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Reflections from Ron

Hello Colleagues and friends,

The year is blowing past us. We've already gone through 1/3 rd of the year and are, right now, moving into the heart of spring. And if I'm not mistaken, this time will be filled with things that keep us busy. For some it will be the nurturing of gardens, flower and vegetables alike — maybe even some berries. For others of us, we'll be getting ready for graduations, and Memorial Day, perhaps, some time around the ol' grill, or maybe even some time away to hang out, or travel. Mother's day is just around the corner, too!

I guess the blessing of all of these activities (*and the power of the Holy Spirit alive in us*) is that none of the things we do, none of the places we go, none of the people we see, none of our work in the gardens or out ever prevents us from being who we are in Jesus Christ. We are children of God, born of the Holy Spirit alive in us and called to live out that relationship in this life and in this world on this day! This is a day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

And because none of these things prevent us from being who we are, we have a responsibility, an opportunity and the possibility of cultivating our own Christian growth, as well as encouraging that growth in others. And it's not for just any good reason, but for every spiritually good reason. That reason is because ...

Ephesians 4:11-13 (*Eugene Peterson's, The Message*)

¹¹ God handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher ¹² to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, ¹³ until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

We cultivate Christian growth in ourselves and each other so that we might mature in Christ and become more like him in love. My prayer for us all is that as we move into the heart of spring, we will remember our own spiritual gardens and who keeps them growing, seeking to nurture them until we reach full maturity in our living and loving God.

Agape and shalom,
Ron

As I have traveled the Conference talking with persons about “Bridges to the Future,”

I have found a depth of faith and strength of commitment to God’s work that is truly a blessing.

Bishop Scott Jones

Prayer Quotes:

If your day is hemmed in with prayer, it is less likely to come unraveled.

Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.

~ *Corrie Ten Boom*

At the District Conference in March 500.00 was collected for [Kansas East Missionaries to Haiti](#), Joe and Shirley Edgerton. Thanks be to God! They are experiencing a great increase in the cost of food with their main concern at this time being to feed school children. You can donate directly to the Edgerton’s Ministry by sending a check to Lawrence Central, 1501 Mass., Lawrence, KS 66604. Add Edgerton’s in the memo line and UMC Advance Special #982465-6

Prayers are always needed as well for safety and needs.

Bishop’s Invitation to Annual Conference

Dear Lay and Clergy Members of the Kansas East Annual Conference

The 2008 session of the Kansas East Annual Conference will convene at Collins Center on the Baker University Campus, Baldwin City from June 4-7, 2008.

This is your call and invitation to participate.

God continues to bless, guide and challenge the United Methodists of Kansas. As I have traveled the Conference talking with persons about “Bridges to the Future,” I have found a depth of faith and strength of commitment to God’s work that is truly a blessing. Our response to a year of natural disasters in our state has been truly remarkable. I continue to be grateful to God for all that you do for God’s Kingdom.

I hope that we will be celebrating a successful conclusion to our capital campaign at Annual Conference. There is still much work to be done to ensure that we reach our goal of 5.35 million dollars, both as congregations and individuals, in making pledges. Because of our common efforts we are going to accomplish great things in church growth and development, camping and campus ministries.

Please prepare for this Conference through daily prayer. A Conference fully focused on Christ’s mission will achieve much for the Church and God’s purposes for the world.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Scott J. Jones

10 Days of Prayer and Devotions

Let’s be a conference together beginning with prayer during the ten days prior to the 2008 Kansas East Annual Conference. We will be in prayer for conference members, organizers, speakers, delegates, and the churches represented in our conference, as well as for God’s direction as we continue to send forth disciples for Jesus Christ.

Visit <http://2008kansaseast.wordpress.com> today to sign up for the feed to have the devotions sent directly to your e-mail inbox and to leave your comments and prayer requests. Ten days of devotion will be active online beginning Monday, May 19 if you prefer to view them online

East Conference News

How To Create A Local Church Disaster Response Plan Training

Starts: 5/5/2008

Ends: 5/5/2008

Start Time: 6:30 PM

End Time: 8:30 PM

Location: Overland Park: Heritage UMC

Address: 12850 Quivira Road

City: Overland Park

State: KS

Zip: 66213-3822

Class is limited to two representatives from each congregation, maximum 25 persons

To register contact: Julie Pohl - kseastvim@yahoo.com or call 785-989-3237

Hospitality Volunteers Wanted for Annual Conference

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome! Isn't it wonderful when you receive that type of a reception?

We are looking for volunteers to assist with greeting, seating guests, and guiding persons to the right places at annual conference.

