



Atlantic Central District

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

July 2017

I have been visiting pastors as they move in to their churches and their new communities. It reminded me my moves to a new church and community. There a sense of excitement and anxiety. Excitement about what this new ministry would bring and anxiety about whether it will go well. In our system every pastor is coming back from Annual Conference with a "new" appointment, in that the Bishop has set ones appointment for the next year. Here are a few questions we might ask as we begin a new Conference for both clergy and laity:



new
of
was

year

1. What do I see in my "new" community that needs to be affirmed and lifted up?
2. Who do I need to visit in the community to learn what the needs/concerns are for my "new" community or church?
3. What school in our community needs support from my "new" church?
4. What ministry or program needs to die a natural death, so something new could begin to serve my community?
5. What are the brutal facts about our community and our church that need to be faced?
6. Is God calling us as a church to work together with other UMC (shared ministry, satellite, merge, relocate) to better serve God's people?
7. Is our leadership structure serving us well or it is getting in the way of us serving the community in which God has placed us?
8. Putting on our "new" glasses, is it time to revisit our vision, goals and plans to be a church to share the Gospel with those outside the church and serve the lost, least and left out people of our community?
9. When is the last time I invited someone to church?
10. When is the last time I allowed God to use me for His purpose?

Let me close with Jesus' word from Matthew:

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Matt. 7:7-8

Gary

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

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY ON A SHOESTRING

This webinar is designed for small membership, rural, and financially strapped churches to help them offer quality older adult ministry to their seniors. Based on requests for resources from Discipleship Ministries and the reporting of creative, unique older adult ministry practice, this webinar focuses on doing a few ministries well. It also concentrates on ways to adapt the practices of larger and better funded churches to the context of the small church. Finally, it offers tools for uncovering hidden assets, and partnerships that will stretch resources much further.

Based upon an oft repeated 2016 live workshop, this webinar provides not only a roadmap for the smaller membership church to follow, but also highlights the advantages of being small and the non-financial resources which are often overlooked.

For more information, [click here](#).

DISASTER RECOVERY

We are at the start of the **2017 Hurricane Season**. With a forecast for above

average number of storms, the District Office would like to remind all churches to begin their preparations for the season. **Pastors** please get with your Trustees and Church Disaster Coordinator to create or update your Church Disaster Plan. **Trustees** should get with your Church Disaster Coordinator to create or update your Church Disaster Plan. Please inform your Pastor of your efforts. If you don't have a plan email our District Disaster Coordinator at patti.aupperlee@flumc.org for assistance in developing your Church Plan.

Calendar 2017

July

July 4: Independence Day - Conference and District Offices Closed
July 13-16: Mission U; Bethune-Cookman University; Daytona Beach
July 14-15: Candidacy Retreat, Lakeland

Gary

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