Greetings!
Welcome to your connection for up-to-the-minute news and information from the Mississippi Conference. Featured in this newsletter are the latest announcements, dates to remember, celebration stories from across the conference and current employment opportunities. Our hope is for The Circuit Rider to become a tool for building the connection across the conference, strengthening our districts and local congregations as we go forth to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Please e-mail your news and information for us to share with others around the conference to news@mississippi-umc.org.

Attention:

POWER of We: Core Four Resources Available on Web Site

Go to http://www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/990 to view or download.

Luke 4:1
New International Version (NIV)
Jesus at a Pharisee’s House
One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

Luke 14:7-14
New International Version (NIV)
7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 8 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 9 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. 10 For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 Then Jesus said to his host,”When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13 But when you give a ban-
quet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Hurricane Katrina Anniversary: Mississippi UM Disaster Recovery Continues

By Beth Dean, Mississippi United Methodist Disaster Recovery Inc.

Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005 as a category five hurricane, reportedly making it the fourth most powerful hurricane of all time. Most people were not prepared for a storm of this magnitude, including the church that miraculously stepped up for the most vulnerable. While local churches were working on the front lines, the Mississippi Annual Conference with aid from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) was busy meeting the immediate needs of those affected by the storm, while simultaneously putting in place a long-term recovery structure.

Mississippi United Methodist Disaster Recovery, Inc., an UMCOR affiliate, was born out of Hurricane Katrina with a vision to “help heal hearts and homes” by returning people to safe, sanitary and secure environments. The organization works with homeowners whose needs are not met by other funding sources, such as insurance, grants, Small Business Administration (SBA) loans and meet the established qualifications. All the work is volunteer-driven. Without the help of volunteers, the Mississippi coast would not be as far along in the recovery process.

Over the past eight years, this organization has been able to serve over 500 homeowners with the assistance of approximately 15,000 volunteers who have come from every state and even out of the country. The work has consisted of debris clean-up, providing tarps, repairing and replacing roofs, flooring, drywall installation/finishing, cabinetry, carpentry, painting and any other jobs as needed. In the years since Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi UM Disaster Recovery, Inc. has had new client cases as a result of Hurricane Isaac and other weather-related events that have worsened some homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Since its inception, the organization has changed and downsized from the six original volunteer camps to one central camp (Camp Love) located in Gulfport, Mississippi. Camp Love continues to house and feed volunteers and serve Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. However, when necessary, the camp assists in other ways such as delivering UMCOR supplies to the affected areas following the Hattiesburg tornado in February 2013. The remaining staff is dedicated to continuing the work that was begun and have also expanded the focus of their mission to include the many homeowners who need assistance with repairs in an effort to help lessen future damage from storms, but do not have the necessary resources. Mississippi United Methodist Disaster Recovery, Inc. has become an outreach of hope for the least, the last, the lost and the forgotten. The volunteers have come to serve and to be a blessing to others. They never expected to be so richly blessed. In return, they would leave behind their hearts and revisit year after year, renewing old friendships and making new ones. Without them, homeowners would still be waiting for help and sadly that is the case for some.

As the 8th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina quickly approaches, Mississippi United Methodist Disaster Recovery, Inc., reflects on all that the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast has accomplished in its recovery efforts. People can travel Highway 90 in either direction where growth

Beth Dean (green shirt) is seen making a delivery of supplies.

These volunteers represent thousands helping with recovery and relief.

Volunteers tarp storm-damaged home.
and rebuilding can be seen. The towns are coming back to life as well as the shops and restaurants to waiting tourists. While there are still driveways and stairs that once led to homes, no longer in place, there are homes that have been rebuilt and repaired. Stop to remember those whose lives were lost; those whose lives were forever changed and the stories that about that one moment when Katrina wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast. To those who responded to make a difference amidst the chaos, Mississippi United Methodist Disaster Recovery, Inc. says “thank you.” To those who wish to be a part of this outreach mission, make the contact today.

For more information or to bring a team to Camp Love, please call 866-435-7091 or email umcamplove@gmail.com. Scheduling has begun for 2014.

My UMW Experience
By Kacie Reeves, “The Beacon,” Mississippi UMW Newsletter

It’s hard to believe it’s already been a year since Hannah and I went to the Limitless Conference (for women) in Durham, North Carolina. Since then, I’ve learned a lot about the United Methodist Women (UMW) organization and have had the opportunity to participate in a couple of conference meetings. I was honored to be asked to write an article for “The Beacon” and share with you my UMW experience and what it means to me. One clear goal of UMW is to get more women from the younger generation involved. This can be quite the challenge as young women, especially mothers like me, have so many other obligations. With work and taking care of children, it can be difficult to find time for meetings.