We are seeking 12 volunteer for Friday morning and evening. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry of annual conference hospitality, please contact the district office at 785-594-4804 or fiverivers@embarqmail.com or our Hospitality Chair, Susan Brown at revsrb@ckt.net by May 15th

Food Collection at Annual Conference

Wednesday, June 4th, During Registration

We invite each church to collect non-perishable food items throughout the month of May to send to annual conference with your pastor or lay member of annual conference. This special collection is being received because food donations at the 2007 Bishop's Round-up for Hunger were down 25% while agencies have seen an increase in requests for assistance. This shortfall of critically needed food items is growing each day as communities face more lay-offs and the economy becomes shakier.

Collection will occur only on Wednesday; watch the Communiqué for further instructions.

Online Registration for Annual Conference Available

Annual conference registration information will be available on the Kansas East Conference website at www.kansaseast.org/acregistration. You may print the necessary forms to mail in your registration, or you may register online registration by the following:

Once you are at the registration site, click on "Event Registration" and "Annual Conference." On this page there will be four options; the first one is a general category for clergy and laity, followed by three more categories with special pricing including Youth, Retirees, and Guests/Observers. Please choose the category that fits your relationship to the annual conference.

Please note that you must complete all the items with an asterisk (*) to register online.

May 2008

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

May 1-2 General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas

May 3 Pre-Conference Briefing in Garnett UMC, 10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon

May 3 DCYM Meeting at Iola Wesley UMC call Tami Clark for details 785-841-7500 or e-mail at tami@fumclawrence.org

District Youth at DCYM Boot Camp

May 6-7 Appointive Cabinet DS in Wichita

May 21-23 Kansas West Conference

June 4-7 Kansas East Conference



Director's Ramblings

I know God is calling me, but to which set of initials?!

By Jada Hodgson, KE Conference Director

As the Kansas East Conference grows into the Certified Lay Minister program have you ever wondered, what does it mean to be a Commissioned Lay Speaker (CLS), Certified Lay Minister (CLM), Certified Lay Speaker or Local Lay Speaker? A couple of these categories remain unchanged in their meaning and opportunities.

A **Local Lay Speaker** has heard a call to leadership in his or her local congregation. This may involve preaching for the pastor when the pastor is ill or on vacation. It may be receiving some extra education to be a better Sunday School teacher, trustee or member of the Administrative Council. The Local Lay Speaker takes the Basic Course, then a refresher every three years. The Local Lay Speaker files and annual lay speaker's report through the Charge Conference.

A **Certified Lay Speaker** may be called to fill the pulpit in an emergency everywhere in the District or Conference where he or she is willing to go. This person may choose to engage in lay speaking ministry by serving on District or Conference boards or agencies. The Certified Lay Speaker is listed in the Annual Conference Journal, having completed an annual report, the Basic Course, and one advanced course every three years.

A **Commissioned Lay Speaker** (CLS) may currently serve as a DSA or long-term interim pulpit supply or as a leader in local, District or Conference committees. Some Commissioned Lay Speakers choose never to fill pulpits but still value the education available to Commissioned Lay Speakers. The coursework is preceded by the Basic Course and the filing of an application to become a Commissioned Lay Speaker. Then the candidate completes seven prescribed courses over a three-year period, interviews twice with the District Superintendent, District Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, and Conference Director Of Lay Speaking Ministries and files and annual report. Contact me or your District Director of Lay Speaking Ministries (David Wasserfallen) for more information about Commissioned Lay Speaker.

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Clergy Birthdays

Dr. Felix Burrows Sr.	May 11th
Maria Campbell	May 12th
Richard Fitzgerald	May 19th
Gary Gooding	May 30th

District Prayer Calendar

May 4	Louisburg Rev. Donna VotEAU
May 11	Paola Rev. Jim Hopwood
May 18	Baker University Rev. Ira DeSpain
May 25	Osawatomie-Lane Rev. Gary Gooding

Our missionaries in Haiti

Joe and Shirley Edgerton and work teams

Five Rivers District

The United Methodist Church
809 Seventh, #1
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E-mail: fiverivers@embarqmail.com

Ds E-mail: 5riversds@embarqmail.com

Kansas Bishop: Dr. Rev. Scott Jones
District Superintendent: Rev. Ronald King
Administrative Assistant, Newsletter editor
Marvé Ralston

**We're on the web at
www.fiveriversdistrict.com**

Director's Ramblings continued from page 5

A ***Certified Lay Minister*** (CLM) is a person called to be available for service as pastoral leader of one or more congregations. The course work consists of 11 courses. These courses will be offered at Lay Speaking Seminars but will require pre-reading and assignments as well as follow-up assignments. For this reason, it is necessary for Certified Lay Minister candidates to register well in advance of a seminar to get the assignments on time. Rev. Carl Ellis is the Director for the Certified Lay Minister Training Program. You may contact either myself or Carl Ellis for more information.

I know. I did not answer the "So which one should I be in?" question for you. I can't answer that one, but I can provide information for you to help you make that decision. Feel free to call or email me or your District Director for Lay Speaking Ministries with questions. We are here to help you discern and fulfill your call. May God richly bless your ministry.

Jada D. L. Hodgson
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