

# LIVINGWATER

**A Bi-Monthly Publication**

**March/April 2016**

From Your DS

IT WAS GREAT TO BE IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA RECENTLY with clergy colleagues at Orders and Fellowship. It's sort of like Annual Conference, but just for clergy. Gives us licensed and ordained folks a chance to touch base mid-year and do a little learning, a little fellowshipin' (I think that's a verb), and a little "letting our hair down" time. And since most of us are pretty short-haired people, it never gets too far out of hand.

I was fascinated by Bishop Janice Huie's presentation and paper "A New Paradigm for Clergy Leadership". Particularly, these words have stayed with me:

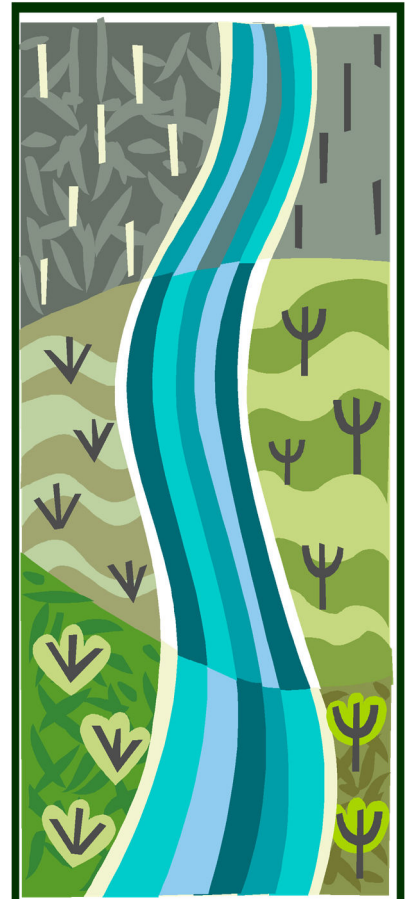
Given today's realities, the UMC needs only pastors who have the capacity to turn around existing congregations and/or start new congregations that re-seed the church for the future. The time is right to re-direct at least a portion of existing financial assets and to develop new funding streams to recruit, equip and support gifted, young, diverse clergy. The time is right to move away from tedious processes and encourage young entrepreneurs who are ready to engage in ministry now. The time is right to move from a preferential option for "more of the same" and to connect with a new world.

I think we all understand what "today's realities" are—both in the church and in the world. The question is: Are we willing to do the "re-directing of resources" which she suggests to confront those realities and "re-seed the church for the future"? I completely agree that "the time is right". I worry sometimes, that the time may be quickly passing.

But for the time being, I'm going to remain hopeful! For I am a hopeful pragmatist! I'm willing to do what is necessary—and what will work—in order to re-seed the church for the future. I hope you are, too.

Rev. David Watson

District Superintendent



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- Clergy Scholarships
- Opportunity for Growth
- Laity Leadership
- UMC Studies School

## March 2016

## April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	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		

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

### Events March and April

March 1 Great Plains churches asked to take part in March 1st Prayer Vigil

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/newsdetail/great-plains-churches-asked-to-take-part-in-march-1-prayer-vigil-3852116>

March 2-3 Appointive Cabinet, DS is in Wichita

March 7 District Leadership Team Meeting

March 10 Webinar about how to welcome refugees (see page 3)

March 13 Fort Scott: First celebrates their 150th anniversary, worship at 10:30 a.m. 301 S National. Catered lunch after for those that have signed up by **March 1st**. [secretary@firstumcfsks.org](mailto:secretary@firstumcfsks.org), 620-223-1950

March 15-18 Appointive Cabinet DS is in Topeka

March 25 Good Friday

March 26 Potato Drop, Susanna Wesley UMC, 7433 SW 29th St, Topeka, KS 9:00 am to noon For more Information, contact Chris Nord 785-554-6130 or e-mail [chris@swumc.org](mailto:chris@swumc.org). Needed: pickup trucks to transport, donations, refreshments and servers, workers.

