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Share Your News in The Circuit Rider
For submission guidelines, visit www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1418.

Stop Hunger Now - Track the Goal!
Visit www.facebook.com/msacshngoal to keep track of the Mississippi Conference’s 2014 goal of one million meals packed for Stop Hunger Now.

Our Values

LOVE
Matthew 22:37-39

GENEROSITY
Matthew 22:37-39

JUSTICE
Micah 6:8

APPRENTICESHIP
Matthew 28:18-20

Learn how The POWER of We fuels our beliefs.
A collection of stories that model each of The Mississippi Conference Core Values (tabs shown at left); love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship can be found at the links listed below.

LOVE: Visit www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1412

GENEROSITY: Visit www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1413

JUSTICE: Visit www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1414

APPRENTICESHIP: Visit www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1415

2014 Convocation on the Black Church

This event is specifically designed to meet challenges of African American churches -- but beneficial to all churches -- ALL churches are welcome! This year’s theme is “Living Out The POWER of We Through Vital Worship.” To find out about guest speakers and registration, read story on page 4.

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

2014 Annual Conference Session Review

Visit the links below to view or download the following:

• 2014-2015 Mississippi Conference Appointments: www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1376

• Special Annual Conference Edition of The Circuit Rider: www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1443

• 2014 Annual Conference Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/
Matthew 20:1-16

New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ 5 So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ 7 ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

‘He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

9 The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

13 ‘But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

16 “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Cultivating a Heart of Peace

The extended cabinet and I are engaged in an experience where we have accepted the challenge to become people characterized by three principles—Loving, Learning and Leading. Our first joint assignment was to read a book entitled, “The Anatomy of Peace.” Reading and discussing this book together has helped us learn about ourselves, the systems we create and the behavior we exhibit that makes for either conflict or peace.

These are a few gems that I have gleaned from this experience:

In every encounter with others, we are choosing to either see people as people like ourselves or as objects. The people we meet each and every day (our spouses, our children, our co-workers, our pastors, our parishioners, the police officers, the young people in our communities, the grocery store clerk) are either people that we esteem as on our level or they are not worthy of attention or regard. Thus, we are at war with them.

In every community there are people who function out of a humane paradigm and those that don’t. We must avoid lumping people; no matter how closely related they are, into stereotypes.

When I am at peace with my heart, I am at peace with the world even in times of war. But even during peace time, when I am at war with my heart I am at war with the world.

One quote from our book is so appropriate here, “Actually, when our hearts are at war, we not only invite failure, we invest in it.”

There are so many repercussions from this “heart at war” for our life together as Christians, as United Methodists living in Mississippi and within the larger United Methodist community. If we explore this and dig deeper, we may discover the source of much of the disharmony in our families, discord in our local congregations, distrust between pastors and congregants, disillusionments with the annual conference and talks of schism within the denomination. This is not to downplay real differences, but it is to lift up why we find it so difficult to at least address our differences in humane ways. Do we see those that we differ with as mere hindrances, objects, nuisances, irrelevant or not worthy of humane conversation? My last word even God said, “Come let us reason together!”

Blessings,

Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.
UM Men Target Domestic Violence

United Methodist News Service (UMNS)

Photo right: Members of the General Commission on United Methodist Men consider ways to decrease the incidences of domestic violence. Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., of the Mississippi Conference is the president of the GCUMM.

Leaders of United Methodist Men agreed to increase efforts to eliminate domestic violence.

“Only men can stop domestic violence,” said Gilbert C. Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

He told the 20-member commission, meeting September 5-7, that domestic violence occurs in lots of homes, including parsonages.”

Cooperative effort

“This is the first time United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women have an official opportunity to provide a dual witness instead of appearing to be at logger heads,” said Mississippi Area Bishop James Swanson, president of the 20-member commission. “This will be a witness that the world and the church needs as we seek to bring healing and wholeness to women children and families that have suffered for far too long because the church has either ignored or refused to bring the full power that God has given us to bear upon this evil.”

The bishop told the group of his long history of involvement with domestic violence cases. “I have discovered that other social services groups are ready to aid us,” he said while noting “police department personnel are never in more danger than when they respond to a domestic violence call.”

In an addendum to a commission report to an evaluation committee of the Connectional Table, Bishop Swanson called for a dialogue with United Methodist Women “to seek ways that we might collaborate to stop domestic violence.”

The commission and conference presidents of United Methodist Men have agreed to:

• Become an advocate within annual conference areas to stop domestic violence
• Create a resource center for those who need information and ideas on how to address this issue
• Become a model on how men might lead this charge
• Move from talking to action that will end domestic violence.

