

**TABLETALK** is a publication of The Rocky Mountain Conference Office of Communications  
Information and Concerns of RMC Leadership, for RMC Leadership

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## Conference & UMC News and Resources

### Summer Office Hours

The Episcopal Office now has summer hours, Monday-Thursday, closed on Friday. Call ahead to 303-733-0083 to make sure the office will be open for you. The Rocky Mountain Conference Office continues its current hours, 9-12, 1-4, Monday-Friday. Some employees arrive at 7 and leave around 3:30, while others arrive at 8:30 and leave around 5 or later. Again, please call ahead to be sure the person you wish to see will be present.

### Conference Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Methodist Clergywomen

The 50th Anniversary of full clergy rights for Methodist women was celebrated at opening worship of the 2006 Annual Conference session in Denver. The celebration began with a procession of multicolored ribbons floating above the congregation and on the wrists of all the women in the processional. The altar was covered with bright cloth and candles (enough to raise some concerns about the fire alarms!). The Call to Worship recognized the call to women throughout time, from women in the Bible to women in the Methodist, Church of the United Brethren, Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada. Each group was read and a verse of "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" was sung.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño, Bishop of the Phoenix Episcopal Area and noted preacher delivered the message, "A Beautiful Thing," based on Matthew 26:6-13, the story of the woman with an alabaster jar of expensive ointment who anointed Jesus. Jesus' comment was "it was a beautiful thing" that she had done.

### 2006 Annual Conference Opens with Virtual Missions Parade

Diana Huerta, co-lay leader of the Metro District, reports: The day started with the familiar sights and sounds of a RMCUMC Annual Conference: the room was filling up (from the back, of course), friends greeting friends, the technical crew testing out the equipment, rustling at the head table – and then we began. The Bishop called us together with a reminder: "Because you are here, and because God is here, this place is sacred." And so the sacred journey began!

As we settled into the days' activities we celebrated the mission work of our churches – activities as varied as home repair and serving the homeless, tutoring programs and care packages for troops overseas, ESL (English as a Second Language) classes and clothes closets, CROP walks and fire recovery. We shared how we had a chance to serve with trips to Alamosa and Cortez, with services to Native American Reservations and the Gulf Coast, and with trips to Costa Rica, Africa, Romania, Asia, the Caribbean, Mexico, Russia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Iraq. We are all connected as people of God!

Bishop Brown shared with us his vision for this conference, based on Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, to the ends of the earth". In this Conference, Jesus will work in fresh new ways!

Bishop Brown reminded us of the struggles in the early church, struggles brought about by the dramatic changes that were taking place. This is not unlike the world we face today – and if we aren't creative in our response to change, we are relegated to be counted among the obsolete. The Acts of the Apostles help us to understand that we don't get to decide what the timing will be – timing is the Father's business; what we

get is the Holy Spirit. It is our faith that will carry us through. As William Sloane Coffin said “I love the recklessness of faith: first you leap, and then you grow wings.” The questions for us are “What did the early church do? What can we do?” The early church practiced radical hospitality, passionate worship, and intentional faith development. They engaged in risk taking, mission and service, and displayed extravagant generosity. It is easy for us instead to be driven by three verbs: to want, to have, to do. The fundamental verb that should drive our life is *to be* – we are called *to be* the people known as United Methodists! And this Conference, this sacred journey, allows us to build a shared conversation to be who we can be.

The morning continued with a presentation by Kerry Greenhill on Graceworks Community, as we celebrated the Young Adult Ministry of the RMUMC. The body decided that the proposed structural change to the Conference (Petition AC13) would be addressed in a Plenary session rather than a Legislative Committee. We were introduced to Jack Ford, the new Treasurer, Pensions Officer, and Director of Support Services (replacing Dan O’Neil), as well as Rich Marsh, replacing John Boyle as Chancellor, after John’s untimely death. The new Clergy Retirement Security Plan, effective in 2007 was outlined, and Su Friedman, manager of Cokesbury, presented a check for \$7,418 as their annual contribution to the pension funds. The Conference, by voice vote, decided to direct it to the Central Conference Pension Initiative.

Dr. David Trickett, the recently appointed President of the Iliff School of Theology, shared his vision of the journey to come. He applauded Iliff as a progressive voice of faith, and shared his excitement to be a part of this community. Bishop Zothan Mawia was introduced; he brought greeting from Myanmar, and shared his journey of faith and the history of the United Methodist Church in his home country. We delighted in his story and were inspired by his commitment!

