

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

Rocky Mountain Conference To Welcome New Bishop

At its recent Conference, the Western Jurisdiction elected Elaine J. W. Stanovsky bishop and assigned her to the Denver Area effective September 1. Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., who has served this Area for the past 8 years was assigned to the San Francisco Episcopal Area, responsible for the California-Nevada Conference. Another new bishop, Grant Hagiya from the Cal-Pacific Conference, was assigned to the Seattle Area, responsible for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska Conferences.

Bishop Stanovsky comes to us from her post as Seattle District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet. She is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound (a UM-related school) and Harvard Divinity School (1981). She is noted for innovative leadership in her local church work and in her administrative work.

Bishop Stanovsky is married to Clinton, an environmental consultant, and has 3 boys, Axel, 19, Micah, 21, and Walker, 24. The previous special edition of TableTalk had more detail. Read it and print it here: rmcumc.org/News/table/. You may also visit her own web site, ElaineStanovsky.org.

Cabinet Assignments Named

2008-2009 RMC CABINET ASSIGNMENTS

Dean	Brenda Lear
Secretary	Youngsook Kang
Chaplain	Olon Lindemood

2008-2009 RMC CABINET LIAISON RELATIONSHIPS

Board of Stewards	Youngsook Kang
Connectional Table	Youngsook Kang
Board of Lay Ministries	Glenda Ulmer
Board of Ordained Ministry	Deb Olenyik
Joint Committee on Incapacity	Eric Smith
Board of Pensions	Olon Lindemood
Committee on Finance & Administration	Olon Lindemood
Equitable Compensation	Olon Lindemood
BRDIC	Eric Smith
New Ministries Team	Youngsook Kang & Eric Smith
Episcopacy Committee	Brenda Lear

Pathway to Retirement Seminar Reminder

The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has scheduled a "Pathway to Retirement" Seminar for September 25-26, 2008. It will be held at the Holiday Inn, Denver West Village, Golden. This is more than just a pre-retirement seminar. It will be open to all clergy and lay enrolled in the UMPIP plan. The time to start preparing for retirement is as soon as you enter the work force so this seminar will be geared to all ages with a financial planning seminar for the younger clergy. Brochures were mailed July 31.

Complete Update from Rejuvenation

Loren Boyce, Associate Director of Mission and Ministry, sent a detailed e-mail to the Conference giving a complete update: Rejuvenation is an ALL YOUTH event (meaning 6th-12th grades are welcome to participate). This event is an every other year event beginning this fall in Grand Junction.

Rejuvenation 2008 (November 14-16, 2008) offers a myriad of options for youth and their adults. First of all, our speaker was a crowd favorite at Youth 2007...Bob Stromberg (bobstromberg.com). Check out his website and know that you will not want to miss him! Next is our band for the weekend...Lightswitch (lightswitchband.com). These four brothers come to us from Wisconsin and will be sure to provide a rocking concert atmosphere and an intimate worship experience. In addition to our crowd favorites, Rejuvenation offers some great workshop options including a few girls only and boys only choices. Check out the website <http://rejuvenation.rmcmuc.org> for more information around these workshops. What youth experience would be complete without a mission trip? Rejuvenation 2008 will offer a partial day mission option in the Grand Junction area (Colorado National Monument, Habitat, Humane Society, Goodwill and more...). There will also be a few destinational options as a Labyrinth, Prayer room, and Game room will be offered as individual or group choices. All this great content and a fabulous T-shirt!!!

Registration is offered online at <http://rejuvenation.rmcmuc.org> with credit cards. Also necessary forms and snail mail options can be found on this website. Once registered at the unbelievable price of \$80.00, group leaders are encouraged to find accommodations in the Grand Junction area. Special Group rates have been negotiated with Hawthorne Suites & Hampton Inn (these are downtown with breakfast included) and also with the Holiday Inn. All the contact info and prices can be found at the web site. (Do note that hotel/lodging and food are on your own -- NOT INCLUDED in the \$80 registration fee). Also note that Rejuvenation will not make your room reservations. This event is set up very similarly to Annual Conference.

