

Living Water

a bi-monthly publication of

Five Rivers District

May/June 2016
Volume 13, Issue 5

Dear friends,

I was once in a seminar with Dr. William Sloane Coffin, senior minister of Riverside Church in New York City. Tall cotton. He said to us that one of the best things a pastor can do for his or her congregation is to read. “You have time to read things that they don’t have time for,” he said. “So, read for them. And then tell them what you’ve read.” I’ve tried to do that over the years.

One thing I recently read was this:

“The church is the *sign community of the coming reign of God*. The task of the church, and of the Christian disciples who make up its work force, is to direct the world toward the kingdom which Jesus announced and inaugurated.”

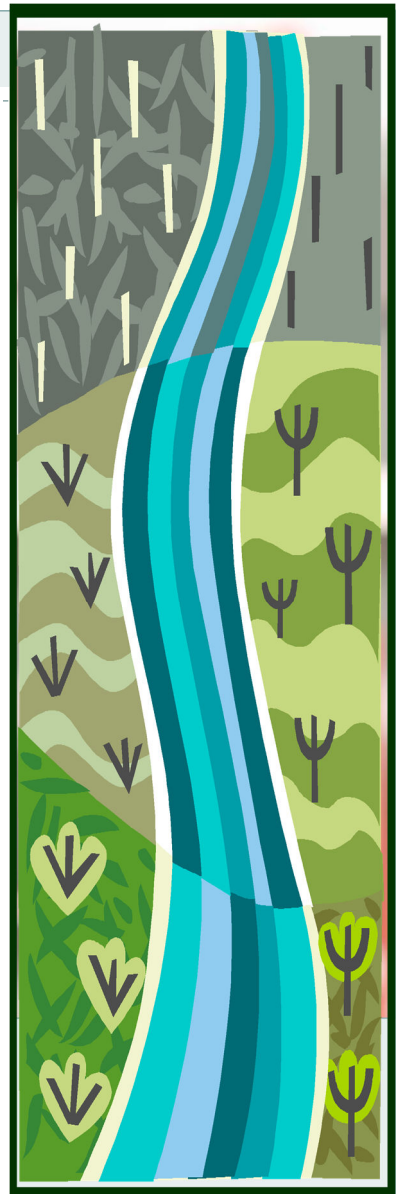
I like that definition of “church as sign community” because it points beyond us to the world. It reminds me that it wasn’t for the church that Christ died, it was for the **world** (John 3.16). And if we are to be this sort of church—this “*sign community*”—then we must be “so centered on the mission of God that we will be impelled into the world as messengers of God, servants of Jesus Christ, and channels of grace for the Holy Spirit.”

Hmmmm. Perhaps we should be spending less time in church and more time in the world. What do you think?

Serving together,

David Watson

Five Rivers District Superintendent



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May 2016

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FRI	SA
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				

June 2016

SU	M	TU	WE	TH	FRI	SA
			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		

Clergy Birthdays

Hyun Jung Choi
5/28

Gary DeMott 6/1

Javier Rios 6/2

Cynthia Meyer 6/17

Daekyung Kim 6/23

Ed Flener 6/25

Scott Dickinson 6/28

CALENDAR EVENTS FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 2-6th DS will be in Austin, TX at the Texas Methodist Foundation, completing new District Superintendent training.

May 2-3 District office closed

May 10-20th General Conference, Portland, OR

More information on page 3

May 23 Possible Cabinet meeting in Wichita or conference call

May 31 Cabinet members dinner, Countryside UMC 6:00 p.m.

June 1-4 Great Plains Annual Conference, Topeka

Theme of Conference *Serving Christ Far and Near*

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

July 13-16 Jurisdictional Conference, Wichita Hyatt Regency and Century II

July 16 Area Breakfast at St Paul UMC, 1356 N Broadway at 7:00 a.m. with new bishop Consecration service at 10:30 at First UMC, Wichita.

October 1, 2016 Fab Five Fall Event at Iola TBD 9 a.m.—1:00 p.m. ?

General Conference and the United Methodist Church by Marve´ Ralston

If you are new to the United Methodist Church, you might be wondering what all the hoopla is about the General Conference, held once every four years. This year in particular, it seems to be of particular interest.

Bishop Jones, the Great Plains Area Bishop, has a webinar on the Great Plains website with all the information you might want to know. I have listened to it several times, and below is just some of the interesting information he brought up. My hope is that I will spark your interest to listen to it. I enjoyed it very much, and learned a great deal about the UMC.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be meeting in Portland, Oregon from May 10th-20th.

The General Conference is, “the connectional, decision making body of the UMC”.

During General Conference, they will meet and work on revising the **Book of Discipline** (the shortened, commonly used name for the book containing the law, doctrine, administrative, and organizational guidelines for the denomination.)

