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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.

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A message from Lydia Patterson

REV. GEORGE MILLER
Chaplain at LPI:

Ten of our Lay Ministry students from the Lydia Patterson Institute have been chosen to represent the South Central Jurisdiction of the United States as delegates to the Global Young Peoples Convocation this July in Berlin, Germany.

While the delegates have been busy raising funds, the cost of the trip (approximately \$3,000 per student) is beyond the reach of most of our students without additional outside financial support.

At last count we are still short about \$1,000 per student. Please consider the possibility to help our ministry students develop their skills through this mission and training opportunity.

The students are available to work if you have projects around your church or home.

For payment of work or donations, make checks payable to Lydia Patterson Institute with a memo entry Lay Ministry Trip to ensure proper posting.

For further information, call (915) 533-8286, x31 or send an email to viscaya4@hotmail.com.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Plan now for Native American Ministries Sunday, April 18.

Native American Ministries Sunday nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

Scheduled for April 18, the third Sunday of Easter, churches can observe this event at any time that is convenient. Order resources or donate online at umciving.org/specialsundays.

Mount Sequoyah to host Caring for Creation

The third annual Caring for Creation conference at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center will bring members of the faith community together to learn how they can become better caretakers of the Earth.

The conference, slated for April 16-18, will offer workshops ranging from Sustainability Ethics: Discovering the Holiness of Place to Creating Your Green Team: A Model for Action. Other workshops include The Biblical Basis for Creation, Food Insecurity?, Practice of Political Advocacy and The Kid Connection to Environmental Stewardship.

The keynote speaker is the Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham, a priest and canon for the environment in the Episcopal Dio-

cese of California. Bingham is the founder and president of The Regeneration Project, which focuses on its Interfaith Power and Light campaign, a religious response to global warming.

As one of the first faith leaders to recognize global warming as a moral issue, Bingham has mobilized thousands of religious people to put their faith into action through energy stewardship and advocacy.

Participants in past years' events say the fellowship with other concerned Christians is as valuable as the information they receive.

"The weekend retreat is more than just excellent, up-to-date information from outstanding speakers," said Scharmel

Roussel of Little Rock, Ark. "It is also a support group that helps us through the tough days when we feel outnumbered by those who doubt and those who don't care."

The conference has been the impetus for the Oklahoma Interfaith Power and Light, the Arkansas Green Faith Alliance and the Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light. "The Natural State owes a debt of gratitude to Mount Sequoyah for spiritual leadership and courage," Roussel said.

For information about workshops, schedules, leadership and fees, contact Mount Sequoyah at (800) 760-8126, (479) 443-4531, programs@mountsequoyah.org or www.mountsequoyah.org.

Giving decline means disappointed applicants

A 13 percent decline in giving to Student Day, coupled with increases in eligible applicants and reductions in other funds means several hundred United Methodist scholarship

applicants are likely to be disappointed this year – unless significant donations are made online before June, said Angella Current-Felder, executive director of the Office of Loans and

Scholarships. Last year, 469 qualified students did not receive money. Donate online at <https://donate.gcfa.org/FundDetails.aspx?ID=10000141000110007>. Every dollar counts.



Camp 2010!

Accept the Challenge!

Session	Dates	Early Bird (by June 1)	Fee (after June 1)	Adult Volunteer
The Great Adventure	June 10-13	\$175	\$190	\$150
Young Children's Camp	June 11-13	\$120	\$135	\$90
Music Camp	June 13-18	\$350	\$375	\$240
Mid High Camp	June 21-25	\$240	\$255	\$190
Sr. High Camp	June 21-25	\$240	\$255	\$190
Backpacking Camp	June 27-July 2	\$180	\$180	\$100
Elementary Camp	July 12-16	\$240	\$255	\$190
Sunshine Camp	August 2-6	\$240	NA	\$200

For session & registration info: www.sacramentoassembly.org

Cautionary words from Volunteers In Mission

From DEBBIE VEST South Central Jurisdiction

All teams going to Mexico need to exercise extra caution. Reynosa and Matamoros have been reasonably quiet in the past, violence is on the rise in this area. The US government issued a travel warning through April 12. Share this link with all

teams planning to travel to Mexico http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_4755.html

Each team must use its own judgement in making decisions to travel to Mexico, but the information will assist in their decision and mission plans.

Todos equipos que van a la necesidad de México para ejer-

citar cuidado extra. Mientras Reynosa y Matamoros han sido razonablemente callados en el pasado, la violencia está en la subida en esta área. Comparta por favor este lazo con todos equipos que planean viajar a México http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_4755.html

New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church United Methodist Reporter Survey

The Communications Team of the NMAC is conducting a survey of New Mexico subscribers/readers of the United Methodist Reporter (and the New Mexico News wraparound). With increasing costs and difficult financial times, the Conference continually strives to be good and faithful stewards of the Lord's funds. Recommendations as to the future of New Mexico News and communications within the Conference will be presented at the 2010 Annual Conference, and your responses to this survey will help guide our decision making.