Connecting

Bishop On the Move

Mark your calendars to attend events where Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. will be visiting in the upcoming days.

• September 21, 2014 (Sunday)
  Bishop Swanson will preach during the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services at Madison United Methodist Church in Madison.

• September 23, 2014 (Tuesday)
  Wesley UMC in Columbus will host the annual Lowndes Cluster Revival at 6:30 p.m. and Bishop Swanson will be the evangelist for the evening.

• September 28, 2014 (Sunday)
  Bishop Swanson will preach during the 10:30 a.m. worship service and lead the completion of the worship center celebration at Kynett UMC in Brookhaven. All former pastors are welcome to attend.

New Zion UMC in Crystal Springs will have a worship service to celebrate their 150th church anniversary at 3:00 p.m. and Bishop Swanson will be the guest speaker.

• October 3, 2014 (Friday)
  Bishop Swanson will lead a workshop for the United Methodist Women annual meeting at H.A. Brown Memorial UMC in Wiggins at 6:00 p.m.

• October 4, 2014 (Saturday)
  Revels UMC in Greenville will hold an “I Challenge You” Banquet at 6:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser to encourage support of Revel’s after school program and Bishop Swanson will be the guest speaker.

• October 5, 2014 (Sunday)
  Bishop Swanson will preach during the 11:00 a.m. worship service at Gunnison UMC in Cleveland.
Hanke recently spoke at a meeting of Memphis Conference United Methodist Women. During that meeting he noted:

- We have a society that overtly degrades women.
- Being a real man means not tolerating attitudes that assume a lower status of women.
- One in four women will be abused, typically by a significant partner or family member.
- Tennessee ranks sixth in the nation for the rate in which women are killed by men.
- Men are both the problem and the solution.
- A domestic violence case is referred to Nashville police every 20 minutes.

**Resources**

The commission has worked with United Methodist Women to provide a discussion guide for “I Believe You,” a film about domestic violence and the faith community. For a preview of the film, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3z3dHhLL8RM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3z3dHhLL8RM). For a discussion guide visit the resource section of the [gcumm.org](http://gcumm.org) website.


For resources provided by the General Board of Church and Society, go to [http://umc-gbcs.org/issues/domestic-violence](http://umc-gbcs.org/issues/domestic-violence).

To read a previous Circuit Rider story on how domestic violence impacted Bishop Swanson, go to [www.mississippi-umc.org/news/detail/3048](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/news/detail/3048).

**Mississippi BMCR: Growing in Discipleship through Covenant Community**

*By Sherry Johnson, associate director Center for Ministry*

**Photo right: Left to right: Rev. Sherry Johnson, Rev. Elijah Mitchell and Erie Stuckett discuss the value of covenant groups at the Mississippi BMCR Covenant Group retreat at the Priory of St. Moses the Black.**

Last year during a planning session, a dozen leaders of the Mississippi Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) discerned that God was calling them to more fully live the vision of leadership described in their mission statement—“to train and develop prophetic and spiritual leaders who will provide or create opportunities for black churches to become vital congregations.” So they formed a covenant group with guidance from the book, “Covenant Discipleship: Christian Formation through Mutual Accountability,” by David Lowes Watson.

Since last August they have met monthly—usually by conference call—to hold each other in loving accountability for acts of compassion and justice, devotion and worship ([www.bmcrms.org/covenant_groups](http://www.bmcrms.org/covenant_groups)). Recently, they gathered for an overnight retreat at the Priory of St. Moses the Black in Raymond to reflect upon their year of discipleship and to discern their next faithful steps. “The group realized the special bond that had been created and was thankful to God for the beloved community that he had created,” said Rev. L. Fitzgerald Lovett, pastor of New Zion United Methodist Church in Crystal Springs. Rev. Lovett co-chairs Mississippi BMCR with Rev. Elijah Mitchell, associate pastor at St. Paul UMC in Ocean Springs.

Going forward the BMCR Covenant group plans to savor the mutual support and sense of connectedness they have found by spending more time together. They also hope to share the blessings of covenantal life by establishing other groups. “Covenant groups are needed, especially for pastors, to provide a safe, loving and supportive community where one can experience unconditional love. Broken and wounded individuals can be restored and empowered by the unconditional love they receive from their peers,” said Lovett.

For more information about Mississippi BMCR, visit [www.bmcrms.org](http://www.bmcrms.org) or email revlovett@hotmail.com.

**2014 Convocation on the Black Church**

The Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church presents the 2014 Convocation on the Black Church, **October 24-25**. This event is specifically designed to meet challenges of African American churches—but beneficial to all churches—ALL churches are welcome! This year’s theme is “Living Out The POWER of We Through Vital Worship.” The convocation will take place at the Brandon Conference Center in Brandon, Mississippi.

