



Fort Dodge District Connection United Methodist Church

726 1st Ave. N. Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Phone: (515) 576-2444

Gary.Armstrong@iaumc.org

TO FINISH THE WORK WE ARE IN

When I became a United Methodist Pastor I responded affirmatively to the question “Will you go where you are sent?” Having answered that questions (and others) with the grace given by God I have embarked on a journey of service in a church I grow to appreciate more the older I become. It has been a privilege to serve in a variety of settings in Iowa through the years. I must say that each of the I appointments I have served was not what I had imagined before I reached that particular place. Yet my life has been enriched and my faith has been strengthened from having been in each of those settings. Lessons were learned, faith was shared, and friendships were developed in each setting. For all of this and more I am deeply thankful.

Now as I prepare to move from Superintendency in the Fort Dodge District to serving as pastor at Indianola First United Methodist church it is with deep appreciation for the opportunity I have had and for the one that lies before me. I move back into serving in a particular local church at a time when the Iowa Conference is stepping forward in faith in a new venture as we reorganize and position ourselves for ministry in the future. I urge your prayerful support for Bishop Gregory Palmer, the new and the continuing District Superintendents, the new Field Outreach and Leadership Development Ministers as they begin working with a new structure and a new challenge. Though we have a new structure and a new challenge we have an enduring mission – To Make Disciples in the name of Jesus Christ. As we do so we can make a difference for good and for God in this world.

As I prepare to complete my time as Superintendent assigned to the Fort Dodge District I want to express my appreciation for the clergy and laity of this district, and for all the ways you seek to share God’s love in this world. Abraham Lincoln included words that are appropriate to consider as we move forward as the people of God – “Let us strive on to finish the work we are in . . .”

Gary L. Armstrong

ADDRESS CHANGES

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Move Date is June 12, 2007

North Central District Office

618 Second Street

Webster City, Iowa 50595-1439

(Date of occupancy and phone number still to be determined)

Reverend Dr. Dennis Tevis

North Central District Superintendent

2504 Delaware Drive

Webster City, Iowa 50595-3176

APPORTIONMENT % AS OF 4/30/2007

Ames Calvary	25%	Grand Junction	33%	Perry First	0%
Ames Collegiate	33%	Hope Parish		Rippey	48%
Ames First	33%	Bagley	33%	Fairview	33%
Ames Korean	0%	Yale	33%	St. John's Radcliffe	25%
Beaver Yoke	0%	Linden	33%	Ellsworth	0%
Boone First	33%	Dawson	9%	Rockwell City	25%
Boone Marion St	28%	Cooper	25%	Jolley	33%
Boxholm	0%	Bayard	34%	Scranton	33%
Pilot Mound	40%	Hubbard Salem	33%	Greenbrier	32%
Lehigh	0%	Huxley Trinity	8%	Slater	24%
Otho	33%	Cambridge	33%	Sheldahl	8%
Collins	33%	Jefferson First	29%	Stanhope Grace	11%
Loring	49%	Lake City Union	17%	Story City Grace	25%
Colo	10%	Lohrville	8%	Stratford Calvary	2%
Dayton	33%	Lanesboro	17%	South Marion	8%
Harcourt	0%	Mackey	33%	Homer	0%
Eagle Grove	9%	Maxwell	33%	Duncombe	33%
Faith	0%	Napier	30%	Webster City Asbury	0%
Farnhamville	23%	Nevada First	34%	Webster City Faith	25%
Somers	12%	Ogden	33%	Kamrar	25%
FD Epworth	11%	Our Savior UMC	33%	Woolstock	50%
FD First	13%	Panora	30%	Vincent	34%
FD Riverside	8%	Paton	9%	Bethel—Zearing	22%
FD Trinity	20%	Churdan	17%		
Gowrie	35%	Peoria	0%		

