



CONFERENCE *CIRCUIT*

The West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church

Issue #3 • Saturday, June 9, 2018

Lamps to remind us that we're connected



"I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one."

-Psalm 132: 17b

By Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Lamps will be a symbol seen throughout our annual conference this year. The lamp is a symbol of enduring and unbroken succession. Lamps denote faith and wisdom, the faith and wisdom that come from the Lord alone.

Many years ago, I went on a mission of peace to the eastern block of Europe. As a part of that experience I made a presentation in a Church in Germany about peace.

That congregation gave me a candle, a peace candle, that I was to take back to my congregation as a reminder to pray for peace among the nations, and specifically to remind our congregations – one in Germany and one in the United States – of our connection with one another and that we had a Christian responsibility to build relationships with each other,

learn about each other, and to pray for each other as part of our commitment to building peace around the world.

This year I went back to Germany. As I entered into one congregation after another, I saw the same candle sitting on the altar or communion table. I came to find out that at the annual conference in Germany, each congregation was given the same candle and each congregation was asked to place this candle on their altar or communion table and use it as a part of their commitment to praying for and with each congregation in the annual conference in every worship service. The candles bound the churches of the German conference together in prayer and hope for their future mission and ministry throughout the world.

What a powerful witness for being one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. What a powerful witness this could be for the congregations of the West Virginia Conference in the midst of

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Community Outreach event p8

Saturday Schedule

- 8:30am Praise & prayer time
- 8:45am Teaching time with
Dr. Junius Dotson
- 10:30am Business session
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 2:00pm Business session
- 5:30pm Dinner
- 7:30pm Evening worship service
A service of prayer

You can always find more news on our website! Just visit us at www.mc.org



DISCOVERU

Your gifts. Your passions. Your calling.

*By Rev. Bonnie MacDonald
Director of Leadership Formation and
Ministry Support*

Youth and young adults in the West Virginia Conference are yearning for supportive space to discern what God is doing in their lives. They are asking meaningful questions that invite the time and attention of those who care about them and want to support them. They are excited to explore their hopes and dreams for the future and how they imagine they will be living faithfully in it.

Discovery internships and DiscoverU are designed by and for youth and young adults, in order to provide these kind of opportunities for exploration.

Discovery opens up opportunities for young adults to initiate internships, based on the types of ministry connections they want to explore.

This summer three interns are participating in 10-week internships they have helped to create. Erin Sears' internship is with the conference's Communications Ministry, Lauren Shanholtzer's internship is with the conference's Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministry, and Amanda Webb's internship is with the Upshur Parish House and Crosslines.

Discovery provides flexibility for future interns to collaborate with various ministry settings throughout the year.

Discovery internships are funded by

What our Discovery interns are saying:

My passions...

- God is love
- We are loved completely and perfectly
- Passionate about poverty
- How do I support low income families?
- I want to be an example of God's love in the world
- My heart is broken when I see hatred and violence
- I want everyone to feel valued and loved

My gifts...

- Excited to explore
- Teaching is my spiritual gift
- How do I use my position to help others?

My calling...

- God might have a different plan than I do
- How do I work through what my calling may be in ministry?
- Once I figure out my calling, how do I make the best decisions to reach my goals?
- We have been created as disciples to go into the world.

the Board of Ordained Ministry and by the local ministry setting.

DiscoverU brings together youth and young adults, ages 16-23, for a one-week opportunity to shadow a wide variety of leaders in ministry and learn about potential paths for living out their calling.

During July 22-28, 2018, pairs of students will experience what ministry is like with clergy and laity in the Charleston area. They will also spend time together in worship, fun and reflection.

DiscoverU is being funded by a grant through the Young Clergy Initiative (YCI) of the UMC.

We look forward to what each of these young people will discover as they explore their gifts, their calling, and their passion for ministry throughout the West Virginia Conference and beyond. We invite your prayers and support for all of them.

Who might you need to encourage to be discovering God's calling in their lives? We'd love to help you explore! If so, contact Shea James, director of young disciples and outdoor ministries at sjames@wvumc.org and Bonnie MacDonald, director of leadership formation and ministry support, at bmacdonald@wvumc.org.

An oil lamp for each church

Continued from page 1

these anxious times we are in as The United Methodist Church.

Christ is among us in these anxious times. Christ came into this world to bring life, and his life is the light of all people, our light, and the light of all people. And, no power of darkness will overcome the light and life of Christ.

Each of us individually and as a congregation are called to prepare the way, to shine the light for our anointed one, Jesus Christ. As a symbol of our commitment to the enduring and unbroken succession of Christ, and our dedication to seek the faith and wisdom that come from Christ, and because we need to remember that we are connected in the ministry of Christ and need one another's prayers to amplify the light that Christ

brings, each of the West Virginia Churches will receive the gift of an oil lamp following the Saturday evening prayer service.