Facilitators for this event are: Rev. Dr. Michael T. McQueen, senior pastor of St. James UMC in Alpharetta, Georgia; Pastor John Paul McGee of Worship and Arts at St. James UMC in Alpharetta, Georgia and Sondra Bell, minister of music at Anderson UMC in Jackson, Mississippi.
Faith Communities

District Mission & Ministry Resource Event
By Izzie Zimmerman, Tupelo District Director of Communications

Photo right: Members from across the Tupelo District worked shoulder to shoulder to pack roughly 15,100 meals for Stop Hunger Now.

At 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 31, 2014 hundreds of clergy and congregation members gathered for the Mission & Ministry Resource event at Nettleton UMC. The Rev. Cecil Locke, the host church’s pastor and district superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jimmy Barnes, kicked off the affair. After announcements, a presentation by Stop Hunger Now, a song and a prayer, several folks headed to classes while others made their way to join pack meals for Stop Hunger Now.

Mori Sykes, a pharmacist, gave a presentation on medications, compliance and diet management for diabetics and caretakers. Sandy Jackson, retired director of laity development for the General Board of Discipleship, shared with laity and leadership about God’s mission. The Rev. Dr. Larry Hilliard, director of spiritual leadership, was also present and spoke about the process of candidacy and what to look for when recommending candidates for ministry.

During the class time, hundreds of youth and adults packed meals with Stop Hunger Now in the family life center. More than 15,100 meals were packaged in just under an hour. The goal of 15,000 meals for this event was met easily and quickly. There was great food, fellowship and many folks of all ages who worked hard to make this happen.

Clergy attending the entire Saturday will be granted ½ CEU.

A special offering will be lifted in support of Rust College. Through giving, Rust College is able to continue developing students who will impact the world God loves. Rust College is a related institution of The United Methodist Church.

For additional information, call Angela Griffin at 769.243.7072 or email angela@mississippi-umc.org. To register, go to www.mississippi-umc.org/events/detail/1350.

Visit www.mississippi-umc.org/events/detail/1347 for details on the youth conference that will be held in conjunction with the 2014 Convocation on the Black Church. The theme is “UNASHAMED Youth Living Boldly for Christ.”

Median Age of Clergy Climbs to 56
United Methodist News Service (UMNS)

Photo right: Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey prays with young adults who were attending Exploration 2013, an event for those considering God’s call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. Photo by Vicki Brown for the General Board of Higher Education

The median age of United Methodist clergy has hit 56—a new high—and the percentage of older clergy continues to rise, according to an annual study by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership. But the study also found that the denomination has seen modest growth in the percentage of clergy under age 35. To read the story, go to www.umc.org/news-and-media/church-continues-to-see-clergy-aging-trend.

United Theological Seminary
Offering UM Denominational Courses Online in Spanish

Beginning this fall, United Theological Seminary will begin offering United Methodist denominational course requirements online in the Spanish language. These two-credit masters level courses will be taught by Dr. Mark Abbott, United's Director of Non-Degree programs and former missionary to Spain and Dean of Seminario Evangelico Unido de Teologia.

United Methodist History is being offered in the Fall of 2014. United Methodist Doctrine and Polity will both be offered in the Spring semester. All three courses are fully online.

Registrations are now open for the UM History course. Contact admissions@united.edu.

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Students

JSU Wesley Foundation Welcomes Incoming Students on Move-In Day

The Jackson State University Wesley Foundation’s presence was visible Saturday, August 16, 2014 during move-in day for over 1,200 freshmen and transfer students. President Carolyn Myers thanked the Wesley Foundation in her weekly email/letter to the campus. Board members, Central United Methodist Church members and students distributed ice cold beverages and received contact information for potential students.

Jackson State Wesley Foundation is gearing up for worship every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Tiger Plaza, which is formerly the Regency Hotel now a dormitory for males students. This is the first time a campus ministry/organization has provided a worship service in the newly renovated dormitory. Worship will also take place every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. in the Jacob Reddix Building on the third floor.

JSU Wesley Foundation’s campus minister/director is Rev. Vera Hall and the board of director’s chairman is Rev. Stephen Cook.

United Methodists Work to Reverse Scout Losses

United Methodist News Service (UMNS)

The number of young people involved in scouting declined from 2.85 million in 2012 to 2.49 million in 2013 (the last full year of reporting).

The number of youth involved in scouting programs within The United Methodist Church declined from 365,565 in 2012 to 349,614 in 2013.

The General Commission on United Methodist Men, meeting September 5-7, is seeking ways to reverse the loss of nearly 16,000 young people.

