



## **DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

**August 2017**

My thoughts and prayers are with those in Texas as I know yours are as well. One of the great things about being a connectional church is how we can pull **together** to assist those who have been displaced, hurt, or injured in Harvey's wake.

I have listed in this newsletter the link of all the information on how we can be helpful. Please note for our District we have two collection sites: [First UMC, Ormond Beach](#) and [First UMC, Jupiter/Tequesta](#).

I hope every church will take a collection for UMCOR as it brings relief and hope to all those affected by the storm.

Click here: <http://www.flumc.org/disasterrecoveryministry> or twitter #IMwithTexas

Peace and love,  
Gary

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## **2018 Apportionments are Available!!**

The conference has been working very closely with the districts to prepare the 2018 apportionments. Apportionments for 2018 are now available on the conference website. Despite the reduction of our Conference Budget by \$700,000 and an overall reduction of 2% in apportionments, some churches who spent more on operational costs and/or increased clergy salaries will see an increase in their 2018 apportionments. One piece of this is we have fewer churches paying into apportionments and we have a significant number who have lowered their operational spending or clergy salary which changes the apportionment formula. As a reminder, this is based on 2016 data which is the last full year of data we have.

To find your 2018 apportionment information:

1. Go to the Conference homepage: [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org).
2. Click on the "Monthly Reports" tab at the bottom right of the page.
3. Click on the top link under Monthly Billing Reports: "Click here to download monthly reports."
4. When you choose a report, there will be a report on the pull-down menu called 2018 Apportionments Report. This report will take you to your 2018 apportionments.

Please contact your district first if you have any questions regarding your 2018 apportionments.

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Edgewater UMC is hosting Lay Servant Classes on September 22nd and 23rd.

**[Click here](#) to view the flyer with more information.** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Growing in our Trust  
of God:  
A Conversation with  
Bishop Carter**

**Dear Florida Conference,**

**Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters, in the  
name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Last fall we had wonderful town hall gatherings around  
the state with over 1,300 of you in attendance. This fall I  
will host regional conversations around the theme  
Growing in Our Trust of God. There will be a chance for  
you to submit questions prior to the gatherings, and I will  
take time answering your questions and reflecting  
together on the future of our church. Please consider  
joining us for one of the evenings September 24-26 in  
Tampa, Jacksonville and Loxahatchee. For full details  
and to register and submit questions click here.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, September 24 - Hyde Park UMC in Tampa**

**Monday, September 25 - Mandarin UMC in Jacksonville**

**Tuesday, September 26 - Community of Hope UMC in  
Loxahatchee**

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

Additionally, as we continue to consider how we increase vitality in our local churches, please prayerfully consider attending the events described below and inviting others in your church to join you. Each of them relates to our priorities of vital congregations, Fresh Expressions and the school/church partnerships.

First, Grace Church Cape Coral is hosting the **Dinner Church Encounter**. Dinner Church is a type of Fresh Expressions that any church can start. It is a simple way to connect with your community and create a space for new people to be reached in new ways. The event is 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 23. This is an incredible way to reach people who would never attend church on a Sunday morning, and any church could do this in their community! Lead presenters for this event are leading experts Verlon and Melodee Fosner, who started an urban Dinner Church movement that turned into a multi-site Dinner Church and national movement while serving a church in Seattle that had begun to decline. This event is sponsored by the Florida Annual Conference, along with the Dinner Church Collective and Fresh Expressions (U.S.), and you can register by [clicking here](#).

Second, **Our Kids** is hosting a special training on school/church partnerships on Saturday, October 7, at St. Luke's UMC in Orlando. I have invited each church in Florida to see the children in your community in a new way and consider connecting with the nearest school with at-risk students. This will be a day full of practical support to help you connect. I hope you will join me for

[this important day of learning and sharing. Click here to learn more and to register you and your team.](#)

Third, this year's Clergy Gathering in Leesburg will focus on Sabbath. Dr. Matthew Sleeth, author of the book 24/6, will join us, and we will learn how to create balance in our lives. You don't want to miss this chance to be with your clergy colleagues October 24 and 25 in Leesburg. Click [here](#) to register.

