

Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Jesus Christ

Two Sections, Section A

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Proposed budget cut by \$739,000

Churches of the Missouri Conference are going to be presented with a 2008 Conference budget that is \$739,349 less than the previous year's.

General Church apportionments have gone up \$138,177 for 2008, to \$3.8 million. Conference apportionments have gone down \$877,526, to \$10.2 million.

"This budget reflects the work of the Conference ministry teams and the Pathways Task Force to align our ministries with our mission and vision," said Brian Hammons, chair of the Missouri Conference Finance and Administration Team.

One of the biggest changes comes from the changes to campus ministry that were approved at the Called Session on March 31. This change calls for a shift to occur in campus ministries, so they are operated by local churches rather than the Conference. The budget for campus ministries is being reduced from \$920,000 to \$400,000.

The other large reduction comes from the area of clergy support, with the Board of Pensions

line item going down \$623,000. Most of this reduction comes from a Medicare refund provided by the federal government for employers that pay for prescription drug coverage for their retirees. Also, \$100 monthly retiree insurance contributions have reduced the apportionment in this segment of the budget. There was no increase in the Medicare supplement premium this year.

Overall insurance rates for active clergy also did not increase this year.

Two Cabinet-level staff positions have been added to Conference staff and three program-level staff positions have been eliminated. There was no increase in budget for staff, and there are plans to add two people to support staff, staying within the previous year's staff budget.

The two new positions are the director of the center of congregational excellence and the director of the center of pastoral excellence. The director of congregational excellence position

See Budget on page 2A

New formula would only use expenses for apportionments

A new apportionment formula that removes attendance and membership from the equation will be proposed at Annual Conference Session in June.

The new formula will be based on local church expenses, averaged from the past three years. More specifically, it will be based on the expenses named in columns 64-72 on table two in the Conference Journal. These expenses include things like salaries, maintenance and church programs, but do not include capital improvements, giving to mission, apportionment payments and several other items.

The current apportionment formula is based 60 percent on these same columns, 20 percent on membership and 20 percent on attendance.

"The key to the new formula is simplification," said Brian Hammons, chair of the Conference Finance and Administration Team. "Over the years, we have heard many concerns from people about the complexity of the apportionment formula."

Don House, an economist who works for the General Council of Finance and Administration, conducted a study on the Missouri Conference apportionment formula, and reported back that it needed to be simplified.

"We decided that expenditures were really the best indicator of the financial vitality of a church, and the church's ability to support our ministries," Hammons said.

See Apportionments, pg. 2A



Susan Thomas, Southwest District secretary, registers lay persons honored for their service at the district's Ministry appreciation Banquet and Ministry Fair May 5 in Carthage.

Churches share how "Five Practices" are working for them

By Jennifer Ailor

"Thanks." That was the first goal of the Southwest Missouri District's second annual Ministry Appreciation Banquet Saturday, May 6, in Carthage, attended by approximately 250 laity, guests, exhibitors and ministers.

And "share" – sharing the wealth of good ideas and resources in our churches and Conference – that was the second goal of this one-of-a-kind event in the Missouri United Methodist Conference.

"We wanted to say thank you to lay leaders in our churches and honor them for their work. And, second, we wanted the laity to network and learn from each other," said the Rev. Sandra Nenadal, district superintendent. The idea grew out of a brainstorming session on congregational development two years ago. Last year's event caused such a buzz and spawning of new ministries, there was no question about a repeat.

Several churches in the past year, for example, created rotational Sunday Schools modeled

after Lamar UMC's. Others changed their welcoming practices or took on out-of-country missions.

This year's event was organized around the five characteristics of

See Five Practices, pg. 3A



Roy and Pat Cope of Lanagan UMC check out the contents of their gift bag at the Southwest District's second annual Ministry Appreciation Banquet and Ministry Fair in Carthage.

Budget from page 1A

duplicates many of the duties of the current director of congregational development position, which has been eliminated. The other program staff positions that were eliminated were the director of communications (see story below) and the director of urban and intercultural ministries.

There were no other significant changes in the budget.

"Existing budgets have been frozen in anticipation of a new plan," said Reuben Wilbur, Conference treasurer.

Hammons said that he is looking forward to completing the realignment process in the coming year.

"I'm excited about what we will

come up with for next year," he said.

The proposal passed at the Called Session of Annual Conference on March 31 asked the Finance and Administration Team to revise the apportionment formula, have the 2008 budget be less than the 2007 budget, have the Conference budget not grow faster than local church budgets, and to eliminate vital ministries from the budget while encouraging local churches to form their own relationships with these ministries. The proposed budget follows these guidelines.

This year's decrease in the Conference budget is even greater

than a simple look at this year's numbers show, said Steve Cox, director of connectional ministries. If the Conference budget had increased to match increasing in spending at local churches in the past four years, this year's budget would have been \$4 million higher. He translated those numbers to a local church example.

