

October 1, 2009



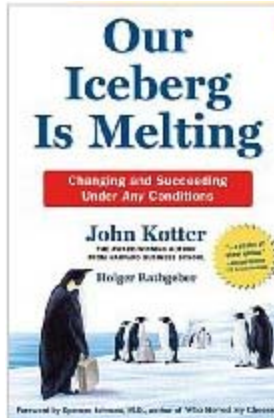
IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

SHARING THE MISSION

From The District Superintendent

“OUR ICEBERG IS MELTING!”

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ THE BESTSELLER “Our Iceberg is Melting” by John Kotter. I think you will be amazed at the parallels between the resistance to change in the penguin colony and our own resistance to change in the church. You may even hear God speak through this simple fable about doing well in an ever-changing world.



The story is about an emperor penguin colony in Antarctica. One day one curious bird discovers a potentially dangerous problem threatening their home— and, well, pretty much no one listens. This tale is about resistance to change and heroic action. It is about seemingly insurmountable obstacles and clever tactics for dealing with those obstacles. (Dare I say, the penguins handle their very real challenges a great deal better than most of us in the Church today).



I believe there is an increasing sense of URGENCY for us to change the way we do things in the church in order to minister to our neighbors and communities in the name of Jesus Christ. I believe our opportunity for transforming lives in the name of Christ is NOW! If we can get the challenge of change right— the opportunities for impacting our communities for Christ are greater than we can measure. We could actually make a difference in the towns, neighborhoods and regions where we are located. We could actually position ourselves, in response to God’s call upon our lives, to proclaim the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ rather than the news of fear and hatred that is so common today.

The District Ministry Team is doing some dreaming and planning. Would you pray with us that we could change the “culture” of the United Methodist Church in Southwest Iowa? Could we together create a district culture that gives “permission for mission” in every Church in our District? Could we support, resource and hold accountable every local church for their own:

**FOCUSED MISSION AND SERVICE
TRANSFORMED LIVES IN THE NAME OF JESUS
MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY to CHRIST and each other
TELLING the STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION**

We could sure use your help, for Christ’s sake!

Brian

Building Healthy Ministerial Relationships Workshop—Oct. 13, 2009

By now, all clergy in the SW District should be registered for this mandatory workshop, to be held at the Ther-kildsen Activity Center in Harlan. We all simply must recognize that American society is what it is in the 21st Century, and issues of appropriate boundaries and healthy, non-exploitive relationships are pressed upon anyone in professional ministry. It is not wise to be unaware of the dynamics of power, religion, sexuality and ethical decision-making that can operate in the relationships of clergy. And it is not prudent to be ignorant of the tremendous costs suffered by the church when ministers of any category stray from healthy relationships.

So, every quadrennium, the Iowa Annual Conference develops these workshops, which clergy are required to attend. Not only is it good sense to be informed, and to have consciousness raised, it also makes it possible for the Annual Conference to provide professional liability insurance for clergy and other ministers. It is important that every minister do whatever it takes to attend the workshop on October 13th.

The schedule: Registration is at 8:00 a.m.; workshop is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Cost is \$15.00 payable upon arrival.** 0.6 CEU credits will be granted for attending the complete event.

Ed Kail (Field Outreach Minister)



A Call to VIM: Prepare to Help!!

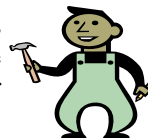
Over the Labor Day Weekend, my wife Myra and I traveled to the “east coast” of Iowa to do some Volunteer In Mission (VIM) work. We stayed in the town of Oakville, which was all but wiped out by the massive floods of 2008. However, we did most of our work in Mt. Union, about 30 minutes away, where they had experienced a flash flood, after receiving over 11 inches of rain in a couple of hours on August 27th. We spent several hours scrubbing block walls to prevent the growth of mildew and mold.

We also got in personal touch with the kinds of needs there are for “disaster recovery” in Iowa. All of them present



an opportunity for you to be involved in VIM work. There are the sudden, intense disasters that need people quickly and for a shorter term—over weeks or months. Folks in Mt. Union were still assessing the damage, and determining how to address needs after the initial cleanup. Then there are the major, large-scale disasters that need people over a longer period—months and years. In Oakville, there is a well-developed system of project management and volunteer coordination that is now focusing on rebuilding the town, several houses at a time. Whatever the scope and duration, there is something for everyone to do!

