

Living Water

a quarterly newsletter for

Volume 15, Issue 2
June, July, August 2018

Five Rivers District

There are a few questions that seem to come up every year around this time of year. In our last newsletter, I added a piece from our Cabinet and Bishop about how appointments are determined. You can find that piece here.

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/newsdetail/bishop-cabinet-share-insights-of-making-appointments-11010839>

A little bit more UMC education. Below is a definition of The Book of Discipline, Cabinet, Ordination, Elders, and Licensed Pastors.

Source: Sharing God's Gifts Glossary of United Methodist Terms

Cabinet – This is made up of the bishop and district superintendents in the Annual Conference. They work to form the appointments throughout the conference, which are then fixed by the bishop.

The Book of Discipline – The fundamental book outlining the law, doctrine, administration, and organizational work and procedures for The United Methodist Church. Each General Conference amends The Book of Discipline, and the actions of the General Conference are reflected in the quadrennial revision. Often referred to as *The Discipline*.

Ordination – The act of conferring ministerial orders. Ordination is performed by the bishop. The central portion of the ceremony is the words granting the authority of the order of deacon or elder and the laying on of hands by the bishop and others on the person being ordained. Through ordination The United Methodist Church grants the person the approval of the denomination to serve as an ordained minister, and the authority to carry out those acts specifically reserved to the clergy.

Elder – A person ordained to a lifetime ministry of service, word, sacrament and order. He or she is authorized to preach and teach God's word, to administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, and to order the life of the church for mission and ministry.

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Bishop:

Ruben Saenz, Jr.

District Superintendent:

Rev. David Watson

Administrative Assistant/Newsletter Editor

Marvé Ralston

District Calendar:

- June 7th District Council on Youth Ministry D.C.Y.M.
Baldwin 1st UMC 6:30 p.m.
- June 12th Cabinet: DS is in Wichita
- June 13th District Office is closed
- June 13th-16th Annual Conference in Wichita, DS is in Wichita
- June 18-22 DS is on renewal leave, Rev. Kay Scarbrough is on call
Topeka District Office - (785) 272-9111
- June 25-July 15 DS is on renewal leave, Rev. Claudia Bakely is on call
Flint Hill District Office - (785) 776-7730
- July 2 1st Sunday for new appointments
- July 2-6 District office closed
- July 16-31 DS is on renewal leave, Rev. Mitch Reece is on call
Wichita East and West District Office—(316) 684-6652
- Aug. 1-15 DS is on renewal leave, Rev. Kay Scarbrough is on call
Topeka District Office—(785) 272-9111
- Aug. 12 ***Rush of Fools*** concert, Burlington UMC sponsored concert
Tickets \$10 and \$20, Burlington High school, 7 p.m.
Call 620.364.9232 Richard Croll if interested, tickets limited.
- Aug. 18 ***Non-denominational Networking event***, Osawatometie UMC, 504 Pacific Ave., Osawatometie, KS 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Includes a short Gospel Concert and homemade ice cream. There will be speakers on mental health, food scarcity and resources, elder care, human/sex trafficking.
3.75 contact hours (CEU's) available. Please RSV to:
Rev. Marti McDougal dsualum@hotmail.com or 913-755-4774
- Sept. 8-9 Project Revolution, Lawrence 1st (West Campus)
- Sept. 11 Clergy Meeting, Ottawa First UMC, 9 a.m. to noon
- Sept. 22 Network Leaders training event, Ottawa 1st, 9-noon
- Oct. 28 Church Conference at Fort Scott 1st 2 p.m.—4 p.m.**
Fort Scott 1st, St.Johns-Hammond-West Liberty, Uniontown-Redfield, Hiattville, Mapleton-Fulton, Moran-Bronson, Mound City-Blue Mound, Iola: Wesley, Iola: Calvary, Salem, Colony, Mildred-Elsmore, Kincaid Selma-Welda, Garnett-Greeley, Humboldt-Big Creek, Louisburg, Paola, Plum Creek, Osawatometie-Lane, Parker-Beagle-Fontana, LaCygne-New Lancaster, Pleasanton-Prescott **All paperwork must be approved at church council before the meeting.**
- Nov. 4 Church Conference at Lawrence West Campus 2 p.m.-4 p.m.**
Lawrence 1st, Centenary-Eudora, Linwood, Central, Wellsville-Clearfield, Vinland, Baldwin 1st, Ives Chapel-Edgerton, Worden, Overbrook, Richmond-Princeton, Ottawa 1st, Michigan Valley, Vassar-Pomona-Quenemo, Trinity-Richter, Lyndon, Union Chapel-Williamsburg, Burlington, Gridley-Turkey Creek, Waverly-Prairie View-Melvern, Yates Center-Neosho Falls
All paperwork must be approved at church council before the meeting.

