

Living Water

a quarterly newsletter for

Five Rivers District

Volume 15, Issue 3
September, October,
November 2018

Dear friends on the Five Rivers District,

I am excited to share with you a new and exciting strategy that is being implemented in our conference and on our district. I say it's new, and yet, it is as old as Methodism—and finds its roots in the New Testament Church. Starting this Fall the Five Rivers District will join with other districts throughout the Great Plains Conference in implementing Networks—a strategy aimed at helping to develop stronger, more vital congregations through clergy and lay partnerships.

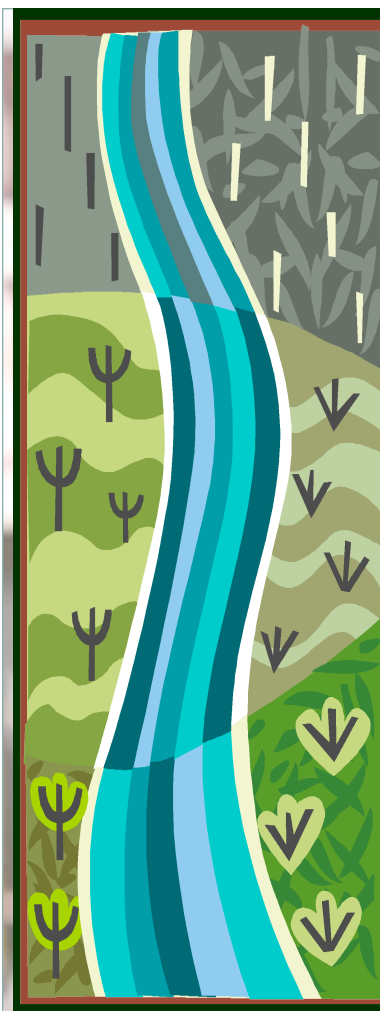
Each church in our district is being partnered in a Network with other United Methodist Churches in their region. The pastor and one lay person from each charge will meet regularly with other pastors and laity in the Network. These gatherings will be for the purposes of spiritual encouragement, discussion of the mission field, and sharing strategies and resources that can lead to greater church vitality. Each will receive ongoing training resources and support to aid in their local ministry settings.

Your responsibilities as a Network Church will be to prayerfully participate in missional conversations; utilize your Network Leaders as the initial contact for questions of practice, policy and polity; and look for innovative ways to collaborate and share resources for reaching your community mission fields for Christ. Your pastor and one layperson from each charge will represent you on the Network Team and serve as your contact points for Network life.

Please support your pastor in his/her leadership role in the Network. And help to identify and recruit a layperson to support this effort. Network life will depend on a strong lay-clergy partnership as we move forward in ministry. Yes, it will require some time and energy; but the rewards will far outweigh the cost. The hope is that Networks will serve to strengthen our United Methodist witness in all our communities and congregations—to the Glory of God—and the transformation of the world.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. David Watson



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| District Calendar | p g.2 |
| Networking Event | |
| And pictures | pg.3&4 |
| Narrative Budget | pg.4&8 |
| CLM, Lay Ministry | pg.5 |
| Town Hall Meeting | pg.6 |
| Project Rev. #11 | pg.7 |

Bishop:

Ruben Saenz, Jr.

District Superintendent:

Rev. David Watson

Administrative Assistant/
Newsletter Editor

Marvé Ralston

District Calendar:

- Sept. 8-9 Project Revolution, Lawrence 1st (West Campus)
- Sept. 11 Clergy Meeting, Ottawa First UMC, 9 a.m. to noon
Local church secretaries/administrative assistants are invited to attend this meeting. We will break into groups to go over forms and timelines.
- Sept. 11 District Strategy Team Meeting, Lawrence Central UMC 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 14-15 GPC UMW Annual Conference, Church of the Resurrection, registration 1:00 p.m.
- Sept. 14-21 District Office closed
- Sept. 22 Network Leaders training event, Ottawa 1st, 9-noon
- Sept. 22 United Methodist Men sponsored Potato Drop, Susannah Wesley, 7433 SW 29th St., Topeka, KS 9 a.m. to noon
- Sept. 22 UMW Fall Meeting, Paola UMC, 9:00 a.m.

