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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in The Gulf Central District or you are in a leadership role at your church. Don't forget to add ds-gc@flumc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



January 2018



A Word from our District Superintendent



Repentance and Love
Today we begin our Lenten journey with repentance and ashes and today we will share cards, hearts, flowers, candy and gifts with our family and

friends. In reality, I often hurt, offend and need to apologize to the same family and friends I celebrate on Valentine's Day. How ironic. Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day experienced at the same time.

This convergence invites us to name and confess our sins, admit our faults, seek forgiveness from God and those we've offended as we continue to be people who give and receive Love. This is a tall order because we often only want to do one or the other, not both. We can experience both repentance and love. God's grace makes both available to us through our relationship with Christ.



I offer two scriptures as we celebrate Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day: Romans 8:38 "I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: and Romans 10:9 reminds us, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong." Remember that you are dust as you give and receive love.

Blessings
Candace

[For More Information click here](#)



SAVE THE DATE:

Learn together! More information soon.

Come as a team, as a church, as a district, or another group.

Our guest: Rev. Dr. Martyn Atkins, Chair of Fresh Expressions UK, Team Leader and Superintendent Minister of Methodist Central Hall. He will share about resourcing renewal of the church, the emerging future, and discipleship and the people called Methodists.

One of the most quoted Bible verses of all time says, that God so loved the world. If God so loves the world, Christians really don't have permission to hate it. You can get frustrated with it. You don't have to agree with everything. But you shouldn't hate it. Carey Nieuwhof



LAY LEADER TRAINING: PARTNERS IN MISSION

Saturday, March 10th 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church
715 Cornelia Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33815

Come together for a training packed with information on connecting and leading as Partners in Mission within the Florida Annual Conference. Hear from leaders within our conference such as:

Bishop Carter

Janet Earls - Director of Congregational Vitality



Matt Harrell - Fresh Expressions Coordinator

Laura Ice - Disaster Recovery

This training is open to Lay Leaders, Lay Members to Annual Conference, Lay Servants.

Please feel free to bring one other laity leader from your church.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Deadline to register is 2/26/2017

Don't delay...space is limited!

Any questions contact the Conference Lay Leader, Paulette Monroe, at paulette.monroe@flumc.org

As a reminder, the following reports are due into the district office by March 31st. Please email copies of all reports together to the district office at flumc-gc@flumc.org or by mail to: Gulf Central District 1498 Rosery Rd. NE Largo FL 33770-1656

REPORT	COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE
Adoption of Employee Conduct Policy	SPRC
Annual Parsonage Report	Trustees If your church doesn't have a parsonage please just send the front page complete with the church full name and on the address line type/write no parsonage
Child/Youth Protection Policy	SPRC
Clergy Employee Conduct Policy	SPRC
Fiscal Responsibility & Management Policy	Finance

The following reports are submitted online. Do not send a hard copy to the District. You can locate them on your Church Dashboard under "FORMS."

REPORT	COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE
Disaster Recovery Resource Survey	Disaster Coordinator or Trustee
Fund Balance	Finance

The church needs to get a [Local Church Employee form](#) signed by each employee to keep in their personnel file. The District does not get them.

For instructions and other pertinent information, click on the links above or click on [Calendar of Reports](#) accessed on the Florida Conference website.

Please submit copies only, originals should remain in the church office. For assistance, please do not hesitate to email Maggie Corrigan: flumc-gc@flumc.org.

Five Day Academy For Spiritual Formation: Seeking Sabbath, Sabbath Keeping



Registration open for Florida Five Day Academy March 11-16, 2018, Life Enrichment Retreat Center 4991 Picciola Rd Fruitland Park faculty Marjorie Thompson & Rabbi David Horowitz. For additional information go to: www.flumc.org/fivedayacademy



ARE THERE YOUNG ADULTS IN YOUR CHURCH WHO WANT TO EXPLORE PASTORAL MINISTRY? 2018 Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program

If so, please give them the attached application for the 2018 Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program and encourage them to apply!