The theme of this General Conference is Therefore Go; it is taken from Matthew 28:19-20.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

There will be 864 delegates from around the world; ½ will be comprised of clergy and ½ will be laity. Continued on page 5

Clergy members elected to the General Conference were:

- Rev. Adam Hamilton, United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas
- Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, Newton, Kansas
- Rev. Mark Holland, Trinity Community Church, Kansas City, Kansas
- Rev. Zach Anderson, Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, Omaha, Nebraska
- Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell, United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas
- Rev. David Livingston, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Lenexa, Kansas

The lay delegates elected to the General Conference were:

- Courtney Fowler, College Avenue United Methodist Church, Manhattan, Kansas
- Oliver Green, Asbury Mt. Olive United Methodist Church, Topeka, Kansas
- Shayla Jordan, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Wichita, Kansas
- Dixie Brewster, Milton United Methodist Church, Milton, Kansas
- Lisa Maupin, St. Paul United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Wesley Gately, First United Methodist Church, Wamego, Kansas

Project Revolution our 5 Rivers District Youth Rally has a date set.

September 10-11th at

Lawrence 1st West Campus. All youth in Junior High and Senior High are invited. There will be an online registration form link on our website and more details out this summer.

If you plan to attend Annual Conference say hi to Anna and Rachel our Youth Representatives and Stephanie Brands our Young Adult Representative

Lay Servant Training Opportunity in Parsons District

Friday, May 6th to Saturday, May 7th

Where: Parsons Wesley UMC

500 Leawood Dr

Parsons, KS

620-421-6130

Registration deadline, May 2, 2016

Advanced Courses

Justice in Everyday Life led by Pastor Marcee Binder, Director of Wesley House, Pittsburg, KS

Discovering Spiritual Gifts led by Rev. Carl Ellis, Cherryvale, KS

United Methodist Heritage led by Rev. Charlotte Coates, Parsons Faith

Register on our website under Lay Servant Ministry

5riversdistrict.com

District Council on Youth Ministry

Officers for 2016-17

Psalms 139:14

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.



Meet the new D.C.Y.M. officers for 2016-17 Left to right

Rachel Masrud ~ Chaplain; Anna Kline ~ President; Jordan Torrez, ~ Vice-President. Not pictured, Beth Grinage, ~ Secretary

General Conference continued from page 3

Of the 864 delegates, 504 are from the US, 360 or 42%, are outside the US.

We have a global prospective. Each Conference gets a minimum of 2 delegates no matter how small.

These delegates will be responding to petitions for change to the current Book of Discipline.

All of the written information will come out in four languages. At the last General Conference, at least 9 different languages were being interpreted during the Conference.

There are approximately 1,000 requests this year. There is a process, which Bishop Jones explains; whereby each petition is looked at carefully and scrutinized in sub committees. If it has merit, it moves on to a Legislative Committee, where it is presented and can then be adopted, amended or disapproved. For more go to GC2016.umc.org

Bishop Jones goes over what he considers the top 10 issues in his webinar. I will not list them all; but number one that seems to be of interest is "Human Sexuality". "It is a hot issue and has come up every year since 1972 in some way."

Our Bishop will be in attendance but he has no vote or say at General Conference. He and the other 149 (66 active and 84 retired Bishops,) will preside over the conference.

The Great Plains Conference is sending 12 delegates. I listed them on page 3. They were elected at our last Annual Conference. Please be in prayer over them as they travel and help with the decision making of our denomination.

The Episcopacy is another decision making group. They will meet in Wichita, Kansas this year. On July 15th we will find out whom our new Bishop will be. Bishop Jones has served 12 years between Kansas and the Great Plains Conference which includes Nebraska. He will be moving to another Conference to continue his career as Bishop.

If you want to find out more details, please check out Bishop Jones webinar.

www.greatplainsumc.org/.../bishop-jones-shares-information-about-general-conference-4311255

"We are so much more than the issues that divide us," Bishop Scott J. Jones.

"We are a diverse congregation. Both George W . Bush and Hillary Clinton are faithful UMC members."

Read more from Bishop Jones at the Extreme Center.

www.extremecenter.com

National PAUMCS Has Been to Kansas by Marve' Ralston

The Great Plains Conference members, of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS), hosted the 34th National Convention, April 13-16th in Wichita, Kansas.

The Great Plains PAUMCS seminars and workshops are open to all church secretaries who work in United Methodist Church offices. To attend a National Conference, you must be a Nationals member or attend as a visitor. PAUMCS has a close affiliation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, who work closely with the PAUMCS Executive Committee, to make sure that high standards of professionalism, with an emphasis on core UMC polity and standards, are components of this group. Each year continuing education credits are available to those that attend.

In the past, a yearly certification program has been offered, most recently in Nashville, TN. This year they are working on a new online certification program, and web based database. This will open the program to secretaries all over the world.

167 women, and three men from all over the United States, signed up to attend this year in Kansas.

Moses Kudar, GCFA General Secretary and Treasurer, spoke at the beginning of the conference and offered his support of the PAUMCS program and the National Convention held each year.

Rev. Adam Hamilton (Church of the Resurrection) and his Executive Asst. Sue Thompson, Rev. Nanette Roberts (Olathe: Grace UMC), Rev. Linda Louderback (Wichita West DS), Rev. Rick Just (Wichita: Asbury), Rev. Dee Williamston (Salina DS), Rev. Kent Rogers (Wichita: First UMC), as well as Bishop Jones; all had a part in the conference. For more information about this group see the link below.

<http://paumcs.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/PAUMCSGreatPlains>

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