



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

October 2017

Steeple Evangelism

As I was visiting The Open Door (First Cocoa) after the storm, Kim DuBreuil, the pastor, was visiting with neighbors who had come over to view the fallen steeple. Several of the neighbors said this was their church, but Pastor Kim, who is new, had never seen them in church. She asked if they attended and one lady with emotion said "no, but that steeple means a great deal to me and our neighbors." She said "I look at the steeple and feel it gives me strength and feel connected." Pastor Kim went on to invite her to attend church and the lady asked the dress code. Pastor Kim reassured her to come as you are. There were others Pastor Kim talked to that day who were there watching the steeple come down and used the opportunity to witness to Jesus' invitation to be a part of this community.



What strikes me about this event is how even the steeple, the church building, can serve

to share Christ and the need to meet and know our neighbors. I pray we can all look for opportunities to share Christ in, during and after the storms in our lives.

Peace and love,
Gary

Hurricane Irma falls two steeples in the Atlantic Central District

Pictures of the removal of the fallen steeple at The Open Door (First Cocoa)





Fallen steeple at Emmanuel UMC



As we see, some of us in our district have encounter major damage from Hurricane Irma, most of us minor damage. However, it does not matter the size of the damage we are asked to file a claim.

Dear Church:

We remind you of pertinent information and resources related to the hurricane season and Irma, in particular.

NEW: CLAIM FORM ONLINE: <https://flumc1.wufoo.com/forms/z1u5scr20eem7r1/>

- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> - National Hurricane Center
- [Florida Conference – Ministry Protection](#)
- [Florida Conference – Disaster Recovery](#)
- [Comprehensive pre-storm preparation booklet](#)
- [Hurricane preparedness quick checklist](#)
- [Hurricane response and claim information](#)

Claim reporting number:

855-CAT-FUMC (855-228-3862)

If you have damage from Irma, those claims will be handled by a professional adjusting company that specializes in catastrophe claims. Claims will be prioritized by the catastrophe response unit based upon the extent of damage, and an adjuster will be dispatched to your location as soon as possible.

Damage mitigation/temporary repairs:

If your church is damaged by a storm, please take all necessary measures to mitigate further damage to your facility. Please note that you do not have to wait for the field adjuster to arrive at your location to dry out your facility or to make **temporary** repairs. Keep all receipts for any temporary repairs and photograph or video all damage and have this documentation available for the adjuster.

If there are needs in your community after the storm, please contact Florida Conference Disaster Recovery. We have trained volunteers who can assist with clean up, tarping, debris removal, etc.

Thank you and please contact Ministry Protection (800-282-8011, x.126) or Disaster Recovery (800-282-8011, x.148 or 813-545-8479) at the Conference Center if you have questions or need further information, call the CAT hotline (855-CAT-FUMC) to report claims or community needs.

**Department of Ministry Protection and Disaster Recovery Ministry
Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church**



To the Clergy and Laity of the Florida Annual Conference:

Each of you has been in my prayers as we have journeyed through Hurricane Irma. Traveling around our state, I have seen with my own eyes the courage of our pastors and the vulnerability of many of our impoverished communities who were hit hard by this storm. Thank you for what you have already done and for your willingness to continue to be a part of the short-term relief and long-term recovery efforts. God will use these efforts to further extend our witness into our communities.

We encourage churches to continue to give to UMCOR. 100% of donations go to relief work. We do know there will be needs beyond those for which UMCOR can care. To that end, the Cabinet has established the [Hurricane Irma Fund](#), which will help to repair local churches in the Florida Conference and rebuild the communities that surround them in the spirit of Isaiah 65. The funds will be distributed by the Bishop and Cabinet with accountability to the Council on Finance and Administration. We would like to ask you to prayerfully consider taking up a special offering for this fund, or you and your churches can donate now through this [link](#).



Thank you to our District Churches for hearing the Call-to-Action and helping those in need during the disaster events.

WANT TO HELP FURTHER?

Christ By The Sea is planning a mission trip to the Lower Keys for October 17-21. If anyone in your church is interested we will have 14 spots with beds and others can sleep on the floor with pads. The trip will be for supply distribution, flood clean-up, and whatever else is requested. We will be hosted by Rev. Terri Hill at the Key West UMC. Please have any interested person email me at: cmelvin@cbtsumc.org



[Click here](#) for ideas

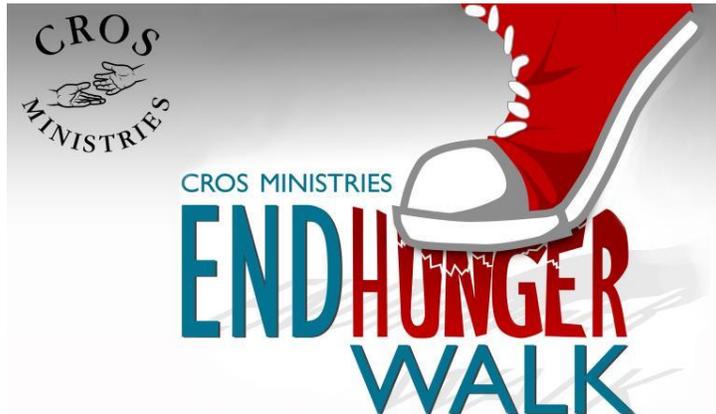
2018 Apportionments are Available!!

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.
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.