"A church that paid \$20,000 in apportionments in 2003 would pay close to \$23,000 in 2008 if we had increased the budget accordingly (exclusive of vital ministries). That same church, if its decimal remains the same, will instead pay \$18,000, or \$5,000 less than it would have paid," Cox said.

Communications coordinator position eliminated

The position of communications coordinator for the Conference will be eliminated June 30 in the realignment of Conference resources.

"I am deeply disappointed, because communication is the lynchpin that holds us together and strengthens our connection with each other," Karen Gordy-Panhorst, communications coordi-

nator, said. "Good strong communications plans will be necessary to make the new plans for the Conference's structure viable."

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Missouri's United Methodist congregations, and I had hoped to continue my communications ministry for many years," she said.

Appointment Changes

Jerry Reynolds, a retired member, is now serving Van Buren: Ellsinore/Grandin in the Southeast District.

Harrison Dush, a part-time local pastor who was serving Ellington UMC in the Southeast District, is no longer serving that church.

Michael Coffey, an elder in full connection who was director at Camp Galilee in the Ozarks North District, is moving to Bay Shoare Camp in Swartz Creek, Mich.

Don Mosier, a lay minister who was serving Olney UMC in the Gateway Regional District, is no longer serving that church.

Clergy Deaths

Arnold Burns, retired pastor in the Heartland North District, died May 6. Send messages to his wife Evelyn at Shirkey Leisure Acres, 804 Wollard Blvd #401A, Richmond, MO 64085-2227.

Correction

Districts were mis-stated in the May 4 issue of the Missouri Conference Review. The story should have stated that The Rev. Yolanda Villa will be Heartland Central District Superintendent. The Rev. Steve Campbell, current district superintendent, is being appointed to Blue Springs UMC in the Heartland North District.

Apportionments from page 1A

The proposal for the new formula includes a period of transition, in which no church's apportionment may go up or down by more than 40 percent due to the transition.

"The difficulty in implementing any change is that some churches will be impacted negatively, and some will be impacted positively," Hammons said.

It is estimated that 14 churches would reach the 40 percent maximum increase that first year. All but a few will be fully implemented into the new formula after two years. By 2010, all churches

will have reached the designated amount and the 40 percent cap will no longer be needed.

The last change in the apportionment formula had a 10 percent yearly cap on change for the transition period. The new transitional period limit was set at 40 percent so that churches will be "live into" the new formula sooner. Many churches have still not fully implemented the current apportionment formula.

Having a much smaller budget this year (see story above) will also help churches transition into the new formula.

Letters to the Editor

Soon we will be nominating and electing delegates to represent our Conference at General and Jurisdictional Conferences. This really is an important thing we will be doing. There are some significant actions that will be taken that will impact the future of our denomination. Our denomination is in serious trouble after 40 years of continued decline. We have made blunders that have brought us to the precipice of irreversible damage. What we have done is past but what we will do is before us. One thing we don't want to do and should not do is repeating the mistakes of our past. We need a new kind of leadership in the church at all levels.

So I am recommending to all

delegates that we need to elect our most competent clergy and lay leaders whoever they may be; people who are coming from our most successful churches whether they're in the inner city, suburb or rural areas. Ask questions, do some research and find out who has been the most effective, the most fruitful in their ministries, who has figured out how to have a successful and vital church. People who have proven leadership will help guide our denomination. Competency, skill, effective church leadership is what we need in our delegates first and foremost.

The Rev. Mark Mildren
First UMC, West Plains

Due to limited space and the number of responses, unsolicited letters to the editor or opinion pieces may be limited in length. Suggested length is 200 words. Any piece may be edited at the editor's discretion.

Letters that attack individuals or that are anonymous will not be considered. Pieces that violate privacy or infringe on confidentiality will not be published.

Any letter to the editor or opinion piece that repeats the same content or voices the same view as an earlier writer may be rejected. A piece also may be shortened to remove repetitious material.

Letters to the editor relating to national issues in Section B should be sent to UMR Communications at 2400 Lone Star Drive, Dallas TX 75212.

All materials submitted for publication will be published only as space allows and at the discretion of the editor. Letters should be submitted to the editorial office by e-mail at fkoenig@moumethodist.org or mailed to Fred Koenig, 3601 Amron Court, Columbia, MO 65202.

For a listing of announced planned appointments, see page 6A

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**VISION: GROWING, FRUITFUL, VIBRANT CONGREGATIONS
CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

Five practices continued from page 1A

dynamic congregations in Bishop Robert Schnase's just-off-the-press book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Those practices are **Extravagant Generosity, Passionate Worship, Risk-taking Mission, Intentional Faith Development and Radical Hospitality**.