The same oil lamp is being given to each church. I am asking that each congregation place this lamp on their altar or communion table as a call to prayer and as a reminder that we are connected and that we need one another in the West Virginia Conference and

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.” -John 1: 1-5.

around the world to advance the mission and ministry of Christ.

We are better together in sharing the light, hope, and life of Christ than we are separately.

May God bless the lights of these lamps as a reminder that we can trust in the presence of Christ to bring life, hope, light to all people and that we are called to bear testimony and witness to the light and love of Christ in the living of these days.

May these lamps also remind us of our connection with each other every time we gather for worship, and that we have a Christian responsibility to build relationships with each other, learn about each other, and to pray for each other as part of our commitment to building peace around the world.



Celebrating Innovation

In·no·va·tive #WVAC18

Northern District held a Corn Hole Tournament & Bake off to raise money for the Ministerial Education Fund. (Photo by Bart Thompson)



LIVE STREAMING

We're live streaming!

...And the world is watching!

All of our business and worship sessions at Annual Conference are being broadcast LIVE on our website! Be sure to let your congregations back home know they can tune in by visiting wvumc.org/annual-conference-2018. And please remember, everything said on the conference floor is being broadcast and recorded. All sessions will be available following conference on our youtube channel at [youtube.com/user/wvumc](https://www.youtube.com/user/wvumc)

Friday business recap

- Junius Dotson presented on discipleship.
- Equitable Compensation report began. The report of the task force that was established last year to explore the impact Minimum Salary adjustments have on those receiving Equitable Compensation. It was determined that (this can all be seen from their handout 2018-14):
 1. Pastors are receiving a fair and adequate compensation.
 2. Salaries are not generous, and efforts should be made to ensure pastors are paid an equitable and just salary.
 3. Increases in minimum salaries should be made after prayerful consideration of the financial and ministry impact on local churches.
 4. The trend to create larger circuits and charges and the

Weigh in on proposed revisions to the church's Social Principles

The General Conference has charged the General Board of Church and Society with revising the Social Principles. The board has written a working draft and has invited United Methodists across the connection to comment on the content.

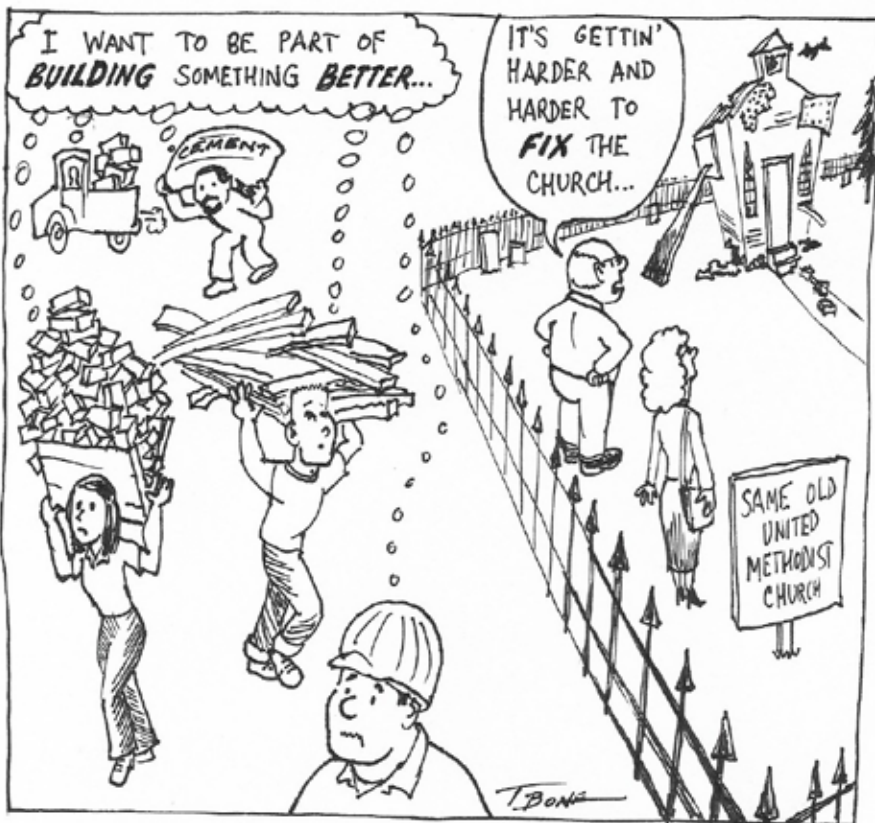
The deadline for submitting comments is Aug. 31, 2018.

The working draft, a form for submitting comments, and other resources are posted online at www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/social-principles-revision/social-principles-2020/sp2020-english

- transition for full-time to part-time will accelerate.
 - 5. Pastors and congregations are encouraged to be in dialogue and develop stewardship strategies relative to their local context.
- Our conference minimum salary has increased over the last several years and actually above 6 other conferences not including missionary conferences. We have merged more churches, created larger charges and increased the number of circuits and partnerships.
- The equitable compensation report was tabled until after the Pensions report.
 - The Bishop is planning a trip with Educational Opportunities from Sept 28 – October 7, 2019, to include those she has ordained and commissioned as well as anyone else who would like to attend.

