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[Happy New Year](#)

Dear Colleagues in the mission of Jesus Christ,

During these twelve days of Christmas leading up to the Epiphany celebration; at the turning of the year and the celebration of the New Year; it is good to once again hear and embrace Howard Thurman's meditation on "The Work of Christmas."



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

"The Work of Christmas" in The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations

May this call to serve, set to music that only the Holy Spirit can make in our hearts, lead you into fruitful and fulfilling paths in 2016.
Yours in faith, hope and love,

Tim

MVS Changes



Happy New Year! This is a time for re-starts, refresh, and do-overs.

It is a time of reflection of the previous year and anticipation of life's journey ahead. 2016 will start with some new vital signs data being collected.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about the **changes starting January 2016.**

In the District

Leadership Training - January 23, 2016

NE District Leadership Training Saturday, January 23, 2016

Beach United Methodist Church; 325 7th Ave. N; Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

FOCUS: The Servant Church

All Pastors, Church Staff, Laity and Church Leadership especially newly elected leaders are encouraged to attend this **FREE** training event.

Come join us for training sessions targeting specific church leadership roles such as Finance 101, Finance 201, Child Youth Protection Policy, Trustee Training, Pastor Parish Relations Training 101, Pastor Parish Relations Training 201, Men Serving the Community; A special 2 1/2 hours presentation on How to Deal with Difficult Church People and workshops on Developing a Long-Term Strategy to being a Missional Church and Impacting the Portside Community taken from our focus on The Servant Church.

Vendors will be available from Cokesbury, Campus-to-City Wesley (CCW), Florida United Methodist Children's Home, DLC Nurse & Learn, Methodist Children's Village, NE District United Methodist Men, NE District United Methodist Women, NE District Lay Servant Ministries, Sulzbacher Center, Methodist United in Prayer, and the NE District Community Outreach Ministries.



Rev. Jerry Sweat

Event Schedule (Tentative)

- 8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m. Gathering & Refreshments
- 9:00a.m. - 9:45a.m. Welcome (Rev. Tim Smiley)
- Keynote Speaker (Rev. Jerry Sweat, Senior Pastor, Beach UMC)
- 9:45a.m. -10:00a.m. Break
- 10:00a.m.-11:10a.m. Session One
- 11:10a.m.-11:40a.m. Break (Refreshments)
- 11:40a.m.-12:50p.m. Session Two
- 12:50p.m. Dismissal

Session One (10:00a.m.-11:10a.m.) Classes:

Session Two: (11:40a.m.-12:50p.m.) Classes:

Child Youth & Protection Policy <i>LaNita Battles, FL Conf. Ministry Protection</i>	Trustee Training <i>LaNita Battles</i>
Developing a Long Time Strategy to Being a Missional Church <i>Gary Tiller, Exec. Dir. of Ministry, Beach UMC</i>	Impacting the Portside Community <i>Gary Tiller</i>
Finance 101 <i>Tony Prestipino, FL Conf. Treasurer</i>	Finance 201 <i>Tony Prestipino</i>
How to Deal with Difficult Church People <i>This course will be a 2 hrs 20 min class, participants are encouraged to stay for the entire presentation. Rev. Dr. Harold D. Lewis, Sr.</i>	How to Deal with Difficult Church People <i>Rev. Dr. Harold D. Lewis, Sr., Director of Multi-cultural & Justice Ministries</i>
Men Serving the Community <i>Michael Maxwell and Bruce Seidner (UMM)</i>	Men Serving the Community <i>Michael Maxwell and Bruce Seidner (UMM)</i>
Pastor Parish Relations (PPR) Training 101 <i>Rev. Tim Smiley</i>	Pastor Parish (PPR) Training 201 <i>Rev. Tim Smiley</i>

Register now to see description of the classes



Year-End Statistics On-line



Year-End Statistical Reports are now available on-line and are due January 29, 2016.

A new year, and that means it is time to reflect on the past year of ministry. Though we are collecting numbers, these numbers help the Florida Annual Conference and The United Methodist Church tell a story about our lives as disciples each year.

Please take a few minutes to click the links below to familiarize yourself with the process for the reporting year.

Links To Everything You Need To Know About Reporting Year-End Statistics:

[Reporting, Logon Instructions:](#)

Even if this is not your first venture into statistics reporting for your church, please take a minute to carefully read through the instructions found in the [Church Guide for EOY and EZRA Reporting.](#)

The Church Guide will walk you through all the steps to follow for smooth reporting, **including LOGON and PASSWORD instructions.**

[Detailed Descriptions for Each Line:](#)

Please review the line descriptions in the [Church Table Directions](#), as there are some changes this year.

Special Note from New Church Development:

If you are an unchartered church, a mission church, daughter or mother church, satellite campus or ministry within a church, [click here](#) for the New Church Development and Year-end Statistical Reports chart which will direct your reporting responsibilities for this year.

