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Living Water

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AUGUST 2009

News from our New District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

From the DS

When you read this I will be on vacation! I may establish this as a pattern – three weeks on, two weeks off! Unfortunately, I am certain that there are those who would deem this an unacceptable situation (can you say “Superintendency Committee” or “Bishop”?)

While I am writing this article my family and I are frantically filling boxes and preparing for our move to Lawrence. You never get use to moving. It takes a lot of work and the lack of “settledness” can be, well, unsettling. It makes you tired to be out of your patterns of living. It takes time and effort to establish the new ways and to make the unfamiliar your new familiar. There are those of you who are reading this that are going through the very same experience of transition. I lift you in my prayers as we all regain our footing on new turf and cut new paths.

All of this upheaval brings me to a place I visit in times and experiences of transition. That place is in my heart and in my spirit – it is, for a lack of better language, called “certainty.” When the uncertainty of life is blowing like a tempest on the sea, certainty in God’s love is the rock on which I stand. The certainty of God always shines more brightly when we are reminded that very little in life is certain – meaning always the same. Life is full of the unexpected. It is good to have that place where you know, that you know, that you know, that God is there. I know that I claim to always be aware of the certainty, but I must confess that certainty is much more obvious in the midst of upheaval. So, upheaval is a blessing. Boxes are reminders of the certain. God is good all the time. All the time God is good! Indeed!

I hope that you will join me at my Installation Service on August 16, 2:00 pm, Ottawa First UMC. Your presence will make it all the more a celebration of the ministry that we do together in the Five Rivers District.

My covenant is to be in prayer for the churches and pastors of our district regularly. I seek your prayers for me as well.

In Christ

Dennis Ackerman



Rev. Dr. Felix Burrows, president of the Council on Finance and Administration, speaks about changes to the apportionment formula while conference treasurer Russ Hinshaw prepares to provide details.

2010 Apportionment Statements will be handed out at the Clergy Meeting on September 2nd at Ottawa 1st

Why we Apportion by Bishop Scott Jones

http://kacoumc.httpsvc.vitalstreamcdn.com/kacoumc_vitalstream_com/WMFiles/BishopEastApportionment.wmv

By Lisa Elliott Diehl
Director of Communications

BALDWIN CITY—The Kansas East Conference adopted a new apportionment formula based on local church income instead of expenses. The new formula asks churches to tithe 10 percent of their weekly offering to the conference to support shared ministries beginning in 2010.

Rev. Dr. Felix Burrows Sr., pastor at First United Methodist Church in Ottawa and president of the Council on Finance and Administration, said the shift brings the apportionment formula in line with biblical principles of offering the first fruits to God.

In other annual conferences where this approach has been tried, even churches that have not paid apportionments under old formulas have moved toward giving a tithe to the conference, he said.

The tithe will be calculated on the church's Statistical Table III portion of the annual church report, said Russ Hinshaw, conference treasurer.

"The tithe will be on money received for the church's annual budget or spending plan," he said. "It does not include capital fund expenditures."

The church's normal Sunday offering is defined as pledges, money from identified givers and money from unidentified givers in the offering plate. In addition, any other money from dividends on investments, proceeds from the sale of church property, building-use fees and rentals, and fundraisers that are used for building operations, utilities, maintenance or funding ministries of the church would also be counted as part of the church's operating income.

"In-kind donations of paper for the church office would be counted, but donations of food for the church's food pantry would not," Hinshaw said. "If a portion of the building-use fees are to be transferred to the janitor or a musician, those should also be netted out."

Apportionments then will be based on the most recent statistical report. For 2010, the tithes will be based on the statistics reported at the end of 2008, he said.

Special Askings outside the budget for ministries of the conference will be calculated with the same basic concept. Special Askings total \$440,000. When divided by the 2008 operating income, the allocation level is 0.86 percent. Each church will be allocated less than 1 percent of their operating income for the Special Askings in 2010.

No limits will be placed on the amount any single church can contribute toward the budget. The tithe model will be phased in over several years because of the amount of change some churches would see in a single year if the formula was not phased in. To reach the tithe-model goal, no church will have more than a 10 percent increase or decrease in their apportionment from one year to the next.

Of Possible Interest to You

Update on Bridges to the Future:

I wanted to provide all of you an update about Bridges to the Future. Russ Hinshaw just ran reports for June and we have passed the \$1 million mark in actual cash receipts! We also have 146 churches or individuals who have paid their pledges in full after only one year! Lisa Diehl is preparing a news release about the \$1 million receipts. And the bishop and I are prepared to send "thank you" letters to all who have paid in full.

