

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

John 14:12 nrsv  
2013 | BEING DISCIPLES

EXPECTING GREATER THINGS

## United Methodist Reporter closes after 166 years

by Ana Hodges, Managing Editor  
of United Methodist Reporter

Finding no viable plan for reversing financial losses of recent months, UMR Communications will cease operations on May 31.

UMR Communications (UMRC) publishes the United Methodist Reporter in print and digital formats and online, and provides printing and communication services to churches and other nonprofits.

The UMRC board reluctantly but unanimously voted this morning to close during a tearful meeting at the nonprofit's Dallas office.

*"At one time, our ministry produced nearly 300 separate editions of the newspaper which integrated content created by our news staff with content provided by church and conference partners,"* said Tom Palmer, board chair.

*"That number has decreased over the past 10-15 years due to changes in publishing technology. The financial crisis of 2008 had a significant impact on both individuals and institutions. Local church and conference finances were also severely affected. As a result, a growing number of churches and conferences either ceased publishing Reporter editions or changed their publishing frequency. We now no longer receive enough revenue from our publishing and printing operations to sustain the overhead needed to maintain the ministry."*

Closure will cost the jobs of the 26 remaining employees, including

some with more than 40 years of service. Thirteen others were laid off near the end of 2012.

Alan Heath, CEO since August 2011, said the ministry had struggled financially for several years. But the late 2012 loss of a major contract – for printing, as well as for warehousing and shipping curriculum materials – reduced revenue by about 40 percent.

Reporter editions have declined to 45, though UMRC has continued to print other newspapers, as well as doing a variety of specialty printing.

Since the beginning of the year, efforts to cut costs while seeking new income could not keep the ministry in the black.

Mr. Heath noted that UMRC has operated as a fee-for-service ministry, with no strong donor base and no direct support from the United Methodist Church.

Mr. Heath added, *"This decision obviously affects not only our newspaper customers, but other customers that have relied on us for printing and mailing services for many other products. We are sorry to leave our partners in ministry who have been so faithful to continue their relationship with us. We will do our best to help these ministries find a new print provider."*

The Reporter has its origins in pre-Civil War Methodist papers in Texas, and was long the main vehicle for news about Methodists in Texas and across the Southwest.

In recent decades, it has covered the full United Methodist Church,



offering independent news coverage, features and commentaries. Staff members have regularly won religious press awards.

Mr. Heath said an appropriate home will be sought for the newspaper's print and online archives. The UMRC board celebrated communion at the end of this morning's meeting, led by the Rev. Arthur McClanahan, a board member and director of communications for the Iowa Conference.

Before doing so, he said: *"Many of us standing around these ordinary tables have received the gift of grace of people of the UMR family – the grace of an extra day, or days, or more when we've needed to send our copy for a paper, the grace of converting stick figure ideas into beautiful designs, the grace of telling stories, offering commentaries, helping us to see beyond our own horizons. And we are the better for the gift that the UMR team is."*

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## Annual Conference Offering for 2013, East Congo Annual Conference

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, God has been moving powerfully in the United Methodist Church. Nearly 350,000 disciples are emerging in the East Congo alone, an area about the size of the entire Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Members and ministry are growing so rapidly, the East Congo Episcopal Area was established at the 2012 General Conference. This past November, Bishop Bill McAlilly met with Bishop Gabriel Unda Yemba to discuss some of the challenges and opportunities facing the church in the East Congo.

After discussing a multitude of prospective ways we could be in mission together, Bishop McAlilly asked, *"Bishop Gabriel, of all your many needs, what are your top priorities?"*

In addition to missional needs, a permanent office, and a means of transportation, Bishop Yemba answered *"I need a place for my family to live."* Bishop Yemba currently has no residence to lay his head, and remains separated from his family for long periods of time.

After conversation with both the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conference Planning Teams, Bishop McAlilly prayerfully decided that half of the 2013 Annual Conference offerings will go to help in the birth of the East Congo Episcopal Area. The funds will provide a home base for Bishop Gabriel and some of his nine children.

The new Episcopal residence will be based in the city of Kindu at the site of the long since destroyed Kindu Mission Compound. The Memphis and Tennessee Conferences will be among the first to assist with this powerful new movement of Jesus Christ in the East Congo.

The people of the East Congo Episcopal Area eagerly await the Bishop's permanent presence. While this offering will provide funding towards the extremely high cost of construction in Kindu, the East Congo members will be making and purchasing the bricks, providing the land, and supporting the upkeep going forward. Together, brick by brick and life by life, we will serve Christ and serve neighbor... The East Congo, Memphis, and Tennessee Annual Conferences together.



**Bishop Yemba (right) is the leader of the newly formed East Congo Episcopal Area**

## How does UMCOR help in disaster?

by Jason Brock, TN UMC Dir.  
Church Health, Mission & Disaster

Given the recent devastation to the West, now would be a good opportunity to consider the question, *"How does the United Methodist Committee on Relief help in disaster?"* Other national disaster organizations, most of which expend their funds and volunteers within weeks, typically are the ones we see when the cameras are present and our interest is peaked.

We appreciate our partners and depend on them to fulfill their mission. In return they appreciate us and depend on United Methodists fulfilling our mission, which normally stretches for months and years after a disaster happens.

While United Methodists and UMCOR are at work from the beginning, we really shine in the often grueling long-term recovery that follows the short-term relief work.

