

September 1, 2009



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Sharing The Mission

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

From The District Superintendent

“And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love! Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part. Our counsel is that you warn the freeloaders to get a move on. Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be careful that when you get on each other’s nerves you don’t snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out”.

- I Thessalonians 5:12-24

The Message



The Greeting Card Companies have apparently designated the month of October as “Clergy Appreciation Month.” It is not a bad idea to send a card or note to express our appreciation to those persons who serve Christ in our midst as pastors of our congregations. Paul, however, would suggest that a card of appreciation once a year is woefully inadequate. It does not exactly meet his instruction to “overwhelm them with appreciation and love!”

Many scholars suggest that the letter to the Thessalonians is the earliest of Paul’s writings to the church he founded. This early instruction on how to live life in the church starts with how we treat those persons who have said yes to the role of leadership in the church (Whether officially or unofficially). Appreciation and love, says Paul, are to be at the core of the relationship we have with our leaders and from that center, Paul goes on to instruct the early Christians on how to live with each other. Living life in the Church the Jesus way is all about **RELATIONSHIPS!**

The pastors and leaders of our churches have said yes to a call of God upon their lives to live in service to Christ and the world. They are in relationship with God and Christ. I thank God for their efforts to stay in relationship with Christ. It is that relationship which keeps them going in these difficult times. It is that relationship which makes their leadership possible in our congregations and communities.

With Paul, I encourage you brothers and sisters, I **entreat you** to overwhelm your congregational leaders (clergy AND laity) with appreciation and love!

In Christ,

Brian

School for Lay Ministry Registration Currently Open

Jesus tell us in Matthew 20:28 *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Several years ago dedicated people with great vision initiated the School for Lay Ministry in the Iowa Annual Conference. Since that beginning in Indianola, the school has expanded adding campuses at Morningside in Sioux City and at Cornell in Mount Vernon. The purpose of the school is to prepare people to follow in Jesus’ footsteps by serving. The program provides supplemental leadership training to facilitate ministry in Iowa United Methodist churches. We can be the best servants when we are trained, informed and well prepared. The school offers 12 weekends over a three year period covering 12 carefully selected ministry areas. Schools are scheduled to begin this fall at all three campuses.

You will gain knowledge and insight that will be a tremendous asset to your pastor and your church. Additionally, you will grow personally beyond your expectation. You will build relationships that will enrich your life and you will surely become much, much closer to our Lord and Savior. I don’t know of any church in the conference that could not use more trained lay persons in their ministry. I invite you to prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Detailed information, dates, and registration forms can be found under [SLM Downloads](#) on the School for Lay Ministry website: www.iaumc.org/slm. Or feel free to contact Barb Mann at barb.mann@iaumc.org or 515-974-8905.

Ed Kail (Field Outreach Minister)



TURNAROUND!!

I’m thinking a lot about turnaround. It’s a rich concept that applies to the Southwest District in several ways:

- We need to turn around the trend of decline in our churches. There is no denying that most of our counties have been in population decline since the 1890’s. There are far fewer farmers among us than ever. And there are dozens—even hundreds—of people around every one of our churches who are not connected with any faith community. Some of them are our members, some are our children and grandchildren and rela-



tives, and some are new neighbors. Who is going to offer them new life in Jesus Christ, if not US?

- We need to turn our focus around from church to kingdom. You’ve heard me say this before, and it’s still true. Jesus promised to build the church, preserve the church, and empower the church. He wasn’t talking about buildings, budgets or bureaucracies. He was talking about people like us: believers, followers, gifted ministers. And when we try to manage, maintain and save “the church”, we take the wrong job. Our work is to bring forth the reign of God in the world—the Kingdom.
- We need to turn our attention from inside the church, to outside in the world. We are not only located in our communities; we are sent into our communities to share the message of the Gospel. We have tremendous good news to share, especially when the lives of people who are caught up in the secular world of consumerism, materialism, hedonism, and narcissism are so full of pain, conflict, bondage and trouble. If



we’re not out there relating to them, how will they ever know what Jesus could do for them?

- Will God have to send someone else to save the people of our communities?
- It’s all because we need to turn our own lives around: from self to God in Jesus Christ. In biblical language, it’s repentance—turning from an old life to a new one. Sometimes I’m aware of what a poor example I am of what Jesus can do in a man’s life. My witness about the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus is all too weak. Our United Methodist/Wesleyan spiritual heritage has means for turning that around, too—if I will practice it.

