



Dear Colleagues in the mission of Jesus Christ,

My wife, Candy, loves to be outdoors. So it's no surprise that in our time in Jacksonville she has worked all around our district parsonage yard, front and back: tearing away choking vines, planting and plucking up, pruning and fertilizing. Much like a surgical technologist, I stand close by to hand Candy the tools she needs to do her work. A year and a half ago, for Mothers' Day, I bought and delivered to her over 200 pounds of cow manure. She was thrilled. [Note to other spouses: Do not try this at your own home. This was done on a closed course by a professional manure purchaser.]

Over six-plus years, the yard, the grass and bushes, flowers and trees, have undergone changes for the better. The greater portion of flowers, shrubs, and trees are the same, yet in most aspects all that grows in the yard is healthier. What Candy has accomplished with the yard is an example of good adaptive gardening. She has helped this small ecosystem increase its capacity to thrive. Her gardening has come alongside the natural, organic tendency for health and growth.

Her work is a metaphor for the work we are called to do as spiritual leaders entrusted with a "living organism," the Church. Specifically, the church to which we have been appointed and the church in which we are members. We are called to increase our church's capacity to thrive.

*"Adaptive leadership is specifically about changes that enable **the capacity to thrive.**"¹*

The word "thrive" can be defined in several ways, among them:

- To grow vigorously (flourish);
- To gain in wealth or possessions (prosper);
- To progress toward or realize a goal despite of or because of circumstances (prevail).²

Think of your church: imagine a church where, individually and corporately, people are "alive with abundant life," growing and flourishing with "kingdom **vitality**," prospering with a **sustainable** lifestyle, and prevailing in the midst of challenges.

I am the vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

The Gospel of John 15: 1-2 NRSV

Congregational Vitality

The North East district has a *Congregational Vitality Team* - Rev. Tony Fotsch, pastor of the River of Life UMC, as team leader - available to support and assist you in increasing your congregation's capacity to thrive. We are standing by to help you diagnose what limits congregational health and provide processes that will help you develop a greater capacity for growth.

Want to generate abundant **vitality** and strengthen the **sustainability** of your congregation? Contact Tony or me for a conversation for possibility.

Yours in faith, hope and love,

Tim

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In the District

Thank You



The District Superintendent and District Staff would like to personally thank Rev. Jerry Sweat, Staff and Volunteers of Beach UMC for their outstanding hospitality at the 2016 Leadership Training event.

We are extremely thankful to the wonderful facilitators Brian Donivan, Harold Lewis, Tony Prestipino, Gary Tiller, Michael Maxwell and Bruce Seidner, and all of the great vendors who made this event a success!

Most of all we would like to thank all of you who braved the cold weather on Saturday, January 23rd to attend the NE District Leadership Training event.

In an effort to better serve you, please take a few minutes to complete a survey as it would be helpful to us in planning future events.

[CLICK HERE](#) to take for the survey.

Lay Servant Ministries Training - March 18-19



Friday, March 18th and March 19th, 2016

Highlands United Methodist Church
1955 Broward Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Registration begins at 6:00pm on Friday
Friday, March 18th -- 6:30-9:00pm and
Saturday, March 19th -- 8:30am-5:00pm

Classes will be taught simultaneously and both days are required for each course.

Basic Course: Focuses on the three aspects of lay servant ministry: leading, caring, and communication. The course qualifies the participant as a Local Church Lay Servant. The basic course will be led by *Kim Straughn, CLS*

Advanced Courses: These courses qualify a Local Church Lay Servant as a Certified Lay Servant and fulfils the three-year educational requirement for continuing certification.

There will be two advanced courses offered.

- **Discover Your Spiritual Gifts** led by *Carol Carroll, CLS*

One Church, Many Tribes led by *Roger Antworth, CLS*

The course fee of \$35.00 includes textbook, snacks and lunch on Saturday.

Deadline for registration is March 4, 2016. [CLICK HERE](#) for registration form.