For example, the Tennessee Conference is just now completing work with our last 2010 Storms survivor family. By the end of the summer we will have a complete report on the work of the last 3 years, but it might be helpful for you to provide this sketch of how United Methodists and UMCOR worked together from the beginning until the finish.

The majority of the work was done by local communities, churches, districts, and the conference. If you've never heard the saying, *"We Are UMCOR,"* embrace it! With the exception of the Sager Brown and Salt Lake City relief supply depots, UMCOR Disaster Response U.S./Caribbean/Central America has only 3 full-time employees and 6 contract consultants. Their valuable assistance comes in the forms of grants, training, and technical advice.

The 2010 Storms included wind and water damage in April, May, and August, affecting some 40,000 families across 31 counties in Tennessee.

May 1-5, 2010 brought the bulk of the flooding and resulting damage. UMCOR offered support and advice even while many of us were still stuck in our homes. By the morning of Monday, May 3, \$10,000 and a promise of more was on its way. By that afternoon, the first of 3,600 Cleaning Buckets were in route from UMCOR Sager Brown in Louisiana, as well as, 800 from neighboring conferences.

Within 10 days, the TN Conference distributed nearly 4,000 Cleaning Buckets and 2,000 Health Kits, some *"homemade"* here in TN, and others from dozens of churches, UMW's, and Methodist Youth groups from across the country. Meanwhile, local communities, many of them cutoff from one another, reached out and worked together - neighbor to neighbor - to feed, shelter, and care for one another.

UMCOR and the United Methodist Volun



**TN Conference Early Response Team clearing debris near Springfield, TN in February 2013**

teers in Mission (UMVIM) helped connect us to specially trained Early Response Teams from across the country. However, we had to wait for the water to recede, wait until we had places for teams to stay, wait until we could identify the cleanup needs, and wait until local communities were ready to start receiving more outside help.

Thousands of calls and emails bombarded local churches, including the Conference office, conference from caring United Methodists everywhere.

While comforting to know they cared, those wanting to come added distractions and took away valuable energy from our being able to address immediate needs and prepare for the marathon of cleanup and recovery that would last for years.

The first couple of weeks, we provided UMCOR's cleanup instructions to local churches working in their own neighborhoods and deployed TN Conference Early Response Teams to work.

Within three weeks we were able to receive our first group from outside of Middle Tennessee and began scheduling teams for rebuilding for the 3-18 months down the road.

By March of 2012, we hosted 4,000 volunteers from across the country, logging 175,000 volunteer hours.

During the cleanup work that went into the Fall of 2010, TN Conference staff and volunteers worked with dozens of local communities to form their Long Term Recovery Groups, all with UMCOR's help and training. Local communities recover more successfully and faster when they are the ones leading the way and then allow outside help to follow.

Over the course of the last three years, UMCOR provided constant advice, \$360,000 in grants (three-times as much as they received in donations), and twelve training events.

Ten of those trainings were a two-day training for 300 potential case managers, many who were volunteers.

Case managers worked with survivor families to help them work through the confusion and complexity of insurance, FEMA assistance, contractors, and connecting to donated materials and volunteers.

*continued on page 11A*





## TN Conference called to feed the hungry, Annual Conference offering

*A letter from Bishop McAlilly:*

Dear Churches of the Tennessee Annual Conference:

Each year at Annual Conference the Disciples of Tennessee Annual Conference are blessed with a special opportunity to give generously in Jesus' name to impact the Kingdom in a way none of us could do alone.

The Apostle Paul and Barnabas led one of the earliest offerings among all of the world's churches in responding to the famine in Judea.

Paul lifted up the example of the

church in Macedonia who was a part of this monumental effort:

2 Corinthians 8:2-4 (NLT) Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity.

For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more.

And they did it of their own free will.

They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for Christians in Jerusalem.

The 2013 Annual Conference Offer-

ing provides us with an opportunity to join together to "*do greater things*" for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

The offering will be divided equally between a local opportunity and an international opportunity.

Hunger-One half of the offering will go to feed hungry people in middle Tennessee.

As the recession and its effects have lingered, more and more families have experienced empty pantries, empty refrigerators and empty stomachs. Hunger agencies have seen donations go down and requests for assistance

go up.

Our generosity can fill stomachs and in a small way restore hope where it may have dimmed.

The offering will be divided equally among the seven Districts.

Together, we can do "greater things" as we feed the hungry and help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the East Congo.

Please take the opportunity to experience Christ in the "*generous privilege of sharing in the gift.*"

A colorful banner for a TN UMC Pre-Conference event. On the left is a photo of Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble, with text identifying him as the featured Bible Study leader for the 2013 TN Annual Conference. The center text reads "Pre-Conference event | REGISTER TODAY" followed by "SBC-21 &amp; CAAST" in large, stylized letters. Below that is "JUNE 8 | 8a - 2p". On the right is a logo with a map of Tennessee and the text "EXPECTING GREATER THINGS". Below the logo is the text "Equipping for greater evangelism &amp; outreach" and "Location: Patterson Memorial UMC, more info to come!".

## Rendle to speak at Annual Conference



After the announcements were made that Dr. Jan Love and Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble would be featured guests speakers at the 2013 Tennessee Annual Conference, Dr. Gil Rendle was confirmed as our third special guest for this year's event.

Having already served as consultant to the TN Conference prior to 2012, Bishop Bill McAlilly has invited Dr. Rendle back to Middle Tennessee to help both the Memphis & Tennessee Conferences with implementing and living into the vision of the Strategic Mapping Team concept introduced by Bishop McAlilly earlier this year.