Finally, please save the date for next year's Missio Ecclesia event. We had such an incredible gathering in the spring of 2016 at Grace Church with Deb and Alan Hirsch. This time we will gather on February 22 and 23, 2018, at First UMC in Lakeland. Dr. Martyn Atkins, a renowned church leader in England and a key movement collaborator in the work of Fresh Expressions, will join us as we explore what it means to be a church on mission. More information will be forthcoming soon. I hope clergy and lay leaders will make every effort to attend this important gathering.

I am here to serve you. I do hope to see you in one of these gatherings. Pray for me, and I will covenant to pray for you.

The Peace of the Lord,

+Ken Carter  
Resident Bishop, Florida Area  
United Methodist Church



**Greetings and blessings from First Church in Melbourne!**

Please join us on Sept. 29th and 30th for our INSPIRE Women's Conference: Living The Light

[Click here](#) for our brochure and [click here](#) for our poster.

Click on the link below for on-line registration.

<http://www.firstchurchmelbourne.org/inspire-womens-conference-2017/>

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## Ministry grant applications accepted until Sept. 30

The foundation operates under the philosophy that we are all called to be partners in ministry. The foundation strives to be a good partner is through its grant program.

Initially, the grant program focused on providing emergency funds to help churches improve. It has since expanded to offer funding for vital ministries and programs. And for the first time ever, grants are being awarded through a grant application process.

The ultimate goal has been and continues to be providing churches and related organizations with the resources they need to offer ministries that transform the world.

### GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The foundation offers several grant opportunities for churches, conference ministries and related organizations within the Florida Conference.

**Emerging Ministry Grants:** Grants are available for new, innovative or social entrepreneurship projects designed to meet emerging needs at the local church, agency, affiliated organization or community. Because funding for these grants comes from excess foundation revenues, the amount available each year fluctuates.

**Future Generations Fund Grants:** The Future Generations Fund provides small grants to programs and ministries that foster the spiritual growth and church leadership development of children and young adults aged 30 and younger. These grants are made possible through generous donations to the foundation's Future Generations Fund.



**Emergency Grants:** The foundation offers limited grants to assist churches and ministries with urgent needs resulting from an emergency or natural disaster. Grants are intended for capital improvements that if left untended would hinder the ministry's long-term ministry.

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Criteria and guidelines related to each opportunity are included in the **application attached to this email**. More information about the grant program is available at [www.fumf.org](http://www.fumf.org).

**Applications for Future Generations Fund and emerging ministry grants will be accepted** with grants distributed on or around Dec. 1. Emergency grant applications are accepted through the grant process as needs arise, with distributions made when needed.

More information about the grant program is available by contacting Tom Wilkinson, vice pr relations and new business, at [twilkinson@fumf.org](mailto:twilkinson@fumf.org) or 863-904-2970, ext. 7105.

**[Click here for the application: Ministry Grant Application.pdf](#)**







**Easter Pilgrimage to Italy with Bishop Carter slated for April 2018**

**Led by Bishop Carter, travelers will visit Venice, Assisi, Siena, Florence and Rome while studying the Gospel of Mark and the legacy of Peter during April 3-12, 2018.**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**  
**I am excited about our spiritual journey to**  
**Italy in 2018. As we visit the stunning cities**  
**of Venice, Assisi, Siena, Florence and Rome,**  
**we will be immersed in the rich traditions of**  
**the Christian faith. We will learn more about**  
**the gospel of Mark in Venice and the legacy**  
**of Peter; we will read the dialogues of**  
**Catherine of Sienna and the meditations of**  
**Dante, and we will reflect on the renewing**  
**vision given to Francis of Assisi. In Rome,**  
**as we visit the Sistine Chapel, we will**  
**consider the legacies of the most recent**  
**Popes, especially John XXIII, Pope John**  
**Paul II and Pope Francis. And in each**  
**setting, we will be inspired by the world's**  
**great art and architecture. I hope you will**  
**join friends from across Florida on this**  
**Easter pilgrimage.**

