

July 1, 2009



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

## Sharing The Mission

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

# From The District Superintendent



### The FIT Challenge

Bishop Trimble's Episcopal Address during Annual Conference included a challenge to all Iowa United Methodist's. **The**

**Bishop's F.I.T. Challenge: *Focus, Invest and Tell.*** I want to encourage all of us to consider how we might respond.



First, we have been challenged to **FOCUS** our efforts as United Methodists on shared goals. We've all heard the jokes of United Methodists being more UN-TIED Than UNITED. However, we know from recent experience that we are able to accomplished more when we are working together than we can when we are apart. There are significant challenges and opportunities to respond to needs, particularly in the Eastern part of our State, as we respond to the devastation of tornadoes and flooding from last year. Our energies and resources continue to be needed as we follow Christ's command to love our neighbors in Eastern Iowa, which leads to the second aspect of the challenge, invest.

We are being challenged to **INVEST** in long-term recovery efforts **AND** to invest in new and innovative ways of doing ministry in our state. Finding the "seed" money to assist new ministries as projects move from vision to reality is an ongoing need. Having the benefit of financial resources dedicated to the purpose of new and innovative ministries is critical as we respond to the increasing needs of populations in transition and changing economic situations. I know of no more faithful legacy than for a congregation or a disciple of Jesus, to continue their practice of giving and tithing by committing a portion of their assets or estate to new ministries in Christ's name.

Which leads to the third part of the challenge, **TELL**. Our Bishop is challenging us to continue to tell the stories of Jesus to our hurting world. Stories of love and compassion, healing and reconciliation desperately need to be heard. And we don't need to look far to be convinced...Wichita or Parkersburg. We must intentionally share stories of what Jesus means to those of us who know him. (If we have lost touch with Jesus, it's time for us to get reconnected!) WE are the witnesses, or the story of Jesus goes untold. Not the preacher, not the teacher, but its every baptized Christian who has been charged with witnessing to Christ's love in word and deed. How will we tell the story in our day?

I want to suggest we change the challenge from "THE BISHOP'S F.I.T. CHALLENGE" to "**OUR F.I.T. CHALLENGE**". I suggest we make this challenge our own and seek to live into it as disciples of Jesus and as local congregations in the SW District. It is an ambitious challenge, never mind the financial goal of \$2 million! It is ambitious because it just might change our lives, for Christ's sake!

*Brian*

# Southwest District Lay Speaking Courses



The next Lay Speaking Courses offered in the Southwest District is scheduled for **Friday and Saturday, July 24th and 25th**, and will be held at **First United Methodist Church, 1202 9th Street, Harlan, IA 51537**. Friday evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a gathering and meal, followed by classes that will run from 6:00—9:00 p.m. On Saturday, classes will run from 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., and 1:00—4:00 p.m. with a lunch break from 12:00—1:00 p.m.

Two different classes will be offered. The Rev. Dr. Dave Swinton will be teaching an Advanced Course in Preaching, and the Rev. Lanette Plambeck will be teaching an Advanced Course in Visioning/Leadership/Evangelism.

Cost of the class is \$15.00 which will cover food, materials and course items. If interested in registering for one of these two remarkable courses, contact Shirley Lewis at the Southwest District Office—[Shirley.Lewis@iaumc.org](mailto:Shirley.Lewis@iaumc.org).

Reservations can be made at any of the following hotels in Harlan if needed: Harlan Inn & Suites (712) 755-5999, Settle Inn (712) 755-2930, or Forrest Lodge (712) 755-5170.

## Ed Kail (Field Outreach Minister)



### Windshield Surveys and Prayer Walks

There are two things you can do very well in the summer months that can prepare your church for engaging God's mission in your community. The goal of both these exercises is to gain a fresh, accurate and God-centered perspective on your local mission field. They incorporate observation, curiosity and prayer.



The "windshield survey" is a way of getting in touch with your territory, whether in town or in the country. With a

partner, get in a vehicle and drive slowly up and down the streets (and alleys) of town or on the rural roads. Look at every place where someone lives: the house, the yard, the vehicles, the outbuildings. Observe with curiosity: "What does what I'm seeing tell me about the people who live here and how they live? What questions need answers?" And here's the prayer part: "What does God want for the people who live here?" At the end of each survey journey, you and your partner can pray for God's will to be done in the lives of the residents of the places you saw.

