



THE REPORTER

A publication of the Communications Ministry Team of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Mission gifts en route to Nigeria

The 2014 shipment of mission gifts for Nigeria is loaded and on the way.

Each year the Iowa Nigeria Partnership oversees the collection of items such as robes, Bibles, hymnals, beds, examination tables and medical supplies for communities and schools in Nigeria. The sea containers that will travel for weeks across the ocean to Nigeria were also the final destination for the various InGathering

kits assembled in churches throughout the Conference and delivered to Conference InGathering sites.

"The kits you prepare here in Iowa will get to Nigeria," said Beverly Nolte, coordinator of the Iowa Nigeria Partnership.

Roughly a dozen or so people had a hand in loading the contents of two containers on Ash Wednesday, one of the many days this season when winter displayed its lasting grip on Iowa.

"Oh, my goodness, what a day today was!" Nolte said. "We did it - Loaded two containers to go to Nigeria in six hours with a stiff wind and cold temperatures!"

"I know that the lifters and loaders are going to feel some muscles that ache," she said. "Some feet and fingers will be cold but it's over, well done, and I have to say, thanks so very, very much."

People from across the Conference assembled for two separate shifts, one for each container, at the site in Pleasant Hill on March 5.



Des Moines, Ankeny, Altoona, Urbandale, Cedar Falls, Bloomfield, Akron, Van Meter, Osceola, Cedar Rapids and Dubuque were all represented.

"We couldn't have done it without all of you," said Linda Rowe, from Bloomfield United Methodist Church. "Wish we had all of your help in Nigeria too when the temp will be about 80 degrees warmer!"

Donations came from throughout the Conference as well.

"We loaded 504 boxes, items in the east container and 1021 boxes, items in the west container," said Nolte.

Loading of the first container commenced at 9 a.m.

"We completed the second container at 3 p.m." she said. "It is quite an undertaking."

"Each one of the loaders made

a wonderful effort," Nolte said. "And we have so many boxes neatly and carefully loaded on their way to Nigeria for use by the United Methodist Church there."

"It's a way to help people who are needy and to serve God," said retired Rev. Dave Higdon, of Salem United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids.

Rev. Higdon traveled to Nigeria in the early 1990's and taught school while there.

He assured those who donated items that they would be used well.

Cedar Falls First United Methodist Church is helping to build a medical clinic on the Banyam Seminary campus.

The church had developed a relationship with the seminary and was looking for other ways



Ron Turner, Jim Poll and Chris Maiers, members of Grandview United Methodist Church in Dubuque, arrive to help load the Nigeria containers in Pleasant Hill on Ash Wednesday.

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Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble

Be Encouraged...

Finding Joy

On our return trip from the Holy Land this past February, I was reflecting upon the joy of meeting new people and experiencing with

Iowa United Methodists the land of the Bible, including the baptismal waters of the Jordan River. I called my mother to report, with joy and laughter, that once again I checked the tomb and it was indeed empty. Jesus died for me and Christ crucified, Christ risen is good news not just for me, but for many who may never travel outside of Iowa or enter into our churches.

Lamenting a long cold winter, we encouraged each other at home and at my office with these words:

"Until spring, God still blesses us with sunshine in Iowa." With sunshine comes **joy**. The New Testament speaks of two different ways of living. One way is to focus on selfish desires and think only of the world as revolving around you. The other way of living is being guided by the Holy Spirit.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness..."

Galatians 5:22.

As the Lenten season provides opportunity for soul inspection, how is it with your soul? Are you finding **joy**? I remember learning that joy was more than happiness and always involved others.

Jesus first, others second, yourself third. Joy!!

John Wesley preached a series of sermons reflecting on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Wesley said he intended, in his preaching, to show that Christianity is essentially a social religion and *"to turn it into a solitary one is to destroy it."*

In other words, our religion cannot exist at all without caring for others and conversing with others.

Loving God, followed by loving and caring for others is our pathway to finding joy. Sometimes we can find more **joy** in caring for ourselves as we are in solidarity with others.

In February, I was arrested at a prayer vigil in front of the

White House. Since 2008, I have, as a Bishop of the Church, been involved with the United Methodist Interagency Immigration Task Force. Welcoming immigrants, promoting immigration reform and seeking to understand a rapidly changing world where people are moving from place to place seeking safety and economic opportunity has been a learning experience.

Prayer is always a first step to change and caring for others. Bringing attention to thousands of deportations and marginalized families in our communities is one way to say they are beloved whether documented, "out of status" undocumented, legal citizens or waiting for good news that brings **joy**.

