



Living Water

Please be in prayer about these issues

Connecting Council accepts bishop's recommendation on process

Inside this issue:

<i>District Calendar</i>	2
<i>Clergy Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Ruby Davis ~ Happy Birthday</i>	3
<i>Strategic Implementation Plan</i>	4

June 14, 2014 (notes post Annual Conference)

A resolution to reduce the conference to 14 districts in order to provide greater funding for campus ministries was brought to the floor on Thursday, officially considered on Friday, and referred to the Connecting Council on Saturday.

The Connecting Council met at a special meeting at 8 a.m. in the Lied Center Johnny Carson Theatre on Saturday to hear Bishop Scott Jones' recommendation on how to manage the referral.

His recommendation read:

For Considering the Reduction of Districts and Funding for Campus Ministry

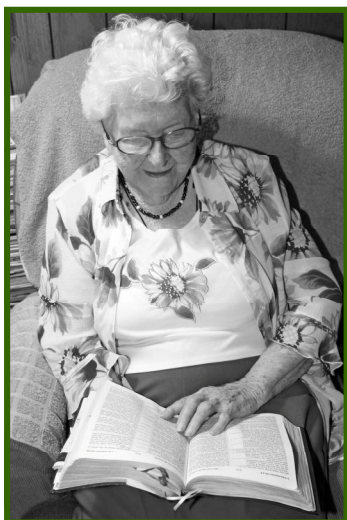
On June 13, the Great Plains Conference referred a resolution and two amendments to the Connecting Council. The Council has been asked to study the matter and bring recommendations to the 2015 session of the GPC. The following is one possibility for how we might handle the referral.

The Connecting Council establishes a District Study Group of no more than 15 persons to be appointed by Bishop Jones. It should study other conferences and the unique history and characteristics of our conference and bring a report to the October meeting of the Connecting Council for discussion. At the very least, the report should consider the following questions:

1. Given our geography, our mission and our priorities, what is the most fruitful way for our conference to organize its districts?
2. What is the best way for district superintendents to serve our mission in the 21st century?
3. How many districts should there be?
4. If we change the number of districts, what are the financial implications?

Regarding the funding of campus ministry, the Campus Ministry Team is charged with completing a draft of their strategic implementation plan for campus ministry in the Great Plains Conference. Their work relates, at least, to the priority of developing spiritual leaders. They should consider what changes are needed to do that well, and what resources are required to accomplish the goals they envision.

Regarding the funding of campus ministry, the Campus Ministry Team is charged with completing a draft of their strategic implementation plan for campus ministry in the Great Plains Conference. Their work relates, at least, to the priority of developing spiritual leaders. They should consider what changes are needed to do that well, and what resources are required to accomplish the goals they envision. (End of recommendation) *See page 4 for Strategic Plan*



Happy Birthday Ruby!

August 2014

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						

Schedule of Events

- Aug. 2nd New Church Lawrence/KU Campus Ministry Barbecue ~ 11 a.m. Centennial Park, East Shelter, 9th street between Iowa and Rockledge
- Aug. 7th District Leadership Team Meeting, Wells-ville UMC, 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 19th, Clergy Meeting Ottawa 1st, 9 a.m. - noon
- August 23, Emergency Response Training is being offered. 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at Wesley UMC in Iola. Registration is \$35 and includes lunch and childcare for those who are pre-registered.
- Aug. 26-Sept. 2nd, District office closed.

August 23, Emergency Response Training is being offered. 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at Wesley UMC in Iola. Registration is \$35 and includes lunch and childcare for those who are pre-registered.

Register by calling Autumn at Iola Wesley 620-365-2285 or iolawesley@gmail.com



District Prayer Calendar

Aug. 3	Worden Changsu Kim
Aug. 10	New Church Lawrence/KU Campus Ministry Jacob Cloud
Aug. 17	Edgerton Bruce Draper
Aug. 24	Ives Chapel Kate Carpenter
Aug. 31	Richter Rev. Lori Stevens

August Clergy Birthdays

Joni Raymond	14th
Kate Carpenter	15th
Bill Driver	16th
Marti McDougal	28th
Changsu Kim	30th

Iola Calvary's Centenarian ~ Ruby Davis By Marvé Ralston

Saturday, July 26th from 2-4 p.m., at the Iola Calvary United Methodist Church, a birthday celebration took place for Ruby Davis. This was no common birthday party; Ruby is their oldest member and was celebrating her 100th.

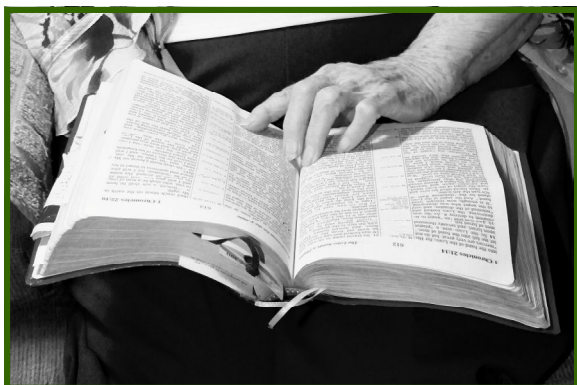
More than 250 family members and friends, were there to help her celebrate and it is easy to see why she is so beloved. Two people from her church sent an e-mail to the district office telling me about this grand event. Although I missed her party due to other obligations, I did get to meet her. She made quite an impression on me that left me smiling and still brings joy as I write this.