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, Osawatomie-Lane, Parker-Beagle-Fontana, LaCygne-New Lancaster, Pleasanton-Prescott [All paperwork must be approved at church council before the meeting and mailed into the district office two weeks prior to this \(Oct. 15th\).](#)

Nov. 11 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-Melvorn, Yates Center-Neosho Falls

[All paperwork must be approved at church council before the meeting and mailed into the district office two weeks prior to this \(Oct. 29th\).](#)

Charge Conference paperwork can be found on the Five Rivers District Website or the Great Plains websites.

- Nov. 10 District Committee on Ordained Ministry 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wellsville UMC
- Nov. 17 Town Hall Meeting ~ Bishop Saenz will be at Lawrence 1st (West Campus), 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. For an informational discussion regarding the Great Plains Conference, The Way Forward, 2019 General Conference and so much more.

Finding Available Resources by “Networking” in Miami County by Marve’ Ralston

Saturday, August 18th, **Osawatomie UMC**, led by their pastor **Rev. Marti McDougal**, hosted a Net-working opportunity for their community.

If you reside in Miami County, KS, this was an opportunity for you to see what resources were available to your county, more specifically what is being done, and might work in your church or community as well. This was also, an opportunity for others to see what programs have been started in Miami County that might be recreated in surrounding areas.

The morning began with registration and a little time to visit the booths. Decorative bags were given out, to hold the brochures and pamphlets from the booths. One of the most important handouts was a twelve page booklet with resources in Miami County, Kansas and beyond.

Rev. David Watson led a brief worship time to begin the program.

The first presentation was by David French a teacher/coach who first had the vision of creating a community garden. He brought four youth to help him talk about the Osawatomie, “Over the Rainbow OZ” Community Garden started in 2013.

This is a youth led/ran program that provides training to youth on gardening as well as business skills. This is also an opportunity for them to earn scholarship funding. They started the program with three goals: scholarships for college bound youth that participate, donations to local food pantries, and to beautify the town. All funds stay in the community. The garden is totally organic, using no pesticides. www.ocgarden.com

Janice Hawley, led a presentation on “Thrive,” a program that meets in Osawatomie United Methodist Church, once a week.



David French and youth participants in “**Over the Rainbow OZ**” community youth garden.



Janice Hawley with **Thrive**

Thrive is a program that is a next step for individuals and families who want to move beyond living paycheck to paycheck and literally “thrive” not just survive. They meet on Tuesday nights and share a provided dinner. There is a meal, transportation, and childcare at no cost. They offer training on self-esteem, relationships, money management, help finding resources, developing character, and problem solving. They invited a speaker that has utilized the program to share how it had changed her life. It was quite inspiring!

“This is tough work, but hope comes when you see change,” commented Janice Hawley.

<https://m.facebook.com/MiamiCountyThrive/>

Continued on pg. 4

Continued from networking event at Osawatomie UMC pg 3

There were half-hour presentations all morning. A break for lunch and networking. A panel discussion starting off the afternoon, and continued half hour presentations till 3 p.m.

The list of speakers were varied. David French on Community Gardening, Erin Lyon on Domestic Shelter, Janice Hawley with information on Miami County "Thrive", Sharon Sullivan on "human/Sex Trafficking", Osawatomie Police Department, Melissa Boustimante on Elizabeth Layton Center Mental Health Resources, Even the Rocks Homeless Ministry-Cheryl Grout and My Father's House, Jada Hodgson on Elder Care.

The group ended the day with homemade ice cream and a concert by "Odds and Ends," a local Blue Grass group.

This was a "networking" event, even before Five Rivers District has begun their official "Networks". Five Rivers District will launch their networks this fall.

Pondering a Narrative Budget by Marvé Ralston

Has your church fully considered what their "mission" is? Are all the members aware of this?

I'm sure your church, no matter how small, has things they do in the community and beyond, that they are proud of.

What percentage of your churches resources go to fund those things? How much time do parishioners spend working on this mission?

Are there other things you "wish" your church were known for?

How can you shift the budget numbers, as well as gifts, offerings, talents, and services to focus on what the churches "mission" really is? After determining what your churches "mission" is, a good way to begin, might be to create a ***narrative budget***.

This summer, I took the class, ***Afire With God, Becoming Spirited Stewards***. I selected the course on the Beadisciple.com site.