Being arrested was not fun. I met and witnessed to Park Service Police. I met and prayed with a mother whose daughter and husband are in detention. I met a young girl who led us in singing and chanting for an end to deportations. I wept and laughed with those who reminded me that as United Methodists our social principles call us to practice community and make space for believing the impossible and living with joy. Joy rooted in putting Jesus first, others second and not forgetting ourselves in the process.

"Clap your hands, all you people! Shout joyfully to God with a joyous shout!" Psalms 47:1

Why?

"Because the Lord Most High is awesome..." Psalm 47:2

I remember a camp song from United Methodist Camp and Vacation Bible School -

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart

Where?

Down in my heart!

Where?

Down in my heart!

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart

Down in my heart to stay.

May you, too, find **JOY** this Easter Season.

Be encouraged,

Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble

Conference welcomes two new Superintendents



Rev. Tara Amundson

Two Iowa Conference pastors have been named Superintendents.

Rev. Harlan Gillespie, of St. Paul UMC in Cedar Rapids will succeed Rev. Dennis Tevis, who is retiring in the North Central District, and Rev. Tara Amundson

will come after Rev. Brian Milford in the Southwest District when he leaves to be Chief Content Officer and Book Editor for the United Methodist Church. The two new superintendents will begin in their roles July 1.

"It's felt exhilarating, exciting, scary. Weird," said Rev. Gillespie of being named a superintendent.

For 30 years he's had a wondering, he said, about what happens with the Appointive Cabinet.

"What I'm finding out is reassuring, it's genuine, it's prayerful," Rev. Gillespie said. "It's all the things I'd hoped were going on before, that's been very reassuring."

It is also overwhelming, to be thinking about the responsibilities, and how many people are affected by those responsibilities, said Rev. Gillespie.

"A lot of people are affected in local churches by what local pastors do," said Rev. Gillespie. "But this is a different scale. And that's what's overwhelming and kind of weird about it I think."

Rev. Amundson echoed these feelings.

"I keep telling people it's equal parts joy and terror," she said. "And I think that's healthy."

As she looks at it, she too has been reassured by how the Cabinet has functioned, and it's something she said has given her great comfort.

"I am awed and humbled by the responsibility that we are being asked to be a part of now," said Rev. Amundson. "And I don't take that lightly at all."

She also understands the learning curve is going to be huge.

Rev. Amundson said she is someone who likes order and she likes to know what's going on.

"So I just really have to take a deep breath and say, "Tara, you're a baby here," she said. "Breathe, listen, learn, ask."

Rev. Amundson is trying to approach becoming a Superintendent by being very open and humble, she said.

When the bishop contacted them, their spouses were invited to be a part of the meeting.

"I'm not sure I knew what to expect in the conversation," said Rev. Gillespie.

The bishop was gracious, and made the invitation, Rev. Gillespie said, something he appreciated.

"I've always grieved the loss of close friendships in working with churches every time we've moved, and that's the hard part for both of us," said Rev. Gillespie. "My wife and I, we're also excited about meeting new people."

This produces a mixture of feelings. But even more so than when going from one church to another, there is the element of the unknown in a new situation.

Moving into being a Superintendent is like having been a teacher and then a pastor, he said, in that it's a different season.

Routine can be easy to get wrapped up in, said Rev. Gillespie, and he needs the challenge of something new.

"When the bishop invited Jay and I to come down I had no idea," Rev. Amundson said. "But being asked to be a District Superintendent was not even on the radar."

They were visiting about their different ministry contacts where they are now, she said, and then out of the blue the bishop invited her.

"And I'm sure I had the deer-in-the-headlights look," said Rev. Amundson. "Which I think probably people need to get used to in these coming days."

"But he too was very gracious, in saying this is an invitation," said Rev. Amundson. "And he offered for me someone to talk to, who I'm very close to anyway, to process before I said yes."

Like the reference to seasons by Rev. Gillespie, she views life as a journey, with each thing building upon the next, preparation for the future.

"Both the exhilarating, wonderful things that have happened in my life," Rev. Amundson said. "And the very difficult things."

The move to Superintendent is part of that, and she finds comfort by trusting in that this is the next natural part of the journey.

What do they bring to their new role that they hope will make a difference?

Rev. Amundson said she is a person who thinks before she speaks and tries to be prepared, someone who likes to listen, see the interactions hear the thoughts, and then share what wisdom she might have.

"I hope that thoughtfulness will be good for the gathered body that is making these decisions," said Rev. Amundson.

Having lived and served in communities of all sizes and types has afforded Rev. Gillespie broad experience, he said.



Rev. Harlan Gillespie

"I think that experience will be helpful," said Rev. Gillespie. "I hope it helps me to listen."

A listening and prayerful presence that is supportive of both the churches and the Cabinet is what he hopes to bring.

What can people in the Districts do to support them?