Heather Wilson led us through a teaching moment with enthusiasm, challenge, and spirit! She called us to meet the needs of the people and to remember that God provides. God doesn’t call us to figure it out; He just calls us to answer the phone! She led us through the difference between thriving churches and declining churches, and shared a video from the Missions kit “Here I am Lord” sent to every church.

Lunch was an opportunity for networking, sharing food and laughter, special meals, and time to reflect. Legislative Sessions were held in the afternoon, with committee rooms full and bursting with energy. And just when we thought we had no more spirit, no more energy, no more desire to congregate we were treated to the box lunch (supper) and worship service presented by the RMUMC Young People. We ate, we sang, we reflected, we listened to the wisdom of our sisters and brothers in faith. We were energized by the music, challenged by the sermon, touched by the reflections, and impressed with the power of new perceptions. What a perfect end to an inspiring day!

### **Laity Session A “Challenge”**

The sights and sounds of Friday were punctuated by the contrasts: joy and pain, music and quiet reflection, celebration and deliberation, reports Diana Huerta, Metro District co-lay leader.

The Laity session was full of energy and joy, and reminded us of our role in the Conference and its mission efforts. The opening worship was led by the Conference Lay Speaker Leadership, and gave us a chance to align ourselves with the sacred journey of the day. The Bridge of Love offering gave us a chance to bring those funds our churches had been collecting for a year and “gloriously share our wealth with others”, as articulated by our Lay Leader Judy Hill. Half of the money will go to Angola, and the other half to the Gulf Coast. Heather Wilson challenged us to answer, “How friendly is our church? How friendly is it, not just to us, but also to the person off the street, off the mountain, off the farms, off the plains – how friendly are we to the stranger?” We are the Bridge of Love – a church powered by the people, by the laity, powered by God. What is a Bridge of Love? It is hospitality, and purpose, and truth. A bridge can separate and contain us, or it can be the support for our connections. We watched a video presentation by a lay missionary in the Philippines. As a sign on the door of a church proclaimed: “How can you worship a homeless man on Sunday and reject him on Monday?” Heather reminded us that to grow spiritually we must go where we don’t want to go – this is where we meet the divine face to face.

The Laity Session had a new type of teaching moment, this one led not by Heather Wilson, but by a game show host (Jerry Herships, minister of young adults at St. Andrew)! The game was *The Annual Conference Challenge*, and red and yellow teams competed to see how deep their knowledge was about our faith, our church, and our history. For example, did you know that the United Methodist Church had over 11 million members when it started in 1968, or that our own Bishop Brown was ordained as a Deacon in 1973? The participants had to take risks, jump in and play, and sometimes act when they really didn't know it all – what a great description of our role in the church today! This spirited exercise was engaging and fun, and we even learned something in the process. Sandra Taylor shared her story of training supported by the Laity Scholarship, and funds were collected for that effort as the laity left this session for lunch and relaxation.

The afternoon Teaching Moment was again led by Heather Wilson, and the tool she shared for today was making the gospel relevant through service. The question then becomes: “but who do you serve?” She reminded us of the words of John Wesley “Earn all that you can; Save all that you can; Give all that you can.” The issue for our church today is not that there is not enough money (the Western Jurisdiction gave \$11 million dollars to the Gulf Coast when the need was there!), but rather what we do with it. We each need to find our way to serve, and Heather shared some examples that can be found at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org>. Mission has changed because not only has the world changed, but missionaries have changed! The afternoon session started with a vision; that is, a report from the Mission / Vision / Values Team. Envision includes vital worship, justice, evangelism, social outreach, foundations, and spiritual formation. This is the body of Christ moving toward the love and the reign of God. We received a report from the United Methodist Church Foundation, with a long history of churches supporting churches as well as information about the Treasurer's report from the Conference Statistician. The reports and Appointments from Mile High Peaks and Plains and Western/Utah Districts were shared and celebrated, and the following legislated actions were taken. Consent Calendars were adopted as recommended (and occasionally amended) by the legislative groups. Adopted were AC01-11, 13-16, 18, 19, 21-26, 28, GC 41, 42 (check RMCUMC.org later for petition wording and more complete reports and amendments). AC13, the new Programmatic Structure for the Conference, passed unanimously.