Registration form and check (made payable to NE District UMC) mail to:
NE District UMC
1415 LaSalle Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

For more information contact Linda Cumbie at (904) 463-1074 or
Email luverofangels01@yahoo.com

Church Anniversaries



According to records in the Florida Conference Archives, the following churches in the North East District are celebrating significant anniversaries this year and will be recognized at annual conference.

150th Mt. Moriah, Jacksonville

100th Greater Bell, Brooker

If your church should be included, please notify Nell Thrift at thriftmail@aol.com or 863-680-4992.

DLC Nurse and Learn News

DLC Nurse & Learn A Miracle from the Beginning

DLC Nurse & Learn was thrilled to be featured at Crossroad UMC last Sunday. Crossroad has been focusing on testimonies from church members. These testimonies in person or by video are called "My Witness" and are powerful evidence of how God works in ordinary people's lives. This video shares how God intervened to create a special place for special kids at Murray Hill UMC almost 27 years ago. With the talented and truly gifted direction of Ansley Ward behind the camera, an amazing story was told and some amazing children were introduced to Crossroad. Take a look and see how God may be working in your life to share in ministry.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out the video

Golf Tournament -- Sunday, March 13th

Good Afternoon Golfers,

First off, we wanted to thank you for your support in last years tournament. It was a wonderful event, and God graced us with beautiful weather and a great turnout. We are getting geared up for the 17th Annual Golf Tournament happening Sunday, March 13th at The South Hampton Golf Course in St. Augustine, FL. Lunch will be catered through Firehouse Subs, which will begin at 12pm and the shotgun start will be at 1pm. Dinner will also be included! Please be sure to get to the course a little early to have time to eat lunch before we start.

Please see [CLICK HERE](#) for PDF form, this is the sign up sheet which needs to be mailed, faxed or scanned back to our office.

Fax: 904-387-0156

Address: 4101-1 College Street, Jacksonville FL 32205

Scan: caleigh@dlcnl.org

If you know someone who doesn't golf, but is looking to Sponsor an event this year, this is the perfect opportunity! Please share this sign up sheet with them which also has Sponsorship options. This is a great way to advertise their business, while also helping out DLC and our children in need. As many of you already know, all proceeds go back to our school and our mission: *DLC Nurse & Learn provides year-round high quality education, nursing care, and therapies to children of all abilities so that children and families have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential.* **We also need prizes for our raffle; Gift Cards, foursomes, golf supplies, etc.**

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions!

MVS Changes



Here are the changes **STARTING JANUARY 2016**:

The MVS reports are to be **completed by the 10th** of each month reporting for the previous month. While we told you of change coming, you didn't actual SEE the changes. You will see them when entering the numbers this month.

Online Viewing:

This number measures online viewing of a worship service by the number of clicks the first week after posting of the service (data collected previous week).

Special Services:

The number of people who attend a service that is infrequent, not usual - beyond regular weekly services. (Wednesday night services counted with AWA if weekly all year long.) Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Revival Service, Church Homecoming, Remembrance Service, Longest Night/Blue Christmas, Musicals, Healing Service, Blessing of the Animals, and Baptism Service (if held separately from a regular service and has all the components of worship).

Commitments to Christ (Evangelism):

This number represents number of persons making a first-time commitment to Christ (not the same as POF).

Salty Service (Change of definition):

For measurement purposes, count the number of persons serving through church ministries to the community. People serve other people in many ways and the work is very important (Rotary, Guardian Ad Litem, hospital volunteers). for our purpose of evaluating the health of the church, we are focusing on the outreach ministries through the church. [CLICK HERE](#) for the MVS Explanations.

