



Gulf Breezes

September, 2018

Since 1972, the General Conference, a representative body of our global denomination, has met every four years to do the legislative work of the United Methodist Church. Part of that work has included debate over human sexuality, particularly marriage and ordination rights for LGBTQ Christians.

At General Conference in 2016, that conversation hit something of a breaking point after decades of debate. In an unprecedented move, a delegate from the floor requested the Council of Bishops meet and bring back a recommendation on how we might move forward.

The Council met and returned to address the General Conference with an offering for a way forward. The result was The Commission on a Way Forward. The Commission was officially appointed on October of 2016. It includes 32 United Methodists comprised of bishops, elders, deacons, and laity from around the world. Our Florida Conference Bishop, Ken Carter, is one of the moderators.

The Commission has been working on proposals which they sent to the Council of Bishops that was released to the churches earlier this summer. These will then be voted upon by delegates at a special session of the General Conference in 2019.

The three Models that have been presented are as follows (please note this is a Summary of the plans)

The one church plan:

- Recognizes the diverse theological and scriptural understandings of our global church
- Provides generous unity for conferences, churches, and pastors
- Removes the restrictive language from our current Book of Discipline
- Maintains the current structure of the denomination
- Does not require any annual conference, bishop, congregation or pastor to act contrary to their convictions
- Allows congregations and pastors greater freedom to reach and make new disciples

Connectional Conference Plan:

- Unified core that includes shared doctrine and services
- Creates three values-based connectional conferences (Traditional, Unity, and Progressive)
- Allows for a Book of Discipline within each connectional conference
- Jurisdictional Conferences choose their connectional conference
- Annual Conferences can choose a different connectional conference
- Local churches can choose a different connectional conference from their annual conference

Traditional Plan

- Strengthens the current language of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and increases accountability
- Asks Annual Conferences and Bishops to certify they will support the Discipline
- Streamlines the process to enforce penalties for violations of the Book of Discipline related to marriage and ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexual persons
- Maintains current structure of the church
- Continues all general agencies
- Designs process for those who cannot live within Discipline to change their relationship with the UMC

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FYII: For Your Information & Interest

I'd like to also note that regardless of what option, if any, gets approved by the General Conference (this is the voting body consisting of representatives from our local churches) they are more than likely going to change a little or a good bit, depending on the amendments made and added to them.

Let's remember The Way Forward is just that, a path toward the future. For some this is an intensely important conversation. Others are less engaged, more focused on local matters and ministries; yet others, having drawn conclusions, are content to sit at the edges, being more interested in how the landscape will look once everything is sorted out.

Regardless of what is going on upon this, remember you are to be the local church to this community. "Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Church, I love you, Pastor Mike.

FINANCES

FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY for Jul

TOTAL INCOME	\$26,346.05	\$248,307.58
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$8,304.09	\$53,045.97
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$698.96	\$5,629.99
APPORTIONMENTS	\$0.00	\$31,534.30
STAFF SUPPORT	<u>\$23,897.97</u>	<u>\$170,295.06</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,901.02	\$260,505.32
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(\$6,554.97)	(\$12,197.74)

TOTAL INCOME W/Reserved Funds	YTD
\$32,346.05	\$254,307.58

OPERATING EXPENSE	\$8,304.09	\$53,045.97
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$698.96	\$5,629.99
APPORTIONMENTS	\$0.00	\$31,534.30
STAFF SUPPORT	<u>\$23,897.97</u>	<u>\$170,295.06</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,901.02	\$260,505.32
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(\$5,54.97)	(\$6,197.74)
RESERVE FUND	\$37,700.00	

CHURCH FAMILY BOWLING



Join us each Sunday night at 6:30pm at Treasure Lanes in Port Charlotte for a fun evening of bowling and fellowship! Cost is \$3/game, plus shoe rental. No

reservations are necessary, and all ages are welcome to participate.

OUR FIRM FOUNDATION

During his childhood on the Atlantic Coast, Gregory Elder devoted much time to creating elaborate sandcastles. "Whole cities would appear beneath my hands," he writes. One year, when bullies repeatedly crushed his handiwork, Elder finally placed large rocks and concrete chunks at the base of his kingdoms. The returning bare-footed thugs soon learned a lesson.

Many people consider today's church under attack from secularism, heresies and sin, Elder writes. "They forget that the church is built upon a Rock (Matthew 16:18), over which the gates of hell itself shall not prevail."

Scriptures for Sept. 2018

Series main title: "Its a Bird, Its a Plane Its..."

Sept 2

Ezekiel: The Problem of Dry Bones
Ezekiel 37:1-10

Sept 9

Ruth: The Problem of Grief
Ruth 1:1-8, 16-18

Sept 16

Amos: The Problem of Justice
Amos 5:18-24

Sept 23

Daniel: The Problem of Power
Daniel 6:10-16

Sept 30

Esther: The Problem of Opportunity
Esther 4:11-17



"FOOD FOR THE SOUL"



Please join us on Wednesday nights for a chance to grow closer to God and others in our church family. Dinner is served from 5:30-6:00pm. The weekly cost is: \$4/per

Adult; \$2.50/per Child under 12; \$12/Family maximum. This month's menu includes

- Sept. 5- Beef & Pasta
- Sept. 12- Meat loaf
- Sept. 19- Chicken Alfredo
- Sept 26- Shepard's Pie

Reservation deadline is the previous Sunday--you can list your reservation on the pew attendance pad on Sunday mornings: Mark "Food & the number of people.