March 27 Easter Sunday

March 28-31 Appointive Cabinet DS is in Wichita

April 2 Webcast/Discussion about General Conference (more info on the GP website)

### Learning webinar about the general church's meeting May 10-20th in Portland, OR

April 11-13 Appointive Cabinet, DS is in Wichita

April 14-16 PAUMCS National Conference in Wichita, KS (District Office Closed April 11th-15)

April 25-28 Appointive Cabinet, DS in Wichita





## **5R Prayer Calendar**

Mar. 6	Ottawa: Trinity/Richter	~ Rev. Lori Stevens
Mar. 13	Plum Creek/Princeton	~ CLM Jada Hodgson
Mar. 20	Melvern/Quenemo	~ Rev. Daekyung Kim
Mar. 27	Wellsville/Clearfield	~ Rev. Kathy Symes
April 3	Centenary/Linwood	~ Rev. Dan Norwood
April 10	Pleasanton/Prescott	~ Rev. Bill Fitzgerrel
April 17	Welda/Kincaid Selma	~ Rev. Bill Nelson
April 24	Parker/Beagle/Fontana	~ Rev. Darlene Sheffer

Praying for God's Will, to be done God's Way, and in God's Time.

### **Join the Prayer Community for the United Methodist Church and the 2016 General Conference**

This movement serves as a response to the most important request recorded in scripture, "Lord, teach us to pray."

<http://60daysofprayer.org/>

### **Webinar to help you welcome refugees**

Thursday, March 10, 2016

A webinar is planned to introduce and invite churches in the Great Plains Annual Conference to become a "Welcome Place" for refugees who settle in our communities. Not sure where to begin or what to do? This webinar will get you started.

Gather your missions and/or outreach ministry teams together to watch together! The livestream will be 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10. Watch it by going to the conference's website.

For more information on this webinar and/or how to get your church involved in becoming a Welcome Place for Refugees contact Rev. Tapley at [htapley@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:htapley@greatplainsumc.org)



## Scholarships Available:

### Pass the Torch Scholarship/Loan

Available for Course of Study, Part Time Seminary Student or Full Time Seminary Student

The Pass the Torch Scholarship/Loans have been provided since 1991 by the Retired Ministers and Spouses of the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church. This endeavor is now in process of being incorporated into the ministry of the Great Plains Conference.

Maximum scholarship for Course of Study and Part Time Seminary is 300.00 per year.

Maximum scholarship for Full Time Seminary Student is 1,000.

[www.greatplainsumc.org/scholarships](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/scholarships)

**Deadline is April 1st, 2016**

### The Reverend Paul F Holmes Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Reverend Paul F. Holmes Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1994 with the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation to provide continuing education scholarship for clergy members of the former Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church for the purpose of enabling intensive study of longer than usual duration, such as sabbatical leaves and major continuing educational experiences. The Rev. Paul F. Holmes Memorial Scholarship fund has been amended so that clergy members of the Great Plains Conference of the UMC may qualify.

Scholarships up to 10,000 may be awarded to an approved applicant, subject to availability of funds.

Requirements: Eligible clergy members shall be those persons as defined in the Book of Discipline (§602.1, The Book of Discipline, 2012) who are members of the Great Plains Conference of the UMC.

Eligible applicants must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for a scholarship.

1. Applicant must be involved in an educational study for personal professional development and/or spiritual formation and growth, other than a degree completion program.
2. Applicant must be taking a sabbatical leave pursuant to the provisions of the Book of Discipline (§352, The Book of Discipline, 2012) to engage in an educational study or program for professional development.
3. Applicant must be taking a one-month or longer leave for continuing education and spiritual growth program pursuant to the provisions of The Book of Discipline (§351.2, The Book of Discipline, 2012).
4. Applicant must be taking a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months pursuant to the provisions of The Book of Discipline (§351.3, The Book of Discipline, 2012).

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/holmesmemorialscholarship>

## Are you being called into ministry in your local church?

Each year before Church Conferences, a report is sent out to pastors that lists laity in leadership positions. We request addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. The reason for that is communication with both the conference and the district.

Are you being called to serve in your local church in some capacity? There is a place for everyone to serve. Maybe you are called to do something like lead your church as a Disaster Response Coordinator, Health and Wellness Liaison, Historian /Archivist, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry or Young Adult Ministry are just a few of the offices needed.

When I receive the forms back, many of the offices are not filled. I wonder if folks are not stepping up because they are waiting to be asked. We are called to find where we are needed and step up to the plate and serve. If there is someone in your church that has been in one of the offices of the church and it's something you are interested in, shadow them and offer to help. They might be ready to try something new but scared that no one can take their place. That makes for a smooth transition. This is most important with Treasurer, Lay Leader, PPR Chair, and Church Council Chair .

