



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

May 2017

Five or six years ago I shared with the District a list of ten characteristics of a healthy church. I thought about them recently as our Church Vitality Team (CVT) has been working hard the past year to assess where all of our churches are in terms of health and vitality. We are asking every church to develop a plan to become more vital or healthy so we can reach our communities. As churches develop or implement their plans, the question predictably comes up – **What does a vital or healthy church look like?**

Well, let me share again a list I came up with and see if it might be helpful in at least beginning to answer the question:

10 WAYS A CHURCH IS HEALTHIER

1. The healthier the church, the more its **worship** is **meaningful** and **joyful**. (Eph. 4:13)
2. The healthier the church, the more it **serves** the local community. (Eph. 4:11-13)
3. The healthier the church, the more it concentrates on its **strengths**. (Eph. 4:11)
4. The healthier the church, the more it has a **focus** and **stops** doing things. (Eph. 4:14)

5. The healthier the church, the more it gives itself **away**. (Eph. 4:12 & Acts 2:43)
6. The healthier the church the more it deals with the **brutal** facts without losing **faith**. (Eph. 4:15)
7. The healthier the church, the more it makes **disciples** through **small** groups. (Eph. 4:1-7, 11-13)
8. The healthier the church, the more it re-structures for **growth** and **efficiency**.
9. The healthier the church, the more its' laity deals with other **laity**. (Eph. 4:3-6:15)
10. The healthier the church, the more it expresses **love**. (Eph. 4:2 & 16, Act 2:42)

Gary

Bishop Carter and the Council of Bishops responds to Judicial Council ruling

"I know many of our lay and clergy in the Florida Annual Conference have been praying and awaiting the Judicial Council ruling that came last night on Karen Oliveto's election and consecration as Bishop. I commend to United Methodists the [statement of Bruce Ough](#), President of the Council of Bishops, on behalf of the whole Council. As I have [noted](#) in the last few days, the decision of the Judicial Council is a response to a very specific question, and is significant in the short term. The General Conference's decisions in 2019 and 2020 will shape the church in a more substantive way, and will define our capacity to find a way forward. The work of the Commission on a Way Forward continues in support of this. May God continue to be with all of us in these days ahead as together we do the important work in our individual mission fields and look toward a future with hope. Blessings to the people of the Florida Conference." - Bishop Ken Carter

United Methodist Council of Bishops

April 28, 2017

TO: All United Methodists

FROM: Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President Council of Bishops

RE: Judicial Council Decision

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, the Judicial Council released its decision on a request for a declaratory decision from the South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) in response to the Western Jurisdiction's (WJ) nomination, election, consecration and assignment of Karen Oliveto as a Bishop of the United Methodist Church.

In its decision, the Judicial Council ruled that the consecration of a gay bishop violates church law but also said Bishop Oliveto "remains in good standing," until an administrative or judicial process is completed.

This decision means Bishop Oliveto will continue as a Bishop of the church until such process is completed.

The Council of Bishops expresses our appreciation for the Judicial Council's careful and deliberate consideration of this matter and for the thoughtful and considerate participation of all parties to the case. The Judicial Council has a distinct and critical role in the governance structure of the denomination. We recognize and respect the Judicial Council as the body responsible for deciding complex questions of church law, including the right to declare jurisdiction. We implore all within the United Methodist structure and family to honor the Judicial Council ruling.

Yet, we acknowledge that the decision does not help to ease the disagreements, impatience and anxiety that permeates The United Methodist Church over the matter of human sexuality, and particularly this case. Our compassion and prayers of intercession extend to all those who are hurt, relieved, confused or fearful.

The decision does not change the Book of Discipline. The Judicial Council's actions are specific to the cases that they are requested or required to consider. Only the General Conference speaks for the church and has the authority to change the Book of Discipline. The Council of Bishops will continue to exercise temporal and spiritual oversight support of the church's mission.

The Council of Bishops remains committed to the unity of the church and the flourishing of its mission. We are confident of the work that the Commission on a Way Forward has begun and we believe the Holy Spirit is working through the Commission and Council to accomplish God's purposes.

I am encouraged by the relationships that are developing within the Commission. The distinct and diverse opinions among its members reflect the richness and vitality of The United Methodist Church. The Commission is committed to its task. I believe that their work will bear fruit as we meet for a Special Session of the General Conference in February 2019.