Licensed Pastors – A licensed pastor, annually approved by the district committee on ordained ministry, who is authorized to perform all duties of an ordained minister, including the sacraments, while assigned to a particular charge under the supervision of a district superintendent. A clergy mentor oversees the local pastor's work in the course of study for ordained ministry and advises on matters of pastoral responsibility.

Here is what The Book of Discipline says about the leadership of our clergy.

¶340 Responsibilities and Duties of Elders and Licensed Pastors

The responsibilities of elders are derived from the authority given in ordination. Elders have a fourfold ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service and thus serve in the local church and in extension ministries in witness and service of Christ's love and justice. Elders are authorized to preach and teach the Word, to provide pastoral care and counsel, to administer the sacraments, and to order the life of the church for service in mission and ministry as pastors, superintendents, and bishops.

Licensed pastors share with the elders the responsibilities and duties of a pastor for his fourfold ministry, within the contest of their appointment.

Word and ecclesial acts:

To preach the Word of God, lead in worship, read and teach the Scripture, and engage the people in study and witness.

To ensure faithful transmission of the Christian faith.

To lead people to discipleship and evangelistic outreach that others might come to know Christ and follow him.

To counsel persons with personal, ethical, or spiritual struggles.

To perform the ecclesial acts of marriage and burial.

To perform the marriage ceremony after due counsel with the parties involved and in accordance with the laws of the state and the rules of The United Methodist Church. The decision to perform the ceremony shall be the right and responsibility of the pastor.

To conduct funeral and memorial services and provide care and grief counseling.

To visit in the homes of the church and the community, especially among the sick, aged, imprisoned, and others in need.

To maintain all confidences inviolate including confessional confidences except in the cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, or in cases where mandatory reporting is required by civil law.

Sacrament:

To administer the sacraments of baptism and the Supper of the Lord according to Christ's ordinance.

To prepare the parents and sponsors before baptizing infants or children, and instruct them concerning the significance of baptism and their responsibilities for the Christian training of the baptized child.

To encourage reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant and renewal of baptismal vows at different stages of life.

To encourage people baptized in infancy or early childhood to make their profession of faith, after instruction, so that they might become professing members of the church.

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To explain the meaning of the Lord's Supper and to encourage regular participation as a means of grace to grow in faith and holiness.

To select and train deacons and lay members to serve the consecrated communion elements.

To encourage the private and congregational use of the other means of grace.

Order:

To be the administrative officer of the local church and to assure that the organizational concerns of the congregation are adequately provided for.

To give pastoral support, guidance, and training to the lay leadership, equipping them to fulfill the ministry to which they are called.

To give oversight to the educational program of the church and encourage the use of the United Methodist literature and media.

To be responsible for organizational faithfulness, goal setting, planning and evaluation.

To search out and counsel men and women for the ministry of deacons, elders, local pastors, and other church related ministries.

To administer the temporal affairs of the church in their appointment, the annual conference, and the general Church.

To administer the provisions of the Discipline.

To give an account of their pastoral ministries to the charge and annual conference according to the prescribed forms.

To provide leadership for the funding ministry of the congregations. To ensure membership care including compliance with charitable giving documentation requirements and to provide appropriate pastoral care, the pastor, in cooperation with the financial secretary, shall have access to and responsibility for professional stewardship of congregational giving records.

To model and promote faithful financial stewardship and to encourage giving as a spiritual discipline by teaching the biblical principles of giving.

To lead the congregation in the fulfillment of its mission through full and faithful payment of all apportioned ministerial support, administrative and, benevolent funds.

To care for all church records and local church financial obligations and certify the accuracy of all financial membership, and any other reports submitted by the local church to the annual conference for use in apportioning costs back to the church.

To participate in denominational and conference programs and training opportunities.

To seek out opportunities for cooperative ministries with other United Methodist pastors and churches.

To be willing to assume supervisory responsibilities within the connection.

To lead the congregation in racial and ethnic inclusiveness.

