

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

Trustees Finalize Insurance

After careful review and clarifying negotiations, the Board of Trustees has decided to continue our relationship with Church Mutual for insurance needs of the Conference for the next three years.

While details are being worked out, we can say that the churches and the Conference will receive better coverages for little or no increase in cost. Our goal is to provide you the details, your coverages and costs, by December 15th.

I wish to thank the Board of Trustees Conference-Wide Insurance Subcommittee, consisting of Rev. Stephanie Muñoz, Board Chair, Chris Frasier, Prior Board Chair, Rich Marsh, Conference Chancellor, and Lynn Wilcockson, of Trinity UMC, Denver, for their time and efforts to come to a very positive conclusion for the Conference.

-- Jack Ford, Conference Treasurer

Rocky Mountain Conference Goes To South Africa

Bishop Brown, youth sponsor Judy Orecchio and youth Tyme White from Park Hill UMC, and Gheeta Smith, Chair of the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries, will be going to the first global Young People's Convocation in Johannesburg, South Africa December 26-January 3, 2007. The Convocation is sponsored by the Division on Ministry With Young People of The General Board of Discipleship. More information on the convocation is here: <http://www.gbod.org/youngpeople/connected/global/>

You are encouraged to support the costs of the trip and the ministries with young people in this Conference by sending your checks to RMCUMC, c/o Brian Riecke, 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111, with the notation Global Young People's Convo. (Brian is Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.)

Up With Young Adults Planned for Grand Junction

The RMC Conference Council on Young Adults is in the final stages of planning their spring retreat--Up With Young Adults 2007. This event will be held in Grand Junction, Colorado the weekend of April 20-22. UWYA will be an opportunity for spiritual growth as well as a weekend to dream big about what you want Young Adult Ministry to look like in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Conference Older Adult Symposium Planned

As you may be aware, the Conference Committee on Older Adult Ministry successfully authored a grant to provide training for leaders in our districts on Older Adult Ministry. The continued success and growth of Older Adult Ministry is reliant on having dynamic, qualified persons trained from each of our Districts. We are reaching out to you, as our leaders, to assist in gathering names of potential attendees that could then go out and facilitate others in ministering to the older adults.

The Symposium on Older Adult Ministry will be held at the Conference Office on January 18 & 19. We will be providing rooms for the night of the 18th, travel allowances and all meals and snacks for the entire

symposium. The event will begin at 1:30 PM on the 18th and continue Friday from 9:00AM until 2:30PM. This is the first time a conference has attempted to effectively train persons for district wide ministry to older adults. The General Board of Discipleship has placed great trust in our conference regarding this project.

Each District is invited to have three attendees. In those districts with sub-districts, we are requesting that you look for persons from each sub-district to better facilitate training throughout the conference. We would appreciate the list of potential attendees by November 20, so we may directly contact these people. If you submit no names to attend this symposium then your district may not benefit from our ministry to older adults.

Contact: Kent Replogle, Older Adult Ministry Conference Committee, 10550 Bryant Way, Westminster, CO 80234, sethamy11@comcast.net, 303-439-8267

Conference Treasurer Clarifies New IRA Contribution Tax Law

A retired clergyperson asked Treasurer Jack Ford about the new IRA Contribution Law: "I believe I was told that it is only TAX FREE if you itemize." Jack responded, "you do not have to itemize to take advantage of this new provision!" He outlined the three criteria necessary to receive the benefits of the law:

1. You must be 70 and 1/2 years old or older and are required to take a minimum required distribution from a qualified IRA. When I was in financial planning, we estimated about 12% of the assets were required to be distributed. Your administrator or tax person can calculate it more accurately. People who put a lot of money into 401(k) provisions are included, but the money must be in a specific qualified (tax-deferred) plan. It is my understanding that all IRA's qualify, but not annuity plans.
2. You cannot receive the money and send it on to the church, that would require you to declare it as income and itemize your deductible gift. You must direct the administering company to send it directly to the church.
3. The church or wherever you send the money must qualify (certain family charities do not) and acknowledge and receive the gift from you, so you have proof of the minimum required distribution, but it does not show up as income and does not need to be itemized. The simple tax form will do.

