

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

Russia Initiative Consultation To Be Held

You are invited to attend a Russia Initiative Mini Consultation with Bishop Hans Vaxby, head of the Eurasia Area of The United Methodist Church, and the UM Conferences of that area. The mini-consultation will take place in Colorado Springs October 10th. After leading a brief worship service, Bishop Vaxby will speak about the state of the church in Eurasia, respond to questions, and dialogue with participants concerning the churches and ministries of this vital mission of The United Methodist Church.

The Russia Initiative is the largest mission initiative of the United Methodist Church, covering a huge area of 11 time zones and including some 100 churches in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and several countries in Central Asia. The renewal of Methodism in countries of the former Soviet Union began with The Russia Initiative of the General Board of Global Ministries in 1991. Today there are some 110 indigenous pastors who have been trained through resident and distance learning programs of the Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary in Moscow.

This Mini Consultation will be hosted by the Rocky Mountain Russia Initiative and First UMC, Colorado Springs. It will be held at St. Paul's UMC, 2111 Carlton Ave in Colorado Springs at 10:00 AM and will conclude at approximately 2:00 PM. Persons interested in the Russia Initiative or want to learn more about it are encouraged to contact Dr. Phil Covert, pastor, 719-634-7046, pcovert@adelphia.net in order to make reservations for the luncheon during the consultation.

This is a unique opportunity for all those interested in world wide missions. Read more about Bishop Vaxby here: http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=3812. Read more about the Eurasia Episcopal Area here: <http://www.umc-eurasia.ru/>

YLC Registration Underway!

Early Bird registration for Youth Leadership Conference is \$149 if postmarked by Oct. 11; after that, \$169. Registration packet material is on the web: <http://rmcumc.org/MI/Youth/YLC/>. **Youth Leadership Conference** will be held Nov. 3-5, 2006 at Snow Mountain Ranch, near Tabernash, CO. The theme is "Super Christians, Super Heroes," featuring keynote speakers Olon Lindemood, Skip Strickland and Loren Boyce. Contact: Nancy Cox, Registrar, Events@rmcumc.com, 303-389-9455, 800-536-3736, Ext. 155

Town and Country Consultation Offered

A Town and Country Consultation will be held October 9-11, 2006, 3pm on Monday thru Wednesday noon at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. The theme, "Healthy People, Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations", and 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. Contact Audrey Williams at awilliams@spst.edu or 816.245.4815. Registration cost is \$125. Limited lodging available on campus. Contact the Holter Center at 816-245-4803.

12-12-12 Seminar Planned

The Rocky Mountain Conference has set a goal of 12 new urban and 12 rural churches, and 12 ethnic ministries by 2012. 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, and 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>

Montrose Sponsors Igniting Ministry Workshop!

The United Methodist Church of Montrose is the site for an Igniting Ministry Workshop on Saturday, October 28, 2006 from 8am to 4-pm. Linda Rhodes, a national presenter from United Methodist Communications will be the trainer. Igniting Ministry is known for the Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors campaign and the Certified Welcoming Church program.

This is a wonderful opportunity for outreach and worship committee members, church staff and administrative board members to learn some strategies in hospitality and visibility, resulting in increased attendance and membership. The cost of the workshop is minimal, \$5.00 registration fee and \$8.00 for lunch.

Montrose is located in the heart of western Colorado, the gateway to Ouray, Silverton and Telluride. Early motel reservations are encouraged due to hunting season. A brochure of the area was sent in an August letter to all churches. Reservations should be made by Monday, October 16 so hospitality can be planned. Reservations and additional information requests can be directed to the church office at 970-249-3716. The office staff of Carol and Sheila will be assisting Pastor Mark Marston in this offering.

Find out more about the Igniting Ministry program of The United Methodist Church here: <http://ignitingministry.org/>. Be sure to especially check out "Getting Started," "Training," and "Welcoming" buttons on the left. Crossroads UMC in Grand Junction is a certified Welcoming Church, a part of the Igniting Ministry program.

"The New Vision" Released

The New Vision, Fall 2006 edition, should be at your church now. You can view it (and print it) at the News and Communications box on our home page: choose "Latest New Vision."

The issue is entitled "Caring Hands Unite" -- the same as our recent Annual Conference session theme, and has stories and photos about Annual Conference, as well as about the uniting of caring hands in missions work and fund-raising for UMCOR. The Communications Committee encourages churches to provide these to all as a way to build our Connection as The United Methodist Church in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

United Methodist Volunteers Put Faith into Action in Cheyenne

GraceWorks Community: The Bishop's Young Adult Initiative commissioned its first young adult volunteers at First UMC in Cheyenne, September 17. Advocating for children and helping homeless families get back on their feet may sound like a strange definition of faith to some, but for four young people beginning a year of full-time volunteer work, it sounds about right. The volunteers have come to Cheyenne as part of GraceWorks Community, a new leadership development program sponsored by the regional office of The United Methodist Church (UMC).