Gil Rendle serves as Senior Consultant with the Texas Methodist Foundation in Austin, Texas and as an independent consultant working with issues of change and leadership in denominations and large churches. Prior to this position he served the Alban Institute as an author, seminar leader and senior consultant for twelve years. An ordained United Methodist minister, Gil served as senior pastor of two urban congregations in Pennsylvania for sixteen years and as a denominational consultant for The United Methodist Church for nine years.

Gil graduated from Franklin and Marshall College

in Pennsylvania, did his seminary training at Boston University School of Theology and earned a Ph.D. in Psychoeducational Processes from Temple University in Philadelphia.

Gil has an extensive background in organizational development, group and systems theory, and leadership development.

He works with leaders on planning, staff and leadership development, and issues of change.

He is well known for his work with middle judicatory and national denominational offices and staff as they wrestle with denominational and congregational change.

In training workshops and conferences, Gil has led numerous large and small groups in practical learning that directly impact participants' decisions and practice in their leadership roles.

He is the author of five books, a contributor to four books, and the author of numerous articles and monographs.

Gil is a resident of Pennsylvania where he lives with his wife, Lynne.

They have two sons, who with their wives, have provided four grandchildren.

# L.A. Methodist pastor to lead at TNAC2013

Derrick-Lewis Noble is an award winning preacher/pastor and motivational speaker, having recently been cited as one of the top 20 young preachers in America (*The African American Pulpit Magazine*).

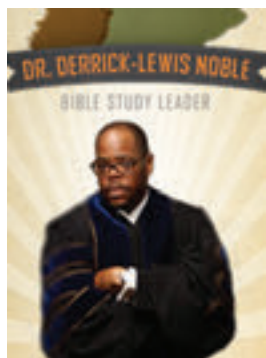
He began preaching as a teenager and has been in the preaching ministry now for nearly 20 years, having served as a youth pastor for 11 consecutive years, a Senior Pastor and a denominational leader.

He is highly sought after as a revivalist, keynote speaker, seminar leader, and motivator, and is a past member of the National Speakers Association.

Among other honors, he is a past Conference Preacher for The Symposium on Worship - an annual, international, ecumenical event sponsored by The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and The Center for Excellence in Preaching, and has served as the Bible Study Leader for the national gathering of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR). Derrick was recently selected by Abingdon Press and the United Methodist Publishing House to write both the adult and teen curriculum for Vacation Bible School for the year 2013.

In the corporate world, he has presented on topics as diverse as peak performance, customer service, educational excellence, and leadership in the workplace.

From March 2006 until June 2008, Derrick served as Pastor



of the Abundant Life United Methodist Church of Lufkin, Texas. Under his leadership, the Abundant Life family grew from less than 40 in regular attendance to over 400 members in two years, earning it the prestigious Copeland Award for Evangelism (2007), awarded to the 5 fastest growing churches in the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Abundant Life baptized more people and added more new members than any other church in the East District, and grew from having been in debt to being 100% financially sound in less than two years!

As a result of his work at Abundant Life, Derrick was asked to serve as one of 10 members of the Black Church Transformation Task Force for the Texas Annual Conference, a group charged with the responsibility of helping Black churches to grow to their full potential and stem the tide of decline.

In June 2008, Derrick became founding pastor of Im-

pact United Methodist Church of Port Arthur, TX. Impact UMC was recognized as having been the "the most successful African American new church start" in the Texas Annual Conference. Impact UMC has been featured in national magazines and had a far-reaching evangelistic ministry that distributed free school supplies and immunizations to over 1,200 students in the Port Arthur area, and regularly fed boxed meals to the homeless on the streets of Port Arthur. Derrick received his second Copeland Award for Evangelism (2011), as pastor of Impact UMC.

On June 6, 2012, Derrick became an Elder in full connection with the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and was appointed to serve as pastor of Crenshaw United Methodist Church of Los Angeles, CA.

To initiate a new chapter of ministry at the historic Crenshaw, Derrick has outlined a 4-part revitalization plan that focuses on: dynamic worship, comprehensive outreach, total life stewardship, and internal re-organization.

Derrick is currently both a national board member and a Mentor/Coach with SBC21 (Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century), a United Methodist initiative that seeks to directly impact growth and health among African American congregations within the UMC. As a veteran

church planter, Derrick represents SBC21 on the board of Path 1 New Church Starts, another UMC initiative which seeks to cultivate and develop leaders for new churches across the country.

Derrick-Lewis Noble was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and graduated from the historic Little Rock Central High School where he served as Student Body President.

He then attended Angelo State University (San Angelo, Texas) and was awarded the Bachelor of Arts Degree in English with a double minor in Speech Communication and Psychology.

He later attended Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center (Atlanta, GA) where he earned a Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) in Christian Education, having graduated as valedictorian of his class. On May 3, 2008, Derrick successfully defended his doctoral dissertation and was awarded the Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree in Black Church Studies at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, having graduated with a 4.0 grade point average.

His professors/mentors during his doctoral studies were some of the world's most respected theological scholars, including Drs. Cain Hope Felder, William H. Myers, Marvin A. McMickle, Dwight Hopkins, and Cheryl Townsend Gilkes. Derrick's dissertation is entitled:

Rescuing, Reconnecting, and Renewing the Village: Liberative Pedagogy and the Impact of Teaching Black Liberation Theology to Black Youth.

Believe it or not, Derrick does occasionally have free time!

He is a rabid NBA fan (with season tickets to the Los Angeles Clippers), is a huge classic jazz fan (particularly John Coltrane, Art Tatum, and Miles Davis), and also plays jazz trombone himself.