DO YOU SERVE A CHURCH COMMITTED TO SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PASTORAL LEADERS?

If so, please sponsor a Summer Pastoral Intern for 2018!

Here are the quick facts for hosting an Intern. Attached is a more detailed program description.

Internship Dates: Monday, May 28, 2018 through Friday, August 3, 2018

Intern Training Day: Friday, May 25, 2018 (Students and Supervising Pastors)

Intern Reflection Day: Monday, August 6, 2018 (Students Only)

Hours: 30 hours/week as scheduled with Supervising Pastor

Housing: Provided in congregant's home, if needed

Stipend: \$3,500 (\$1,500 by host site; \$1,500 by Office of Clergy Excellence, plus an additional \$500 from the Office of Clergy Excellence IF the Intern attends both the Orientation and Reflection Days)

If interested, please email or mail an Intern Job Description for your church. Please feel free to contact the Office of Clergy Excellence if you have any questions about the program.

Holly Finley at hfinley@flumc.org

Rev. Sara McKinley at sara.mckinley@flumc.org

Office of Clergy Excellence

450 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.

Lakeland, FL 33815

863-688-5563 x134

[Click here for more info](#)

Irma Relief

Update of FLUMC response to Hurricane Irma

As you know Hurricane Irma was massive. You can see it in the photo. But that is not the end of the story.

Over the last 60 days there has been an outpouring of relief work by many of you and the people with whom you work. Thank you for what you did in Christ's name all across Florida! We at the Conference have been gearing up for a long-term response. Here are some important facts about the damage and where we are:



* There have been 2.7 million FEMA registrations. This is the most ever in any one state following a disaster. This represents more than a third of the state's households.

* There were 254 insurance claims filed by United Methodist Churches in Florida (40% of our



This storm was very big.
But We Are Bigger!

* UMCOR, our connectional United Methodist Disaster Response organization, just awarded us our first grant for \$1 million to get our Recovery work up and going.

* With this money, our Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, Pam Garrison, and her team are beginning to hire for the long-term disaster recovery. There will be 5 sites across Florida:

- The Florida Keys
- Naples
- Central Florida
- Tampa Bay area (which will incorporate the ongoing work following Hurricane Hermine)
- Jacksonville Area (which will incorporate the ongoing work following Hurricane Matthew)

* For the next five years, we anticipate we will be hosting construction volunteer teams of 300 - 400 per month who will help with the rebuilding for uninsured and under-insured homeowners with an additional 100 volunteers per month who will assist in hospitality, meals, housing, etc. This work will start in January.

* A group organized in the East Central District is coordinating a hospitality response for students and their families immigrating from Puerto Rico since their schools will not be opened this year following Hurricane Maria. Click [HERE](#) to donate online and help our brothers & sisters from Puerto Rico. An UMCOR grant is in the works to aid in this work.

* We have a goal to supplement the grants that UMCOR will give us by raising an additional 4 to 5 million through individual donations and grants to help local churches and the communities that surround them.

There are many of you who have jumped in to help with getting this effort up and running.

The Bishop has requested that all Florida United Methodist Churches take up a Christmas Eve offering for the Hurricane Irma Relief Fund.

Donate here to the Florida Conference Hurricane Irma Fund to help churches and the neighborhoods that surround them. Volunteer to bring yourself or a team to help with the recovery. Together, with God, we are bigger!
#flumcWeAreBigger

Lay Servant Training - Save the Dates

The Lay Servant Training for the Gulf Central District will be held at Oak Grove UMC 2707 W Waters Ave Tampa 33614

The Basic classes will be April 20 & 21 (must attend both days)

The Advance classes will be April 27 & 28

Please stay tuned for a brochure to sign up and listing the various classes.



Warren W. Willis is not just for Summer Camp

...although that is an amazing time! Click on any of the following links for information on the wonderful programs you and your church can attend.