Clean-up is at 6pm, then there are various activities for ALL ages. Children have Jesus Rocks in #109/110; Youth, gr. 6-12, meet in P #206, the After Dinner Group, meets in #102, and a Women's Bible study "Faithful Ladies" meets in P#201. At 6:15pm, Genesis Small Group, another adult Bible Study, meets in #114.

For those who prefer an earlier evening, Pastor Mike leads a Bible study at 4:30pm in P#109-110 where they study the scripture text he will be using for the following Sunday's sermon. You can join a study group without having dinner; likewise eat dinner without joining a study group. Please make Wednesday nights a time you spend with your church family so you can feed your body...and soul!

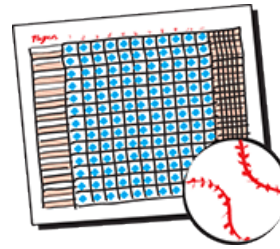


9/01 Gail Borden	9/02 Jimmy Spurgeon
9/03 Dee Campbell	9/04 Danny Wilson
9/05 Rick Starck	9/06 Thelma Zartman
9/07 Norma Smith	9/07 Carole Satterfield
9/08 Harold Grafe	9/08 Russ Palmer
9/09 Wayne Derflinger	9/09 Crystal Barche
9/10 Paul Gebauer	9/12 Cathy Hobby
9/13 Becky Stephenson	9/13 Karen Current
9/15 Janelle Spurgeon	9/16 Shirley Hussey
9/17 Nancy Steneck	9/18 Jan Weidenaar
9/18 Gary Jamison	9/20 Joanie Marshall
9/20 Karlie Weaver	9/21 Jackie Miller
9/21 Don Grein	9/23 Tim Orchard
9/23 John Rowland	9/24 Gretchen Leppla
9/24 Stella Derflinger	9/26 Joseph Coffey
9/27 Shane Crandall	9/30 Jeff Carlson
9/30 Erin Kuhns	



9/01	Walt & Sandra Stull
9/03	Sam & Rose Thompson
9/06	David & Jean Pepper
9/07	Brian & Sue Payne
9/08	Tex & Gail Borden
9/08	Gene & BJ Saville
9/10	Don & Carol Teague
9/14	Keith & Nettie Russell
9/17	Chuck & Kathy Mortenson
9/20	Mike & Patricia MacKenzie
9/28	Jerry & Viv Andrews
9/30	John & Carol McGuire

KEEPING SCORE



Baseball purists often delight in keeping detailed scorecards. So do many Christians — often unknowingly. Do you give yourself "credit" for your years in the faith? for the number of services or studies you attend? for the good deeds you perform? for the Bible verses and

creeds you know by heart?

In Philippians 3:4-6, Paul recites his impressive scorecard, yet despite those credentials, he couldn't earn God's favor. Neither can we. Our tallies are all "loss" (v. 7) when compared to the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ (v. 9).

Attending church, serving and memorizing Scripture are good things. But we do them not to *get* right with God but because we *are* right with God — through Jesus.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A CHRISTIAN

As a follower of Jesus, you'll share his love and gospel with everyone. Kindness and humility are vital as you speak about your hope in him. To battle evil, you'll receive a complete set of armor. Use it to defend against attacks by a prowling lion or the temptation to place self above others.

Preferred qualifications:

- complete surrender to God
- a desire to follow his commandments
- a servant heart
- courage to face fiery furnaces or shipwrecks

Everyone's welcome, and training and support are provided. Though you can expect persecution and adversity, the rewards are life-changing — and eternal!

—MaryAnn Sundby



Calendar Highlights

Sept 1	9:30- 12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope
Sept.3		Monday	Labor Day Office Closed
Sept 4	8am	Tuesday	GCUMC Men's Meeting
Sept 4	6pm		At Ease Veterans
Sept 8	12pm	Sat	Rock the Universe
Sept 9	12:15pm		Ladies Lunch Out
Sept 10	12pm	Monday	Newsletter Deadline
Sept.11	7:00pm	Tuesday	Trustee Meeting #103
Sept 15	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope
Sept 17	7pm	Monday	Finance Meeting #103
Sept 18	8am	Tuesday	GCUMC Men's Meeting
Sept 19	2:30pm	Wednesday	Inglenook Visitation
Sept 20	6:30om	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal Resumes
Sept 24	7pm	Monday	Church Council
Sept 26	8:30am	Wednesday	See You At the Pole

Sundays:

8am	Traditional Service	
9:30am	Contemporary Service	
	Seekers II Sunday School	P#201
	Kids' Church/Sunday School	#109/110
11am	Traditional Service	
	Adult Bible Study	#109/110
	Sermon Discussion	P#201
5-8pm	Youth Group Gr.	P#206
6:30pm	Family Bowling	

Mondays:

7pm	Boy Scouts	P#201
7:30pm	AA Support Group	#109/110

Tuesdays:

1pm	Friend to Friend	#109/110
7pm	Al-Anon	#109/110

Wednesdays:

12pm	Weekly Bulletin Deadline	
12pm	Mid-Week Boost Bible Study	#102
4:30pm	Pastor's Bible Study	#109/110
5:30pm	Food for the Soul Dinner	
6pm	Jesus Rocks	#109/110
6pm	Youth Group	P#206
6pm	After Dinner Group	#102
6pm	Faithful Ladies	P#201
6:15pm	Genesis Adult Bible Study	#114

Thursdays:

8am	Grounds Main't Crew @ Barn	Oak's Cove
9am	Crafty Ladies	Sanctuary
5:30pm	Praise Team Rehearsal	
6:30pm	Girl Scouts	#108,109
6:30pm	NA Recovery Meeting	P#201