The prayer walk is easier in town, and focuses not only on observation, but also on intercession. As you walk the streets of your town, notice each residence, and lift a silent prayer for them. Pray for a fresh touch from God in their lives. Pray for their deepest needs to be met. Pray for them to experience "peace



that passes understanding." Pray for an open door of opportunity for you and your church to minister to them in the name of Jesus. Again, at the end of each journey, jot down notes of what you saw, how you prayed, and what you believe God is trying to say to you.



And then, when you gather with friends for worship, fill them in on what you are seeing, learning, and praying. Ask them, "What could this mean for our life and ministry as a church?" You may be surprised what will result!

If you try this, let me know what happens. I'm really curious to see what God will do!

*Ed Kail*

Field Outreach Minister

# Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

## God of Many Names

August 9-14, 2009

American Martyrs Retreat House  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Presenters: Dwight & Linda Vogl  
Clergy Members of the  
Iowa Conference

Details and application materials:

[www.iowa5day.org](http://www.iowa5day.org)

OR

Contact: Jerry Oakland

Retreat Leader

(712) 732-5458

[jerrvoakland@iw.net](mailto:jerrvoakland@iw.net)

The Academy begins Sunday, August 9 with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and ends Friday, August 14, following lunch. On Sunday evenings we will have a time of welcome and orientation, covenant group sessions, and a Eucharist celebration. Each day following includes curriculum sessions, times for silent reflection, discussions with faculty, covenant group meetings and services of Eucharist, Morning Prayer, and Night Prayer.



## The Academy for Spiritual Formation

- Open to laity and clergy, of all denominations—to any person searching for a deepened faith
- A time of celebrating holistic spirituality—using gifts of mind, body and spirit to grow in Christ and
- A way to help fill the deep spiritual hunger that characterizes many lives
- A program of Upper Room® Ministries, sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Steering Committee of the Board of Discipleship of the Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

# Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors

At Annual Conference, Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors celebrated ten years of “welcoming the stranger” through our program offering free legal services for low-income immigrants. Our speaker was Joan Marauskin, who works with detained immigrants for Church World Service. She inspired us with the reminder that our faith response to migrants is rooted in biblical stories of God’s migrant people and in Jesus’s assertion that he, himself, is the stranger whom we welcome. The gracious support for Iowa JFON from those attending the luncheon strengthened and empowered everyone present to continue the very important work.

Our attorneys continue their professional services with almost four hundred pending cases, encouraged by the successful

resolutions of many. Juan received his legal permanent residence after spending twenty-four years “in line” in our immigration system. Juan fled the civil wars in Guatemala in 1985, seeking safety in the United States. He applied for asylum which was arbitrarily denied. He then participated in a class action suit filed by the American Baptist Church which they won. The process after that involved applications for Temporary Protective Status and then an asylum application which immigration held without action for ten years. In the meantime, Juan married a United States citizen and they have nine children. Iowa JFON attorneys investigated the case and finally, after many delays, Juan was granted legal permanent residence in March. The family is still celebrating.

Iowa JFON received a matching grant of \$10,000 from UMCOR in March, and we need your help! If your congregation would like to help us continue the life-changing service which enables our newcomers to gain a stable immigration status, contact Doris Knight, Executive Director, Iowa JFON, PO Box 41006, Des Moines, IA 50311, 515-277-4719, [dorknight1@cs.com](mailto:dorknight1@cs.com). We will send you a copy of our Tenth Anniversary booklet. Iowa JFON speakers are available to help your congregation have a conversation about immigration.



# Trauma Summit



As pastors, we have all faced trauma in our own lives, the lives of our parish, community and world. In the midst of natural disasters, homicides, suicides, immigration raids, addiction, economic changes and job loss, many of us pastors feel ill-equipped to

help those in our lives to work through these traumas. The Trauma Resiliency Model (TRM) promotes healing in adults and children suffering from trauma thought integrative interven-

tions that link mind, body and the human spirit. Dr. Leitch will come to Iowa to share this model with us.

.4 Continuing Education Units (CEU) will be offered for the entire program on Monday. If you choose to attend the Sunday optional program, we will offer an additional .1 CEU.