[Confirmation Retreats](#): Feb. 16-18; Mar. 2-4; Mar. 16-18; Oct. 5-7

[Connect](#): Oct. 19-21, 2018; Nov. 9-11, 2018



[DARE to Lead](#): Feb. 16-18, 2018

[Plan Your Own Church Retreat](#): Who doesn't love WWW? Why not plan your own retreat?

Cornerstone Wonder Walk 2018



Nurturing Bodies • Developing Minds • Fostering Hope Through Christ...One Child at a Time

[Click here for Flyer](#)

Don't Forget Upcoming Webinar!



"Beyond the Worship Wars: Why Older Adults Worship Differently"

Dear Partners and Colleagues in Ministry,

We're back! Older Adult and Baby Boomer Ministry Webinars return. After postponing all remaining 2017 webinars last September, then spending time analyzing how to best improve our performance, we are re-launching our Older Adult Ministry Webinars, now as Older Adult Webinars 2.0 better known as the Beyond Series.

During our hiatus, we heard from experts on formats, platforms, and scheduling, surveyed our past participants, looked at other high-volume webinar producers, all with an eye to continue to stand out as outstanding resource for your ministry.

Some things will remain the same-e.g. our webinars will still be free of charge, archived and posted online (so they can be viewed at your convenience or shown in your local church), and with one exception (April 13 instead of April 6) will continue to take place the First Friday of even months



at 10:00 am Central/11:00 am Eastern time, and finally will last about an hour. You still will need to register for each webinar.

Some things will be different. All 2018 Webinars are branded with the Beyond label in their titles. They are designed to help you explore new, cutting edge, areas of second half of life ministry (+50 members-both boomers and builders) and to move beyond where you are currently in your skillset as a church leader.

The very first webinar of the 2018 series is therefore entitled Beyond the Worship Wars: Why Older Adults Worship Differently. It is a look at the historical development of Contemporary Worship, and how this has forever changed both Builder and Boomer Generations expectations of worship, and how we can effectively engage with them through worship.

I hope you will join us live or at your convenience; here is the link to register for this first webinar. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/beyond-the-worship-wars-why-older-adults-worship-differently>. Check out the other 2018 Offerings as well which are listed below.

Prayerfully,
Will

Upcoming other Plus 50 webinars

April 13, 2018 - Beyond Retirement: How Retirees Make the Best Evangelists

June 1, 2018 - Beyond Dinners: Drive-Ins, and Dives: What Older-Adult Ministry Will Look Like in the 21st Century

August 3, 2018 - Beyond Legacy: Where the Third Act Meets the Life to Come

October 5, 2018 - Beyond Dementia Care: What Church Leaders Need to Know

December 7, 2018 - Beyond Grandparenting: How Grandparenting Supports Inter-Generational Ministry

Easter Pilgrimage to Italy with Bishop Carter slated for April 2018

Led by Bishop Carter, travelers will visit Venice, Assisi, Siena, Florence and Rome while studying the Gospel of Mark and the legacy of Peter during April 3-12, 2018.

"I am excited about our spiritual journey to Italy in 2018. As we visit the stunning cities of Venice, Assisi, Siena, Florence and Rome, we will be immersed in the rich traditions of the Christian faith. We will learn more about the gospel of Mark in Venice and the legacy of Peter; we will read the dialogues of Catherine of Sienna and the meditations of Dante; and we will reflect on the renewing vision given to Francis of Assisi. In Rome, as we visit the Sistine Chapel, we will consider the legacies of the most recent Popes, especially John XXIII, Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis. And in each setting we will be inspired by the world's great art and architecture. I hope you will join friends from across Florida on this Easter pilgrimage."



The Peace of the Lord,
Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.

View more information [online](#) or in this [downloadable brochure](#).
[Click here](#) for online registration.