Worker's Compensation Audit Due

Worker's Compensation Audit Due February 23

In order to comply with State of Florida requirements related to workers' compensation coverage, we ask that you complete the brief online payroll form, located on the link below. Please review your payroll records (941's etc.) for the **calendar year 2015** and complete the form as accurately as possible. Please note that your responses will not affect your worker's compensation insurance costs for 2016 as this updated information is simply required to comply with State of Florida regulations. The Survey will be open until **February 23rd**. [Click HERE](#) for the Worker's Compensation Payroll Survey

2016 Ministry Protection Insurance Allocation Costs

We are pleased to announce that the Florida Annual Conference has again experienced a successful property and casualty insurance program renewal. For the seventh consecutive year we have renewed the program with no increase in premium.

While your individual church allocation may vary from the prior year (due to local factors such as property appraisals, added vehicles, added buildings, additional payroll, etc.), the overall cost of the insurance program for 2016 is exactly the same as the prior six years.

The 2016 invoices are now online and can be accessed at the [monthly reports menu](#). Choose "PC/Workers Comp" from the drop-down menu and enter your church's GCFA number. A packet of additional insurance information will be mailed to you in the next few days which will include the 2016 insurance Summary of coverage's.

As in years past, if your insurance allocation is paid in full by 2/29/16, you will receive a 2% discount off of the billed amount.

MissionInsite Information



As part of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church you have free access to MissionInsite (www.missioninsite.com) and the demographics around your church after you register and log-in. This free service is provided to you and your church by the Florida Conference New Church Development office

To register as a first time user of MissionInsite:

- [Click HERE](#) to go to the webpage.
- Enter the Agency Account Number: OFIFU to enter the Florida Conference UMC
- Select your city and then your church from the drop-down menus
- Follow the directions to register and create your own username and password

After you register the first time, you can log-in on the home page.

You are encouraged to click the links in the Local Church tab on the home page for helpful information about Reaching America, for Support, and for Resources. You are also especially encouraged to visit the Tutorial tab and Local Church User Guide.

Around the Conference

Missio Ecclesia - February 17-19, 2016



Discover WHY and HOW the people of God can join Jesus on mission!

Hosted at Grace Church Cape Coral Campus, 13 SE 21st Place, Cape Coral, FL

Keynote Speakers: Alan Hirsch is the founding director of Forge Mission Training Network. Currently he co-leads Future Travelers, an innovative learning program helping churches become missional movements. Known for his innovative approach to mission, Alan is considered to be a thought-leader and key mission strategist for churches across the Western world.

Deb Hirsch is a speaker, church leader, and writer. She has led churches in both Australia and Los Angeles. she is one of the founders of Forge Mission Training Network and a current member of the Forge America national team. She also serves as a board member of Missio Alliance, and was part of the leadership team of Christian Associates(a church planting movement in Europe, North & South America).

Also speaking: Bishop Ken Carter and Pastor Jorge Acevedo [Click Here](#) for Registration and tentative schedule.

Youth Ministry Institute Training

6 months FREE coaching
when you sign up for our Two-Year Youth Ministry Coaching and Training by March 1!

Our two-year training program is more than a short course on how to lead a Bible study or organize a retreat. Instead, all elements of the YMI training program work together, building a mutual commitment for excellence in youth ministry among clergy, congregation, and youth ministers at each local church.

"YMI is an innovative means of delivering high-quality substantive theological training for those on the front lines of ministry in our culture."
-Brian Russell, Dean of Ashbury Theological Seminary, Orlando, Florida

Contact Steve Schneeberger at steve@yminstitute.com or 407-341-0855 for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY INSTITUTE
yminstitute.com

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Contact Steve Schneeberger at steve@yminstitute.com or (407) 341-0855 for more information.

Real Ideas Conference -- March 2-4, 2016



Real Ideas exists to inspire and equip church leaders and volunteers, helping them experience greater impact in their congregations and communities. Real Ideas isn't just for your senior pastor, it's designed for your entire team! We aim to provide hope and encouragement for pastors, church leaders, and volunteers to partner with God in taking their churches to the next level of vitality. Our general sessions, workshops, and pre-conference offer experiences and resources for every area of your church.