Ruby became a member of the Iola Evangelical United Brethren Church (which later merged with the Methodists and became Calvary United Methodist Church), on April 18th, 1954, while Rev. Lyle Roe was the presiding pastor. She transferred from the LaHarpe Baptist church, by way of a letter of recommendation.

She accepted Jesus, and was baptized on Easter Sunday, at the age of 13. It was a very brisk baptism in a nearby creek, with three other young girls. Afterwards she wanted to dry her dress on the clothes line. Her friends reminded her it wasn't proper to hang anything on the clothes line on a Sunday.

Sunday school, Worship and United Methodist Women (UMW) are still a priority for Ruby today. Her friends, Bill and Marjorie Mentzer have been faithful to provide transportation to church events for Ruby. Bill said, "She is always waiting by the door and comes right out, you never have to wait on her."

Ruby replied, "That's the least I can do if someone is good enough to come pick me up. I can be on time."



That said, Ruby just passed her driving test. At 100, Ruby is very proud of the fact that she manages to get her own groceries.

When asked for the secret of her long life, she was at a loss. Her friend Bill was there to remind her of how active she stays. Ruby volunteers with the Blood Bank by calling and lining folks up to participate. She often will make 50-60 calls, and does this 5-6 times a year.

If a pie is needed for a funeral dinner, Ruby is famous for her lemon meringue. Asked to elaborate on how they are made, she doesn't follow a regular recipe. Some quick tips: she uses real lemons; is careful when separating the egg, and makes sure to seal the edges well.

Asked what surprises her most about reaching this age Ruby replied, "To be able to get up every morning and still do what I want to do."

Her pastor at Iola Calvary UMC, is Rev. Gene McIntosh, here is what he had to say about Ruby.

"Ruby is a blessing! She always has a big smile, is full of life – can't believe she is 100 years old. She and Nadine McClain (also a member of Calvary) are "partners in crime." They are humorously ornery together."

Ruby still enjoys reading her bible. She figures she has read it through at least 25 times. It never fails to provide new knowledge. She said that either she forgets what she previously read or understands it differently each time. She always gets something positive out of her daily bible reading time.

The last morsel of wisdom that Ruby gave is; she doesn't worry and takes things one day at a time. That is obvious from the joy she exuberates about her life and the lack of wrinkles on her face. What a pleasure to encounter someone like Ruby Davis in the Five Rivers District. Happy 100th Birthday Ruby!

Five Rivers District

3300 Clinton Parkway Ct, Suite 110
Lawrence, KS 66047-2629
785-841-4804

Website: 5riversds.com

5riversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org



Cultivating Christian Discipleship

The Connecting Council accepted Bishop Jones' recommendation. (news from Annual Conference continued from pg 1)

Strategic Implementation Plan to play role

His recommendation was handed out on a sheet a paper to Council members and then discussed. The group agreed that there are two items for consideration and that they should not be yoked.

The Strategic Implementation process calls for all teams and related groups of the conference to provide a strategic implementation plan for their ministry, by October 2014, and finalized by March 15, 2015. This will enable the conference to see what revenue and expenses each ministry anticipates for 2016 and includes what accountability measures will be employed in order to present the best budget plan possible for 2016. "Caren Loper and team will be looking at what the goals are for campus ministry and consider the places where we do not have currently have campus ministries," he said.

The Council believes that accountability is important because the resources put towards campus ministry in the past did not result in fruitfulness. It was also noted that every ministry of the conference could make a resolution calling for more resources to improve their ministries.

Additionally, members of the Council who have served on previous redistricting efforts noted that reducing districts does not always translate into cost savings. The bishop and others talked about other conferences and the work of consultants that call for an entirely different district approach. Bishop Jones said we would do well to look at what our brothers and sisters in other conferences are doing and learn from that. Connecting Council approved the formation of the District Study Group with members selected by the bishop. He was encouraged to be inclusive in his selection.

Bishop Jones noted that when he was with the young clergy at dinner earlier this week, he appreciated their desire for greater inclusion, their desire for more transparency and engagement in the conference processes. He also made a commitment to communicate the Study Group's activities as widely as possible.

During the Saturday morning plenary Bishop Jones announced the acceptance of his recommendation. He also reminded the body of the Strategic Alignment Team and the strategic implementation planning of the conference, that campus ministries will bring a plan with goals and budgetary needs by March 2015, just like all the other groups in the conference.

He will appoint the 15-member group in the next two weeks.