A NOTE TO THE THANKSGIVING INGATHERING WORKERS

At Last---At Last---I can report to you that the 2007 Thanksgiving Ingathering books were mailed to each church. Each church should have three (3) copies that were mailed in an envelope that was well identified. Three copies were mailed instead of 4 because of a postal regulation that we didn't expect. The books are the same bright gold they have been----so be sure to check the year and throw away the old books. You may copy all parts of the book, there will be extras at annual conference and the book is also on the Iowa Conference website. Please note the following items: **The size of the school bags was inadvertently left out---OH, DEAR---they are to be the same as last year---check the 2006 book before you throw it away! **The last page of the book IS THE REMITTANCE FORM FOR 2007. You will NOT receive a mailing in the fall. Please make copies of this page as instructed. Hopefully this will eliminate many of you not receiving the mailing---and we know it will leave us extra money to be spent for the mission work we are doing. **The PET project is still on the list to be supported. There are at least four (4) PETs in Iowa that can be accessed for special programs. Contact the district representative nearest you for information. **Please take note of the A3 or Artemiaia listed with the Iowa-Nigeria Projects. Even though the kit is listed at \$75, you can send any amount you want and it will all be combined to purchase the kits. **The Iowa-Nigeria Partnership Committee has graciously given the health and school kits that come to the Mt Pleasant site to UMCOR for 2007. This means that ALL of the health and school kits from all the sites will help UMCOR replenish their shelves. All other kits listed under Iowa-Nigeria will, of course, be shipped to Nigeria. We know many of you have been already sewing and gathering supplies and we are looking forward to a most successful Ingathering on November 3. Let's try to hit that "million" this year! Blessings to All. Lois and Gene Novak, Ingathering Coordinators 1-800-228-2853



“Growing as Generous People: Stewards of Money”

The theme for the 2007 session of the Iowa Annual Conference is “Growing as Generous People: Stewards of Money,” Set to convene at the Hilton Coliseum, on the campus of the Iowa State University in Ames, on Thursday, June 7, 2007. For more information go to <http://iowasite.brickriver.com/page.asp?PKValue=1049>

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEARS

The 164th Session of the Iowa Annual Conference will begin promptly at 9:29 a.m. on Thursday, June 7, 2007. Following a brief, two-minute call to order, the gathered assembly of lay and clergy members from the 826 congregations of the Conference will join in the Memorial Service during which fifteen clergy and fifteen spouses will be remembered. Bishop Palmer will be the preacher for the service that will include the celebration of Holy Communion. Thursday’s organization includes the presentation of the working budget, instructions for the legislative committee work, and several ballots for lay and clergy delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The Report of the Judicial Council Decision and report from the Implementation Task Force will be presented after lunch on Thursday. A Service of Baptismal Renewal will draw the day to a close.

On Friday balloting will continue. Sandra Lackore, the General Secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration, will engage the Conference in a teaching session. The evening’s highlight will be a “Celebration of Mission and Ministry” that will feature many of the Iowa Conference ministries that focus on children and poverty and justice ministries.

The third day of the gathering, Saturday, June 9, will begin the final ballot for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates. A Mission Work Day will follow with Terry Tekyl, a United Methodist pastor, speaking on prayer during the opening program. The work day will continue throughout the morning. The United Methodist Women’s District Reorganization meetings will be held at 1:00 pm. Jim Winkler, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, will lead the Conference in a “teaching session” on Saturday afternoon. The “Reception of Classes, Commissioning and Celebration of Retirements” will take place on Saturday evening, beginning at 7:00 pm. Rev. Sarah Malone will be the preacher for the service at which fourteen will be commissioned the retirement of some thirty-four clergy will be observed. A retiree’s reception will follow in the Scheman upper lobby.

The Service of Ordination will begin the Conference’s Sunday. Ten will be Ordained as Elders in The United Methodist Church in the service. Bishop Palmer will be the preacher. The business of the 164th Session of the Iowa Annual Conference will conclude on Sunday afternoon with the adoption of the Budget and essential nominations and other motions. The Episcopal Address and “fixing of the appointments” will “send forth” the nearly 2000 members of the Annual Conference.