Being welcoming, and praying for them are first on the list.

Rev. Gillespie will be serving in the District he grew up in, so he's almost coming home in that respect, but much has changed since he grew up.

"I want to listen to all of the churches' stories," he said.

Rev. Amundson is completely new to the Southwest District, and expects to be taught and shaped by the people there, and to also shape them, bring wisdom, clarity, a listening ear. She is excited to hear the stories of the District as well.

"I'm a person who journeys "with," she said.

"Together we'll make it," said Rev. Amundson. "Together I think God has great things in store for our Conference."



Asbury UMC Pastor Rev. Willy Mafuta and Bishop Julius Trimble

Diverse East Central communities celebra

Two unique faith communities in the East Central District welcomed Bishop Julius Trimble on the first Sunday of Lent.

Bishop Trimble preached on March 9 in Cedar Rapids at St. Paul United Methodist Church and at the International French Fellowship at Asbury United Methodist Church.

Both were diverse collections of nations and languages, and an opportunity to display the welcoming mission of the United Methodist Church. In the services he had an opportunity to worship in six languages with persons from seven different countries.

Field Outreach Minister for the District Rev. Jill Sanders was on hand for both, along with the Bishop and East Central District Superintendent Rev. David Crow.

“At the first service we were at St. Paul’s, the Bishop brought the message there,” she said. “And the youth choir from the African National Ministry at St. Paul’s, most of those folks are from Burundi, and we had music in Swahili led by Pastor Daniel and in Kirundi led by the choir.”

There was alternate verses sung English and Kirundi, said Rev. Sanders.

In his sermon at St. Paul UMC Bishop Trimble preached from the Matthew 4:1-11 where Jesus goes into the desert to face temptation.

He told those in the congregation that day that they must take time to be true disciples of Jesus.

“We must be reminded that we are members of Christ’s body in the world,” Bishop Trimble said.

“You don’t cease to be St. Paul’s United Methodist Church after the benediction,” he said. “You are St. Paul’s United Methodist Church as you leave the sanctuary, and enter into the world.”

The message applies to him as a Bishop as well, he said.

“I am part of a body of believers,” said Bishop Trimble. “I am not a freelance Christian.”

The faith is not to be private, but shared, he said.

The Bishop challenged the faithful, rather than to fast this Lent, to pursue a change of diet, more Word and less worry, more time in prayer and less in procrastination, more joy and grace, and less judgment and regret.

“Then we went over to Asbury,” she said. “The International French Fellowship (IFFM), it’s one of our newest faith communities, it’s been in existence since the end of January.”



Worship at Asbury UMC with the International French Fellowship



Worship at St. Paul UMC in Cedar Rapids March 9

te faith with Bishop

“It has remnants from another attempt, the African Ministry at St. Mark’s,” Rev. Sanders continued. “That has stopped being a worship community but the ministry still continues there.”

“Several of those folks have decided to make that a French-language-focused worship,” she said. “So they’ve had people from six different countries, including Haiti. So Sunday their worship was largely in French, but then also Creole, and somebody also sang in Lingawa as well.”

Two men from Africa lead the six-week-old French Fellowship faith community, Rev. Sanders said, both refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

“The Bishop’s role there was to bring greetings and to just experience,” said Rev. Sanders. “And so he was introduced by the pastor at Asbury, Willy Mafuta who is in strong support of this International French Fellowship but is really equipping others to be in leadership in that.”

The traditional service is still in place at Asbury along with the International French Fellowship. Rev. Sanders said it was likely that this isn’t what Asbury members had originally anticipated for the future of Asbury UMC, yet many of the original members of Asbury attend both services. Those who do have offered positive feedback on the experience, saying it’s not “us and them,” it’s “we,” she said.

“It’s very much, I see, as the congregation that used to be Asbury, and still is, but was there before, is understanding this as something God is doing and they’re participating in it, and it’s their present and their future.”

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Iowans celebrate unique ministry of Women at the Well

by Karen Tisinger, for Women at the Well

Calling Women at the Well “a ministry worthy of our support,” Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble led approximately 120 Iowa United Methodists and ecumenical leaders in celebrating the work of the seven-year-old church—the denomination’s first prison congregation in the U.S. (Women at the Well United Methodist Church is located inside the Iowa Correctional Institute for Women at Mitchellville.)

The March 16 celebration included special organ and handbell selections by musicians from host First UMC in Des Moines, vocal music by the Burns UMC choir, and interpretive dance by Interplay, a three-member liturgical ensemble.

In his message, “The Other Woman at the Well,” the bishop reflected on the Gospel account from which the prison congregation took its name: the John 4 story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. While the woman “did not have a pain-free life,” the bishop said, Christians “have a long history of assuming the worst about women in the Bible.