In addition, Derrick is an avid golfer (not a great one), loves to travel, enjoys playing his Xbox 360, and has a massive collection of martial arts DVDs.

Derrick's purpose in life is to be used by God to speak truth into the lives of others, thereby enabling them to make a permanent, positive impact upon their world.



## Where to find everything Annual Conference:

<http://www.TNAC2013.com>

EXPECTING GREATER THINGS

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# Lake Junaluska Centennial Homecoming

In 2013, Lake Junaluska will celebrate 100 years of being a place for spiritual enrichment, leadership development and recreation.

The Lake Junaluska Centennial Celebration will be a year-long series of signature events and special functions.

Our vision is that the Centennial will inspire people to celebrate the past, envision the future, and share the Lake Junaluska experience.

On June 25, 1913, after 5 years of planning and development, Lake Junaluska hosted its first event.

At the time, Lake Junaluska consisted of Stuart Auditorium, which was an open-air structure with a dirt-covered floor, a manmade lake, and a small number of homes.

Over the past 100 years, Lake Junaluska has grown into a much beloved retreat center and residential community.

Today, Lake Junaluska looks to a bright future as a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body.

The Lake Junaluska Centennial Homecoming will encourage participants to:

- Celebrate the Past: We will remember great moments in Lake Junaluska's history.

There will be opportunities to learn, hear, and share stories about the Lake Junaluska experience.

- Envision the Future: The Lake Junaluska Centennial is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to plan for and invest in our future, ensuring that future generations can experience Lake Junaluska.

- Share the Experience: Through Homecoming Week, we will share the Lake Junaluska experience with others, encouraging regular and new visitors alike to become part of Lake Junaluska's history.



## First woman to lead United Methodist seminary will speak at Annual Conference

Dr. Jan Love is an internationally recognized leader in church and ecumenical arenas and a scholar of world politics, particularly issues of religion and politics, conflict transformation, globalization, and ecumenism.



Love, not only is a political scientist, but also a former chief executive of the Women's Division of the United Methodist

Board of Global Ministries.

She took over as dean of Candler in 2007, becoming the first woman to lead the United Methodist seminary.

She is known for facilitating constructive relationships among people and groups with deeply held differences and for her work in racial justice.

Education:

PhD, Ohio State University, 1983

MA, Ohio State University, 1977

BA, Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, FL), 1975

Publications:

"Practicing Consensus at the Table: Doing Democracy Differently" in Conflict and Communion (forthcoming)

"Multilateralism: Faithful Reflections on International Relations" in For the Peace of the World: A Christian Curriculum on International Relations (2005)

Southern Africa in World Politics: Local Aspirations and Global Entanglements (Westview Press, 2005)

"The Power and Promise of Peace" in Zion's Herald (November/December 2004)

"A Tribute to Konrad Raiser" in The Ecumenical Review: Essays in Honour of Konrad Raiser (January 2004)

The U.S. Anti-Apartheid Movement: Local Activism in Global Politics (Praeger Publishers, 1985)

## NEW FOR 2013 - TN CONFERENCE STOLES



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The 46th Tennessee Annual Conference Session- June 10-12, 2013, Brentwood

Bishop Bill McAlilly presides at his first Annual Conference as Bishop of the Tennessee Annual Conference and Nashville Episcopal Area. Special guests: Dr. Jan Love, guest preacher; Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble, Bible Study leader; Dr. Gil Rendle, consultant to the TN Conference Strategic Mapping Team (session leader for Tuesday afternoon Strategic Mapping Team discussion).

Please log on to [www.TNAC2013.com](http://www.TNAC2013.com) for any pre-Conference news and real-time updates during Annual Conference.

### REGISTER TODAY, June 8, Derrick-Lewis Noble leads SBC-21/CAAST pre-Conference event

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century and the Comprehensive African-American Strategic Team are partnering to invite those in the TN Conference to attend this special pre-Annual Conference event. Rev. Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble, guest Bible Study leader for the Memphis & TN Annual Conferences, will be the featured speaker at this event at Patterson Memorial UMC from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm on Saturday, June 8, 2013. Mark your calendars and make plans today to attend this great gathering!



### Annual Conference Offerings for 2013, East Congo Annual Conference

Half of the total offering taken at Annual Conference will go toward building a Bishop's residence for the East Congo Annual Conference Episcopal leader, Bishop Gabriel Unda Yemba and his family. United Methodists are rapidly growing in number in this region and currently there are no facilities for Bishop Yemba or his family to base their operations from. You can give TODAY: go to [www.TNAC2013.com](http://www.TNAC2013.com) and click on the East Congo banner.



### Annual Conference Offerings for 2013, Hunger Ministries

Half of the total offering taken at Annual Conference will go toward Hunger needs in the Tennessee Conference.

As the recession and its effects have lingered, more and more families have experienced empty pantries, empty refrigerators, and empty stomachs. Each District in the TN Conference has also designated a locally-based ministry to partner with and share in this portion of the Annual Conference offering.

You can give TODAY: go to [www.TNAC2013.com](http://www.TNAC2013.com) and click on the Hunger Ministries banner.

### Pre-Conference Reports now available online

Log on to [www.TNUMC.org](http://www.TNUMC.org) today and download your copy of the 2013 Pre-Conference Reports. Anyone required to attend the 46th Session of the TN Annual Conference should become familiar with these reports before Annual Conference begins on June 10, 2013.