[Click HERE](#) for more information and to register.

2016 Sinclair Scholarships



The Florida United Methodist Foundation is accepting applications for the Sinclair Scholarship for United Methodist Youth. Applicants must be full and active members of a Florida United Methodist Church, have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and have a record of church and community service. They must be planning to attend a Florida or a United Methodist college or university in the fall of 2015.

Scholarships awards range from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year and are renewable for up to three additional years for students who remain in good standing. Deadline for applications is **March 31, 2016**. Visit the Foundation website at www.fumf.org for the scholarship application and other required forms.

Note to churches: [Click HERE](#) for a flier to share with students who could benefit from this opportunity. For more information contact Nadara Brock at nbrock@fumf.org or 866-363-9673, ext. 7113.

2016 United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union Scholarships



UMC FCU offers four \$1000 scholarships every year, one for each of our four Conferences (Alabama-West Florida, Florida, North Georgia, and South Georgia). Eligible candidates must be between the ages of 17-35 and a member of UMC FCU. [Click HERE](#) for complete guidelines and to download the application.

2016 Spiritual Formation 5 Day Academy - March 6-11, 2016

Plan to join us for our 16th annual Five-Day Academy on March 6-11, 2016. The faculty will be Rev. Dr. Steve Harper and Rev. Dr. Liz Canham.

The academy for spiritual formation is...

- a time to fill the deep spiritual hunger that characterizes many lives;
- an opportunity for intentional spiritual growth in a disciplines, accepting community;
- a place where community silence enhances personal prayer and reflection;
- a time of spiritual renewal and discovery through academic presentation, personal reflections and communal sharing;
- a sharing of spiritual growth in covenant groups;
- a time for healing to continue

[CLICK HERE](#) for Save the Date postcard. [CLICK HERE](#) for color brochure. [CLICK HERE](#) for registration.

Spiritual Life Retreat April 15-17



Save the Date: April 15-17, 2016
Spiritual Life Retreat
 Florida Conference United Methodist Men
 w/ Bishop Carter, Pam Carter, & John Riley

Spiritual Gifts Retreat
 for couples & singles

Life Enrichment Center
 4991 Picciola Road - Fruitland Park, FL

Registration Information Coming Soon
www.ummfconf.org
 email: info@ummfconf.org
 (850) 545-4594



The Florida Conference of
 The United Methodist Church

Retreat Music led by the Lighthouse Band of Coral Gables

2016 LEC Family Programs



Check out our 2016 Family Programs:

[Dad and Me Weekend](#) (April 15-17)

[Grandparents and Me](#) (June 27-30 and July 18-21)

[Family Camp](#) (July 22-24 and July 29-31)

[Mom and Me Weekend](#) (Sept. 16-18)

Calling All Amateur (HAM) Radio Operators

It was August 24, 1992 I was tired, hungry and could not wait to grab a shower and a few hours of uninterrupted sleep in my own bed. I had just spent eighteen hours at a shelter operating the Amateur (Ham) Radio station linking the City of Immokalee with the Collier County Emergency Operations Center in Naples. Just as I had my home in site, a call came over the radio. It was a Ham operator in the Florida Keys. They had no electricity and no telephone or cell phone service and they were desperate to let their families who lived outside of Florida know that they were OK, that they had survived the storm. So, for the next couple of hours that shower and nap would just have to wait, but what a blessing it was to be able to call people all over the country and let them know that their families in the Florida Keys were OK. The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church has a whole department dedicated to helping people who find themselves in need after a disaster. Pam Garrison is the Disaster Response Coordinator for the Florida Conference and she has numerous disaster teams who share the love of Christ with people who are trying to recover from the effects of a disaster. However, oftentimes in the aftermath of a disaster normal communications either are overwhelmed or out of service and our Disaster Recovery ministries have no way of knowing what kind of help is needed to provide targeted relief. That is where Amateur (Ham) Radio comes in. That is why I am asking pastors and church leaders to check with the members of their congregations and ask anyone who is a licensed Amateur to contact me to sign up with the Florida United Methodist Disaster Relief Network. I can be reached at 239-657-2841 or at n5kfr@aol.com. Being a member of our team does not require people to spend time in shelters or travel however, we do need to increase the size of our network so that when disaster strikes, together we can be the hands and feet of Jesus for people who desperately need our help.

