

# LIVING WATER



## FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

It is March! I am looking forward to looking through goals and actions that are coming out of the Vital Congregations process which has been going on in many churches. Please make sure that this information is entered on-line and that the information is also shared with my office.

It is important for me to say again that the Vital Congregations process is about the ministry of the local church and effectiveness in making disciples of Jesus Christ. My hope for the process is that churches will grow in their understanding of their ministry area and the possibilities that lie within the resources and strengths of each church.

The questions of the Vital Congregations Guide are very important to the life of any church. Knowing the ministry area, the needs and hopes of the people in it, and what is going on in the community that may impact ministry is critical. Knowing the resources and strengths of the church and how these intersect with the community are also critical. Out of this process comes vision for ministry and hope for activity that will reach people for Christ.

While we are asking for churches to report the goals and smart actions that have been developed at this point in time, I know that the power of such a process is that it is ongoing. Keeping an eye on the dynamics of the community and the resources and strengths of the congregation are never ending. As the old saying goes, "You can never cross the same river twice." The ebb and flow of the community and church need to be reconsidered with regularity. Developing an understanding that ministry is an active reality is crucial to the success of reaching people. As the needs change so does the church's response to the needs.

May God bless us in our attempts to be faithful to reach people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. As always, I am grateful for the ministry of the churches and pastors of the Five Rivers District!

In Christ,

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### Looking Ahead

- Next Clergy Meeting  
April 12th at Ottawa 1st  
9:00 a.m. to Noon
- Annual Conference  
June 6-9th

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

# March 2012

March 7-9  
Cabinet DS in Wichita

March 15-16  
Cabinet DS in Wichita

March 20-21  
Cabinet DS in Wichita

March 24  
District Committee on Ministry  
Wellsville UMC 8:30–3:30 p.m.

March 27-28  
Cabinet DS in Wichita

March 27th  
District Office Closed for PAUMCS Event

**April 12th Clergy Meeting**  
**Ottawa 1st 9:00–Noon**

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

## March District Prayer Calendar

Mar. 4 Ives Chapel, Richter  
Pastor Jacob Cloud

Mar. 11 Neosho Falls, Yates  
Center  
Rev. Russell Anderson

Mar. 18 Wesley KU Ministry  
Rev. Kara Eidson

Mar. 25 Worden  
Pastor Bud Tuxhorn

## Clergy Birthdays

March 2nd Barbara Clinger

March 13th Pat Buss

March 21st Donna Voteau

March 21st Beth Hodgson

March 23rd Jim Hopwood

March 25th Charles Russell

March 31st Jada Hodgson

## Of Possible Interest

### Quadrennial Clergy Sexual Ethics Training - Hutchinson

All clergy under appointment in the Kansas East and Kansas West Conferences are required to participate in one of these events as voted at clergy sessions of both conferences in 2007. Topics will include the lay harassment of clergy policy, Facebook and other social media, and a review of conference policies.

Registration is **NOT** required. Simply be present the day of the training.

Below is a list of other available training dates:

- March 22, 2012, Emporia First UMC
- March 26, 2012, at Oakley UMC
- May 5, 2012, at Wichita Aldersgate UMC
- May 16, 2012, at Olathe Grace UMC

Training will be from 1:00–4:30 p.m.

Hutchinson Faith United Methodist Church, 820 E 30th, Hutchinson, KS

## Taking Charge webinar - Rip a Hole in the Roof...understanding and working with the rural poor

**March 11, 2012 , 4:00–5:00 p.m.**

The theme for the second series of Taking Charge webinars is “Rip a Hole in the Roof,” in reference to the passage about the paralytic and the enthusiasm of his friends who were willing to rip a hole in the roof so he could meet Jesus.

The purpose of the webinars is helping the leaders and members of small-membership churches grow and reach out. The webinars can be watched by one person, but they are most effective when the whole church or at least the church’s key leaders participate.

This is the fourth, in a series of four, free webinars to be offered:

**Rip a Hole in the Roof...understanding and working with the rural poor with Rev. Mark Crist and Lonnie Bailey**

Each one-hour webinar is designed to stand on its own and to help you discover God’s vision for your church.

Participating churches will receive help and “next steps” to guide them following the webinar. Presenters will be available through e-mail after the webinar to help if you have additional questions.

Register online for this free webinar on the KE website. Registration deadline is March 7, 2012. If a group from your church wishes to attend the webinar in person, contact Rev. Carl Ellis at [cellis@kswestumc.org](mailto:cellis@kswestumc.org). or call 785-827-5541-1315

[http://www.kansaseast.org/events/detail\\_ke/3932](http://www.kansaseast.org/events/detail_ke/3932)

The ***Fab Five Fall Festival & Fellowship*** is coming... This Fall

***Details Soon!***

Safe and Sacred Certification  
Training Dates:

Vinland UMC  
1724 N 692 Rd  
Baldwin City, KS  
**March 10th 10-2 p.m.**  
Please print all paperwork from the KE website and bring it filled out along with your check for 30.00  
Trainer Christine Yoder

Michigan Valley  
21205 S Michigan Rd  
Michigan Valley, KS  
**March 31st 2 PM**  
Please print all paperwork from the KE website and bring it filled out along with your check for 30.00  
Trainer Kathy Symes

For more information and how to donate to the Haiti Disaster Advance

visit <http://www.advancinghope.org>

There are several Advances that are specific for Haiti. The Advance that is set up for Haiti's Emergency Advance is #418325

Checks may be sent to KE Conference with the Advance # in the memo or to UMCOR directly.