We continue to urge the entire church to stay focused on the Commission's work as our best opportunity to determine God's leading for a way forward. We believe the God who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it (Philippians 1:6). We are strongest when we remain in connection with each other.

We urge you to join your bishops in daily prayers for all United Methodists and for the denomination as we tenderly hold the unity and mission of the church in our hearts and hands.

Just as Jesus' disciples were patient in waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit after the ascension of Christ into heaven, we too are being called to wait for the revealing of what God has in store for our church. In this Easter Season, let us hear one another, let us understand one another, let us maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Where do we go from here? We put our trust in God to strengthen us even as we hold differing views about human sexuality. We must continue to love one another just as Christ instructed us to do. It is by loving one another fully that the world will know we

are Christians (John 13:34-35). It is through this incarnational love that we go forth to make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world.

Nearly every day, I hear an inspiring new story of how the people of The United Methodist Church are at work in the world transforming and enriching people's lives. This is what we're about. This is our calling. This is the work we do together, no matter our differences. May we continue to do so for the greater glory of God.

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

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) Gathering

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

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

2017 Annual Conference Volunteer Opportunities

Annual Conference 2017 provides many opportunities for folks from our local congregations to serve as volunteers helping provide radical hospitality throughout the event.

Sign up opportunities are available to volunteer at Guest Services and as Ushers at Daytime Plenary and Evening Worship Sessions, Please be aware that the majority of the Usher positions require standing for portions of the shift time.

To sign up to volunteer through the Conference website [click here](#).
[Click here](#) to learn more about Annual Conference 2017.

Questions? Contact Heidi Leab hleab@flumc.org or 863-688-5563 ext 192.



Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. and the appointive cabinet of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, in consultation with the clergy and authorized lay leaders of the local churches, announce full-time appointment changes, to take effect July 1, 2017. This act of ministry is in fulfillment of paragraphs 425-429 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016). For a reflection on the core values employed in the process of clergy appointments to churches, [click here](#).

Let us lift these clergy, their families and the local churches in prayer, in the hope that we will more fully participate in our mission—"to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Book of Discipline, ¶ 120).

Atlantic Central District

First, Okechobee
First, Pahokee/Canal Point
First, Port St. Lucie (Senior)
First, Port St. Lucie (Associate)
Mims
New Church Start (NCD) (West Palm Bay)
Roseland
Satellite Beach
The Open Door
UMC of the Palm Beaches
Christ/Palm Bay

Don Hanna
Gordon Pike
TBS
Evelyn Teran
John Gill
Sean Peters
Linda Tice
Harry Holloman
Kim DuBreuil
Patti Aupperlee
TBS

Those leaving our District/moving within the District:

Bruce Simpson - Retiring
Patti Aupperlee - going to UMC of the Palm Beaches
Gary Upleger - going to First, Mt. Dora
Joe Andujar - going to Pine Ridge Fellowship
Denny McCullough - Retiring
Beth Bostrom - going to Ext. Ministries
Joe Jursa - Retiring
John Gill - going to Mims UMC
Kent Crow - going on Leave of Absence
Alex Christian - going to First, Chiefland

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]

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>

DEAF MINISTRY SEMINAR

SATURDAY MAY 20 9 A.M TO 12 PM

ST ANDREW UMC 3380 DAIRY RD., TITUSVILLE, FL

ADMISSION IS FREE

*** INTRODUCTION TO SIGN LANGUAGE *ORIENTATION TO DEAF MINISTRY**

*** RECEIVE CHURCH RESOURCE GUIDES**

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

May:

6th - Discipleship Workshop - UMC of the Palm Beaches 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
7th - Pre-Conference Gathering - First UMC, Vero Beach 3:00 p.m. (for Pastors and Annual Conference Laity)

June:

5th - dCOM - First UMC, Vero Beach 9:00
7th-10th - District office closed for Annual Conference
12 - 13th - Full Cabinet
19-21st - Cabinet/SLT Retreat in NC
27th - Moving Day

Gary

Gary A. Spencer
District Superintendent
Atlantic Central District
Office Phone: 772-299-0255 Fax: 772-299-0258
ds-ac@flumc.org
<http://www.acdistrictumc.org>

Patti

Patti Moxley
Administrative Assistant
Atlantic Central District
Office Phone: 772-299-0255 Fax: 772-299-0258
flumc-ac@flumc.org
<http://www.acdistrictumc.org>