The day ended with a presentation by Andrew Craig, a youth member of Park Hill United Methodist Church. As he exclaimed “adults, what a world you have brought us into,” he shared his dream, and the dream of all of his generation to have world that still has hope. In many ways, Romeo and Juliet had the best of adolescent life – they were youthful, beautiful, childless and debt free! But their stories' end is not what we want for our youth today. It is essential for youth to stay connected with each other and the church, and adults need to find ways to support those efforts; that is where the hope can be found. It is the job of youth to keep busy doing God's work to help them find their way in the world. Andrew finished his presentation by singing *The Impossible Dream*; as we finished that day's sacred journey we believed the dream is possible!

The memorial service that evening was a meaningful time as members of the Conference Community (clergy and lay members) who had died were remembered and appreciated.

Bishop Brown, in his reflection, reminded us that we have been touched; our lives have been enriched by those we recognize. He reminded us that some of the most dreaded and most hurtful things can, with the mediation of God, can be transformed in ways that only God can do, so that even our pains become a blessing. He reminded that God says, "I will not leave you alone to carry this weight by yourself. Open yourself to me and I will be open to you." Bishop Brown left us with the question: what are the ways that you will seek to be extravagant with the love that has been given to you? Where will you share the love that you have received so that the world may be transformed?"

### **Leaders Recognized and Celebrated**

Saturday began at 8 a.m. with recognition and celebration of the children. Tommy Gleaton's voice was heard coming from the big fuzzy bear that talked with them.

The Sunshine District report was on a DVD, which presented some technical challenges, but was inspiring when it finally worked. The appointments were read after a scripture and prayer.

In the Board of Stewards report for 2005, Kline Kelly and Nancy Boswell told of meeting via conference call, a new experience for meetings which was more efficient with less travel time... and made the members appreciate when they actually met face-to-face.

Conference Lay Leader Judy Hill from Kirk UMC in Eastern Colorado shared thoughts and observations about the health of the conference ministries. While there are some dire predictions (Bob Kohler, the speaker for Town and Country breakfast, told attendees that if we don't change our ways, we're going to belly up in 4 years), she found some significant signs of hope. She said that 30% of those in process towards the ministry are younger than 30; dedication to mission was obvious in the mission "parade"; the young persons worship Thursday evening...

Heather Wilson urged laity to be honest and forthright. She said the hope for the RMC was that we would develop "discipline, discipline, discipline" and do the very best that we could to break out of unproductive habits and ways of thinking.

The afternoon plenary session opened with a lot of enthusiasm for an audience that had been sitting for 4 days! We celebrated the news that Peggy Sewell had been moved out of critical care at Swedish Medical Center, and was feeling well enough to send her love to the group and give her husband a "to do" list! In response to a member who has a child in Iraq, Bishop Brown offered a prayer for all of those who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as all others who are affected by war.

Current retirees were recognized and celebrated, and the 2006 retirees were introduced as their profiles were read. We celebrated their personal faith journeys, their favorite hymns, and their plans for the future. This group of retirees represented 442.25 cumulative years - what a blessing they have been to the Conference and the world!

A highlight of the Conference is always the presentation of the Bishop's Award, and the influence and good works of this year's recipient was particularly humbling to those who listened to her letters of nomination (yes, that was letters!). Ann Fort from Hope United Methodist Church of Greenwood Village is described as a "beacon of hope, love, and faith." She is passionate about helping people here and abroad deal with issues of poverty and disease, and her ministries have included Warren Village, DenUM, Meals on Wheels, Project Love, and the Mayors Initiative on the Homeless. Ann was joined by a long line of family members and friends as she received the award from the Bishop. She reflected "It's nice to hear nice words while you are still alive! She thanked Hope UMC for their support, and shared her belief that this is a Conference with a servant's heart.

At the conclusion of the Bishops Award (and that was a hard act to follow!) the Metropolitan District shared their District Report and Appointments. The Bishop again congratulated the Conference and the United Methodist Church for their support of the victims of the Gulf Coast disaster. Our ability to respond through UMCOR allowed us to help families put their lives back together, and our collective effort made a huge difference to all those families and communities. The Bishops now ask for our assistance in helping churches put their lives back together; that is, to support the salaries and the rebuilding of United Methodist churches across the Gulf Coast region. A video sharing the message of the victims of Katrina helped us learn how quickly "things" can be taken from you, and what it means to have your church community scattered and destroyed. The region had more people die after Katrina than before the disaster, and it is estimated that it will take 12 years to rebuild. The Bishops ask that we support the rebuilding efforts with the same spirit and enthusiasm we exhibited in our early response.

