

Our Vision Statement:

**Following Christ
through
intentional prayer,
unconditional love,
compassionate service
and sacrificial giving.**



The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 19 Issue 2

February 2019

SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

In just a few weeks over 860 delegates from all over the world will be gathering in St. Louis for a Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church. They will be considering two major proposals - the Traditional Plan and the One Church Plan. The outcome of this General Conference has the potential to either strengthen or tear apart our denomination. Here is a summary, prepared by The Confessing Movement, of the key components and differences in the two proposals. Please read and be in prayer for our fellow United Methodists as they make these important decisions in February. If you have questions, please talk to Pastor Randy or Dick Nye.

Traditional Plan

- The most faithful to the clear teaching of Scripture, affirming the standards of the Bible and 2,000 years of Christian understanding.
- Strengthens the unity of the church around shared beliefs and practices, rather than settling for a "least common denominator" form of our life together.
- Avoids localizing sexuality debate.
- Would keep the greatest number of members and congregations in the UM Church, minimizing the negative impact on the church's global mission.
- Makes it possible to continue seamless relationship and cooperation between U.S. and central conference United Methodists.
- Offers a gracious, non-punitive pathway for annual conferences, congregations, bishops, and clergy who cannot, because of conscience, abide by our shared covenant to exit from the denomination, rather than trying to coerce people into remaining part of a covenant they do not support.
- Departing churches would be able to keep their property without financial penalty.
- The plan provides a hopeful end to the conflict once we regain compliance with our covenant, enabling the church to shift its focus outwardly in mission, evangelism, and ministry.
- Will secure our Wesleyan tradition.
- Affirms global church and ensures continued UMC growth.
- Will increase evangelism and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

One Church Plan

- Contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture by affirming same-sex relationships and changing the definition of marriage.
- Would be a departure from 2,000 years of Christian teaching on sexual ethics, as well as the overwhelming view of the worldwide Christian church.
- Will precipitate denomination-wide separation by multiplying the conflict across every annual conference and many local churches.
- The localization of the sexuality debate will divide many congregations.
- Based on a false sense of unity that attempts to paper over our divisions rather than facing them honestly, undermines our connectionalism and takes us down the road toward congregationalism.
- Enthrones unWesleyan ecclesiology and affirms/facilitates unbiblical behavior.
- Would alienate and, ultimately, separate many of our church's non-U.S. members and would make their ministry task much more difficult. This is especially true in the growing African churches where they face cultural, legal, and religious opposition to the practice of homosexuality.
- Would lead to the departure of a significant number of evangelical members, congregations, and clergy, dramatically weakening the church's ministry and missions around the world.

To Know and Be Known

Shakespeare's Hamlet is perhaps my favorite of his works and has many quotable lines. "To be or not to be..." may be the most notable phrase from that play.

Act 5, Scene 1, has Hamlet in conversation with a gravedigger named Horatio. On the surface, they are talking about decomposition; however, on a deeper level they're actually talking about mortality and the impact an individual makes upon the hearts and minds of others. Horatio holds up a skull from an old acquaintance, and Hamlet recalls the man's wit and ability to make those around him laugh. This prompts Hamlet to lament, "Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him ...".

Do you ever wonder how well others in your life truly know you? I remember a scene from a movie where a girl was expressing hurt and frustration that her boyfriend didn't even know her favorite flavor Poptart. That may sound utterly ridiculous, yet that one snippet left an impression upon me. I would venture to say that the vast majority of human beings have a desire to be known, and that "being known" would occur on an intimate level. I don't mean intimacy in a sense of what happens in one's bedroom. Rather, I am suggesting that it is a natural longing to be known at the heart level; to have another human being recognize that you have a story to tell and possesses the willingness, as well as the desire, to hear and know that story.

Hamlet and Horatio were having a conversation about a friend claimed by death many years past; suggesting that his talents and gifts had ceased to have meaning or impact, and reflecting that everyone will end up in that sorry state one day.

When you have left this world, will you be remembered? It seems tragic if one is not. And yet, I wonder if perhaps the greater tragedy is to be in this world and known not? For those who walk around daily, feeling lost or lonely or ignored, that pain is indescribable.