Each of the district's 75 churches submitted examples of ministries supporting these practices and identified lay persons to be honored. The large response prompted a change of venue to Fairview Christian Church in Carthage. Why not a Methodist church? Because, explained Nenadal, we didn't want the host church to have to do the set-up, meal and clean-up. Laity shouldn't have to work at an event that's honoring them, she said. Plus, Fairview has abundant space: it's the site of a former Wal-Mart.

Resources galore at ministry fair

Attendees received gift sacks loaded with resource ideas and, at a ministry fair in the foyer preceding the banquet, they bought books, crèches crafted in olive wood and colorful banners made by the Schell City congregation. They learned how to take the hassles out of printing and mailing as well as video projectors. They watched science teacher and

author Heno Head use simple science demonstrations to illustrate a Biblical lesson. They propelled themselves across the foyer in a PET (personal energy transportation) vehicle, manufactured right in their district at a shop near Mt. Vernon. And they talked face to face with representatives from Camp Galilee, Ozark Methodist Manor, Office of Creative Ministries and Missouri United Methodist Foundation.

A banquet full of talk

The banquet itself was not your typical sit-down-and-listen, hand-out-the-awards banquet. Instead, attendees sat at assigned tables, representing the five characteristics. As they ate, they watched five short videos, each illustrating a ministry from the district, followed by a discussion led by a minister at each table. So it was a noisy affair, full of laughs, idea-sharing and serious conversation about ministry.

The evening ended with door prizes of gift certificates for banners, gift sacks of more resources and books, including, of course, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*.

Ministry showcase: good things happening in southwest Missouri

An abundance of ministry in all shapes and sizes in the

Southwest District is evidence the fruits of the Spirit are at work. Here's a sampling from just a few churches:

- Tiny Jerico Springs UMC is a bright light in a town struggling to survive. The church offers home Communion for shut-ins and provides a welcome basket for each new family that moves into the area.

- Lamar UMC feeds 100-200 families each week through its Angel Food Ministries. This past Christmas Day, the church fed 310 people at no cost to the guests.

- Second Generation Parenting is an example of a risk-taking mission at El Dorado UMC, reaching out to grandparents raising grandchildren.

- A "Thrifty Closet" in downtown Shell Knob run by the congregation and supported by the community nets about \$3,000 a month to contribute to the church budget and support community needs.

- On fifth Sundays, Goodman UMC enjoys a full breakfast, devotional time and singing in place of traditional worship. The result: an increase in visitors and giving.

- You won't find Oakton, Mo., on the map, but Oakton UMC and its cluster of houses draw more than 300 people from a wide area to its "Passionate Worship" services.



Val Christensen enjoys a discussion at his table during the Ministry Appreciation banquet in Carthage.

Ministry Fair Exhibitors

- Church banners by Ron Simmons of Schell City
- Missouri United Methodist Foundation, Linda Mary Neal
- Cokesbury Bookstore of Kansas City, Steve Culver
- Vision 1 Media Video, Jeff Schilling
- Ozark Methodist Manor, Pam Jenkins
- Camp Galilee, Bradley North
- Bethlehem Olive Wood, Frederick and Laura Ann Zahn
- Office of Creative

Ministries, Max Marble

- PET of Southwest Missouri, Jim Wrinkle
- Heno Head, author of *Simple Science Object Talks*
- Nuts and Bolts of Video Projectors in Worship, Bruce Bray
- Church building and development – Joplin Construction, Design and Management, Inc.
- Computer resources for Children's Sunday School, Kathy Bray
- College Press Publishing, Jeff Whitney

Easter move goes over big

Sometimes two campuses just aren't enough. Even though First UMC in Sedalia has a grand, historic downtown church and a modern, high-tech church in the south part of town, on Easter Sunday in 2006 they were over-full during their four services. So this year they decided to just do one service, at the Mathewson Center at the Missouri State Fair Grounds.

"The results were truly amazing," said the Rev. Jim Downing.

First UMC averaged 744 in attendance in 2006. On Easter Sunday they had 2,500 in attendance at the Mathewson Center.

"That's about twice as many as we had on Easter last year," Downing said. "It also amounts to one in eight of the population of Sedalia."

It took no small effort to make the event happen. There were yard signs everywhere. Marquee signs were up in all kinds of businesses all over town. The event was promoted on the local cable television station, and with a full-page ad in the local newspaper.

Members of the congregation were given 1,500 personal invitation cards to hand out. Some took the task very seriously.

"We have a three-year-old who told his parents he wanted to invite everyone in the neighborhood," Downing said. "They waited at the street while he walked up to the houses to give people their invitations."

Renting the facility cost less than \$1,000, but there were additional costs for chairs, lighting and audio equipment. The leadership of the church decided in advance to have Easter worship at the center for two years, and then decide if they should continue to do so.

Downing said it took 300 volunteers to conduct the Easter service.

"Those volunteers made this possible," he said.