There is a real need for people with construction skills—plumbing, electrical, drywall, cabinetry, finishing and trim, doors and windows, and the like. There is need for people who can paint, sand, mend, fix, tote, and help. Churches have opened their buildings as dormitories for volunteers—Oakville provides air beds and showers and access to their kitchen, with room for 40! Somebody needs to cook and transport and care for teams that go. And people who can raise financial support for projects are in high



demand.

Here’s the deal: I believe that there are hundreds of people in the SW district who could be of real help to these brothers and sisters affected by disaster. There are people of every skill level, level of experience, and a v a i l a b i l i t y — amateurs and professionals alike. We’ve got hundreds of capable, experienced retired people. We’ve got scores of farmers, both men and women, with a load of abilities. We’ve got teens and young adults with energy to spare. And if we plan and prepare now to send teams of VIM workers this fall -- even after the harvest is done -- we can improve the lives of dozens of families in eastern Iowa. Two or three, a handful, a dozen—35 or 40—any and all can use their gifts in this practical mission.



How about it? Any VIM’s out there?

Your Field Outreach Minister,

Ed Kail

UMC—ELCA FULL COMMUNION Agreement—by The Rev. Magrey R. deVega



Ed and I both feel that Pastor DeVega has done an excellent job of interpreting the Full Communion agreement between the UMC and the ELCA branch of the Lutheran Church. We have reprinted it here with his permission and for your edification.

-Brian



On separate occasions last week, a few church members asked me what I thought about the “merger between the Lutherans and the Methodists.” Each time, my response was both corrective and instructive, as there is much to celebrate and clarify about the landmark development between these two denominations. So, here is a quick primer:

Q. What has taken place?

A. It’s not a “merger.” The official term is “full communion.” The United Methodist Church (UMC) and the Evangelical Lutheran church in America (ELCA) have agreed to recognize a long list of shared attributes, including:

- a common confession of the Christian faith, as attested in both the Lutheran confessions and the Doctrinal Standards of the United Methodist Church.
- A mutual recognition of Baptism and a sharing of the Lord’s Supper, allowing for joint worship;
- An interchangeability of ordained ministers between the two denominations, subject to the disciplinary regulations of the host church. This means, for example, that in underserved communities, a Lutheran or United Methodist pastor could serve a church of the other denomination;
- A shared commitment to evangelism, witness, service, public unity, and common decisions on issues of faith and life.

Put more simply, both denominations now agree that they have more in common than their differences, and are unified in accomplishing the same goals. Any disparity in our beliefs and practices is not incompatible, but enriching, and contributes to a fuller understanding of the Christian faith. The bottom line remains, however, that this is not a merger. There will be no changes to the names, structure, or doctrine of either church, from the denominational level down to individual congregations.

Q. I still don’t get it. How about an analogy?

A. Here’s one that might be helpful. Consider two pharmaceutical research companies. For decades, they have established their own identities as leading, and competing, manufacturers of prescription drugs. Imagine that one day, they hold a joint press conference announcing that they have agreed to work together to eradicate Parkinson’s Disease. They clarify that they are not talking about a merger of the two businesses. They will remain separate companies, with their own branding and organizational structure. But because they believe that the cause of defeating the disease transcends their nominal differences, they have decided fully to share their research with each other, allow open access of their scientists to each other’s laboratories, and present before the public a unified front in their common mission. At one point during the announcement, one of the spokespersons says, “We will still be separate companies. But in the things that really matter, we’re on the same team.”

Imagine the headline-grabbing attention this kind of announcement would create. In a time when separate companies are expected to be cut-throat and competitive, this development would put cause before competition, and mission before distinction.

Q. Was this a sudden decision?

A. No. The two denominations have been studying this through prayerful dialogue for 32 years. Joint commissions have examined our common understandings of baptism (1977-1979), the authority and function of bishops (1985-1987), and many other issues including communion (2001-2007). In 2005, a joint committee began drafting a document called “Confessing Our Faith Together” which constituted our statement of full communion. The General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted it in April 2008, and the General Assembly of the ELCA adopted it a few weeks ago.

