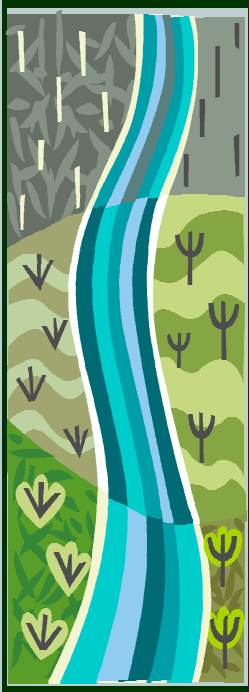


FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT  
OFFICE

Mission Statement:  
Cultivating Christian Growth



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# Living Water

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7

JULY 2009

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

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus!

WOW! Is it July already? It seems like just a couple of weeks ago that Bishop Jones approached me about becoming Superintendent of the Five Rivers District. Now the time has arrived for me to take up the work before me and seek God's guidance as I live into this new phase of ministry.

I am excited about working with the pastors and churches of our district. While the United Methodist Church is facing many struggles (as are many Christian communities), I still believe with all of my heart that the hope of God in Jesus Christ is very real and is available to transform the lives of people and communities. That is what we are about – that is our task and our goal. I see my job as helping us work as a team to accomplish the work that the Holy Spirit has already begun.

Each of us makes a difference where we are and in the lives of the people whom we encounter. But we do not do this work alone. We share in the community of Jesus Christ; hold one another up in prayer, support one another in love, hold each other accountable to seeking excellence in our ministry and balance in our lives. I believe that when one suffers we all suffer, when one celebrates we all celebrate. In the words of one of my favorite television personalities, Red Green: "Remember, I'm pullin' for you, we're all in this together!"

We are all in this together. That is the blessing of Christian community. And I am glad to be in this work with you. I look forward to reconnecting with many old friends and getting to know many new friends. I hope that you will feel free to contact me and find time for visits and discussions. The first thing that we do is connect.

For those who are unfamiliar with my background, I am a lifelong United Methodist. The church of my childhood is in Smithton, Missouri, a small farming town. I have been in the Kansas East Conference for twenty-four years. In my ministry I have served in open country churches, small town churches, a county seat church, on staff at large churches, and been senior pastor of a couple of larger congregations. And I can say that I have enjoyed each of these settings for who they were and what they were called to be and do. I have learned that churches, as well as pastors, are unique and bring special gifts and graces to the experience of ministry.

There is something I need for you to know as I begin. I do not plan to do a lot of preaching in the churches of the district in my first year. My first responsibility is to experience the worship of the local church and the preaching of the pastors. There will be exceptions for special occasions, but generally, this is my plan.

I hope that you can join me at the Installation Service to be held on August 16. It will be a great opportunity for me to meet many of you. Also, please know that I will be away the week of August 23 for District Superintendent boot camp. I am hoping that they don't make us march!

Well, here we go! May God bless us as we attempt to be involved in what God wants to see happen in the Five Rivers District.

In Christ, Dennis

## Safe and Sacred Space Training Offered

All the United Methodist Churches in our Conference have been encouraged to adopt a *Policy For The Protection Of Children, Youth; And Adults With Developmental Disabilities*. Each church holds a church or charge conference and adopts a policy which requires training to certify all adults and youth over the age of 18 to work with children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities. For more information; look on our website at [www.fiveriversdistrict.com](http://www.fiveriversdistrict.com).

Training offered in Five Rivers District:

Wednesday, July 1st

Baldwin 1st UMC  
Meet in the Fellowship Hall  
704 8th Street  
Baldwin City, KS

7:00 PM

Registrants may contact Shelly by e-mail or home phone 785-594-2921. Participants need to bring paperwork (download at [www.kansaseast.org](http://www.kansaseast.org) search Safe and Sacred Space) and 20.00.



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Wednesday, July 1st

LaCygne UMC  
4th & Chestnut  
LaCygne, KS

7:00 PM

Registrants may contact Susie Green at 913-636-6853 or 913-757-3347. Participants need to bring paperwork (download at [www.kansaseast.org](http://www.kansaseast.org) search Safe and Sacred Space) and 20.00.