The following Sunday, the church had 100 more people than average in attendance.

"I expect we'll see a residual effect from this for three or four months," Downing said.



Above and below: The Rev. Kevin Kosh, pastor of Union Memorial, presents flowers to the Moncure family. Right: Rev. Kosh and Jewell Moncure.



Union Memorial honors Bishop Moncure

A ceremony was held at the Union Memorial United Methodist Church on April 15, 2007 during the 8:30 a.m. worship service to honor the family of the late Bishop Rhymes Moncure. The Reverend Kevin Kosh, senior pastor, and congregation paid tribute to Mrs. Jewell Moncure and family members with a plaque, gift and flowers. The family was then escorted outdoors by the pas-

tor and church members to the site of the newly developed Bishop Rhymes Moncure Prayer Garden. The dedication of the Bishop Rhymes Moncure Prayer Garden included special remarks and prayer by the pastor, a gracious 'thank-you' by Mrs. Moncure,



and a few moments of fellowship. Bishop Moncure was a former pastor of Union Memorial UMC and is fondly remembered by its members.

Condition turns around with correct diagnosis

Church stands by family through years of testing

When the Rev. Jeff Johnson came to Willard UMC three years ago, little Danielle Roeder was having a hard time.

"She could barely move, or even raise her head," Johnson said.

That's not the same image of the eight-year-old you would have seen at the church on any recent Wednesday night.

"She has been out of her wheelchair, crawling around on the floor, pulling herself up on chairs," Johnson said. "She's very talkative, and has a great sense of humor. It's been so exciting to see"

Danielle's problems started at age six months with a foot tremor, and through years of testing and treatment, her condition did not get better.

"We were probably at the Shriner's hospital 30 to 40 times," said Greg Roeder, Danielle's father. "Thousands of dollars were spent on tests and adaptive equipment."

Some of the tests were difficult. Danielle had to be sedated for MRIs, because her condition kept her from remaining still.

"Throughout the whole thing, we kept asking for more tests," Roeder said. "We wouldn't take no for an answer."

The Roeders eventually strongly requested a referral to the Mayo Clinic from a local doctor. There they met with Dr. Daygu Selchen, a neurologist who did many of the same tests Danielle had been through before, but also did a spinal tap. She then sent the Roeders

back home, and told them if they didn't hear from someone in a week, to give them a call.

When they got home, soon Roeder had a call from Selchen herself. She told him that she had determined what was causing Danielle's condition, and asked when he could bring her back for treatment.

"My knees got weak. I about hit the floor," Roeder said.

Danielle's condition is a genetic disorder called L-Dopa Responsive Dystonia. The first night after treatment, Danielle held her head up for the first time. Since then her motor skills have continued to steadily improve.

"She used to communicate with us by smacking her lips for yes, or sticking her tongue out for no," Roeder said. "We didn't realize how much she had been taking in all of that time. She knows all the lyrics to all the songs she was listening to on the radio. She sings all the time now."

Her condition is rare, and there is usually not an onset of symptoms until at least age six. Because her symptoms started in infancy, her condition was misdiagnosed for years. Now that it is known, treatment is not a problem.

"She takes a generic version of drug that costs \$8 a month," Roeder said.

On June 18, Danielle is scheduled to return to the Mayo Clinic to have a surgery that could possibly help her walk for the first time.

The members of Willard UMC are amazed and enthralled about Danielle's development.

"We're so excited about what's happening and what's been going on," Johnson said. "It's a miracle."

Roeder said the church has been very supportive to his family from the beginning. The church used proceeds from a Wednesday night dinner to offset the expense of the trip to the Mayo Clinic. When the local television station did a piece on Danielle, the church showed the six-minute video clip during worship.

"Danielle's never been a kid with two parents; she's been the church's child," Roeder said. "Ever since Danielle was born, the church has taken care of us. For a small church, it's amazing what they've done."

Danielle was chosen as the Children's Miracle Network Missouri Champion Child for 2007. One child from each state in the United States and each province or territory from Canada is chosen to represent millions of children treated each year at CMN hospitals. As Missouri Champion Child, Danielle and her family traveled to Washington, D.C. in March to meet with President George W. Bush and discuss children's health issues. They also represented Missouri and CoxHealth in Orlando for the taping of the 2007 Children's Miracle Network Telethon.



Danielle Roeder has an opportunity to sing with Lonestar lead singer Richie McDonald on stage during a concert.

Roeder said at the beginning of the events, Danielle met and quickly bonded with Lonestar lead singer Richie McDonald. The highlight of the events for her was singing "From the Front Porch Looking In," with him during his concert on the final night.

Danielle is the granddaughter of the Rev. John Roeder, pastor of Peculiar UMC in the Heartland South District. Danielle's parents, Greg and Suzanne, met at age 10 and 9, when John was appointed to Willard UMC. They were married 13 years later.