Q. How unique is this agreement?

A. For United Methodists, this is a historic development. This is the first such agreement ever between the UMC and a denomination outside the Methodist family. The ELCA has made similar agreements with five other denominations, including the Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Reformed churches.

Q. How will this affect the relationship between St. Paul’s UMC and Bethlehem Lutheran, here in town?

A. This is cause for celebration, and my friend Rev. Jim Steen and I have spoken to express our mutual appreciation for this development. In coming weeks we will have further conversations with lay leadership and consider ways to observe this new relationship between the two congregations. As the denominations joint commission produces resources and guidelines for shared worship and other programming, we will explore opportunities for partnered ministry. Frankly, this announcement formally affirms the ecumenical spirit our congregations have enjoyed over the years. Our church members have many close friends at Bethlehem, and we have shared in numerous projects for the Cherokee community, including the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race and the Lenten series “Sermons a la Carte.”

Q. Is it weird to think about Luther and Wesley on the same team?

A. Not at all! I like to remember that even though John Wesley and Martin Luther were born over two hundred years apart, they shared a moment of significant spiritual convergence in 1738. Then, a young, disillusioned Wesley walked “very unwillingly” into a church service on Aldersgate Street in London. Deeply discouraged by a miserable missions trip to America, his faith was plagued by doubt and disbelief. That night, as the preacher read aloud a commentary on the book of Romans, Wesley would later recount:

(Continued on next page)

UMC—ELCA FULL COMMUNION Agreement *(cont'd from pg. 3)*

About a quarter before nine, while the leader was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

This significant conversion experience in John Wesley would not have happened were it not for Martin Luther, the author of that commentary. As a result, a re-energized Wesley sparked a renewal movement throughout Great Britain and America, and ultimately birthed the tradition we claim as our own. This agreement of full communion acknowledges, among many other things, that our spiritual heritage is shared with, and even indebted to, our Lutheran forebears. For Wesley and Luther, we join in grateful thanks.

So, this is great reason for celebration. Next time you see a friend from Bethlehem Lutheran, greet them as you would a member of a new family. As for me? I like to think that now I am one less degree of separation from Garrison Keillor.

Grace and Peace,

Magrey

The Rev. Magrey R. deVega
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
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Cherokee, IA 51012
Ph: 712-225-3955
<http://www.cherokeespumc.org>

Internship for Hispanic Ministries in Iowa

I give thanks to the United Methodist church for giving me the opportunity to do this internship. A special thank you to Rev. Barb Dinnen, Rev. Ruben Mendoza, and Pastor Edgar Solis for all their hard work. This internship for Hispanic Ministries consisted of visiting three different places in Iowa: Muscatine with Edgar Solis, Des Moines with Rev. Barb Dinnen, and Council Bluffs with Rev. Ruben Mendoza.



This summer internship has been a great experience. Working with three different people in three different places gave me a wide spectrum of what Hispanic Ministries are in Iowa. Various ways are being explored to reach out to new people through music, social services, visitations, worship, prayer, and Bible studies. Results for the hard work involved in these ministries can be seen in the increase in attendance, and the strengthening of those who attend church on a regular basis.

There still is a lot of work needing to be done in Iowa to minister to Hispanic people. One of the biggest problems in all three congregations is immigration. Due to immigration issues, people who attend church regularly and are ready to become leaders end up leaving. As a consequence, leaders are forced to become acquainted with immigration issues and ways to deal with them. Furthermore, Hispanic ministries in Iowa are still young; they are going through labor pains. Yet this opens up the door for new ministries.

In conclusion, this experience of working with Hispanic Ministries in Iowa gave me hope for the future. Yet it also opened my eyes to the needs among the Hispanic population in Iowa. Rev. Barb Dinnen, Rev. Ruben Mendoza, Pastor Edgar Solis, their congregations, the United Methodist Church, and others are working hard to meet those needs.

Written by—Orlando Gallardo

A Day Apart for Clergy—October 22, 2009

Superintendent Brian Milford has announced the next Day Apart for clergy of the Southwest District, planned for Thursday, October 22nd, at the Creighton Retreat Center west of Griswold. Leader for the day of retreat and learning will be Janet S. Everhart, M.Div., Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Religion at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Janet has experience in local church ministries as well as in higher education.