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Saturday, July 11th

Osawatomie UMC  
504 Pacific  
Osawatomie, KS

9-12 Noon

Registrants may contact Gary and Sharon Gooding at 913-755-4774. Participants need to bring paperwork (download at [www.kansaseast.org](http://www.kansaseast.org) search Safe and Sacred Space) and 20.00.



## ***Of Possible Interest to You:***

**Kansas West issues 'Get Healthy Walk Challenge' to Kansas East**

**Written:** 6/11/2009 Taken from the Kansas East Conference Website at [www.kansaseast.org](http://www.kansaseast.org)

SALINA—A walking challenge has been issued between the Kansas East and West conferences. The challenge begins July 1 and ends Oct. 31 and is open to all clergy and laity in the conferences.

Participants may keep log their steps or miles by using a pedometer or treadmill or by keeping track of time spent doing moderate-intensity exercise, such as jogging, bicycling, doing yard work, swimming or doing housework. Fifteen minutes of moderate-intensity exercise counts as one mile.

Participants will walk in increments of six weeks and may participate during any six-week period during the challenge or complete the entire challenge.

Kansas East and West miles will be tallied and a winner will be announced at the 2010 Annual Conference sessions. The winner will be recognized with a banner. A certificate of participation will be awarded to each participating congregation.

To register and to record miles, go to the America on the Move website.

The instructions for registration are:

Go to <http://aom2.americaonthemove.org>.

Click on "Individuals."

Click on "Get involved today."

Select which description is most accurate:

I am an individual who is interested in my health and wellness.

I am a health care professional.

Click on "Join a group."

Enter registration code RKS149219. The Kansas West Conference group is "KSEUMC."

Fill in personal information and follow the prompts. All personal information is confidential.

Confirm the information and exit. An e-mail confirmation and tools to record progress will be sent.

For more information, contact Pam Harris at [pamharrismd@pol.net](mailto:pamharrismd@pol.net).

# July 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	

July 4th **Independence Day**

July 6th District Office Closed for observed July 4th holiday

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@fumcmannhattan.com

Aug. 16 Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman's Installation Service  
Ottawa 1st United Methodist Church  
203 East Fourth  
Ottawa, KS 66067-2305  
2-4 PM

## **Of Possible Interest to You:**

### **Mission trip insurance change announced**

Effective June 21, 2009, trip insurance for international mission trips will no longer cost an extra fee but will be covered under our group property/liability policy.

However, to be covered, the trip leader must contact Kay Inman 10 days prior to departure by completing the application/roster form available online at [www.kansaseast.org](http://www.kansaseast.org). Search for "VIM insurance." Or go to the International Trip Insurance section at [www.kansaseast.org/page.asp?PKValue=514](http://www.kansaseast.org/page.asp?PKValue=514). A coverage confirmation letter and insurance cards for each participant to carry must be issued prior to the trip.

If you have questions, please call Kay Inman at 877-972-9111 (toll free).

### **Self-care workshop**

The United Methodist Health Ministry Fund is sponsoring free workshops on professional self-care for Kansas United Methodist clergy, clergy spouses and church staff.

Led by trained professionals and church leaders, the workshops will provide a structured opportunity for individuals to examine their health choices in the areas of mental/emotional, physical, social and spiritual.

Upcoming workshop:

- July 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at First UMC in Topeka  
Pre-registration is required and can be completed online at [www.healthfund.org/selfcare.php](http://www.healthfund.org/selfcare.php) or download the brochure and registration form that can be faxed or mailed.

For more information, call Judy Johnston at 316-293-1861.

Visit the conference calendar at [www.kansaseast.org/calendar.asp](http://www.kansaseast.org/calendar.asp) for additional events.

## **Clergy Birthdays**

### **July**

Karen Jeffcoat	July 6th
Bill Nelson	July 13th
Joel Dunn	July 19th

## **District Prayer Calendar**

July 5th	Ottawa 1st
July 12th	Camp Chippewa
July 19th	Colony, Kincaid/Selma
July 26th	Ottawa: Trinity

## **Five Rivers District**

**We're on the web at**  
[www.fiveriversdistrict.com](http://www.fiveriversdistrict.com)

The United Methodist Church

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Kansas Bishop:

Dr. Rev. Scott Jones

District Superintendent:

Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Administrative Assistant, Newsletter editor

Marvé Ralston

## **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](mailto:loislojosw@gmail.com)