My circle meets at night and fortunately our church provides nursery for convenience, which is an enormous help. Each member takes turns bringing a meal for the group so the rest of us don’t have to worry about dinner. You can just come as you are. It’s really special to meet with the same group of women each month for fellowship. Sometimes the conversation is light and we end up just catching up with each other on what’s been going on in our lives. Other times we get really deep into our study. Hearing what other Christian women think about a particular topic brings new perspectives and challenges me in my own faith, allowing me to become a more open-minded individual.

At the Conference UMW executive committee meeting in January, we were challenged to be involved in more “hands-on” missions in our districts. I took this back to my circle and we started to talk about ways we could be more involved in our local community and spread the love of God to others. We decided that we would like to visit a few ladies at a local nursing home. We coordinated with one of the staff members at the home to find out which residents did not have family close by and therefore didn’t have a lot of visitors. Now, once a month, we divide and visit five residents, sometimes bringing them a little gift. The residents always seem to look forward to our visits. We hope to find other projects to be involved with as well.

Being a part of UMW is something truly special. It is my hope that members are reaching out to the younger generation of women to join this wonderful organization.

Explore the Mississippi United Methodist Women at www.mississippi-umw.org or visit their facebook page, www.facebook.com/mscumw.

Exploring the Role of District Superintendents
United Methodist News Service (UMNS)

The job of a district superintendent in The United Methodist Church has changed dramatically—changes dictated by social, cultural and economic shifts. Nevertheless, most district secretaries say it's a worthwhile appointment. That's one of the findings in a study of district superintendents released by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, reports Vicki Brown.

Children’s Directors Lunch
Senatobia District

Children and pizza recently brought the Senatobia District children’s coordinators together. While kids were not present the discussion was all about them. The group met at a local pizza café on August 17 to “network.” The meeting was set up by Emily Walker of Senatobia First UMC in conjunction with Pro-Active Ministries which is working with the ministries of the church. The group plans to make this a monthly event. Many ideas were shared along with what was described as “war stories” of children’s ministry. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this group can contact the Senatobia District office at 662-562-5865.

*Photo right: Senatobia District children’s directors gather to discuss best practices.*

Rock Hill UM Church
Starkville District

The congregation of Rock Hill United Methodist Church recently provided clothing and food to dozens of people who came out for a back-to-school special last month. Over 60 individuals received at least two pair of pants and two shirts for school uniforms. This was possible thanks to the church’s clothing and canned food ministry. Rock Hill is inviting anyone with questions about donations or receiving clothing and canned food, contact Donna Poe at 662-323-8871 or 662-312-2935. Rock Hill United Methodist is located in Starkville, under the leadership of Pastor Jerome Wilson.

*Photo right: Picture taken from inside the Rock Hill UMC clothing bank.*

Camp Lake Stephens
Upcoming Events
September | October | December | January 2014

Make plans to attend one of several events for youth at Camp Lake Stephens scheduled in September through next January 2014! The dates are below. For further information, visit [www.camplakestephens.com](http://www.camplakestephens.com) or contact the camp office at 662-234-3350.

- **Jr. High Spiritual Life Retreat, September 21-22** | Speaker: Rev. Emily Sanford; Music: Rev. Eddie Willis | Cost: $75 per person
- **Sr. High Spiritual Life Retreat, September 28-29** | Speaker: Rev. Corey Truett; Music: Rev. Eddie Willis | Cost: $75 per person
- **Children’s Retreat (3-6 Grades), October 5-6** | Speaker: Russell Casteel; Music: Philip Salter | Cost: $75 per person
- **Overflow Retreat (Jr. High and Sr. High), December 30-January 1** | Speaker: Jeremy Knight; Music: Kory Wheeler Band (formerly “This is Luke”)
- **Confirmation Retreats: January 17-19, 2014** | Speaker: Amanda Gordon; Music: Lane Davis | January 24-26, 2014: Speaker: Kristen Schrickel; Music: Lane Davis
Methodist Foundation Hosts
Generosity Summits - Oxford
September 10 | October 4 | October 22

The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation is pleased to host three Generosity Summits featuring the teaching of Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr. The three events will be held across the state. The summits are open to clergy and lay. Clergy may receive half of a CEU Credit for full participation.

Each summit will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided on site. Registration cost is $10, which will cover the cost of snacks and lunch.