### 2012 Journal now online

You can view the 2012 Journal in several locations: on the Annual Conference page under ABOUT US/CONTACTS, and at the bottom of the ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013 page - where all information about this year's Annual Conference is being updated daily.

"The Journal Editorial Committee reviewed many other conference Journals at GCEA's offices and began working on modifying the 2012 Journal to correspond to the requirements of the Book of Discipline" said Bill Freeman, TN UMC IT Director.

### Midwest tornadoes: pray, give, serve in times of disaster

With regards to those affected in Oklahoma - they are currently not ready for most of us to come to their aid.

In fact, it may be several months before it is appropriate for us to respond in travel.

For the majority of us, prayers and offerings are what we can provide in both the short and long-term needs of the west and midwest over the next few years.

While it is featured in the media and fresh on our minds, donations toward a specific event do tend to spike within the first few weeks - however, the lasting effects of such disasters will need your prayers spread out over time.

With this in mind, start making the necessary plans to organize a rebuild team to go west in 2014-2015, etc.

### Bishop Bill McAlilly announces pilgrimage to the Holy Land February 17- 26, 2014

Jerusalem, the Holy City! Since the earliest days of Christianity, pilgrims have made their way to this place. In 2014, we will follow in the ancient and venerated footsteps of these faithful Christians.

As we travel together, we will worship and learn. We will visit sites where Jesus walked, where he taught and prayed. We will discover the images that he used to illustrate His parables. We will come closer to understanding Him as we gain understanding of world in which He conducted His ministry.

I hope many of you will accompany us on this spiritual pilgrimage. This will not be a commercial tour! This will be a true faith experience and I would consider it a privilege to have you with us.

Brochures, tour host information, and general information is available by contacting the following persons: Project Coordinator for the Tennessee Conference: Randall and Brenda Ganues, [rganues@gmail.com](mailto:rganues@gmail.com) or 615.804.5345. Project Coordinator for the Memphis Conference: Philip and Vida McClure, [vmcclure1227@att.net](mailto:vmcclure1227@att.net) or 270.653.3352



> SBC-21/CAAST Pre-Conference event f/D.-L. Noble (TNUMC.org for details), Jun. 8  
> 46th Annual Conference Session (Brentwood UMC, contact Tracey Karl), Jun. 10-12  
> REGISTER ONLINE FOR SUMMER CAMP TODAY! [www.TNUMCamps.org](http://www.TNUMCamps.org)  
> Holy Land Trip w/ Bishop Bill McAlilly, Feb. 17-26, 2014

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# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013

DR. JANET L. COVE  
GUEST PREACHER

DR. DERRICK-LEWIS NOBLE  
BIBLE STUDY LEADER

www.  
**TNAC2013**  
.com

The 2013 Tennessee Annual Conference will be held at the Nashville Marriott Hotel, Nashville, TN, Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 6:00 PM. The theme for this year is "Expecting God." Our guest preacher is Dr. Janet L. Cove, and our Bible Study leader is Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble. Our theme for this year is

Dr. Janet L. Cove, Executive Director at the Center for Global Theology, is an internationally recognized leader in church and ecumenical arenas and a scholar of global politics, particularly issues of religion and politics. She is known for facilitating constructive relationships among people of different faiths and for her work in racial justice.

Dr. Derrick-Lewis Noble, Crenshaw United Methodist (Los Angeles), preacher/pastor and motivational speaker, having recently been cited as one of the top 20 young preachers in the world (The African American Pulpit magazine). Dr. Noble will be our guest preacher and Dr. Noble will facilitate as Bible Study leader.

This will also be the first Annual Conference session with new Bishop William T. McAlilly presiding. Bishop McAlilly was appointed to the Nashville Episcopal Diocese during the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC in July 2012 and began his appointment on September 1, 2012.

At the 2012 TN Annual Conference session we recognized 200 years of Tennessee Methodism with a session celebrating its founding and most influential members over the course of its history from 1812 to date. This year we will be featuring GODSTORIES throughout Annual Conference as a celebration of what God has done and is doing in the lives of people in the Nashville Episcopal Area.

## Live news feeds beginning June 9, 2013



## Seventeen United Methodist-related colleges make 'green' list

When it comes to improving the quality of life by caring for the environment, United Methodist colleges are receiving high ratings and the growing respect of the "green" community.

The Princeton Review included 17 United Methodist related colleges in its recently released publication, *"The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2013 Edition."*

The Princeton Review, known for its education services that help students choose and get into colleges, has collaborated with the Center for Green Schools since 2010 to recognize colleges that make strong commitments to sustainability. Colleges are chosen for their environmental friendliness, as well as their educational offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation.

Robert Franek, Princeton Review Senior VP/Publisher noted that there is a rising interest among students in attending "green" colleges.

"Among 9,955 college applicants who participated in our 2013 'College Hopes and Worries Survey,' 62 percent said having information about a school's commitment to the environment would influence their decision to apply or attend the school," Franek said.

"Sustainability is on the minds of college and university students," said Melanie Overton, Assistant General Secretary for Schools, Colleges and Universities at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. "Many view the preservation of a clean and healthy planet as one of the key issues facing their generation."

Two U.M. colleges, American University and Green Mountain College, received the highest possible score (99) and were named to the 2013 "Green Rating Honor Roll."

American University believes "the American Dream is Green." The school, located in Washington, D.C. composts everything from paper towels and pizza boxes to make nutrient-rich soil.

They've added thermal energy panels to provide hot showers, set-up electric

vehicle charging stations, and reward green-teaching professors for adding sustainability content into the curriculum.

