

June 1, 2010



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Sharing The Mission

“Making Disciples...Developing
Leaders...Transforming The World”

From The District Superintendent

Radical Hospitality—Offering God’s Love

The 2010 Session of the Iowa Annual Conference will be held June 5—8 at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines, Iowa. Moving to a new venue will require a special measure of patience and flexibility as we adjust to a new space, however, I believe that the matter of accessibility and convenience will be a notable improvement over our previous location.



The scriptural focus for our Holy Conferencing will be from the letter to the Galatians (5:22-23a, 25) “[By contrast], the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control...If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”

If you will be attending Annual Conference this year, I pray you will be open to the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you will not be in attendance, please pray that God’s Spirit will be manifested in our gathering and will guide United Methodist’s throughout Iowa to a renewed sense of hope and faithfulness for the transformation of the world.

2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

167TH SESSION

Hy-Vee Hall
730 Third Street
Des Moines, IA

Saturday, June 5

10:00 AM—Opening Worship
6:45 PM—Clergy Session
6:45 PM—Laity Session

Sunday, June 6

9:30 AM—Ordination &
Commissioning Svc
4:30 PM—Memorial Celebration

Monday, June 7

4:30 PM—Retirement Celebration

Tuesday, June 8

11:30 AM—Closing Worship &
Fixing of Appointments
12:30 PM—Adjournment of the
Annual Conference Sessions

Brian

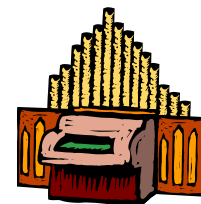
Celebrate the Season after Pentecost...

SPRING CONCERT

Sunday Evening, June 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Church, 108 SW 5th Street, Greenfield, IA

Mark Babcock
Organist

Also featuring
Michelle Dickinson & Danielle Dickinson



Enjoy professor Mark Babcock of Central College music department as he presents great music on one of the fine pipe organ instruments in our area. Babcock is the organist at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, West Des Moines. Listen to compositions by Buxtehude, Lemmens, Mendelssohn and Burkhardt performed by Central College students Michelle Dickinson and Danielle Dickinson of Greenfield.

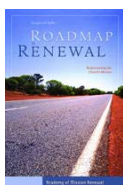
A Community Fine Arts Event. Free-Will Donation to Food Pantry.

Ed Kail (Field Outreach Minister)



Sign, Preview, and Instrument

In his book *Roadmap to Renewal*, Doug Ruffle speaks of the church as a “sign, preview and instrument of the realm of God”. Understanding that the “realm of God” is the way of life that results when God’s will is done and/or God’s purposes are fulfilled, what does it mean for us as Christian disciples together to be a sign, a preview or an instrument?



One way that I’ve been thinking about this is to focus on Jesus Christ, and the difference that faith in and loyalty to him makes in life. In knowing/believing/loving/following/sharing Jesus as dedicated disciples, we choose a way of life different from the world’s ways.

If we are a sign of God’s Kingdom and “realm”, we would point to Jesus and the difference he can and does make in life. The world around us is in a mess of competing agendas, values, lifestyles, morals, and parties. Our conviction as Christians is that when we live life the Jesus way, as part of the realm of God, it makes a positive difference. Even though there are challenges and difficulties, things work out better. The world is waiting for us to point the way to that difference.

But then, to point the way of integrity, we need to also be a preview, or demonstration of the difference Jesus makes in life. Part of the irony of long-term church membership or involvement is that the longer we hang around “church”, the less difference that Jesus seems to make in our lives. We settle down into the realm of church, and don’t venture much into making a difference in our communities. But the world is searching desperately for something real, something that matters, a way for life to be better for always. The way we live, behave, speak, and relate to one another and to God can demonstrate the truth and the life-changing power of the Gospel.

But it’s not just about us. No, the church as the Body of Christ is also to be the instrument by which the world’s people come to know Jesus and the

realm of God he proclaimed through his life, teachings, death and resurrection. We are to be part of God’s mission to save the world, making a difference one life and one community at a time. It was a huge risk on God’s part, but it seems to be true that God is relying on us to be the means by which the world comes to know and experience the Kingdom life, the realm of God.

