New Mexico Conference News
an edition of
The United Methodist Reporter

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THE PURPOSE of the New Mexico Conference NEWS is to tell the story of United Methodism within the New Mexico Conference. PRIORITY is given to: (1) stories promoting official programs and emphases of the conference; (2) articles reflecting the mission and work of the church as carried out by districts, individuals and local churches within the conference; (3) groundbreakings and the consecration and dedication of new churches; (4) brief reports of deaths, awards and special accomplishments of pastors and their families and laity who are known throughout the conference due to their conference-level responsibilities. PERSONAL Opinion articles normally are not used. ARTICLES for possible use may be sent to the editor at the Conference office. The United Methodist Reporter's "Letters to the Editor" section may be read online at the UMR Portal (UMReporter Interactive) at www.umportal .org by clicking on the "Letters to the Editor" link.

New Mexico Conference NEWS
D. Max Whitfield, Bishop
Bill Sylskar, Director Mission & Administration
Karla Abernethy-Thetford, Editor
nmumrumc@nmconfum.com
(806) 655-2828
Circulation
lorik@nmconfum.com
Conference Offices
11816 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
Phone (505) 255-8786
(800) 678-8786
Fax (505) 265-6184
WEB SITE *nmconfum.com*

New Mexico youth attend Exploration 2009

"Hear, Discern, Respond, Go!" recently was held in Dallas.

Exploration is a gathering for young people (high-school seniors through age 24) considering ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. There were 830 young adults from across the nation at this event.

Attendees learned that all baptized Christians are called to ministry and that some people are called to ordained ministries of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service through the church.

Participants heard that ministry settings might include the local church, campus ministry, hospital or military chaplaincy, mission at home and abroad, teaching in college or seminary, social work, counseling, music or youth ministries and many others.

At Exploration the group learned how they can discern God's call on their lives, the nature of ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church and steps into ordained ministry. They also participated in workshops on topics that spoke to their questions and interests, met others from across the country who are considering their call to ministry and had an opportunity to talk with people engaged in a variety of ministries as well as college and seminary recruiters.

Worship and speakers also inspired the young people in attendance.

Participating from the New Mexico Conference were:

J. C. Ortega - Morning Star UMC in Las Cruces;

Margo Munson – St. Paul's UMC Las Cruces;

Zach Groves - Trinity-First UMC El Paso;

Laura Lowenstein - High Desert UMC Rio Rancho;

Jenna DeWitt – First UMC Clovis;

Bethany Lust – St. Stephen's UMC Albuquerque;

Samantha Williams - St. John's UMC Albuquerque;

Dustin Burrow – Hamlin Memorial UMC Farwell; and

Sam Sanders – First UMC Carlsbad.

Dara Bell, Conference Director of Youth Ministries also accompanied the group.

"This is the largest group of young people we have had participate in Exploration over the last several years," Bell said. "They heard some important things, one of them being 'Do not deny and delay your call to ministry. Now is the time, this is the place, we are the ones!"

Youth directors gather for 'The Wesleyan Way'

Fourteen youth directors from 13 churches of the New Mexico Annual Conference gathered in September for the Fourth Annual Youth Directors Retreat.

This year's retreat theme was "The Wesleyan Way," looking at the distinctive of Wesleyan Youth Ministry.

The Rev. Terry Carty, an ordained United Methodist pastor and founder and director of Youthworker Movement, was guest speaker.

Youthworker Movement is a membership organization of adults who work in youth ministry. It provides a national network that connects people for the purpose of supporting their ministries and improving congregational youth ministry. The Movement encourages all to ask questions, exchange ideas and share "Aha" moments with other dedicated youth workers.

In addition to workshop times with Terry Carty the group spent time in fellowship, hiking and learning gun safety and skeet shooting.

The 2010 Youth Directors Retreat is scheduled for Sept. 9-12.

Attending the Youth Directors Retreat were:
At left: Top row: Scott Womelsdorf – First UMC Lovington, Kevin Richardson – First UMC Hobbs, the Rev. Terry Carty – Nashville, Halecia Scott – Paradise Hills UMC, Rose Beckman – Grace UMC – Alamogordo, Mitzi Underwood – Western Hills UMC El Paso.
Bottom Row: Brian Harman – Center Street UMC Tucumcari, Dustin Burrow – Hamlin Memorial UMC Farwell, Dara Bell – Conference Director of Youth Ministries, Sonya Stokes – St. Luke UMC El Paso, Rachel Klein – St. Stephen's UMC Albuquerque, Laura Ralston – Central UMC Albuquerque, Erin Campbell (and her dog Maggie) – St. John's UMC Santa Fe, Chrisie Lemon – Vista Ysleta UMC El Paso and Ryan Klein – St. Stephen's UMC Albuquerque.

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around the conference and beyond

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

All 2009 Shared Ministries monies must be received no later than **4 p.m., Jan. 8.** Money received after that time will be credited to 2010 Shared Ministries.

Year-end statistics again will be collected online. Usernames and passwords will be sent to pastors before the end of the month (although they will be the same as were used previously).

Statistics are to be completed by **Jan. 27**. NOTE: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL CHANGES MADE TO THE YEAR-END STATISTICAL TABLES.

A copy of the tables is available on the conference Web site www.nmconfum.com.

SAFE SANCTUARIES EVENT

"Do No Harm … Do All the Good You Can" is a training event for the prevention of and response to abuse, misconduct, and harassment of a sexual nature in The United Methodist Church.

This event addresses issues of misconduct of a sexual nature by persons in ministerial roles (both lay and clergy) within the UMC.