"Environmentally, we really want to do the right thing," said Chris O'Brien, director of the university's Office of Sustainability. "We want the default to be the green choice, not the brown choice. We want to make it so you won't have an opportunity not to do it."

Students at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vt. have been in the process of going green for the last 15 years. They've taken on the issue of sustainability in their curriculum, their operations and their facilities.

Many of the students work on the college's farm, which provides food for the dining room.

In addition, providing meaningful community service experiences are a top priority at Green Mountain.

All students do final projects that

focus on ecological/social problems and solutions.

Provost Bill Throop is a strong believer that sustainability education for the next generation can help prepare them for the environmental challenges ahead.

"Virtually all of our 20 majors offer important links to caring for the earth and serving our local community," Throop said. "We are delighted to have that work recognized by The Princeton Review."

Other United Methodist-related colleges recognized by The Princeton Review include: Albion College, Allegheny College, Boston University, Dickinson College, Drew University, Duke University, Emory University, High Point University, North Central College, Ohio Wesleyan University, Shenandoah University, Syracuse University, University of Denver, University of Mount Union, and University of Puget Sound.

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**50% Annual Conference Offering**

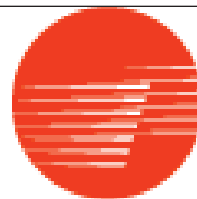
A new Conference has been born in the Democratic Republic of Congo as disciples grow day by day in the country. Our offering will go to assist in building the Episcopal Residence in Kindu, the base of the new Conference. Current estimate of needed funding is \$87,500 with the United Methodists of the East Congo Conference making and providing the bricks.

**50% Annual Conference Offering**

The Hunger offering will be divided equally among the seven Districts. In each District, The D.S. and District Hunger/Mission/Outreach Cmte. will determine distribution:

**Hunger Initiative:**

- Local hunger drive (40 days before Annual Conference)
- Tuesday of Annual Conference (Stop Hunger Now meal packaging and rice/beans awareness dinner)



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# Saying goodbye to the 'Reporter'

A UMNS Report  
By Heather Hahn

United Methodists across the United States are expressing a sense of loss and sharing memories at the news that UMR Communications, publisher of the United Methodist Reporter, will close May 31.



Staff of The United Methodist Reporter from the early 1990s gather outside the Dallas office for a group photo. Photos courtesy of The United Methodist Reporter

"The United Methodist Reporter will be missed by so many," said the Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. The weekly newspaper in 2012 named Hamilton as "United Methodist of the Year" for his leadership.

"I looked forward to its inspirational stories, its willingness to present both sides to difficult issues, and the ideas and insights it offered," Hamilton said.

After years of financial struggles, the board of UMR Communications unanimously voted May 16 to shutter the Dallas-based nonprofit, ending a publication that has been covering Methodism since 1847.

In addition to publishing a national United Methodist newspaper in print and digital formats, UMR Communications has provided printing and communication services to churches, annual (regional) conferences and other nonprofits.

The closure will cost the jobs of 26 employees, some of whom have worked with the ministry for more than four decades.

The closure also will affect 45 conference and church publications, which print with UMR Communications and integrate the Reporter's content with their own.

"Across Methodism, 'Reporter' is the epitome of a household name," said Kevin Sparkman, communications

coordinator for the Tennessee Conference, which published its newspaper with UMR Communications. He learned of the closing on the morning of May 16.

*"As a U.M. communicator, it will be strange to go about my daily business without referencing that term on an official level. The crew in Dallas was a pleasure to work with their expertise, professionalism and publications were an asset that the church will miss."*

Alan Heath, chief executive officer of UMR Communications since August 2011, said that based on responses he has received, he believes the Reporter will be remembered for providing "its readers with a connection to the larger church."

*"Now that it is passing in its current form, its legacy will be built,"* he said. "Often, we don't really see the value of a person or an institution or, in this case, an independent voice, until after it's gone."

At one time, the ministry published nearly 300 conference and church editions of the newspaper, Tom Palmer, the board chair, said in the Reporter.

Those editions have dwindled as more conferences and churches have opted to drop print and distribute information exclusively online as a less expensive and potentially "greener" alternative.

The 2008 economic crisis only accelerated that process, Palmer said. "We now no longer receive enough revenue from our publishing and printing oversaw the Reporter."

She later served on the board in the 1980s-90s, served as a sales representative and returned to the board in the early 2000s, eventually serving as chair.

*"As a young person and young writer starting out, it gave me a place to tell my story and others' stories,"* she said. "It was exciting for me as a journalism graduate to see this was something we had ... to help tell the story of The United Methodist Church."

The Rev. Connie L. Nelson, director of public affairs and alumni relations at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, said she

received her first copy of the newspaper's previous incarnation — Texas Methodist/United Methodist Reporter — as a conference youth leader in high school.

She later worked as a copy editor at the United Methodist Reporter in the early 1980s and eventually edited local editions of the newspaper.

*"Not only did the Reporter educate, it (also) energized: What I read week to week opened my eyes and challenged me to be part of this great story of United Methodism,"* she said. "It was the vehicle through which many in the denomination began to understand the larger connection; that we were all part of a global church engaged in proclaiming God's profound love around the world."

Retired Bishop Woodie W. White has written a column for the Reporter for nine years. Like many others, he praised the newspaper for helping to keep the United Methodist connection "connected."