FILL THE TRUCK

JUNE 7-10, 2007

Help available 45 minutes before Morning Session, 1 hour after the afternoon sessions and during noon break.
 Parked in Northeast Corner of Hilton Parking Lot, parallel to Lincolnway
KITS NEEDED AS OF MARCH 20, 2007, PRIORITIZED BY UMCOR

SEWING KITS (\$18)

- 3 yards of sewing cotton, solid or print
- 1 pair sewing scissors
- 1 pkg of needles
- 1 spool of thread
- 5-8 matching buttons
- Wrap notions in fabric. Place in a Sealed one gallon plastic bag.*

HEALTH KITS (\$12)

- 1 hand towel 15”X25” OR 17”X27”
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (no pocket size)
- 1 nailfile or clippers
- 1 bath size bar soap (3 oz & up)
- 1 toothbrush in original wrapper
- 1 tube of toothpaste (same as bulk instructions)
- 6 adhesive bandages
- Place items in sealed one gallon plastic bag.*



LAYETTES (\$35)

- 6 cloth diapers
- 2 shirts or onezees
- 2 baby washcloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins
- 1 sweater, open in front
- 2 receiving blankets

Bundle items on one blanket, close with diaper pins

BULK NEEDS:

- Hand towels
- Toothpaste, 4.5 or larger, exp. date, January 2008
- Metal nail files or fingernail clippers
- Child’s blunt scissors
- Pencil sharpeners
- Cloth diapers
- Ruled paper, wide lines

CONGRATULATIONS IOWA SCHOOL FOR LAY MINISTRY CLASS OF 2007!

Linda Poore, Dan Rogers—
Simpson College
Lavonne Hoover, Phyllis Warren, &
Susan Walter—Morningside College

NEW MINISTRY TEAM:

Effective July 1, 2007, most of the current Ford Dodge District will join the other regional churches to become the new “North Central District”. The North Central District will also include some churches that are currently part of the Mason City, Spencer, and Waterloo Districts. Some churches in the current Fort Dodge District will become part of the Central and Southwest Districts. The Reverend Dennis Tevis will serve as Superintendent of the North Central District. The Reverend Jon Gaul will serve as Field Outreach Minister. Ms. Alanna Warren will serve as District Administrative Secretary.

Departing:

- Reverend Gary Armstrong (District Superintendent) to Indianola First UMC
- Reverend Martha DiSilvestro (FD-Des Moines District) - to Central District FOM
- Reverend Ed Kail (Faith UMC) - to Southwest District Field Outreach Minister
- Reverend Brian McNamara (Story City Grace) - Appointment Pending
- Reverend Wilbur Morfitt (Collins-Loring) to Retirement
- Reverend David Morris (Dayton-Harcourt) to Emmetsburg First
- Reverend James Roth (Colo UMC) to Mechanicsville-Morley UMC
- Reverend Marion Sindt (Radcliffe-Ellsworth) - to Retirement and Emerson-Welsey Chapel

Chapel

Incoming:

- Reverend Pamela Flanigan (Emerson-Wesley Chapel) to Collins-Loring
- Reverend Lewis Flanigan (Sidney-Thurman) to Colo
- Reverend Medea Saunders (Drake Wesley Foundation) to Story City Grace
- Reverend Keith Putney (Lansing-New Albin) to Dayton-Harcourt
- Reverend Francis Beyea (Presbyterian Church) to Zearing Bethel UMC

Pending:

- Radcliffe-Ellsworth; Zearing
- Faith UMC (Humboldt, Golmore City, Rutland)



SUPPORTING THE BURLINGTON FIRST CONGREGATION

The First United Methodist Church of Burlington continues to wait on the future, in the aftermath of the devastating fire. Structural engineers are assessing the safety of entering the site. Decisions about what’s ahead are just beginning. Congregations, clusters, and districts have expressed their support in prayer and given financial gifts. The Conference has designated project number **278** for persons and churches that want to help First United Methodist Church. (Forward contributions to the Treasurer’s Office; payable to the Iowa Annual Conference.

THE BISHOP, THE WESLEYS, AND US

Iowa United Methodists will join Bishop Gregory and Cynthia Palmer on a Wesley Heritage tour to England Aug. 6 through 14, 2007. During this faith-based travel experience we can form bonds of Christian friendship with fellow travelers, get to know our Bishop and Cynthia better, and see many of the places which represent our spiritual heritage as part of the world-wide Methodist tradition.

This year we will be observing the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley, a founder of the Methodist movement and world-renowned hymn writer.

The basic tour includes Aldersgate Street and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, both significant places in John Wesley's religious experience. We will visit Epworth, home of the Wesley family, and Bristol where Charles lived for much of his adult life and where he wrote many of his 6,000-plus hymns.

We will also see other well-known landmarks, including Oxford University, William Shakespeare's home, Coventry Cathedral, and the villages of the Cotswolds. In addition, a London pre-tour and an extension to Scotland are available.

