

Connectional Ministries

Connectional Ministries Council Mike Rose, Chair

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

Long ago the prophet Isaiah wrote these words: *“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing, it now springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (43:18-19)*

The Connectional Ministries Council and its executive team has worked diligently to extend our Kansas West Conference vision stating that *‘As disciples of Jesus Christ, the Kansas West Conference calls God’s people to... INVITE through radical hospitality; EXCITE for intentional faith sharing; and UNITE in risk taking mission for the transformation of the world’*. In 2010, our focus to ‘EXCITE for intentional faith sharing’ seemed exceptionally appropriate as the Kansas West Conference considered what it means to be in faith sharing relationships. Below are a sampling of three ways that especially illustrate how God is calling us to be in faith sharing relationships.

- 1.) Fruitful Living. Bishop Robert Schanse, author of *‘Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations’* and *‘Five Practices of Fruitful Living’* which helped form the basis of our Kansas West Conference vision, spoke at the 2010 Annual Conference regarding the importance of Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity as we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A number of local churches in the Kansas West Conference have been reinvigorated as they have made these ideals a part of their congregational and personal ways of doing and being. My local congregation is excited by this study and are in the process of growing in intentional faith sharing.
- 2.) Chabadza! With the Zimbabwe East Conference. Bishop Ebon Niwatiwa from the Zimbabwe East Conference of the United Methodist Church invited the Kansas West Conference into a relationship of ‘chabadza’ with one another. Chabadza is a Zimbabwean term meaning as friends and neighbors we come alongside and work together growing in fellowship and the love of God in Jesus Christ with one another. The Kansas West Conference and Zimbabwe East Conferences have joined together in this covenant. A group from Kansas West was welcomed in Zimbabwe in a fashion that was invigorating and life changing for those who participated. United Methodists from America to Zimbabwe are praying for each other, and the Holy Spirit continues to connect us in remarkable ways. We look forward to exciting times ahead as we continue to share our faith through chabadza!
- 3.) ‘In Christ there is no east nor west, in Him no south or north’. We have also been invigorated by the possibility of seeing ministry of a Great Plains Annual Conference, as we look to the future sharing our faith in exciting ways with the Kansas East and Nebraska United Methodist Annual Conferences. The questions of what might ministry be like as we join together with our sisters and brothers not only around the globe, but also adjacent to us. We will begin sharing a common bishop in 2012...could it be that God is calling us to share more with one another? I tingle with the thought of what might be in this exciting time of intentional faith sharing!

Finally, as we look to the future together, whatever that future holds, I am pleased to announce that the Connectional Ministries Council has chosen to take a different course in the future. It is an exciting course that will ‘not consider the former things, for God is doing a new

1 thing'. We will begin to focus our efforts primarily on the needs of the local church and ways the
2 Annual Conference might more fully support the local church and her ministries as we make
3 disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. May God richly bless us as we do
4 this new thing together!

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7 **Board of Laity**
8 **Jill Foss, Conference Lay Leader**
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10 The Kansas West Conference Board of Laity warmly welcomes you to the 2011 Annual
11 Conference by providing radical hospitality, sharing our gifts, and providing a few snacks for
12 everyone!

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14 **Board of Laity Involvement**
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16 **Lay Ministries:** Each District conducts training for those interested in enhancing and/or
17 expanding their involvement in the church. We have worked to enhance Lay Ministry by
18 emphasizing a variety of Lay Leadership opportunities **in addition to Lay Speaking**. Dates and
19 times are announced by each District and are published conference-wide. District Lay Leaders
20 are usually involved with the planning and implementation of Lay Speaking Ministries as well as
21 other District-sponsored activities throughout the year. If a training opportunity takes place in
22 your District, we hope you will make it a priority to attend the event.

23 **Unleash the Laity:** On November 13, 2010 the KS East and KS West Boards of Laity
24 sponsored a training opportunity, "Unleash the Laity." While the target audience was local church
25 Lay Leaders, the content is suitable for all Laity Leadership and is available on DVD. Every
26 congregation is encouraged to pick up a free copy at the Board of Laity booth. Included on the
27 DVD are presentations discussing general church issues and how they relate to the local church,
28 the roles and responsibilities of lay leadership, conducting and participating in Christian
29 conferencing, our Bishop's expectations of the laity, and much more. Please obtain a copy for
30 your church and share it with your congregation!