I’m growing in my commitment to turnaround. How about you?

Your Field Outreach Minister,

Ed Kail

Experience Hispanic Ministry in Worship!



The Spanish-speaking congregation of Broadway UMC in Council Bluffs invites their United Methodist brothers and sisters to worship with them on Sunday, September 13th, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Broadway church. Churches in the east quadrant of our district are especially invited to bring

groups of people, whether a youth group, Sunday school class, missions group, or some other bunch of interested people.

You will be able to experience the feeling, vitality and faith of the worshipping community as you take part in the congregation's ongoing worship life. Translation will be provided for those who don't (yet) speak Spanish. Refreshments will be offered after worship.

This event is part of a continuing series of encounters planned by the



District Hispanic Ministries Team. The next worship event will take place November 22nd, with churches of the south quadrant offered special invitation. Plan now to attend! If you have questions, feel free to contact the Broadway church office: 712-322-7741.

A Conversation with Young Adults

Registration is open for *A Conversation with Young Adults*—an event for those interested in ministry with Young Adults and College Students which will be held on October 24, 2009 at Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation in Ames, Iowa. Bruce C. Birch, Dean of Wesley Theological Seminary and Bill Lazor, past Director of Young Adult Ministries with the General Board of Discipleship will provide primary leadership for this event. The event will focus on the premise that ministry with young adults needs to come from a spiritual cen-

ter of Biblical and theological groundings rather than based on the "right" technique. Ministry begins with the intentional willingness to be in conversation with young people rather than assuming that we already know what "works". An event brochure is available at Conversation Brochure. Register for the event at www.iaumc.org/yaconversation.



Youth Service Fund (YSF) Day

This year's YSF Day at Adventureland Park in Altoona is scheduled for September 19, 2009. YSF Day is a full day of fun at the park, including a Youth rally at 11:30 am. A portion of ticket sales that day support grants through the United Methodist Church's Youth Service Fund. A poster and coupons are available by contacting DeeDee Sobotka at:

deedee.sobotka@iaumc.org

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 through inte-

grative interventions 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.

2009 Leadership Institute

2009 Leadership Institute United Methodist Church of the Resurrection October 8-9, 2009

The Academy for New Ministry Development would like to let you know about the upcoming Church of the Resurrection (COR) Leadership Institute being held October 8-9 at their church in Leawood, KS (Kansas City area). Students from the Academy who attended COR in 2007 came away equipped with valuable information to use in developing strategies and tactics to build a strong church and a vibrant, connected community.

Please take a look at their website for information on this event at www.cor.org. Click on leadership Renewal and select Leadership Institute for full details.

In addition to attending the conference on these two days, you are also invited to visit with Rev. Nanette Roberts, Sr. Pastor of Grace UMC in Olathe, KS on Wednesday, October 7th. Pastor Roberts will be talking about dual-site ministry; Hispanic Ministry; their Peace Academy with Africa; and what it is like to be a female pastor to the second largest congregation in the Kansas East Conference. COR, of course, is the largest so she will also talk about casting a vision, leadership, and church growth with Grace UMC in a way that sets it apart from COR, as it has very distinctive and successful ministries.

Pastor Roberts has also invited the group to *dinner* at the Center of Grace. It is their “free dinner night” for the community and you will be able to get a taste of the diversity of folks they serve on that site. For more information about Grace UMC/Center of Grace, please see their site at www.gracech.org.

The cost to attend will be the \$177 registration fee, \$80.49 for a hotel room and \$50 for the bus ride. In order for everyone to receive the Early Bird rate, on line registration must be completed by *September 4th*. Hotel rooms and seats on the chartered bus reserved for the trip are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis.

If you are interested in attending, please let the Academy Registrar Barb Mann know so she can provide you with additional details regarding registration, hotel and bus. Barb can be reached at barb.mann@iaumc.org or 515-974-8905.

Attend the 2009 Leadership Institute to discover some of the best new ideas and innovations in Ministry.

Becoming a People of Prayer

Do the clergy, laity, and/or the congregations in your District need to deepen their personal prayer experience, revitalize congregational prayer or develop prayer ministries in their local churches? If so, they might be interested in “Becoming a People of Prayer”, September 17-19, 2009 in Nashville, TN which will include plenaries led by Bishop Minerva Carcaño, Rev. Tommy Hays, Rev. Juanita Rasmus and Rev. Jim Walker as well as workshops and worship. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.gbod.org/peopleofprayer/>



Do You Know a Young Person Whom God is Calling to Ministry?