“Too often, we read into this text far more than is there,” he said, “and missing the blessing of what is there: a holy conversation, an encounter with the One who offers us living water.”

Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well, he said, reminds us “that our past does not predict or provide the promise of our future.” Likewise, he noted, “Women at the Well is a reminder that God sees us. And even though bars and walls, barbed wire, and [prison’s] rules and regulations may keep some of us inside, all of us have been offered the living water of Jesus Christ, who says: ‘I see you. I value you. I need you, and I love you.’”

Following worship, participants had the opportunity to learn more about other programs serving and advocating for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs the needs of incarcerated women in Iowa. On hand were representatives of: Women at the Well’s Re-entry Program, Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners, the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Prison Congregations of America, and the Iowa office of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.



Water and baptism were an integral part of the Women at the Well gathering March 16 at Des Moines First UMC

South Central church is recipient of Builder's Call

Grace United Methodist Church in Moravia is the spring 2014 recipient of the Builder's Call.

Grace UMC is located in the South Central Conference and is considered to be in the gateway to Lake Rathbun, a little more than an hour southeast of Des Moines.

Approximately 800 people live in Moravia.

"It's very small but has a very rich heritage," said Rev. Cindy Finn, pastor for Grace UMC.

The congregation was started with a Moravian colony in the 1850's.

The people held a really deep faith, a part of which is outreach, said Rev. Finn.

"That's something they hold as part of being

their heritage," she said.

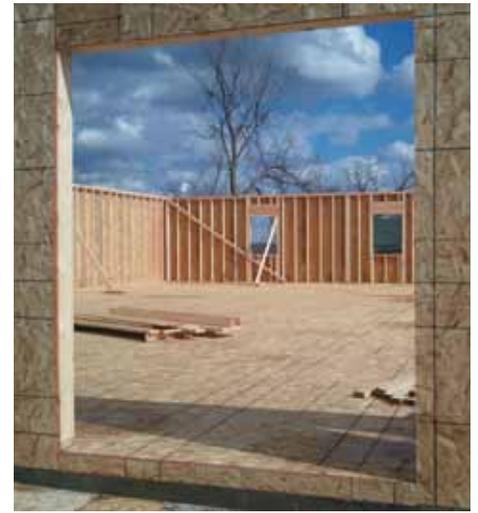
The existing church for Grace UMC was built in the late 1920's

As is often the case with an older building, the church was no longer meeting the congregation's needs.

The question for the faith community was whether to try to renovate the basement for continued use as a fellowship hall and kitchen or build something new, said Rev. Finn.

Building new was found to be cheaper, and a building task force was in place when Rev. Finn arrived about three years ago.

Something common in small-town Iowa is ecumenical and community-wide



cooperation with facilities and events. Moravia is no exception.

"The city of Moravia has no other place to meet," Rev. Finn said. "Most of the use (of the church hall) right now is community."

The Moravia Grace Fellowship Hall has been and still is a project of the community.

"It has done everything we hoped," said Rev. Finn. "It has done outreach into the community, people have come into the church that wouldn't have otherwise."

Groundbreaking was in the fall of 2012, and construction began right away.

"They did not wait," Rev. Finn said. "They started to get the floors and the walls up before bad weather."

The new building is just east of the church.

The congregation went in and did the insulation and helped with the drywall and

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Builder's Call – The need is year-round

The spring 2014 Builder's Sunday just recently passed but the need and the call continues on.

Churches in the Iowa Annual Conference can choose any Sunday to take part in the Builder's Call, a program that has for 30 years supported the Conference mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The two annual calls benefit churches in the Conference undergoing capital building projects that will enable the churches to better reach people for Jesus Christ, said Rev. Scott Hibben, Leadership Development Minister for Evangelism and New Ministry.

Churches and individuals can support the Builder's Call whether

or not they are official members.

"You don't even need to be a member of the United Methodist Church," Rev. Hibben said.

Builder's Call members receive a letter twice a year calling for them to support a particular church's capital need.

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Many reasons to attend Iowa School for Ministry

Rev. Medea Saunders and Rev. La Tonya Calderon recently sat down to talk about the offerings at this year's Iowa School for Ministry

"Our Creative Call" is the theme for the 2014 Iowa School for Ministry, which will be held April 22-25 at Honey Creek Resort State Park in Moravia on Lake Rathbun.

"It's a new day for the School for Ministry," said Rev. Saunders. "We've added a day to give the schedule more flexibility."

There are around 26 contact hours built in to the program, Rev. Saunders said, so participants have the ability to choose what's most relevant to them versus having to attend every hour of the school.

"So they can make those choices with the schedule this year," she said.



