

**From:** [FLUMC NE District](#)  
**To:** [FLUMC-NE](#)  
**Subject:** TEST: News from N.E.D  
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## **A Message from DS Rev. Tim Smiley**

Dear Colleagues in the mission of Jesus Christ,

Recently the cabinet and conference staff gathered for worship at the conference center in Lakeland. My colleague and friend, Gary Spencer, offered a message around the theme of "transition."

Gary shared from the book [Transitions](#), by William Bridges. First, Bridges distinguishes the difference between "change," which is an external event or marker, and "transition," which is an internal or relational process that may be provoked by a change, may begin before an actual change, and usually lasts beyond the actual change event itself.

Transition is a process in which we experience an ending – a time of closure, loss, and letting go, that may include feelings of grief, powerlessness and despair; a time Bridges calls a "neutral zone" – a time in which we may experience confusion, uncertainty and anxiety; and a new beginning – a time of living into a new reality with renewed energy and purpose. Often these phases bleed into one another; at least, such is our experience of transition.

Gary then wondered if understanding the process of transition might help us better understand the ways in which God is present and working the midst of change. Something like this:

<b><i>Change Event</i></b>	<b><i>Transition process</i></b>	<b><i>Transition experience</i></b>
<i>The cross / crucifixion</i>	<i>an ending, closure</i>	<i>grief, powerlessness, despair</i>
<i>Resurrection: empty tomb and appearances</i>	<i>neutral zone</i>	<i>confusion, uncertainty, anxiety</i>
<i>Resurrection: appearances and Pentecost</i>	<i>a new beginning</i>	<i>new energy and purpose and hope</i>

Thinking of the difference between change and transition helped me make sense of the disciples' responses to the empty tomb and the angels and the first appearances of Jesus. The actual change event – Resurrection! – had already occurred, but the disciples were still gripped by grief and despair and powerlessness; the pain of change and loss. They could not see and respond to the new reality.

Even Jesus' first appearances provoked confusion, uncertainty and fear. The disciples were in the neutral zone – the tension of the already of resurrection / the not yet of realization and new reality.

Jesus remained with his followers, leading them through transition, until like Thomas the

disciples could proclaim, "My Lord and my God!" He prepared them for the next change – his ascension – and called them to the disciplines of prayer and feasting on the Word and at Table that opened their hearts and minds to the Pentecost experience of the Holy Spirit.

In our lives and in our churches, odds are we are going through transitions provoked by changes around us, and changes within our relational communities, including the church. Change is never easy, even changes we desire (just ask parents with a new born and folks who win millions the lottery), for change involves endings that erode certainty, bring grief and pain, and confront us with new realities. We, like Peter and many of the disciples, are prone to go back to fishing rather than live into the call to feed Jesus' sheep (John 21). What courage it takes in our churches to encourage and embrace change for Jesus' sake, and for the mission to which he calls us!

Yet, if we could trust that beyond "the ending" of the familiar, the way we always do it, the way it's always been, and with what we are comfortable; that beyond the days of grief and uncertainty and anxious confusion, there is the energizing power of the Holy Spirit, of a new beginning filled with purpose and hope, a renewed sense of community centered in Christ, would that help us move through the changes and transitions of life? I do believe so!

I hope for each of you, and the churches in which you worship and serve, the leading of the Holy Spirit into changes that offer new life, new power, and new purpose!

Yours in faith, hope and love,

**Tim**



## LC Nurse & Learn – Summer Camp Donations

As many churches and pastors already know, our costs increase over the summer months with extra staff and supplies needed for our children to receive the best quality care during our Summer Camp. Many of the grants we operate on during the school year don't renew until school starts again in August. *With your support, our camp could be supported and the 70-80 children we serve would have a beneficial Summer Camp experience!* No Camp anywhere has more impact on children and families, we are truly one of kind!

- We are asking your church to take up a special DLC collection or host a fundraiser this month.
- If each member of your congregation can give what they can: \$10, \$20, or \$50 dollars from as many members that are able.
- Multiplied by the 90 churches in our district; it could become a miracle for our families that really need one! Our goal is to raise \$50,000 and it can be done if every church gives a little!

This program is essential for families who are employed, and our students. Children lose skills learned in school over the summer break, and this is even more problematic for children with special needs.

*Thank you for the prayers and support we have received over the years. Please help us make this summer camp the best ever! God Bless-*

**Amy Buggle**

Founder/Executive Director

904-387-0370

[www.dlcnl.org](http://www.dlcnl.org)



## Community Outreach

Five Duval County UMC's participated in a Lenten Family Devotional designed by Southside UMC to bring awareness to the Sulzbacher Village which will be constructed on four acres of Wesley Fellowship UMC's property at 44th and Pearl St., Jacksonville. The idea was developed by Susan Gentry, a member of Wesley Fellowship and a patron of Sulzbacher Center, who felt that Jacksonville children serving other Jacksonville children at the future Sulzbacher Village will help change the lives of homeless women, children and families.

Here are 4 children from Southside UMC (left to right...Christian Cosper, Kendall Cosper, Henry Cosper and Taylor Brown) presenting banks (with money given daily by children) on behalf of numerous families at Southside UMC to Cindy Funkhouser, CEO of Sulzbacher (wearing sunglasses) on Sunday, April 3rd, at Wesley Fellowship's future site for the Sulzbacher Village



## 2016 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**June 16-18, 2016**

**Pre-Conference Leadership workshop/Gatherings: June 15**

Buena Vista Palace Hotel  
1900 Buena Vista Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32830



### **Bishops Offering at AC2016**

[Click Here](#) to view letter

[Click Here](#) for a printable bulletin insert

### **Pre-Conference Leadership Workshops/Gatherings**

Leading like Jesus is the theme of the 2016 Annual Conference, and pre-conference leadership gatherings will launch the topic and include tracks tailored for laity and clergy. All sessions will be held on **Wednesday, June 15th**, at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando.