Thom Street is N5KFR and Senior Pastor at First United Methodist Church of Immokalee.

Employment Opportunities

Part Time Treasure/Bookkeeper

Lake Shore United Methodist Church, 2246 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville Florida is seeking a part treasure/bookkeeper. Weekly duties include summarizing offerings and reconciling deposits and entering the data into QuickBooks. Various other duties include payroll, reconcile of bank accounts, yearly W-2 statements and taxes. The position is 20 hours per week; working Monday - Thursday. If interested please send resume to office@lsumcjax.org.

Part Time (Full Time Potential) Youth and Young Adult Director

Lake Shore United Methodist Church, 2246 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida is seeking a part time Youth and Young Adult Director to guide and develop Christ centered programs that encourage fellowship, foster Christian friendships, and contribute to our youth and young adults' spiritual development. **As the youth and young adult programs grow there will be the opportunity for this position to be full time.** Individual will report directly to the Senior Pastor. Send resume and references to office@lsumcjax.org

Director of Children's Ministry --Ormond Beach, FL

Tomoka United Methodist Church seeks a Children's Ministry Director who will exhibit an infectious passion for children to experience God's love and grace. This passion will flow from their own love of God through their relationship with Jesus Christ. The investment we are making in children, the ministry, and the staff roles will draw us closer to realizing God's call to be intergenerational. The Director will have oversight of children's ministry from birth through 5th grade including the Nursery. They will provide overall leadership and responsibly for the strategic planning, growth, and implementation of children's ministry. They will also create a culture of collaboration that engages and equips parents and guardians to spiritually lead their families. They will have an understanding of the Christian faith and embrace United Methodist theology and doctrine. Further information and instructions are available at www.tomokaumc.org/employment

Elementary Intern

St. Paul UMC (in the Arlington area of Jacksonville) is looking for an energetic and patient intern to work with our elementary children, primarily on Wednesdays. We are looking for someone who has the joy of Jesus that can worship with, lead activities, and teach our students. This is a paid position. If you are interested, please contact Kate Hicks at kateh@stpauljax.org for more information.

New Life Community UMC-Jacksonville has two positions:

Youth Ministry Director

This position is ideal for a tech savvy individual with the desire and interest to integrate technology and discipleship for Youth 12-18 years old.

Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator

Develop and monitor overall growth strategy for both Youth and Children ministries at New Life Community UMC. Please email resume' and any questions to newlifecommunity@bellsouth.net

Part-Time Music Minister/Worship Leader

Fort Caroline United Methodist Church is seeking someone who is Spirit-led that can cater to both the congregation's traditional and contemporary tastes. Contact Joe Alexander, SPRC Chair at 904-635-0596 or email tentmates@gmail.com

Part-Time Pianist

First UMC in Green Cove Springs is looking for part-time Pianist. Please contact Eve at the Church Office 904-284-9700.

District Calendar

February 2016

- 9 Shrove Tuesday Breakfast, Faith UMC at 9a.m.
- 10 Ash Wednesday
- 13 Conference Table Listening Session, First Lakeland
- 15 President's Day, District and Conference Office Closed
- 22 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7p.m.
- 25 DCOM meeting, Swaim UMC

March 2016

- 14 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7p.m.
- 18-19 Lay Servant Ministries Classes, Highlands UMC
- 20 Palm Sunday
- 25 Good Friday, District and Conference Office Closed
- 27 Easter Sunday



Check out the new E-Learning Videos and Church Resources on the conference Website brought to you courtesy of Congregational Vitality [Click here.](#)