Burbank-Williams

Organizers have made efforts to listen and respond to attendee feedback from previous schools.

"We really have been listening," said Rev. Calderon. "So much of the feedback has been, the school seems so crushed in the amount of time that we've allotted in the two days."

"We're all exhausted the week after Easter," Rev. Saunders said.



Bowman

"So being able to extend one more day will allow the schedule to be a little bit more flexible, to be able to provide some relaxation and rejuvenation, said Rev. Calderon. "As well as being creative, which is the theme for this year's school."

The new location lends to these ideas as well.

"I'm so excited about the location this year," Rev. Calderon said.

"It's beautiful," Rev. Saunders concurred.

"Oh my goodness you will love it," said Rev. Calderon, "It really is a nice resort. The nature that is around the facility is awesome, the walks you can take, get on the lake, we really feel that you're going to love the facility and the resort. I'm excited about it."

There are three lodging options for this year's school. There are resort hotel rooms or resort cabins, and participants can also bring their

own RV to the resort campground.

"We're really encouraging groups of people to maybe get together and stay in a cabin," Rev. Calderon said.

Honey Creek being a new resort, accommodations are nice whether in the resort hotel or a cabin.

"Just come and enjoy," she said. "Enjoy your days there."

All meals are included in the tuition, including full breakfast. Tuesday night will be the bishop's banquet, a more formal meal. Wednesday night is a hoedown cookout.

"We have rebuilt the school from the bottom up," said Rev. Saunders. "We started by adding Doyle Burbank-Williams who is a Methodist elder originally from Nebraska, currently in Arizona serving a UCC church."

"He is one of those unique artist-pastors who brings his creativity into his ministry and into worship," she continued.



Conference Artist Ted Lyddon Hatten will also be on the faculty. He

Lyddon

will

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Iowa UMC Camps Change Lives

From Rev. David Hobbs, Leadership Development Minister for Camping and Christian Formation



Spring 2014 is upon us and summer is just around the corner, and that means lots of Christian fun and excitement at one of your Iowa UMC Camps. There is still plenty of time to register for camp and camperships to help your youth get to camp. We have two testimonies for you to enjoy from

past campers and staffers on how camp impacted their lives, one recent Wesley Wood's camper and summer staffer, and the other from a wonderful gentleman recalling his experience of being a camper at Lake Okoboji UMC Camp nearly 75 years ago. Our Iowa UMC camps have maybe changed over the years, but as you can see, the experience and the impact of camp on one's life is one thing that hasn't changed. Thank you George and Andi for your amazing stories about Iowa UMC

Camps! As you can see, Camp indeed changes lives.

See the testimonies:



Get more info and register for camp:



Mission gifts en route to Nigeria

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to help, said member Mark Fransdal.

Construction tools were the church's donation, along with hands-on loading by Fransdal and Cedar Falls First UMC member Chris Congdon.

The Nigerian government has agreed to provide a medical worker once the clinic is built, a process that will take some time.

Fransdal has not forgotten his first trip to Nigeria a few years ago.

"It was eye-opening," he said. "I was amazed at about everything I saw."

The difference in how everything functions in Nigeria is what still astounds him. A group from Cedar Falls First UMC will go to Nigeria in November of this year to help build the clinic.

"I can't wait to go back and see it again," said Fransdal.

Ron Turner, of Grandview United Methodist Church in Dubuque, has traveled to Nigeria more than once, installing water systems there.



Retired Rev. Dave Higdon, of Salem United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids, hands supplies off to Cameron Martz of Cross Ministries in Osceola.

"It's a great time," Turner said. "It's a good experience. It's a great blessing."

The containers are scheduled to arrive in Nigeria on April 27.

For more information on the Iowa Nigeria Partnership, contact Beverly Nolte at

515.266.4186 or Beverly.nolte@gmail.com.

View a slideshow of photos from the Nigeria container load here:



South Central church is recipient of Builder's Call

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mudding, said Rev. Finn. This was between 50-60 people of a congregation totaling 70-80 each week for worship.

"They did the painting and finishing themselves," she said.

The fellowship hall opened for use in April 2013, appropriately, Rev. Finn said, for a baby shower.

The 90x30 building is fully handicapped-accessible, has a full working kitchen with appliances and a children's room.

"It's fun to see people going in because they're shocked by how big it is, said Rev. Finn.

Still needed is an industrial dishwasher, more tables and chairs, a sound system, landscaping and other odds and ends.

Also, the District Building Committee wanted the church connect the two buildings with a carport for times of bad weather. The estimated cost for that is between twenty and thirty-thousand dollars.

Support for the project was pretty close to unanimous, said Rev. Finn, but the few people with questions were convinced by the possibility of being a recipient of the Builder's Call.

