

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 News and Resources

Plan to Attend 2006 Lay Ministry Convocation

"Sharing the Story" is theme

Two valuable seminars by outstanding presenters are coming September 30!

- "Sharing God's Story in the People's Song" - Dean B. McIntyre, Director of Music Resources, General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, Tennessee
- "Turning Your Church's Vision into Reality" - Rev. Kenneth (Ken) Brown, Pastor, Broomfield United Methodist Church, Broomfield, Colorado

Saturday, September 30, 2006, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3350 White Bay Drive, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 (9300 Block of S. University Blvd, south of C-470)

Seminar Fee: \$25.00 Includes continental breakfast, two seminars, refreshments, luncheon, take home materials. Brochures and registration info available on the Board of Lay Ministry website, www.rmcbolm.org. For those needing overnight accommodations, a special group rate of \$69.00 (plus tax) has been arranged at the Comfort Suites (Highlands Ranch, CO) 303-770-5400. Deadline for reservations is September 14!

Many churches have received packets with flyers and information to put into your newsletters and bulletins along with registration forms and an invitation from Judy Hill, Conference Lay Leader. All of our Senior Pastors have received brochures.

The Bishop's Big Read is underway!

At Annual Conference in June, Bishop Brown and the Episcopacy Committee invited all clergy and laity to take part in "The Bishop's Big Read." Everyone who signed up will receive a letter this week. Groups are to be self-organizing and they can be held in local churches, at the sub-district, or district level. Hopefully, groups will be a mixture of laity and clergy.

Participants are asked to read and discuss Jim Collins' books, *Good to Great* and the monograph, *Good to Great and the Social Sectors*. Copies of the books are available from Cokesbury, 730 W. Hampden, Englewood, CO at a 40% discount. (\$25.53)

There is a downloadable discussion guide on the web-site at <http://www.jimcollins.com>. Use it if you choose to do so. A downloadable tri-fold brochure is available on the RMC web-site. Feel free to print it and use it to invite others to join this effort. (Find it here: <http://rmcumc2.org/COI/ac/ac2006/BigRead.pdf> -- you need the free Adobe Reader to view and print it: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html>). Please do let us know when and where groups are meeting by sending an e-mail to: Rev. Marla Kauerz at mfkauerz@hope-umc.org. Include convener's name and contact information, number of participants, and meeting location including district and church or community.

Watch for details about a video conference in the future and potential gatherings with the Bishop in the next months. This is the first selection in this venture. Watch for the next selection if this effort is successful. Thank you for being a part of making us a Conference on the move!!

Super Christians, Super Heroes at Snow Mountain Ranch

Youth Leadership Conference is Nov. 3-5, 2006 at Snow Mountain Ranch, YMCA of the Rockies.

The theme is "Super Christians, Super Heroes." Keynote speakers are Olon Lindemood, Skip Strickland and Loren Boyce. The band is "All at Once." Early Bird registration is \$149 if postmarked by Oct. 11. After that, it is \$169. Right now we are waiting for the list of workshops & activities that people can sign up for.

As soon as those are turned in, the registration packets will be in the mail!!!!

Contact: Nancy Cox, Registrar, Events@rmcumc.com, 303-389-9455, 800-536-3736, Ext. 155

Youth Dates Announced

2007 dates for major youth events are:

- **Up With Youth 2007**, April 13-15 at YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park
- **Water World Day**, August 5
- **Youth Leadership Conference 2007**, November 2-4 at YMCA of the Rockies, Snow Mountain Ranch

Town and Country Consultation Offered

St. Paul School of Theology is offering a Town and Country Consultation, October 9-11, 2006, 3pm on Monday thru Wednesday noon) in Kansas City, MO. The theme, "Healthy People, Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations", emphasizes the need for Leaders, both clergy and lay, to maintain their health in order to call congregations to health and wholeness. The conference will address 'care'ful strategies for maintaining your health as a leader, ways of strengthening congregations through preaching, ideas for promoting health through worship and singing and definitions for understanding what constitutes health in a town and country congregation. If you are interested please contact Audrey Williams at awilliams@spst.edu or 816.245.4815.

Registration cost is \$110 by Sept. 14 or \$125 after Sept. 14. 1 CEU is \$15.00. Limited lodging is available on the St. Paul campus. Contact the Holter Center at 816-245-4803.