## Sunday, October 4, 2009

First UMC

Indianola, Iowa

This event is free to all who choose to attend—clergy and laity. No registration required.

## Monday, October 5, 2009

New Hope UMC

Des Moines, Iowa

The cost for this event (clergy only) will be approximately \$15.

A letter will be mailed to all clergy in late July to early Aug. regarding cost & registration information for the October 5 event.

# Pilgrims and Foreigners—By Rev. Rubén Mendoza (Council Bluffs—Broadway UMC)

The Rev. Rubén Mendoza serves on the staff of Broadway UMC in Council Bluffs and also is a primary leader on the District Hispanic Ministries Team. Articles by Rubén appear regularly in the church newsletter at Broadway. The Hispanic Ministries Team has asked that they be reprinted in the district newsletter, for wider circulation as an example of the special perspective Rubén offers as a permanent resident immigrant and pastor. Watch also in the months to come for updates on the expanding work of Hispanic Ministries in the SW District.



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## *Abraham, a foreigner, found land for a burial Genesis 23:1-6*

The span of Sarah's life was one hundred and twenty-seven years. She died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham performed the customary mourning rites for her. Then he left the side of his dead one and addressed the Hittites: "Although I am a resident alien among you, sell me from your holdings a piece of property for a burial ground, that I may bury my dead wife." The Hittites answered Abraham: "Please, sire, listen to us! You are an elect of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our burial sites. None of us would deny you his burial ground for the burial of your deal.

Again we read about how Abraham was a foreigner, and this is another problem for people who are pilgrims and foreigners.

It reminds me of a family in our church that has been attending for a short time. They found our church at a time in which the father in the family had a very difficult problem. His mother was sick and on her deathbed. He was, of course, very sad and felt helpless because he could do nothing. His mother was in Mexico and he was here without being able to travel to see her, even for one last time. Finally, she did die and he had not returned.

All pilgrims and foreigners experience big necessities, as any person does. Some are similar to the necessities that Abraham had when in Kiriath-arba, or Hebron. These needs may include anything from education to a burial place, such as Abraham needed for Sarah.

With great respect, Abraham asked for a place to bury Sarah. The people responded, understanding the great importance of his request, "Please sir, listen to us! You are an elect of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our burial sites. None of us would deny you his burial ground for the burial of your dead."

We are all children of God, and we all have needs in each area of our lives.

This story clearly reflects how we should react to the needs of pilgrims and foreigners that are around us. God gives us the strength to reach in the same way as those from Hebron.

## Self-Care: Supportive Networks



At Annual Conference, Bishop Trimble introduced his FIT Challenge. Part of that FIT Challenge

is an invitation to be intentional about self-care.

Most of us do want to be healthier and want to take better care of ourselves. In fact, approximately 80% of us are trying to be healthier by making a lifestyle change, but only 20% of us are successful. Why? The key seems to be support from family, friends, and co-workers. (J. Allen, Healthy Habits, Healthy Friends, 2008)

We seem to have the perception that asking for help in the midst of difficulties and life-changes means that we are not self-

sufficient and strong. Therefore, too many of us try to deal with the stuff of life alone. The reality is that in order to survive life's difficulties, lifestyle change, and the stresses of day-to-day activities, a network of people is needed to offer encouragement, emotional support, and strategies for coping.

*"Gently encourage the stragglers and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs" (1 Thess. 5:14 The Message)*

If a supportive network is important in everyday life, it is essential when you are making lifestyle changes. It is the most significant tool for ensuring success. As you build your plan for intentional self-care and for lifestyle change

include people with these qualities:

- Someone you can trust,
- Will be honest with you,
- Hold you accountable but not be judgmental,
- Offers encouragement
- Helps you formulate and advise your plans to improve your health and well-being.

I invite you to make support networks part of your self-care strategy. You may be surprised at how helpful a listening ear and encouraging cheer-leader can be in your self-care journey.

