



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

August 2017

I have two topics to share with you:

First: Bishop Carter's Fall Regional Gatherings

- **Sunday, September 24 – Hyde Park UMC – Tampa**
- **Monday, September 25 – Mandarin UMC – Jacksonville**
- **Tuesday, September 26 – Community of Hope UMC – Loxahatchee**

Here is the link for more information and to register: [https://florida-](https://florida-reg.brapp.com/GrowinginourTrustofGod)

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My hope is all the preachers in the AC District will attend one of these gatherings. Also I hope all the laity, especially congregational leaders (leadership council, SPR, Trustees, Finance, etc.) will attend one of these gatherings as well.

Second: A friend of mine shared with me a list of books Bill Gates recently read and recommended. I began to think about what my list would be. So, here are a few, listed in a couple of categories:

1. *Commission on a Way Forward* – Dealing with the LLGBTQ people with the UMC. This Commission is working toward a report to the Bishops and a called General Conference in 2019.
Two books by the Arbinger Institute:
 - The Anatomy of Peace** – *resolving the heart of conflict* (read 1st)
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 - Transitions** – *Making Sense of Life's Changes* by William Bridges. The sub-title of this book reads – '*Strategies for Coping with the Difficult, Painful and Confusing Times in Your Life*' and I would add '*Our Churches Life*'.

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- Fresh Expressions** by Bishop Carter and Audrey Warren
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Peace and love,
Gary



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July 26, 2017

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The 32-member commission is accountable to the Council of Bishops, which named the members following a mandate from the 2016 General Conference. The charge from the General Conference was for the bishops to find a way forward and for unity in the UMC on issues related to human sexuality.

In releasing the status report, the Commission moderators Bishops David Yemba, Sandra Steiner Ball and Ken Carter said the status report was available in video and PDF form and can be shared electronically, in worship and in print.

“We encourage all United Methodists to view this, to use it in worship. We encourage you to offer us feedback and prayer,” the moderators said.

The Commission has five more meetings to complete, with two of the meetings coming prior to the November meeting of the Council of Bishops.

The final report will be issued to the Council of Bishops, who will then present the report to the 2019 Special Session of General Conference for action.

[Here is the link to the PDF version of status report from the Commission.](#)

[Here is the link to the movie version of status report from the Commission.](#)

For more information on the Commission on a Way Forward, visit umc.org/wayforward.

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About the Commission on a Way Forward

The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge from the 2016 General Conference to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to human sexuality and resulting questions about the unity of the church.

CONTACT: Maidstone Mulenga
mmulenga@umc-cob.org
202-748-5172

Recently, we have unfortunately closed two churches in our District, Palm Bay UMC and North Merritt Island UMC. We extend our well wishes to those members of these two churches. With the two closings we were happy to continue their legacies by 15 churches receiving items which will be used to further the Kingdom of God.

Our UMW Atlantic Central District needs a VP for next year. She would take over for President when she's absent and get District programs for four meetings-Jan., April, Sept., and Oct. If you know of anyone please call me at [772-418-1222](tel:772-418-1222) or email me at lanihyslop@att.net. Thank you so much for your help.

Blessings,
Lani Hyslop
Nominations Committee

Easter Pilgrimage to Italy with Bishop Carter slated for April 2018

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and we will reflect on the renewing vision given to Francis of Assisi," and more. For more information, a brochure with a detailed itinerary and online registration, [click here](#).

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August

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19th - Vitality Share Group - Christ by the Sea - 10:00
26th - Vitality Share Group - Georgianna UMC - 9:00

Gary

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