

Living Water

A Monthly Publication of the Five River District

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By the time that this newsletter reaches you it will be public information that I will be transitioning to become the pastor of College Ave UMC in Manhattan beginning on July 1.

It will also be public information that Rev. David Watson will be coming to serve as the Five Rivers District Superintendent beginning on July 1. There will be more information about these transitions in the future so I will leave it there for now.

The end of 2014 saw the Five Rivers District end with a Mission & Ministry payout of about 79%. I want to thank all of the churches that were able to support the ministry of the Annual conference by paying 100% of their apportionments. My thanks also to those churches that were unable to pay 100%, but who increased their payout over last year. Finances are always a challenge for churches. I understand this from over thirty years of experience as lead pastor in local churches. I also understand how important the paying of the Mission and Ministry support is to the health of the connectional church. The disappointment is that our 79% is down from previous years when our district paid about 84%-86% of its Mission & Ministry shares. This placed us at number fourteen of the seventeen districts in our conference for 2014.

I want to ask the churches of the Five Rivers District to take a look at the Mission & Ministry amount that you have been asked to pay in 2015. This number is based on the reported income of your church in 2013. The Conference uses a tithe formula which means that each church is asked to pay an amount equal to 10% of the reported income for the most recent reporting year. Those of us in the area of the former Kansas East Conference have been using this formula for several years now. The implementation of this formula reduced the amount asked of the vast majority of the churches in the Five Rivers District. The Great Plains Conference adopted the same formula when it came into existence, so we are on very familiar ground.

Here are some challenges which I want to put to the churches of the district:

- Place a priority on paying of the Mission and Ministry shares. Pastors, your leadership is critical in helping make this happen.
- Pay your Mission & Ministry shares regularly throughout the year. Monthly installments is a great way to make this happen.
- Help the folks in your church(es) understand these funds do for the ministry of the United Methodist Church.
- See the possibilities and know that God is with you in this effort to support our connectional church.

Let's give effort to this aspect of our ministry and see how much better we can do in 2015!

Blessings!
Dennis

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Great Plains
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2015 Mileage Rates

- Business .575 per mile
- Charitable .14 per mile
- Medical/Moving .23

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/New-Standard-Mileage-Rates-Now-Available;-Business-Rate-to-Rise-in-2015>

February 2015

| 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 |

District Calendar

Feb. 8th ~ PR Training Event at Kincaid Selma UMC 3:00-5:00 p.m.
 DS led training for PPR Committee and Pastors. Please register with the district office by Feb. 2nd. No cost involved. We need to know for planning purposes.

Feb. 11th-13th ~ Appointive Cabinet DS will be in Wichita.

Feb. 13th-14th ~ Divorce Recovery Conference at Church of the Resurrection, register by Feb. 10th.
 Link below:
www.greatplainsumc.org/eventdetail/721543?month=2&year=2015&day=1&display=m



Feb. 23rd-25th ~ Appointive Cabinet DS will be in Wichita.

March 3rd ~ Clergy Meeting at Ottawa 1st UMC, 9 a.m.—Noon

Prayer Calendar

- Feb. 1 Richter
Rev. Lori Stevens
- Feb.8 Ives Chapel
Rev. Kate Cordes
- Feb.15 Clearfield
Rev. Lane Bailey
- Feb.22 Mapleton
Pastor Connie Edgerton

Clergy Birthdays

- Connie McKee Feb. 3rd
- J C Kelley Feb. 8th
- Kathy Williams Feb. 9th
- Ron Bell Feb. 23rd
- Jacob Cloud Feb. 24th

New Church Lawrence ~ Launch Service February 8th

By Marvé Ralston

Just how much work can launching a new church be? I have had a very small part, but a very good view of what that looks like. Last spring, Dennis Ackerman, Five Rivers DS, and my boss, asked me what I thought of making space in our office for Rev. Jacob Cloud. He was going to begin the ministry of building a new church, by combining KU Campus Ministries with a new church start. This was one way to help them save money and lend support to their efforts.

How could I say no? So we moved our copy room in with our supply room; put an official name tag on his door, moved in a very small desk because he has a very small office, and welcomed him. He officially began July 1st but he was here before then and very excited to get started.

There is so much involved in building a church from the ground up. Jacob spent the first year after his graduation from Saint Paul School of Theology, at Church of the Resurrection. He was given work to do there, but he was also in training for launching a new church. His actual time spent with Adam Hamilton (the senior pastor), author, and extremely successful new church launch pastor, was brief. Jacob was introduced to key players that work with Adam and have perfected his strategies for launching a new church. He traveled and spoke to others who had successfully combined a campus ministry with a local church and are thriving. He had time to prepare mentally, but nothing prepares one for the reality of what work goes into the creation of every facet of a new church launch.

There were some very real things that had to be accomplished right out of the gate. Where were they going to worship? What was that going to look like? What would be needed and what might the finished result of that look like if it was done well? How would they haul all the “stuff” that is needed to worship each week and who would help do this?

After much searching, a place was selected, Hollywood Theatre. They are able to have services there on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. with the ability to see their services grow while staying in the same location.



Some serious help was needed administratively, more than our office had time to give. Dean Manwaring came on board, working several hours a day, toward the end of the summer. He has worked for many years at Eudora UMC and has been a Godsend. He has been instrumental in the ordering process of all the supplies that are needed to begin having services. He is also ongoing support administratively and with communication.

Realizing very quickly, the real need for an events planner for New Church Lawrence, Monique Brigham was hired to work 10-15 hours a week shortly after Dean. She organizes events for New Church Lawrence; everything from bowling, bubble soccer, volunteer opportunities, barbecues, etc. The goal is to build community with KU Campus Ministry and Lawrence laity and “be the church” outside of a building.

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New Church Lawrence Launches, Feb. 8th continued from page 3

New Church Lawrence has had several preview services, as well as a Christmas Eve service to get ready for their launch service on February 8th, 10 a.m. at Hollywood Theatre. Jacob and his team have been working towards this since fall and are fully prepared for the launch service with a nursery, children's church, a fully functioning worship team and band, 9:30 a.m. coffee and fellowship time prior to the service. From our view that is nothing short of amazing. God has been working alongside Jacob and his team to get this all in place, on time.

Of the 45 folks who have volunteered to make worship happen. There are 22 locals and 23 students. It truly takes a team to pull off a mobile worship service.

The whole month of February will begin with a sermon series called, "You Are Irreplaceable." How would our lives look if we lived fully into the reality of that?

By faithfully paying your churches apportionments, you have helped get this ministry up and running. It is something we all should be very proud of.

How can you further join with us to support this new ministry? If you have family or friends in the Lawrence, Kansas area that don't attend a church, invite them to attend worship or one of the ministry events (get on his e-mail list to receive opportunities). Most importantly please keep Jacob Cloud and his family and New Church Lawrence in your prayers.

New Church Lawrence worship service is at Hollywood Theatre, 3433 Iowa Street, Lawrence, KS ~ every week beginning February 8th at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!

Fellowship time with coffee and tea begins at 9:30 a.m. so arrive early if you can.

Pastor Jacob Cloud is on Facebook and can be reached by phone at 785-813-1303 and by e-mail at

Jacob@newchurchlawrence.org