



The United Methodist Church

Florida + Episcopal Area

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Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Florida Conference,

I am pleased to announce that a grand offering will be collected at the 2016 Florida Annual Conference event during June 16-18. Our theme this year is "Leading Like Jesus" and I invite you to be a part of this special opportunity.

This offering will support the clergy and laity of our annual conference with resources for leadership development in three areas:

- 1. Grants for innovative forms of "church beyond the walls" through the Fresh Expressions network.**
- 2. Inspiring and equipping our congregations to see, identify with and reach the neighborhoods around them in evangelistic, prophetic, apostolic, and missional ways.**
- 3. Training a core group of spiritual guides and mentors to encourage and sustain this work that has already begun.**

Our fundamental goal in the stewardship of these resources – both people, our laity and clergy, and money – is that we follow Jesus into the world that he loves and join him in his mission to love, heal, and save the people of Florida. We are discovering that we need new skills and capacities to fulfill this calling. And, if we are honest, we may need a new heart and a new spirit!

We are asking local churches to receive an offering on May 15 (Pentecost) as a participation in this expression of God's mission. Please use the attached bulletin insert as needed.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to engage the next generation in the mission of God and to develop leaders who have a heart for service and will make a difference in our world.

The peace of the Lord,

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.
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