



The Scribe

January 2012

Message from the DS: What Does It All Mean?

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Attachments/Flyers

Safe Sanctuary
Training:
Gordon UMC
January 14, 2012
1:00 pm (MT)

Hope for Rural
Congregations
Feb 3-4, 2012
Norfolk, Nebraska

Kenya Mission Trip
June 20 - July 5, 2013



God,
help us, as your
church, to become
more vital. We want to
accomplish your will.
Help us to reach out
to our neighbors in
Jesus' name.
Amen

The whole UM denomination is on a journey called "Vital Congregations". It is our prayer that we all move together to become vital in the center of God's will, and to know who we are as a church.

By now, your pastor is putting goals into a computer. Those goals are in the form of numbers. What is your church's goal for the worship service this coming year? If your goal is to have one more person in worship service each week, how will you make that happen?

The objective is to help the church relay the conversation on goals to various parts of the congregations. It becomes a matter for prayer, for study and for action.

We do not want this process to become a chore...just be one more number, or to get one more report done. We want it to have meaning and purpose for you.

I am asking that we spend some time as a district and as the churches in our district to look at different issues throughout the year. It may mean that the Ad. Council or a special visioning team be asked to think through the approaching issues.

Before we start, please take special care on how the conversation will continue in each church. Will the findings of your group/ad council make a report to the congregation on a regular basis? Will a member of the group visit each of the Bible Study groups to spend time talking about the issues? Will these issues be turned into prayer request for the prayer chain? Will it be a part of a sermon?

Issue #1 - Who is my neighbor?

"But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers...' Luke 10:29-30

We all hope that we would respond to the wounded person...just as the Good Samaritan did. We want to be there to help.

We, however, forget that the story answers the question that we do not want to answer: "Who is my neighbor?" We used to know. Now, new people have moved into the area. We hardly know their names. We are also surprised from time to time at how little we know about each other in our own church.

The first quarter of the year, we are asking the ad. council/vision group to look at the Mission Insite report (or look at it again.) You may not like parts of the report. You may not agree with it. That is ok. It's purpose is to carry the conversation forward. Who is my neighbor? What is the mission field in which God has placed us really like?

Pay close attention to the median age. Also look for the invisible people. People who are not being reached by any church. These two areas may mean a shift in the ministry directions for your church.

Blessings on our journey of discovery,

Kay

Great West District Receives Grants from RTMJ

The Risk Taking Mission and Justice Team of the Nebraska Annual Conference has recently approved two grant requests submitted through the Great West District Office. These \$1,500.00 grants will be used for start-up projects in the Hispanic Ministry areas of Imperial and Gering/Scottsbluff (Centro Wesleyano).

Centro will begin offering a Dave Ramsey-based Financial Peace University course, in Spanish. This is slated to begin the first quarter of 2012.

The Imperial UMC will use the grant funds to offer an immigration clinic. They will be partnering with an immigration expert who can assist the Hispanic population there.

Want more information? Rethink Church has developed a package to help your community explore immigration issues with a relevant, thought-provoking approach. Contact the district office to have this package delivered to your church.

We would like to bring you updates throughout the year. So watch the newsletter for RTMJ grant articles and follow the progress made in these areas. We are very excited to embark on these new ministry journeys.

"You weren't an accident. You weren't mass produced. You aren't an assembly-line product. You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on the earth by the Master Craftsman."

-Max Lucado

Administrative Assistant's Corner

- Mission Shares are due at the Conference Office by close of business, **January 5th**.
- **Statistical Tables will open up on January 1st and lock on January 13**. Please make certain you are familiar with the new Ezra website for data entry. User names and passwords will be the same as those used on the former site. If you have forgotten yours, I have a list...give me a call.
- Remember to get your church's Vital Congregations goals entered into the website
- Audits are due at the District Office on February 15. 2011 Audit forms can be found on the Dashboard site under "Church Statements and Documents".