For example, if you have \$500,000 in a qualified IRA, and are now reaching age 70 1/2, you must start taking distributions from this fund and pay taxes on it. Using the estimate of 12%, you would be required to take \$60,000 and pay federal and state taxes, probably at the 28% level, plus state taxes of about 5%. You may want to do that, but by following this procedure, you direct the administering company to pay whatever amount of this you want to a qualifying charitable organization (a church) directly. The church receives the money and acknowledges it to you and it is not income for you to report, but it is income that meets the minimum required distribution requirement. Therefore, its tax-free! If you give less than \$60,000, you would have to pay taxes on whatever amount that you were required to take and did not give directly through this process to a qualifying charity.

The Law is called the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and is the first time in my lifetime that the U. S. government has allowed money saved by individuals under the tax-deferred provisions to escape tax entirely. If you would like more information, please contact your tax advisor or your IRA administrator or there is a good article with sample letters at http://www.pgdc.com/usa/print_item/?itemID=368499 -- Jack Ford, Treasurer, Jack@rmcumc.com

United Methodist Foundation Phone Number Correction

The inside back cover of the Journal has an incorrect phone number for the United Methodist Foundation. The correct number is 303-778-6370. The UM Foundation's web presence is at <http://www.rm-umf.org/>.

Welcome Jeri Neely to Metro District Secretary

The Metropolitan District office is pleased to announce Jeri Neely as the new Administrative Secretary for the Metro District. Jeri began work on November 15th. Jeri comes to us most recently from employment with Burns Memorial United Methodist Church as office manager. She is an active member of Hope United

Methodist Church. Please welcome Jeri to our Metro District Office staff. Her phone number will be 303-733-3736, ext.147 and her email will be metro@RMCUMC.com.

Religion & Globalization Theme of Leadership Conference

Joycelyn Elders, former U.S. surgeon general, will serve as keynote speaker for the 2007 Iliff Leadership Conference (formerly known as the Week of Lectures). The event will be held Jan. 22-24, 2007, at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton - Denver Southeast.

"Religion is at the heart of many of the world's tensions today, so it is fitting that we explore the topic of globalization in relation to it," said the Rev. Dr. MarKeva Hill, director, The Iliff Institute. "Dr. Elders will help us get focused with her keynote address, 'Transforming our World Into a Global Community' the very first day of the conference." Read more here: <http://www.iliff.edu/news/>; there's also a brochure available.

Church Offering Caution

The Denver District Attorney has noted an increase in thefts of offerings from churches. Bill Kirton, pastor of Cameron UMC, called attention to the notice. The thieves, after stealing the offerings, have used the checks and the church deposit slips to get bank account numbers of members in order to fashion bogus checks. The DA's announcement said that in one instance the thief entered the church office, after the money had been counted and before it had been delivered to the bank, and had stolen the bank bag. It was necessary for Church members to be notified and advised to close all bank accounts and open new ones.

General/Jurisdiction Church News and Resources

Council of Bishops Meets in Africa, Hears Draft Plan for Denomination *Plan Eliminates Jurisdictions, Would Create Central Conference for U.S.*

A high-level group examining the global nature of The United Methodist Church is suggesting significant organizational and governance changes for the denomination. The proposal would end the current system that splits the United States from the Central Conferences that govern the church outside the U.S. It would end the jurisdictional conference system and make the United States a Central Conference.

These proposals come from a joint task force of bishops and members of The Connectional Table, the key coordinating arm of the denomination. Since 1964, the church has had numerous studies, task groups and legislative attempts to clarify the world-wide nature of the denomination.

The draft plan given to bishops on Nov. 3 would revise the Book of Discipline into a "truly general book of doctrine, mission and discipline, deleting all portions that apply only to the United States." Each Central Conference would have a book of discipline outlining rules applicable to its life and ministry. Other publications such as hymnals could be tailored for each Central Conference.

The power of the General Conference would essentially remain the same, the task force said. General agencies will remain as agencies for the whole church. The Judicial Council would remain as a general church body elected by the General Conference. The Council of Bishops remains as the council for the entire church.

Central conferences would consider resolutions pertinent to their regions. They could create and fund their own agencies. They could establish their own educational requirements for clergy. They could establish mission initiatives appropriate for their context.

The task force invites feedback from annual conferences, districts, and local churches. The group will make a second report to the Connectional Table and Council of Bishops in spring, 2007.

Bishops' Unity Group Urges New Thinking on Division, Controversy, Debate

Bishops are being urged to take a "cross every line" approach when dealing with controversial theological and social issues before denominational caucuses. The Council of Bishops' Task Force on Unity called on

bishops to invite colleagues "from a different corner" to join them when asked to speak on issues before the special-interest groups. In its report, the task force said the council needs to take responsibility to cross theological, jurisdictional, and racial ethnic lines in bishops' presence at such events. This is another move to focus the church on the need and benefit of holy conferencing.

Reflecting widespread concern over the tone of debate at General Conference, the group is developing a "Covenant for Conversation" it hopes will be a model, or "rules of engagement" for the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth, growing out of Wesley's General Rules. The recommendations are elements of a strategy focused on bishops taking a more proactive role in the time approaching General Conference.

More About the Council Meeting

If you want to read more about the Council of Bishops' meeting, visit the United Methodist News Service archives for November, 2006: <http://tinyurl.com/yfrd6q>. The above is only a part of the news shared on the News e-mail list of the Conference. If you wish to receive all News posts, you may subscribe to the News list by sending an e-mail to Ben@rmcumc.com or by signing up at <http://rmcumc.org/subscribe>. See also publication information below at the end of TableTalk.

Survey Seeks Grassroots Views on Future of United Methodist Urban Ministry

Clergy and laity of urban congregations can help to shape next steps in The United Methodist Church's strategy for strengthening city-based ministries in the United States. They are invited to complete an online survey, described as a "Call to Transformation," that is available from November 7, 2006 through January 31, 2007. The questionnaire can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/yjy5I9>.

The survey is part of the research being conducted for a revision and refinement of the denomination's national urban ministry plan, "Holy Boldness," adopted ten years ago by the General Conference.

"We have reached the point when we must evaluate our plan and make adjustments to keep up with the changing times," said Diane Johnson, the executive for the Office of Urban Ministry of General Board of Global Ministries. "We cannot do our job well unless we hear from the urban grassroots." The survey is sponsored by Johnson's office along with its related National Urban Strategy Council.

"We hope that many urban clergy and lay members, even people who attend city churches but have not joined, will take part in our initial survey," Johnson said. "We also hope they will take seriously a call to transformation in the city. "Responding to that call means making disciples of Jesus Christ, offering passionate worship, creating faith-forming relationships, and sending people out for risk-taking service."

Missions News

Bridge of Love Extended

The Board of Lay Ministry thanks all of you for your continued generous support of the Bridge of Love. We are pleased to announce the sending of funds from the money we have collected. The first fifty percent, \$4416.98, of the 2006 Annual Conference offering been distributed to the Bishop's Appeal for church recovery in the Rita and Katrina hurricane areas. In addition to that, from the funds collected the past two years we have sent \$6000 to repair the water system for the Quessua School in the East Angola Conference with an additional \$3566.43 to be used for other water projects there. A \$9,566.42 check to West Angola Conference will be used for digging a water well at Sessa, Bula Atumba Region.

As we read stories of the many needs in East and West Angola Conferences, we are pleased that the Rocky Mountain Conference has been able to share through the Bridge of Love funds. Thank you. -- Judy Hill, Conference lay leader

These projects will greatly enhance the ability of the people in villages and those furthering their education to have a better water supply. The leadership in both Conferences express appreciation to the Board of Lay Ministry, the churches, and individuals of the Rocky Mountain Conference for supporting the "Bridge of Love". Funding these very important projects will contribute to the health of the people in Angola.

AIDS/HIV Malaria, TB Resource

Don Messer, retired RMC clergy and executive director of the Center for the Church and Global AIDS, inspired The Upper Room to publish a new book of resources: "Prayers for Encouragement: Hope for Persons Living with HIV & AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Other Serious Diseases." The full story of how this came to be is on the Upper Room's web site, with related information that might be useful in a sermon or two! <http://tinyurl.com/yaay6s>.

World AIDS Day is typically commemorated on December 1st, and materials are available on the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) website. Please visit www.umc-gbcs.org/worldaidsday and click on the link to the resources. You are urged to plan some kind of event on or near December 1st for the sake of the millions of people affected and infected by this virus.

It is also an excellent time to promote the UMC Global AIDS Fund, a new funding mechanism that will support AIDS projects around the globe! Information about this Fund can be found at the website. If you have questions, please contact lbales@umc-gbcs.org or 202-488-5649. The RMC has had petitions on the Global AIDS Fund for several years.

A Land Longing to Be Holy: Visit Palestine and Israel

Join with other United Methodists in a delegation to Palestine and Israel January 15 – 26, 2007. This trip is sponsored and coordinated by the General Board of Global Ministries and supported by Methodist Federation for Social Action. Specifically, this journey will relate to the 2007/2008 Mission study on Israel/Palestine. Regional and Annual Conference teams are especially encouraged. Trip participants will hear from multiple voices in the land, engage in mission work, as well as do planning and training both within and across conference lines on issues of mission, advocacy, and education. The process will promote respect for the human dignity of every person as a child of God, emphasizing that upholding human rights and international law are key components for a just and lasting peace in Palestine Israel. Contact Rev. David Wildman dwildman@gbgm-umc.org at the General Board of Global Ministries or Rev. Amy Stapleton amy@mfsaweb.org at the Methodist Federation for Social Action. Scholarships are available.

UMs Fight Malaria With NBA, UN

The People of the United Methodist Church are participating in the *Nothing But Nets*, a campaign to save lives by preventing malaria. Several agencies of the denomination are joining together with NBA Cares, Sports Illustrated, the United Nations Foundation and others in a partnership to raise funds to purchase mosquito nets for children in Africa, more than a million of whom die from malaria every year. An insecticide-treated bed net can protect a person from mosquitoes that spread malaria, a disease that infects nearly 500 million people each year.

The *Nothing But Nets* effort got started when Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly learned about the UN Foundation's efforts to provide bed nets across Africa and decided to get involved. In a column entitled "Nothing But Nets," he made an appeal for anyone who ever played or enjoyed any sport involving nets to donate \$10—the approximate cost to purchase and distribute an insecticide-treated bed net. More than 17,000 people have donated a total of \$1.2 million already—enough to deliver 120,000 nets to Nigeria.

The hope is to get the denomination's 36,000 congregations—and youth groups in particular—involved in the fundraising efforts. United Methodist youth groups that raise money for *Nothing But Nets* will be eligible for prizes at the international Youth 2007 gathering which will take place in Greensboro, N.C. next July. Toolkits specifically designed for church youth groups will be made available on the *Nothing But Nets* website. Read the complete release: <http://tinyurl.com/yep9of>.

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:

- **Claire Childress**, ministry team of First UMC, Boulder, whose mother, Waneta Irene Childress, died October 30, in Nortonville, KS. Expressions of care may be sent to RevClaireC@aol.com or 1421 Spruce St., Boulder, CO 80302.
- **Betty Bradford**, pastor at Highlands UMC in Denver, whose father George had a stroke. Expressions of care may be sent to Betty at Pastorbettyjo@aol.com or c/o Highlands, 3131 Osceola Ave, Denver, CO 80212.
- members of the **United Methodist Women** who were associates of **Nancy Johnson Bush**. Nancy, active Conference UMW member, died October 28 after a long struggle with cancer. Nancy was a very active part of United Methodist Women having held offices in the local church and in the Western Sub-district. She served many years as a representative to UMW Annual Conference.
- **Hudgens family**: Tom Hudgens, recipient of the Conference Lifetime Peacemaker Award last June, died November 2. Expressions of care may be sent to Moyna Hudgens, 43 Sunset Dr., Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113-4030; Ann and Bill Hudgens & Family, 43 Sunset Dr., Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113-4030; Angela & John Hudgens & Family, 7002 E. Heritage Pl. N., Centennial CO 80111-4665
- **Brian Riecke**, Conference Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and New Media, whose father, Richard, died of a heart attack November 5 at his home in New Orleans. Richard had been in treatment for cancer. Brian has just finished Youth Leadership Conference and is now driving to New Orleans, so prayers for his safety are also helpful. Expressions of care may be sent to the Rieckes at brian@rmcumc.com or 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111.
- **Bernice (Bernie) Burr-Wilken** spouse of Gary Wilken, RMC clergy on honorable location and supply pastor at Medicine Bow, WY, UMC. Gary says that Bernie went into the hospital with flu symptoms and a fever that wouldn't go away. While there she had a heart attack. Expressions of care may be sent to Gary at LordGary13@aol.com or P.O. Box 932, Laramie, WY 82070.
- **Carolyn Waters**, pastor of Christ Church United Methodist in Denver, whose mother Lucile Hoffman died of a stroke November 8. Condolences may be sent to Carolyn at cwaters@christchurchcolorado.org or c/o Christ UMC, 690 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80106.
- **Lonnie Eakle**, retired RMC clergy, who had heart surgery November 15. Expressions of care may be sent to him at LonnieRE@comcast.net or 121 49th Ave. Place, Greeley, CO 80634.
- **Nancy Butterfield**, Senior Project Coordinator here at the Conference Office. Nancy had surgery November 20 and will be out until mid-January recuperating. Expressions of care may be sent to her at 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111 or NancyB@rmcumc.com.

Thanksgivings

- **Bishop Mary Ann Swenson** of the Los Angeles Area and formerly of the Denver Area has written her deep appreciation for the care expressed by the folks in the Rocky Mountain Conference during her recent surgery and recovery. After 3 weeks in recovery, Jeff had her walking two miles a day, and she's looking forward to riding her bike soon.
- **King Harris**, pastor at Epworth UMC in Denver, is giving thanks because he did not have to have surgery, since his PSA level dropped 20% in 3 weeks. They will keep watching, but King wanted you all to know that "God is still in the miracle-making business." Expressions of care may be sent to him at kharris@eumcdenver.org or 3401 High St., Denver, CO 80205.
- **Trudy Robinson**, senior pastor at Cheyenne First UMC, sends her "great appreciation for the wonderful notes, e-mails, thoughts and prayers that surrounded me as I left the Order's Retreat, arrived in California, and tended to my mother's death. We have a wonderful conference connection and God has sustained me through all of you many times. Thank you all." Expressions of care may be sent to her at trudyrobinson@qwest.net or c/o First UMC, 108 E 18th St., Cheyenne, WY 82001.

- From **Betty Bradford**, whose father had a stroke: "I have returned from Ohio where my dad is doing well. He is back to his normal schedule. He does have a clogged artery in the neck that is inoperable. I want to thank you all for your love and prayers. It is a blessing to be part of our United Methodist connection."
- **Bernie Burr-Wilken, and Gary Wilken**, supply pastor at Medicine Bow UMC, write, "We appreciate all of the support, cards and flowers. Bernie does like flowers, but they are so short-lived, and our cats eat them at home, so she would prefer money for flowers be used to give a gift to Christian missions in her honor. We know God's love is being outpoured for her and us in all of your prayers and care." (You can contribute through a check in your church's collection plate; just designate the mission or Advance Special.)

William Obaugh Dies

William Rogers Obaugh, retired RMC clergy, 85, died Nov. 9. Bill was born in 1920 and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was ordained a United Brethren pastor in 1946 and served in Virginia and Florida as a UB and EUB pastor. He served Vineland and St. Paul UMCs in Pueblo, and Salt Lake City First. Bill retired from the RMCUMC in 1985. Expressions of care may be sent to his wife Jane and family at 4315 A Outlook Blvd., Pueblo, CO 81008 or online at <http://www.MontgomerySteward.com>.

Clergy Transitions

The complete appointment list 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).

Effective January 1:

- Deborah Hull, Deacon, serving as Minister of Youth for First UMC in Glenwood Springs, is appointed Pastor of Congregational Development for First UMC Greeley, Colo.
- Darrell Mount, retired pastor, is appointed as Interim pastor to the Mountain View United Methodist Church.
- Diana Boulter retires. Diana is currently serving Trinity United Methodist Church, Denver, Colorado, as Associate Minister of Gift Planning.

Lindemood New D.S.

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., has announced that effective July 1, 2007, Olon Lindemood, currently pastor at the First UMC in Loveland, Colorado will be appointed as District Superintendent for the Mile High/Pikes Peak District of the Rocky Mountain Conference. Bishop Brown says, "Steve Burnett has given eight years of excellent service to the Cabinet. He is completing the maximum time that he can serve."

Gravesites available

Crown Hill-Arvada/Denver area. 4 total in 'Garden of Love' area w/stain glass sculpture. \$2300 each-value. \$1750 each. D. Price 817.451.8263 d_onna_direct@yahoo.com

Jobs Available

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

Recent postings:

- Contemporary Worship Music Director, Wheat Ridge UMC
- Chancel Choir Director, Boulder Mountain View
- Children's Music Director, Boulder Mountain View
- Music Ministry Coordinator, Boulder Mountain View
- Assistant Youth Director - St. Luke's UMC Highlands Ranch, CO
- Office Manager, Burns Memorial UMC, Aurora, CO
- Youth Ministries Director, Salt Lake City



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TableTalk Publication and Subscription Information

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Archives of the 2006 RMCUMC News posts are here:

http://mail.rmcumc.org/pipermail/rmcnews_rmcumc.org/2006/date.html

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