Churches with members who don’t look like their neighborhood can change that through scouting,” said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the commission.

Scouting is down because the church is losing its identity as a servant of the community,” said Bishop James Swanson, president of the commission. “If we don’t see our role as serving the people of the community our numbers will continue to go down.”

The bishop said efforts to increase the number of young people in churches must begin with children. He called for a new emphasis on Cub Scouts and Daisies from the Girl Scouts. “You can’t get youth without beginning with children,” he said.

Larry Coppock, commission staff executive for scouting and other youth-serving agencies, said efforts to help churches understand how scouting can minister to communities is supported by 261 scouting ministry specialists, 2014-15 Bishops Dinners for Scouting, and “Faith in Scouting,” a six-minute film produced in cooperation with the Boy Scouts.

Coppock said 6,300 United Methodist young people received God and Country awards through the St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY), the highest number of all denominations.

United Methodists lead all denominations with 212,503 Cub Scouts and is second with 129,503 Boy Scouts in 4,837 United Methodist churches. Many of the 988 churches with Venturing crews use that co-educational program for their youth organization.

In other business, the commission:

• Celebrated the completion of a new storage area and the renovating of commission offices on famed Music Row in Nashville;
• Agreed to continue to provide 6,500 “Backpacking New Testaments” to Scouts attending Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Northern Tier High Adventure bases in Minnesota and Canada, the Summit in Tennessee, and the Florida Sea Base;
• Agreed to cooperate with Strength for Service Inc., a non-denominational ministry launched by the commission that has published 485,000 copies of daily devotional books for members of the military and 30,000 copies for police officers fire fighters and other first responders;
• Suggested the addition of a part-time staff person to continue providing webinars for Scout leaders
• Learned that the four deployed staff members of the commission are working with 38 men's ministry specialists to form eight teams composed of candidates for the position;
• Learned that the number of pounds of food gleaned by Society of Saint Andrew in 2014 is up 15 percent from 2013, but giving by United Methodist Men is off by 8 percent in the first eight months of 2014. Last year UM men gave $85,310 to the Meals for Millions program of the society.

Administry

District Listening Sessions in October

A Message from David Stotts, Mississippi Conference treasurer and benefits officer

At the 2014 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference, the Board of Medical Benefits reported that consideration for direct invoicing for the active medical plan (currently line 7 on the apportioned mission shares list) would be coming up for consideration at the 2015 annual conference session. Locations for the listening sessions were announced at that time.

Those sessions are to be held between October 2 and October 14, 2014 in each district. The purpose of the listening session is two-fold: 1) to explain the proposed plan of direct invoice that will be developed for submission to the 2015 annual conference and 2) to hear your reactions and comments that will be carried back to the Board of Medical Benefits and the Council on Finance and Administration. After those meetings, the board and council will complete the work on the proposed plan based on the comments received at the listening sessions and release it to the conference members in the early spring. Final action will be taken on the plan at 2015 annual conference session.

It is imperative that the lay and clergy members of the 2015 conference be in attendance so that they may help direct the proposal that will come to annual conference. Local church treasurers, pastor parish chairs, admin council chairs, lay leaders and finance chairs are also welcome.

It is also the time we will have open enrollment for the conference medical insurance plan for the clergy in the active or Medicare supplement plan. Dental and vision insurance will also have an open enrollment. If your total clergy compensation for 2015 is $20,453 and you are not in the plan, you may enroll in the plan effective January 1, 2015. Please look at the plans to determine which one is right for you and your family.

You must enroll by October 31, 2014 to participate in the plan beginning January 1, 2015.

Below is the schedule of district meetings for the medical benefits explanation of direct invoice, open enrollment and other specific information that has changed on the Clergy Budget Compensation Package form for 2015.

• Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. - East West Jackson, Madison UMC
• Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. - Brookhaven, Brookhaven First
• Monday, October 6, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. - Senatobia, Senatobia First
• Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. - Starkville, Starkville First
• Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. - Greenwood, St John’s Greenwood
• Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. - Hattiesburg, Parkway Heights UMC Hattiesburg
• Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. - Meridian, Meridian District Office
• Sunday, October 12, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. - Seashore, Gateway UMC
• Monday, October 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. - New Albany, New Albany First
• Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. - Tupelo, Tupelo First

Economic News

By Mike Hicks, executive director of the Mississippi United Methodist Foundation

I attended an event last week that featured an economist sharing about economic conditions in our nation and state. The good news is that the national economy is recovering. The bad news is that the state economy is running behind the national economic upturn. Many of you will not find this surprising news. The hardest hit sector in the state in 2008 was non-technical manufacturing. This area is still well behind in recovery, if it will ever see a recovery. This means less jobs for less skilled workers in our state.