Dates and locations are:

- **September 10**: Clinton First UMC (Clinton)
- **October 4**: Heritage UMC (Hattiesburg)
- **October 22**: Oxford University UMC (Oxford)


For more information contact Mike Hicks, associate director of the Mississippi United Methodist Foundation at 601-948-8845.

Fall Revival at Christ UMC, Jackson
September 10-12, 2013

You are invited to a fall revival sponsored by the senior adult ministry of Christ United Methodist Church. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. each day. Preaching are former lead pastor, John Case (September 10), lead pastor, Bob Rambo (September 11) and associate pastor, Calvin Cosnahan (September 12).

Everyone is invited to come out for old-fashioned hymn singing, inspirational testimonies and powerful preaching. Christ UMC is located at 6000 Old Canton Road in Jackson.

Time is Winding Down:
Lay Conference Registration Ends Aug. 30
September 14, 2013

Amazing things happen when you lead with the Holy Spirit in relevant, enthusiastic, authentic and loving ways. For these reasons, laity are asked to attend this year’s Lay Leadership Conference where they will discover things about themselves and the Holy Spirit that will make their ministry in the world more POWER filled. This gathering beings at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, September 14, 2013** at Christ United Methodist Church, located at 6000 Old Canton Road in Jackson, MS. The cost is $10.00 for lunch, but pre-registering will be helpful for planning the number of meals needed.

LaToya Redd, vice chair of the Mississippi Conference board of laity explains why every lay person should consider coming out. “Whether officially designated by a church as a leader or not, we are all called to lead people to Christ. This conference will specifically help laity maximize their individual gifts and their church resources—both people and finances—for more effective disciple-making. Every person and every church in the Conference should benefit from the power-packed program planned,” said Redd.

As the clock ticks towards the August 30 cut-off date for registration, the conference lay leader, Timothy Crisler reports that a little over 100 people are pre-registered. He said that total is roughly what they had at annual conference in June. Regardless, Crisler is prayerful registration will improve. The keynote speaker is Christie Latona, who was instrumental in creating the Mississippi Conference Core Four Study on Love, Generosity, Justice and Apprenticeship.

Sartinville UMC Homecoming

September 15, 2013

Sartinville United Methodist Church, located at 4 East Sartinville Road, in Jayess, Mississippi will celebrate 200 years of service at its annual homecoming service on **Sunday, September 15, 2013.**

The morning worship service will start at 10:30 a.m. with Bishop Clay F. Lee as the speaker. A covered dish (pot-luck) meal will be served at noon. The evening service of song will start at 1:30 p.m. and will feature ‘The Chuck Wagon Gang’ of Nashville, Tennessee.

Local Pastors and Associate Members Urged to Attend Conference

September 17-20, 2013

The Rev. Ricky Bishop, newly-elected chairperson of the Mississippi Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, is encouraging all Mississippi local pastors and associate members to attend the 2013 National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors (NFAMLP) conference. This event will be held in Branson, Missouri, **September 17-20, 2013.** The website of the national fellowship is [www.nfamlp.org](http://www.nfamlp.org).

Upon entrance to the site, scroll down the left side of the page and find a plethora of information including fellowship information, an application to the national conference and an application to join the NFAMLP. **The deadline for the national conference registration is September 1, 2013.** To become a member of the NFAMLP, the annual cost for individual membership in the national fellowship is $25.

For more information about the Mississippi Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, refer to paragraph 323 located on page 237 of the “2012 United Methodist Book of Discipline.”

The Bishop’s Convocation “Holiness & Renewal of Ministry”

September 30 - October 2, 2013

According Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., one of the primary responsibilities of the annual conference is to provide effective and productive leadership to the local churches. For this reason, Swanson is inviting all Mississippi United Methodist clergy to an in-depth consideration of the connections between God’s holiness, one’s own holiness, and the renewal of the church. Dr. Jason Vickers has explored these relationships in his 2011 book “Minding the Good Ground: A Theology of Church Renewal.” Vickers will guide participants through the following four phrases of reflection on the theme: Contemplating God’s Holiness (Exodus 15:11 and Hosea 11:9), Encountering God’s Holiness (Exodus 19:23, Deuteronomy 4:12, and Isaiah 6:5), Becoming Holy (Leviticus 11:45 and Numbers 16:46) and Finding Freedom in Holiness (II Corinthians 3:17.)

While this gathering is designed for clergy, Swanson says that laity should care this is happening and be in prayer for those attending. “I am sure that every local congregation desires that their pastor be exposed to learning opportunities that would aid them in becoming the best pastors that they can become. The laity should desire to see growth in their pastors because as the pastor experiences growth, the people should grow,” said Swanson.