The slate of facilitators includes leaders, authors, teachers, preachers and entrepreneurs.

- **Laity** - [Click here](#) to read about and register for laity sessions (clergy may attend).
- **Clergy** - [Click here](#) to read about and register for clergy sessions.
- **Speaker Bios** - [Click here](#) to read the speakers' bios.

### More Details

- Visit the AC2016 web page for up-to-date info - [{Click Here}](#)
- Hotel information - [{Click Here}](#)
- 5k Run Information - [{Click Here}](#)
- Pre-conference Brochure - [{Click Here}](#)
- An e-version of the workbook is available for download- [{Click Here}](#)
- To view pre-conference orientation videos- [{Click Here}](#)

### Coming Soon

- Pre-ordered printed workbooks will be mailed in the next week.
- "Group Meals by Day" will be posted soon. Please note that most meals will require pre-registration and payment.



## **Pastor & Clergy Team Meeting May 24, 2016**

### ***Creating a Culture of Call in Your Church***

*ALL appointed pastors & clergy are requested  
to attend one of the following meetings:*

Colleagues,

This will be my final district meeting with you, and I am very excited about what is planned for our time together. Please register right away to indicate your attendance and I look forward to being with you on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Morning Meeting from 9:00am to Noon**

**Mandarin United Methodist Church  
11270 San Jose Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32223**

9:00am - Fellowship & Refreshments

9:30am - Worship and testimonies of Call – led by the people of Mandarin UMC

10:45am – Presentations:

- *How to Create a Culture of Call in Your Church – Debbie McLeod*
- *How people are exploring their call at Mandarin UMC – Will Wold*

Rev. Rwth Fuquay of the office of Clergy Excellence, will be with us throughout the day and evening to share the resources of her office.

*Click this button to register for the AM meeting\**



#### **Evening Meeting from 6:00pm to 8:30pm**

**First UMC, Starke  
200 N. Walnut Street  
Starke, FL 32091**

6:00pm - Dinner

6:45pm - Worship and testimonies of Call  
7:45pm - Rwth Fuquay – *Developing a Culture of Call in Your Church*

Rev. Rwth Fuquay of the office of Clergy Excellence, will be with us throughout the day and evening to share the resources of her office.

*Click this button to register for the PM meeting\**



*\*If you have already registered, thank you, there is no need to re-register.*



## E-learning Opportunity



You're invited to participate in United Methodist targeted online courses. These are designed to better equip you and your ministry. **Registration required**, so get in while there's room, see below course options. Click link to learn more:

- [Increase the Vitality of Your Church](#)
- [Your Church Website: Rethinking Your New Front Door](#)
- [Take Your Church's Hospitality to the Next Level](#)



## Web Resources

### FREE Webinars for Local Church Staff & Committees

Check out the new E-Learning Videos and Church Resources on the conference Website brought to you courtesy of Congregational Vitality. There is something for everyone. There is also a Pinterest page that is FULL of ideas for church events/programs. Click button.



### Clergy Excellence -Ministry Internship Program

ARE THERE YOUNG ADULTS IN YOUR CHURCH WHO WANT TO EXPLORE PASTORAL MINISTRY? If so, Click button for more information and to access the 2016 Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program--and encourage them to apply!



## Employment Opportunity

Are you interested in a part-time position working with young adults? The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church is seeking a **coordinator** for our **Young Adult Missional Movement (YAMM)**. The ideal candidate is a responsible self-starter with solid project management, organizational and communications skills. The coordinator needs the ability to work with diverse constituencies, helping to develop programs with anti-racist strategies. This role mandates effective conflict resolution, coaching and mentoring and is comfortable working with faith communities in our church.

The coordinator will recruit and onboard young adult participants in our YAMM program and help coordinate the personal growth and spiritual life of the YAMM interns through support and oversight of the cooperative living of each team. This part-time, salaried exempt position has flexibility in work location and hours although some scheduled in-state travel will require overnight stays.

For more information about the position, contact Heidi Aspinwall 305-733-4420 [haspinwall@flumc.org](mailto:haspinwall@flumc.org). To apply email resume and cover letter to [employment@flumc.org](mailto:employment@flumc.org).



## **General Conference 2016**

### **May 10 - 20, 2016 - Oregon**

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

[Click HERE](#) to stay informed.



## **District Staff Announcement**

We regret to announce that Jennifer Chester will no longer be working with the district office as of Friday, May 6, 2016. Due to her changing family needs Jennifer has accepted a position that will allow her to work closer to her home. We are excited for her and wish her well!

In the interim, please be sure to direct all communication to Pam Mullay ([flumc-ne@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-ne@flumc.org)). Despite this being a time of transition for the district office, please know that we are always available to answer your questions, respond to your requests and walk alongside you in this ministry partnership.

Blessings,  
Pam Mullay



## **District Calendar**

### **May 2016**

5 Great Beginnings Workshop  
9-20 General Conference, Portland, Oregon  
23 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7p.m.  
24 Clergy Gathering, 9a.m. at Mandarin UMC  
24 Clergy Gathering, 6p.m. at First UMC-Starke  
30 Memorial Day, District and Conference Office Closed

### **June 2016**

9-10 First Time Clergy "Right Start" Conference Center  
16-18 Annual Conference Orlando  
28 Moving Day for Transitioning Clergy

### **July 2016**

3 First Sunday for Newly Appointed Clergy  
4 Independence Day, District and Conference Closed

**Blessings,  
Tim**

Rev. Tim Smiley, District Superintendent  
North East District  
Florida Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church  
Office Phone: 904-396-3026

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