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Service:

- To embody the teachings of Jesus in servant ministries and servant leadership.
- To give diligent pastoral leadership in ordering the life of the congregation for discipleship in the world.
- To build the body of Christ as a caring and giving community, extending the ministry of Christ to the world.
- To participate in community, ecumenical, and interreligious concerns and to encourage the people to become so involved and to pray and labor for the unity of the Christian community.

That is a lot of responsibility. At the very minimum we should be praying for our pastor and their family daily! It is our responsibility to see how we can share the load, and work alongside our clergy, when possible. Our office hears good news weekly that this is happening! **Next newsletter we will talk about Certified Lay Ministers, District Superintendent Assignments and Lay Servants.**

KU Wesley ~ [\(Sending students to KU this fall?\)](#)

Wesley KU is the campus ministry serving students at the University of Kansas. We would like to highlight a handful of ways you and your congregation can support us. First, please let us know if you have incoming or current KU students – we want to be sure we welcome them to campus and share information about the ministry! (This fall, we will be welcoming freshmen with gift bags, a move-in day meal, a BBQ, and more.) We also love to meet with students when they come for campus visits. Second, we can always use donations of non-perishable, easily prepared food items for our food pantry, or for our general ministry supplies. *KU officials estimate that at least 54 percent of KU students are food insecure.*

A few suggestions include:

Food Pantry:

Peanut Butter
Ramen
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Cup-of-Noodles
Canned Soup
Canned Veggies / Fruit
Canned Beans
Microwave Popcorn
Peanut Butter Crackers
Capri Sun
Easy Mac
Pudding / Jello Cups
Kind Bars

Granola Bars

General Ministry Supplies:

Lemonade Mix
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Napkins
Kleenex Tissues
Bottled Water (for ministry outings)
Hand Soap
Tealight Candles

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Third, please join our Alumni & Friends list to receive periodic newsletters about Wesley KU (about twice per year). Fourth, if you or someone you know is a KU alumni and part of UM campus ministry at KU, we want to hear from you! We are also working to identify alumni who are current or retired clergy. Finally, we always need your prayers! Please add Wesley KU, the student leaders, and campus minister to your prayer list. Please contact Campus Minister Susan Mercer at smercer@ku.edu to share student information or for other questions.

Blessings and thanks,
Susan

Susan Mercer
Wesley KU Campus Minister

Bishop Ruben Saenz will be holding Town Hall meetings throughout the Great Plains Conference. Five Rivers District Town Hall meeting, which is open to all United Methodist Clergy and Laity, will be held on: Saturday, Nov. 17th

GPUMC TOWN HALL MEETING

Saturday, Nov. 17th, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Lawrence 1st (West Campus)

Address of meeting: 867 W. Hwy 40,
Lawrence, KS 66049

Refreshments will be served



Please plan to join Bishop Saenz for an informational discussion regarding the Great Plains Conference, The Way Forward, 2019 General Conference and so much more.

If you have questions regarding the event or specific questions you'd like to get answered please send them to Marvé at the 5 Rivers district office and she will make sure they get personally sent to Bishop Saenz so he can be prepared with the best and most complete possible answer. Send questions to 5riversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org.

Looking for help with church finances? Check out the GP website. Your church apportionments are listed, as well as many treasurer and finance chair resources.

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/churchtreasurerresources>

Need help with trustee resources?

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/churchtrusteerresources>

Leadership resources?

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/churchcouncilandleaderresources>

District Council on Youth Ministry

New 2018-19 Officers

Planning Project Revolution 2018, Sept. 8-9th ~ Prayer requested!



Kaitlyn Fisher—Secretary, Kaitlyn Caldwell —Chaplain, Isaac Caldwell—President, Paige Ellis - Vice Pres.

Our leadership





PO Box 556

Baldwin City, KS 66006-0556

The Five Rivers District Office moved 3.22.18

Our new mailing address:

Five Rivers District, PO Box 556, Baldwin City, KS 66006-0556

Our phone will stay the same 785-841-4804 and fax 785-841-4820

Our physical address is in the downstairs of Baldwin 1st UMC, come in the east door, 1st door on the right (by the elevator). The physical address is 704 8th Street, Baldwin City, KS 66006.

The hours have changed slightly. They will be 8:00 a.m. to noon, closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch, 1 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

You can still reach the DS directly through his email address, 5riversds@greatplainsumc.org

Please direct all administrative issues and questions through our office email at 5riversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org or call.

Our District Superintendent is also Parson's District DS and frequently traveling between us both or to Cabinet meetings.

We are here to support the local church. Please let us know if you need our support or help. Stop by if you are in the area.