"Our church is a member of the Builder's Call," Rev. Finn said. "Many of our people donate to the Builder's Call. It gave them confidence in supporting the project because they felt that we would be supported by our Conference."

"The big thing, is that this is important to the church's outreach," said Rev. Finn. "It's important to our church members to show the community that they love them and that God loves them."

"This is a way they can spread God's love, this is a way they can



show God's love," she said. "And they talk about that a lot. They talk about it quite a bit."

Seeing her church members able to reach out to the community and be moved by doing so is a point of great satisfaction for Rev. Finn.

"Times like this are when it's exciting to be a pastor," she said.

Diverse East Central communities celebrate faith with Bishop

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The Bishop's visit and sharing worship with the International French Fellowship community at Asbury UMC had an effect on members there.

"Le Bishop Trimble par son mot de circonstance m'a apporté l'encouragement, la motivation et l'amour de travailler pour Dieu, dit Minouche Mwanza, Steering Committee Member of IFFM. "Il a dit: lorsque nous élevons nos adoration a Dieu, et Dieu a son tour nous benira."

"La presence du Bishop a aussi apporté un grand impact pas seulement à IFFM, mais aussi à Asbury," dit Mwanza. "L'impact qui est le soutien, la consideration."

Translation:

"Bishop Trimble has brought encouragement, motivation and love for the work of God," said Minouche Mwanza, Steering Committee Member of IFFM. "He said, 'Let's raise our worship to God, and God will bless us in turn,'" said Minouche Mwanza, Steering Committee Member of IFFM.

"The presence of the Bishop also brings a great impact not only IFFM but also Asbury," said Mwanza. "The impact is support, consideration."

"With happiness and joy Asbury United Methodist Church of Cedar Rapids was honored by the attendance of Bishop Julius Trimble, Rev. David Crow and Dr. Jill Sanders at our International French Friendship Ministry Worship Service," said Jane Pike, of Asbury UMC.

About 100 Asbury members and guests attended the March 9 worship service and potluck.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet Bishop Trimble, to worship with him and to be inspired by his words of joy, happiness and encouragement," Pike said.

The International French Friendship Ministry at Asbury is designed to provide a worship service for anyone who is French-speaking. Interpreters are available for non-French speaking attendees.

Pastor Rev. Dr. Willy Mafuta leads the worship team of Pastor Jacques Luzindya, Patrick Munyakazi and Mrs. Gloria Luzindya, said Pike.

"It was a very proud, yet humbling, day for Asbury UMC," she said. "We at Asbury would like to thank Bishop Trimble for his attendance and hope that someday he will join in our spirit-filled worship service again."

"It was a great honor and pleasure to have the Bishop in our midst," said Patrick Munyakazi, Steering Committee member, IFFM.

"I recalled the joy that I felt when I was told that Bishop Julius Trimble was coming to worship with the International French Fellowship Ministry," Munyakazi said. "The Bishop's visit meant a lot for IFFM."

"As member and one of the leaders of this new ministry, I realize that the Bishop was really interested to know more our organization," he continued. "Our team was able to answer all the questions that the Bishop had in mind regarding our activities. We felt very blessed by his presence, but most of all we felt challenge because we believe that the Bishop would like IFFM to growth and be a very useful tool not only in our local community but also in the whole Methodist Church for God's Glory."

More than 100 people representing six different countries were in attendance on the International French Fellowship Ministry on its inaugural day, January 19, said Rev. Mafuta.

"The influx of immigrants from French-speaking countries gave us the idea to minister to them in the language they are more comfortable with," he said. "Because I speak French, I regrouped a team of leaders in the community who were looking for an opportunity to work with the Methodists. IFFM was then born."

"It is fully embraced by Asbury members, he said. "In six weeks, the attendance is between 40 and 55, and it is growing."

Countries that are represented are Rwanda, Congo, Chad, Haiti, Cameroun, and Togo.

"Our ultimate goal," said rev. Mafuta. "Is to be a vibrant multiracial and diverse Church in the Cedar Rapids area."



East Central District Superintendent Rev. David Crow, Bishop Julius Trimble, Asbury UMC Pastor Rev. Willy Mafuta and East Central District Field Outreach Minister Rev. Jill Sanders

Builder's Call – The need is year-round

Continued from page 6

"We all know that many of our church buildings are in sorry shape," said Rev. Hibben.

Numerous churches were built under different conditions with different needs, he said, and the physical plant just doesn't meet the need any longer.

The Builder's Call draws together the entire connection, to support churches in need of updating their facilities to better serve the communities in which they minister.

"A lot of our smaller congregations don't have a lot of means," Rev. Hibben said. "But there really is the need in the community."