Free PAUMCS Event
February 23, 8:30 am-4:30 pm - Life Enrichment Center



To: Church Secretaries, Administrative Assistants, Church Administrations, Financial and other Church administrative workers



Dear friends, we pray that this finds you doing well. The work of the church has gotten a bit more intense over the past several months as clean up and reorganizing of churches has been ongoing. It has certainly been a time of reflection and of learning to do things differently.

You may observe that the acronym for our organization has a different explanation. It allows for a broader scope of membership which still remains unique to who we are. This is a change and the fruits and benefits of this change will probably not be seen immediately.

For many of us, change can be difficult if we are not prepared to give it a chance. We would like to offer you an opportunity to be a part of that change within the Florida Conference.

This year, 2018, we will NOT host an annual PAUMCS training event! What? Why? Well we simply don't have enough of us to make this and any other events worthwhile. So where do we stand? Easy repair - YOU are invited to attend a DAY of rebirth for the Florida Chapter of PAUMCS. Already we were looking at (based on your previous years' evaluations) reducing the time to Friday afternoon and Saturday only. This is just one suggestion. Perhaps you can come in for one long day on Saturday. The opportunities for change are endless and we would like to hear from ALL OF YOU!

We are therefore asking you to be in prayer. If you have previously attended, think of what you liked or disliked. How would you like to see this Chapter serve you better? Are you ready and able to help effect change for all of us? Our chapter has been hosting this for 43 years with pretty much the same format. Our roles in the church have changed, the world around us has changed, so please come and be a part of this change.

Saturday, February 23, 2018 Life Enrichment Center 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

This is a FREE event for you as it is about YOU! Please send an email with name, title and church to luloadmin@tampabay.rr.com to register.

Be blessed, dear friends,

Lynn Campbell, Louise Urquart, Claudette Meatley, Sharon Johnson, Karen Green

Worker's Compensation Payroll Survey

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 in the link below. Please review your payroll records (941's etc.) for the calendar year 2017 and complete the form as accurately as possible. Every church and insured entity should complete the survey. Please note that your responses will not affect your workers' compensation insurance costs for this year, as this updated information is simply required to comply with State of Florida regulations. The Survey will be open from 1/24/2018 to 2/22/2018.

Workers' Compensation Payroll Survey: [Click HERE](#)

Thank you for your continued support and for sharing our vision of protecting and enabling ministry, to the glory of God.

District Calendar

2018 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

February 19	President's Day
March 30	Good Friday
May 28	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 3	Labor Day



November 22	Thanksgiving
November 23	Day After Thanksgiving
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day

DCOM Deadlines:

Thursday, March 15, 2018 -

DCOM will meet with candidates seeking approval of their Local Pastor application with the goal of meeting the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry in 2017. Paperwork deadline for this meeting is on or before February 15, 2018.

Thursday, May 10, 2018 - DCOM will meet with candidates seeking certification of their candidacy for ordained ministry. Paperwork deadline for this meeting is due on or before April 10, 2018.

Thursday, August 9, 2018 - DCOM will meet with certified candidates seeking approval of their Provisional applications with the goal submitting your paperwork with the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry by the September 1, 2018 and October 1, 2018 deadlines. Paperwork for this meeting is due on or before July 9, 2018.

Thursday, November 8, 2018 - DCOM will meet with candidates seeking renewal of their certification as a candidate for ordained ministry. Paperwork deadline for this meeting is on or before October 8, 2018.

Thursday, December 13, 2018 - DCOM will meet with candidates seeking certification of their candidacy for ordained ministry. Paperwork deadline for this meeting is on or before November 13, 2018.

All paperwork must be completed and/or uploaded onto UMCARES (www.umcares.org). All candidates (both new and certified) must use UMCARES during the candidacy process. Please be sure to update your information regularly. If you have not yet received an invitation to join UMCARES

To contact the Gulf Central District Registrar please email eflynn@flumc.org

STAY CONNECTED:



The Gulf Central District, 727.585.1207, 1498 Rosery Road North East, Largo, FL 33770

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