How are you doing at pointing the way to Jesus? Are you experiencing yourself the difference that faith and discipleship make? Where in your community, and with whom, are you working to introduce them to life in God’s realm on earth, here and now? If it’s not going so well, repent and believe the Good News! Open your heart and mind to a fresh working of God in your life through the Spirit of Jesus. And if you are pointing, experiencing and working well—who else can you encourage to join you in the adventure of discipleship?

Repent!

As always, let me know how I can help, resource, motivate, encourage, train, coach or pray for your. That’s what I’m here for!

Ed Kail

Field Outreach Minister

2010 National CEF Conference

The buzz is spreading among Iowa Christian Educators for the 2010 National CEF Conference. The Iowa chapter of Christian Educators Fellowship would like **two** people from each district to attend the conference October 22-25 in Louisville, KY.

Scholarships are available, especially for volunteers/staff in small churches. The Iowa group is planning to carpool and stay at a nearby retreat center to reduce the cost of this amazing training opportunity.

The 2010 National Christian Educators Fellowship Conference will be

an excellent place for all persons working with Christian education and discipleship ministries in The United Methodist Church. Workshops are available for youth pastors, children's ministers, adult discipleship coordinators, Sunday School superintendents, and education committee chairpeople.

All workshops are included in the conference registration. There are workshops for Christian educators of all experience levels. Our speakers, including Bishop Lyndsey Davis, Dr. Matthew Sleeth, Rev. Sherry Daniels and Pastor Rudy Rasmus, are also leading workshops. There are op-

tions for learning about new curriculum, technology, and dealing with conflict.

Whatever your interest, there are workshops designed for you. Whatever your interest for professional growth or personal relaxation, we have it here for you. Come join us in Louisville and experience the Holy Spirit, Wild and Free.

More information is available at www.cefumc.org or contact **Ellen Johnsen**, at 515-232-2750 or ellen@fumcomes.org.



Opportunities for Grants!

Has your church been thinking about starting a new outreach ministry or a new worship service? If so, there are two opportunities coming soon through the district that may help provide your church with some funding to start or to continue a recent outreach ministry.

The **Unified Grant application** for 2011 is now available. The Unified Grants are for churches in the district who would like to start outreach ministry or continue an outreach ministry in one of the three following areas:

Community and Institutional Ministries: *These funds are for Shalom Zone Ministries, emerging ministries, connectional agencies, and health ministries, including parish nurse programs.*

Hispanic Ministries: *These funds are for support of Hispanic/Latino ministries and programming.*

Parish Development: *These funds are for new congregational development and revitalization of existing congregations.*

The SW District currently has a number of ministries that are using Unified Grant funds to provide new outreach with residents of this area. These include the Nodaway Valley Free Medical Clinic, Shenandoah Hispanic Center and Salem UMC's Manna Campus outreach.

The Unified Grant application is due to the SW District office by **June 13, 2010** and funding will begin Jan. 1, 2011.

The Unified Grant application and instructions are available online through the Iowa Conference web-site: <http://www.iaumc.org/forms/detail/492>

The SW District Grants Committee is pleased to announce that the application & instructions for 2011 **Matthew 25 funds** is now available. Matthew 25 funds are open to any church or Methodist-related organization within the District. These funds go to help support outreach programs, especially new and innovative projects, that care for the "least of these." The grants team is especially interested in outreach programs for:

- The poor
- Hispanic persons
- Children from families with few resources
- Chronically ill persons

The application is due **August 13, 2010**. Interested applicants should limit their request to no more than \$4,000. Funds will begin on January 1, 2011. If you would like to know more about the current Matthew 25 programs in the District or have questions about the application or a program, please contact Shari Stucker, 712-733-8683 or stuckers@hotmail.com.

If your church has been thinking about starting something new, now could be the time to take the next step! There are many churches in the district that are showing the love of God in new and innovative ministries and the SW District Grants Team encourages other churches to take that step, too. Questions? Contact Shari Stucker, chairperson of the district Grants Team.

