEDS OF FAITH	8%	WEST BEND	25%
MAPLETON, ST. JOHN'S	7%	MALLARD	17%
TICONIC	25%		
MARATHON	26%		
MARCUS, GRACE	13%		
MELVIN	0%		
		<b>District Total Paid as of March 31, 2011</b>	<b>15%</b>



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**IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Open Hearts. Open Minds.  
Open Doors*

## A Hosanna Moment

By Heather Monthei

One could feel the excitement on those streets of Jerusalem 2000 years ago. A big event was about to take place. The King was coming and the crowds gathered to welcome him with palm branches. "Hosanna" they shouted as he rode through town. "Save us now, we pray!" Jesus was greeted as king, not in gallant finery, but in lowly humility riding on a donkey. He came not as a political ruler, but as a servant, a servant of God, sacrificed on our behalf.

Two thousand years later in the small town of Lester, Iowa, another big event was taking place. A crowd of children gathered at Lester, Seeds of Faith UMC and paraded down the aisles waving palm branches to re-enact the triumphal entry of Jesus. As



Pastor Josh Hansen welcomed his people and the congregation lifted their voices in song and praise, their excitement was evident. This day was a big event in the life of this church.

Each of the District Superintendents in the Iowa Annual Conference had been asked to choose one church in their district for Bishop Julius Trimble to visit, and Lester, Seeds of Faith UMC was the chosen one for the Northwest District. Like the crowds that lined the streets in Jerusalem, the congregation filled the pews at Seeds of Faith coming in expectation as they awaited Bishop Trimble's message.

When Jesus said that we must become as little children to enter the kingdom of God, he must have had Seeds of Faith in mind, for children play a big role in this church family. Starting with the children's palm parade, the service continued with a solo sung by 6th grader Olivia Carolan. A children's choir numbering 20 shared their message that "Everybody Ought to Know," and several dozen youngsters surrounded April Metzger during her children's message.

As Bishop Trimble stood up to the pulpit and gazed over the filled seats, he related that crowds played an important part of Jesus' ministry. Jesus ministered to the masses, teaching them and sharing scriptures with them. Crowds continually followed him as they begged for healing and blessings. The bishop encouraged his listeners to continue to pray for one another by name just as Jesus' crowds gathered for prayer.

The Holy Week message continued as the beginning of victory. The congregation was reminded that as Jesus comes closer to the cross and our prayers are raised at the altar, love ultimately wins over death and despair.

Bishop Trimble closed by saying that prayer can make a radical change in one's life, but it comes with a risk. He challenged his listeners to prayer the most dangerous of prayers, a prayer that can be life changing:



"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;  
Make me an instrument of thy love;  
Make me an instrument of hospitality and welcome;  
Make me an instrument of justice and mercy;  
Make me an instrument of recovery and healing."

God gives us the responsibility to be an instrument for His people; God uses us to make real the love of Jesus. And that can be life changing.