The event will be held Jan. 26–29, 2011, in Houston.

For more information go to http://undesign.x9tech.com/sexualethics/StayingCurrent/UpcomingEvents.aspx.

VIM TRAINING

Volunteers in Mission training opportunity:

Saturday Jan. 23
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Christ UMC
6200 Gibson SE
Albuquerque
Cost is $20 per person.

To registrar or for more information, contact Mary White at mwhite1@elp.rr.com or (915) 494-3177.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

St. Paul's United Methodist Church - As of January 2010, a youth director position at St. Paul's UMC in El Paso, TX will be opening.

For information, call (915) 772-2734.

MCMURRY UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Honors Program of McMurry University awards full-tuition and other substantial scholarships to incoming freshmen.

Deadline for completing the honors application is Feb. 1, 2010.

For more information, send an email to Jamie Arthur, Honors Admissions Coordinator at arthur.jamie@mcm.edu.

McMurry University is affiliated with the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

EDE

Equipping Disciples for Excellence will be Jan. 30 at Trinity-First United Methodist Church and El Paso District.

This year's theme is "Looking to the Heart of God—Passionate Worship." A variety of workshops are offered. Bishop Max Whitfield will be keynote speaker.

Cost for the event ranges from $25-$17 if received prior to Jan. 19. Equipping Kids for Excellence and Equipping Youth for Excellence provide opportunities for the children and youth of the conference.

Information about E.D.E., E.Y.E., E.K.E. workshops are posted on the conference training page of the conference web site, www.nmconfum.com.

LARGE CHURCH INITIATIVE CONFERENCE

University United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas will be the site for the Large Church Initiative 2010, April 12-15.

Goal for the 2010 national training event is to introduce you to leading thinkers, major speakers, cutting-edge systems for making disciples and making decisions that make disciples.

Participants will leave San Antonio with new tools for coaching individual disciples and coordinating institutional decisions. These tools will grow congregations larger in both size and significance.

Teams also will establish new contacts, friendships and peer networks. LCI 2010 will help any congregation, especially those with a weekly worship attendance of 350 and more.

For a complete list of speakers and breakout sessions and an overview of the schedule and info about University United Methodist Church, go online at lci2010.com.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY GRANTS

The United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries will be providing two kinds of grants related to older adult ministry during the 2009-2012 quadrennium. The two older adult ministry grants available are in the areas of Intergenerational Ministry and Caregiving Ministry.

The grants, part of the Comprehensive Plan for Older Adult Ministries, will be available to local United Methodist congregations, districts, annual conferences, central conferences and United Methodist-related institutions. All grant applications will be reviewed by the United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries. The committee also is responsible for the selection process. The following procedures have been determined by the committee:

Applications are available, both in print form and on our website.

To receive Older Adult Ministry Grant Application Form with procedures and criteria, contact the Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries at (615) 340-7177 or toll free: 1-877-899-2780 ext. 7177 or send an email to tkline@gbod.org.

ARCHIVING INACTIVE RECORDS

An inactive record is any record book, printed minutes, document, or scrap of paper that is no longer needed for the current work of an agency or committee. Most records are needed for a period of about three years.

Inactive records older than three years should be archived. Each local church should have an "archive" to preserve records as a part of the history of the church. Conference Boards and Committees should preserve records placing them in the Conference Archives.

In the New Mexico Conference, inactive records can be delivered to the NM Conference Office, 11816 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. District Offices can also receive material for later delivery to the NM Conference Archives.

Share how your church is Rethinking Church in your community.
Send stories to karla@nwtxconf.org.
Together we can
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

NEW MEXICO ANNUAL CONFERENCE NETS for Mulungwishi

It's all the buzz in New Mexico Conference - raising enough money to purchase 15,755 life-saving bed nets for the people of Mulungwishi, Congo.

The New Mexico Board of Global Ministries challenged the Conference to provide bed nets to Mulungwishi. Bed nets protect from mosquitoes carrying malaria.

The Nothing But Nets initiative has not reached the southern Congo. The Conference already helps support the school and seminary in the area. Now, the Conference wants to make sure friends in the Congo have access to life-saving nets.

Following the initial challenge, Albuquerque District Superintendent Tom Nagle issued a challenge to his fellow District Superintendents, Barry Dickens and Steve McElroy, to raise a combined total of $157.550 by June.

Each district has a goal determined by taking the cost of one net ($10) times the average worship attendance in the district as recorded in the 2009 Conference Journal.

The goals are as follows:

Albuquerque District
6,806 average attendance
Need to raise $68,060

Clovis District
3,892 average attendance
Need to raise $38,920

El Paso District
5,057 average attendance
Need to raise $50,570

Monthly reports will be printed in the Conference News and reported on the Conference Web site, www.nmconfum.com. Churches and districts are encouraged to be creative in their efforts. Since 2007, the conference has donated $46,970.04 to Nothing But Nets.

Coming This Month:

*** Meet the new Conference Benefits Officer**
*** EDE 2010 worskhops**
*** Communications Ministry Training Program**

SAVE THE DATES

2010 Camp Dates at Sacramento Methodist Assembly are:

Younger Children's Camp	June 11-13
New: Sr High "Great Adventure" (Format for Classes of 2010-2014)	June 10-13
New: Music Camp	June 14-18
Mid-High Camp	June 21-25
Sr High Camp	June 21-25
Elementary Camp	July 12-16
Backpacking camps	"Dates are pending"

For more information, go online to the Sacramento Methodist Assembly Web site at www.sacramentoassembly.org.