Bishop Brown introduced Jack Ford again and praised his initial efforts as Conference Treasurer. Jack was presented with a giant Frisbee printed with the dream of the Rocky Mountain Conference: that apportionments be paid at 100%! The Frisbee was tossed to Jack, and he tossed it into the audience to "keep the dream moving". An audience member tossed it - to a ledge where it promptly disappeared from sight! You can't always control the dream or where it goes!

Darlene Woods reported on the Nominations Committee, and reminded us all of our many opportunities to serve. She thanked Ron Hodges and Nancy Butterfield for their incredible support. Darlene asked that Conference members review pages 32 and 39 of the Conference brown book and notify her if changes need to be made.

Local churches were honored for their roles in helping refugees in our local communities. Awards were presented to the following co-sponsor churches: First, Grand Junction; Green Mountain, Lakewood; Good Shepherd, Thornton; Heritage, Littleton; and Smoky Hill, Aurora. Support churches awarded were Applewood, Lakewood; Burns, Denver; Emmanuel, Denver; Grace, Denver; Grant Avenue, Denver; University Park, Denver. Other awards as identified in the front of the brown Program Book were celebrated.

The Wyoming/North East Colorado District presented their District Report and Appointments. The winds of spirit move through the church!

Final Announcement: The next two years Annual Conferences will be held at this Marriott Denver Tech Center location. The 2007 Annual Conference will be held June 13-16. Mark your calendars now!

The session was ruled officially closed after the Ordination Service, and the Bishop dismissed us with a prayer. The final moments of this sacred journey were spent in reflection as we listened to the beautiful voice and spirit of Mrs. Minnie Brown in song.

### **Ordination Service Rings Out**

The service of Confirming, Commissioning, and Ordaining of the Rocky Mountain Conference was an inspiring mix of music, preaching, and dedication. The Wesley Bell Ringers of Christ United Methodist Church, Salt Lake City and The Voices of Park Hill United Methodist Church, Denver, provided music with an international and dramatic flavor with titles like "Joy," "Gospel," "Canticle of Africa," "Jesus Is My Lord, My Master, and Savior," and "I Am Determined to Walk With Jesus." Eight local pastors were confirmed, one was commissioned towards deacons orders, seven were commissioned towards elders orders, one ordained deacon and eight were ordained elder. (Names will be on the RMCUMC.org web.)

Bishop Carcaño preached on Micah 6:1-8, "What Does The Lord Require?" Bishop Carcaño challenged all to consider the cost of doing justice: she believes that God is calling us to do so much more, such as overcome poverty by helping one family at a time; by moving to full commitment to Jesus Christ and moving out of the status quo. She commended the RMC in our commitment to build churches and urged us to face where we are sinning (walking away from God), so that we can do our building with integrity. "Don't lose sight of the bigger picture as you build churches: the work isn't just building more buildings or increasing the numbers, it is building of God's own reign among us and be transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ." "What does the Lord require? Nothing less than the refocusing of our lives."

### **Official Journal To Be Delivered This Fall**

The official record of this year's actions at the Annual Conference session is the Conference Journal which will have all the official minutes, awards, appointments, stats, budget, reports, and committee members who were elected at this session. Part I should be out by September 1 and Part II in October. See RMCUMC.org for more info than fits here.

## **The Conference Community**

### **Prayer Concerns and Caring For The Conference Community**

Prayer Concerns are offered for the Clergy and Lay Members and leadership of the Annual Conference and their immediate families, as a way to nurture the community of the Annual Conference. Prayer concerns are sent to those on the Conference Bulletin Board e-mail list as "Prayers." Please keep these in your prayers:

- Mary Woods, retired RMC clergy. Her twin sister, Martha Bruno, says she is in Laurel View Nursing Home in Albuquerque after having symptoms of another stroke. Martha says the doctors "are leaning

toward a TIA" (transient ischemic attack), which has some characteristics of a stroke. The phone in her room at Laurel View is (505) 822-6064. Cards may be sent to her home address, PO Box 25555, Albuquerque, NM 87199.