The slow recovery is still having an impact on giving to our local churches and to ministries of the annual conference. The slow recovery is hard to see at the university football stadiums in Mississippi. Mississippi State University had the largest crowd for a home game ever. University of Southern Miss had a great crowd at their first home game. Jackson State University fans are following their team. University of Mississippi fans filled the Grove and the stands.
We can groan about the news in the previous paragraph or begin to see that we have work to do. It is obvious that universities are doing a much better job of engaging people than the church. People want to attend games and to give to the universities. What are they doing that the church is not doing? Think about it.

Can Health Care Law Save Conferences Money?

United Methodist News Service (UMNS)

Facing mounting health care costs for an aging risk pool, some United Methodist annual (regional) conferences are turning to the Affordable Care Act for relief. Turning to state insurance marketplaces can bring both advantages and drawbacks for church employees. To read more the story, go to www.umc.org/news-and-media/can-health-care-law-save-conferences-money1. Visit www.umc.org/news-and-media/affordable-care-acts-impact-on-the-uninsured to read about a United Methodist deacon who helped hundreds of uninsured people sign up for coverage.

Save the Date | Announcements

Applications for the 2014 Mission Grants are Now Available

DEADLINE: November 14, 2014

Need to strengthen or start a ministry? Apply for mission grants.

Apply now for the 2014 Connectional Ministries Mission Grants. These matching grants are available to United Methodist churches and United Methodist sponsored or related agencies. Grants range from $500 to $2,500 per project, with one award of up to $10,000. They are awarded to form spiritual leaders, new places for new people, connections through existing congregations and engagement in ministry with the poor; therefore, living out the four Core Values of The POWER of We.

In 2012, the committee awarded 46 out of the 57 applicants, a total of $107,000. In 2013, the Connectional Ministries Mission Grant Committee awarded 63 grants totaling $118,255.

Applications are accepted from September 12 through November 14, 2014 and must be delivered in person or by mail to the: Office of Connectional Ministries / Attn: Mission Grants / 320 - C Briarwood Dr. / Jackson, MS 39206. To ensure receipt, it is recommended to send certified mail with return receipt. Do not fax or email applications.

The 2014 Mission Grant Application can be downloaded at:

Camp Lake Stephens Fall Spiritual Life Retreats for Youth

Download http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102747532396-1893/Childrens_2014_print3.pdf for details about the children’s retreat. (Grades 3-6)

Gulfport First UMC’s Recovery Workshops

September 11 - November 13, 2014

First United Methodist Church Gulfport announces the following outreach programs, which began on Thursday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m.:

• The Divorce Recovery Workshop is a structured program helping people deal with divorce issues, as well as offering a caring support group for those going through a divorce or separation. Participants will hear a speaker the first hour, with group discussion the second hour.

• The Grief Recovery Workshop is for anyone dealing with the emotional pain that follows the death of a loved one. In addition to hearing speakers, participants share their loss experiences and talk about grief issues with the goal of putting their lives back together.

• Broken Rainbow is a program for children who are having difficulty coping with a divorce or death in their family. The program is suitable for children ages six and up. Please call to register your child.

All workshops last for 10 weeks and meet in the education building of First United Methodist Church on the corner of 15th Street and 23rd Avenue in downtown Gulfport. The workshop fee is $30. Children of Divorce Recovery or Grief Recovery participants may attend Broken Rainbow at no cost. For more information on any program, call 228.229.6851.
If you have never participated in a support group, it can be a life-changing experience. Just having a safe place to talk and being with others who have an understanding of what you are going through can allow you to work through your loss and reach the point where you are able to move on with your life.

**The emPOWERed, Accountable, Collaborative Leadership Conference for Laity and Clergy**
*September 20, 2014*

Pre-registration for this joint laity and clergy event has closed, but there will be on-site registration for people who want to attend. Those registering at the door are being advised they may have to cover the cost of their lunch, while the executive board of laity will do everything they can to accommodate their attendance. For more information about the even, go to [www.mississippi-umc.org/events/detail/1336](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/events/detail/1336).

**Samuel Chapel UMC Celebrates Men’s Day**
*September 21, 2014*

The United Methodist Men of Samuel Chapel United Methodist Church will celebrate their annual Men’s Day on **Sunday, September 21, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.** The theme asks this timely question, “Men, whose side are you on?” The speaker for this special occasion is the dynamic Timothy Crisler, the Mississippi Annual Conference lay leader. Everyone is invited to share in this time of worship. Samuel Chapel is located at 208 Medgar Evers Boulevard in Itta Bena, Mississippi. For more information, contact John Upton at 662.392.1582 or the church office at 662.254.9870.