So talk it over with your youth groups, sponsors, pastors, and parents. Take the time you need to inform and plan: but, know that registration closes October 13. This is also the date that the special group rate at the hotels is dropped. SO REGISTER EARLY! Please do not wait until the last minute as we can not guarantee space for your group. Additional details about Rejuvenation 2008 can be found at <http://rejuvenation.rmcmuc.org>

August 10 is the Water World Day for Young Persons and their families. Cost this year is \$20.00 which will allow you to enter the park at 2:00 and stay past the 6:00 p.m. closing time for an additional 2 hours (until 8:00 p.m.) to enjoy the Wave Pool and a Concert. PLEASE Contact Nancy Cox, 800-536-3736, ext. 155 or direct at 303-389-9455 or nancycox@rmcmuc.com to reserve your group tickets.

New Testament Prof To Speak at University Park UMC, Denver

Amy-Jill Levine, Ph.D., E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, at Vanderbilt Divinity School speaks at University Park UMC in Denver September 5-6: An Opportunity NOT to Miss!!!

"Recovering the Punch of the Parables of Jesus: Hearing with First-Century Jewish Ears"

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Friday, September 5, 7:30 - 9 p.m. and Saturday, September 6, 9 am to noon (Optional round-table discussion Saturday at 1 p.m.)

Friday, \$10; Saturday \$20; Both events \$25; Admission is by pre-purchased tickets only. Please register early as we expect a full house! Registration forms are available at www.universityparkumc.org or on the RMC web-site: rmcmuc2.org/News/Amy-JillLevine080905.pdf.

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, author of *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*, was listed in Time Magazine (March 12, 2008) as a major voice in one of the top ten religion stories: "re-Judaizing Jesus." Dr. Levine says, "If you get the (Jewish) context wrong, you will certainly get Jesus wrong." She is increasingly in demand across the country and around the world, as a bright, insightful, and very humorous presenter who provokes honest conversation and debate about how Christians and Jews should understand Jesus, the New Testament, and each other.

Sponsored by the Society for Growth in Parish Ministry. Coordinator: for this event is Rev. Marla Kauerz. Contact her at mkauerz@earthlink.net.

Tent Revival and Ken Medema Coming to Monument!

Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church, Monument, is having a "Tent Revival" on August 23 & 24. Our special guest speaker/performer is Ken Medema.

Ken Medema performs at our Tent Revival at Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church in Monument on August 23 and 24. For more information and to hear some of his music, visit his website at KENMEDEMA.COM.

The Tent Revival is a special event presented to our community, in an effort to reach out beyond the physical walls of our 'church' and show God's love to our neighbors. Our goal in this concert is achieving personal wholeness and building community.

Tickets are complimentary and can be obtained by contacting our church office at 719-488-1365 (or just show up!). Much more here: <http://rmcumc.org/Community/YaBB.pl?num=1217350326/0#0>

Jurisdictional/General Church News

Western Jurisdictional Conference Reports

Here are some paragraphs from the excellent reports written by our delegation to the Conference and our staff. You can read them in full, see photos, and listen at this address: <http://rmcumc.org/wj/>

Wendy Moffatt: "This is my brief 'letter home' to let you know what's happened in this first day at Jurisdictional Conference. It was great to all meet together as a delegation before anything official began, like a little family reunion. After meeting together as a group since Annual Conference of 2007, we have truly gotten to know each other, learned to work as a team and share concerns like a family.

"Next, at the first session we were able to place names in nomination to be added to the pool of Episcopal candidates already nominated from their respective conferences. You all should be quite proud that we have not 1 but 3 candidates from the Rocky Mountain Conference as part of the total pool of 15. So now in addition to Janet Forbes, nominated from the Jurisdictional body were Youngsook Kang and Carolyn Waters.

"It is exciting and daunting to be a part of the process of listening, asking questions and discerning who God has best equipped for the ministry of Bishop. Stay tuned . . . more to come"

Diana Huerta: "80 delegates, 2 votes each, 16 candidates, 2 openings for Bishop: Who knew this would be so hard? Every moment of the day thinking, planning, hoping for an election. But there are so many candidates – so many excellent candidates – how to choose? We started the day in prayer with our delegation – we talked about strategy and possibilities, and we feel the power of the responsibility. We celebrated our candidates – their presentations last night made us so proud!

"The opening worship service was a chance for reflection and preparation, for singing, for praying, for centering ourselves. And then we questioned, we listened, we discussed – the Candidate Forums gave us the opportunity to tease out the subtle differences, to address the hard issues, to share in the excitement of so many visions... Maybe tomorrow will be the day – pray for the delegates, the candidates, the process!"

Skip Strickland: "The Conference has adopted the proclamation of God's 'Extravagant Hospitality' as a theme for the coming quadrennium, based on a desire 'to respond first to the extravagant love of God for all creation and all peoples, respond to deep hungers of our world,' including enduring peace, and end to poverty.

Olon Lindemood: "Greetings from Portland, Oregon! Today has been about casting ballots and listening. 16 candidates for the Episcopal Office seems like a large number. Knowing that before tomorrow is over there will be two Bishops elected is evasive. So, we vote and then vote again... We also listened. There are 16 Episcopal candidates that are all making themselves available to the possibility of becoming a bishop in the Western Jurisdiction. Our delegation invites candidates to come join us and discover what a special Annual Conference we are! Each candidate presents with possibilities for how they might become not only bishop, but the bishop of the Denver area. We are aware of the fact that we, in Rocky Mountain Conference, are part of a two point charge. That means there is extra work for a bishop that is assigned to us! So the questions are around balancing General Church and Annual Conference responsibilities and availability instantly becomes an awareness of the difficulty of serving the Denver area. ... Through out all of this voting

and listening, we all continue to offer prayers, "PLEASE God, let this be your work and not ours. Let your spirit rule in ways that will assist us to become the church for this new day!"

Skip Strickland: "Bishop Paup addressed the conference this morning. He spoke about the work of the Annual Conferences and set a vision for the work of the Jurisdiction and the Conferences within it over the next four years. Then Bishop Swenson recognized the service of Bishop Paup and Carol in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. She recognized that Bishop Paup will be sent into "missions" around the world and to help us live out our "mission" in the world. Bishop Paup now rejoins us as an elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference and will be appointed to serve as the General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries."

Melanie Rosa: "Spending beautiful July days in a sterile, windowless hotel ballroom in Portland may not be everyone's idea of a good time, but your Jurisdictional Delegates have been representing you, our sisters and brothers of the Rocky Mountain Conference, faithfully and well. Friday was a very long day... While the Episcopal election process has been slow, and at times frustrating, the work of the Jurisdiction is most encouraging. Today we voted to be a Reconciling Jurisdiction, practicing extravagant hospitality in ministry to all of God's children, particularly the marginalized and excluded. We expect all of our churches to be inclusive and welcoming in every way, as we train our pastors and lay leaders in the art of inclusion. The Western Jurisdiction is leading the way in living into God's future. I am proud to be a part of this Jurisdiction"

Emily Dawson-Petersen: "...this is our story this weekend: Hours of voting with momentary glimpses of hope, of love, of possibility. But mostly a big challenge ahead with some rocky and painful moments before we reach the goal.... Even though we'll have time tomorrow to experience joy in the consecration of our new bishops, there isn't much time to revel. If you've ever climbed Longs [Peak], you know that as soon as you arrive at the top, you have to turn tail and get back down.... The storms roll in during the early afternoon, and lightning will strike. The 'lightning' of declining memberships, falling giving, a lack of young clergy, stagnant congregations and uncertainty about how we will live out our role as a global church is striking all around us. The very survival of the church is at hand! But the opportunities will strike as well. Opportunities to build both creative (new) and supportive (sustaining) ministries are at hand. Opportunities to light the fire of passion in the hearts of young and old alike about social justice. And opportunities to spread the mission and the message of Christ Jesus – that the future is filled with a hope of justice, equality, peace, love, mercy and grace. Thanks be to God!"

Ruth Wills: "O What Joy to be present at the choosing of our new bishops, and what sorrow to not have one of our own Rocky Mountain candidates elected. You need to know, people of the RMUCM, how gracious and strong our candidates were in the tiring hours of the long 25 ballot election process. [Janet Forbes withdrew very gracefully at 12:40 a.m. - ed.] You need to know what a powerful influence Rocky Mountain Conference is in our Western Jurisdiction! Our first-elected bishop, Grant Hagiya, was elected early Friday evening, but it was after 12:00 am, Sat. morning when the final vote was taken and second bishop, Elaine J. Stanovsky was elected.... We have a new bishop! Much hugging, singing and clapping as all of our conference representatives gather around her and welcome her, just as each conference gathers to greet their own returning or new bishop. Later this afternoon a Consecration Service and reception will be held. Joy in the church and in the Western Jurisdiction."

Steve Burnett: "Western Jurisdictional Conference concluded Saturday in the beautiful, green city of Portland, Oregon, with the dramatic announcement by the Episcopacy Committee that finally disclosed where our six bishops would be assigned for the next four-year period. Several assignments were expected: Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, who served the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone conferences from 1992-2000, will continue in the Los Angeles Area another four years, for a twelve-year term. Bishops Bob Hoshibata and Minerva Carcaño will serve second four-year terms in the Portland and Phoenix areas, respectively. Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., will leave the Denver Area September 1 to assume Episcopal duties in the San Francisco Area that has offices in Sacramento, replacing Bishop Beverly Shamana, who will retire. Newly elected bishop Elaine Stanovsky will replace Bishop Brown in the Denver Area, serving both the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conferences. Bishop Grant Hagiya, another newly elected leader, will serve the Seattle Area, with oversight responsibilities for churches and clergy in the states of Washington and Alaska. I

was a seminary classmate of Bishop Hagiya, and roommate of Bishop Hoshibata, and have maintained enormous respect for each of them since our graduate school days. They will all serve with strong leadership and a passion for Christ.”

Ethnic Local Church Grant Deadline Approaches

Aug. 10 is the deadline to apply for an “Ethnic Local Church Grant” from the United Methodist Board of Church & Society. The purpose of the grant is to strengthen ethnic local churches through education, advocacy or leadership training and development as they engage in social justice.

Grants are awarded twice a year: Jan. 10 is deadline for the March funding cycle; Aug. 10 is deadline for the October cycle. An application form with grant description and steps to qualify can be downloaded from this Web address: <http://tinyurl.com/63u8tu> . A bishop’s or bishop designee’s letter must be included with application.

The grants are administered through the Board of Church & Society’s Ministry of Resourcing Congregational Life. For more information, contact the Rev. Neil Christie, Assistant General Secretary, at nchristie@umc-gbcs.org.

Missions News

“Swinging Against AIDS” Golf Tournery August 19

Excitement is building for the "Swinging Against AIDS" golf tournament sponsored by the Center for the Church and Global AIDS at the Wellshire in Denver on August 19. Don Messer, Executive Director of the Center for the Church and Global AIDS (www.churchandglobalaids.org) is looking for more golfers and more sponsors. Here’s some background:

“Last year we netted \$16,000. This year if we net \$26,000, an anonymous donor will give us \$10,000. What an impact a total of \$36,000 will have in helping the Center and two of our special projects: (1) the Hispanic Sisters of Color program in Colorado that reaches out especially to women and young people to teach AIDS prevention and care and (2) the pediatric AIDS Center in rural India that N. M. Samuel, M.D., operates for the poorest of the poor in this world.

“Can we do it? We need a miracle---but with so many good people helping, and trusting that the work we do is service God would want us to do, I think it could happen. To achieve these goals, in the next weeks:

“1. We need more golfers. Last year we had 84 golfers at \$125 each; as of today, we already have 92 golfers registered as we seek to recruit 144. So we can meet this realistic goal, but we need people to encourage friends, publicize in their churches, promote in their businesses, etc. Join us if you can! If you don’t golf, you can sponsor someone else, and/or join us for the luncheon program at the Wellshire for \$25 at noon.

“2. We need more sponsors. Like last year we are blessed with many wonderful sponsors--individuals, businesses, and churches. Among those helping are Frontier Airlines, Bonfils Blood Center, Ist Bank, US Bank, Taylor Max, Global Career Management, Sanjel, Comedy Works, Fortune Valley, and even groups like Bread for the World and Friends of Kindness, to name just a few. Sponsors are welcome at every level. We need:

“Items and services that can be sold at the Silent Auction.

\$250 for an advertisement at one of the holes

\$600 to pay for the popular Hole-in-One Contest

A total of \$2,800 to pay for the lunch.

Generous financial gifts of every size to help wherever needed.”

A flyer and brochure are on the RMCUMC.org web site here:

<http://rmcumc.org/Community/YaBB.pl?num=1217535112/0#0> Please feel free to duplicate and distribute.

In advance, let me thank you for anything you can do.
Contact Don at 303 877 1955 or 303 877 1955,
Or contact Claudia Svarstad, the leader of our Tournament with questions and offers: 303 594 8027

East Angola Give Thanks For Angola Fund Help

Tim Crawford, Adjunct Treasurer of the East Angola Conference sends this note: "We give thanks to God for the blessings that are being poured out by the people of the Rocky Mountain Conference on the children and youth of the East Angola Conference. Please extend greetings and grateful appreciation from Bishop Quipungo and the people of East Angola Conference for the gift of \$2000 of which \$1800 will be used for the support of the Boys Boarding School at Quéssua and \$200 will be used for Christian Education at Quéssua Central United Methodist Church. May God's blessings return to each of those that have given of their resources and prayers to make this gift a reality.

"At this moment, as night is falling on Quéssua, the boys from the dorm are rehearsing choruses that they will sing at Annual Conference next week. They proclaim their dedication to Christ and His church not only through their energetic singing but by their faithfulness to rehearse when their leader was unable to come direct the rehearsal. Surely we have leadership for the United Methodist Church being nurtured and encouraged in this boarding program. Another group of four has arrived at the parsonage to get the food to cook for breakfast tomorrow while others are cooking the evening meal. Praise God that money has come to buy the food needed for this month!

"Please find attached a photo taken recently as several shelled beans that they planted, cultivated and harvested. Also, attached is a photo taken recently of the choir.

"Again, please extend appreciation to all involved in this significant gift. May God bless you all."

The photos are here: <http://rmcumc.org/News/Communications/news.htm>. Note that this is a thanks for money sent before Annual Conference from the Angola Fund, not Bridge of Love. The Bridge of Love money came in at around \$10,480 and will be split between the East and West Angola Conferences with half going for the Boarding School in the East and half for library books in the West.

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 listed on the Prayer Concerns pages on the Conference web site: RMCUMC.org/Community. More information about each of these named may be found on those pages. Please keep in your prayers:

- **Mary Edlund**, a Deacon who served at FUMC in Durango the past few years, retired last month. She has had open heart surgery for a hereditary condition that has only recently surfaced after a heart cath procedure. Expressions of care may be sent through pastorjeff@fumcdurango.org.
- **Irma Kleen**, surviving spouse of Rev. Tom Kleen, died July 15. Services will be held Saturday, July 19 at 2:00 at Englewood United Methodist Church. Irma was the mother-in-law of Rev. Tony Ashworth. Condolences may be sent c/o Tony and Bev Ashworth, 14 Caledonia, Pueblo, CO 81001. She is also survived by son Leslie Kleen and daughter Tanya Accurso.
- **Bernie Bliss**, District Administrative Secretary for the Peaks and Plains District, has had surgery to replace "both worn out knees." She will be away from the office for 4-6 weeks. She requests that folks who need to talk with someone call the Metro office. Expressions of care may be sent to her at blissbj@msn.com, or 710 11th Ave., Suite L-45, Greeley, CO 80631. (She suggests prayers also for Eric and her husband John...
- **Bob Sewell**, retired RMC clergy, who is to have a procedure to check for a clogged artery on the left side of the heart Thursday, July 31, 2008, at the Vanderbilt Williamson Medical Center. He would like his spouse Peggy (Assistant General Secretary - Episcopal Services, General Council on Finance and Administration) included in this request, along with their daughter Sheri and son Andrew. Expressions of care may be sent to rrsewell@comcast.net. He expects to be home later Thursday or Friday.

Thanks and Celebrations

- **Yong Hui McDonald**, RMC clergy in extension ministry with Adams County Detention Facility, whose husband Keith McDonald, Yellowstone clergy appointed to Keenesburg and Hudson died in a car accident, sends a huge "Thank you" to all the people in the Rocky Mountain Conference and Yellowstone Conference who have sent cards and emails to her, and gifts to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. The response to Keith's death has been both wonderful and overwhelming. Although she would like to thank everyone individually, there are so many thanks to give that she cannot answer them all. Expressions of care and support may be sent to her at ymcdonald@co.adams.co.us.
- **Nancy Butterfield**, Senior Project Coordinator, has a new grandson: Nicholas Tunis was born July 21, 2008 at 8:04 a.m. weighing 8 lbs 11 oz and 20 inches long. Congratulations to Nancy and her daughter Sarahdawn and new big brother Nathania! Nancy's e-mail is NancyB@rmcumc.com.

Clergy Death

Carl L. Carlsen died Saturday, July 12, in Casper, Wyoming. Carl had been in failing health for some time. While the Journal does not list his service record, Steve Burnett says, "I am aware that he served both Christ UMC and First UMC in Casper some years ago." Dick Vickery recalls he served under Carl Davidson at University Park many years ago. Steve continues, "He was on location for many years and had a significant career as a school teacher in the Natrona County School District. He was reinstated for purposes of retirement and retired as an elder in 1992. His wife Marion Joanne Carlsen pre-deceased Carl August 22, 2007." Services were held Thursday, July 17, at First Christian Church of Casper, where he attended for many years. Sympathy may be extended to the family through one of his sons, Craig Carlsen, 2210 Kingsboro Rd, Casper, WY 82604, or craigrc@tribcsp.com."

Appointments

Updated appointment list on the web: rmcumc.org/CHI/Journal/Appointments.htm, updated monthly July-May. Please surround these persons and their families with prayer during these transitions.

- **Gichul Kim**: Pueblo Korean UM Fellowship and the Walsenburg UMC, August 1. Gichul is ordained in the Korean Methodist Church.
- **David McGee**, currently serving the Beulah UMC part time, also now appointed part time chaplain in the Youthful Offender System in Pueblo.
- **Bill Cartmell**, to extension ministry at Hospice Care of Kansas in McPherson, Kansas, starting July 1.

Welcome Tyler and Crystal

The Episcopal office would like to welcome Tyler Amundson as one of our new Episcopal Interns. Tyler comes to us from the Yellowstone Conference. He and his wife Crystal call Helena, MT home, and just completed courses of study at Eastern Washington University in Cheney and Spokane, WA. Tyler will be attending Iliff this fall in pursuit of his Masters of Divinity. Please join us in welcoming Tyler and Crystal to the Denver Area. – Jayne Adams, Executive Assistant to the Episcopal Office

September is Open House Month. Are you ready? [Igniting Ministry.org](http://IgnitingMinistry.org)



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IMPORTANT: If you have e-mail, please send us your address. We must minimize costs! Ben@rmcumc.com

TableTalk Publication and Subscription Information

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