



E- Circuit Rider News August 14, 2018

Report of the Commission on a Way Forward!

As most of you are aware, a specially called 2019 General Conference, set for Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis, will focus on moving the denomination past its decades-long struggle with issues around human sexuality. There are at least three proposed plans that offer a way for our denomination to stay together, as well as ways to split. The One Church Plan, Traditional Plan and Connectional Conference Plan and probably several other pieces of legislation will be debated and voted on by the 864 delegates from around the globe who will attend the conference.

There is no shortage of information that can be found on the internet in regard to this Special General Conference, including a 231 page document that has been submitted to the Judicial Council, which was made public July 17 when the denomination's top court published the docket for its October meeting. Also, on July 31, a 93-page report by the Commission on a Way Forward became public.

There are, of course, several online articles one can find, published by a multitude of organizations within the United Methodist Church. Some are written by one Bishop, while some by the entire Council of Bishops. Several individuals and many organizations within the United Methodist Church have weighed in. The Wesley Covenant Association has written several articles, as have the many organizations that represent the LGBTQ side of the argument. Evangelicals and Conservatives, and Progressives and Liberals have written articles. And, all of these articles are written from the perspective and bias of the writer. Even the United Methodist News Service, which tries mightily to report only the facts, has a bit of bias, much like the news you watch on your television.

With that being said, there are three ways for you to gather information that will help in understanding the issues and the possibilities where our church is concerned:

One – go to the East Ohio Conference website (www.eocumc.com). At the bottom of the homepage you will find information regarding the report of the Commission on a Way Forward. The full report may be found at <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/way-forward-report-released-in-all-four-official-languages-of-general-confe> . This link will take you to a page where you will find the four different languages into which the report has been translated. Click on the English version, and the 93-page report of the Commission on a Way Forward will appear. There you can read the report, or print it if you choose!

Two – A number of “Listening Posts” are being planned by our Conference Staff. These Listening Posts are being held for the General Conference delegates from the East Ohio Conference to listen to you.
They will take place:

- Sat., Sept. 8 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm at Wildare UMC
- Sat., Sept. 29 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm at Cambridge Christ UMC
- Tues., Oct. 9 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at New Philadelphia First UMC
- Sat., Oct. 20 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm at Ashland First UMC
- Tues., Nov. 6 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at Aldersgate UMC (North Coast District)

Three – Your pastors are planning for at least one special meeting this Fall (date and time TBA) for you to come and discuss the ramifications of the three proposed plans for Carrollton First UMC/The Bridge. We encourage your attendance at this meeting.

Finally – Be assured your Pastors have been, and will continue to PRAY! We encourage you to do the same!



New Wednesday Evening Program!

FLAME

In the book of Acts we read, “*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*”

Acts 2: 42. So what does that look like for us in 2018 midst a crazy and busy world? To start with, we have to be intentional about our faith development. It is with much excitement that we share an opportunity to be just that, intentional!

On Wednesday, October 3 we will be launching a new program called “**FLAME.**”

Family Love Abounds in Multi-generational Experiences

Based upon Acts 2:42 we will break bread together, fellowship and of course worship and study the Word of God as we gather each week at The Yellow Brick Church.

Here is the basic breakdown for our vision of a FLAME evening- (keep in mind that this is new so schedule and program will be adapted as needed throughout the year.)

- 5:30-6p Dinner
- 6-6:15p Clean Up as a Church Family
- 6:15-7p Worship
- 7-8p Small Groups: Youth, Children’s Ministry, Adult Classes/Small Groups, Prayer

Nursery will be available from 6-8p for younger children.

The great part of this evening is you can come as your schedule allows. Can’t be here for 3 hours? Join us for what you can.

Fall Session will run from October 3-December 12. We will take a short break to celebrate Christmas with our families and reconvene on January 9.

We are really excited to be offering this evening of fellowship and growth opportunities to everyone from both locations and all three worship services. We hope you will make plans to attend and if you have questions please contact the pastors who are coordinating the program.

PS - We are looking for 2 qualified individuals to be our nursery workers- if you are interested please see Pastor Kimberly or Pastor Dan by August 27. This opportunity does pay a small stipend and will be approximately 2 hours per week.

Her dad, a quiet Kentucky mountain farmer, and her mom, a former one-room schoolhouse teacher, married in their mid-twenties during the Great Depression. They made a home for themselves deep in a Kentucky mountain hollow, their tiny cabin nestled between wooded hillsides, sloped tobacco fields and a cold-running stream with the freshest water ever tasted.

