



The Smoky Mountain District

Messenger

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After numerous meetings over the past 17 months the Commission on a Way Forward completed their work following the release of their final report to the Council of Bishops. Extensive time was spent by the commission listening to feedback from boards and agencies, local churches, annual conferences, lay and clergy members, candidates for ministry, and seminary students. Three plans emerged for the council to review after much dialogue, prayer, and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The One Church Plan - allows more freedom at the conference and local church levels; and allows for central conferences, especially those in Africa, to retain their disciplinary authority to adapt the Book of Discipline and continue to include traditional language and values while fulfilling the vision of a global and multicultural church. The One Church Plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and adds assurances to pastors and Conferences who due to their theological convictions cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

The Traditionalist Plan - affirms the current Book of Discipline language and places a high value on accountability.

The Connectional Conference Plan - allows conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry - be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination's constitution.

A news release by the Council of Bishops states, in part, that "the Council of Bishops has voted by an overwhelming majority to share the work done by the Commission on a Way Forward on the three plans and to recommend the **One Church Plan**. The One Church Plan will be placed before the 2019 General Conference for legislative action."

While our bishops recommend the One Church Plan, they also affirm that the Connectional Conference Plan and the Traditionalist Plan hold values that are important to the life and work of the church and will be included in the report to the 2019 Special Session of General Conference held February 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri.

I am thankful and grateful for the work of our elected leaders and the guidance they have provided for The United Methodist Church. I am fully confident that God's love, grace, and wisdom will work within our delegations to approve a way forward that will bring honor and glory to God. I ask you to join me in prayer for the 2019 special session and denomination as a whole.

Grace & Peace,

Jason

Pastors-CEU Update

Pastors, below is the link for the latest Continuing Education Update News <https://www.robly.com/archive?id=5ab09eb35bd8971030d28a2df57e9fe1>

Latvia District Partnership

The Maryville District continues in partnership with the United Methodist Churches in Latvia. The goal this year is to raise funds for pastoral support, Wesley Camp Scholarships, and Hope House. Speakers are available to talk to local churches or small groups in those churches. A video and brochure are available to introduce or reacquaint our local churches with the work in Latvia.

Richard Rudisell, Chair Latvia Team



Up-Coming Events

June

6 Hands-on Mission food buckets delivered to Fairview UMC, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

10-13 Holston Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC

22 Mission Team leaving for Latvia

July

4 District office closed for 4th of July

10 Pastors' meeting in the Event Center at the District office starting at 10:00 a.m.

16-20 Keep the Cabinet in prayer during their week long retreat

24 District Nominations Committee meeting in the Large Conference room at the District office at 7:00 p.m.

31 District Superintendency Committee meeting in the Large Conference room at the District office at 7:00 p.m.

August

2 District Leadership Team meeting in the Large Conference room at the District office at 7:00 p.m.

7 District Finance Team meeting in the Large Conference room at the District office at 7:00 p.m.

14 Pastors' Summer Picnic at Wears Valley UMC. Start gathering at 6 p.m. and eat at 6:30 p.m. We need to welcome our new pastors to the District at this time.

Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2018 District Ministries

(Thru May 29, 2018—41.65%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2018 District Ministries paid)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| * Axley's Chapel | * Bethel (L) | * Bethel (Seymour) |
| Binfield | Broadway | * Burnett Memorial |
| * Camp Ground | Carpenters | * Cedar Bluff |
| * Eden | * Eleazer | * Fenders |
| * Forkners Chapel | * Fox | * Friendsville |
| * Logan's Chapel | Loudon | Luretta |
| Madisonville, First | Maryville, First | * Meadow |
| * Middle Creek | * Middlesettlements | * Mountain View |
| * Murphy's Chapel | * New Hope | * New Salem |
| Oakland | Peck's Memorial | * Philadelphia |
| Pigeon Forge, First | * Pleasant Hill (R) | * Pleasant Hill (S) |
| * Roberts | Seymour | * Shults Grove |
| St. John | St. Mark's | Sweetwater, First |
| * Tellico Plains, First | Tuckaleechee | * Union Grove (B) |
| * Union Grove (S) | * Vonore | * Walden's Creek |
| * Webb's Creek | * Wesley Chapel | * Williamson Chapel |

Save The Date

Sunday, September 9, 2018

**District Annual Conference
at
Mountain View UMC**

Starting at 3:00 p.m.

Followed by

Celebration for

Smoky Mountain District

Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

The Maryville District UMW Day Apart was held on a beautiful Spring day in April, at St. Mark's UMC. Fred and Libby Dearing shared updates on the children who had to flee their homeland of South Sudan and are now refugees in Uganda. Despite all the terrible things that have happened in these young children's lives, the pictures showed happy, healthy children being educated and deeply rooted in Jesus teachings. United Methodist Women in the Maryville District and Holston Conference have made a difference in their lives. I do not even want to imagine what might have happened to them otherwise.