Now if you are like me, your immediate thoughts on stewardship, have to do with financial giving.

This course began with accessing what we personally know about stewardship.

How do we individually and collectively, contribute to our church through our offerings, tithes, gifts, talents, participation and services?

As we all begin thinking about 2019 and what we want to do in our churches, a very helpful thing to do, is to think of the budget in more of a narrative way.

Instead of a simple spreadsheet, or balance sheet, posted on the church bulletin board, ***how can we start talking about the ministries of the church? Just what in particular do we want to be known for and how can we fund those things?***

Does your church contribute to the local food pantry, give out welcome baskets, how about school backpacks or help the local elementary school by service? What are your primary areas of outside focus?

Continued on page 8

Let's talk about Certified Lay Ministers and Lay Servant Ministry: (Information from GP website on Lay Servant Ministry)

In our district, we have several churches that are being pastored by Certified Lay Ministers, and District Superintendent Assignments (DSA's). There are churches in other districts that are currently being pastored by Certified Lay Speakers and Lay Servants.

A Certified Lay Minister works as part of a ministry team with supervision and support of a Clergyperson.

They conduct public worship

Care for the congregation

Develop new faith communities

Preach the Word

Lead small groups

Establishes outreach ministries

Serve as a class leader

Engages in specialized ministries after appropriate training such as in parish nursing and church planting

Assists in program leadership

What is a Certified Lay Servant and what do they do?

A Certified Lay Servant serves the local church or charge (and/or beyond) and:

Provides program leadership, assistance, and support

Leads meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion

Conducts, or assists in conducting, services of worship, preaches the Word, or gives addresses

Provides congregational and community leadership and fosters caring ministries

Assists in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion

Teaches the Scripture, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church

There are also Certified Lay Speakers: They serve by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries, in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1 of the Discipline.

For a list of certification requirements and renewal see this link.

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/files/laity/lsm+info+sheet+2016.pdf>

There is training available online, and through districts. You can find options on the GP website. A list of the Five Rivers Lay Servants is on our website for pulpit supply when needed.

<http://5riversds.com/Lay%20Servant%20Ministry>

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 best and most complete possible answer. Send questions to 5riversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org.



Looking for church leadership resources?

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>

You can also find very helpful resources and UMC materials at

<https://www.cokesbury.com> and <https://www.upperroom.org>

There are UMC guidelines booklets on church offices at Cokesbury and the Upper Room has many good bible study and prayer books.

District Council on Youth Ministry

Project Revolution (#11) 2018, Sept. 8-9th ~ Prayer requested!

The theme for Project Revolution this year is Work In Progress. We are using the scripture in **Philippians 2:13** *For it is God who works in you to will and to act, in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

We will have a Karaoke night and a photo booth, lots of outdoor and indoor games, taco bar dinner, powerful worship, theme t-shirts and a movie.

If you have youth interested that are between 6th-12th grades, please have them register before 8.31.18 (this Friday).

Register online at: <https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/ProjectRevolution2018>



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

Our leadership



PO Box 556

Baldwin City, KS 66006-0556

Pondering a Narrative Budget continued from pg 4

Another source of giving is our local church apportionments, in connection with all the other apportionments from around the world, they carry out the missions of the UMC. *From the smallest to the largest churches, we can accomplish much outside our local churches, through our apportionment giving.* When your church pays your apportionments, you can add this to your “story”. If you are part of the “connectional system,” which all UMC churches are, this is the bottom line starting place.

<http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/apportioned-funds>

How can we tell our churches’ stories in a way that promotes giving, out of the love for Christ, and our churches mission?

What if we looked at the percentages of how our resources were spent as more of a story of our churches mission? Like it or not, that is what it really is.

If we are not meeting the budget, maybe it is because we all do not understand the churches “mission” or we are not all in agreement of it’s importance. Possibly we need to shift the ministry funds and energies to reflect our churches true “mission”.

For some, this may require getting back to the basics of really discovering what their churches mission is, and how does that reflect God’s plans for all his people?

Are we simply providing services to our members, or are we also looking at the mission field outside our church? It is important to nurture members, but there should be balance.

Check out this webinar prepared by the General Board of Discipleship for more ideas.

<https://vimeo.com/227793747/de58f8fee3>