Information is in your conference packet.

- The Resolution “Revision of the Social Principles language on Abortion” was approved with one amendment: the addition of “Be it further resolved that the wording be added that as United Methodists we affirm our responsibility to advocate and help provide for the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of all children.”
- We recognized 29 clergy, 9 clergy spouses, and 14 surviving spouses at the Memorial Service. Bishop Steiner Ball’s sermon was “Counted.”
- Rev. Tom Salsgiver and Bishop Steiner Ball gave a report of the Commission on A Way Forward.
- Pensions began their report. An amendment to their recommendation, capping prescription drug costs, could mean a 20% increase in premium. Their report continues on Saturday.



Today's Photo Album



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Saturday session features glory sightings, goodbyes, introductions

By Cheryl George

Saturday business brings together many of the glory sightings of the conference.

We recognize the work of the laity, clergy and churches through the Denman Awards and One Matters. There will be profiles of each award winner on WVUMC.org.

We will also be saying goodbye to two district superintendents: Rev. Rick Sale, who is retiring; and Rev. Mike Estep, who will be taking the senior pastor position at Suncrest United Methodist Church in Morgantown. We will also be introduced to Rev. Amy Shanholtzer as district superintendent of the Mon Valley District and Rev. Scott Ferguson as district superintendent of the Potomac Highlands District.

We will continue to celebrate the work of various ministries within the conference and will hear what is happening with our Young Disciples ministries, from Spring Heights to DiscoverU to our scouting ministries.

It's easy to forget how much is going on all the time in our living of the Great Commission *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. Therefore, we will talk about discovering and developing ministry leaders and the faces of the future of The United Methodist Church in The West Virginia Annual Conference.

Saturday also brings us to important conference business including acting on reports and resolutions that were introduced previously, the consent calendar, as well as the Council on Finance and Administration report and proposed 2019 Budget. The proposed budget is on pages 185-195 in the Conference Workbook.

We will finish any outstanding business of the conference during the Saturday sessions.

Connect with us at #WVAC18!



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ROMANS 12:9-10

LOVE WELL

YOUTH 2019

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | JULY 10-14, 2019

Methodist youth to gather in Kansas City in July 2019

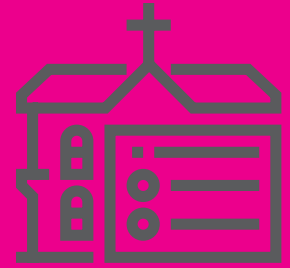
Youth 2019, the National Gathering for United Methodist Youth grades 6-12, will be July 10-14, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri.

The event will bring thousands of youth together for four days of discipleship, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and life-changing fun.

Youth 2019 attendees can expect inspiration, support, and challenges to grow authentically as a world-changing disciple of Jesus Christ. The event will provide attendees and their leaders with opportunities to connect with each other, denominational leaders, and connectional agencies to help them discover the wide variety of ministries of the United Methodist Church.

A special early bird rate is open for those who register before January. Additional information, including a tentative schedule, is posted online at wvumc.org/young-disciples/youth-2019

Want to create an awesome outreach/worship event for your community?



Outreach events like our Friday Night Community BBQ can be easily replicated in your community! It might seem daunting to plan this at your church, but it doesn't need to be! If you want to do this but have no idea where to begin, this resource is a gift to you!

Just remember to tailor your event to your own community's context. Here are some questions & thoughts to get your creative juices flowing for your own innovative event. Activities like these can be powerful first steps toward building relationships with people as we fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

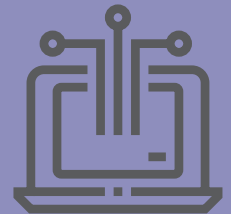
1 What are some reasons your church might host an event like this?

- Being a good neighbor by thanking the community.
- Intentionally forming new relationships
- Christian hospitality as modeled in scripture. (Genesis 18: 1-9; Acts 2; Luke 14)
- Reaching beyond church walls



3 What could your event feature?

- Music
- Food
- Games/Activities
- Child-Specific Activities
- Engage community resources (healthcare, etc.)
- Worship



2 What are some details to consider?

- Location
- Local ordinances/permits
- Security
- Parking/traffic
- Seating
- Food prep/service
- Childcare / Safe Sanctuaries
- Who will act as hosts/guides?
- Sound/Tech/Media
- Leftover food
- Your audience



4 What are some next steps you will take to build relationships?

- Ask participants to register with their contact information for a gift/giveaway.
- Send thank you messages and add participants to church mailing and/or email list?
- Use social media to continue to engage participants of the event. (#stayintouch)
- Remember to invite your new friends to your next shindig.
- Evaluate your event to see what you could improve.