Kae Tritle, RN  
Wellness Coordinator

# Women At The Well (An Event to Benefit Women's Prison Ministry) - After Care Ministry

## SO OTHERS MAY DRINK THE LIVING WATER

**July 18, 2009**

**4-8 pm**

**Valley UMC  
42nd & Ashworth  
West Des Moines, IA**



- EVENTS:**
- Joshua Project—4-5 pm
  - Tim Cooper & Friends—5:30-6:30 pm
  - The Bruce Gregory Band—7-8 pm
  - Artwork Sale—4-7 pm
  - Jump House & Obstacle Course for the kids!
  - Puppet Ministry—Performance between praise bands

## ADMISSION:

In lieu of an admission fee, please bring a donation of a set of towels that includes a bath towel, hand towel & washcloth. All items will be donated to the Stepping Out in Style ministry for women released from prison. This ministry equips the women with basic essentials as they begin their new life outside the prison gates.

## Youth Strike for Christ—BRING YOUR YOUTH GROUP!!!

### PORTABLE FAITH

**FEBRUARY 5-7, 2010**

### YOUTH STRIKE FOR CHRIST

**MARRIOTT HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER  
DOWNTOWN DES MOINES, IOWA**



### THE WEEKEND INCLUDES:

- Keynote Speaker, Kelly Croy
- Praise band
- Awesome Praise & Worship
- Small Group Sessions
- Room for two nights at the Marriott Hotel
- Meals on Saturday and Sunday
- Entertainment Groups
- Music Concerts
- Free T-shirt—And much, much more...

### REGISTRATION INFO:

\* Visit our website for more information and pricing.  
[www.youthstrike.com](http://www.youthstrike.com)

### **For More Information**

Contact: Jim Oberbroeckling  
E-mail: [joberbroeckling@iowatelecom.net](mailto:joberbroeckling@iowatelecom.net)  
Phone: 641-842-4136

## Apportionments/Connectional Giving

Having a difficult time with understanding what **Apportionments/Connectional Giving** is all about? You are not alone and THERE IS HELP! Contact Ed Kail, Field Outreach Minister for the District. He and the District Stewardship Team would be glad to schedule a conversation with you and/or your congregation or committee.

## Matthew 25 Grants—Do You Have a Project?



Are you working with the poor, the hungry, the disadvantaged, the oppressed, the lonely and forgotten, the vulnerable? If so, your ministry pro-

ject could qualify for financial support through the Matthew 25 Grant program. Applications are available through the district office, or on the district webpage of the [iaumc.org](http://iaumc.org) website. If you have any questions about the program, contact Sheri Stucker, Chair of the District Grants

Team, at [stuckers@hotmail.com](mailto:stuckers@hotmail.com), or Ed Kail, Field Outreach Minister at [ed.kail@iaumc.org](mailto:ed.kail@iaumc.org). The deadline for completed applications to be in the District Office is **August 15, 2009**.

# Next Step Conference—New Ministry Idea!!!

Dear Colleague,

Our church people are inviting your church people to join us for a Conference on October 23-24.



We are calling it the “Next Step Conference” because we will be sharing some approaches to ministry which have worked for us and which might provide some helpful ideas as you consider future steps in ministry at your own church. These ideas range from multi-site ministry to puppet ministry. They include sports evangelism, children’s ministry, mission partnerships, and vitalizing your church organizational structure by moving from committees to ministry teams.

Dr. Doug Anderson, Executive Director of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development, will provide the keynote address on Friday evening and will offer a workshop the next day focused on the needs of smaller membership churches. Friday’s bar-b-que dinner will be held in the new facility we have constructed to house sports, recreation, and fitness ministries. Tours will be offered.

We believe the Next Step Conference will help any church, regardless of size, generate ideas to enhance their ministry—and we would be honored if your church would join us in October!

For a preliminary agenda and workshop list please follow the link on our website: <http://www.ankenfumc.org/content.cfm?id=2203>

Blessings...

Bob & Martha Ward, Lead Co-Pastors  
Ankeny First United Methodist  
Church  
515-964-4249

## Mark Your Calendars!

September 24, 2009

“Stirrings on the Road”

Coffee gatherings with our  
Conference Leadership Development  
Ministers

9:30—11:00 a.m.—Carson UMC

1:30—3:00 p.m.—Casey UMC



## School for Cong. Development

July 29th —August 2nd

There is still time to register for the School for Congregational Development, to be held in Evanston, IL. This is an excellent continuing education event in church revitalization, parish development, and congregational leadership. There will be dozens of workshops, several ministry tracks (including one on Rural Ministry), and exposure to many exciting ideas, people and showcase ministries. Check out [www.scdumc.org](http://www.scdumc.org) for more information or to register.