**Men’s Day Celebration at Seven Springs UMC**
*September 28, 2014*

“Men Walking in Holiness” is the theme of the Men’s Day worship service scheduled to take place at Seven Springs United Methodist Church at 3:00 p.m. The theme is based on Psalm 37:23, “the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.”

The guest speaker will be Melvin Pace of new Hope Baptist Church.

Seven Springs UMC is located at 4668 Seven Springs Road in Raymond, Mississippi.

**Bishop Swanson to Speak at New Zion’s 150th Anniversary**
*September 28, 2014*

New Zion United Methodist Church is excited to announce its 150th church anniversary celebration on **September 28, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.** Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. of the Mississippi Episcopal Area will bring the message. Please join us in celebrating this great milestone in the history of the church. New Zion is located at 101 West Piazza Street in Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

For more details contact Ruby Lovett at 662.897.0581 or Mary Funchess at 601.892.3356.

**Seven Springs UMC Annual Revival “Calls for Peace”**
*September 29 - October 1, 2014*

Seven Springs United Methodist Church will have revival from **September 29 to October 1.** The theme is “A Call for Peace” and each service will begin at 7:00 p.m. The evangelists for revival nights are as follows:

- **Monday:** Rev. R. E. Cook, pastor of Greater New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson
- **Tuesday:** Rev. Robert Brown, pastor of Middlebrook United Methodist Church in Jackson
- **Wednesday:** Rev. Kenya Martin, pastor of Greater New Hamilton Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Raymond

Seven Springs UMC is located at 4668 Seven Springs Road in Raymond, Mississippi.

**“Builders, Boomers and Busters: Bridging the 21st Century”**
*October 4, 2014*

Noted author and boomer generation expert, Dr. Carol Orsborn will be in Little Rock **Saturday, October 4, 2014** for a conference focused on how churches can better reach adults and older adults.

Orsborn will present a keynote and lead a workshop at the “Builders, Boomers and Busters: Bridging the 21st Century” conference, Saturday, October 4 at St. James United Methodist Church located at 321 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock.

Orsborn is recognized across the U.S. as a leader of the aging movement and is
the author of 21 books including “Fierce with Age: Chasing God and Squirrels in Brooklyn.” Joining Orsborn is Rev. Dr. Will Randolph, national expert on aging and older adult ministry for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church and Little Rock motivational speaker Randy Frazier, known for his wisdom, humor and storytelling.

The conference is hosted by the Arkansas Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries and was funded through a grant by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.

The conference is open to the public. Registration is $25 and includes materials and lunch. Advance registration is strongly recommended. Go to http://arumc.org/calendar/index.php?eID=241&utm_source=9-17-14+Circuit+Rider&utm_campaign=9-17-14+Circuit+Rider&utm_medium=email to register or find information.

World Communion Sunday October 5 (Free Resources)

In his letter to the church at Philippi, the apostle Paul writes, “Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:13b-14, NRSV). United Methodists will follow that mandate on October 5 as they participate in World Communion Sunday. Play an important role in making World Communion Sunday extra-special this year.


Order leaflet offering envelopes and posters to enhance your World Communion Sunday celebration at, www.umcgiving.org/ss or call 888.346.3862.

Thirteenth Annual Faith and Health Event in Memphis

October 16, 2014

Attention all conferences, districts, clergy and congregational leaders. The upcoming 13th Annual Faith & Health: Making the Connection Clergy and Congregational Leaders Conference will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Church Health Center Wellness facility. The address is 1115 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. This year’s conference theme is “Pastors and Congregations on the Front Line of Mental Health.” Clergy are often the first people sought out when an individual is experiencing issues with mental health. The goal of this conference is to help clergy be better able to deal with those encounters.

The conference is free to all participants. The conference is again sponsored jointly by the Church Health Center of Memphis and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. The keynote speaker is Dr. Michael A. Torres, founder and president of the Center for the Integrations of Spirituality and Mental Health. In addition to Torres, participants will be able to participate in workshops, clergy panel discussions and resources booths.

Visit http://churchhealthcenter.org/faithhealthseries for registration details. If you have questions, call Chaplain John Wilcher at 901.516.0864, or email john.wilcher@mlh.org.

UNASHAMED Youth Event

October 25, 2014

The Mississippi Annual Conference cordially invites all young people (6th-12th grade) to its youth conference held in conjunction with the 2014 Convocation on the Black Church. The previous years have been an enormous success with vibrant guest speakers, activities and inspiring worship that generated chat on social media. This year’s event promises the same, while encouraging youth to live UNASHAMED as disciples of Christ for transformation of the world.