"By having partners across the state, it's how we can be supportive of one another and supportive of communities with reaching people for Jesus Christ," he said.

Requests must be for capital expenditures that will specifically benefit outreach to the church's community.

Churches apply for the Builder's Call through their District and applications are reviewed by the Conference Parish Development

Team. The team's recommendation for two churches to receive the Builder's Call is taken to the Board of Global Ministries and then to the Appointive Cabinet for approval.

"We try to distribute the calls across the Conference," said Rev. Hibben. "Big, small, rural, urban, across the state, we try to keep it in balance.

All proceeds of the Builder's Call benefit the churches; the mailing is the only expense.

Rev. Hibben has seen first-hand the importance of the support from the Builder's Call, when he was in ministry for a new church on the east side of Des Moines. It's something he has not forgotten.

"I know from personal experience that can make can make or break projects for some churches," he said. "How even a little bit from everybody can make a difference."

For more information on the Builder's Call contact Rev. Hibben at scott.hibben@iaumc.org, 515.974.8926. Visit the Builder's Call page on the Conference website with the QR code to the right:



Many reasons to attend Iowa School for Ministry

Continued from page 7

present his own idea of Theo-caching, where he will put reliquaries around the woods with a book.

"And so folks will be invited to find these much like Geocaching," said Rev. Saunders. "But then also use that as a sort of lectio divina or visio divina to take them into a new place."

Rounding out the faculty this year is a young Presbyterian pastor from Chicago, Shawna Bowman.

"One of her specialties is drawing and really incarnating what's happening in the scripture during worship," Rev. Saunders said.

"And so we'll have three hands-on artist-pastors who will really be digging deep into the scripture and inviting us in lots of different ways through the plenaries and their studio workshops to utilize our own creative gifts," said Rev. Saunders.

Workshops will be staffed local people, and will include creative writing, photography, labyrinth, dreaming, death, music, liturgical dance, yoga and using technology in worship.

"A great variety of workshops and really a choose-your-own-adventure schedule," said Rev. Saunders.

There are two ways to register for the Iowa School for Ministry.

One is the on-line registration form at iowaschoolforministry.org, with payment available through PayPal or credit card. The other method is to go online to the website and print the downloadable registration for mailing.

Complete details on lodging available can be found by clicking the "2014 FAQ's and Information" link on the Iowa School for Ministry website.

"Oh my goodness you will love it," said Rev. Calderon, "It really is a nice resort. The nature that is around the facility is awesome, the walks you can take, get on the lake, we really feel that you're going to love the facility and the resort. I'm excited about it."

Information on Honey Creek Resort is available at honeycreekresort.com. Lodging must be reserved by calling Honey Creek Resort directly (877-677-3344).



Orders and Fellowship event benefits ministers

The spring 2014 Orders and Fellowship gathering took place at First United Methodist Church in Marshalltown on March 18.

The program focused on clergy well-being and the transformation that can bring about and was led by Rev. Scott Lothe, of Marshalltown Hope UM Church and Kim Hanken.

"I'm so excited for this day around clergy well-being and self-care," Rev. Lothe said. "It's become a very important topic for the church."

"Several of our general agencies have said that in studies our clergy our showing increased signs of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual problems," continued Rev. Lothe. "Which then, of course, translates into our ministries."

Ministry's a tough business, a stressful business, he said.



"We've got to take better care of ourselves," said Rev. Lothe.

"So we've designed a day where the clergy can come together in their covenantal communities to look at ways that we can better support each other in a holistic way around our health and general well-being."

Rev. Lothe's personal health coach Kim Hanken was his co-presenter for the Orders and Fellowship gathering.

Hanken manages a couple Lite for Life locations in Central Iowa, she is an artist, a level 3 Reiki practitioner and she teaches meditation and yoga.

Rev. Lothe and Hanken planned to start the day talking about their own respective journeys, how they met, why Rev. Lothe felt the need to present this program and Hanken's philosophy on health.

Then they would discuss tools participants could use to identify why they were in the position they were with their health.

"Not only the food they eat," Hanken said. "But their life, and how we used food to do all the things that really, that their life isn't giving them.