It is time now to look at your calendars, talk with your friends and your pastor, and move toward making your decision to travel on this Wesley pilgrimage.

For further information
you may contact
Ron & Ruth Anne Petrak
by email at
ronruthanne1507@msn.com
or by phone at
(515) 262-3691.

School For Lay Ministry

The School for Lay Ministry is for Lay persons who desire to grow in lay leadership and transform their faith journey.

Classes starting soon in the following locations:

Simpson Sessions

November 2-4, 2007

March 7-9, May 2-4, November 7-9, 2008

To learn more contact:

Barbara Mann Registrar (all locations) 515-974-8905

Avon Crawford Dean—Simpson 515-225-2289

Sue Mullins Dean—Morningside 515-583-2156

Ann Glime Dean—Cornell 563-856-4375

Or visit the website—www.iaumc.org,
click on Ministries & Services—Connectional Min-

Ministry Inquiry Retreats

Retreats are held six Saturdays during the year at various sites in the Conference.

The Retreat Schedule is as follows:

July 14, 2007

(Please note date change)

Ames Collegiate/Wesley Foundation

• **September 8, 2007**

To Be Announced

For more information or to register go to:

<http://www.iaumc.org>

Boards, Agencies & Tasks Groups—Board of

Ordained Ministry. Or Contact:

David Glenn—Burns, Wesley Foundation

2422 College St,

Cedar Falls, IA 50613-3655

E-Mail: Wesley@cfu.net

If you have not yet decided on a summer mission trip for your junior high youth, there is still room with Y-Salt (Youth - Serving And Learning Together). Y-Salt is a great opportunity to be in mission in Iowa. Bring entire younger youth group for awesome mission experience. Spend 4 days painting/repairing homes, experience local culture, worshipping with youth praise vand.Registration includes meals, housing at local camp & building materials. You bring: supplies/tools, 2 adults per 5 youth + 1 extra adult per church required. Grades 6-8. If you have any questions email Maria Wiblin at mdwiblin@earthlink.net. Please register with the United Methodist Camping office.

Y-Salt 2944 June 24-29.....\$180

Leaders: Chris Childs 641-295-1824 and Maria Wiblin 319-337-7201

Transition: A Process of Change

This June our Annual Conference is in the midst of a transition. Transition is defined as “a passage from one place or stage to another” Transitions involve in-between-ness. It is a process between what was and what will be. William Bridges in his book Transitions views transitions as a series of cycles; 1) endings followed by... 2) periods of confusion leading to...3) new beginnings. Thus, the process of transition involves an ending, a neutral period, and a beginning.

Transition always begins with an ending; the closing of a chapter. Endings are the first part of the natural pattern of dying, chaos, and renewal that is present in God’s universe. Endings are the clearing process that prepares for personal growth and development. July 1st will mark the ending of a chapter within the Conference structure. As part of the ending, a grief process is activated. Grief is a normal and natural emotion during times of loss and is a necessary part of the transition process. In order to get to the new beginning, we need to emotionally deal with the ending

A neutral or inactive time is the true ‘in-between’ phase of transition; between the death of the past and the birth of the future. It is often a time of confusion and chaos. It is a transformative time as the old life is dismantled and an image of the new life is constructed. I imagine that this next year will involve much “in-between-ness” as we work through how our new structure functions.

As our journey through transition continues, the “beginning” part of transition starts to take form. Beginnings aren’t so much an outward goal as much as an inward feeling of resonance. One feels an inner alignment with the new process, event or structure that produces a renewal of energy and powerful motivation. One feels a compulsion to take

action and to start.

Usually genuine beginnings take time. We think that the “beginning” is over when the new event, process, or structure has been completed. But in reality, the inner identification process is still happening. It will take some time before we can be comfortable with the new role or structure and can function effectively and efficiently.

Often as we face a transition, we try to do it alone without spiritual or community support. We leave out our support network and God..

*For surely I know the plans I
have for you, says the Lord, plans
for your welfare and not for
harm, to give you a future with
hope. (Jer. 29:11)*

When we invite God and a supportive community into the transition process, we are more able to cope with the confusion and chaos. Through our supportive community and God’s presence the painfulness of the endings can be healed, the inner journey illuminated and as we face the unknowns of the not yet we can have peace. May we be gentle with each other as we live into our new chapter as the Iowa Annual Conference.