- Sandi Johnson, associate pastor at First UMC, Colorado Springs, whose father Wilburn 'Bill' Sutton of Sidney, Nebraska, died Monday, May 22. Expressions of care may be sent to her (and her spouse, Mark Johnson, pastor at Ellicott UMC), at 742 S. Rockrimmon Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80919 or by email at snippetts@aol.com.
- George Dunn, RMC clergy in extension ministry, whose father, Fenmore Dunn, died 27 May. Fenmore Dunn was 94 years of age. George writes, "I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the love, the service and the ministry of Hospice of Metro Denver. The Dunn family is ever so grateful for all they did for us and for my father." Expressions of care may be sent to 8089 Vermejo Peak, Littleton, CO 80127 or gedunnsr@msn.com.
- Gerald and Rose Trigg. Jerry is retired RMC clergy and since mid August has been hospitalized on five occasions, for everything from the insertion of a heart stent to hip replacement, a pain device on the spine, and a stroke, which has him in a wheelchair. He is now recovering at home where Rose serves as his caregiver. Expressions of care may be sent to them at jerrytrigg@aol.com or 2830 Country Club Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80909.
- John Nadasi, pastor at Paonia UMC who is recovering from surgery for ruptured disks in his thoracic spine last December. The surgery was successful, with no nerve damage and great potential for full recovery. John writes his thanks to "all of you who were praying for me. It really did make a difference." Expressions of care for John may be sent to him at lutherfetch@yahoo.com or 1359 Jumbo Mountain Lane, Paonia, CO 81428.
- The family of Lillie Byrd, surviving spouse of William Byrd, RMC clergy who retired in 1978, who died May 28. She was 90 years of age and had been in declining health for the past couple of years. She is survived by three children, Patricia, Ann and Robert. Condolences may be sent to Ann Shaw, 3 Carriage Walk Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20879.
- Donald J. Grooters, retired RMC clergy, has been hospitalized for recovery from several small strokes. He is now in rehab at Applewood Care Center in Longmont. He is showing some signs of improvement, he is optimistic and as he has always met life, he is trusting that the best will prevail. Expressions of care may be sent to him at 2669 Elmhurst Cir, Longmont, CO 80503 or revdkrn@milpond.com. Both Don and Kathleen express appreciation for your prayers and support.
- Paul Murphy, retired RMC clergy, who had surgery June 14. More is ahead for Paul but they are optimistic about the outcome. Expressions of care may be sent to Paul and Paula at pj70pe@comcast.net or 14091 E Marina Dr Apt 402, Aurora, CO 80014.
- Lynn Hurst, RMC deacon serving at Broadmoor Community Church in Colorado Springs, had some reconstructive abdominal surgery on June 20. Jerry, her spouse, says, "Lynn will be off work for about a month, depending on the success of the surgery. We would appreciate prayers for successful surgery, no complications and rapid recovery time." Expressions of care may be sent to 2130 Warrington Ct, Colorado Springs, CO 80902, to Jerry at JerryH@fumc-cs.org or Lynn at lhurst@broadmoorchurch.org.
- Larry Oman, RMC clergy on incapacity leave, as he is hospitalized and will be unable to be at Conference this year. Expressions of care may be sent to PO Box 771278, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 or umcss@springsips.com.
- Bob Coulson, RMC clergy in extension ministry, reports he has "been biopsied and diagnosed, spent a week in hospital, successfully completed first chemo treatment and am doing extremely well after my first full check-up. Yes, my hair and body are thinning but I appear quite healthy and the doctor anticipates full remission after about 2-5 more treatments. I am encouraged too and am living my normal life and activities with my energy and strength growing each day. This type of cancer is very manageable and is often said to be curable. With gratitude, I thank everyone who had me and my family in your thoughts and prayers." Expressions of care may be sent to Bob at 3103 Sapporo Ct, Colorado Springs, CO 80918 or rcjfacilitator@yahoo.com.
- Daryl Easterday-McPadden, daughter of Steve and Kim Easterday-McPadden of Longmont, is gradually recovering from her spine surgery in April and doing much better. Steve, pastor at Longs Peak UMC, says, "Unfortunately, the disease appears to be present still, so another 6-month round of chemotherapy

is planned, beginning sometime after the first of August. The good thing is that her spine is stabilized, and the worst is now behind us. Thank you so much for your prayers and expressions of care and concern. God has sustained us through them and given us hope in some very rough times. We love you all and will see many of you at Annual Conference.”