The Bishop’s Convocation is **September 30 - October 2, 2013** at Crossgates United Methodist Church, Brandon, MS. For more details and to register visit [www.centerforministry.com/pages/detail/1736](http://www.centerforministry.com/pages/detail/1736).

Call to the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting “Mission: A Matter of the Heart”

October 4 and 5, 2013

All United Methodist Women, including clergy, are invited to gather for the 25th Annual Meeting at Parkway Heights United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg, **October 4 and 5, 2013.** An exciting and meaningful time together has been planned by the program committee and the host church.

Parkway Heights UMC is not only a beautiful setting for the meeting but is easily accessible for everyone since all activities will be on the ground level. This is a great time for renewing friendships as well as reviving our spiritual life.

Highlights of the meeting include opportunities for sharing with special guests. Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., is making plans to be with the group on Friday evening to celebrate communion.
Julia Tulloch, executive secretary for leadership development from the National Office of United Methodist Women, will conduct a special workshop Friday evening and present the keynote address Saturday morning. Deaconesses and Home Missioners will be recognized at the Saturday afternoon plenary in celebration of their 125 years in mission. Register early!

Convocation on the Black Church
October 25-26, 2013

Notice: This event will occur as planned on the date listed above. Please disregard any communication that it has been cancelled.

The Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church presents the 2013 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! Make plans for an evening of worship and praise beginning at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 25, 2013 at Anderson United Methodist Church 6205 Hanging Moss Road in Jackson, Mississippi.

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, prepare for a day of studying to show ourselves approved. This begins at 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Clyde Muse Center on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College located at 515 Country Place Parkway in Pearl, Mississippi. More details on how to register coming soon.

Mississippi Conference UMW District Officers’ Training
November 2, 2013

All district officers of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Women, November 2, 2013 at Brandon First UMC, 206 Mary Ann Drive, in Brandon, Mississippi. Whether new or continuing, district UMW officers should take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the responsibilities of their position. Training will be offered for UMW officers to receive information to train local unit officers and to interact with district counterparts in order to share ideas. Conference officers will be present to assist in any way they can. They will be prepared to share information about the responsibility of the officers. Participants will have an opportunity to share what they are doing and ask questions, plus meet their district counterparts. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. with the opening session beginning at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will conclude with lunch. For more information call, 601-825-5859.

Explore the Mississippi United Methodist Women at www.mississippi-umw.org or visit their facebook page, www.facebook.com/mscumw.

East & West Jackson Districts Group Charge 2013 Conferences
November 23 | December 3 | December 14

The East and West Jackson Districts will hold group charge conferences at Clinton First UMC on the dates and times below. The church address is 100 Mt. Salus Road in Clinton, Mississippi.

- Saturday, November 23, 2013 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 3, 2013 | 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 14, 2013 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Individual conferences can be scheduled as needed.)

Annual Conference 2014
June 6-8, 2014

Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., has announced that the 2014 session of the Mississippi Annual Conference will be held on June 6-8 at the Jackson Convention Complex.
Announcements

Local Church Federally Required Employee Notice
Released August 26, 2013

Attention Treasurers/Pastor Parish Chairs:

You may have heard that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires all employers to issue notices informing their employees (which includes the Pastor) of the existence of the Healthcare Marketplace (Exchanges) by October 1, 2013. This applies to all employers.

You will have the following three opportunities to come and learn your federally mandated responsibility for employee notification. You will receive details on the required disclosures including samples for your use.


- **September 19**: We will have a session at Parkway Heights UMC in Hattiesburg at 7:00 p.m.

- **September 24**: We will have a session at Batesville First UMC in Batesville at 7:00 p.m.

It is our hope that you will attend one of these sessions so that you will be in compliance with the ACA law. We welcome participation of other employing entities in your church such as day cares.

Please feel free to contact Larry Davis at 601-345-8222 or me at 601-345-8220 if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you at one of these times.

Sincerely,

David Stotts, CPA
Treasurer/Conference Benefits Officer

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Need to Strengthen or Start A Ministry?
Apply for Missions Grants

The word is out--apply now for the 2013 Connectional Ministries Missions Grants. According to the Rev. Eric Sanford, chair of the Grants Committee, these matching grants (up to $2,500) are available to United Methodist churches and United Methodist sponsored or related agencies. They are awarded to help strengthen existing and/or establish new ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world here in Mississippi.

“We are excited to see what God is doing in our churches and how we as a conference can support and foster missions within our churches,” said Sanford.