Don’t miss “UNASHAMED: Youth Living Boldly for Christ,” October 25, 2014, at Brandon First UMC in Brandon, Mississippi. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The event starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Registration is $20 for each participant. Lunch will be served.

For more information contact Bernice Sykes at bysyskes@att.net or Angela Griffin at angela@mississippi-umc.org.
Celebrating 200 Years of God’s Faithfulness and Grace at Redbone UMC
October 26, 2014

Redbone United Methodist Church will kick off several events in honor of their 200th Anniversary beginning Sunday, October 26, 2014 with fellowship, coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m. A worship service will be held at 10:30 a.m. and dinner on the grounds will begin at noon.

Members, former members, former pastors, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in this anniversary celebration.

Contact Sara Dionne if you would like to add your story or music to this worship service. For more information, send an email to redbonevalley@hotmail.com or call 601.529.3582.

Redbone United Methodist Church is located at 43 Burnt House Road in Vicksburg.

The Gathering
February 27 - March 1, 2015
Christ UMC in Jackson, Mississippi

The Lord moved in powerful ways at The Gathering 2014. We are praying for God to move even bigger in 2015!

Mark your calendars! Rev. William Rambo, associate pastor at the Orchard United Methodist Church in Tupelo and Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., episcopal leader of the Mississippi Area are both amazing communicators and will be the guest speakers at the Gathering 2015. Worship leader, Steve Fee, will bring energy even higher than before. Amena Brown will bring a powerful experience with her spoken word art. A dance crew that has performed all around the country at youth camps and NBA half-time shows, Remote Kontrol, will be here! This will be an amazing weekend! You don’t want to miss it.

Non-refundable registration costs:
$55 Early Bird Registration (paid online or postmarked by January 21, 2015)
$60 Regular Registration (paid online or postmarked by February 16, 2015)
$65 Late Registration (paid online or postmarked after February 16, 2015)

Provide payment in advance by check to the conference office.

To register for The Gathering 2015, go to www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx. Contact Mike Howington, Mississippi Conference youth and families coordinator at 601.354.0515 for additional information and details about available scholarships.

Wesley Heritage Tour 2015
with Bishop Swanson and the Mississippi Conference
July 21-29, 2015

Join Bishop Swanson and the Mississippi Conference July 21-29, 2015, on a study-tour experience to London and surrounding areas. Study the roots of United Methodism. Learn about John, Charles, Susannah and the Wesley family. See places that are significant to Wesleyan heritage while traveling on a luxury coach through the beautiful countryside only England can offer.

The tour begins in Manchester, England. Housing is in a first class hotel in the Midlands area and the group travels out from there each day. The tour visits sites at Birmingham, Coventry, Stratford, Oxford, Bristol, Bath, Cotswolds, Glouster and London. Post-tours are available for a longer stay in London or a five-day excursion to Ireland.

District superintendents have brochures. Discounts are available for early registration so get a brochure today or go online to www.eo.travel to view brochure and register. Enter Tour HE15, Code 072114A to be linked to the Mississippi Conference tour experience.

Credits toward the cost of the trip are available to those hosts who sign up others to travel with them. Those interested in becoming a host and recruiting others to travel, email Joy Carr at carrhaus@comcast.net to start the host process. Include preferred mailing address, email address, telephone and full name.
Journey through England and discover the roots of the early church and the ministry of John Wesley. Visit London, Oxford, Epworth, the Old Rectory where John Wesley grew up and much more. Enhance the journey with more days in London or an extension to Ireland!


### Black-Bottom Banana Bars


― Dot Arneson, from “Loaves and Fishes” a collection of favorites from St. Paul United Methodist Church in Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Have a recipe that is too good to keep to yourself? Share it with our Circuit Rider readers. Email your favorite recipes to news@mississippi-umc.org.

### 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. Postings are not guaranteed to appear more than once in this newsletter.

**Employment Opportunities**

- **Missional Employment Opportunity - COPA**
  
  Two-year positions for volunteers paid a stipend of $450/month; they would have housing and medical provided. We are looking for a maintenance / accounting person and for an education advisor- both hopefully bilingual English/Spanish. For more information contact Marlene Huggins, personnel COPA at 352.753.7901.

- **Part-time to 3/4 time Children’s Minister - Johnston Chapel UMC**

  Johnston Chapel United Methodist Church, in Summit, Mississippi is advertising for a part-time choir director position beginning immediately. Salary is commensurate with experience.

  Job description and application upon request. Contact: Ron Humphrey 601.248.1569.

