

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

# The Circuit Rider

Published Wednesday | May 24, 2017

The **POWER** of We

## In This Issue

- word POWER 2
- Bishop On the Move 2
- Connecting 3
- Students 5
- Save the Date /
- Announcements 5
- Recipe 7
- Employment 8

## Share Your News in The Circuit Rider

Contact The Circuit Rider at [news@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:news@mississippi-umc.org).

### Mission:

The mission of the Mississippi Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## Crafting A Legacy



Finishing touches continue on a portable altar table that will debut at the 2017 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference. The structure will honor of the Ray family's legacy to Mississippi United Methodism. **In the section Connecting on page 3**, read more about what inspired this gift to the conference.



2016 Special Edition of The Circuit Rider is now available to view online! Go to: <http://bit.ly/28OxETH>

### Purpose:

The Mississippi Annual Conference—empowered by love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship—forms spiritual leaders, faith communities and connections so more disciples of Jesus Christ transform the world.

## Our Values

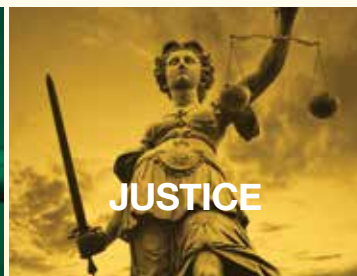
The Mississippi Conference Four Core Values are love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship. For more information, visit [www.mississippi-umc.org/thepowerofwe](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/thepowerofwe).



LOVE



GENEROSITY



JUSTICE



APPRENTICESHIP



Mississippi Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

Living Out  
The **POWER** of We

320-C Briarwood Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39206  
601.354.0515 | Fax 601.948.5982  
[www.mississippi-umc.org](http://www.mississippi-umc.org)



**Bishop Swanson Invites You to the  
2017 Session of The Mississippi Annual Conference!**  
*To view video, go to <https://vimeo.com/213225968>.*

## word POWER

### John 17:1-11

*New International Version (NIV)*

#### Jesus Prays to Be Glorified

**17** After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. **2** For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. **3** Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **4** I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. **5** And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

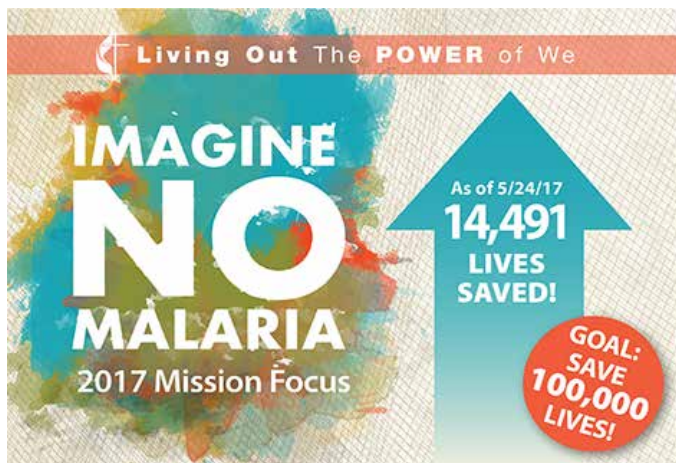
#### Jesus Prays for His Disciples

**6** "I have revealed you[a] to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. **8** For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. **9** I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. **10** All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. **11** I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of[b] your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

## Bishop On the Move

### May 25 - June 1, 2017

Bishop Swanson will attend the meeting of International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU) in Puebla, Mexico.



### INM Update

*For more information:*

[www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas)



### Memorial Day Closure

*The offices of the Mississippi United Methodist Conference will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, 2017. Office will re-open on Tuesday, May 30 at normal business hours.*

### Crafting A Legacy

By Tamica Smith Jeuit, Communications Specialist, Mississippi Conference

**Photo right:** Ray also carved the medallions for the altar table. The Alpha and Omega will go on the face of the altar columns. The Agnus Dei will be on the strut between the columns. Photo courtesy Rev. Andy Ray.

**Photo bottom right:** The altar table tier is removable. The columns are open in the back with two shelves for storage. The columns have casters for portability and each has a locking stop to keep stationery when in place. The top will lift off to allow moving. Photo courtesy Rev. Andy Ray.

The Ray family, deep-rooted in Mississippi United Methodism, shares more than 200 years of service as clergy. According to the Rev. Andy Ray, his father Wilson Ray, grandfather Guy Ray, and three great-uncles with the same last name are deceased Methodist pastors. His great-grandfather, Franklin Elmore Ray was a district lay leader before he passed away.