Applicants must demonstrate how their project either 1) is located in an underserved area, 2) develops new places for new people or renews existing congregations or 3) engages in ministry with the poor. The grants cannot be used for salaries, stipends or short term mission trip travel.

In 2012, the committee awarded 46 out of the 57 applicants, a total of $107,000. This was the largest amount of grants since the program’s inception three years ago.

Applications for the 2013 Missions Grants must be delivered either in person or by mail to the Office of Connectional Ministries / 320 - C Briarwood Drive / Jackson, MS 39206 by October 31, 2013. Applications received after this date or by another form (fax, email, etc.) will not be considered for grants this year. Also churches receiving grants in 2012 that did not turn in their report for
Employment Opportunities

• WANTED: CHEFs* to Help End Hunger! (*CHEF = Certified Hunger Event Facilitator) Raleigh, NC

Stop Hunger Now (SHN) is looking for intelligent, extroverted, hard-working individuals who are passionate about ending hunger to conduct meal packaging events in and around Raleigh, NC!

Reports To: Meal Packaging Program Manager
Start Date: Negotiable

Position Summary:
The Certified Hunger Event Facilitator (CHEF) is responsible for facilitating Stop Hunger Now meal packaging events in the community and surrounding areas. In this role, the CHEF will run meal packaging events from start to finish; including set-up of assembly line, conducting an educational presentation, training the volunteers, facilitating meal packaging, breaking down assembly line and reloading the truck with equipment and completed meals.

Stop Hunger Now is offering this position to committed volunteers in recognition of their dedication and passion in the movement to end hunger. The CHEF will represent Stop Hunger Now at meal packaging events and act as a source of information about the program, the organization, poverty and hunger.

*Stop Hunger Now’s meal packaging program provides an opportunity for volunteers to package high protein, dehydrated meals for use in international school lunch programs and crisis relief. The organization is driven by a vision of a world without hunger and a mission to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-saving aid to the world’s most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.*

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

Meal Packaging Event Facilitation: Transport materials to and from meal packaging events in large box trucks. Facilitate meal packaging events including the set up of raw materials and equipment, delivery of educational presentations about hunger and poverty and training volunteers on the packaging process.

Volunteer Management: Train meal packaging volunteers on the meal production process to ensure cleanliness, consistency, and professionalism at all events. Manage large groups of volunteers of all ages/cultures/abilities, delegate tasks to groups, adjust groups to maximize efficiency, and use independent judgment to make necessary adjustments and respond to challenges.

Handling of Cash/Donations/Merchandise Sales: Collect revenues generated by meal packaging events according to organizational financial procedures. Manage the sale of SHN merchandise at packaging events.

Qualifications:
• Current valid driver’s license and clean driving record, commercial vehicle license a plus
• Strong presentation and public speaking skills, comfortable speaking in front of large groups
• Ability to lift 50 to 75 lbs. Truck loading/unloading and moving heavy pallets is involved
• Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends and evenings
• Experience, education or knowledge related to hunger and/or non-profits strongly preferred

Compensation and Commitment: $10 per hour, 25 hrs per month (about 5 events), for approx. one year.

To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter stating how your skills, knowledge and experience apply to this position and a resume to Mike Nelson, mnelson@stophungernow.org.
Halibut Quick and Tasty

1/3 cup lime juice
1/3 cup virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon oregano leaves
4 small halibut steaks

In a large glass bowl, combine all ingredients. Cover and refrigerate 2 hours, turning steaks every 15 minutes. Place steaks on rack in broiling pan. Brush remaining marinade on fish. Broil on high 8-10 minutes, until fish flakes easily. Serve within 10 to 15 minutes, with lime wedges and garnish.

– Gilman L. Graves, St. Paul UMC, Ocean Springs, Mississippi “Loaves and Fishes” Cookbook• Attention: Have a recipe too good to keep? Share it with our Circuit Rider readers. Email your favorite recipes to news@mississippi-umc.org.

Submit to The Circuit Rider by Noon Each Monday

The Conference communication team looks forward to getting your stories and events for the next issue of The Circuit Rider, but the details are needed no later than noon each Monday the day before distribution on Wednesday.

There’s no guarantee that items received after the noon cut off will make the following Circuit Rider, so share your happenings soon. Send to: news@mississippi-umc.org.

Thanks in advance for helping tell the Mississippi United Methodist story!

Follow the Conference on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524 and on Twitter at https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC.

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 UMC to the number 601-721-4468 and press send.
3. Wait a few seconds for a confirmation text and you’re connected!