Psalms 139 begins, "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me..." It goes on to assure readers that whatever one is doing or wherever one is (even to the far side of the sea), the Lord will be there. This psalm establishes that even before we were born, God knew us! Not only that, it proclaims that God doesn't stop thinking about us - ever- and that we are wonderfully made. This is not the only spot in Scripture which emphatically states that we are known and loved, on an individual basis, by God. There are countless other places that reiterate the same notion.

Clearly, we are loved and seen and known by God. That ought to be enough. If I am completely honest however, I will confess that all too often, it doesn't feel like enough for me. Perhaps that is because I am human and live in a world filled with other humans. Perhaps it is the known "and loved" piece that carries the rub. It's a matter of believing and accepting it.

Are we known? Do we take time - make time, to know others?

We live in a lost, broken, hurting world. I believe God's desire is for reconciliation and restoration to occur. How can a puzzle be put together or put back together, unless each piece is seen and touched and moved into position?

God sees. God knows. God sees and knows the whole picture. God sees and knows individual pieces.

May we who profess to be followers of the Way; see and know as well. May you be known and may you know; know others and know that you are known.

Susan Nyquist



Everyone is invited to a Spaghetti Dinner, hosted by the Youth Group, on Sunday, February 24th, at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Advance tickets are:
Adults - \$6; Children \$3 (children under 3 are free). Tickets at the door will be an additional \$1. The Youth will be selling tickets after Worship on Sundays, February 3, 10, & 17.

The money raised will help the Youth Group attend the "Winter Jam Concert" of Christian music held in March at Bankers Fieldhouse.

Confirmation Class
2019



Our Confirmation class begins this month! It meets on Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

Please lift our confirmands and mentors in prayer as they take this exciting step along their respective faith journeys. Confirmands include: Daesha Eubanks, Andrew Lehmbeck, and Elizabeth Brattain. Mentors are: Susie Ammerman, Deborah Baker, and Rene Reid.

Hungry for Spiritual Growth?

Join a group who is looking for answers for your hunger! A sub-committee, called the Discipleship Team, will be formed of any interested congregation members to examine how our church can expand discipleship opportunities outside of Sunday School for different groups in our church. The Team will also look at changes that need to be made to the Sunday School program and the terms we use to refer to discipleship opportunities. The first meeting of this Team will be Sunday, February 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the church lounge.

Those interested in church growth, engaging new groups in discipleship, identifying groups that would benefit from additional discipleship opportunities and enhancing our current educational programs for all ages are encouraged to attend.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, contact Debbie Specht at 317-439-4055 or d_a_specht@yahoo.com

Celebrating the Journey to Easter

A Time for Families to Reflect and Respond Together

Everyone ages 3 to 99 is invited to join us in the preparation for the most important event on the Christian calendar, Easter.

We will kick off Lent with an **intergenerational celebration of Lent on Sunday, March 3, 2019, in Fellowship Hall from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.**

The youth will provide a skit on the meaning of Lent. Stations will be provided to help all ages grow in their understanding of the season of Lent, how to continue a meaningful spiritual walk through the 40 days of Lent and appreciate the true meaning of Easter.

Special invitations will be sent home with children for their families to join them that Sunday in Fellowship Hall for this highly interactive exploration of Lent so that families can participate in a shared spiritual journey throughout the 40 days of Lent.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this spiritual event.

Mentors
Needed

An Opportunity for Service

Our Kindergarten/First Grade Sunday School class is in need of a team teacher immediately. You will teach every other month and have material provided for the class. The class has 4-5 students eager to learn about Christ! Won't you be messenger to share the Good News with these sweet children?

Call Debbie Specht 317-439-4055 or e-mail d_a_specht@yahoo.com for more information or to express an interest.

Golden Shepherds



The Golden Shepherds will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, February 4th in Fellowship Hall. Our entertainment will be Phillip, who is a singer from South Africa. **Everyone 55 and over is welcome.**

One Minute Prayer Warrior

Become a "One Minute" Prayer Warrior by taking one minute of your time to pray at 8:00 p.m. everyday for the prayer topic of the week.

