



Atlantic Central District



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

April 2017

I read Richard Rohr's *Daily Meditations* online and are challenging and inspirational. Recently he had a guest writer, Cynthia Bourgeault, writing about the *of Three*. She gives some examples:

- seed/moist earth/sun=sprout
- flour/water/fire=bread
- plaintiff/defendant/judge=resolution
- sails/keel/helmsperson=
course made good
(March 19, 2017 p.2)



they
Law

In her March 21, 2017 passage she told this story, "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry:

The tale tells of two newlyweds, poor as church mice but madly in love, who, unbeknownst to each other, sell the precious thing each owns to buy a Christmas present for the other. He pawns his valuable antique pocket watch to buy her combs for her beautiful long red hair; she shaves her head and sells her hair in order to buy him a chain for his watch. On Christmas Eve the newlyweds stare at each other blankly, almost numb with shock, trying to compute the meaning of the "useless" presents they have just exchanged. (p. 2)

She goes on to explain:

The story proves to be a classic Law of Three triad leading to this more subtle resolution. First force (holy affirming) is the couple's love for each other; second force (holy denying) is their poverty. Third force (holy reconciling) is contributed by their willingness to sacrifice their most precious possessions for the sake of that love (kenosis or self-emptying). The new arising is indeed "the gift of the magi" - as the story is so appropriately named - the reality of their love for each other transformed into pure agape and made manifest in a whole new way. (p. 2)

This brought a passage of Scripture to mind, especially in this Lenten and Easter Season, from Philipians. Read this passage thinking of the *Law of Three*:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:3-11 NIV)

Jesus' love is the *Law of Three*. Jesus emptied Himself and thru dying brings a new reality with His resurrection -*Law of Three*.

The challenge for us, as followers of Jesus, is to inject love-*Law of Three*, into our relationships. In relationships, where there is breakdown between ourselves and others, between ourselves and groups who differ with us, and between ourselves and those who persecute us, may we bring the *Law of Three* - love to all our relationships.

Gary

Note about Clergy Registration at Annual Conference:

Annual Conference 2017 clergy registration will be handled differently this year. The clergy session will be held at St. Luke's on Thursday morning. On Thursday morning you may only register at St. Luke's.

Remember - Clergy MUST be registered prior to being admitted into the clergy session.

Clergy Registration times

Wednesday, June 7 - Buena Vista Palace, Citron Booth- 3pm - 6pm

Thursday, June 8 - St. Luke's - 8:30am - 10am

Thursday, June 8 - Buena Vista Palace, Citron Booth - noon - 5pm

Friday, June 9 - Buena Vista Palace, Citron Booth - 8am - 4:30pm

Don't Forget your March Reports! Are They Overdue?

Child/Youth Protection Policy Adoption
Fiscal Responsibility and Management Policy
Employee Conduct Policy Adoption
Annual Report to the District Housing Committee/Parsonage Checklist
Disaster Recovery Quick Resource Survey
Fund Balance Report for Year 2016

These were all due by March 31st. If you have questions, call the District office.

SAVE the DATE!!

Discipleship Workshop sponsored by the Congregational Vitality Team

Saturday, May 6 in the South District at UMC of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch provided)

PASTORS, STAFF AND LAITY INVITED

Items covered will be Missional Alignment, Door to Core Pathway, Partnership Assimilation, Types of Discipling Groups, Connecting People to Groups, Training Group Leaders, Ongoing Care of Small Group Leaders, and Overseeing the Group System

TO REGISTER CALL THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT 772-299-0255 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO PATTI AT FLUMC.AC@FLUMC.ORG

Preconference (Annual Conference) Workshop

Sunday, May 7 at First Vero UMC, Vero Beach 3PM.

This workshop is for your Lay Representatives for Annual Conference. This information will include items that are being brought before the Annual Conference for voting.

Here are some archived webinars from Discipleship Ministries. These may be useful to share with churches who will be experiencing a change of clergy. **While it is archived, you still register for the playback.**

Leadership Transition – Pastoral and Key Leadership Changes

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/leadership-transition-pastoral-and-key-leadership-changes>

REGISTER HERE FOR THE WEBINAR RECORDING

(Note: the webinar recording will launch immediately upon completion of the registration form)

DATE RECORDED: Tuesday, March 14, 2017

DURATION: 50 min

PRESENTER: [Jacqui King](#), Director of Leadership for Congregational Vitality

When leadership change happens, both laity and clergy must be prepared to manage the transition process. As the SPRC chairperson, you are preparing to share the news of a pastoral change. At the same time, the pastor and church council chairperson may be identifying new leaders to help move the church forward while they are developing people to complete unexpired terms. This webinar will help all leaders gain insights about praying for the pastor, leaders and the congregation as they transition into a new leadership season. This webinar will also help participants develop ministry actions plans and identify dates when the congregation can bid farewell and embrace new leadership in healthy ways.