Equitable Compensation Applications Available

TO ALL ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHURCHES needing to apply for equitable compensation funds to bring your pastor's cash compensation up to minimum base compensation for the first half of 2007. You may obtain an application from Donna Hite (303-733-3736) at the Rocky Mountain Conference Office. The deadline for Donna Hite to receive the completed application is September 30, 2006. The church board/council must approve the application and the pastor as well as your District Superintendent will need to sign it. We hope to disburse around \$10,000 for the first six months of 2007. -- Mike Bergman, Chair, Equitable Compensation Commission, 303-333-7352

Want to Create or Grow a Church?

The Conference has set a goal of 12 new urban and 12 rural churches, and 12 ethnic ministries by 2012, so the Conference New Ministries Committee invites growth-oriented clergy and laity from the RMC who have a dream of planting and growing a new church to attend a seminar led by Jim Griffith, a church planting expert.

This free seminar will be held Saturday, October 28, at Smoky Hill UMC in Centennial, CO. Topics include: Creating a Church Planting Movement; Types of Church Plants; How to Identify Church Planters; A Timeline for Planting and Developing a Church.

The seminar is not just for clergy who want to learn more about becoming a new church-start pastor. Church leaders from churches considering helping plant; other laity interested in becoming new congregations; and seminary students are all welcome and would find something of interest.

More information is in a downloadable brochure at <http://rmcumc2.org/MI/NewMinistries0610.pdf> More information about "12x12x12" is available here: <http://www.rmcumc.org/CV/12-12-12ltr.htm>

More "Creating Sacred Trust" Workshops Offered

Two additional workshops will be held, covering topics such as dealing with congregational conflict with compassion, nurturing children and youth, and strengthening healthy relationships. The two are: Sept. 16 Gillette - First UMC; register by Sept. 11. Sept. 23 Denver - Grace UMC, Greenwood Village; register by Sept. 18.

Please note: pre-registration is a must to provide materials and for the set-up of accommodations for your comfort and use. Contact Tommy Gleaton by deadline with church name and number of persons attending. Tommy Gleaton 303-756-1588 or e-mail tgle105463 at aol dot com.

General/Jurisdiction Church News and Resources

Reach Out and Engage Hispanics/Latinos: Training Event

A Western Jurisdiction training event entitled "Reaching Pentecost: Non-Hispanic/Latino Congregations Engaging Hispanics/Latinos" will be held November 1-4, 2006, at University UMC, Las Vegas, Nevada. The training will prepare non-Hispanic/Latino clergy and laity to be in ministry with Hispanics/Latinos by providing resources and a new outreach method, assistance for strategies for implementation, and creating a network of support and learning.

Download the flyer to find out more about "Who is my neighbor" here in the West, and to register. <http://rmcumc2.org/News/WJHispanicTrng.pdf>

The National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, the General Boards of Discipleship and Mission, MARCHA-West, and the AWJ Conferences are sponsors. Registration deadline is October 18.

Disaster Preparedness Academy Offered

Are we prepared for a large-scale natural disaster within the boundaries of our conference? If a disaster strikes our neighboring conference, are we prepared to help immediately with an action-plan/communication plan? What is unique about the Western Jurisdiction that might affect how we respond to a large-scale disaster?

UMCOR and UMVIM are hosting a joint Disaster Preparedness Academy in the Western Jurisdiction this fall, Nov 6-10. The program will use the same format as UMCOR uses for its national disaster response academy at Sager-Brown, with the addition of a networking workshop just for those in the West.

This UMCOR/UMVIM Disaster-Preparedness Academy is geared for the following people from each conference; however as space permits, we welcome anyone to join us who wishes to participate in this unique planning process.

There is no registration fee. All workshop materials are free. First United Methodist Church, 2100 J St., Sacramento, CA 95816, 916-446-5025. Contact Kurt & Jan Kaiser, UMVIM-WJ coordinators for more information: love2trvl@imbris.com 208-263-4094 – Kurt and Jan Kaiser, UMVIM-WJ coordinators

UMCom Wants Stories

Hispanic Ministry

AMANDA BACHUS, UMCom editor, would be interested in receiving Hispanic ministries-related stories from our conference. Send them to: abachus@umcom.org. There are currently two venues: *Noticias en español* and *el Intérprete* magazine. Near-future plans are for a Spanish portal web page in www.umc.org.