  Job: Children's Minister (part-time to 3/4 time),
  Where: Southaven First United Methodist Church
  Salary: Commensurate with experience

  Description:
  • Plan Events for children such as VBS, Fall Festival, Family Fun Nights, etc.
  • Responsible for recruiting and training volunteers for Sunday school, Children's Church and other children's events
  • Responsible for Wednesday Night children's ministry program
  • Be a bridge to our day care, pre-school and after school care
  • Responsible for follow-up with children and parents after big events like VBS
  • Work with Senior Pastor and Minister of Music and other staff as part of a ministry team

  Contact: Rev. Hal Hall, Senior Pastor Southaven FUMC, 723 Star Landing Road East, Nesbit, MS 38651

- **Musician - Haven Chapel**

  Haven Chapel is in need of a musician. Must be able to read music and be familiar with use of the hymnal. Hours of service and ministry are
Sunday morning beginning at 10:00-11:30, Wednesday evening 5:30-6:30 for choir rehearsal and for special events such as revivals. Interested parties can contact Pastor Kathy Price at 601.513.7709 and a follow-up meeting with church leadership can be scheduled at that time.

• **Full-Time Office Manager - Seashore United Methodist Assembly (SUMA)**

This position requires a person with office and accounting experience, excellent communication skills, computer knowledge and customer service skills. Ideally, this person would have at least two years of experience working in an office environment and have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and QuickBooks Accounting Operations. Said candidate would have the ability to meet walk-in customers and be responsible for making reservations for individuals and groups in the various options SUMA offers our guests. This person would also be responsible for day to day activities around the office, giving tours of the assembly grounds, and be able to answer questions about what Seashore Assembly has to offer in a multi-generational retreat center that provides an atmosphere for growth and renewal of spirit and mind. Salary will be determined after considering experience. Regular office hours are basically 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Interested parties should submit a résumé to Michael Hedgepeth, executive director at michaelhedge.suma@gmail.com.

• **Associate Ecumenical Staff Officer-Leadership Development (AESO)**

The Council of Bishops is currently recruiting for an Associate Ecumenical Staff Officer-Leadership Development (AESO) for its office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (OCUIR). This office is tasked with deepening and expanding ecumenical and interreligious ministries of The United Methodist Church through building partnerships, participating in interfaith dialogue and encouraging Christian unity around the world.

This is a unique opportunity for a passionate ecumenist. Working closely with the Council of Bishops Leadership Team on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, the AESO develops educational and program curriculum and materials to further ecumenical formation across the connection.

**Closing Date: September 30, 2014.**

For more information and application details, follow this link: [http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1116153503841-58/Associate+Ecumenical+Staff+Officer+-+Leadership+Development.pdf](http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1116153503841-58/Associate+Ecumenical+Staff+Officer+-+Leadership+Development.pdf).

• **Full-time Director of Student Faith Formation - Canterbury United Methodist Church-Birmingham, Alabama**

Canterbury United Methodist Church (www.canterburyumc.org) located in Birmingham, Alabama, is searching for a full-time Director of Student Faith Formation, a person who will serve more in an “executor” role as part of the student ministry team. This position will build upon and strengthen the spiritual formation of students by establishing relationships with both students and their families. The main responsibilities are:

• Maintain day-to-day management of the spiritual formation of students, in alignment with Canterbury’s mission and values
• Develop relationships with youth and their families to nurture their relationship with Christ, with a focus on high school students and families
• Collaborate, support and troubleshoot with volunteers
• Provide oversight to the programmatic aspects of student ministry
• Infuse a joyful Christian atmosphere into all Canterbury youth programs

Qualifications include:

• A minimum of five years of experience in leading a youth ministry program, preferably in a larger church or similar organization
• A bachelor’s degree with a preference toward a field related to youth ministry
• Knowledge of sustainable systems
• A passion for serving youth and their families
• Ability to serve as a spiritual role model by demonstrating a commitment to Christian spiritual practices and by articulating a personal faith journey
• Ability to plan, implement and measure the results of ministry programs and events
• Alignment with the beliefs and practices of The United Methodist Church

Canterbury United Methodist Church is a well-established, traditional church of about 3,000 members in Birmingham, AL with a history of excellence in music, worship, adult education and mission experiences. The theological environment of Canterbury United Methodist Church offers a foundation on the Bible while promoting a culture that values theological diversity. Canterbury United Methodist Church strives to model openness, acceptance and tolerance.

For more detailed information and to submit a résumé, please contact Kristina Zirschky at KristinaZ@ymarchitects.com.
Stay Connected

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524

https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC

www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv_Kix8lbYuHKRMLlg

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.

Feel free to leave a comment about the app on the Mississippi United Methodist Conference facebook and twitter pages.