In 2016, Ray retired as a superintendent for the Mississippi Conference's Senatobia District. He served 45 years and led 65 local churches where he made a family connection at all but 12 churches.

"The good thing was I didn't have to apologize for my family at any of those churches," he humorously stated.

Ray also jokes about hoarding items such as Bibles and ordination papers that belonged to his ancestors.

"I don't want to have to start a Ray museum. I've got Bibles that date all the way back to 1832. It's quite a treasure. I don't want this stuff to get lost."

Speaking of lost, Ray also doesn't want his family's legacy to the church forgotten. His retirement was significant-marking the end of clergy with family's surname.

But thanks to a good friend and layman, Ray found a way to honor his family. He and Tom Wicker, a member of Tupelo First UMC, are building a portable altar table that will be a gift to the Mississippi Conference in honor of the Ray family.

"I may not be known for my intellect, preaching or counseling ability, but if there is one thing I'd like to be known for goes back to my grandfather, and that is I got lay people involved in the church wherever I have been. I think everybody has to use what gifts and skills they have to do whatever they can and this is one thing I can do for the church and my family," said Ray.

The maple wood table weighs roughly 450 pounds and breaks down into three parts. It will debut at the 2017 annual conference session in June in tribute to the Ray's.

### The Orchard Separates from the Miss. Conference

**From the chairs of the Mississippi Conference Council on Finance and Administration and the Mississippi Conference Trustees:**

On behalf of the conference CFA and trustees, we would like to inform you that the Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church has reached an amicable separation with The Orchard United Methodist Church. The prior appointed clergy at The Orchard have voluntarily surrendered their credentials and are no longer United Methodist ministers. The Orchard Church has ownership of its property and will continue their ministry in their satellite locations. The superintendent will be working with those members who wish to remain United Methodist to find them a church home. We believe we have reached an agreement that honors the ministries of the Mississippi Annual Conference and The Orchard Church.

*Brent Wilson, CPA*

*Chair, Conference CFA*

*Rev. Rickey Haynes*

*Chair, Conference Trustees*



### PRAYING THROUGH "A PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT"

Bishop James Swanson Sr. continues to solicit prayers for himself and those involved in "a period of discernment." Pray for the bishop, the congregations of Getwell Road UMC of the Senatobia District and The Orchard UMC of the Tupelo District, the pastors of these congregations, their district superintendents, and the Mississippi Conference treasurer. The bishop covets your prayer for a fruitful resolution as this process is ongoing. To read Swanson's full statement on "a period of discernment," go to <http://bit.ly/2ltKThe>.

### Workers Needed for Disaster Response

There is an immediate need for volunteer teams to assist in the cleanup efforts in Kilmichael, Mississippi. A tornado hit Kilmichael -- a small town with little resources -- on April 30, 2017. The mayor has requested help from volunteer organizations to assist residents with debris removal from their private property. There may be a need for workers with chainsaws and heavy equipment. If you have a team of volunteers that would like to help, contact public works director John Pearson at 662-417-0572. If your team needs housing, is available at Moore Memorial United Methodist Church. Call 662-283-3804.



### Miss. Conference Awarded for Tornado Recovery Effort

Photo Courtesy Mississippi Conference

A plaque was presented to the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church for the conference's efforts to help people recover from the tornado that hit Marshall County in December 2015. Senatobia District Superintendent Jim Genesee accepted the honor on behalf of the conference from the Marshall County Disaster Recovery Committee. Bill Scott, of Asbury United Methodist Church in Holly Springs, is the chair of the recovery committee. He handed out the awards to Genesee and other community leaders and volunteers who assisted the county. The awards ceremony was at Rust College.

Go to <http://bit.ly/2qXKUOt> to read The South Reporter story titled 'Recovery Committee Wraps Teamwork, hands out thank yous'.

### Volunteer Opportunities for the Session of Annual Conference

#### • Hand Bell Ringers Wanted for Memorial Service

As a part of the Mississippi Annual Conference Memorial Service this year, hand bells will be incorporated into the liturgy as the names of the honored deceased are read. If you would like to participate as a bell ringer, please contact Beverly McAlilly at [beverly@fumctupelo.com](mailto:beverly@fumctupelo.com). No ringing experience or musical expertise is necessary.

#### • Help Prepare Registration Bags

The Connectional Ministries Office of the Mississippi United Methodist Conference needs people from area churches to pack 2,000 registration bags for the 2017 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference. Approximately 15 - 20 volunteers are needed on Thursday, June 1, 2017, to fill the bags. The process starts at 10 a.m., at the Wilson Annex of the Mississippi Conference Office. The office is at 320-C Briarwood Drive in Jackson. Lunch is provided. (Last year the project was complete around 2 p.m.)