Small or Rural Church Stories

The UNITED METHODIST RURAL FELLOWSHIP BULLETIN would be happy to receive stories from local small or rural congregations about innovative ministries or successes, or that honor someone in small church or rural ministry. Contact UMRF Bulletin Editor Ronald J. Williams, Manhattan, KS, at ronaldj7@cox.net.

Please copy ben@rmcumc.com, when you send them something. Perhaps they can be shared with the Conference as well.

UMC Plays Major Role In News

The United Methodist Church plays a major role in the news from time to time. Wednesday, August 16, Bishop Minverva Carcaño of the Phoenix Area appeared live on two major news shows. (Bishop Carcaño was with us at Annual Conference.) She debated Monica Crowley on immigration issues on MSNBC's Tucker Carlson show. Then a couple of hours later she appeared on CNN's Lou Dobbs Tonight show, debating immigration with Lou Dobbs.

The interviews were part of the coverage of a story in Chicago, where Elvira Arellano, a prominent immigration rights spokesperson, took sanctuary in Aldaberto United Methodist Church in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood. She does not have legal status to be in the U.S. but has a 7-year-old son who is a U.S. citizen. She had been ordered to report to U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement for deportation, but instead took refuge in the church.

She told the Chicago Tribune that seeking sanctuary in the church was her only option. She had previously been granted three delays of deportation due to the health of her son. United Methodist News Service supplies headlines to the RMCUMC.org/News web page. Visit UMNS at: <http://umns.umc.org/>.

Missions News

Pakistan Earthquake Need Continues

UMCOR is working with its mission partners in Pakistan to ease the continuing recovery from last year's earthquake disaster. The Advance Special project number for helping this emergency is 232000 which is funding emergency food, supplies and clothing to International Disasters.

Ron Hodges, Director of Mission and Ministry for the Conference said, "I commend all of you who share with those who have so little left following disasters. Liberality in sharing is one of the distinguishing marks of Christian faith. May all of us grow in our commitment to the healing and caring ministries of God."

Mission Thanks and Opportunity

Rev. Steve Johnsen, pastor of the Denver Inner City Parish, sends thanks to United Methodists for help at the Parish. These churches are named in the colorful flyer: Applewood Valley, Arvada, Castle Rock, Grace (Denver), Grant Avenue, Green Mountain, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge. Other churches are mentioned below.

Rev. Johnsen says, "We've appreciated very much the support and leadership for Vacation Bible School and Summer Day Camp." He sent along a poster (found here: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/umsatwork.pdf>) that illustrated some of the ways United Methodists have been helping low-income kids this summer at the Parish..

Johnsen pointed to a variety of other ways UMs help. Right now, Parker United Methodist is helping with a project which will help those recently released from prison to make it, and hopefully avoid further crimes and additional prison time. Hope United Methodist, Brentwood United Methodist, University Park UMC, Green Mountain and others are helping with funding. If you wish to have a field trip to the Parish or help in other ways, contact Rev. Steve. Johnsen at 303-629-0636 to arrange a tour to meet your needs.

Grace UMC Has Health Kits

Ten health kits have been put together for UMCOR at the Sager-Brown Depot. If anyone is going down to Sager-Brown in Louisiana and is willing to deliver them, please contact Laura Determan @ 303-757-3982 for pickup at Grace UMC, Denver.

Flood Buckets Ready To Go

Christ UMC, Sterling, CO, has 6 flood buckets for the UMCOR Sager-Brown Depot if anyone is going there soon and can take them along. Contact Joyce DeToni-Hill, pastor at 970-522-2910, or revjoyce@kci.net.

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:

- **Laura Easter Rainwater**, pastor of Sargent Community Church and Mosca UMC, who is in the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa with severe abdominal pain. Please continue to hold Laura and her husband, Jeff Rainwater, pastor of Center and Sauguache UMCs, in your prayers. Expressions of care may be sent to them at leastrain@centurytel.net or pastorjeff@centurytel.net.
- **Kathy Haley**, RMC clergy on incapacity leave, who has a large blood clot in her leg and will now have to go on a Coumadin program. The situation complicates the lupus that she also has. Expressions of care may be sent to Kathy at 2040 Forest St, Denver, 80207.
- **Nancy Mead**, pastor of Phillips UMC, Lakewood, whose mother Ellen died in July after a year-long battle with cancer. Ellen was a member of St. Andrew and Hope United Methodist Churches. The family requests that gifts be directed to the Denver University Scholarship Fund, or the charity of your choice. Expressions of care may be sent to Nancy at nancmead1@earthlink.net.
- **Ed Beck**, retired RMC clergy who lives in the Phoenix area, and who is on the mend from serious surgery, but requests no phone calls yet. Expressions of care may be sent to Ed and Faye at 18818 N 1228th Ave., Sun City West, AZ 85375 or dqucoffice@mindspring.com.
- **Carol Paup**, spouse of Bishop Ed Paup of the Seattle Episcopal Area. Carol also had serious surgery and is recovering. Ed was elected to the Episcopacy from the RMCUMC in 2000. Expressions of care may be sent to Carol and Ed at P O Box 13650, Des Moines, WA 98198-1009, or bishop@pnwumc.org.
- **Ken Gies**, Metro District Administrative Secretary, whose dad, Ray Gies, was hospitalized with multiple ailments, the most serious of which is pneumonia and a infection in the blood. He is now home and much better but still weak and using a walker. Expressions of care may be sent to Ken at ken@rmcumc.com or c/o RMCUMC, 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111 and to Ray and Faye Gies, 1459 S. Osage St., Denver, CO 80223.
- Friends and family of Ken Moreland, retired clergy member of the Dakotas Conference who also served in RMC. He served Erie, Lakewood, Golden First and Montclair in the RMC. Since his retirement in 1997, he served as the office manager of Warren UMC, Denver. Ken died from a heart attack while mowing his lawn. He had 37 years of service as a pastor. Expressions of care may be sent to Dolores Moreland at 13791 Braun Drive, Golden, CO 80401.

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).

- Denise Bender moves from Golden First to associate pastor at Heritage UMC in Littleton effective September 1.

Fires Stress UMs

The recent fire near Casper affected UMs from both UM churches there, First and Christ. Members of both churches were evacuated and many more had to deal with the fallout from the fire, including a brown layer over the town which affected the elderly and those with respiratory problems.

The "Red Apple" fire near Rifle destroyed the home of Rich and Sue Stoakes and caused others to be evacuated. Rich is pastor of Rifle United Methodist/Presbyterian Church. He and his spouse are safe, but lost their pets to the fire.

Interfaith Forum Offered on Domestic Partnerships

A Progressive Interfaith Public Forum, will be held on Tuesday, September 19th, at 7p.m. at First Christian Church, 950 28th St., Boulder, Co. A panel discussion will address the topic: "Faith, Family and Fairness: Why Domestic Partnerships?" The panel, moderated by former State Senator Dorothy Rupert, will include: Holly Berman, Har HaShem Cantorial Solorist and Lesbian Mom, Rev. Phil Campbell, Colorado Clergy for Equality in Marriage, Jeremy Shaver, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, and Jeff Thormodsgaard, Coloradans for Fairness. First Christian Church will provide refreshments following the panel discussion.

Preaching Series Begins

WOMEN'S PREACHING SERIES begins this fall at First United Methodist Church in Salt Lake. The service will be led by women for women; however, everyone is welcome to attend. Service begins at 5:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of the month beginning September 16. Women who are interested in participating are invited to contact Rev. Cheryl Popple at crpopple@comcast.net. Women of all ages are welcome as preachers, musicians, prayer team leaders, worship arts coordinators, dancers, etc. Come join the celebration of the gifts of women!

OPENING CELEBRATION: Preacher: Rev. Cheryl Popple, September 16

Preacher: Sister Eleanor Hoffman, OP, October 21

Preacher: (open), November 18

Preacher: (open), December 16

Trinity's Trip to Red Bird Mission Has Openings!

You can experience being the "hands of Christ" to our neighbors in the poorest region of our country on Trinity's mission trip Oct.7-14th to Red Bird Mission, in Beverly KY. Red Bird Mission in the heart of Appalachia ministers to those caught in the cycle of generational poverty. Through this mission experience you will participate in 4 sessions that address the root causes of poverty in Appalachia and learn how your witness can help those who have become victims change their perspective. Our team will construct, paint, and do general home restoration--no previous experience necessary. Red Bird Mission, located in southeast Kentucky, serves this low-income mountain region with education, health care and community service, including work team projects for families in need. If you would like to join the team, please contact Rev. Miriam Slejko at 303-839-1493, Trinity UMC, Denver.

Feeding the Soul III

Feeding the Soul III is an interfaith spiritual growth workshop encouraging clergy, care ministers, parish nurses and other pastoral care providers on Wednesday, September 20. Sponsored by the former Samaritan Counseling Center of Denver, now CENTUS Counseling and Consulting, the workshop offers a plenary address entitled "Shattered Souls: Profound Childhood Abuse and Frozen Faith Development" and workshops on care of self and care of others. The CENTUS web site has more information here:

<http://www.centus.org/> The flyer is here, with complete registration information

<http://www.centus.org/includes/downloads/feedingthesouliifinalweb.pdf>

More Spiritual Renewal Opportunities

CALLED BACK TO THE WELL offers spiritual renewal for clergy and congregations throughout the Southwest. CALLED BACK TO THE WELL helps clergy deepen their spiritual lives and cultivate healthy relationships through small prayer/support groups and retreats. An ecumenical prayer/support group for clergy in Denver and northern Colorado will begin early this fall. For more information, visit:

<http://www.samaritancc.com/programs/CalledBacktotheWell.html>

Taizé Brothers Coming to Denver October 12-15, 2006

Two brothers from the Taizé community in France will visit Denver this fall, hosted by a wide variety of churches and religious organizations representing many streams and traditions of Christianity. Flyer:

<http://rmcumc2.org/News/TaizeinDenverOct2006-flyer.pdf>

Annual Poverty Conference To Be Held

The Annual Poverty Conference sponsored by Utah Issues will be held Friday, September 22, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Salt Lake City Main Library. It is free, and lunch is provided. Please pre-register by contacting Greg Jaboin, Health Policy Analyst / Multicultural Health Network Coordinator, at 801-521-2035 x120, or greg@utahissues.org for more information.

"Hunger Is A Moral Issue"

Even though it may already have played in your area, know about this powerful TV documentary presented by the National Council of Churches, available to NBC affiliates beginning September 10, takes an unflinching look at the persistent problem of hunger in the 21st Century. . . and offers solutions. "Hunger No More: Faces Behind the Facts" approaches hunger from the perspective of faith, declaring that hunger is more than a social issue.

"It is a moral issue that needs immediate resolution," says Burton Buller, President of Mennonite Media, who produced the program in collaboration with the NCC. "The program brings to life the moral dimension of this thorny issue, and offers up a vision for a new day when hunger is eradicated from the face of the earth." Read more: <http://www.nccusa.org/hunger/>

Community Audit Program Low Cost Seminary Learning

Illiff School of Theology has a Community Audit Program that enables those not seeking degrees but seeking knowledge to learn at low cost. Download the flyer for this fall here: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/CommunityAuditFall06.pdf>

Available:

Simpson UMC has furniture for your church nursery. 2 Units - each unit has two infant cribs (one above the other) Free to any group that needs it - just pick it up. Call the church office 303-428-7963

CU Wesley Foundation Needs "Hand-Me-Downs!"

The Wesley Foundation campus ministry at CU Boulder could really benefit by having certain items that our congregations may have in their facilities that they're no longer using. Needed items include: a working photo-copier; a decent pc and monitor and/or laptop computer; a baptismal font; a portable prayer kneeler; 2 cubicle partitions/room dividers; 20-30 copies of recent Lenten and Advent study books; paperback Bibles; copies of the books Blue Like Jazz and/or The Heart of Christianity; wooden or metal "sandwich board signs"; solid black music stands; video/powerpoint projector; volleyball net, and they'd be interested in learning about any other items you think they could use. Please contact Terri Juvan or Rev. Roger Wolsey at 303.443.3934 or webmaster@wesleyf.org if you can help them out!

Jobs Available

Check out the Jobs and Resumes on RMCUMC.org: <http://rmcumc.org/CR/Jobs/>

- Accompanist, Kearns (posted 8/31/06)
- Lead Teachers, Littleton (posted 8/31/06)
- Director of Youth Ministries, Colorado Springs (posted 8/31/06)
- Youth Director, Lakewood (posted 8/3/06)
- Coordinator of Christian Education, Grand Junction (posted 7/27/06)
- Sunday School/Youth Group Coordinator, Denver (posted 7/25/06)
- Infant and Toddler Nursery Care Provider, Denver (posted 7/25/06)
- Christian Ed and Youth Coordinator, Denver (posted 7/25/06)
- Music Director, Westminster (Posted 6/28/06)



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TableTalk Publication and Subscription Information

TableTalk is a selection or 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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