

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

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., resident bishop of the Denver Episcopal Area, wrote about the Conference leadership team on January :

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; I am praying for you and each of your ministry settings. May signs of God's grace and spirit be revealed through you.

We have been moving through a time of transition in our conference staff and I wanted to take a moment to affirm our outstanding leadership team. We welcome Rev. Walter "Skip" Strickland as the Director of Mission and Ministry. He will provide excellent leadership in this new responsibility. Mr. Jack Ford, Conference Treasurer and Director of Support Services, is moving through his first year on the job in an excellent way. And, Rev. Glenda Ulmer, Dean of the Cabinet, continues to lead and coordinate the top-notch leadership of the appointive Cabinet.

When my responsibilities take me out of the office, my Executive Assistant, Ms. Jayne Adams works very hard to help me respond to your needs. Generally, we are able to respond whether I am in the office or not. But, on those occasions when I am not available please contact one of these persons. Depending upon your subject matter, your phone call, e-mail, or letter may be answered by one of these persons. When they respond, they will be speaking for me. They have my authority to respond on my behalf.

While I frequently visit ministry settings in both Annual Conferences in the Denver Area, it is just not possible for me to be personally present for everyone. Yet each of these persons, and your District Superintendent, work very closely with me and assist me to be aware of the exciting ministries you perform in your communities. Through them we all remain connected.

Get to know these people. My experience shows me that you trust them, as do I. You can rely upon them, and those that work with them, to answer your questions or serve as a bridge to available resources for your ministry. I would ask your prayers for your entire leadership team and Conference staff. I, also, ask that you continue to hold me in your prayers.

Thank you for your support, and may God's rich blessings be poured out on you and our beloved Annual Conference.

In His Service, Warner H. Brown, Jr.

Iliff Leadership Conference Attendance Encouraged

In another letter, the Bishop encourages attendance at the Iliff Leadership Conference next week:

Dear Colleagues, "Religion and Globalization: A More Excellent Way" will be the focus of this year's Iliff Leadership Conference featuring keynote speaker, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former U.S. surgeon general, Jan. 22-24, the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton - Denver Southeast, 6363 East Hampden Ave.

Because of meetings I have recently attended in southern Africa, I am even more aware of the impact of religion on the global community. I encourage you to join this timely discussion. Let us gather and explore together the impact of religion in our world today.

For many years the Iliff School of Theology and Rocky Mountain Conference has partnered to think about relevant contemporary faith issues. You will want to go to (www.iliff.edu) and read about the other speakers/presenters who will share this year. Their topics will apply to local church ministry as well as ministry in the broader community.

The Iliff Leadership Conference has contributed much to the leadership of the Rocky Mountain Conference over the years. Please take a moment to sign up now. I will be participating, and I hope you will also.

Sincerely, Warner H. Brown, Jr., Resident Bishop

New Director of Mission and Ministry Sends Greetings!

Greetings and Happy New Year, It is with great humility that I sit at the same desk where Ron Hodges worked. His wisdom, perspective, expertise and pastoral caring will be missed, and I thank Ron for his service to the Rocky Mountain Conference. I also want to thank both the Bishop and Ron for entrusting me with his former position and allowing me to serve you as the Director of Mission and Ministry. I will strive to uphold the standards set and maintain the trust that my predecessor established. Be patient with me, there is much to learn, it is the middle of the Conference year and I am hitting the ground running.

At this time my primary role is to resource and support the conference boards and agencies and ministry settings in our conference area. I also serve as the Connectional Officer who links the General Church resources to the local church and when requested, provides support to Bishop Brown.

First let me express my concern for persons impacted by the recent blizzards that struck our conference area. We are working to clarify if there are needs we should help address in the communities that have been impacted.

It is time to begin to think about the 2007 annual conference session June 13th-16th at the Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel. If you are planning to submit Annual Conference petitions and/or General Conference petitions or resolutions you will want to refer to the instructions that will be posted soon on the RMCUMC website about the proper form to follow. Also at this session we will be electing delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. We will elect three clergy and three lay delegates to General Conference and an additional three clergy and three lay delegates to Jurisdictional conference along with the alternates. This is a decrease of one delegate in each group.

Ben, Brian and I have discussed some changes to our conference communication methods and Ben should be sending information about this soon.