*"The Reporter had become the weekly opportunity for so many to engage in conversation and to glimpse the connection beyond the reader's own hometown, congregation, and even world view,"* he said. "The fewer opportunities for shared experiences through shared information and dialogue, will make more possible distrust and isolationism. Additionally, it will increase the divide between laity and clergy as laity will be increasingly out of the information flow."

The Rev. Arthur McClanahan, director of communications in the Iowa Conference, said that with the ministry's end, his conference newspaper will need to be more intentional about drawing in stories of the church beyond Iowa.

*"Even with the evolution of a larger group of people who choose to read an electronic version of a 'paper,' we continue to have a significant readership that prefers holding a physical copy of Iowa United Methodist news and commentary and the stories of life in the connection beyond,"* said McClanahan, who also has served on the UMR Communications board.

The future of communications in the church will require a Pentecost spirit, he said. "On the day of Pentecost, each heard the story in a native language," he said. "Whether a digital native or a person who prefers holding paper, the Message is 'heard' when all 'hear' (and touch)."

\*Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for the United Methodist News Service

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## Bishop McAlilly announces pilgrimage to the Holy Land

*Trip scheduled for February 17-26, 2014*

Jerusalem, the Holy City! Since the earliest days of Christianity, pilgrims have made their way to this place. In 2014, we will follow in the ancient and venerated footsteps of these faithful Christians.

As we travel together, we will worship and learn. We will visit sites where Jesus walked, where he taught and prayed. We will discover the images that he used to illustrate His parables. We will come closer to understanding Him as we gain understanding of world in which He conducted His ministry.

I hope many of you will accompany us on this spiritual pilgrimage. This will not be a commercial tour! This will be a true faith experience and I would consider it a privilege to have you with us.

## Crawfish boil launches community market



The Forest Hills UMC Farmers Market announces Saturday, June 1, as the opening day of its fourth season. The Forest Hills UMC Farmers Market, located at 1250 Old Hickory Boulevard, will be open on Saturdays from 8:00 am until noon each week through September.

Fifteen vendors (to date) will participate in the weekly community event providing a diverse selection of fruits, vegetables, herbs and meats. Artisan breads, freshly baked muffins, delicious desserts, hearty summer soups, herbal lemonades and freshly brewed coffee will also be available.

Currently, the local farms who are participating are Delvin Farms, College Grove; Real Food Farms, Franklin; Howell Farms, Nashville; Blue Berry Ridge, Loretto; Pinewood Farms, Nunnally; Nature's Promise Farm, Chapsmanboro; The Fly Farm, Franklin and Womack Beef Farms, Pembroke.

Other vendors include: Fresh seafood and locally-grown meats by Wild & Local; Nashville; Freshly baked goods prepared by Anne's Cakes, Nashville - Papa

C's Pies and Bittasweet Cookies, both from Brentwood and Purebread Baking Company, Fairview; Herbal Lemonades, Summer Soups and locally roasted coffees served by Primm Springs. New to the market will be "Grab and Good" meals by Nutrisha using only the best organic and seasonal produce, along with artisan products, from the market.

The market will be at its usual spot under the 200 plus year-old Burr Oak tree in the church's yard. Jim Hughes, Minister, Forest Hills UMC, explains, "As with previous seasons, it is important that The Forest Hills UMC Farmers Market continues to be unique in that everyone who is involved again this year is giving back to the community. For example, our church supports all things local, so we do not charge our vendors to participate. Instead, growers are asked to donate portions of their fresh produce to Feed America First, a local hunger relief organization."

"To extend the idea of giving back to the community, a new group called 'Friends of the Market' is being developed for area residents" Leigh Ann Pettus, Market

Organizer stated. "However," she said, "the best way to support this community endeavor is for everyone to make sure the market is a part of his or her Saturday morning routine."

Crawfish Boil and other events to Help Celebrate Market Start New to the Forest Hills UMC Farmers Market this year will be live cooking demonstrations, tips on growing from area master gardeners and a fun new event to help the community celebrate the start of the season:

**What:** The Forest Hills UMC Crawfish Boil!

**When:** Saturday June 15, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Details:** Seafood provided by market vendor, Wild & Local - Local vegetables provided by market farmers - Delicious desserts provided by local bakers

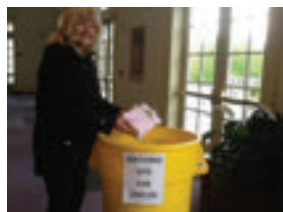
**Who:** All proceeds go to benefit the market.

**Info:** For more information about the Crawfish Boil or to purchase tickets online, please go to: [www.fhumcfarmersmarket.com](http://www.fhumcfarmersmarket.com) or call 615.373.3131

## Brentwood UMW organizes Birthing Kits drive

submitted by Jackie Shields, Connector contributor

The Methodist connection and technology provided the back drop for a recent mission event held at Brentwood UMC. The Brentwood United Methodist Women became aware of the emergent need for birthing kits for Haiti to be distributed by UMCOR,



the disaster relief arm of The United Methodist Church.

Maternal mortality rates are very high in Haiti with primitive and unclean

measures often used in childbirth to the detriment of both mother and child. The UMW members welcomed the opportunity to participate in providing for this need, particularly since it meets the missional goals of the UMW locally, nationally and globally.

These kinds of needs are communicated by the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church in various ways, beginning with their online presence and availability to the laity through email, along with communication they provide to our congregational staff and clergy members.