From the District Mission Secretary...

It is mid year! A gentle reminder that we will be getting ready for the Ingathering before we know it. I know my church has been sewing school bags and filling the shelves with them. Please be sure to check the catalog for projects your church might be interested in working on. We have so many worthwhile projects that it seems overwhelming to narrow it down to just 2 or 3. Think about past projects, talk to your folks and let them share their interests. No matter how you make your plan, it is time to be working on them.

In my church, we are working on our fall mission projects that we do locally. Last year, we all brought in mittens for the "mitten tree", which was a very fun project! The first snow of the season, we were off with our bags of mittens to hang on door knobs of every house in town with children!

Gather your committee together and get to work! Have an idea? Write it down and share it at your next meeting!

Leann Baker
2011 Vail Ave.
Clearfield, IA 50840
641.336.2354
leann@iowatelecom.net

Camp Again?!?



So much talk about camp these days, huh? There's the Camp Ambassador's program, the weekly bulletin bites, emails, postcards, camp visits and articles

in just about every church publication that comes out! Do you ever think "why do they keep reminding us about camp? We know already!"

Well, here's the long and the short of it. Part of the long answer is that Okoboji campers are mostly comprised children and youth. Why does that matter? It matters because, as we've all seen in our local churches, children and youth go through our system fairly quickly. If we don't keep sharing about what is available in our churches, and at our camps, we may miss the opportunity to touch a whole group of kids.

Which brings us to the short reason...we keep talking about camp because camp changes lives. We know that a person's time at camp can effect who they grow up to be, how they view the world and how they respond to God's call in their lives. We know that children and youth attending camping events helps their local churches grow, as kids who attend camp are more likely to become engaged in their hometown churches. We know that many pastors and Christian leaders received their call into ministry while attending camp. We believe in camp as a tool to bring children, youth and families closer to Christ. So...don't forget to keep encouraging people in

your area to sign up for camp! If you do forget, don't worry, we'll ways keep reminding you. Camp Changes lives!

Okoboji Camp Work Days: May 22, June 12 9 AM—5 PM—come and go event—Come to Okoboji for a day in the spring, take on a few projects, make some new friends, and help get the camp ready for a summer of ministry! You are helping us prepare a safe, clean campsite for God to enter into the hearts of children, youth and families! Every pair of hands counts! If you have the desire to serve through service and missions...WE NEED YOU! Perfect for youth groups, men's groups or families! Projects for all skill levels and group sizes. Call the camp to reserve overnight accommodations and receive more information regarding the work days. Lunch, materials and supervision of projects provided.

Camp Ambassadors! Camp Outreach Opportunity! An Okoboji camping experience has been part of countless people's faith stories beginning in 1915. Camp Ambassadors work within their local churches to continue the tradition of sharing the mission and ministry of an Okoboji camping experience! Our goal is to make it easy...even FUN to share this powerful opportunity! New resources include printed materials, videos and handouts all designed to help children, youth, young adults and families learn of life changing camp and retreat opportunities at Okoboji United Methodist Camp. To request copies of the 2010 Camp Ambassadors packet,

please contact us at camp. Email or call 1-866-856-9862.

Local Church Camp Celebration—Do you have a Camp Sunday (or Wednesday) celebration planned yet...a time to share about the good news of our conference Camp & Retreat ministries? If not...PLEASE DO...there's still plenty of time. Everyone needs to know that camp is a fun, effective and exciting way to help children, youth and families grow in faith! The activities and opportunities campers experience at camp will stick with them for the rest of their lives! Our staff is ready to help! Just let us know!

Bulletin Bites: Okoboji Camp introduced a new program this spring called "Bulletin Bites". "Bulletin Bites" are basically a sentence or two from camp, for you to include in your Sunday worship bulletins, church newsletters, or any other place you see fit. You will receive "Bulletin Bites", via e-mail, a couple times a month as a way to keep your congregation "in-the-know" with what is happening at camp! Thanks, in advance, for helping to make sure these "Bites" find their way to the folks in your church!

Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp & Retreat Center
21413 154th St. Place
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
866.856.9862
www.okobojicamp.com
info@okobojicamp.com

Happenings in Hispanic Ministries

Here are some thoughts from Rev. Ruben Mendoza, Hispanic pastor at Broadway UMC, Council Bluffs—and beyond!

The weekend of April 23 and 24 we had our second module of the Iowa Hispanic/Latino Academy. The topic was “Discover the impact of Wesleyan Leadership.”

The expositor was Rev. Bernabe Rendon, who has a large path in the knowledge of the Wesleyan History. He has collaborated in distinct ways in the Methodist Conference in Mexico as:

- Principal of the Methodist Seminary Juan Wesley of the IMMAR (Methodist Church of Mexico), in Monterrey Mexico, 1988 to 1994.
- Designed the position, the profile and the functions of the chaplain for the Laurens Institute, A.C. of Monterrey, Mexico, and was the first chaplain of the institute that has more than 1,200 students. Occupied that position from 1999 to 2004.
- President at national level of the Advisory Commission of Ecumenical Affairs of the IMMAR, 1990 to 1994.
- National President of the Permanent Commission of Revision and Consulting Discipline of the IMMAR, 1994 to 1998.
- President at national level of the Faith Commission and discipline of the IMMAR, 2005 to 2007.
- Teacher at the Methodist Seminary Juan Wesley at Monterrey, Mexico from 1988 to 2006; in the subjects of Homiletics, Methodist Theology and Methodist History as well as other subjects.
- Even though he lives in USA, he is still a full member of the Society for Studies of Methodism History of the IMMAR (SEHIMM).

Rev. Bernabe Rendon, with all his experience, became a blessing to our Iowa Conference helping us prepare Hispanic leaders for the growth and development of work with the Hispanic/Latinos of this region. Persons from across Iowa participated. With 34 Hispanic leaders and 30 kids, these are good results from the work of the Committee of the Hispanic/Latino Academy of the Iowa Conference.

I thank every person who helped for the good functioning of this module. Truly it was good work. And I thank God for allowing me to work this way for my Annual Conference.

Rubén Mendoza



“Clergy are sometimes held hostage by their Christianness!”

The 2nd and 3rd Center for Pastoral Effectiveness series to begin in August, 2010 and January, 2011.

This quote is from Rabbi Edwin Friedman who wrote *Generation to Generation* describes the conundrum of being a pastor. He also said “The antagonism of the most anxious is proportionate to the niceness of the leader.” And there you are as Clergy, paid to be “nice,” safe for your people to strike out at you. Yet the more you as a leader try to be nice you may be adapting your function the most anxious members, the more you “enable their dependency, encourage their happy ignorance, and reinforce their helplessness,” says Dr. Peter Stienke who wrote *Healthy Congregations*. This is what you have the opportunity to address in the Center for Pastoral Effectiveness which is described by most alumni as “the most valuable continuing education experience.”

As one of your Kansas colleagues shares “*My experience with Bill Selby and the Center for Pastoral Effectiveness has been exemplary. I thought I was pretty well versed in the insights of Family Systems. But this experience has taken my personal and professional life to a deeper level. I have grown as a person, and in the practice of ministry. As a busy pastor, serving a large and demanding Church with lots of irons in the fire, the highest compliment I can give is this simple one. It was worth my and investment. If you will use this resource, it will bless you. It has blessed me.*” Dr. Michael Gardner, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Wichita, Kansas.

As you plan your continuing education choices for the coming year, I invite you to consider the Center. The experience is six three-day retreats over about eighteen months and worth 14 CEUs, a process worth your time both personally and professionally. Over 400 clergy are now alumni from seven states and six denominations.

The 2nd Iowa Center will begin **August 25—27** and will meet at Broadway UMC, Council Bluffs. The 3rd Iowa Center will meet near Cedar Falls and will begin **Jan. 31—Feb. 2**.

Sign up by emailing integrity4u@comcast.net, read more at pastoraleffectiveness.org.