Our conference is blessed to include some of the most beautiful parts of our nation, inhabited by some of the best people around. We are blessed with great resources. Think about it, our three states contain some of the major sections of the continental divide from which flows water that supplies much our nation. Maybe the Rocky Mountain Conference can continue to evolve and serve as an resource for the rest of the United Methodist Church. I look forward to our work together.

Skip Strickland, Director of the Mission and Ministry, skip@rmcumc.com,
303.733.3736 Ext 156

Laity Forms for General, Jurisdictional Conferences

For Laity interested in becoming delegates to the 2008 General Conference the nominations)form you must complete by March 10, 2007, is now available on the conference website at rmcumc.org and look under Conference Information, Annual Conference 2007: <http://www.rmcumc.org/COI/ac/ac2007/>.

The 2008 General Conference will be April 23 through May 2 in Ft. Worth, Texas. Rocky Mountain Conference will be electing 3 General Conference lay delegates and 3 Jurisdictional delegates plus alternates at the 2007 Annual Conference Session June13-17. The 2008 Western Jurisdictional Conference

will be in Portland, OR from July 16-19th. For your information the 2008 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference date is June 18-21.

An informational flyer about serving as a delegate will also be added to the website as more definitive information is received from the General Conference Commission.

For additional information please contact Judy Hill, Conference Lay Leader, hillej@plains.net

Conference Petition Forms Now Available

Richard Vickery, Petition Coordinator for the 2007 Annual Conference session in June has made available the petition forms for the 2007 Annual Conference Session to be held in Denver June 13-16, 2007. Note that this year there are two forms. General Conference 2008 occurs in late April, early May, 2008, so this Annual Conference session is the time for processing any conference petitions to the General Conference.

Depending on your petition, you will need to choose which form is appropriate for the content of your petition. Read and follow the instructions provided for more information. Forms and Instructions may be found on the Conference Web site, [RMCUMC.org](http://www.rmcumc.org), at this link: <http://www.rmcumc.org/COI/ac/ac2007/> found under Conference Information, Annual Conference 2007.

Community Bulletin Board Revived!

Skip Strickland, Director of Mission and Ministry, Brian Riecke, Director of New Media, and Ben Roe, Information Administrator, are pleased to announce that the Community Bulletin Board on the [RMCUMC.org](http://www.rmcumc.org) web site has been revived. On this on-line Bulletin Board, you will be able to share resources, training opportunities, celebrations about your church and district, ideas that worked, items from Conference committees and more! This interactive web technology has been growing, and offers a way to expand and "open up" communications and build the Conference Community even more.

Besides resources and announcements, there is a place for Dialogue. In fact, the Dialogue e-mail list has now been replaced with a Dialogue forum. You can now go to that forum to see what dialogues are going on and take part if you choose (and if you register). Dialogues about multiple subjects can be going on at the same time.

We value the diversity in our Conference, and know that the dialogues will be done with respect and with the knowledge that we all have something to learn as well as something to share; that we have beliefs and values that we hold dearly and deeply and that we can share these and consider those of others; and that we can honor the relationships we have as Rocky Mountain United Methodists, even as we may not reach consensus or agreement.

We invite you to browse the new Bulletin Board forums, register and add your own ideas where they fit, and make suggestions for improvement to us.

Conference News and Bulletin Board e-mails will continue to be sent by e-mail. Remember these emails are the primary method we use to communicate within our Conference community. News emails will share information everyone needs to know. Bulletin Board e-mails will have short summaries of the items and provide links to the item on the Community Bulletin Board on the Web. The Alert e-mail list will continue to be available should there be a disaster, an emergency, or some other event that needs your immediate attention.

UW Laramie Campus Ministry Reports

Carol Lillie, Director of the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministries at the University of Wyoming in Laramie writes that they "currently feed 30 or so students each week at Sunday meal (we serve an additional 25 -30 community/church members). Meals are served at 10:45 and Noon. In addition to this, approximately 45 students attend worship services (8, 9:30, 11AM).

"We have started a Praise worship service that meets every Sunday at 11AM we've been averaging 50-60 in worship with a high of 96 just before Christmas).

"Our Food for Finals program has increased dramatically. In December 2006 we served a total 220 meals (over five evenings) and provided child care for 3-5 children each evening during finals week (Sunday - Thursday 5PM-9PM). We are offering 3 scholarships which have been locally endowed (they will be awarded in March).

"We are sponsoring three Alternative Spring Break trips. We are also continuing to update our facilities (our dining hall is currently getting a face lift). We serve three very diverse campus communities WyoTech, UW and LCCC community college. Our students are also a diverse group which includes undergraduates, grad students, young couples and single parents." Visit them on the Web here: <http://www.laramiewesley.com/>

Young People Rock!

[UMNS] At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, more than 250 United Methodist youth and young adults from around the world rocked a ballroom in South Africa in a testimony to global unity.

"It was an amazing thing to see - the cultures and different backgrounds coming together," said Monalisa Siofele, a member of Aiea (Hawaii) United Methodist Church. "We were all communicating through music and dance. It allowed me to see we are a globally connected church."

The first ever United Methodist global meeting for young people was held Dec. 28-Jan. 1 in Johannesburg. It was sponsored by the Division on Ministries with Young People, which was created by action of the church's 2004 General Conference and placed under the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

Participants worshipped together, drafted legislation to send to the 2008 General Conference, visited programs that care for people infected with HIV/AIDS, learned about South Africa's struggle with apartheid and celebrated the beginning of 2007.

Read more about the international gathering of United Methodist Youth and Young Adults in Johannesburg, South Africa, December 28, 2006-January 1, 2007. There are photos of Bishop Brown and Mike Ratliff, of St. Andrew UMC and now of the Division of Ministries with Young People at this web address: http://media.umcom.org/umns/20070111_youth_convocation/index.html There are links to other stories relating to legislation passed, and to audio from the conference.

The New Vision Due Out Soon

The next edition of The New Vision is on the theme of "Follow That Star," an Epiphany theme. The lead article will be by Rebekah Simon-Peter on her experience at the Clergywomen's Consultation, acknowledging and celebrating the fact that clergywomen continue to "Follow That Star." Another will focus on the fact that RMC followed that star to East Angola to help provide water wells.

If you have an illustration of your congregation in mission and ministry, write it up, provide a photo or two if possible and e-mail to ben@rmcumc.com for inclusion in a possible future issue of The New Vision (depending on the theme chosen).

Buckhorn Camp: Use PO Box Only

Buckhorn Camp asks everyone to please use their P.O. box only - their mail is being stolen out of the camp road mailbox. The address: Buckhorn Camp & Retreat Center, P.O. Box 125, Bellvue, CO 80512

Upcoming Events

Clergywomen's Retreat Features New RMC Extension Minister

Rebekah Simon-Peter, newly-appointed to Bridgeworks ministry, will be the speaker at the 2007 clergywomen's retreat February 6-8, 2007 at Temple Hills Retreat Center. Rebekah will focus on "Care of Self, Care of Creation." Annie Rigo, probationary elder serving at First UMC Grand Junction, says the retreat

"promises to be relaxing and invigorating, so I hope you will give yourself this gift of a retreat with those who support you most in ministry and in life ... your Clergysisters!"

The retreat will also have popular get-together games, fellowship time, and Communion worship in addition to the program presentations. More info: <http://rmcumc.org/COI/clergy/cw.htm>

Up With Youth 2007 Goes Global!

This year "Going Global with God." is the theme that we have chosen for "Up With Youth 2007." It's going to be fun and exciting as we become closer with God and the world community. We would like to focus on spreading the good news through fellowship and mission work. We hope our hard work on getting really good entertainment grabs you enough to come.

We will send you a postcard telling you more about this event. So make plans this April 13-15. Send in your papers before March 13 and get 3 full days of fun for the low, low price of \$149. After that it's \$159. If you have any questions at all E-mail us at upwithyouth2007@hotmail.com. -- Up with Youth Core Team.

Youth Workers!

Have you ever asked yourself YMI here? Have you ever asked yourself YMI empty? Whether you're a rookie or a seasoned veteran discover your spiritual gifts for youth ministry at YMI, the Youth Ministry Institute, offered February 24, 2007. Several Youth Ministry Institute seminars are being held January 20 across the Conference and several more will be held February 24. If you missed this one, check out the next ones!

February 24th sessions will be held at: First UMC Cortez, Broomfield UMC, First UMC Alamosa, Lamar UMC, First UMC Laramie, First UMC Pueblo, and Fleming UMC. Visit <http://www.rmcumc.org/MI/YMI/> for more info and registration form. \$25 registration for six hours of top-flight training, a brand new top line youth ministry book and a top shelf gift bag all presented by great youth leaders. Lunch is included.

Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl Present Concerts and Workshop Feb. 9 & 10

That You May Have Life is the theme of Marty Haugen's new musical and a pre-Lenten workshop focussing on the Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. An event brochure and registration may be downloaded as a .pdf document from <http://www.rmselca.org/files/youmayhavelife.pdf> .

Two concerts are February 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Dominic Roman Catholic Parish, in Denver. The workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 at Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, CO, featuring Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl, an author and pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Please mail the registration form and check so it is received on or before February 1. Call 303-777-6700 with registration questions. More: <http://rmcumc.org/Community/YaBB.pl?num=1168315499/0#0>

Out of the Shadows and Into the Light: What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality

Conference in Colorado Springs from February 14-16, 2007. The purpose of the conference will be the examination of researched biblical perspectives on homosexuality from various denominational viewpoints, and to devoutly/respectfully engage in processing the information by opening the mind, the heart and the will through structured/facilitated interaction, communication and introspection. This conference is geared to ministers and lay people who have a desire in leading discussion within their church on these issues, but are not sure how to do so. Registration is limited to 100 persons. In addition, up to 150 students may be able to have their entire registration fee waived for a limited participation. For more information:

<http://www.shadows2light.com/> Organized by Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, Associate-Professor of Social Ethics & Director of the Justice and Peace Institute, Iliff School of Theology

Westside Weekend 2007: Can YOU hear me now?

March 2-4, 2007: Westside Weekend is a Christ-centered weekend retreat designed by youth, for youth grades 6th - 12th. Come and join in this fun, uplifting, renewing, spiritual time with other youth from all over Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and beyond.

Keynote speaker is Reverend Loren Boyce from First UMC of Loveland. Loren is the Associate Pastor and has been Co-director of Senior High Grand Mesa Camp for several years. Song leaders: Brian Riecke and Big Fish Story, a fun, exciting band returning to Westside Weekend. Details, registration, Flyer: <http://rmcumc.org/Community/YaBB.pl?num=1168556934/0#0>

Spiritual Directors to Gather

A gathering for United Methodists in the Rocky Mountain Conference who are trained as Spiritual Directors is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2007 at Christ United Methodist Church, 690 Colorado Boulevard in Denver. The gathering is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be a time of getting acquainted and envisioning a strategy for our shared ministry, says John Blinn, coordinator of the event. Currently we have the names of 22 persons who are trained and serving as Spiritual Directors. We invite anyone to share with us the names of United Methodists within our conference who serve as Spiritual Directors. Any Spiritual Directors who have not personally been contacted are invited to contact us as well. For further information or to place your name on our list email John Blinn at johnphil@companionspirit.com

Plan for Igniting Ministry Ads Coming During Lent

The Lent advertising flight of Igniting Ministry Ads is right around the corner - running March 26-April 7, 2007. The brand-new "Finding Yourself" spot will debut during this time. To preview the spot visit the Igniting Ministry Media Warehouse (<http://ignitingministry.org/>). As you plan media activities, we hope that you'll reinforce the national media message in your local markets. Remember that the next Matching Grant application period, for Back-to-School and Advent 2007, runs May 1-June 1, 2007.

Seminar Planned for Clergy and Churches Coping with Sexual Boundary Violations

The Conference Ethical Education Task Force has announced a seminar to help those who have or may have the responsibility to pastor a church where a sexual boundary violation has occurred. The Task Force hopes that you will save on your calendar the date of August 23, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for this very special resource being brought to the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Rev. Deborah J. Pope-Lance, LMFT, co-author of the book "When a Congregation Is Betrayed", will host this seminar. If you might be willing to serve, or feel called to serve in such a ministry setting you should consider attending this training event.

The term given to a pastor servant-leading in this special way is "Afterpastor." An Afterpastor is one who is called to lead in a complex spiritual/relational/psychological local church setting after a former pastor, staff person, or lay person has violated his/her trust with parishioners.

The cost for this one-day seminar, which will be held at Hope United Methodist Church, Denver, is \$10 for the meal plus the cost of the book "When a Congregation Is Betrayed" (Cokesbury, \$20.00 with discount).

You may register for this seminar by going on-line to the Ethical & Education Task Force Web Page (www.ethicseducation.net). More information will be available as we move into 2007 but for now, put this on your calendar as a "must" seminar to attend. It will add significantly to the leadership skills you bring to local church ministry.

– Rocky Mountain Conference Ethics & Education Task Force

General/Jurisdiction Church News and Resources

Diakonia Convocation Will Draw 600 United Methodist Servant-Ministers

Deacons, diaconal ministers, and others interested in The United Methodist Church's servant-ministry have just a few days to receive the early-bird registration rate of \$260 for the "Celebrating Diakonia" convocation, April 19-22, 2007, in Orlando. The new early-bird deadline is Jan. 15. Participants will look at the future of this form of ministry, meet deacons and diaconal ministers from around the world, learn of new opportunities, and raise funds for Project Tariro, a ministry that helps people in Zimbabwe live positively with HIV/AIDS. Bishops Sally Dyck (Minnesota) and Gregory V. Palmer (Iowa), Rev. Janet Wolf, and Rev. Joaquin Garcia are among the major speakers. Scholarships are available. Obtain more information or register by visiting

www.gbhem.org/convocation07 or send an e-mail to registration@wellplannedevents.com. More:
<http://rmcumc.org/Community/YaBB.pl?num=1168386916>

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:

- **Nancy Butterfield**, Senior Project Coordinator here at the Conference Office. She is recuperating from surgery and is finally back at work. She extends her thanks for the many cards, letters, and e-mails of good wishes following her surgery.
- Nancy's son **Glendon**, who is also recuperating from surgery. Expressions of care may be sent to Glen and Nancy at the office here, or to nancyb@rmcumc.com.
- **Shelia Pendleton** and her family. Shelia is a former member of the RMC and the former secretary for the Sunshine District who now lives in Iowa. Shelia's father-in-law, Bill Pendleton, died in Texas on December 30. Expressions of concern can send to pendletons@mahaska.org.
- **Lora Payne**, pastor of Florence UMC. Lora's 91 year old mother is in failing health. She lives in Omaha where Lora spent the holidays with her. Expressions of care to Lora at jlpayne84@hotmail.com.
- **Walter Camp**, father of Sue Covert, passed away in New Jersey Friday, December 15. Sue's husband Phil Covert is pastor of St. Paul's UMC, Colorado Springs. Please keep Phil and Sue, as well as Peggy Camp, Sue's mother, in your prayers. Contact Phil and Sue at 5240 Mountain Villa Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917, or email pcovert@adelphia.net.
- All those affected by the recent storms, especially those in eastern Colorado.
- **Clara Lou Humphrey** and **Frank Williamson**, who will celebrate their marriage at 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 25, at Green Mountain United Methodist Church in Lakewood. Everyone is invited. Please, cards only; NO gifts. They have too much "stuff" already. Clara Lou has been active on the Conference Church and Society Network and United Methodist Women. Frank is a member of Lakewood UMC, active in Interfaith Hospitality Network. Congratulations may be sent to clh232@comcast.net.

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).

- **Clarence Snelling** is serving Faith UMC of Denver as supply pastor effective January 15. He is a retired elder of the Louisiana Conference and professor emeritus of Iliff School of Theology.
- **Nani Arning** was appointed as half-time Minister of Education and Youth at Wilson UMC, Colorado Springs, effective January 1.
- **Lonnie Eakle** is supplying the Rawlins UMC from January 15 to June 30. It was previously announced that Rebekah Simon-Peter has begun a new extension ministry called Bridgeworks.

Extension Ministry Forum Added to Community Bulletin Board

Those clergy who are serving in ministries extending the ministries of the church now have a place to share about what they are doing in ministry. The first announcement tells about the Transformation Project Prison Ministry, which Yong Hui McDonald is doing with the support of Park Hill UMC in Denver. Watch for other announcements and dialogue about extension ministry in our Conference. Visit the forum here:

<http://rmcumc.org/Community/YaBB.pl?board=ext>

Extension ministers' appointments are listed starting on page 159 of the 2006 Journal and on the RMCUMC.org web site, linked from the on-line Appointments page:

<http://www.rmcumc.org/CHI/Journal/Appointments.htm>



**Rocky
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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>. Help your Conference budget by receiving this publication via e-mail!

Archives of the 2007 RMCUMC News posts are here:

http://mail.rmcumc.org/pipermail/rmcnews_rmcumc.org/2007/date.html

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