In planning for the day, Dr. Everhart remarked, “As I think about your goals, it seems best to me to engage in a Bible study that will model some of what I’d want to communicate about reading the Bible with parishioners; we can follow that with some discussion of theory and technique. I can certainly share some of my experiences of working with adults in Bible study during my years of parish ministry, and why I think Bible study is one of the best ways to form community in the church.”

The projected schedule for the day is as follows:

10:00 am Gathering and Announcements
10:15 am Opening Prayer/Morning Worship leading into content time
Noon Lunch/Fellowship
1:00 pm Content
2:30 pm Adjourn

A Fee of **\$15.00** will be charged to those attending “A Day Apart” to help alleviate the expenses incurred by the District. Please submit your fee to Shirley Lewis at the District Office **prior to Friday, October 16, 2009**. Make your check payable to “Iowa Annual Conference”.

Southwest District Apportionment Status (As of 8-31-09)

Adair	67%	Dunlap, First	67%	Buck Creek	67%
Casey	67%	Dow City, First	67%	Massena	50%
Anita	5%	Elliott	67%	Bridgewater	83%
Wiota	75%	Emerson	8%	Avondale	70%
Atlantic, First	54%	Wesley Chapel	58%	Missouri Valley	32%
Audubon, First	26%	Farragut	58%	Modale	24%
Bedford	73%	Summit	67%	New Market	15%
Brooks	58%	Glenwood, Grace	0%	Noble	67%
Carbon	67%	Glidden	12%	Grant	66%
Carl	67%	Greenfield	46%	Oakland	11%
Carroll, First	46%	Griswold	25%	Orient	58%
Carson	67%	Guthrie Center	67%	Fontanelle	67%
Mt. Hope	67%	Bowman Chapel	67%	Panora	17%
Carter Lake	50%	Hamburg, First	0%	Pisgah	67%
Charter Oak	0%	Hancock	58%	Mondamin	75%
Clarinda, First	58%	Silver Creek	50%	Little Sioux	0%
Coin	7%	Harlan, First	69%	Red Oak, First	13%
Norwich	42%	Monroe Chapel	100%	Ross, Calvary	39%
Braddyville	67%	Bagley	67%	Gray	55%
Shambaugh	69%	Yale	58%	Shelby	58%
Northboro	67%	Linden	67%	Persia	67%
Blanchard	67%	Dawson	67%	Shenandoah, First	21%
Locust Grove	67%	Cooper	67%	Sidney	58%
Clearfield	0%	Bayard	75%	Thurman	0%
Lenox	11%	Irwin	9%	Riverton	67%
Mercer Center	100%	Kirkman	50%	Silver City	45%
Sharpsburg	67%	Defiance, Salem	67%	Pacific Junction	50%
Coon Rapids, First	8%	Lewis United	12%	Hillsdale	31%
Corning	61%	Logan	62%	Stuart/Mt. Vernon	25%
Council Bluffs (Broadway)	67%	Magnolia	67%	Menlo	62%
Council Bluffs (Epworth)	3%	Macedonia	100%	Randolph	0%
Council Bluffs (Fifth Avenue)	66%	Henderson	0%	Tabor	37%
Council Bluffs (Hazel Dell)	75%	Malvern	58%	Hawthorne	50%
Council Bluffs (Salem)	42%	Strahan	70%	Stratton	0%
Council Bluffs (St. Mark's)	67%	Manning	68%	Villisca	59%
Council Bluffs (Trinity)	69%	Manilla, United Church of	73%	Nodaway	0%
Cumberland	67%	Maple Grove	50%	Woodbine	56%
Pine Grove	68%	Marne	67%		
Denison, First	42%				