Rev. Bill Selby, Center Mentor, Highlands Ranch, CO

Intentional Self-Care

Over the last few years we have been deluged with a wealth of opinions and information regarding how to be healthy. **Self-care** begins with taking a look at the big picture of our whole life; physical, emotional, relational and spiritual. As I think about my life, I ask myself these questions;

- 1) What am I putting *into* my body? What am I eating and drinking?
- 2) What am I doing *to* my body? I think about my work load and pace, stress issues.
- 3) What am I doing *with* my body? How am I exercising / physically moving my body?
- 4) How am I *resting* my body? What are my sleep and relaxation routines/patterns?
- 5) How satisfied am I with my relationships? Family, friends, support networks.
- 6) How fulfilling are my spiritual practices? Prayer, devotional, or worship life.



Then I ask myself:

- 1) In what areas am I satisfied with how/what I am doing?
- 2) In what areas am I ill at ease?
- 3) In what areas am I definitely dis-satisfied with how/what I am doing?

As we move through the evaluation process, we often discover several lifestyle habits that we wish were different. While our tendency is to try to fix them all, you can only work on improving **one area of your life at a time**. Therefore, **be intentional** about taking care of yourself.

- 1) Make a choice about what change you want to make. Where do you want to invest time and energy?
- 2) Make a plan regarding a reasonable change, something you feel is doable.
- 3) Enlist a helpful partner to celebrate milestones, to hold you accountable and to help you in the midst of difficulties.
- 4) Execute your plan (remember to plan your work, then work your plan).

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life...your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around life, and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him...Fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.”
(Romans 12:1-2 The Message)

I encourage you to invite God into the process of evaluating your self-care habits. Let the Holy Spirit inform you about what area needs changing first. You might be surprised. I am also available by e-mail (bktritle@msn.com) to assist anyone who needs a listening ear as you work on becoming a whole person in Christ.

Kae Tritle, RN
Wellness Coordinator

Be Encouraged!



With a Christ-like awareness and a heart for sisters and brothers with whom you share the journey of life you can bring hope, sharing the promise of peace, work to let justice flow like an ever-flowing stream, lift those around you who’ve stumbled along the way!

On June 5, every one of our more than 820 congregations is invited to do something to make the world a better place. By praying or caring or helping or sharing or feeding or building, 184,000 people can make our communities, state and world a better place!

YOU CAN make the world a better place...Be Encouraged

How? By doing a spring clean up for a home-bound senior...by cleaning up a section of the shoulder of a local highway...by working on a Habitat for Humanity house...by doing a canned food drive to benefit a local food pantry...by collecting pop cans, cashing them in, and contributing the deposit money to Nothing But Nets...by writing notes for an elderly member of your congregation...by inviting neighbors to work with you on a community garden...by collecting pop tops from beverage cans to help Ronald McDonald houses...by reading to children at a local library...by holding a car wash for Haiti...by volunteering at a local nursing home...by working with local fire departments to check smoke detector batteries, and providing new ones where necessary, across the community...by gathering together to pray for the Conference gathered together in Des Moines for the annual meeting...by doing a “midnight run,” providing sandwiches and hot coffee for homeless folks in a nearby city...or a thousand other, even better ideas that you come up with right where you are!

Please tell us about your plans for the Day! You can email us at communications@iaumc.org, or post your story on our blog at www.iowabeencouraged.blogspot.com. For more information on this event, go to: www.iowabeencouraged.org.

Julius C. Trimble
Resident Bishop—Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church

Upcoming Events!

- **June 3, 2010**—Deepenings Book Study—10:00 am—District Office
- **June 5-8, 2010**—Iowa Annual Conference—Hy-Vee Hall, Des Moines, IA
- **June 20, 2010**—FATHER’S DAY!
- **June 21, 2010**—Hispanic Ministries Team Meeting—6:00 pm—District Office
- **July 1, 2010**—Deepenings Book Study—10:00 am—District Office
- **July 4, 2010**—INDEPENDENCE DAY!
- **July 5, 2010**—Observance of Independence Day—District Office Closed
- **July 6, 2010**—District Worship Team Meeting—7:00 p.m.—District Office

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Iowa Annual Conference

June 5—8, 2010

*Hy-Vee Hall
730 Third Street
Des Moines, Iowa*

“Intersections: God and Us”



• You Think You Are Ordinary? Think again. The **Young People’s Ministries** is sponsoring “Youth 2011, “MORE THAN” - Purdue University July 13—17, 2011, in Sacramento, CA July 27-31, 2011.