Danielle Roeder, with her parents Suzanne and Greg. Suzanne is a school teacher. Greg is a police officer.



Danielle Roeder with Laura Nelson, Miss America 2007



Danielle Roeder (far right) and other Children's Miracle Network Children meet with President George Bush (center) at the White House.



Youth of Manchester UMC go to Centenary UMC to get a first-hand look at the life of the homeless.

Centenary UMC hosts homeless experience

Many of the homeless in the city of St. Louis are familiar with the term "Walking the Trail." This is not the Katy Trail and it is not walked for exercise to walk off a few of those excess winter pounds. Walking the trail is a way of life for those living on the streets. The trail is the journey the homeless take in the course of a day as they walk from one place to the next in search of that meal, that coat, that program, that help that they need in order to survive just one more day.

Through their CARES Drop-In Center, Centenary (St. Louis) United Methodist has developed an experience for youth groups, confirmation classes, adult small groups or anyone else interested in learning more about this population and how we, as the Church, can be in meaningful ministry with them.

Manchester United Methodist youth were the first to experience the trail when they came to Centenary as part of their 30-Hour Famine Retreat. Due

to a drizzle that was in the air, the youth and their leaders were given trash bags to use as rain gear. They met their tour guide, a Centenary employee who has lived the trail, and then headed out on their journey. Their guide took them from a shelter to breakfast to homeless services agencies to lunch to the library to dinner and back to a shelter – explaining all along the way the life of someone who follows the trail daily and what these locations mean to a person with no other safety nets. The youth then returned to Centenary to serve lunch to those very people.

This experience not only raises awareness of a marginalized population, it also helps in breaking down stereotypes that have created barriers. As the group comes to know the homeless person in a new and different way, the true humanity of both parties begins to emerge.

Any church interested in "walking the trail" is invited to contact Centenary at (314) 421-3136.



The Rev. David Scott meets with the Rev. Julia Fandela Muhaswa, pastor of the covenant partner of Saint Paul United Methodist Church in Thayer.

Collaboration opportunity: Be a Mozambique covenant partner

By David Scott
Covenant Partnership Team
Mozambique Initiative

The process of cultivating congregations, both in our Missouri churches and those we partner with in Mozambique, is an excellent example of how we are striving to change lives for Jesus Christ through a collaborative effort.

Collaboration results in a variety of outcomes that are mutually beneficial for our covenant partners. Initially, each church must make the decision whether or not they want to enter into an alliance. Collaboration requires commitment and an attitude of risk-taking mission and service to make this important first leap of faith into the international mission field.

From a personal perspective, both of my congregations took that initial step, agreed to a three-year minimum covenant, paid our \$990 and entered into a formal association.

Our bulletin headers were changed to reflect who our covenant partner churches were and both congregations began to see our mission and ministry growing in places we had not imagined.

Being in covenant requires a group effort. Seven families from each congregation joined an e-mail communication group produced and distributed by our Missouri Mozambique Initiative Coordinator, Carol Kreamer, to assist the churches to understand our partnerships. Both churches sent letters, written in English, that were translated and delivered by our Mozambican Coordinator, Ezequiel Nhamumbo, displaying the outstanding teamwork that exists to facilitate communications. Ezequiel also traveled to both of our partner churches and sent beautiful pictures of our congregation, our pastor and family, and the church buildings, which we have hanging in our main hallway.

As our church began to receive letters from our covenant partner churches that detailed how they were holding special times of prayer for the health and growth of our two churches here in America, and as we began including their prayer needs in our weekly worship, a relationship began to grow. How blessed we feel to know that our covenant partners remember us and intercede for us before God.

A life-changing opportunity as

a pastor occurred last fall as my congregations worked together to send me to Mozambique with the goal of being able to meet our partner pastors face-to-face. This took a lot of cooperation on the part of my Missouri group, my partner churches and the Mozambican Conference staff who found a way to make this dream come true. To see the joy and to experience their heartfelt expressions of gratitude to God for allowing us to be together, even for just a short time, helped me to understand that partnership goes much deeper than a formal agreement; it unites the very heart and soul of Christian brothers and sisters who love and worship the same God and are willing to share in this sweet form of communion.

To find out more about becoming a Mozambique covenant partner church, please consider coming to the Mozambique Initiative breakfast during Annual Conference to meet several of the Mozambican staff members. Also, please contact Carol Kreamer at 636-271-4455 or cpkreamer@hughes.net or David Scott at 417-778-6266 or scottys@centurytel.net. Several churches need partners now in Mozambique!



Cash can be earned at Conference

By Sandy Ward

How does a check for \$50, \$75 or maybe \$125 sound?

The Clergy Support Team, in conjunction with the General Board of Pension and Health, has created another incentive program for 2007 to promote healthy living.

We had an outstanding response to our 2006 incentive program. The 2006 program gave a rebate of \$50 to all active clergy and spouses on the HealthFlex plan who went on line and took the Health Risk Analysis survey. About 350 people took advantage of the incentive program, and gained both financially, as well as physically and mentally from the information they received as part of the HRA.

In 2007, we will offer active participants on the HealthFlex plan a two-tier incentive:

- Take the Health Risk Analysis (also known as the HQ), and receive \$50
- Have a wellness exam, and receive \$75.

To help our participants get started on a wellness exam, we will offer wellness testing through a blood draw at our Annual Conference. The testing will be

free to anyone on the HealthFlex active UHC plan, or the Medicare Companion plan in 2007. It will count as the wellness exam for purposes of receiving a \$75 rebate from the Conference. The blood draw will include testing for:

- Heart risk factors
 - Lipid panels
 - Homocysteine
 - High sensitive CRP
- Liver panel
- Kidney test
- Blood sugar
- Body chemistry profile
 - Electrolytes, uric acid
- Thyroid screening
- PSA for men
- Ferritin (iron overload or anemia)
- Occult blood (colon cancer)

To participate in the free Wellness Blood Testing, look for signs and announcements at Annual Conference. The blood draw will be offered on Saturday and Sunday mornings. This is a **fasting** blood draw, so you should not eat before coming. Because it is a **fasting** blood draw, we will offer it **early**.

No appointment will be necessary. Just come before you eat, between the hours of 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. You will need to bring

your United Healthcare insurance card. If you are attending Annual Conference, but are not on the conference HealthFlex plan, you can participate in this Wellness testing for a fee of \$89.50 (cash, check or charge).

Look for us on Saturday, Sunday or Monday mornings, in the Expo Center from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.. Remember, don't eat or drink anything (except water) after midnight. We will offer some refreshments after your blood draw.

Rebate checks will be mailed to participants after Conference is over. Test results will be mailed to you after Annual Conference is over. If you do not participate in the free wellness testing at Annual Conference, you can still qualify for the rebate. If you are on the active plan, and you have a wellness exam at your physician's office, you will qualify. If you have already had your blood work done through a lab earlier this calendar year, you do **not** need to repeat it at Annual Conference. We will get a report of those who have done the wellness exam from the General Board and automatically send a rebate check after Annual Conference.

Retirement preparation consultations available at Conference Session

Do you have questions about financial planning for your future? Would you like to know:

- Whether you have enough for retirement income?
- How much you need to put in a supplemental retirement account, such as United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)?
- What is the maximum allowable amount for UMPIP?
- When I retire, how will the housing allowance exclusion can help me pay less income tax? How does that work? Should I have a mortgage?
- Do I need to receive all of my pension when I retire? Is my pension from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits taxable?

- When can I retire? How much will I receive from the pension plans?
- Will my pension amount increase every year?
- Will my spouse receive a pension when I die?
- When will I get my first retirement check? How will I get it?
- Can I have different beneficiaries on my pension and welfare accounts?
- Is there a death benefit when I die? How much?
- Can a pension projection help me plan for retirement?
- What happened to the money I put in the Pre-82 plan and the MPP plan, now that we are on the CRSP plan?

If these are questions on your

mind, you should sign up for an individual pension projection meeting with one of our representatives from the General Board of Pensions.

Thirty-minute, individual, confidential consultation appointments will be available at Annual Conference. Appointment times will be available on Saturday, June 2, and Sunday, June 3, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. To reserve an appointment time, please e-mail Susan Spencer, clergy relations and benefits assistant, at sspencer@moumethodist.org, or call her at the Conference Center at (573) 441-1770.

There are a limited number of appointments. Reservations will be taken until May 19, or until all slots are filled.



Clergy spouse retreat

Above: Esther Schnase, wife of Bishop Robert Schnase, and below, Marsha Kerr, wife of the Rev. David Kerr, lead workshops during a clergy spouse retreat. Spouses met Friday and Saturday April 13-15 at Wentzville UMC. The event is traditionally the weekend after Easter. The theme was "Living in the Facet Lane - Exploring the Facets of our Lives." Participants shared in small groups, exploring five topics.



Retiree luncheon to be at Campbell UMC

The Retired Clergy Luncheon during Annual Conference Session in Springfield will be held at Campbell UMC. The lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 2. The cost of the meal is \$10 per person.

Registration deadline is May 21. Make checks payable to Campbell UMC and mail them to Tom Adams, 3709 Danvers Dr., Columbia, MO 65203.

"We look forward to this gath-

ering of friends who have shared in the work of Jesus Christ over these years," said the Rev. Otto Steinhaus.

In Springfield, go south on National to Republic Road, and turn east to go the church, located at 1747 East Republic Road. From Highway 65, go west on Highway 60 to Republic Road.

If you have questions, e-mail Adams at tladams@mchsi.com or call (573) 443-3709.

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Conference Calendar

Start date	Event	Location	Phone #	Coordinator
5/17/2007	Office of Creative Ministries Board	Conference Center		Max Marble
5/19/2007	Spiritual Formation & Social Justice Team	Conference Center		Cathleen Burnett
5/19/2007	Values Team meeting	Conference Center	(573) 441-1770	Monica Jefferson
5/20/2007	Licensing School	Central Methodist University		
5/22/2007	Gateway Central UMW Mission Dinner	Stephan Memorial UMC	(314) 428-4228	Jean Gilbert
5/23/2007	Cabinet			
5/29/2007	Youth Ministry U	Central Methodist University	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
5/31/2007	Cabinet	Springfield		
5/31/2007	BOM Executive Committee meeting	University Plaza		Sandy Ward
5/31/2007	Board of Ordained Ministry meeting and dinner	University Plaza		Sandy Ward
6/1/2007	Annual Conference Session	Springfield Convention Center		Steve Cox
6/9/2007	UMM Night at the new Busch Stadium	Busch Stadium	(314) 631-3994	Tom Correnti
6/10/2007	Moss Point, Mississippi, Youth Mission Workcamp	St. Paul UMC	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
6/17/2007	Southeast Youth Mission Workcamp - Option 1	First UMC	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
6/18/2007	Kingdom House Golf Tournament	St. Louis	(314) 421-0400	Jennifer March
6/20/2007	Southeast Youth Mission Workcamp - Option 2	First UMC	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
6/20/2007	Bishops' Week 2007	Mount Sequoyah Conference Center	(800) 760-8126	Marilyn Braswell
6/21/2007	MO East Walk to Emmaus (Women)	Todd Hall		
6/24/2007	Southeast Youth Mission Workcamp - Option 3	First UMC	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
7/1/2007	Youth Mystery Mission Workcamp	Mystery	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
7/9/2007	Camping & Retreat Ministries Executive Committee	Conference Center	(573) 441-1770	Tammy Calcote
7/11/2007	Youth 07	Greensboro	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
7/12/2007	MO East Chrysalis Flight (Girls)	Revive Us Again Center		
7/12/2007	Midland UMC Cursillo 45	North Cross UMC	(660) 827-0815	Don Plowman
7/13/2007	North Central/South Central UMMen Gathering	University of Missouri St. Louis	(314) 604-2789	Glenn Wintemberg
7/20/2007	School of Lay Ministry 2007	Central Methodist University	(573) 480-1605	Jan Copeland
7/26/2007	Cooperative School of Christian Mission	Central Methodist University	(660) 593-3661	Linda Leabo, Dean
7/27/2007	MO East Chrysalis Flight (Boys)	Revive Us Again Center		
7/29/2007	Youth Texas Mission Workcamp	Texas	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
8/9/2007	CCYM retreat	Springfield	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
8/11/2007	Spiritual Formation & Social Justice Team	Conference Center		Cathleen Burnett
8/11/2007	Gateway Central Hands-On Mission Workday	Kingdom House	(314) 895-3143	Mary Ann Cieslak
8/17/2007	MO UMW Finance/Program/Mission Team	Conference Center	(816) 454-9471	Nancy Kincaid
8/18/2007	MUMDRT Meeting	Conference Center	(573) 474-7155	Max Marble
8/24/2007	Camping & Retreat Ministries Executive Committee	Camp Galilee	(573) 442-7909	Tammy Calcote
8/25/2007	Gateway Central UMW Mission Team Meeting	Union Memorial UMC	(314) 895-3143	Mary Ann Cieslak
8/25/2007	Values Team meeting	Conference Center	(573) 441-1770	Monica Jefferson
8/29/2007	Cabinet	Conference Center		
9/7/2007	Youth Leaders Retreat	Camp Clover Point, Lake of the Ozarks State Park	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
9/8/2007	Gateway Regional District UMW Mission Team Meeting	Libertyville UMC	(636) 397-0393	Katie Willis
9/15/2007	Conference Council	Conference Center		Steve Cox
9/20/2007	Office of Creative Ministries Board	Conference Center		Max Marble
9/27/2007	MO East Walk to Emmaus (Men)	Rickman Center		
9/29/2007	UMW annual meeting		(573) 472-4061	Shirley Warner
9/29/2007	Staffing for Excellence	Schweitzer UMC	(417) 869-7878	Rev. Kendall Waller

Job Postings

Part-time Youth Director

Elsberry UMC is seeking a youth director to work 20 hours per week. For more information, call the church at (573) 898-5626, or the Rev. Paul Garven at (636) 625-3655.

Part-Time Youth Director

Marionville UMC (southwest district) is currently seeking a part-time youth director.

The person seeking this position would be responsible for planning, coordinating and leading the church's youth ministry. For a detailed job description and salary contact the church at (417) 463-2866.

Youth Director

Wesley UMC in Jefferson City is currently looking for a new director of youth ministries. The director will lead planning of, and participate in church's youth activities. Must be spiritually grounded, energetic, and able to work with both youth and adults. Excellent communication and inter-personal skills essential. 30 - 40 hours per week, with a pay range of \$22,000 - \$27,500 annually. Health and vacation benefits. Send resumes to: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2727 Wesley Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109

Choir Director

Byers Avenue UMC in Joplin is currently seeking to fill a part-time choir director position that will be open beginning August 1. Responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to, directing both the Chancel choir (vocal) and the bell choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings and performances on Sunday mornings. This position comes with a salary of \$ 100 per week. For more information, including a detailed job description and application, please contact Carie Jones at the church office (417) 624-3647.

Planned appointment announcements update

- Jonathan Cooney to Excelsior Springs from Broadway in Springfield
- Greg Dowler to Maldon/Holcomb from Ava
- Ed Hankinson to Stockton from Salem
- David Hartsfield to the Callaway County Circuit from

- Faith in Kirksville
- Travis James to Lockwood/Greenfield from Archie
- Mi Hyeon Lee to associate at Wesley in Springfield from Antioch in Springfield
- Jeffrey B. Long to New Madrid from Dockery Chapel
- Jacki Moore to Trinity in

- Kansas City from extension ministry at Rockhill Academy
- Diane Nunnelee to family leave from Trinity in Kansas City
- Russ Smith to Tarkio/Westboro from associate at Blue Ridge Boulevard
- Sheila Swafford to Faith in Kirksville/ Novinger from Atlanta/

- LaPlata/Mt. Zion
- Doug Walter to Salem from Cornerstone in Lake Ozark
- Steve Campbell to First UMC in Blue Springs from superintendent of Heartland Central District
- Chris Williams to associate at Manchester from Fairmount

The Missouri Conference Review accepts postings for paid positions from churches in the Missouri Conference at no charge. Postings may be published in two issues, space permitting, and should be limited to 75 words. Call (573) 777-1205 or e-mail fkoenig@moumethodist.org.

Videos tell story of mission

MissionCast is a short two- to three-minute video is posted on the Internet every Monday morning. MissionCast may be view on your computer or downloaded to be projected on a screen. It may be used before or during worship, at a UMW or UMM meeting or at an outreach committee meeting. All back episodes are also available for viewing or downloading. To view MissionCast go to <http://MOMissionCast.com>

- One Great Hour of Sharing – Wendy Whiteside
- Young Adult Ecuador VIM Team – Audrey Phelps
- PET: The Gift of Mobility – Sarah Hill
- Risk-taking Mission and Service – Bishop Schnase
- Reading and Writing Kits of Annual Conference – Terri Williams
- Eden Summit: Cultivating Creation Awareness – Max Marble
- 2007 Youth Workcamps – Bethany Baxter
- Kingdom House – Tom Sanders and Staff



- PET Production in Mexico – Max Marble
- School Kits for Annual

- Conference – Joyce Holley
- Mozambique Initiative – Bishop Schnase

- Rainbow Network – Keith Jaspers
- Mozambique Disaster

- Response – Carol Kreamer (will be posted May 21)



Caruthersville work continues

A Volunteers in Mission Team with members from Wentzville, Neosho, Branson and Maryville worked in Caruthersville April 1-7. Pictured above is Neal Blount of Neosho, and Rodger McQuate and Gary Springer of Wentzville. Below is Larry Johnson of Branson.



FOS advises to check with schools when preparing kits

Is your church assembling school kits for the Annual Conference “bring it forward” offering? Consider checking with your local schools to see if there are supplies that could be donated for assembling Church World Service school kits or Missouri Readin’ and Writin’ Pacs.

Many schools ask students to bring supplies each fall that are gathered and shared by all students in the classroom. Teachers and students may be willing to share those supplies with other children in need. The Festival of Sharing will be October 20 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Contact Terri Williams at festival@socket.net or (573) 474-3332 to request information on the 2007 Festival of Sharing or visit the Web site given below.

www.umocm.com



Stephen Rhodes works on the Wardrobe addition in Hayti.

Hayti Wardrobe expands

The Office of Creative Ministries Wardrobe, in Hayti, Mo., has served people in the Bootheel of Missouri for more than 40 years. Recently under the leadership of the Rev. Sue Cabbage and the Wardrobe Board, the ministry is expanding.

The expansion is currently very visible as a new building is erected. Stephen and Faye Rhodes

are members of the First United Methodist Church in Hayti and been the key persons in making the expansion possible through their dedicated service to the Wardrobe Ministry. Cabbage and the whole Wardrobe Board have worked hard on this project. Clothing, blankets, coats and food are made available to low-income people in the bootheel.