The Holston Conference Mission will be held at Central UMC in Lenoir City on July 20 and 21, 2018. Studies will be Seeking Health and Wholeness (Part 2); Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church in the United States; What About Our Money? A Faith Response; and Youth study is, Is It Just Money? Our Dollars, God's Economy. The schedule for this year's Mission u has been realigned to help those who are still employed or have other obligations. The first class session will begin at 12:15 p.m. on Friday with the day ending at 5:30 p.m. Saturday will begin at 9:30 a.m. and finish at 4:45 p.m. I encourage you to attend this year's Mission u, it will be a wonderful experience to learn and grow closer to our Lord.

As we approach the time of Holston Annual Conference, I am reminded of the briefing that we received from Rev. Kim Goddard at our recent Spiritual Enrichment Experience on the Commission on the Way Forward and update from the February 2018 Council on Bishops meeting. "Just the Facts" is available on the Maryville District UMW Facebook page and I encourage you to read and pray about it. I simply offer this prayer:

We pray for the church in every place...gather us together and make us one,
One in ministry and mission to the world, so that there will be one flock, one shepherd.
We pray for the nations of the world. Anoint all leaders with your wisdom
so that they will use their power to help the poor and defend the vulnerable.
Loving God, by the power of your Spirit,
help us to keep your commandments
and to love one another with the love of Jesus
in whose holy name we pray. Amen

United Methodist Women for 149 years have made a difference in the lives of those who live in the margins of society. We have been instrumental not only in the lives of the South Sudan children, but women and children around the world. Thank you for being the difference! I [Rejoice in the Lord Always](#) for each of you!

2018 Hands-On Mission Project- Zimbabwe Holston Annual Conference

Unlike school supplies, food items have expiration dates. Be sure and check the dates and make sure they do not expire until 2019 in order to cover transport time and having a useful life for the people in Zimbabwe.

The Smoky Mountain District has been asked to put together 400 Food Buckets for the 2018 Holston Annual Conference Hand-On Mission Project. *Note: A \$5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. **Each church is ask to bring ONE check for the total donation amount. Make checks out to Smoky Mountain District and put 2018 Hands-On in the memo line.*** * Do not put money in the bucket!

Canned Ham (2-lb total)	1 box powdered milk (10oz. or less)
1 - 4-5lb. Bag self-rising flour	1 box old-fashioned oats (18 oz. or less)
1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz. or less)	1 box Splenda/Sucralose (50 ct. or less)
1 - 2lb. Bag rice	1 - 2lb. Bag dried beans
1 - 4-5lb. Bag Sugar	

Your buckets need to be delivered to Fairview UMC:
Wednesday, June 6 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (do not deliver early)





PAUMCS

**PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST
CONNECTIONAL STRUCTURE**

PRESS RELEASE

The 36th Annual Conference of the Professional Administrators of The United Methodist Connectional Structure (PAUMCS) was held at the Airport Marriott Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee under the theme, "Make a Joyful Noise." We are thankful to our host, the Middle Tennessee PAUMCS Chapter. They made us feel right at home!

Those attending the conference worshipped, learned, and networked with other church professionals from across the denomination. Some were able to visit the Ryman Auditorium and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Worship for the conference was outstanding! We began our time together with the Reverend Junius Dotson, the General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries. The Reverend Jacob Armstrong preached and helped celebrate those who completed the 2017 on-line certification class. We were blessed to hear from Katrina Simmons, a member of the 2017 class.

We heard from some wonderful speakers such as the Reverend Dr. Diana DeWitt on Spiritual Health, Mr. Bob Christophel from WesPath on Beneficially Administrative, the Reverend Stephen Handy on Encouragement for the Encourager, the Reverend Scott Aleridge on Innovative Connectional Strategies, the Reverend Dr. Jacqui King on Partnerships, and Bishop Bill McAlilly on Compassionate Ministry.

The mission focus was End Slavery Tennessee. End Slavery Tennessee promotes healing of human trafficking survivors and strategically confronts slavery in the state of Tennessee. Their vision is to create a slave-free Tennessee.

PAUMCS is excited to announce next year's annual conference, PAUMCS Annual Conference at Sea, March 14-18, 2019, sponsored by Educational Opportunities. Guest speakers will be Mike & Carolyn Slaughter and Catherine Crowell of Ginghamburg UMC, Tipp City, Ohio. You can find more information at www.eo.travel/PAUMCS

Established in 1982 under the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) of The United Methodist Church, the organization fosters individual growth, professional development, and spiritual enrichment for members from around the world. To learn more about the organization and certification as a church professional, visit www.PAUMCS.org

Lori L. Sluder
PAUMCS Communications

(Thank you so much District for allowing me to attend and to keep my Certification current)

Mission Offering



Benefiting our South Sudanese Brothers and Sisters in Exile in Northern Uganda

Because of civil war in Sudan, many of the South Sudanese people that we have been in ministry with over the last several years are now living in three different refugee camps in northern Uganda. They have two specific needs that we can assist them with - education for the children, and training for the adults to be come as self-sufficient as possible before the eventual departure of the United Nations teams that have been providing aid.

Each church has been asked to take up an offering in May that will then be taken by your pastor or lay member to Annual Conference. If you have not had the opportunity to give to this offering, you may write a check to your church and mark it for Annual Conference Mission Offering. Treasurers should then write one check for the total offering to Holston Conference and send it to Lake Junaluska in the envelope provided by the conference treasurer's office.