The goal was to assemble and complete 100 kits. Donations for the required 200 cotton receiving blankets and 100 bars of soap were requested of the congregation at large. UMW circle members provided the remaining needs that included string, razor blades, plastic sheeting, rubber gloves and Ziploc bags.

The date for assembling the kits was set for May 5 and included an open invitation to all in the congregation who cared to share and participate in the joyful experience of working together for our sisters in Haiti!

A few days before the meeting time, a chance conversation with Rev. Neelley Hicks of United Methodist Communications provided a connection to the name and contact information of a young woman, Valerie Mossman-Celestin, who has lived and worked in Haiti and co-founded Haitian Artisans for Peace International. HAPI is an approved Advance Special of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, Advance 3020490.

Further information about this empowering mission can be found at [www.haitianartisans.com](http://www.haitianartisans.com). Valerie is a deaconess in the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church and is the U. S. Executive Director of HAPI. This timely introduction proved to be one that provided a very human side to

the task at hand.

We emailed and chatted by phone with Valerie, with the request she might consider Skyping with us during the time we were gathered to assemble the kits. She graciously agreed.

Those who arrived to assemble the kits found over 280 blankets had been donated along with 500 bars of soap! So, the goal could clearly be met and exceeded, much to the delight of all present! We had 17 women who participated in the mission that Sunday afternoon.

Valerie's presence and words via Skype provided the very real human condition of maternal health care in Haiti. Her personal observations and stories, told with obvious love and passion for the mothers and children of Haiti, translated a ministry of task and relationship among ourselves to one that took us to another country, another culture and another people, loved by God as we are.

It was a powerful day for each of us and all of us collectively. We are in debt to Valerie for sharing her time and knowledge to move us to a different place and connect us to the missions and ministries of The United Methodist Church. She allowed us to see the importance of birthing kits and their use to improve the quality of health care for so many mothers in Haiti and around the world.



## Martin Methodist College picks two recipients of the Alford Church Leader Scholarship



Two new Alford Church Leader Scholars have been selected following a daylong competition conducted among 53 top high school seniors who visited campus on Saturday, Feb. 23, where they interviewed with a selection committee, wrote an essay, toured facilities and heard presentations from students and faculty about the college.

William (Webb) Booth III and Stephanie Black were named recipients of the full-cost scholarships presented to two church leaders from United Methodist congregations. The scholarships were established in 2001 and are named in memory of the Rev. Ben Alford, a 1956 alumnus of the college who became a beloved pastor of the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church and a longtime administrator at his alma mater. His son, David, a 1985 alumnus, is a member of the Martin Methodist dramatic arts faculty and is a cast member on the ABC-TV drama, "Nashville." The Alford scholarship provides room, board and tuition for four years, a package worth more than \$100,000.

Booth is a member of St. Bethlehem UM Church in Clarksville, Tenn., attends Rossview High School, has been an Ovation Youth Award winner in theater and is currently the lead singer for the Marked Worship Band and Remix Worship Band. He has been on the design team for the Tennessee Conference youth event, Warmth in Winter, and has coordinated worship at Empower, a leadership development camp.

Black is a member of Hillsboro United Methodist Church in Leipers Fork, Tenn., where she serves as president of the Hillsboro youth group and is on the pastor-parish relations committee. She attends Franklin Christian Academy, where she is active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, volleyball, and mentoring younger students.

They join 26 previous recipients over the past 13 years, including six currently enrolled at Martin Methodist College: Maggie Taylor from Edgehill UMC in Nashville, Tenn.;

Emily Lewis from Bell Buckle (Tenn.) UMC; Landon Dixon from Huskey Grove and First UMC in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Zach Moffat from Pegram (Tenn.) UMC; Autumn Dennis from Smyrna (Tenn.) First UMC; and Katherine Williams from Greenbrier (Tenn.) UMC. These students form the leadership core of religious life on Martin Methodist's campus, working with the Rev. Laura Kirkpatrick McMasters, college chaplain.

### FROM THE EDITORS

*With regards to the newsletter...*

The Office of Communications, Conference Council on Connectional Ministries Board, and the Extended Cabinet will be meeting after Annual Conference to discuss the future of print publications of the Tennessee Conference. Since the closure of UMR & the end of the *Reporter*, Conference Communications staff and laity have been considering alternatives of disseminating national UMC news and how to best format that information in a Conference-wide publication. Any feedback or suggestions will be considered at the post-Annual Conference meeting - thank you for sending your comments in to: [communications@tnumc.org](mailto:communications@tnumc.org)

### UMCOR

*continued from page 2A*

In addition, UMCOR provided 2 trainings for Emotional/Spiritual Care. Through relief supplies, case management, and rebuilding assistance, we were able to impact over five-thousand survivor families in Jesus' name. As we complete three-years of shedding blood, sweat, and tears - we know God gifted us with wonderful partners.

These efforts would not have been possible without God - period. We could not have done this work without the support of local churches and communities. We could not have done this work without our other disaster partners and foundations. We could not have done this without faithful disciples from across the country who gave their time and treasure.

We could not have done this without the help of UMCOR's support that came in multiple ways. UMCOR receives NO apportionments for their ministries or administration. 100 percent UMCOR receives NO apportionments for their ministries or administration.

One-hundred percent of their funds come from second mile giving. Up to 10 percent of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering each March can be used for Administration. One-hundred percent of gifts to support individual ministries (like U.S. Disaster Response #901670) go directly to support that ministry on the ground with disaster survivors.

We must tell the story and tell it well. So, what does UMCOR do? When United Methodists pray, give, and serve - lives and communities are restored and transformed forever.

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