## Young Adult Ministry Grants

Grants are now available for ministries focusing on Young Adults (age 18-35) in the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church. The grant proposal process is flexible and is designed to promote creative approaches to Young Adult Ministry. Grant applicants are encouraged to submit innovative ideas for funding consideration.

Some examples of ministry requests *might* include: intern-

ships for young adults, mentoring projects with young adults, funding assistance to employ young adults in ministry settings, ministries welcoming young adults into faith communities, mission/service projects centering on young adult involvement, ministries encouraging faith formation for young adults.

Three grant application deadlines (**April 1, July 1, and No-**

**vember 1** of each year) are being offered to allow for emerging ministry needs. Application should be made at least **two months** prior to the date by which you hope to receive funding. Grant applications and additional information is available at [www.iaumc.org/yagrants](http://www.iaumc.org/yagrants).

## Upcoming Events!

- **July 2, 2009**—Deepenings Book Study—District Office
- **July 3, 2009**—Observance of 4th of July Holiday—District Office Closed.
- **July 4, 2009**—HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
- **July 19—22, 2009**—UMW School of Christian Mission—Iowa Valley Continuing Education—Marshalltown, IA
- **July 24—25, 2009**—Lay Speaking Classes—Harlan UMC

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **August 12, 2009**—New Clergy Orientation—10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—District Office
- **September 24, 2009**—LDM Coffees—9:30—11:00 a.m. (Carson UMC) - 1:30—3:00 p.m. (Casey UMC)
- **September 26, 2009**—DCMC Planning Retreat—8:00 a.m.—

4:00 p.m.—Montgomery County Historical Society Building—2700 N. 4th St., Red Oak, IA

- **October 13, 2009**—Healthy Ministry Workshop—Harlan Community Center—706 Victoria St., Harlan, IA
- **October 22, 2009**—A Day Apart—Creighton Retreat Center—16493 Conrail Ave.. Griswold, IA

## Intersections: God and Us”



• Beverly Nolte frequently has updates on the Iowa-Nigeria Partnership and the needs of our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. **If you wish to**

**be included on Beverly's email list**, please contact her at: [bnmedical@aol.com](mailto:bnmedical@aol.com).

- All Clergy that are new to the Southwest District are invited to attend a **New Clergy Orientation** at the District Office on August 12, 2009 from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- The next **DCMC Planning Retreat** will be held on September 26, 2009 from 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Historical Society, located at 2700 North 4th Street in Red Oak, IA.
- All Clergy and Diaconal Ministers are being asked to reserve October 13, 2009 from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. for the next **Healthy Ministerial Relationships Workshop**. The Workshop is **mandatory** for all clergy and diaconal ministers and retired

clergy who are hired by or appointed to a local church. The workshop will be held at the **Harlan Community Center, located at 706 Victoria Street, in Harlan, IA.** Lunch will be provided.

- All Clergy are invited to the Southwest District's "**A Day Apart**" on October 22, 2009 at the Creighton Retreat Center, located at 16493 Conrail Ave., Griswold, IA.
- You Think You Are Ordinary? Think again. The **Young People's Ministries** is sponsoring "Youth 2011, "MORE THAN" - Purdue University July 13—17, 2011, AND Sacramento, CA July 27-31, 2011
- "What matters most to me is to finish what God started...letting everyone I meet know all about this incredibly extravagant generosity of God." -Acts 20:24, *The Message*

### PLEASE

### PRAY

### FOR:



- **Clergy and their families** who have faced the transition of new appointments.
- **Congregations** who are welcoming a new pastor into their community.
- **Rev. Marion Sindt** (Emerson-Wesley Chapel) who is recovering from a fall off of a horse.
- Family and Friends of **Rev. Tom Petersen's** (Dunlap-Dow City) Father-in-Law (Nelva's Father) who passed on Thursday, June 18th.
- **Rev. Kirk Seagren (Dexter—Redfield)** who is missing. Family reports he appears to have suffered a mental breakdown. His wife, **Rev. Lilian Gallo-Seagren (formerly of Guthrie Center—Bowman Chapel) and daughter, Jane-Anne**, would also appreciate prayers during this very difficult time.

*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.



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## **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