The Prayer Topics for February are:

- February 3** Pray for those who will be participating in the special General Conference at the end of the month. May the participants seek the Holy Spirit's direction and wisdom.
- February 10** Pray for those for whom Valentine's Day is a reminder of loss or loneliness. May they feel touched by love from the Lord.
- February 17** Pray for those caring for loved ones who are impacted by dementia and Alzheimer's. May God grant them strength and comfort.
- February 24** Pray for those who are battling with guilt and/or anger. May they seek the Holy Spirit for help with forgiveness, healing, and peace.





Mission Moments



Haiti Mission Trip 2019: The next trip leaves February 21, 2019 and will return on March 2nd. Jim & Judy Jones and Ron & Penny Bond will be going. Keep them in your prayers for safe travels. It is an amazing experience. They will get to see their 2 sponsored children, Rooseveltson (the Covenant Keepers sponsored child) and then the 4th Haiti House that the Covenant Keepers had built. www.lifeline.org

Mac N Cheese Church: THANK YOU! Good Shepherd UMC has partnered with Fletcher Place Community Center to provide 150 boxes of macaroni and cheese **each month** for their food pantry. Because of your generosity, we have also been able to provide 50-75 boxes each month to God's Bounty food pantry that serves Franklin Township out of a Wanamaker location. This is an **ongoing project**, so keep that in mind while grocery shopping. Watch for the specials and stock up. There is a marked container in the Lobby. Any questions, ask Dick Nye.

Fletcher Place Community Center: Hope. Compassion. Renewal, 1637 Prospect St., Indianapolis, IN 46203, 317-636-3466. Volunteers are always welcome. www.fletcherplacecc.org

Old Bethel Food Pantry: Opportunities to volunteer. If interested, contact Dick Nye.

Servant's Heart: Good Shepherd is scheduled to help on the 4th Thursday of each month. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. **Please** consider supporting this night, they do need your help.

Habitat for Humanity: This is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. They believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities. **Vision:** "A world where everyone has a decent place to live." They are a global nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. It was founded in 1976 by Millard & Linda Fuller. The first habitat house was built in San Antonio, Texas. **Habitat ReStores:** are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers. The proceeds help the Habitat for Humanity Organization. You can find some good deals for a good cause. There are 4 in the surrounding Indianapolis Area.

Mission Committee Members: Dick (chairperson) & Sue Nye, Jessica Albright (our creative bulletin board person), Bob Gregory, Tina Fleck, Rebecca Conger, Larry & Marge Sweany, Jacky McQueen, Debbie Specht, Steve & Rebecca Corcoran, Jim & Judy (treasurer) Jones. All members are active and contribute so much. PTL!

LOVE IN ACTION!

I John 3:18 *"Let us not love with words" or "tongue but with action and in truth"*



HEALTH NOTES



BY JUDY JONES

3John2: Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

Hearing loss that occurs gradually as you age is common. About 25% of people in the U.S. between the ages of 55 - 64 have some degree of hearing loss. For those older than 65, the number of people with some hearing loss is almost 1 in 2.

Aging and chronic exposure to loud noises are significant factors that contribute to hearing loss. Other factors such as excessive earwax, can temporarily prevent your ears from conducting sounds as well as they should. You can't reverse most types of hearing loss, however, you don't have to live in a world of muted, less distinct sounds. You and your doctor or a hearing specialist can take steps to improve what you hear.

Signs and Symptoms of hearing loss may include: 1) Muffling of speech and other sounds. 2) Difficulty understanding words, especially against background noise. 3) Trouble hearing consonants. 4) Needing to turn up the volume of the TV or radio. 5) Frequently asking others to speak more slowly, clearly and loudly. 6) Withdrawal from conversations. 7) Avoidance of some settings. 8) Hear ringing, roaring or hissing sounds in your ears. 9) Difficulty hearing people on the phone.