**The Peace of the Lord,**

**Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.**

**View more information [online](#) or in this**  
**downloadable brochure.**

**[Click here for online registration.](#)**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Bishop Carter encourages all clergy to make plans to attend the following three events.**

**October 7th, Our Kids Training Plus  
Putting the Florida Conference School and Church  
Partnership to Work**

Come be inspired by testimonies, learn best practices and hear from those with vast experience in working with schools. This workshop is for churches of all sizes: small, medium and large and is designed just for you. Bring a team and walk away with a game plan for your church.

**OUR KIDS TRAINING PLUS!**

**DATE:** Saturday, October 7, 2017  
**TIME:** 10 am - 3 pm  
**LOCATION:** St. Luke's UMC ~ Orlando  
4851 S Apopka-Vineland Rd.  
Orlando, FL 32819  
**COST:** \$25 per person  
\$75 maximum per church  
\$25 per Equitable Compensation church  
(unlimited people)  
\$10 per participant for childcare

Click [here](#) to register and join us for a day of learning and sharing!

**NEW**

## **October 24th & 25th, Clergy Gathering at the Life Enrichment Center**

Sign up now!!!! Registration has gone live!!! Register at [clergygathering.org](http://clergygathering.org). Then let your friends know you've registered!!! Spread the word! Come as a covenant group, or come to learn how to form a covenant group. Come for centering prayer. Come for canoeing or a massage. Come for Sabbath! Spiritual directors from Shade and Fresh Water will be available.

## **February 22nd & 23rd, Missio Ecclesia, at First UMC in Lakeland**

Please save the date for next year's Missio Ecclesia event. We had such an incredible gathering in the spring of 2016 at Grace Church with Deb and Alan Hirsch. This time we will gather on February 22 and 23, 2018, at First UMC in Lakeland. Dr. Martyn Atkins, a renowned church leader in England and a key movement collaborator in the work of Fresh Expressions, will join us as we explore what it means to be a church on mission. More information will be forthcoming soon. I hope clergy and lay leaders will make every effort to attend this important gathering.

### **News from CROS**

The summer at CROS camp was incredible. We had 18 young adults serving there through the Summer Mission Intern Program. They grew. Kids learned. God was praised. Everyday!!

- We are excited to announce we are beginning a site in Daytona. In our fourth program year, we are excited to expand to the Daytona Area. This fall we will have Yazmin Villeda and Princess Elas serving with Derbyshire Place and Coronado UMC respectively. We have more applicants still in the discernment process for other placements.

- But in Canal Point/ Pahokee, we are in a rebuilding/ prayerful/ discernment. There are some placements, and maybe some candidates, but as of yet it hasn't gelled together. Your prayers are appreciated.

- Please keep them all in your prayers. We hope to develop and expand the mission intern programs both the year long and the summer. Only by God's grace and guidance. We absolutely covet your support and prayers!!

- We are looking for a car! We need a car for our missionaries to share and the donor gets a tax receipt. Cooperative living in a central tenet to our program. Having centrally located housing also often presents a challenge of transportation to possible placement sites. And that is certainly an issue in your District!

- Heidi Aspinwall 305-733-4420  
Director Young Adult Missional Movement  
Office of Missional Engagement  
Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

## **Calendar 2017**

### **September**

4th - District Office Closed for Labor Day

9th - Vitality Share Group at Wesley UMC 10:00

12-13- Cabinet in Lakeland

16th - Vitality Share Group at Community of Hope UMC 10:00

22-23 - Lay Servant Training at Edgewater UMC (look at article for more information)

26 - Town Hall meeting with the Bishop at Community of Hope UMC 6:30

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### **Gary**

Gary A. Spencer

District Superintendent

Atlantic Central District

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