#### • Assist at Welcome Desk

Volunteers are needed to man the welcome desk during the session of the annual conference beginning on Wednesday during ethics training June 7 through June 10. Contact Anzette Thomas by Tuesday, May 23 to help. Reach her at [receptionist@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:receptionist@mississippi-umc.org), or call 601.354.0515.

#### • Sign Up for Prayer Team

You're invited to be a part of our prayer team from around the conference, praying at different times throughout the 2017 Annual Conference! We welcome the Holy Spirit to work within us as we do this work for the kingdom of God. For more information and time slots, go to <http://bit.ly/2qIMiIB>.

### Updated UMC Disability Ministry Grant

The United Methodist Church Disability Ministry Grant is available through the UMC's Disability Ministry Committee. The grant is for churches to make their property more accessible to individuals and families with disabilities. The grant application was recently updated to receive requests globally from United Methodist churches.

Local churches in Mississippi are urged to apply.

"As the chair of our Mississippi Annual Conference Disability Ministries Committee, I would encourage our congregations to consider ways that they can become more accessible and, moreover, apply for this grant to help fund that work," said the Rev. Eric Pridmore.

Through advocacy, education, and empowerment, the Disability Ministries Committee will lead The United Methodist Church in creating a culture where people with disabilities are fully included in all aspects of worship, leadership, and ministry.

For the grant application, go to <http://bit.ly/2rBnUrs>. **The deadline to apply is July 1, 2017.**

## Disability Awareness & Etiquette: Resource for Local Church

All persons with disabilities should intentionally and continuously be reassured that they are wanted and welcome through actions and words. Don't be afraid to ask how best to minister and relate to those with a disability. Never stray from just treating people as...people! Below are two links to help churches practice patience as part of their hospitality ministry.

View or download this video about disability awareness and etiquette here: <http://bit.ly/2qllilz>.

A power point presentation about disability awareness and etiquette can be found at this link: <http://bit.ly/2q1BA5a> (bottom of this page).

## Students

### Beach Camp for Youth

Surrounded by palm trees, sand, and coastal winds, youth can experience relaxation, fellowship with friends and quiet time with God at Beach Camp. From the creators of The Gathering, Beach Camp ( <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/beachcamp> ) is an engaging spiritual weekend for youth grades six through 12 and their leaders.

This event spans three days and will feature guest speaker, Josh Swanson. The Matt King Band will lead worship. This weekend includes late night concerts with Grammy-nominated Christian hip hop recording artist, Flame, and entertainment with illusionist, Todd Smith. There will also be recreation activities on the beach and late night youth activities.

Beach Camp will take place July 7-9, 2017 at the Quality Inn in Biloxi, Mississippi. Find more details and how to register here: <https://mississippi-reg.brtapp.com/BeachCamp>. A promo kit can be found here: <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/bcpromokit>.

## Save the Date | Announcements

### Embrace Conference

**June 2-4, 2017**

The Embrace Conference will be at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi on June 2-4, 2017. It will involve workshops on Friday and Saturday and a "Night of Worship" on Sunday night. This event is designed to teach churches how to become multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-racial churches. More information about the conference may be found at [www.embraceconference.info](http://www.embraceconference.info).

### Historic Children's Church Camp Comes to Gulfport

**June 5-9, 2017**

Camp Lake Stephens in Oxford has a fully-staffed traveling day camp coming to the Gulf Coast for the first time. The camp will be hosted by First United Methodist Church in downtown Gulfport at 2301 15th Street.

The day camp, for any child who has finished kindergarten through 4th grade, will meet Monday through Friday beginning the week of June 5. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

The cost is \$50 per camper for the week. Payment must be made at reservation to hold a spot for your child. Scholarships are available. For information or to register, call the church office at 228-863-0047, or e-mail Jill Senn, Director of Children's Ministries, at [jill@fumc-gulfport.org](mailto:jill@fumc-gulfport.org).

### United Methodist Men Annual Meeting

**June 7, 2017**

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Conference United Methodist Men will take place Wednesday, June 7, 5:30 p.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex in Jackson, Miss. Annual elections and the business of the UMM will be conducted during this meeting. All male members of Mississippi Conference United Methodist Churches are invited. To follow the Mississippi United Methodist Men on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/UMMenMS/>.

To visit website of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, go to <http://www.gcumm.org>.



Four-part Bible Study: Living Out The POWER of We  
*With Bishop James E. Swanson Sr.*

Link to access the videos: <http://bit.ly/2l1bUbW>

## **Connected: A Night of Worship**

**June 7, 2017**

Join us as we unite in an intergenerational evening of connection. We as The United Methodist Church want to open our doors to the public, inviting people from all around the state—from different churches, communities and denominations—to gather to worship the one true God under one roof. A worship opportunity featuring music from Shane & Shane and speaker Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean.

For more information, go to <http://www.mississippi-umc.org/connected>.

## **Retirement Service for Rev. David and Pattie Cumbest**

**June 24, 2017**

Safe Harbor UMC invites you to a retirement celebration in honor Rev. David and Pattie Cumbest on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 5 p.m. To attend, RSVP to [safeharborumc@cableone.net](mailto:safeharborumc@cableone.net).

## **M28Camps Youth Conferences 2017**

**July 2-6 | July 6-9 | July 10 -14**

M28Camps is in partnership with Lake Junaluska Conference Center to provide 3 youth events at Lake Junaluska, NC during the first two weeks of July. These 3 events are designed to help youth ministers and church adult volunteers foster Christian discipleship in their groups in the United Methodist/Wesleyan tradition. Participants can expect moving worship, speakers, special "late night" entertainment, and plenty of activities in the surrounding mountains. This year's keynote speakers are Rev. Regine Baptiste and Rev. Patrick Quinn. Registration is still being accepted! For more information please go to [www.M28Camps.com](http://www.M28Camps.com).

## **Lake Junaluska Announces Summer Worship Series**

**July 2 - Aug. 6, 2017**

The 2017 Summer Worship Series at Lake Junaluska will feature distinguished speakers from around the country. All are invited to attend the six Sunday morning worship services and Monday night Taizé services. Spirited, traditional worship services will take place on Sunday mornings from July 2 to August 6 at 10:30 a.m. The theme for this year was inspired by Psalm 121:1, "I lift up my eyes to the hills." Learn more at [www.lakejunaluska.com/summer-worship](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/summer-worship).

## **Laura Story Performing at Lake Junaluska**

**July 3, 2017**

Laura Story will perform July 3 at Lake Junaluska as part of the Independence Day Celebrations. Story is a well-known contemporary Christian artist who has been recognized for her amazing musical ability and knack for getting to the heart of difficult issues. Her song "Blessings" won a GRAMMY award, a Billboard Music Award and three Dove Awards. Her fifth studio album, "Open Hands," was released in March 2017. To learn more about the Independence Day Celebrations at Lake Junaluska, visit [www.lakejunaluska.com/july4th](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/july4th).

## **Theater Camp for Children and Youth**

**July 10-12, 2017**

Things are getting dramatic at Galloway UMC with a brand new opportunity for children and youth who have completed 1st through 12th grades. Join us for a special two-week theater camp July 10-21, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to noon. Director Lauren Gunn will lead students in acting workshops, dance lessons, set design, costume creation, and more, all in preparation for a final performance for the whole community on Friday, July 21 at 6 pm at Galloway UMC (305 N Congress Street, Jackson, MS). The cost is \$100 per student. Scholarships are available.

For more information and registration, go to <https://goo.gl/cBMD7u>.

## **Festival of Wisdom and Grace**

**Aug. 7-10, 2017**

Attend the Festival of Wisdom and Grace at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, Aug. 7-10, 2017. Registration is open. Learn more about this amazing older adult educational opportunity at <https://tinyurl.com/mn36txc>.



All things related to the 2017 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference!

For details, go to <http://bit.ly/2obIRDJ>.

## FAM JAM

Aug. 12, 2017

Save the date, Aug. 12, 2017. The Mississippi Conference presents a family event especially for children, kindergarten through 6th grades. Keep checking Mississippi Conference newsletters, social media and the website for details.

## Leadership Institute

September 27-29, 2017

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection invites you to Leadership Institute 2017, which takes place at the Leawood, KS campus, September 27 - 29, 2017. Registration is now open! Join clergy, church staff and volunteers from across the nation for one of the largest mainline training events in the country. The line-up of nationally known General Session speakers includes Adam Hamilton, Adam Weber, Nancy Beach, Olu Brown, Tony Morgan, Chris Folmsbee, Scott Chrostek, and Sarah Heath. For details and registration, visit <http://li.cor.org/>. For questions contact [sharechurchevents@cor.org](mailto:sharechurchevents@cor.org) or 913-232-4139.

## 2020 Pre-General Conference Briefing

Jan. 23-24, 2020

Mark your calendar to attend the 2020 Pre-General Conference Briefing in Nashville, Tennessee on Jan. 23-24, 2020.

- Learn about legislation and logistics
- Prepare for your work at General Conference
- Connect with fellow attendees

More details will be provided closer to the date of the event.

## UMC Events

Visit <http://www.umc.org/events> to see more educational opportunities and other upcoming events in the life of The United Methodist Church.

## Announcements

### Camp Lake Stephens Summer Camp

It is not too late to register for summer camp! Day and resident camp options are available. At camp children and youth can make new friends, learn new activities, challenge themselves, sing camp songs, play in the creek, go down the zip line, and most importantly learn about God. Please go to our website to learn more about our camp options. Register before the end of May and receive a \$50 discount. To receive discount enter CIRCUIT in promo code box when you register your camper. To register, visit [www.camplakestephens.com](http://www.camplakestephens.com).

### Cokesbury at AC 2017 Booth Hours and More

The Cokesbury Ministry Resource Center will be open Wednesday, June 7 through Saturday, June 10, during the 2017 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference. The hours are below. Cokesbury will feature new and classic resources to review and order, United Methodist resources, and best sellers for on-site purchase. Visitors can consult with professionals to find the best resources to make disciples. On-site ordering kiosk, free shipping on all in-stock orders placed through the annual conference portal at Cokesbury.com. Use the promo code AC2017. Some restrictions apply.

- Wednesday 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

## Methodist Tested Recipes

### Duck (or Chicken) with Wine and Tomatoes

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 duck or chicken (6 to 8 breasts) | 1 tsp. sugar     |
| 2 tbsp. butter                     | Salt and pepper  |
| 2 tbsp. onion, chopped             | Dash of cinnamon |
| 1 c. red or white dry wine         | Parsley, chopped |
| 1 c. tomato sauce                  |                  |

Clean and sear duck and cut into 6 to 8 pieces (if using chicken use six breasts). Brown with the butter and onions. Add wine and cover. Cook for 20 minutes. Add tomato sauce, diluted with a cup of water. Add sugar, salt, pepper and cinnamon. Simmer until duck or chicken is tender. Thicken sauce with a teaspoon of cornstarch diluted in a little water. Remove from fire. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve over rice or cooked pasta.

— By Leigh Denney Cox in "Goodness from Galloway" published by Galloway Memorial UMC in Jackson



## Employment

As a courtesy to the Mississippi Annual Conference, job announcements from across the United Methodist connection are featured in *The Circuit Rider*. To submit an employment notice, send an email to [news@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:news@mississippi-umc.org). Postings are not guaranteed to appear more than once in Mississippi Conference publications. **To read a description of job opening(s) listed below as well as other listings, go to [www.mississippi-umc.org/employmentopportunities](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/employmentopportunities).**

- Mississippi Delta Gleaning Assistant- Part Time at Society of St. Andrew (SoSA)
- Director of Music Ministries at Highland Valley UMC, Little Rock, AR
- Full-time Music Director at Hazel Green UMC, Hazel Green, AL
- Part-time organist Central UMC, Meridian, MS
- Director of Children's Ministries at Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge, LA
- Janitor at First UMC of Ridgeland, Ridgeland, MS

## Stay Connected

- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524)
- Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Mississippi\\_UMC](https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC)
- You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv\\_Kix8lbYuHKRMLjg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv_Kix8lbYuHKRMLjg)
- Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/)

### Stay Connected with ConnectText

Mississippi United Methodists with the ability to receive text messaging via phone are encouraged to sign up for ConnectText. The service is another option for people to stay informed about important dates and other conference happenings.

To sign up for ConnectText:

1. Remember, you must have the ability to get text messages on your phone.
2. From your mobile phone, text the letters 'MSUMC' to the number 95577 and press send.
3. Wait a few seconds for a confirmation text and you're connected!

### Mississippi Conference's Mobile App—MY MSUMC

MY MSUMC—the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church's official mobile app—is available at no cost on all iPhone, Android, Galaxy and Blackberry phones and their corresponding pads and tablets. MY MSUMC allows easy access to the latest conference events, local UM news and *The Circuit Rider*. The MY MSUMC app presents users with a unique opportunity to interact with the conference by submitting prayer requests, recording audio of personal testimonies and posting comments via facebook and twitter. Plus, the 'Our Districts' feature shows a comprehensive list of district contact information and even directions from the user's current location—all from a mobile smart phone or tablet device.



Visit <http://bit.ly/2kCN81h> to receive UM Interpreter

Interpreter is published by United Methodist Communications as a ministry magazine for the members—lay and clergy—of The United Methodist Church.