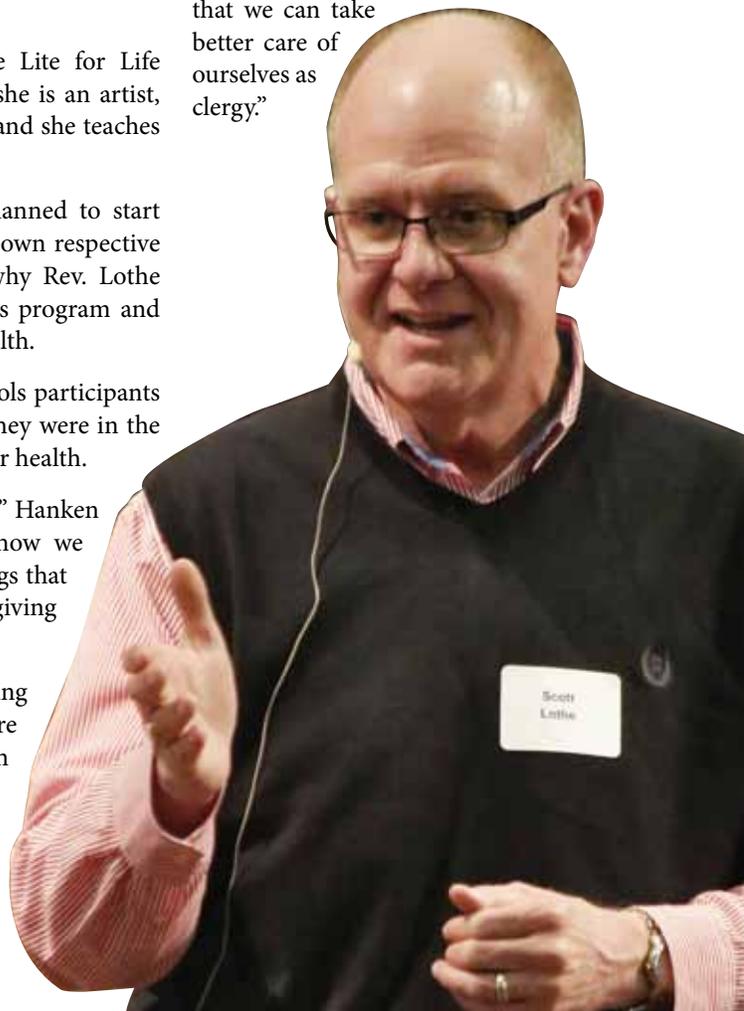
Next was differentiating between foods that are healthy and foods that harm our bodies.

"People here today are going to get a real indication where their

life has some goals that they need to set in place," Hanken said.

Addressing longings and what may be lacking in life was a key focus, she said, and then discovering what, besides food, was going to really fill those voids.

"I'm real excited to have her here," Rev. Lothe said. "Showing us ways, helping us to better understand ways that we can take better care of ourselves as clergy."



Iowa Conference UMC 2014 Potpourri Mission Booth

For the last several years the churches of the IAUMC have come together to collect items needed to support the ministries chosen by their home districts and Bishop Trimble. This year, we are sharing all nine ministries now to invite our congregations to participate in the mission that they feel passionate about and invite you to ask questions about each ministry. There are many worthy ministries that we can and support each year. This is an opportunity to focus on some ministries that will be able to use these items right now and be blessed by our efforts. Items may be dropped off at the Potpourri display booth located in Hy-Vee Hall A. Collections will be welcomed from 8 am to 5 pm Saturday through Monday, June 7-9.

See more info below:



Iowa Annual Conference
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www.iaumc.org

Laity Day 2014 update

Laity Day for 2014 is coming up on April 12.

“This is the third year that we’ve been able to do that with the Bishop,” said Dave Decker, Iowa Conference Lay Leader. “We’ve spent a lot of time trying to get people throughout the whole Annual Conference to be more acquainted with the Bishop.”

Lay people will get to meet with Bishop Trimble at Laity Day, both in person or via teleconference.

“He wants to talk to us about what it means to be a United Methodist,” Decker said. “And I think that’s important from his take on this, and what it really means to all of us as United Methodists and why we’re where we’re at and what that means in our lives.”

Laity Day will be held at Grace United Methodist Church in Des Moines. Those who will not be able to attend at Grace UMC will be able to participate electronically.

“We will have this simulcast and we are organized in other registered remote sites around the state,” said Decker.

When participants register on the Iowa Annual Conference for Laity Day they will see where the other remote sites are. Registration

is necessary at the remote sites so that accommodations can be made at each individual site.

Worship will be conducted, participants will hear from the Bishop, and people will have the opportunity to ask questions of the Bishop as well.

“In the afternoon we will have a time when if people want to contact the Bishop they can send an email to the Bishop there,” said Decker. “To either respond to a question for discussion or ask a question specifically that they would like the Bishop to address.”

Healthy Church Initiative and new church starts has been an integral part of the planning for Laity Day and will be a focus.

Laity Day runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 12, at Grace United Methodist Church, 3700 Cottage Grove Church in Des Moines.

Send questions for Bishop Trimble to BishopLaityDay@iaumc.org.

For more information contact Dave Decker at david.decker@iaumc.org.

Register here:

