

Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Jesus Christ

Two Sections, Section A

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**Three new Cabinet members announced**

The 12-member Missouri Conference Cabinet will have three new faces when appointments are fixed this June at Annual Conference Session.

**Bart Hildreth**

The Rev. Bart Hildreth will be Ozarks North District Superintendent. The Rev. Sue Watson, current district superintendent, is being appointed to Conference staff (see story below).

Hildreth grew up in Fenton, and graduated from Lindbergh High School in Crestwood. From high school he was off to William Jewell College, where he majored in religion. Then he went to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, where he earned his master's degree and his PhD. He earned each degree in just three and a half years.

The first church he served was a Baptist church in Weaverville, North Carolina. But he realized that being a Baptist was not for him.



**Bart Hildreth**

"I wanted my daughter to know that if she was called into ministry, there would be a place for her, and I wanted my son to know that about the women in his life," Hildreth said. "I wanted a place where I could feel at home."

He called a friend in St. Louis, who encouraged him to talk to his pastor at Kirkwood UMC, who put him in touch with Gateway Central District Superintendent Nancye Dunlap. Soon Hildreth had a three-point charge: Bowling Green/Eolia/Oak Grove. From there, he served Grace UMC in Sullivan, and Red Bridge UMC.

Hildreth engaged in the United Methodist ordained ministry process, serving as a pastor from another denomination, then as a



**Ann Rathert**

probationary elder, and then had his orders of elder recognized. He is very pleased with where his road has taken him.

"The United Methodist Church has in many ways been freeing for me," Hildreth said. "I've felt like I was home from the get-go."

Bishop Robert Schnase thinks the diversity of Hildreth's experience will serve the Cabinet well.

"Bart has served with excellence in a variety of pastoral settings," he said "His love for The United Methodist Church and his commitment to our mission has been evident in fruitful and effective ministry, and I think he will bring excellent insight and passion to the role of superintendency."

**Ann Rathert**



**Yolanda Villa**

The Rev. Ann Rathert will be Gateway Regional District Superintendent. The Rev. Phillip Neimeyer, current district superintendent, is retiring.

Rathert grew up in the small town of Darboy, Wis., near Appleton. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with a degree in nutrition and chemistry. Working at Kimberly Clark, she conducted research for an adult incontinent care pad.

"I was a designer of the original Depends," she said. "That's my claim to fame."

She later also worked on designing new diapers, which became Huggies.

Her corporate work went beyond  
**See Cabinet on page 3A**

**Watson, Farr named as directors of centers**

Two new Conference staff positions have been created, in a realignment of Conference staff with the mission and vision of the Conference. These positions are designed to work within the reorganized Conference structure.

**Bob Farr**

Bob Farr has been named director of the Center for Congregational Excellence.

The Center for Congregational Excellence is responsible for new church starts, congregational development and collaborative learning among congregations. The director will serve as a catalyst for churches and pastors to think afresh about creative possibilities for starting and growing faith communities, including restarts,

second sites and mergers.

"Bob Farr has given excellent leadership to congregations throughout his ministry, and brings a passion and expertise to congregational planning and growth that is unmatched," said Bishop Robert Schnase. "I look forward to his work in our Conference and his work together with the director for Pastoral Excellence."

Farr will not be leaving his position as lead pastor at Church of the Shepherd in St. Charles.

"We're taking a new and creative approach with Bob's appointment by working together with Church of the Shepherd," Schnase said. "Bob will serve the Conference three-quarter time



**Bob Farr**

while remaining senior pastor at Church of the Shepherd. I appreciate Bob's and Church of the Shepherd's creative and positive willingness to try a new model of appointment."

The director of Congregational Development position, previously held by Bruce Baxter, has been eliminated. Many of the duties of that position will be part of the job of the director of the Center for



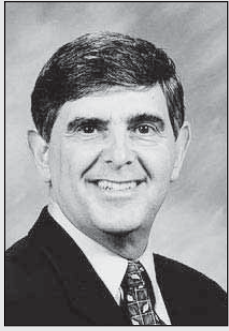
**Sue Watson**

Congregational Excellence.

Farr grew up in Creighton, and first found himself in the pulpit at age 18 at Daugherty, a rural church near Harrisonville, when he was a sophomore in college. He had already been to Annual Conference twice as a youth delegate.

"I experienced my call to

**See Directors, pg. 3A**



## Conference Connections

By Steve Cox

Director of Connectional Ministries

Are you a member of a cultivating congregation? That would be our hope, and that is also what we hope to celebrate when we gather in Springfield in a few weeks.

Our Friday night banquet gets the celebration started by highlighting the stories of four congregations that are cultivating disciples with a new sense of energy and excitement. None of the four are large, but they are demonstrating that fruitfulness is possible in any location when the congregation moves forward with hope.

The Rev. Adam Hamilton will help us understand how to cultivate discipleship from a very different perspective on Saturday morning. He has led Church of the Resurrection from its birth in a funeral home to its current sta-

tus as one of United Methodism's largest congregations. He will demonstrate how Church of the Resurrection has become big by staying small.

All of that is just the beginning. On Saturday afternoon, we will enter into a conversation with each other as we discuss how focusing on the five core practices of church life can spur a congregation to new vision and ministry. If your congregation is doing this well, you will get to be the teacher; if not, you will get to be the learner. I suspect most of us will get to be both teacher and learner during that time.

Bishop Schnase will speak to us in our Sunday morning study about having the courage to lead the congregation in new directions. Workshops on Sunday afternoon

will provide everyone with some how-to lessons in cultivating the faith among our people. On Monday morning, we will get the perspective of a young man who lived in Missouri while attending seminary but is a leader in the Mozambican church. He will show us some of our strengths, and perhaps some our warts, from one who has lived among us but who also lives in a culture where the harvest is producing a hundredfold.

So, our session of annual conference may accomplish a little business, we will ordain some folks and retire some others, and we will even elect some people as our delegates to General Conference. However, our real task will be to do some cultivating. Who knows what kind of fruit we might produce?

## Planned appointments

- Bruce Baxter to Wesley UMC in Springfield from Conference director of congregational development
- Jim Crooks retires from Mt. Vernon UMC
- Jane Crooks retires from associate pastor of Mt. Vernon UMC
- Bob Farr to director of the Center for Congregational Excellence and Church of the Shepherd (shared appointment)
- Rick Gressman retires from Centralia
- John Gregory to St. Mark's in Florissant from Cassville
- Gary Grey to First UMC in Festus from St. Andrew in Florissant
- Bart Hildreth to Cabinet from Red Bridge UMC
- Wes Hirsch retires from St. Mark's in Florissant
- Todd Holman to West Plains associate pastor from Lockwood/Greenfield UMCs
- Monica Jefferson to St.

- Andrew in Florissant from Conference coordinator of urban and intercultural ministries
- Gary Langley to Cassidy from Prairie Home/Grace (Jamestown)
- Judith May retires from First in Braymer/Breckenridge
- Robyn Miller to lead associate pastor at Church of the Shepherd from Marvin Chapel
- William Moore retires from Wesley in Springfield
- Ginya Moore retires from associate at Wesley in Springfield
- Ben Mulford to Epworth/Goodwill Chapel from associate at Missouri UMC
- Phil Neimeyer retires from superintendent of Gateway Regional District
- William O'Neal to associate at Waynesville from associate at Pleasant Hill
- Harold Peters retires from Cassidy
- Lee Porch to Cassville from

- Kingshighway/Christy Memorial
- Ann Rathert to Cabinet from Zion (St. Louis)
- Sandra Schaller to Centralia from First Webster Groves
- Eric Schmidt to associate at First UMC in Warrensburg from Truman State University campus ministry
- Michele Sue Shumaker to First Webster Groves from St. Luke's in Kansas City
- Chris Snyder to Mt. Vernon from associate at Platte Woods
- Yolanda Villa to Cabinet from Church of the Resurrection
- Sue Watson to director of Center for Pastoral Excellence from superintendent of Ozarks North District
- Barron Willer to First Braymer/Breckenridge from Campbell/Holcomb
- Michael Wondel to Kingshighway/Christy Memorial from University of Missouri-Rolla campus ministry.

## Accountability... Part 2

For those not in charge ... we want it. We want our leaders to be held accountable for their actions. We look to see if their actions live up to their promises. If we are leading ... we want to know how we are going to be measured. And what's going to happen if we don't meet the standard? Accountability and anxiety can be partners regardless of the lens you may be looking through.

Accountability, for most people, is something you have to develop a taste for. Like eating spinach or brussel sprouts, one usually has to value the benefits associated with the experience before it becomes part of one's regular diet. When the uncertainty is overcome, accountability is valued as a tool to achieve difficult and worthwhile goals.

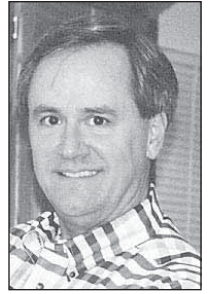
On March 31, we chose to carry this value of accountability as we walk the new pathway. And why not? We are always being measured against something. The new preacher is measured against the old one. "Nobody can do a church social like Helen can!" Or, "the building just doesn't look the same since Harold passed away." Accountability in one form or another is present in every phase of our lives. What usually causes concern is when someone changes what we are going to be held accountable for.

At the called session, we voted to hold ourselves accountable for Christ-centeredness, excellence, fruitfulness and collaboration as we are about the mission of leading people to actively follow Christ. This should bring concern to any rational mind that understands our declines over the last several decades. "You are making me responsible for changing what we have 'always done' for the last 30 years? How am I going to be measured? And what's going to happen if I fail to meet the goal?" (One clergy person was brave enough to raise these issues during the debate. Many more were thinking it.)

## Correction

Correction: The April 20 *Missouri Conference Review* should have stated that John Hackman II, a student local pastor, is now serving Smith Chapel (Napton) in the Heartland North District.

I'm sure there were lay people present that thought ... it's about time that clergy take responsibility for these declines. I'm also confident that clergy were thinking ... every time I try something new, it runs smack into the wall of tradition. When the word accountability surfaces, lines are quickly drawn.



Larry Fagan

What if we view accountability from a slightly different perspective ... from a Spiritual Gift perspective? What if each one of us was to hold ourselves accountable to discover our Spiritual Gifts? After discovery, we discerned how we are to use our gifts within the body that God has planted us? Together, with our Christian brothers and sisters, we prayed for God to help us understand the needs of our respective communities? Then we developed and implemented a plan using our Gifts to meet those needs?

Is it possible that a flood of the Holy Spirit would wash away the "lines in the sand"? Could collaboration become second nature? Working through our Spiritual Gifts ... wouldn't Christ centeredness always be first on our minds? Have you ever witnessed anything that the Spirit was involved in that wasn't done with excellence? And wouldn't fruitfulness be the fruit of this kind of approach?

We can resist accountability because we are being measured against our fair share of the numbers, or we can embrace it as a tool for helping us discover God's will for our lives. The former will let the past predict the future. The latter will bring about God's kingdom here on earth.

Larry Fagan  
Conference Lay Leader

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## Cabinet continued from page 1A

the lab. She also worked in sales, and in human resources. "As a human resource information specialist, I worked with corporate organizational charts," she said. "We were focused on quality management, and I worked with information on personnel statistics and process control."

But that was before she experienced her call to ministry. She attended Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. While in seminary, she spent a year doing a town and country internship, in which she served rural churches, including one without running water. She found the experience very rewarding.

"I call myself a country girl who loves the city," Rathert said.

Rathert moved to Missouri shortly after being ordained elder in Wisconsin. Her first appointment in Missouri was to First UMC in St. Charles, where she was an associate pastor. Her next appointment was at Shiloh UMC as an interim pastor. She comes to the Cabinet from Zion UMC in St. Louis, where she has been pastor for eight years. Bishop Robert Schnase is impressed by Rathert's accomplishments as pastor.

"Ann has shown tremendous creativity and fruitfulness in her local church leadership, has demonstrated her ability to lead others to reach out beyond the doors of the church, and I look forward to the gifts and perspectives she brings to the Cabinet," he said.

### Yolanda Villa

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.

Villa grew up in Oakland, Calif., and by the time she got out of high school, she was looking for something very different. That's what she found at Salina, Kan., where she attended Kansas Wesleyan University.

"I was warned when I moved from Oakland to Kansas, that I would find people had an, 'I'm OK, you're not OK' attitude toward me because of race," she said. "I learned a lot about what it means to be a person of color, and how protected I had been, grow-

ing up where I had."

But she didn't get scared off from the Midwest, and continued to live in Kansas. It was at the Full Faith Church of Love in Lenexa, Kansas, that she became close to the church again. She was at Saint James UMC when she experienced her call to ministry.

Villa finished her degree in social psychology at Park College. She then attended seminary at Saint Paul School of Theology.

Her appointments include serving as chaplain at the state hospital in Topeka, Kan., pastor of Centennial UMC and associate pastor at Platte Woods UMC.

"I like to see things grow, to nurture things, and to see things happen in the kingdom, because that's what the kingdom is all about," she said. "You've got to be able to see God at work. We've got to be the hands, the feet and the mouthpiece. Our actions let people know that God has a heart, and God is real."

Recently, Villa has been at Church of the Resurrection, where she is the executive pastor of congregational care. There she oversees a staff of 16 people, seven pastors and nine lay employees.

"Since the church has a membership of almost 14,000, the challenge of providing excellent congregational care is a big concern," Villa said. The congregation was divided alphabetically, and volunteer congregational care ministers are being coordinated by the staff.

"I'm excited about my new appointment, because in many ways it will continue the type of work I've been doing with my congregational care team," she said. "I've been mentoring pastors, helping them develop, find their passions and live into them. I was also part of an executive team who had the responsibility of overseeing the vision and the purpose of the church."

Bishop Schnase appreciates the experience she has had in large churches.

"Yolanda brings a passion for excellence to the role of superintendency, holds the respect of her colleagues and offers fresh perspectives from her experience in large congregations," he said. "I'm delighted to welcome her to service on the Cabinet."

## Directors continued from page 1A

ministry in Fayette, at Annual Conference, right after ordination, and was surrounded by a circle of three or four clergy."

Farr was a student at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, where he majored in organizational communication and fire safety.

Farr attended seminary at Perkins. While in Texas, he was youth pastor at Greenville, and then served on a three-point charge, Celeste.

When he came back to Missouri, Farr first served at Randolph Memorial in Kansas City. He then started a new church in Lee's Summit called Grace UMC. His next appointment was at Church of the Shepherd in St. Charles.

"Every church I've served has at least doubled in size," Farr said.

Farr served as chair of the Congregational Development Team from 1996-2000.

Since 2000, he has been serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

"The biggest struggle we've had in new church plants is that we didn't know how to formulate new church leadership," he said.

Farr has been working within his district on the Pastor Leadership Development program. The program is in its third year.

Farr estimates he has done consulting for about 100 churches.

He has consulted with several church relocations, mergers and new starts.

"I've spent a lot of time in the past 15-20 years working on church development, revitalization and congregational turnarounds," Farr said. "I believe any church can be successful. This has been a passion of mine since I began ministry."

### Sue Watson

Betty Sue Watson has been named director for the Center for Pastoral Excellence.

Watson will be responsible for enhancing pastoral effectiveness through recruitment, continuing education, peer learning and mutual accountability. She will work in collaboration with the Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry. The job begins July 1.

"I'm happy to announce the appointment of the Rev. Sue Watson to the newly created position of Director of the Center for Pastoral Excellence," Bishop Robert Schnase said. "Sue has offered excellent leadership to local churches, served as a superintendent with great effectiveness and will bring energy, vision and passion to the task."

This is an entirely new position for the Missouri Conference.

"I'm excited to be in a position to create learning events that will raise skill sets and enthusiasm for ministry for all of our pastors,"

Watson said. "I'm excited to be working with Bishop Schnase, Bob Farr, the Board of Ordained Ministry and the appointive Cabinet to find ways to increase not only effectiveness, but also the passion for learning for our pastors, whether they are new or have many years of service."

Watson would like to see pastors develop a renewed enthusiasm for going beyond their walls and meeting people where they are, doing the work of evangelism.

"I hope we can bring about a new joy to the office of being a pastor," she said.

Watson believes our churches can grow stronger internally, be more involved in the world and bring more people to Jesus Christ.

"I have always loved ministry," she said. "I consider it such a privilege to serve, and I welcome this new ministry opportunity."

Watson has been Ozarks North District superintendent for the past five years. Her previous appointments include New Hope UMC in Arnold, Centralia UMC, Immanuel UMC in Canton, LaPlata and Novinger UMCs, Camden UMC and the Owensville charge. Watson graduated cum laude from Central Methodist College (now University) in Fayette with a BA in religion and philosophy. She graduated with honors from Saint Paul School of Theology.

## Witness to Growth

The new staff and cabinet members have seen what growth looks like. The following numbers are examples of average attendance at the churches where they have recently served:

Name	Church	Appointed-attendance	Last year-Attendance
Bart Hildreth	Grace UMC, Sullivan	1998-104	2004-128
Ann Rathert	Zion UMC, St. Louis	1998-180	2006-191
Yolanda Villa	Church of the Resurrection	2003-6,085	2006-6,909
*Robert Farr	Church of the Shepherd, St. Peters	1999-505	2006-1,064
Sue Watson	New Hope UMC, Arnold	1994-165	2001-311

\*Farr continues to serve at this appointment.

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# Kirkwood "Ignites" on Saturday

Kirkwood United Methodist Church (KUMC) launched its Saturday night worship service, *Ignite*, on March 24 with well over 200 people in attendance. Moments before the service began, leaders scrambled to provide additional seating. It was apparent new people had been invited and they came. Some confessed they were curious and came to "check it out!" Upon leaving, many said they loved it and would come back – and they have. Attendance continues to grow, with 250 in attendance on "Easter Saturday." The new service is offered every Saturday at 5:05 p.m. for 55 minutes.

Several years ago, KUMC embarked on a church-wide visioning process to develop a long-term strategic plan. One of

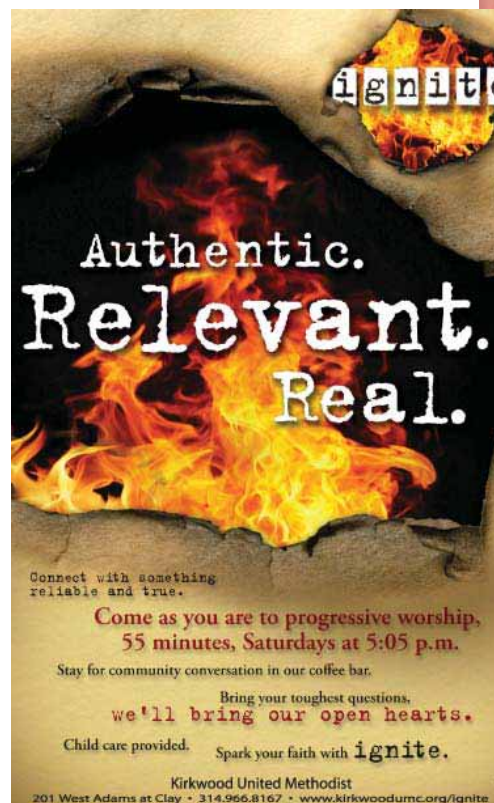
the findings of this process was that KUMC's current worship formats, times and facility requirements limited the church's ability to make and grow disciples. A task force was created to analyze and determine solutions to these challenges.

After several months of study, the 15-person task force recommended a new contemporary Saturday worship service. This recommendation was based on the belief that worship is the primary "front door" for people to become involved in congregational life, and segmented worship is the best strategy for attracting and retaining new followers. "A new worship service day and time allows us to repackage our message for a new listener and take a more outward focus by providing a new

opportunity to invite others," explained Senior Pastor David Bennett. "It also allows us to use our building more efficiently since Sunday morning is already at peak usage." The service appeals to those who work on Sundays, have other commitments, or simply find a casual Saturday evening worship time convenient.

The next step was the establishment of an implementation team to determine the specifics of the new service. The team, led by Director of Contemporary Ministries Rocky Marlowe, quickly decided that the target audience would be "baby busters" – singles, couples, and families in their 20s through 40s. This age group includes many people who are seeking a spiritual relationship for the first time or have fallen away from church but are hoping to reconnect with God. To appeal to this target group, *Ignite* is designed as a progressive worship service which provides basic, simple, loving instruction of God's Word. "Authentic, relevant and real are the three defining elements of *Ignite*," Marlowe emphasized. Contemporary music and personal testimony accompany the message with an introduction to prayer and devotional life.

Seventy-five members of



This is a postcard used to promote the Saturday evening service.



Personal testimony has been an element of Ignite worship. Katie Geary shared her witness on March 31.



Pastor David Bennett preaches the same message on Saturday night and Sunday morning – but in more casual attire on Saturday.



Ignite band and singers, led by Rocky Marlowe, on the stage at the front of the room. Graphic images on the screen enhance the message.



The Ignite service includes most traditional worship elements (such as collecting an offering) – just in a more casual setting.

after the service.

KUMC is proving that the power of invitation is strong – although the church used many traditional marketing methods in promoting the new service, the new faces at *Ignite* are primarily the result of personal invitation. KUMC hopes that this launches a new era of growth and vibrancy within the church, leading to even more disciples.

For more information about Kirkwood UMC, visit its Web site at [www.kirkwoodumc.org](http://www.kirkwoodumc.org).

# CUIC calls for health care compassion

Bishops and other leaders representing 10 denominations held a press conference in the Missouri state capitol building in Jefferson City Monday, April 23 to speak out for people in poverty.

The affiliation of churches is the Missouri chapter of Churches Uniting in Christ. Rather than just offering a generic plea of caring for the least of these, the leaders united in opposition to a specific piece of legislation, Senate Bill 577, and endorsed alternate legislation, Senate Bill 581.

"In 2005, the administration said that we had to cut low-wage workers, people with disabilities, the elderly and children from Medicaid coverage because the state didn't have enough money. Now we have a budget surplus," said Bishop Paul Stewart, presiding Bishop of the Third Episcopal District (Missouri and Illinois) of the Central Methodist Episcopal church. "Our first priority should be to restore coverage to those cut."

Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Area of the United Methodist Church, called for legislators to strive toward policy that reflected the character of the people of Missouri.

"Public policy involves not

only the things we do and don't do, and the things we support and don't support. Public policy also reflects the kind of people we are, and kind of people we strive to be," he said. "I believe that we are the kind of people in Missouri who want to do what is just and fair. We're the kind of people who don't want to hurt working mothers, deny medical care to children, or add to the burden of the working poor. We're the kind of people who not only value charity in our personal giving, but also value justice and fairness in our public policy. We are people of faith who take our responsibilities and citizenship seriously, and so we speak with a united voice to remind our policy makers to represent all people, including the poor, and to do what is good and right and just."

In January, the group was scheduled to meet with Governor Matt Blunt, but the meeting was later dropped from the governor's schedule. CUIC also invited Senate President pro tem Michael Gibbons; Senate Minority Floor Leader Maida Coleman; House Speaker Rod Jetton; and House Minority Floor Leader Jeff Harris. Only three elected officials were present: Harris, Rep. J.C. Kuessner

from Eminence, and Rep. Judy Baker from Columbia. All three are Democrats.

Harris said he strongly opposed the health-care cuts in 2005. Federal dollars that would have helped support Medicaid in Missouri have been lost due to the cuts, and are now being used in other states, he said. He characterized the HealthNet proposal of Senate Bill 577 as an unfortunate "scheme" put forward by Gov. Blunt.

Baker echoed Harris's comments.

"When I study the Bible, it makes it clear who we should be taking care of first," said Baker, who has a master of divinity degree and is married to a Baptist minister. "A budget is a morale document. I want our priority to be on the health of every citizen in Missouri."

Kuessner missed the funeral of a good friend to attend the meeting. He expressed to the group great disappointment at there not being any Republicans at the meeting.

"Our leaders, the 'moral majority,' better have some good excuses as to why they weren't here," he said. "As the leaders of our church-



**Bishop Schnase addresses the group gathered at the CUIC press conference at the Missouri State capitol.**

es, you've spent more time studying the scripture than we have as elected officials. Your interpretations should be important to us."

The Rev. John Bennett, CUIC co-chair of the event, said it wasn't for lack of trying.

"We sought diligently to have your colleagues on the other side of the aisle here for this dialogue," he said.

The previous day, the bishops, executive presbyters, regional and conference ministers and other church leaders were guest preachers in congregations in Jefferson City and Columbia. That afternoon, an ecumenical service of worship was held at First Christian

Church in Jefferson City. The guest preacher for that service was Bishop Stewart. Following the service, the denominational leaders moved to the Rickman Conference Center for dinner and a legislative information session with Scott Penman, MO Impact, as speaker.

Monday morning, the denominational leaders had gathered for a prayer and strategy session in preparation for the press conference and meeting. Leaders of the strategy session were Bob Quinn, executive director, Missouri Association for Social Welfare (MASW), and Sharon Feltman, director, Health Access Project, MASW.



## Seven Last Words of Christ

*The Seven Last Words of Christ: A Woman's Perspective*, was the first for the United Methodist African American female ministers in the St. Louis area. The worship experience was held at Beloved Community United Methodist Church. Each minister shared in a 7-10 minute sermon. Asbury UMC's choir, Beloved Community UMC Praise dancers and choir, and a soloist from North Park UMC shared in praise and song. The sanctuary was full and the Spirit was high. The District Superintendent of Gateway Central, the Rev. Nancye Dunlap, blessed the offering and gave the benediction.

"We give God thanks to everyone who participated in this awesome worship and look forward to next year," said the Rev. Cherryll Doughty.

From left, the Rev. Michelle McGhee (Village and Christ Community), Doughty (Beloved Community), Minister Gloria Farr (Normandy), the Rev. Monica Jefferson (Urban and Intercultural Ministries), Minister Linda Settles (New Spirit), Dunlap (Gateway Central), the Rev. Dr. Rosalin Denson (West Side Missionary Baptist Church), and the Rev. Dr. Lisa ScottJoiner (North Park & Normandy).

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## Annual Conference session schedule announced

Annual Conference Session will feel a little different to some of the veterans this year, as some of the traditional components are occurring at different times, on different days. The shuffle has occurred to facilitate a better flow of the schedule, which is necessary because it's election year for general and jurisdictional conference delegates.

The theme this year is *Cultivating Congregations*. Registration is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Friday, June 1, at the Convention Center in Springfield. This is an earlier start than usual. Registrants are encouraged to use this time to make their first visit to some of the display booths from mission agencies and institutions.

Session begins at 10:30 a.m., with an opening celebration, standing rules and business. The first ballot of the election will be taken at this time. During business sessions throughout the conference, realignment of the

Conference structure, the budget and changes in the apportionment formula will be addressed.

After a lunch break, the annual clergy and laity sessions will be held separately. The two will come back together for a business session at 3:30 p.m.

A banquet for everyone will begin at 7 p.m. Four churches will be making short presentations about how they have grown stronger in recent years. They will be Piedmont Trinity in the Southeast District, Lafayette Park in the Gateway Central District, Grain Valley in the Heartland North District, and Centennial in the Heartland Central District. Music for the banquet will be provided by Mark Roach of Morning Star UMC in the Gateway Regional District.

At 8 a.m. on Saturday, the Rev. Adam Hamilton, lead pastor of Church of the Resurrection, will be leading a Learning in Community time on "Growing

a Church through Small Group Ministries." Church of the Resurrection was started in the Missouri West Conference in Kansas City in 1990, and moved to Leawood, Kansas, in 1994. It averages about 7,000 in weekly worship attendance.

The retirement and commissioning service will be Saturday morning at 10:45. At 4 p.m., the second Learning in Community session will address the five practices of healthy congregations (radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service and extravagant generosity). This will be a time when discussions will be held in small groups.

Ordination will be Saturday evening, rather than Sunday. It will again be at the Juanita K. Hammons Center of the Performance Arts, a short walk from the Convention Center.

On Sunday morning, Bishop

Robert Schnase will lead a Learning in Community session relating to strong leadership. The annual memorial service will be Sunday morning at 10:45. At 3:45 Sunday afternoon, workshops led by local congregations will show the effectiveness of living the five practices. A business session will be held Sunday evening after dinner.

On Monday morning, Zefanias Chihulume, director of connectional ministries for the Mozambique South Conference, will lead a Learning in Community session on what causes congregations in Mozambique and Missouri to be fruitful. Chihulume attended Eden Seminary in St. Louis, and does an excellent job of telling the story of the United Methodist Church in Mozambique.

The final business session will be conducted on Monday morning. The session is scheduled to conclude by noon.

## Five Practices to be given to Conference

The Rev. David Kerr believes everyone in church leadership should read Bishop Robert Schnase's latest book, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." So much so, that he's seeing to it that everyone has a copy waiting for them when they get to Annual Conference Session.

Kerr, who is pastor at Salem-In-Ladue in the Gateway Central District, has been raising money from laity to pay for the books, which will be given to all lay and clergy members of the Missouri Conference during Annual Conference Session. Because the order is for 1,500 books, Cokesbury is selling Kerr the books at a discount.

The book is available at Cokesbury stores, and online at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com).

## Mozambique seminarians await covenant partners 48 have partners, 9 still needing partners

By Tom Mitchell  
Leadership Development Chair  
The Mozambique Initiative

Nine United Methodist seminarians in Mozambique await covenant partners from Missouri to be in relationship with them during their seminary training at Cambine Theological School or Ricatla Ecumenical Seminary.

Forty-eight students and Missouri partners are already matched up, nine with new students and 39 with returning students.

Read the stories of three students in their own words:

**Selevelina Castro, first year student, Cambine Theological – needs partner**

Born in a Christian family, Selevelina Castro soon was baptized and accepted the word of God. From 1977-1981, she was already



Selevelina Castro

doing her primary school and at the same time going through church activities. Soon she discovered her vocation in theology.

In 1998, she went through Bible course at her church at Maivene. For eight years, she worked as local pastor in Morrumbene South district. While serving as pastor, she pursued her secondary education from 2003-2006. She was born in Morrumbene district, in Inhambane province.

She is single and has a child and is now a first year student.

**Eugenio Sebastiao, first year student, Ricatla Ecumenical – needs partner**

Eugenio Augusto Sebastiao was born in Morrumbene, Inhambane province on October 21, 1985. He studied in Morrumbene village and then in Cambine secondary school from 1992 to

2003.

Due to his church involvement, he was elected youth president for Jerusalem UMC in the year 2000 and from 2001 to 2003 served at church level as secretary. Until 2006, he was teaching at Morrumbene secondary school and statistical secretary at district level.

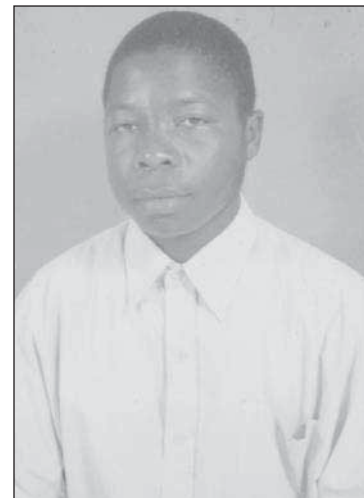
He felt the call of God and immediately followed right channels to go to the seminary. It is his objective to serve and spread the good news to the world and bring people to His Kingdom.

**Olga Nhaguilunguana – first year student, Cambine Theological – has newly assigned partner**

My name is Olga Jorge Nhaguilunguana. I was born in February 16, 1980, in Jangamo district, Inhambane province.

In 2003, I finished my secondary education after many years of struggle because of financial drawbacks. I studied at Agostinho Neto primary school and 29 de Setembro secondary school in Maxixe. All these were very far away from home. I was youth president while worshipping in Cumbane UMC.

Throughout my life, I witnessed and experienced suffering and extreme poverty in my community; and people who lived outside the boundaries of Christian



Olga Jorge Nhaguilunguana

life.

This may have been the drive for my decision to do theology.

I will be happy to serve anywhere I am assigned because God does not choose whom to serve.

**How you can enter into relationship with a student:**

The commitment is a four-year, five-part agreement of daily prayer; exchange of biography, letters and photo; and financial support of \$600 per year (\$50 per month). The opportunity is available to individuals, groups and congregations through The Mozambique Initiative.

Contact Carol Kreamer at 636-271-4455 or [cpkreamer@hughes.net](mailto:cpkreamer@hughes.net) or Tom Mitchell at [TomM8132@aol.com](mailto:TomM8132@aol.com) 314-725-

## Mission Walk planned for Conference

There will be a mission walk sponsored by the MO Conference United Methodist Women on June 3. Instead of the traditional luncheon during which members of the UMW meet and enjoy a program, the women will be walking to a local United Methodist church wearing t-shirts emblazoned with "We Walk the Talk". The walk is not limited to women or to UMW members. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Registration will be at the Expo Center at 6 a.m. and the walk will begin as soon as there is enough light--around 6:15. The walk will be completed before the start of the regular session. The registration fee of \$20 will go toward mission giving. Local units are encouraged to send a registrant's fee even if they won't actually have a participating walker and be recognized as a "Walker for Mission" Unit. Both a flyer announcing the event and the "Unit Walker" form are available online on the Conference Web page at [www.moumethodist.org/page.asp?PKValue=801](http://www.moumethodist.org/page.asp?PKValue=801).

[www.moumethodist.org](http://www.moumethodist.org)

# Conference Calendar

Start date	Event	Location	Phone #	Coordinator
5/5/2007	Conference Council	Conference Center		Steve Cox
5/5/2007	Gateway Regional District UMW Mission Team Meeting	Pacific UMC	(636) 397-0393	Katie Willis
5/5/2007	Heartland North Lay Speaking Training	Faith UMC (Grain Valley)		
5/9/2007	Cabinet			
5/10/2007	BOM Executive Committee meeting	Conference Center	(573) 441-1770	Sandy Ward
5/12/2007	Global Connection Team	Conference Center	(816) 331-4531	Paula King
5/16/2007	Mission Fair	Webster Hills UMC, St. Louis	314-961-3164	Scott Hall
5/17/2007	Office of Creative Ministries Board	Conference Center		Max Marble
5/19/2007	Spiritual Formation and 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 and 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		
7/13/2007	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

## Job Postings

### 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).

*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. E-mail [fkoenig@moumethodist.org](mailto:fkoenig@moumethodist.org) call (573) 777-1205 or mail Fred Koenig, MO Conference Editor, 3601 Amron Court, Columbia, MO 65203.*

## Pension statements trigger questions

There have some questions raised recently about the clergy quarterly pension statements issued by the General Board of Pensions. In particular, the question of greatest concern has to do with the small amount of 2007 pension contribution showing on the statement, said Sandy Ward, Conference coordinator of benefits and clergy support.

To answer the question, she said, clergy need to remember that in 2007 the Conference has a new retirement program: the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). Each month, the Conference bills the church for 12.22 percent of their pastor's compensation. This 12.22% is for the CRSP pension fund. CRSP has two components – a defined

contribution (DC) component and a defined benefit (DB) component.

The DC component is three percent of the clergyperson's compensation paid by the church. This dollar amount is reported on the General Board of Pension's quarterly report. This amount will be available to the clergyperson upon retirement.

The DB component is the remaining 9.22 percent of the clergyperson's compensation paid by the church. This amount is not reported on the quarterly report. It is billed as part of the 12.22 percent CRSP on the monthly benefits statement from the Conference Center. The money the church pays to the Conference is paid to the General Board to fund the

DB component of CRSP. The DB component does not show on the quarterly statement, because the value of the retirement benefit when received is based on two variables: the number of years of service a clergyperson has, and the denominational average compensation (DAC) at the year of retirement. The DB component will be a guaranteed pension determined by the formula 1.25% of the DAC (at the time of retirement) multiplied by the years of service in CRSP.

Please see the following web site for further information about the new CRSP pension program. <http://www.gbophb.org/TheWell/Root/CRSP/3412.pdf>

Pension projections are available through the General Board

of Pensions. A pension projection includes the value of a clergyperson's DB for the person's estimated year of retirement. Clergy people may call the GBOP and request a pension projection, or request one online through the OASIS program at the General Board's website, [www.gbop.org](http://www.gbop.org). The OASIS program will require a PIN number that has been assigned by the GBOP. The Conference Center does not have this PIN number. Clergy people must contact GBOP to get their PINs.

If you have further questions or comments, please contact the General Board of Pensions at 800-851-2201 or call the Conference Treasurer's Office at (877) 736-1806 to speak with Sandy Ward or Reuben Wilbur.

### Advertising space is available in the Missouri Conference Review

**Display ad rates start at \$100. Ads are available in black and white, with a spot color or in full color. The Missouri Conference Review has a circulation of about 6,500 United Methodist leaders in the state of Missouri. For more information: Call (573) 777-1205, or e-mail [fkoenig@moumethodist.org](mailto:fkoenig@moumethodist.org)**

## Pet project develops partner in Mexico

PET production has expanded to Mexico. PET stands for personal energy transportation. A PET is a small hand-cranked vehicle for those who have lost the use of their legs.

PETs were first produced in Columbia, Mo., and are now produced in Zambia and in 11 locations across the United States. They will now begin to be produced in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico.

Five people from the Missouri Conference traveled to Neuvo Progreso, Mexico, to attend the dedication of the new PET production shop that will be an extension ministry of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, located in an area with a great deal

of poverty. The five people were: Mel West, founder of PET; Steve Baima, volunteer executive director of the newly formed PET International, Inc.; Kathy Maynard, treasurer of PET International; Dr. Roger Hofmiester and Max Marble.

One of the first 30 people to receive a PET from the New PET Affiliate in Nuevo Progreso through their partnership with PET Texas is Esdra. He is afflicted with spina bifida and is from Cerra Azul, Mexico. He is a student and resident at the Eagles' Nest Children's Home.

You can see what went on during this day of celebration by viewing Episode nine of MissionCast at <http://www.MOMissionCast.com>



Rev. Mel West and Raul Ochoa pray at the PET shop dedication in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico.

## Environmental awareness emphasized at summit

By Max Marble  
OCM Director

The Eden Summit got off to a wonderful start as Bishop Robert Schnase showed pictures of birds that he had photographed within a 10-mile radius of Columbia. A new bird picture was displayed on screen every four seconds for 25 minutes. While the pictures were being projected on screen Bishop Schnase shared his love of God's creation. Though he has always been a person who has loved the outdoors, it has only been in the last few years that that love had developed into becoming quite an expert on birds. Among the pictures were photographs of birds that only are in the area for a couple of days each year as they migrate from one continent to another. Bishop Schnase helped participants realize how much we all miss about the wonders of God's creation all around us. He impressed upon the participants

the need for becoming more creation aware.

Jan Weaver, professor of environmental studies at MU, delivered the keynote address, which enumerated and celebrated the ways that contact with nature contributes to the growth and well-being of children. She began by inviting all present to recapture memories of their own early experiences with the natural world, then outlined impediments to such experience in today's children and offered concrete suggestions of how to foster the connections in today's world. She said that one of the principal things nature has to offer us, besides sustaining our existence, is its non-humanness. Like God, it isn't made by us, and it doesn't follow our rules, which frees us to enjoy its stimulation without our having to do anything. It also offers respite from human machinations and agendas, leaving space to attend to our own inner selves.

Seven workshops presented information and challenges on a number of issues facing us as we become better



Above, Jan Weaver, and (below) Bishop Schnase were featured speakers at the Eden Summit.



Photo illustration

stewards of our environment. The Eden Summit was planned by the Spiritual Formation and Social Justice Team, the Global Connection Team and the Office of Creative Ministry. The goal of the event was to foster interest in forming church and community groups centered on stewardship of the environment. Ideally the event will spawn many Eden Clubs.



## Deadline approaching for Ecuador VIM trip

Audrey Phelps will be leading a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team to Ecuador September 4-12, 2007.

This VIM project will be constructing rooms in a schoolhouse/daycare near Quito, the capital of Ecuador. This mission is part of a partnership between VIM and Servants in Faith and Technology (SIFAT). At the project site, the team will have the opportunity to interact with the children and experience the culture.

"We will also have an opportunity to visit some sites," Phelps said. "Ecuador is a beautiful country with many volcanoes and lush cloud forests. The team will have

a day to experience some of these local wonders."

Anyone is welcome to join this team. The cost is approximately \$1,700. Scholarships are available for persons age 25-35 who are willing to lead an international team within a year and a half of this trip. This scholarship will cover 50 percent the trip and must be applied for. The final registration date is the last week of May.

For more information on this and other opportunities, contact: Audrey Phelps, Missouri Volunteers In Mission, e-mail [phelps@umocm.com](mailto:phelps@umocm.com), phone (573) 474-7155.



Joe Pitts leads a workshop.