- the family of Bill Cartmell, RMC clergy on leave, whose sister, Diane Cartmell Allen, died on Tuesday. Diane is a former member of St. Paul UMC in Pueblo. Expressions of care may be sent to Bill at [parrothead4lifeus@yahoo.com](mailto:parrothead4lifeus@yahoo.com).
- Peggy Sewell, RMC General Conference lay alternate and Assistant General Secretary of GCFA's Episcopal Services Department. Thursday afternoon of Conference, she was taken to Swedish Hospital in Englewood with a severe infection in her neck. After surgery and spending some time in the critical care unit, she and her recently-retired husband RMC clergy Bob Sewell are on the way to their new home, 1413 Cedarway Lane, Nashville, TN 37211. Their e-mail addresses are [pisewell@comcast.net](mailto:pisewell@comcast.net) and [rrsewell@comcast.net](mailto:rrsewell@comcast.net).
- Paul Hood, retired RMC clergy. His spouse Carolyn says he "is suffering from neuralgia left from his bout of shingles four years ago. He is in a great deal of pain and the medications leave him weak and shaky. Not like his old self at all." Expressions of care may be sent to [caphood@msn.com](mailto:caphood@msn.com).
- William Plymell, spouse of the late Susan Plymell, RMC clergy. Expressions of care may be sent to him at 2621 Sherwood St, Pueblo, CO 81005.

### **Susan Plymell Dies**

Susan Plymell, RMC clergy on incapacity leave and former pastor of SonRise UMC in Pueblo, died June 17 as a result of cancer. Susan was ordained deacon in 1978 and elder in 1982. She served Pueblo St. Paul's as associate, Olney springs, and Pueblo Faith/SonRise. She had been a member of the Communications Committee. Marvin Read of the Pueblo Chieftain described her as "quiet-if-intense...a onetime teacher, involved mom and veteran" and mentioned her "long work of establishing SonRise church in Pueblo West."

### **Clergy Transitions**

The complete appointment list with current e-mails is available on the RMCUMC web site: <http://rmcumc.org/CHI/DistrictSites/allappts.phtml>. This list is updated each month September - May (irregularly June-August).

- Glenda Hart to extension ministry as on-call Chaplain at Providence St. Peters Hospital effective March 21, 2006.
- Barbara Ann Johns-Schleicher is appointed to Hygiene UMC effective July 9, 2006.

### **Effective July 1, 2006**

- Jin Ho Kang to Christ Central Korean United Methodist Church
- Sue Pierce to Brighton UMC
- Mark Ramsperger as part-time Local Pastor to the new church start in Cedar City, Utah. Mark has been Supply Pastor there since it started with the first worship service on July 11, 2004.
- Seon Young Lee, currently appointed to Christ Central UMC, Aurora, CO, to Concord Korean UMC of the California-Nevada Conference
- Michelle Odell, associate pastor 3/4 time to Applewood Valley
- Hugh Harris to First UMC Fort Lupton
- Paul Murphy-Geiss, to Simpson United Methodist Church. The new appointment of Rev. Mark Heiss, currently appointed to Simpson UMC, is still under negotiation
- Tom Peacock to Burlington UMC
- Will Morris, currently appointed to Faith UMC, Alexandria, Virginia, is appointed to Burns Memorial UMC in Aurora. As previously announced, Aaron Gray will be appointed in an extension ministry to Conference Council Director of the West Michigan Annual Conference effective July 1, 2006.
- Eric Parker, an elder from the Nebraska Conference, to the Newcastle UMC. Rev. Ed Coates, a retired elder from the South Dakota Conference has been the interim pastor there. It was previously announced that Rev. Leslie Barnett went on Disability Leave as of November 1, 2005.
- Larry Oman the current pastor of the United Methodist Church of Steamboat Springs will be going on Incapacity Leave effective July 1, 2006 rather than retirement as previously announced



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of The United Methodist Church  
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Appointments, Continued:

***Effective July 17***

Steve Earnshaw will be appointed as pastor 1/2 time to First UMC Fountain. Bruce Sage, current pastor at Fountain, will retire July 1, then be supplied to serve Fountain through July 16.

***Effective August 1:***

- Eric Feuerstein to the Baca County Parish as lead pastor for Springfield UMC. Christine Xavier, also appointed to the Baca County Parish, will continue as lead pastor for Walsh UMC. The parish also includes Two Buttes UMC, which will be served by both pastors. Francis Xavier returns to full time retirement.
- Michael Dent, currently appointed to Marvin UMC, Tyler, Texas, to Trinity UMC Denver
- Louise Cordova to Berta A. Penney Memorial UMC in Kemmerer, Wyoming

**TableTalk Publication and Subscription Information**

TableTalk is a summary of the most important e-mailed information sent to the Rocky Mountain Conference e-lists since the last issue. If you wish to receive all information sent by e-mail to the Conference, please send us your e-mail address and say what kinds of information you wish to receive. If official Conference News is the only information you wish to receive, you can sign up yourself at <http://rmcumc.org/subscribe>.

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