

The United Methodist Church

Indiana Area

Indiana Annual Conference



March 18, 2009

Dear Pastors and Lay Leaders:

We have now completed the ten Ministry Cluster Tip-Off events with a total attendance of nearly 4,000 persons. They were great events!

Now the next steps are as follows:

1. Be sure to keep your current DS informed of your Ministry Cluster choices and arrangements, including your meeting dates and your convener.
2. Please send your current DS your nominations for Cluster Leaders (or Co-Leaders). Your DS will confirm those selections by Annual Conference time.
3. When you gather as a Ministry Cluster, please spend most of your time getting acquainted and praying for one another. If you want to move along toward any ministry cooperation, that is OK, but my only expectation at this time is for you to pray together.
4. We will be providing training for your Ministry Cluster Leaders this summer. The current Cabinets have asked Doug Anderson (who is also serving as an Interim DS for the Michiana District) to lead this training. Doug will be coming to each of the new 10 districts this summer to lead these training events, and then further training will follow. If you are not aware of Doug, he is also the Executive Director of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development and is a premier leader of training events around the country. We are very pleased that Doug is willing to provide training for your Cluster Leaders.
5. The current Cabinets will take the information from your Ministry Cluster alignments and finalize the lines for the new 10 districts. So if your Ministry Cluster has input about those district lines, please send that input to your current DS.

I am very excited and pleased about the response and enthusiasm for our Ministry Clusters. Many churches had already chosen their groupings, some had already started meeting, and nearly everyone seems willing to give this a try.

My prayer is that God will use these new Ministry Clusters to help us be a more effective and faithful Indiana Conference.

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