In 1950, a lack of paying work sent the poor family of nine a state north. They'd sold their home for a thousand dollars and settled in an Appalachian area farming community. She grew up quiet and beautiful with her Kentucky ways deeply rooted. While working as a drug store cashier during her 21st year, she drew the attention of the National Cash Register Company's cutest technician. He flirted. She smiled. His dad, a WWII vet, his mom, a factory worker. Together his parents brought five babies into the world though only three sons would survive to adulthood. He was their eldest. A six-month engagement later found the two fast in love and standing excitedly before a priest, committing to a lifetime of dedication. It was 1967.

Fast forward 50 years. Their 35 acre country home, always filled with delicious aromas of good home-cooking, frequently hosts their five daughters whose busy families overflow with eleven growing grandchildren. He taught his daughters a love for animals, Christian fundamentals, how to swim and to enjoy life. She loved and laughed and taught her girls how to bake, drive, paint their nails and a love for Jesus.

These days, he has trouble hearing and she has trouble remembering. A recent doctor's visit has confirmed what they'd all been seeing and fearing, frontal lobe brain deterioration. Dementia has invaded the family as an unwelcomed visitor and will not leave without her. It will weaken her body and fully deteriorate her mind until even those she holds dearest will be unrecognizable to her. Seems so unfair, so cruel. Seven decades of living and loving only to be faced with a frightening, slow downhill end to her life's beautiful journey.

A verse in Luke 6 catches my attention and quickens my heart every time I come across it, "*And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock*" (vs 48). I like words, and I find myself fascinated by this word, vehement. Life can be vehement. I've found myself in that sandwich time of life where I am still caring for my own family and am needed to be more and more available to my aging parents. I'm not sure what to make of the feelings that come with this new responsibility, and my fears of losing them.

Not much further along in Luke, there is a powerful story of John the Baptist doubting who Jesus is during a frightening time in his life, "*Are You the One or should we look for another*" (7:20)? Jesus' answer was filled with great care as He specifically described, as proof of who He is, what had already been witnessed, "*the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised*" (7:22). When we look upon our lives and are tempted to fear, these verses remind me that there is a better way. Simply look at every goodness our great God has provided to us each step of our journey – and know that He is good. That He has gotten us through this far. And that He is trustworthy. Jesus is the Rock we are founded on. He will not fail us now, no matter how vehement life gets. We can depend on Him to get us through this too.

"Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."
Ps 31:24



YOUTH DIRECTOR: Naomi Hutchison

Naomi Hutchison has been hired as the new youth director of Carrollton First UMC/The Bridge.

Naomi graduated from Wooster High School in 2016 and went on to Indiana Wesleyan University to begin earning a bachelors in youth ministry. She transferred to Lee University's online program where she is currently continuing her bachelors in church leadership and youth ministry.

Naomi's long term ministry goal is to open a youth center alongside a small business to hire students and teach basic job skills.

In her free time, she loves drinking coffee, hiking, meeting new friends, baking (she says she can make a mean snickerdoodle cookie!), and playing with her cat, Maple.

Naomi is incredibly excited to see how God is moving in Carrollton and cannot wait to see what the future holds!

Please pray for Naomi, her transition to Carrollton and for the youth ministry program.

College Student Addresses

Please submit college students' names and addresses to the church office so that our church family can stay in touch throughout the year.



Church Charge Conference

Our church's Charge Conference with District Superintendent Bruce Hitchcock is Sunday, October 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Carrollton First UMC. All are encouraged to attend to support the transition and ministry.

Mission Moment

Mariellyn Dunlap Grace shared that she has worked at the Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio for 8 years. Since opening in 2010, the Pharmacy has served 6,400+ patients and has dispensed 355,000 prescriptions worth over \$27 million. Mariellyn works there 2 days a week. Two days a week she works at the West Ohio Conference office doing communications work. She sends out the Conference's weekly e-newsletter and does Mission and Justice work. One day a week Mariellyn works out of her home.

Charitable Pharmacy is just one of the wonderful ministries our church supports. *Join us in praying regularly for them.* And don't forget to check out the beautiful bulletin boards that Pam Wells keeps current for us, too! For more information about the missions supported by Carrollton First UMC/The Bridge, please contact Brenda Stine.

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