2011 Mission Shares (as of 12-27-11)

Church	% paid
Alliance UMC	41.16
Benkelman UMC	91.67
Big Springs UMC	95.46
Bushnell Calvary UMC	91.67
Chadron UMC	29.50
Chappell UMC	54.02
Clinton UMC	100.02
Cody Hunt's Chapel UMC	45.26
Crawford First UMC	91.67
Culbertson Trinity UMC	100.00
Curtis First UMC	66.02
Elsie UMC	100.00
Garden Prairie UMC	100.00
Gering First UMC	100.03
Gordon First UMC	31.05
Grant UMC	100.00
Haigler UMC	100.00
Harrison Memorial	.00
Hay Springs UMC	100.00
Hemingford UMC	100.00
Henry-Lyman UMC	100.00
Hershey UMC	91.67
Imperial First UMC	100.00
Kilgore UMC	100.00
Kimball Trinity UMC	100.00
Lakeside UMC	100.00
Lewellen UMC	100.00



Total: 77.10

Lodgepole UMC	21.95
Madrid UMC	91.67
Max UMC	100.00
Maywood UMC	100.00
McCook Memorial UMC	100.00
Melbeta UMC	100.00
Mitchell UMC	91.67
Morrill UMC	100.00
Mullen UMC	100.00
North Platte First UMC	58.54
Ogallala First UMC	66.23
Oshkosh UMC	100.00
Palisade UMC	100.00
Paxton UMC	49.86
Prairie West Christian Church	2.40
Rushville Morse Memorial UMC	100.00
Scottsbluff First UMC	55.15
Sidney First UMC	100.00
Stratton Community UMC	100.00
Sutherland UMC	100.00
Trenton First UMC	100.00
Tryon Community UMC	100.00
Valentine UMC	57.68
Wallace UMC	49.09
Wauneta UMC	100.00
Wellfleet UMC	82.38
Whitney Warring Memorial UMC	91.67

District Ministries (as of 12-27-11)

The following churches have reached 100% of their 2011 District Ministries goal:

Alliance UMC, Benkelman UMC, Big Springs UMC, Calvary Bushnell UMC, Chadron UMC, Chappell UMC, Cody UMC, Clinton UMC, Crawford UMC, Culbertson Trinity UMC, Curtis UMC, Elsie UMC, Gering FUMC, Gordon UMC, Grant UMC, Haigler UMC, Harrison UMC, Hay Springs UMC, Hemingford UMC, Henry-Lyman UMC, Hershey UMC, Imperial UMC, Kilgore UMC, Kimball Trinity UMC, Lakeside UMC, Lewellen UMC, Lodgepole UMC, Max UMC, Maywood UMC, McCook Memorial UMC, Mitchell UMC, Melbeta UMC, Morrill UMC, Mullen UMC, North Platte FUMC, Ogallala FUMC, Oshkosh UMC, Paxton UMC, Palisade UMC, Prairie West Christian, Rushville Morse Memorial UMC, Scottsbluff FUMC, Sidney First UMC, Stratton Community UMC, Sutherland UMC, Trenton First UMC, Tryon UMC, Valentine UMC, Wallace UMC, Wauneta UMC, Wellfleet UMC, and Whitney Warring Memorial UMC. **We are at 98.97% of 2011 District Ministries.**

January 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Dates to Note:

5: Mission Shares due
 9-11: DS out of the office
 17-19: Clergy Special Session

Praying for these churches:

January 1 - North Platte
 January 8 - Ogallala
 January 15 - Oshkosh
 January 22 - Lewellen
 January 29 - Prairie West Christian

January Birthdays

19- Chuck Rager
 29- Adam Davenport

2012 Special Sundays

Human Relations Day: Jan. 15, 2012

One Great Hour of Sharing: March 18, 2012

Native American Ministries Sunday: April 22, 2012

Peace with Justice Sunday: June 3, 2012

World Communion Sunday: Oct. 7, 2012

United Methodist Student Day: Nov. 25, 2012

SAVE THE DATES:

- **January 5, 2012**— Mission shares are due at Conference Office. Askings due at District Office.
- **January 13, 2012**— 2011 Statistical Reports deadline
- **March 3, 2012**— Confirmation Day @ First United Methodist—Lincoln. Watch for future details.
- **April 14, 2012** - Great West District **UMW** Spring Retreat. Location to be determined.
- **June 6-9, 2012**— Nebraska Annual Conference Session @ St Marks in Lincoln
- **October 14-15, 2012** - Nebraska Conference **UMW** Annual Meeting at Omaha FUMC