Please take a moment to complete the survey and return it using one of the following options:

- Complete the survey online by going to: http://www.nmconfum.com/umr_survey.htm
- Fax a copy (attention Karla/Cheryl) to the NM Conference Office at 505-265-6184
- E-mail a scanned copy of the survey to nmumrumc@nmconfum.com.
- Mail your completed survey to: Karla Abernethy-Thetford, 803 Butterfield Trail, Canyon, TX 79015

1. How do you currently receive the New Mexico edition of the United Methodist Reporter?
 - I pay for a subscription (please skip to question 2)
 - I receive a courtesy copy (please answer the following questions about courtesy copies)
 - 1a. If you receive a courtesy copy, how or why is it provided?
 - My church designates a courtesy copy for me
 - My district or the conference designates a courtesy copy for me
 - My church hands out courtesy copies to anyone who is interested
 - I receive a courtesy copy as a retiree
 - I receive a courtesy copy as a seminary student
 - Other [Please specify: _____]
 - 1b. Would you subscribe to the newspaper if a courtesy subscription was no longer available?
 - Yes
 - No
2. If the New Mexico News was **not** part of the United Methodist Reporter, would you still be interested in receiving the United Methodist Reporter?
 - Yes
 - No
3. What types of New Mexico News interest you? (Check all that apply)
 - Inspirational stories
 - Ideas for ministry
 - Bishop's Thoughts
 - National/world news
 - Resource information
 - Job openings
 - Event information
 - Leadership reports
 - Committee/Board/Agency reports
 - Mission news/updates
 - Other [Please specify: _____]
 - I do not read the Paper when I receive it
4. Please rank these choices according to your preference, "1" signifying Most Preferred and "5" signifying Least Preferred. The same rank may be assigned to more than one choice.
 - _____ As it is currently distributed—in print as the New Mexico News and UM Reporter
 - _____ As a printed Conference newsletter (without the UM Reporter), delivered to my home for a subscription fee
 - _____ As an electronic newsletter delivered to my e-mail address
 - _____ As an electronic newsletter available on the conference web site
 - _____ As individual news items or articles delivered to my e-mail
 - _____ As an e-mail digest (collection of news items or articles delivered to my e-mail)
 - _____ As individual news items posted on the conference web site
 - _____ As links posted on social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, or Twitter
5. Please share the name and location of the church or organization with which you are connected:

Church name: _____ Location: _____

around the conference and beyond

PRAYER VIGIL

Western Hills UMC in El Paso will observe Good Friday with "Vigil at the Cross," a prayer vigil in the sanctuary of the church.

The vigil will be from noon-9 p.m.

Focus of the vigil will be the Seven Last Words of Christ. The public is invited to come any time during the specified hours and stay for as long as desired.

For information, call Frank or Zoe Dean Middleton, (915) 581-3051.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Board of Directors of the Wesley Foundation at New Mexico State University/Doña Ana Community College is seeking an energetic and visionary individual with outstanding leadership skills to become its new Executive Director.

The Wesley Foundation at NMSU/DACC is an ecumenical ministry of the United Methodist Church. This position closes on April 15 or until position is filled.

For a complete position announcement and additional inquiries, contact the Search Committee Chair, Leah McCowen, at email, kdz381@yahoo.com or phone, (575) 571-6673.

St. Paul's UMC in El Paso, is looking for a new Director for our Preschool/Daycare.

Please share information with anyone who might be interested. Contact Cindy Coffin, Director of Equipping & Celebrating Ministries at ccoffin79925@yahoo.com, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere Blvd., El Paso, TX 7992.

LANDSUN HOMES

Landsun Homes is celebrating 45 years of ministry in the New Mexico Annual Conference.

"We invite all churches in the conference to visit our campus any time during 2010. Bring a group...and experience Life at Landsun. If you cannot come to our campus, we will bring our celebration to you."

Landsun staff will bring the party to your church. We will provide "goodies", and a speaker for Sunday School classes, special groups, a church service or evening gatherings.

For more information, contact landsun@landsunhomes.com or call Marsha at (575) 234-5869 or (800) 274-9966.

HELP APPRECIATED!

The Worship Team for Annual Conference would like to do some integration of photos and videos from all local churches into certain areas of our worship services this year. We are particularly interested in those images which reflect your individual church "mission fields"...where you feel called to do ministry.

Photos/videos needed no later than May 1. Send them to Bob Phillips, AV tech for Conference, at bphillips1@elp.rr.com

SCJ WOMEN'S RETREAT

Sisterhood of the Travelin' Shoes - The clergywomen of the South Central Jurisdiction will be having a retreat in Oklahoma City, April 12-13, 2010.

Participants in the "Sisterhood of the Travelin' Shoes" will glean from the wisdom of Bishop Judith Craig, be inspired by the proclamation of sister clergy, Anita Phillips (OIMC) and Cheryl Bell (Ks West) and the music of the Divine Divas (Ok).

Retreat is sponsored by the Women's Leadership Team of the South Central Jurisdiction and hosted and coordinated by the women of the Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Indian Mission Conferences. The cost is \$50 (student rate \$25) and registration or information inquiries can be sent to revjeankc@aol.com. Registration brochure is on Conference website, www.nmconfum.com.

CROG SR HIGH CAMP

Early Bird Registration by June 1 - \$240

Registration after June 1 - \$255. (Registrations after June 7 - no guarantee of T-shirt!)

For registration and scholarship requests, talk to your youth director or pastor.

Information and registration available online at www.nmconfum.com or www.sacramentoassembly.org.

SYMPATHY

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Wanda Gaye Brown Harvey following her death March 11, 2010.

Gaye was the surviving spouse of Hiram Lively Brown who served the New Mexico Conference from 1982 until his retirement in 1992.

Your personal notes of comfort and loving concern may be sent to her son, Randall Jolly Brown, at 175 Corte Balboa, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1108.