Gary A. Beach
 Director of Connectional Ministries
 Kansas East Conference
 The United Methodist Church

Cross Cultural Training Event **Open to all clergy, SPRC's, and other lay leadership.**

Removing Barriers of Race, Gender & Culture
 Developing Communities of Mutual Blessing

Prepare your church for creating new vision and practices for living into the beautiful diversity of the kingdom of God.

The United Methodist Church appoints clergy according to their gifts and graces and without regard to race, gender, ethnic origin or color. How do we embrace this in our congregations to receive the many blessings that it brings?

A Sensitivity,
 Awareness, and Action Training
Sunday, August 2, 2009 from
2:00 PM to 5:30 PM
(registration at 1:45 PM)

At

Lowman United Methodist Church, 4000 Drury Lane (15th & Gage), Topeka, KS 785-272-8921
 Registration e-mailed to pastors. You can also e-mail registration information to loislojosw@gmail.com

Five Rivers District Clergy Meeting

September 2nd, 9:00 AM to Noon

Ottawa 1st Fellowship Hall

All clergy are encouraged to attend. Church Conference packets with forms and instructions will be handed out and scheduling for fall will be discussed.

Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.

Rev. Billy Graham

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Aug. 2	Cross Cultural Training Event Sunday, Aug. 2nd, 2-5:30 PM Lowman UMC, 4000 Drury Lane, Topeka, KS. Register with loislojosw@gmail.com
Aug. 4	New District Clergy Meeting 9:00-Noon. Baldwin 1st, 704 8th Street, Baldwin City, KS Library
Aug. 4	L3 Incubator Orientation 1:30-3:30 PM Lowman UMC 4000 Drury Lane (15th & Gage) Topeka, KS
Aug. 10	Worlds and Oceans of Fun with the youth of the Flint Hills District Registration is due Aug. 3rd. Questions? Call or e-mail Kyle Olson 785-776-8821 ext 31 kilson@fumcmanhattan.com
Aug. 16	Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman's Installation Service (open invitation to all) Ottawa 1st United Methodist Church 203 East Fourth Ottawa, KS 66067-2305 2 PM, there will be a short service with refreshments after.
Aug. 23-28	New DS Bootcamp
Aug. 24	L3 Incubator Orientation 1:30-3:30 PM, Wesley UMC in Parsons (Janet Maxwell's group)
Aug. 25	New Pastor Orientation , 9:30 AM-5:00 PM, Kansas East Conference Office
Sept. 7th	Labor Day, District and Conference Offices Closed

Of Possible Interest to You:

Bishop's Round-Up for Hunger, Saturday, November 21, 2009

Douglas County Fairgrounds-Lawrence, Kansas

The Bishop's Round-Up for Hunger is a project of Global Ministries in the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church. We need the following items which are gathered from churches and distributed to those in need within the state and abroad. Box label color in parentheses. NO PLASTIC BAGS, PLEASE.

Critical

Food Commercially Prepared (**green**.) Tape box securely and label with 1/2 sheet of green paper.

No Commodities or Glass Jars

(12 Items per box or case, please)

Please use box size that "Grandma" could carry.

Suggested Items:

Fruit	Corn
Green beans	Macaroni & cheese
Mixed vegetables	Cereal (that kids like)
Tuna	Soup (tomato, chicken noodle)
Peanut butter	Canned meat
1 lb. dried beans	Spaghetti
1 lb. rice	Spaghetti sauce
Crackers	Ramen noodles

When purchasing food items, please purchase regular sizes. Also, remember to purchase foods you and your family like.

The foods listed above are the items that are needed most for food boxes. Case lots are encouraged.

Clergy Birthdays ***August***

Melody Kimbrel	8/23
Harriett Bechtle	8/16
Marti McDougal	8/28

District Prayer Calendar

Aug. 2	Lawrence 1st
Aug. 9	Garnett
Aug. 16	Vinland
Aug. 23	Humboldt-Big Creek
Aug. 30	Lawrence Indian UMC

Five Rivers District

We're on the web at
www.fiveriversdistrict.com

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District Superintendent:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor

Marvé Ralston

For Our Youth



Project Revolution will be here soon

What is **Project Revolution**? It is a **Five Rivers District Youth Rally**.

Last year it was held at Worden UMC with over 70 youth in attendance.

Pictures from last year are on the district website at

www.fiveriversdistrict.com.

This year it will be at Lawrence 1st West Campus.

September 12th from 4:00 PM to September 13th at 11:00 AM

There will be a live band, lots of food and snacks, games, devotions, deep thinking, lots of laughs, new friends and fun in a great environment.

Registration form and medical release to be available online soon.

Youth Lock-in for Bishop's Round-Up-Lawrence 1st UMC

Nov. 20th-21st, 8 p.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Saturday. Contact Brenda Davids for more info. bdavids@kansaseast.org or 316-610-2980 cell.