A common thing I hear is, "we can't fill out the year end statistical reports for our church because \_\_\_\_\_ is in the hospital, recovering from illness, on vacation, etc. Maybe you are called to be a backup person. There should be two folks who know the treasurers job and who know where to find the important documents. We all should be aware that the unexpected, does happen. Worse yet could be a pastor not receiving their paycheck for any reason.

There is a very handy set of books available that give instructions and information for different laity leadership positions. They use paragraphs from The Discipline for guidance. You can order them from Cokesbury at <http://www.cokesbury.com>. The set is called Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation. There is a booklet on Pastor-Parish Relations, Finance, Trustees, Church Council, etc. the whole set is 64.99 or you can order them individually for 3.25 a specific booklet.

If you aren't sure we have the correct address, e-mail, etc. for you in the database, please call or e-mail us with an update. If you don't check your e-mail address on a daily basis or choose not to receive e-mails from the conference or district, don't list your e-mail address. We still mail out hard-copies to folks that request them.

If you are on the local church leadership list, we like to include you in our district newsletter. We currently send it out every other month, or six times a year. Thank you for all you do for your local church to help make "*Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*".

## **Congregational Care Ministry Seminar**

April 7-9, 2016, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS

Church of the Resurrection ~ Leawood



This three-day seminar, presented by Executive Pastor Karen Lampe and Pastor Wendy Chrostek and the Congregational care team is designed to prepare lay volunteers to work alongside pastors and staff to minister to and care for your congregation as Congregational Care Ministers. The training is based on Pastor Karen's book *The Caring Congregation*, which serves as a manual to guide pastors and churches to organize their congregations for care and equip people to listen, visit, comfort and encourage congregants.

With this training, volunteers will be empowered to make hospital visits, telephone persons in need of contact, meet one-on-one with persons in need of a listening ear for prayer and encouragement, offer support to grieving families and proactively seek to encourage and care for persons in need.

Upon completion of this seminar, volunteers will be equipped to provide care on behalf of the church. They will develop active listening skills and theologically appropriate responses, as well as be given Scripture suggestions for various situations.

Topics covered: Organizational Development, Wesleyan Way of Care, Boundaries and Ethical Practices, Listening, Older Adult Ministry, Hospital Visits, Death and Prayer. Certificates for Lay Servant Ministries Advanced Course in Lay Pastoral Care Giving have been approved.

Cost: Early Bird \$160. through March 16th ~ Standard Pricing \$200.

Register at <http://www.cor.org/sharechurch>, click on Leawood, then Congregational Care Ministry Seminar listed on the left tab. If you have trouble, call Kari Burgess: [Kari.burgess@cor.org](mailto:Kari.burgess@cor.org) or 913-232-4139.



## Effective use of Media in Worship

April 8-9, 2015, Trinity UMC, 7130 Kentwell Lane, Lincoln, NE

### Multi-Media Worship

If you would like to enhance the Sunday morning worship experience in your faith community, this Multi-Media Worship course is for you.

This course will provide quality training for lay persons (including Lay Servants) as well as clergy on the subject of multimedia worship. The main focus is small membership churches, but it will be useful for any church seeking to improve its use of media in worship.

This course is approved as an Advanced Course for Lay Servants. Continuing education will be offered to clergy.

If you are interested but not a Lay Servant or Clergy person, please register and come. The course is designed for and open to all.

All materials will be provided\*\*

\*\*If you have a laptop computer with PowerPoint software, you're welcome to bring it. Several laptops will also be available for others attending to experiment with the software.

Instructor

Todd Seifert, Communications Director

tseifert@greatplainsumc.org

402-464-5994 ext. 113

Registration deadline is April 1st, Registration fee is 15.00

Registration form is attached.

[www.greatplainsumc.org/layservantministries](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/layservantministries)

## ***A United Methodist Studies School***

September 6-13 Mt. Sequoyah, Fayetteville, Arkansas

***Purpose: To educate and spiritually form persons entering United Methodist Ministry in a retreat setting.***

In 2016 the course of study offerings are

United Methodist Doctrine and Polity **or** United Methodist History

These courses will meet the requirements of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Book of Discipline.

Tuition Deadline: Aug. 1st **Tuition cost: 475.** mail tuition and registration form to Attn: Barb Campbell Great Plains Conference,

9440 E Boston, Ste. 160, Wichita, KS 67207

**Room and Board for a double occupancy room and meals 472. single 717**

***www.mountsequoyah.com or 1.800.760.8126 for lodging/meals.***

Registration forms and flyer available in the 5R office if needed

**Cultivating Christian Discipleship and Supporting the Local Church**

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