SW District Missions

Isn't it strange how things sometimes happen?! My own church mission group had just recently discussed sending some money to various places and we chose to send \$100 to Doris David (Cletus David's sister whom we sponsored through his school) and about the same day I had mailed it to the Conference, I received an e-mail from Bev Nolte stating Doris David has completed 1 year of school, to which we had also contributed, but so many requests have been received and her continued funding was not there. Bev was requesting donations

to cover her \$1,620 tuition and \$1,120 room and board. If you are in a position in your mission work to help this young Nigerian woman continue her education at Africa University, or others such as Jacob Tahiru and Francis Adamu, it would be appreciated. The account number to use is #230. God's light shines in every corner of earth and God's mission extends to all creation. As a leader of mission in your local church, you have accepted the call to

join in God's mission today. God Bless You! I hope your mission work in your church is going well. Remember it is fall and the end of the year will be upon us quickly. Thank you for what you do. Also remember that all of the "little bits" you can do, add up.

Leann Baker
2011 Vail Avenue
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641.336.2354
641.344.8820
leann@iowatelecom.net

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

<h3>Reaching Men Through Discipleship & Mentoring</h3>	<h3>A Conversation with Young Adults</h3>
<p>God to Man, Man to Man, Man to Boy</p> <p>12th Annual Four Conference UMMen Retreat! October 10, 2009</p> <p>Iowa, Minnesota, Dakotas, Nebraska St. Pauls United Methodist Church 324 S. Jackson St., Papillion, NE</p> <p>E-mail Questions To: garyspivey2003@cox.net</p> 	<p>Ministry with young adults needs to come from a spiritual center of Biblical and theological groundings rather than based on the “right” technique. It begins with the intentional willingness to be in conversation with young people rather than assuming that we know what “works.”</p> <p>Saturday, October 24, 2009 9:30 am—3:30 pm Collegiate UMC Ames, Iowa</p> <p>\$25 Registration fee per person Due by October 15 Register online at www.iaumc.org/yaconversation</p>

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: internships 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 November**

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.

Upcoming Events!

- **October 2—23, 2009**—St. John’s Bible Exhibit—Greenfield UMC
- **October 3, 2009**—Conference Annual UMW Meeting—Central UMC, Oskaloosa, IA
- **October 4-5, 2009**—Fall Orders Event—St. Paul’s, Cedar Rapids, IA
- **October 6, 2009**—9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.—RIM Group Meeting—District Office
- **October 13, 2009**—Healthy Ministry Workshop—Therkildsen 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 20, 2009**—New Pastor’s Orientation—10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.—District Office
- **October 22, 2009**—A Day Apart—Creighton Retreat Center—16493 Conrail Ave.. Griswold, IA. **Cost: \$15.00. Due prior to the event. Make check**

payable to “Iowa Annual Conference and send to District Office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **November 1, 2009**—Daylight Savings Time Ends
- **November 3, 2009**—RIM Group Meeting—9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.—District Office
- **November 7, 2009**—Ingathering—10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.—Greenfield UMC

Intersections: God and Us”



- **Announcing: Turn-around Seminars!** Small group seminars for pastors who wish to offer leadership in turning churches around from survival to mission will be offered by Ed Kail, Field Outreach Minister, beginning this fall. Pastors (and other leaders) may choose from a variety of options:

1. **“Deepenings” Book Study**—discussing a variety of resources—1st Thursday of each month.

2. **Small Membership Churches (average worship attendance less than 35)**—2nd Wednesday of each month.

3. **Beginning Ministry for Turnaround (for pastors new to the SW district)** - 2nd Thursday of each month. Because of the way October is arranged, **“Deepenings” will meet on October 8th, SMC Pastors on October 14th, and New Pastors will meet on October 15th.** Questions? Contact Ed Kail at the District Office.

- 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
- 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 emailed to you.
- This year’s **Professional Interviews and Charge Conferences** are well under way. Please don’t forget to **get all of your forms submitted to the District Office in a timely manner.** Thank You!
- Congratulations to **Greenfield UMC** in celebrating it’s **150th Anniversary!!!**

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Nan Allen (Retired Elder—Stuart)** - who is receiving treatment for cancer.
- **Pastor Don Burket’s (Bedford) Mother** who has suffered a stroke which has affected her right side, as well as, her speech. She is currently at Raleigh Nursing Home in Perry, IA.
- **Unemployed Members of our Communities**
- **All Iowa Conference Churches** as they prepare for this season’s Charge Conferences.

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
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