If you have sudden loss of hearing, particularly in one ear, seek immediate medical attention. Talk to your doctor if difficulty hearing is interfering with your daily life. There are a variety of hearing aids/ options that can be helpful

Prevention: 1. If you are frequently around loud noises (occupational or recreational), use ear protection. 2. Have your hearing tested regularly, if exposed to a noisy environment. 3. Reduce volume of music.

At risk noise (if regular exposure 30 minutes to 8 hours): heavy city traffic, power lawn mower, motorcycle, snowmobile, hand drill, chain saw, rock concert, etc.

Potential injury noise (if exposed more than 15 minutes): ambulance siren, jet engine takeoff, 12 gauge shot gun blast, rocket launch, etc.

February 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Don't forget your MAG 'n CHEESE for Fletcher Place</i></p> 					1 10:00A Ladies Bible Study	2
3 9:00A Worship Service 10:15A Sunday School 4:30P Confirmation Class 6:30P Discipleship Team	4 6:00A Men's Bible Study 9:30A Golden Shepherds 7:00P Trustees	5 9:00A Sewing Ladies 7:00P Cub Scouts	6 1:00P Euchre & Dominos	7	8 10:00A Ladies Bible Study	9
10 9:00A Worship Service 10:15A Sunday School 4:30P Confirmation Class	11 6:00A Men's Bible Study 6:00P Gideon's Cabinet Mtg.	12 9:00A Sewing Ladies 7:00P Cub Scouts	13	14 Valentine's Day <i>Love one another</i> 	15 10:00A Ladies Bible Study	16
17 9:00A Worship Service 10:15A Sunday School 4:30P Confirmation Class 6:00P Ad Council	18 6:00A Men's Bible Study	19 9:00A Sewing Ladies 7:00P Cub Scouts	20	21	22 10:00A Ladies Bible Study	23
24 9:00A Worship Service 10:15A Sunday School 5:30P Spaghetti Dinner	25 6:00A Men's Bible Study	26 9:00A Sewing Ladies 7:00P Cub Scouts	27	28		

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Please have your information into the church office by Friday, February 15th.



February Celebrations

Birthday blessings to:

Rick Basham	2/2	Joyce Vowell	2/12
Jack Coleman	2/2	Gavin Chrisman	2/13
Bev Adams	2/3	Kathy Oelschlager	2/15
Terry Newman	2/4	Bryce Nelson	2/16
Jessie Jolly	2/7	Joan Garrett	2/18
Nancy Miller	2/7	Janet Collins	2/20
Steve Peters	2/9	Judy Settles	2/24
Paula Doerr	2/12	Susie Nye	2/27



Jack & Donna Pope 2/3
C.T. & Maria Vowell 2/14



**2015 S. Arlington Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46203**

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 2635

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship Service 9:00 AM
Sunday School 10:15 AM

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study - Monday 6:00 AM
Ladies Bible Study - Friday 10:00 AM

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

**We're on the web—www.gsumcindy.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/gsumcindy**

Phone: (317) 356-3787

Fax: (317) 356-7071

February Worship Services

- February 3** "Before the Box" Scripture: **Jeremiah 1:4-10**
Seems we all put ourselves in our own self made box. We have decided what we can do and what we cannot do. There are so many things we don't even try because we have convinced ourselves ahead of time we will fail. Well that sure isn't what God has to say about us. it is time to break out of our boxes and taste the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.
- February 10** "We've Worked So Hard" Scripture: **Luke 5:1-11**
Listening is the toughest skill we will ever learn. Our own voice is the loudest to our ears just like it was for the tired fishermen. Jesus calls us into situations we know will not be great and if we are listening with all our might we hear his command. It is scary when the voice we hear is Jesus because it will break our nets.
- February 17** "The Art of Root" Scripture: **Psalms 1**
When we are rooted, we usually mean we belong to something or someone. There is an art to being rooted and staying rooted.
- February 24** "Clemkaddiddehopper" Scripture: **Genesis 45:1-15**
I have a friend who is the greatest story teller alive. Some of his tales were so farfetched it was hard to keep a straight face when he was telling them. Many felt the same way about Joseph and considered him a braggart. Problem is you aren't bragging if it is all true.