Scholarship Assistance is available for EXPLORATION 2009 through the Iowa Conference Young Adult Ministry Office. EXPLORATION addresses The United Methodist Church’s need for young clergy by offering youth and young adults who feel God’s call a chance to explore that call. The event is for high school seniors through young adults aged 24 who are considering a call to ordained ministry as a deacon or elder in The United Methodist church.

Participants will be able to:

- Gain an understanding of God’s Call in your life
- Discuss the nature of ordained ministry in The UMC
- Talk with admissions staff from United Methodist schools of theology
- Hear about steps into ordained ministry
- Participate in workshops related to your own questions and interests
- Meet others who are considering their call into ordained ministry
- Talk with people engaged in a va-

riety of ministries

EXPLORATION 2009 will be held November 13-15 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dallas, Texas. For more information, or to register for EXPLORATION, please visit www.gbhem.org/exploration or www.explorecalling.org.

For **information about scholarship assistance** or if you would like your name included in a pool of participants who might be interested in traveling together, contact Eric Guy at eric.guy@iaumc.org or 515.974.8944.

Fall Greetings to All!



It doesn't seem very long ago that I was saying Happy New Year to you and encouraging you to get a plan for your churches year in mission! I hope you have had a busy and fruitful year in your mission work. 2008 was a very good year for missions and if you have been slow getting anything going for this year, I encourage you to pull up your bootstraps this fall and

get going. Find your Rainbow covenant materials, books, report form etc. Find out what and where you are. Relate to the minister, your chair person and if you have a special interest, they will be happy for you to pursue that idea. Remember that the first item of business is to pay the apportionments in full. Mission work is for the entire church and the more you know of all areas, relating mission news, map displays, or even needs of certain areas. Attending visiting missionary meetings is won-

derful insight for all. I encourage you all to "take the steps needed, do it quickly and get participation from every person in your church in some way." Blanket money, Food pantries, Ingathering, Missionary support are all important projects. **GET GOING!** You will be rewarded!

Blessings to you all!

Leann Baker—District Mission Secretary
2011 Vail Ave
Clearfield, Iowa 50840
641.336.2354

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

For More Information

Contact: Jim Oberbroeckling
E-mail: joberbroeckling@iowatelecom.net
Phone: 641-842-4136



How's Your Stewardship?

Are you developing a culture of gratitude and generosity? Is joining the mission of Jesus the first expectation of your members? Can the members of your congregation name their spiritual gifts, and tell how they are offering them to God? Would you like for your church to never worry about money again. Consider inviting the **District Stewardship Team** to meet with your church leaders for a frank discussion of faithful stewardship. It could change your life!

North Central District—Fall Lay Speaking Training 2009



JEFFERSON UMC
SEPT. 12TH & 26TH
(YOU MUST ATTEND
BOTH DAYS)
9:00 AM—2:30 pm

BASIC & ADVANCED
CLASSES AVAILABLE!

BASIC—"LAY SPEAKING MINIS-
TRIES BASIC COURSE"

ADVANCED—(STEWARDSHIP)
"DON'T SHOOT THE HORSE
TILL YOU KNOW HOW TO
DRIVE THE TRACTOR"

All materials are to be purchased ahead of time by student through Cokesbury on line at www.cokesbury.com or by calling toll free 877-231-1594. Please send or email your registration form with the \$10.00 registration fee to the District Office: 620 2nd St., Suite #1, Webster City, IA 50595 or alanna.warren@iaumc.org.

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

Recommended Books



Excellent resource for developing **spiritual leadership** in the local church: “Your Calling as a Leader” by Gary Straub and Judy Turner available from Cokesbury. This little book calls the church to seek out and develop spiritual leaders for these times. An excellent study book for the congregation or small group study and action with practical illustrations, for those who want to “go deeper” in their spiritual walk with Christ.

Resource for **Pastor Parish Relations** Committee training: “Watching Over One Another in Love” by Gwen Purushotham available from Cokesbury. This short study book fits in with the new PPR model for ministry assessment and provides the background and practical questions that will teach PPR committees their role in holistic ministry assessment. This would make a great study for the PPR committee to work through.