*Kae Trittle, RN
Wellness Coordinator*

DS CALENDAR FOR JUNE

June 5, 2007—Cabinet
June 6, 2007—Annual Conference
Clergy Session
June 7-10, 2007—Annual Conference
June 12, 2007—Gary’s Move Date
June 19—21, 2007—Annual Conference



June 2007 INP News

To Help As Many As possible:

The Iowa-Nigeria Partnership has been in effect since 1990 with the goal that two church conferences (Iowa and Nigeria) a half a world apart would join together in shared mission/ministry projects. The partnership would seek to help the most number of people rather than address the needs of individuals and families. Having said that, let me tell you this story about a charming little African girl named Delight.

Cletus David, from Nigeria but studying for the ministry at Africa University in Zimbabwe, is a widower. On July 4, 2005, Cletus was called into the bathroom by his wife and upon entering the room, found her dead on the floor having suffered an aneurism. Her death not only stunned him but left him with a one year old daughter, Delight. Now that Cletus is in Zimbabwe he only sees Delight when he returns back to Nigeria once a year. She is being raised by family friends but needs to have annual schooling fees paid in the amount of \$250. I know this only helps a limited number of people but if anyone feels a tug on their heart and wishes to help out, God bless you.

Florence, Sarah and David Need Homes!

Three Nigerian youth selected by IRIS (Iowa Resource for International Service) have the opportunity to come to Iowa and to your community for the 2007-2008 academic year. BUT, they have a problem! They need a host family!

The IRIS Youth Exchange and Study Program works with the Iowa-Nigeria Partnership. Through the years several Nigerian United Methodists have come to Iowa with the IRIS program. A number of students have been in Iowa United Methodist homes during this past school year which have enriched the host family, school and community.

Florence Peter is a 16 y/o from Bambur, one of the major UM mission areas in Nigeria. Sarah Alexander is 15 y/o and from Jalingo, headquarters of the UMC of Nigeria. David Ganu will be 17 y/o and attends the Junior

Secondary School (Little Red Schoolhouse) in Jalingo. There are others that need a family! Contact: Del Christensen @ del@iris-center.org or call 515/292/7103 to let him know of your positive decision to host a student.

Headed for Nigeria

Laden with artemesia to zantac, 15 Iowans are carrying two loaded suitcases, a carry on and back pack with hand made bandages, robes, Bibles, medications and medical equipment, laptops, construction tools, paint brushes and a foldable step ladder (yes, because you can't buy them there)... you name it, we have it! Prayers are needed for safe travel, strength to endure the heat, for supplies to be available when we arrive and for our hosts who receive these unknown Iowans! We leave June 16 and return July 3. If you want a weekly e-mail update of the team contact Ron Wilmot @ rwjss504@yahoo.com.

Beverly Nolte

515 237 8544

E-mail: bnmedical@aol.com

CALLING ALL USHERS!

Once again, we are in need of Ushers for Annual Conference, June 6-10, 2007. Ushers are adults who provide a ministry of hospitality, service, and order. Duties include greeting members and visitors of the Annual Conference, providing assistance in emergencies, and ensuring that only authorized persons enter the voting area of the Annual Conference. More information and application forms are available at the Iowa Annual Conference website (<http://iaumc.org>); click on the "Annual Conference" link. Or you may contact the Director of Ushers, Rev. Lorinda Hoover, at hoovmoss@iowatelecom.net, 712-297-8381.

2007 UM MERIT APPLICATION

Pastors/Churches are invited to nominate ONE student from each local church to be considered to receive one of the United Methodist Student Day Merit Awards. Download the criteria, guidelines and application at http://iowa.brickriver.com/files/oWebsite_Page_Files/UM_Merit_Award_Application_07_FV52X8YX.doc. Please note the **June 15, 2007** deadline. Applicants must be Iowa United Methodist students who will be attending a United Methodist college, university or seminary this fall. Application material should be mailed/emailed to the MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE at the address found on the application. United Methodist Student Day Merit Awards are made possible through local church support of the United Methodist Student Day offering each fall.

Fort Dodge District Newsletter
United Methodist Church-Iowa Area
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