GraceWorks volunteers live together in intentional community for the year of service, and work at established community agencies serving young people and those in need. The program provides room and

board, health insurance, a transportation allowance, and a small monthly stipend to support volunteers' living expenses. At the end of the year, volunteers are eligible for AmeriCorps Education Awards, which can be used for existing student loans or future education expenses.

The vision for the program came from United Methodist Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., who oversees the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual (regional) Conferences. "My interest in creating this Initiative is to offer an opportunity for young people to put their faith into action in a very concrete way," he explained. "Through living in community, serving others, and advocating for those who are poor and marginalized, they can develop skills for servant leadership in church and society."

This year's volunteers are all women, age 24 to 27, and they come from as far away as Arkansas and Kentucky. They arrived in town on August 20 for a week of orientation before beginning work on August 28. Local churches, including First, Faith, Frontier, and Grace UMCs, are providing support in everything from donations of furniture for the house to inviting the young people to be part of Bible study and fellowship groups. An Open House is planned for Sunday, October 1 as an opportunity for community supporters to meet the volunteers and hear firsthand about their experiences.

Cheyenne's response to the volunteers has been enthusiastic. "We're finding that local agencies are well connected to each other, but often struggling to meet community needs on tight budgets and small staffs," said Rev. Kerry Greenhill, Director. "The volunteers are improving their ability to help those in need. Meanwhile, young people gain valuable experience and skills for leadership, plus money for further education or to pay off student loans.

"John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, believed that 'there is no holiness but social holiness,' that if you are serious about your personal spiritual growth, you need to be connected with a community of faith and working with the poor," added Greenhill. We want to help young adults make those connections, to see Christ in others as they discover and use their gifts for leadership in work that makes a difference in the community."

The program is unique in The United Methodist Church as a regionally based, full-time volunteer program with a focus on communal living as well as individual service and growth. Funding comes from individual donations, local church support, and grants from two faith-based organizations: The United Methodist Church's Division on Ministries with Young People, and the Valparaiso Project for the Education and Formation of People of Faith. Additional funding is still needed to sustain the program through its pilot year, ending August 3, 2007, and beyond.

"Our long-term vision is to have volunteer houses in communities across all four of the states in this region," Greenhill said. "It's never too early to dream big." GraceWorks Community is open to young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30. Donations (via the Rocky Mountain Conference, UMC) are tax-deductible. Visit www.graceworkscommunity.org to learn more.

HealthFlex Rates for 2007, CRSP Calculations, and Insurance Issues

Jack Ford, Conference Treasurer, Donna Hite, Assistant Pensions Officer and HealthFlex Administrator, have sent to All Finance and SPRC Chairs and Treasurers a letter containing the 2007 HealthFlex rates for all Active Participants (Clergy and Lay) for the Rocky Mountain Conference. These rates include dental coverage. The increase this year was only 4.5% (we were expecting about 5%) although claims history reflects some serious illnesses this year.

The letter also included some basic information on the new Clergy Retirement Security Program that will begin January 1, 2007 for *all clergy appointed to churches, district or conference-controlled entities (please note that this program does NOT apply to those already retired!)*. It is made up of a Core Defined Benefit Plan and a Core Defined Contribution Plan, with Optional Defined Contribution available. Contributions to the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) will cease on December 31, 2006.

The funding was presented and approved at the 2006 Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Conference in Petition AC 08. The letter quoted extensively from this petition (included in the petition packet sent to all members of the Annual Conference and those retired clergy who requested them. The petition is available on the RMCUMC.org web site: <http://www.rmcumc.org/COI/ac/ac2006/petitions.htm>. The Board of Trustees for the Rocky Mountain Conference are currently reviewing the insurance coverages. Church Mutual and PACT are making presentations to a Sub-Committee and a decision will be communicated as soon as possible. Jack asks that those with questions should contact him: jack@rmcumc.com or 800-536-3736x151.

To: All active HealthFlex participants (clergy and lay), local church treasurers and SPPR Chairs
Subject: 2007 HealthFlex Premium Rates

Here are the 2007 rates for all active participants. As in previous years, these rates still include dental coverage.

	Base Rates	
Category	Monthly Rate	Annual Rate
Single	\$ 702.00	\$ 8,424.00
Two-Party	\$1,295.00	\$15,540.00
Family	\$1,628.00	\$19,536.00

If you live in an EPO area but wish to use a non-network physician, you may do so by choosing to pay an additional monthly cost.

Category	Additional Monthly Cost
Single	\$137.00
Two-Party	\$257.00
Family	\$326.00

Dental Options

The dental coverage you are now provided is the least expensive plan, but if you are in the HMO, you may choose the dental indemnity plan by paying an additional cost. The additional amounts per month for 2007 are:

Category	Additional Monthly Cost
Single	\$40.00
Two-Party	\$63.00
Family	\$90.00

Please call Donna Hite Assistant Pensions Officer, HealthFlex Administrator, ext 150 or direct 303-325-7050 or Jack Ford ext 151 at the Conference HealthFlex office if you have any questions.

Taizé Brothers in Denver

October 12 - 15, 2006, two brothers from the Taizé community in France will visit Denver, hosted by a wide variety of churches and religious organizations representing many streams and traditions of Christianity. See <http://www.reinventingsunday.com/taizebrothers.htm>, for all the info plus registration forms. Flyers also available: <http://rmcumc2.org/News/TaizeBroCard9-9-6.pdf> and <http://rmcumc2.org/News/TaizeinDenverOct2006-flyer.pdf>

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.

Ready for Disaster? WJ Academy Offered

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 free and will be held at First United Methodist Church, Sacramento, CA 95816, 916-446-5025. Contact Kurt & Jan Kaiser, UMVIM-WJ coordinators for more information: love2trvl@imbris.com 208-263-4094

Missions News

Volunteers in Mission Team Leader Training

Saturday, October 21, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm., Hope United Methodist Church, Englewood, CO. This training will prepare those who would like to lead a Volunteers in Mission team, either domestic or international. The training is also open to anyone interested in learning more about United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. Cost: \$30 for training manual and lunch. To register, contact Ann Fort, 303-220-0840, annfort@msn.com.

Mission Trip Report Forms Needed!

If a group (either adults or youth) have or will take a mission trip in 2006, please remember to send in your Mission Trip Report form. The form is available on the Rocky Mountain Conference Volunteers in Mission web site, under "Resources," or you can contact Ann Fort, 303-220-0840, annfort@msn.com to obtain one. All the data from these forms goes into a report for the General Board of Global Ministries, so we want to make sure our Conference is properly represented!

Invitation Extended To Host VIM

Calling all churches! Would you like help with your Vacation Bible School, maintenance at your church, or a project in your community? If so, please consider hosting a Volunteers in Mission team next year! These would be great opportunities for groups such as families, Iliff School of Theology students, or college students, so the service would go both ways! We appreciate the churches who have previously identified projects and hosted teams. Please contact Betsy Keyack, 303-346-7057, bkeyack@att.net if you have a possible project!

The Gleaning is on in the San Luis Valley!

Every August through October, La Puente Home in Alamosa, Co, sponsors a gleaning project. After the harvest, volunteers glean carrots, spinach or potatoes from the fields and take the proceeds to food banks in their area. The work is done Tuesdays and Saturdays. Great mission trip for people of all ages, including children! St. Luke's UMC in Highlands Ranch, Co. is organizing a potato trip from Friday, October 6 through the October 7 evening. Side trip to the Sand Dunes is planned. If you would like to join us, contact Betsy Keyack, 303-346-7057, bkeyack@att.net. To set up your own gleaning trip, contact: Kelsea MacIlroy, 719-589-4567.

Urgent Requests

- St. Mark's UMC in Stockton is in desperate need for teams NOW to come to Stockton to assist in the rehab and addition construction at the house recently given to the church to use as a parsonage for Hispanic Ministries. The house has been cleaned out and is now waiting on volunteers to come and help. The faster we get this done, the faster the house can be used for its new family. Please respond by contacting the UMVIM office at 916-374-1584, eddief@calnevumc.org.
- Mission Team needed! Home United Methodist Church in Rye, CO needs insulation in the Sanctuary. This is a beautiful, friendly church in the countryside southwest of Pueblo. If they get enough treated paper insulation they can use a blower for up to two days. It would be great to have a team come do this prior to winter setting in. They did several projects with their own work team, but the time is running out for them to be more energy efficient. They have some of the best cooks around and great floor space in the Education Building. Contact: Pastor Emily Neely, 719-489-2107, homeumc@juno.com.

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:

- **Rich and Sue Stoakes**, whose home and pets were destroyed by fire in the Rifle "Red Apple" wildfire. Rich is pastor of the United Methodist/Presbyterian Church in Rifle. Both Rich and Sue are safe. You can send notes of encouragement and offers of help to them at Revsaintoakes@aol.com or c/o United Methodist/Presbyterian Church, 200 E Fourth St, Rifle, CO 81650. Rich's church office number is 970-625-1603. Please also keep in your prayers others who were affected by this fire.
- **Brian Riecke**, Conference Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and New Media, who was in Houston earlier this month with his father. His father is undergoing chemotherapy and eventual surgery. Expressions of care may be sent to brian@rmcumc.com.
- **King Harris**, senior pastor of Epworth UMC in Denver. King has been recently diagnosed with cancer. He is in good spirits: he says, "I have it; it doesn't have me." Expressions of care can be sent to his email kinghar@aol.com or to Epworth UMC, 3401 High Street, Denver, CO 80205.
- **Tongan pastors and families** and our **Tongan members**. Tonga's King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, a towering figure in the tiny Pacific Island nation for four decades, died Sept. 10 at a New Zealand hospital. He was 88. You can read the complete story at this link: Salt Lake City Deseret News: <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,645200560,00.html>. According to the Deseret News, "Utah has one of the largest populations of people born in Tonga outside of the small Pacific Ocean kingdom."
- **Bob Morgan**, retired clergy member of RMC, living in Cheyenne, WY who was put into Hospice care mid-September very weak and frail. Expressions of care & concern can be sent to his wife Johnna at 1503 Trent Ct, Cheyenne, WY 82009. Bob served Paoli-Wages, Brush, Newcastle, Rawlins, Casper Christ, Cortez, Sterling Faith, and Salida before his retirement in 1992.
- **Jeannie Merriman**, spouse of Keith Merriman, retired RMC clergy. Jeannie is recovering well from surgery Sept. 20. Expressions of care may be sent to Keith and Jeannie at keithmerriman@hotmail.com or 1650 46th Ave, Greeley, CO 80634.

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).

- Ronald Mascarenas began serving Alameda Heights as supply pastor September 15. Ron is a student of The Iliff School of Theology.
- John Kingsbury began serving as 1/2 time Local Pastor to Howard Memorial UMC (Last Chance, Colorado) on September 1.

Don Grooters Dies

Retired RMC clergy member Don Grooters died September 15 at the age of 94. Bruce Maxwell, pastor at Longmont First, says he was at peace. A Memorial Service was held at First UMC, Longmont, Colorado.

Don began his ministry in RMC in 1938 as a probationary member, gaining full membership in 1940. He served Denver Grace, Clifton-Grand Junction Goodwill, Pueblo Northern Ave., Alamosa-Wesley Foundation-Mosca, Longmont, Denver Brentwood, Utah-Western and Greeley Districts as Superintendent, and Cheyenne First. He retired in 1978.

Expressions of care may be sent to his wife Kathleen at 2669 Elmhurst Circle, Longmont, CO 80503.

Women's Preaching Series Continues

A women's preaching series continues 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. Women who are interested in participating are invited to contact Rev. Cheryl Pople at crpople@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!

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>

Ken Gies Leaves Metro Secretary Position

Ken Gies, District Administrative Secretary of the Metropolitan District, resigned his position effective September 22, 2006. Youngsook Kang, Metro DS said, "On behalf of the Metropolitan District, I express my gratitude to Ken for his hard work and passion that he has shared with the District and the Conference." Ken will be working in Denver and plans to stay "connected" with the UMC. Resumes are being reviewed now for his replacement.

Jobs Available

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

Recent postings:

- District Administrative Secretary, Greenwood Village, CO (posted 9/21/06)
- Director of Youth Ministries, Musician, Gypsum/Eagle, CO (posted 9/15/06)
- Organist, La Junta, CO (posted 9/15/06)
- Christian Ed/Youth, Golden (posted 9/7/06)
- Director, Pre-School/Parent's Day Out Program, Littleton (posted 8/31/06)
- Music Director, Colorado Springs (posted 8/31/06)
- 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)

Available

FUMC Greeley has several used choir robes that are free for the taking if anyone needs them. They are in various sizes and condition. Contact the church office, 970 353 5522. This is what is available:

- 39 red robes (with collars)
- 47 teal robes
- 48 gold robes
- 3 majenta robes
- 2 purple robes
- 10 burgandy robes



**Rocky
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of The United Methodist Church
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RMCUMC.org Switches Servers

We have offered the option for folks to sign up to our News list themselves via RMCUMC.org, the main Conference web presence. We learned recently that e-mails from that address going to Comcast customers were being blocked by Comcast. We have now switched servers in an attempt to keep that mail going. In doing that, access to RMCUMC.org (using that name) was temporarily lost.

You can get up-to-the-minute secular and United Methodist news headlines on our News page, latest appointments and clergy e-mail addresses (updated monthly), forms for Charge/Church Conferences, information about various events, from YLC to the Clergy Retreat and lots of other information supporting your work.

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>.

TableTalk is edited by Ben Roe, Information Administrator. The next TableTalk will be published via e-mail in late October and sent a few days later by US Postal Service bulk mail. It will contain items sent prior to the date of publication. To subscribe to TableTalk, send an e-mail (or a postcard) with your name, church, and e-mail address to ben@rmcumc.com or the address above.