Sesquicentennial Festival

Sesquicentennial Festival

The United Methodist Church of Greenfield will celebrate the 150th anniversary year of its founding with a Sesquicentennial Festival over the weekend of October 3-4. Because it was also the first Christian mission church (Methodist Episcopal) in the early settlement of the town, it is inviting all other community churches to participate in the anniversary occasion

as well, in the spirit of unity in Christ.

Pastor Charles Layton has announced that Iowa United Methodist Bishop Julius Trimble is to preach and lead in celebration of Holy Communion at the October 4 Sunday morning festival worship service at 10 A.M.

Among many events scheduled for the weekend festival are the ecumenically acclaimed St. John’s Illuminated Bible Print Art Exhibit, an Interchurch Fun Games Tournament for all ages

(Saturday 3-5 PM), a Gathering Tent Stage Show and Barbecue (Saturday 4:30-8 PM), a Sunday Noon Banquet Dinner and benefit quilt auction, and a 2 P.M. Sunday afternoon concert that features three bell choirs, the parish choir, and interchurch community chorus, and pipe organ selections.

Additional details are available at the church office and by calling 641-743-2715.

Upcoming Events!

- **September 3, 2009**—Deepenings Book Study—10:00 a.m.—District Office
- **September 7, 2009**—HAPPY LABOR DAY! - District Office will be closed.
- **September 13, 2009**—Hispanic Ministry Service—7:00 p.m.—Council Bluffs (Broadway)
- **September 14, 2009**—Elder’s Training—7:00 p.m.—District Office
- **September 17—18, 2009**—Office Closed.
- **September 22, 2009**—Elder’s Training—7:00 p.m.—Via Conference Call
- **September 24, 2009**—LDM Coffees—9:30—11:00 a.m. (Carson UMC) - 1:30—3:00 p.m. (Casey UMC)
- **September 24, 2009**—District Ministry Team Meeting—District Office
- **September 25, 2009**—District Committee on Ministry—Interviews—9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.—District Office
- **September 26, 2009**—DCMC Planning Retreat—8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.—Montgomery County Historical Society—2700 N. 4th St., Red Oak, IA
- **October 13, 2009**—Healthy Ministry Workshop—Harlan Community Center—706 Victoria St., Harlan, IA—Registration: 7:30—8:30 am—Workshop: 9:00 am—4:00 pm—Cost: \$15.00 to be paid upon arrival at registration
- **October 22, 2009**—A Day Apart—Creighton Retreat Center—16493 Conrail Ave.. Griswold, IA

Intersections: God and Us”



• The next **DCMC (District Connectional Ministries Council—formerly District Council on Ministries) 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 at the Creighton Retreat Center, located at 16493 Conrail Ave., Griswold, IA.
- 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, in Sacramento, CA July 27-31, 2011.
- The **2009-2010 Southwest District Directory** is now available. Please contact Shirley Lewis (Shirley.Lewis@iaumc.org) if you would like to have a copy e-mailed to you.
- Please contact Shirley Lewis a.s.a.p. if you are a **Full Elder** and would be willing to volunteer your services in **presiding over a Cluster Charge Conference** this fall.
- The Orient UMC will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the present church building at the September 13th, 8:45 a.m. worship service. The original 1887 building burned Dec. 9, 1981, and the new building was completed in 1984. Invited guests will include pastors who have served the church during the 25 years as well as District Superintendents who served during the rebuilding process. A brunch will be served after the service; members, former members and visitors are welcome!
- The **SW District Worship Team** solicits six additional team members, clergy and laity. Current agenda includes preparation and distribution of “Worship Guide for Smaller Assemblies” to be specific to interests of small/rural churches in SW Iowa, though usable by all. Work on this project is moving ahead from Table of Contents phase into research and text writing. Volunteer for SW Team by contacting Ed.Kail@isumc.org.
- **Early Response Training**—Would you like to be an **Early Responder** to help after Disasters? Come to our Western Training at Carroll UMC, Friday, October 2, 2009 starting at 7pm thru October 3, 2009 at 4pm. Call Trish Burket (712-427-9014) or Scott Smith (Conference ER Trainer) at 319-766-2911 to get an application and sign up.
- Prayers are requested for **Rev. Kathy Spracklin** (Charter Oak) and Family. Rev. Spracklin’s Husband (Gerald) has a brother (Bud) who was involved in a car accident. Also in the vehicle were his son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. Bud and his daughter-in-law remain hospitalized in Omaha.
- “What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed in the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.” - John 1, *The Message*

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