Saturday, October 7

Registration - 8am, the Walk begins - 9am

Contact Gibbie Nauman at gnauman@crosmministries.org

[8.5 x 11 event flyer](#) [11 x 17 event flyer](#)

The End Hunger Walk is a 5K (3.1 mile) Walk along Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach. The Walk is free, however, we ask that Walkers raise a minimum of \$100 through pledge envelopes or online donation pages. For more information and to register online, [click here](#). Volunteer opportunities available too!

Contact Gibbie Nauman at gnauman@crosmministries.org

Volunteers NEEDED - please contact Meredith at mcaldwell@crosmministries.org for more details.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THEN!

SAVE THE DATE

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, 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**

September 5, 2017

Dear Friend,

Your church can be a part of Christ's global mission of The United Methodist Church by entering into a covenant relationship with a missionary. The United Methodist Church has a 280 year legacy of sending missionaries, "from everywhere to everywhere" – all supported by local churches.

Presently, 311 missionaries are serving in 60 countries including the U.S. Every year, many are commissioned and are in need of support through covenant relationships with local congregations. Here is how your church can enter into a covenant relationship with a missionary:

1. Missionary support would come from your church, through offerings of \$5.00 per member per year. One hundred percent is designated for missionary support.
2. Your church welcomes the missionary to visit and bear witness to Christ's saving ministry where he/she serves. They become part of your extended Christian family. The Holy Spirit ministers with both congregations across the miles, cultures and languages.
3. The missionary is committed to stay in touch with your church on a regular basis, through intercessory prayers, letters, email and video links. Your church is committed to do the same.
4. Your church and the missionary can agree to your church sending a mission team to where he/she serves.

Let me introduce you to our newest missionaries in need of covenant relationships:

Jonathan and Satomi McCurley – Japan
Michael Zdorow – Russia
Jim and Bernice Keech – Central Asia
Argentina

Janet Horman – Florida, USA
Charles Mulemena – Brazil
William Llanos and Rocio Barcenas –

To support one of our missionaries spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, go to flumc-missions.org and click on the "Missionaries" tab or contact the Office of Missional Engagement at (800) 282-8011 x. 346 or by email at irodriguez@flumc.org.

As we remember our baptism and receive Jesus Christ into our lives, we are all called as missionaries in service into His Kingdom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Kenneth Carter



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 Colleagues,

I would like to extend an invitation to you to join me and Pam, your clergy colleagues, and many of our Florida Conference church members on a Florida Conference pilgrimage to Italy planned for April 3 – 12, 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 Siena 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.

Our ten-day fellowship with each other will be April 3 – 12, 2018. For a detailed description of our itinerary and registration, please visit our website at www.flumc.org and click on this link: <http://www.flumc.org/opportunitydetail/8868904>

I look forward to sharing the experience of travel, study, worship and fellowship with you on this wonderful, life-transforming pilgrimage in April!

The Peace of the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Carter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bishop Kenneth H. Carter

View more information [online](#) or in this [downloadable brochure](#). [Click here](#) for online registration.

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. 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 THE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

The United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union (UMC FCU) was established to financially serve you, a member of the United Methodist Church. Ministers, lay members, employees, church staff and employees of organizations and ministries affiliated with the United Methodist Church of the Florida Conference. Immediate family members of our members are also eligible to join. Banking with the UMC FCU is a smart choice as we are owned and operated by the people who use us. That's why we're dedicated to the things that really matter to you specifically positioned to offer you better rates, services, and products that often out match traditional or conventional financial institutions while also supporting the UMC mission. We've taken great strides to provide you services the way you like. Online and mobile banking, and new technology that will make your experience with us easy.

Please join in our celebration of "International Credit Union Day", October 19th with various activities at our Marietta, Georgia and Lakeland, FL branches as well as on our social media sites. To learn how to become a valued member of the UMC FCU, visit our new website at Umcfcu.com and be sure to connect with us on Instagram, Facebook, Google , Twitter

COKESBURY CARES

One of the ministries of the United Methodist Publishing House, called "Cokesbury Cares," is in place for just this time, following storms, disasters and devastation. This ministry gives churches who might have experienced loss immediate and free resources for worship and church operations, such as UM Hymnals, Bibles, offering envelopes, recording resources, and even curriculum and other resources as needed. I have attached the list of resources available along with the application. The process is simple, easy and quick. Please let us know how we can be of assistance during this time, this season of rebuilding and encouragement.

[cokesbury cares church supply.doc](#) [cokesbury cares 1.docx](#)

NEWS FROM OUR HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

Attached in this month's newsletter is what we've been promising: a **one-stop shop** for your healthcare needs.

Member Benefits, the FLUMC Private Health Exchange is a **no-cost** service available to you and your church staff to help you choose the products and services that best suit you. **Member Benefits** is about **ease of use** and **choice**...for anyone connected to our Florida United Methodist Conference. *You can even open an HSA with Member Benefits.* We hope that Member Benefits – *along with the \$1000 annual healthcare stipend increase per family size* – will help uncomplicate your 2018 healthcare decisions

[flumc private health exchange.pdf](#) [summary of benefit changes for clergy 2018.docx](#)

Calendar 2017

October

15th - Church Conference at First Vero Beach 2:00 p.m.
17th - New Preachers meeting at First Vero Beach 10:00 p.m.
21st - Church Conference at The Open Door 10:00 a.m.
22nd - Church Conference at First Melbourne 3:00 p.m.
24-25 - Clergy Gathering at LEC
29th - Church Conference at First Stuart 2:00 p.m.

Gary

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