All money received from this Advances goes directly to the cause. See page 6 to learn about One Great Hour of Sharing that makes this possible.

*Rev. Jim Gulley was one of the Haiti earthquake survivors of 2010.*

*Read more on this link*

*[http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=5636](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5636)*

## ***Sustainable Development in Haiti***

By Marvé Ralston

Rev. Jim Gulley gave a workshop which focused on “sustainable development” in Haiti at the Global Missions Experience at Grace United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Gulley is a consultant to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in agriculture and community development. Gulley's contribution might be small, might be like a drop in the bucket, we need every drop that can be put in place in order to make the transformation of Haiti what it has to be and needs to be for the people of Haiti.

As of 2012, 520,000 Haitians are still living in camps. Gulley shared pictures of homes that were built in Coreil a resettlement camp with 100,000 people living in the camp or nearby. The pictures of the transitional homes which Gulley shared, show flowers and gardens already flourishing where Haitians are now living. UMCOR and the Methodist Church of Haiti (EMH) are in the process of building 40 new homes which cost 12,000 each. Two builders are using aerated concrete which has half the weight, and Styrofoam forms, respectively.

Some of the goals in working with the Haitian people are to promote using local labor and materials when possible. They are working to train Haitians to repair, maintain and replicate what is there. Education and new earthquake resistant building methods are being taught.

Obstacles to development and advancement seem to be: land tenure issues and getting local participants to take ownership; changing the processes that are currently being used and trying new things. They are working on investing for the future versus mere subsistence.

Projects are in place which include the practice of making “gift loans”, where families are given seeds, tools, fertilizer and livestock and are asked to “pass on the gift” to other community members. The gift is a loan until you pass it on.

UMCOR and EMH focus is learning to “walk with the people of Haiti for however long it takes.” The goal is to listen to what is needed longer-term development, rather than just focusing on immediate relief.

They face challenges of farming where 80% of the land is on a 20% slope. Most land is over exploited leading to deforestation and subsistence living. The current crops grown locally are corn, beans and some rice, as well as plantain banana, sweet potato and cassava. Haiti currently imports 80% of their rice, the majority from the US. Their postharvest losses are at 35%.

There is great need for water management in a country where “water is often not where you need or want it,” said Gulley. They are looking at crops that survive hurricanes. Two crops with great commercial potential are mangos and cocoa.

The Methodist Church of Haiti currently has 156 local congregations, 105 schools and 10 medical clinics. That said, 80% of all Haitians live in poverty, 54% live in abject poverty and 40% are undernourished.

New results are needed and the push is for activities and help to be demand driven not supply. Moving beyond relief efforts to development assistance take a lot of hard work from both sides. That is what sustainable development is about.

50/50 partnership is expected with local participation from the beginning. Haitians have their own vision of their future. We must respect that. We “share a dream”. “We don’t want a reflection of our society but are working to realize the kingdom of God’s”, stated Gulley.



***Rev. James Gulley  
Consultant to UMCOR  
on Agriculture and  
Development in Haiti***





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*Cultivating Christian  
Discipleship*

Kansas Bishop: Scott Jones

District Superintendent:  
Rev. Dr. Dennis Ackerman

Administrative Assistant,  
Newsletter Editor: Marvé Ralston

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## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

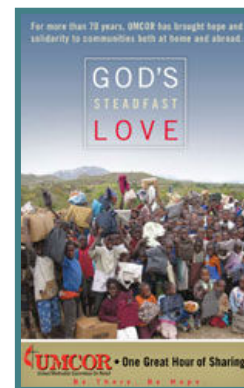
Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** lay the foundation for UMCOR to manifest God's steadfast love throughout the world. Please give generously.

To read additional stories of lives changed by your gifts and for more information go to this link:  
[http://www.umciving.org/site/c.qwL6KkNWLrH/b.3833841/k.5891/One\\_Great\\_Hour\\_of\\_Sharing\\_\\_Overview.htm](http://www.umciving.org/site/c.qwL6KkNWLrH/b.3833841/k.5891/One_Great_Hour_of_Sharing__Overview.htm)

March 18th but can be celebrated at any time.

**To send donations by check, mail to:**

GCFA  
P.O. Box 340029  
Nashville, TN 37203



**NOTE:** List the name of the Sunday in the note section of your check.