- Do you have training, skills, or interest in research? Are you interested in the Annual Conference as an organizational system? The Committee on Planning and Research has a couple of openings. The committee meets 4-5 times a year. Members do research for the conference—surveys, project evaluations, demographics, environmental scanning, data for decision-makers, etc. Lay or clergy. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact Jim Davis (515) 268-3360 or jim-davis95@msn.com.
- **Congratulations go out to all the High School and College graduates in the Southwest District!!!**
- The Southwest District Office has three DVDs that are being made available. “Depot of Hope” is a 5:45 minute movie on the work and ministry of UMCOR Sager Brown. In it you can visit the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot and campus in Baldwin, LA., where mission has been taking place for more than 140 years. The DVD contains 2-3 minutes of instructional movies for health, school and layette kits. There are printable instruction sheets for assembling bedding kits, flood buckets,

Health kits, layette kits, school kits and sewing kits. Also included are sewing patterns for school bags and layette items, a volunteer guide and a bulletin insert to print and share. If interested in borrowing one of these DVDs, contact Shirley Lewis.

- The Southwest District would like to encourage all churches to hold a “Camp Sunday” where all children would be encouraged to find and attend a camp this summer. Should you have any questions about the camps, you can contact Keith Shew at Camp Okoboji, or Deke Ryder at Wesley Woods. For handouts regarding the two camps, please contact the Conference Center. They would be happy to provide you with all the material needed.
- How are you assisting the families of our service men and women? Child-care...weekend retreats...a letter...care packages...all tokens of God’s love. Check out the website: www.Beyondtheyellowribbon.com which was set up by a United Methodist Military Chaplain to give local churches and communities ideas on supporting our troops and their families.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Kathleen Cramer (Ross, Calvary-Gray)** as she recovers from open heart surgery at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, NE.
- **Pastors and Congregations** facing pastoral transition this year.
- The **Members of Modale UMC** as they work to restore the church building that suffered damage from a minor fire on Thursday, May 13, 2010 around 12:00 a.m.
- **Rev. Kathy Spracklin (Charter Oak)** as she recovers from gallbladder surgery on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 in Ida Grove, IA.
- **Rev. Ed (SW District FOM) and Myra Kail**, as they grieve the death of Myra’s sister-in-law, Denise, who lived in Houston, TX.
- **Rev. Nadine Aydt’s (Lewis) cousin, Christine Overbeck**, a diabetic, who is undergoing heart defibrillator surgery.
- **Shirley Lewis (SW District Administrative Secretary) and her husband, Steve**, as they grieve the death of Steve’s mother, Bernice, who lived in Cozad, NE.

The United Methodist Church

*Southwest District Office
1201 E. 7th Street, Suite 300
Atlantic, IA 50022*

Southwest District Newsletter

Feel free to cut out the following contact information and place in a convenient location.



Southwest District Office Contact Information!

**The United Methodist Church
Southwest District Office
1201 E. 7th Street
Suite 300
Atlantic, IA 50022**

(Located on the corner of
7th & Plum, Next to
The Rolling Hills Bank)

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Monday thru Friday

Telephone Number:
712-243-8573

Fax Number:
712-243-8574

Office E-Mail:
Shirley.Lewis@iaumc.org

**Brian Milford—Conference
Superintendent:** To reach the
Superintendent, please call or
e-mail Shirley Lewis, DAS.

**Ed Kail—Field Outreach
Minister (FOM):**
Ed.Kail@iaumc.org

**Shirley Lewis –District
Administrative Secretary**
Shirley.Lewis@iaumc.org