All of these documents can be found online at the [Year-End Statistics Instructions Page](#) on the Florida Conference website.

Church and Pastor Profiles

Church and Pastor Profiles. These two forms should be reviewed and updated annually by all church SPR Committees and all clergy in the Florida Conference. Pastors having January/February consultations with their District Superintendent should ensure that their church and pastor profiles are completed one week prior to their scheduled consultation. All other clergy should review and update these forms annually during the time frame allowed, Dec. 1, 2015 to Jan. 31, 2016. The Church and Pastor Profile is due Sunday, January 31, 2016.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Profile instructions.

DLC Nurse and Learn News

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, March 13, 2016

17TH Annual
DLC Golf Tournament

Lunch at 12pm
Shotgun Start at 1PM

South Hampton Golf Course
315 South Hampton Club Way,
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Tickets on sale at www.dlcnl.org

Around the Conference

Apportionment Payments for 2015



Apportionment payments for 2015 must be received in the lockbox at Regions Bank or paid on line by Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

This is not a postmarked by date, but is the last day by which monies must be received in the Conference or our bank lockbox to be included in 2015 apportionments receipts. Any payments received after that date will be applied to 2016 apportionments. Any payments received between January 1 and January 12 must be clearly marked as to which year they are to be applied. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

To be considered a 100% connectional church in the Florida Annual Conference Journal, 100% of 2015 apportionments must be received by January 12, 2016, and all outstanding Ministry Protection and Health and Benefits obligations must be received by December 31, 2015.

Clergy Kids and Family Retreat January 15-17, 2016



The Clergy Kids and Family Retreat is designed to be a memorable weekend to connect with friends in ministry, You are invited to come together as a clergy family or send your children to participate with other clergy kids. The goal of this retreat is to provide time to build community and relationships between clergy and their families. There will be something for the whole family.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register and for scholarship information.

Please call the camp office with any questions you may have about the retreat (352)787-4345, or you can email the camp program manager, Joel Pancoast at joel.pancoast@warrenwilliscamp.org.

Yoga Chapel Retreat - February 5-7, 2016



Need a weekend to renew your mind, body and spirit? Join us for the first [Yoga Chapel Retreat](#) led by Rev. Audrey Warren, February 5-7, 2016, at the Life Enrichment Center!

A weekend of yoga practice, delicious meals, and a relaxing, renewing setting - Yoga Chapel retreat is ideal for individuals and groups alike. Beginners are welcome, as well as experienced practioners.

Questions? Want to register? [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and registration.

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 at Asbury Theological Seminary, Orlando, Florida

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



YOUTH MINISTRY INSTITUTE
ymminstitute.com

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.

Northern Ireland Tour



An Open Invitation to join Gary Spencer, Atlantic Central District Superintendent and Mark Charles, St. Andrew UMC Senior Pastor on an 9 day tour on Christianity in Northern Ireland. [CLICK HERE](#) for the brochure. Questions? Contact Gary Spencer at 321-332-3935 or ds-ac@flumc.org.


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.ummflconf.org
 email: info@ummflconf.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)

Employment Opportunities

Part Time Nursery Workers

Lake Shore United Methodist Church, 2246 Blanding Blvd., is seeking 3 part-time nursery workers who will provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment for children from infants to 3 years of age. Individual will lead room activities and engage in the room's worship and age appropriate Bible lesson. Working hours will be Sunday morning from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM (52 weeks), Wednesday evening from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (40 weeks), and 2 hours on Friday night (40 weeks). Contact Christy at Christy@lsumcjax.org.

Employment Opportunities (continued)

Part-Time Director of Contemporary Worship

Riverside Park UMC is seeking someone to serve as part-time Director of Contemporary Worship. The successful candidate will be an active Christ-follower with experience in planning, visioning, and creating passionate worship spaces for church and unchurched people. This person will work with, and build a team with, an established, professional, and gifted band and vocal team. Please send resumes to: Riverside Park UMC, ATTN: SPR, 819 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204.

Part-Time Youth Director

Riverside Park UMC is seeking someone to serve as part-time Youth Director. The successful candidate will be an active Christ-follower with experience in planning mission and fellowship, teaching the Bible, and communicating with youth and building a team with their parents/guardians. Please send resumes to: Riverside Park UMC, ATTN: SPR, 819 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204.

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

January 2016

- 1 New Years Day, District and Conference Office Closed
- 14 CV/NCD Meeting, New Life Community UMC at 10 a.m.
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, District and Conference Office Closed
- 23 Leadership Training Event at Beach UMC, 8:30a.m.
- 25 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7 p.m.

February 2016

- 9 Shrove Tuesday Breakfast, Faith UMC at 9a.m.
- 15 President's Day, District and Conference Office Closed
- 22 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7p.m.



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



As part of the Florida Conference United Methodist Church you have free access to MissionInsite and the demographics around your church. This free service is provided to you and your church by the Florida Conference New Church Development office. [Click Here](#) to find out more.