Also:

Transitions: Our Pastor is moving – Next Steps!

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/transitions-our-pastor-is-moving-next-steps>

REGISTER HERE FOR THE WEBINAR RECORDING

(recording will launch immediately upon completion of the registration form)

DATE RECORDED: Thursday, April 7, 2016

DURATION: 59 min

PRESENTER: [Jacqui King](#), Director of Leadership for Congregational Vitality

As the chair of the SPRC committee, you are preparing to share the news of a pastoral change. The SPRC team wants to know the next steps beyond sharing the initial announcement. This webinar will help leaders to gain insights about praying for their pastor, their family and the congregation. Also, developing leadership plans for preparing your congregation to bid farewell and embrace pastoral leadership in healthy ways.

DOWNLOAD the presentation slides and resource list [PDF]

DO YOU SERVE A CHURCH COMMITTED TO SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PASTORAL LEADERS?

If so, please sponsor a Summer Pastoral Internship for 2017!

Here are the quick facts for hosting an Intern. Attached is a more detailed program description.

Internship Dates: Monday, May 29, 2017, through Friday, August 4, 2017

Intern Training Day: Friday, May 26, 2017 (students and supervising pastors)

Intern Reflection Day: Monday, August 7, 2017 (students only)

Hours: 30 hours/week as scheduled with supervising pastor

Housing: Provided in congregant's home, if needed

Salary: \$3,000.00 (\$1,500 host site, \$1,500 Office of Clergy Excellence)

If interested, please email or mail an intern job description for your church. Please feel free to contact the Office of Clergy Excellence if you have any questions about the program.

Holly Finley at hfinley@flumc.org

Rev. Sara McKinley at sara.mckinley@flumc.org

[Program Description](#)



ARE THERE YOUNG ADULTS IN YOUR CHURCH WHO WANT TO EXPLORE PASTORAL MINISTRY?

If so, please give them the attached application for the 2017 Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program and encourage them to apply!

Please feel free to contact the Office of Clergy Excellence if you have any questions about the program.

Holly Finley at hfinley@flumc.org

Rev. Sara McKinley at sara.mckinley@flumc.org

Office of Clergy Excellence

863-688-5563 x134

Attachment: [Internship Application](#)

Clergy Procession for Annual Conference Ordination Service – Saturday June 10, 2017

One of the ways we demonstrate the connection that we have with one another is by participating in the Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination at Annual Conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry invites ***all clergy*** – licensed local pastors, provisional elders, provisional deacons, associate members and deacons and elders in full connection – to be a part of the processional for the Saturday morning worship service. We will gather no later than 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning to line-up in the Sabal Foyer area, just outside of the Sabal Ballroom. If needed, a robing area will be designated in the Areca Room. Licensed local pastors, provisional elders, associate members and elders in full connection are to wear black robes. Provisional deacons and deacons in full connection are to wear white or flax colored albs. Full deacons and elders are also to wear red stoles.

Please register by June 2, 2017, to participate in the processional for the Ordination and Licensing service at Annual Conference by using the following link:

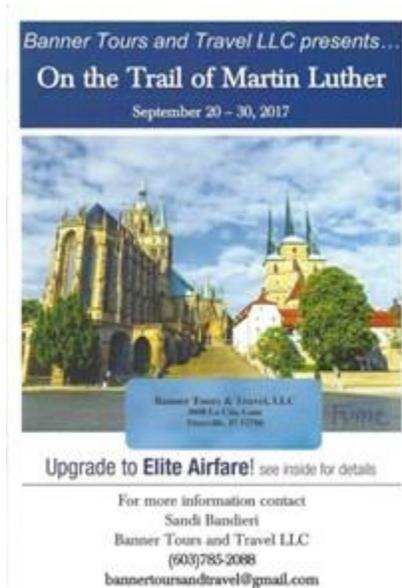
<https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/2017ProcessionalatAnnualConference>



"Journeys of Paul" Cruise

In June, 2017, Pastor John Gill (The Open Door, A United Methodist Community) and his wife Terri are leading a pilgrimage cruise across the Mediterranean to visit sites where the Apostle Paul traveled and ministered. For additional details, contact Pastor Gill @ john.gill@flumc.org.

Join Sandi Bandieri, Adult Ministries Director for First Titusville September 20th - September 30th.



500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation Tour of Germany

Contact Sandi Bandieri at (603) 785-2088 for more information.

Calendar 2017

April:

5th - District Leadership Council 10:00 at First UMC, Vero Beach
24th - Cabinet/SLT
25th - Appointive Cabinet
30th - Announcement Sunday

Gary

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