31 **Clergy Spirit Lift:** We continue our quest to emphasize the welcoming of new Clergy
32 and welcoming back the Clergy who are serving in the same church or charge by submitting a
33 resolution to Annual Conference. We are excited to promote "Clergy Care" and lift up each and
34 every pastor in our conference. A list of ways to care for our Clergy is available. We want the
35 Kansas West Conference to be especially appealing to young pastors looking for employment
36 opportunities in fertile mission fields!

37 **Red Ribbon/Kansas Drug Free Campaign:** Our Board of Laity wants to challenge
38 everyone in our conference to be intentional about caring for the youth and those involved in drug
39 and alcohol abuse in our society. *The national Highway Traffic Safety Administration data shows*
40 *there were 13,470 deaths in 2006 involving auto and motorcycle drivers with blood alcohol levels*
41 *of .08 or higher, which is the legal limit for adults throughout the country.* And ... Kansas was one
42 of the states to have an increased number of alcohol related deaths. One way to help bring
43 awareness to the seriousness of alcohol abuse is by recognizing, in your church or community,
44 October 23-31, 2011 as Red Ribbon Week. **Please pick up FREE Red Ribbons for your**
45 **congregation at the Board of Laity booth.** These ribbons are provided to us from the Kansas
46 National Guard. Thank you for participating in this endeavor and keep praying for our youth and
47 society!

48 **Mission Ambassadors:** Our Board of Laity is willing to send out individuals to speak to
49 local congregations on how their giving changes lives and where the money goes beyond the
50 local church. We want every church to utilize this resource opportunity for a personal and
51 positive approach to Mission and Ministry giving. The message can be presented during a
52 worship service, administrative council meeting, etc. This endeavor enhances our
53 connectedness as a denomination.

54 **Faithfully Fit Forever:** Healthy living contributes to longer, happier, and healthier lives,
55 both physically and spiritually. This exercise opportunity leads the way through physical workouts

1 and scriptural devotions. We encourage you to take part in the training opportunity at this year's
2 Annual Conference, or at a future training posted on the KWS calendar, and become leaders of
3 the Faithfully Fit Forever program to make a healthy difference in the local church!

4 The KWC Board of Laity works in a variety of way to help lift up the laity in our Annual
5 Conference. We encourage clergy/lay partnership, support UMW, UMM, and CCYM, and strive
6 to strengthen the lay connection from the local church to the conference and to each other as we
7 make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. **Please consult the**
8 **conference web site for additional information on Lay Leadership and the Board of Laity at**
9 **www.kswestumc.org.**

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12 **Resolution to Recognize National Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, 2011**
13 **Board of Laity, Jill Foss, Lay Leader**
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15 **Explanation:** Red ribbon Week began in response to the death of Drug Enforcement Agent
16 Enrique Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers in 1985. Members of the national
17 Family Partnership and other nonprofit organizations began wearing red ribbons in memory of
18 Camarena's dedication and to encourage others to take a stand against drugs. This movement
19 has spread to all the states.
20

21 WHEREAS, the Kansas West Conference members are concerned for our youth and society and
22 recognize alcohol and other drug abuse as serious problems – noting that the National Highway
23 Traffic Safety Administration data shows there were 13,470 deaths in 2006 involving auto and
24 motorcycle drivers with blood alcohol levels of .08 or higher, which is the legal limit for adults.
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26 WHEREAS, our Kansas West Conference churches wish to express love and care for the well-
27 being of our youth and society through the Red Ribbon campaign.
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29 WHEREAS, we, the Kansas West Conference, can make a difference in the lives of our youth
30 and society by specifically recognizing and supporting the Red Ribbon campaign.
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32 THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Kansas West Conference churches shall recognize the Red
33 Ribbon campaign, including but not limited to Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, 2011.
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35 *Information and Red Ribbon resources are available from:*
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37 Kansas Family Partnership
38 2209 SW 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66611
39 785.266.6161 or 1.800.206.7231

40 Red ribbons may be obtained at the Board of Laity booth at Annual Conference. The National
41 Guard provides these ribbons for our conference at no cost.
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44 **Resolution To Celebrate Laity and Lay Speakers In the Local Church**
45 **Jill Foss, Lay Leader**
46 **Phyllis Stoppel, Director of Lay Speaking Ministries**
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48 Whereas, the Discipline provides for the observance of a Laity Sunday to celebrate the ministry of
49 all lay Christians on October 16, 2011.
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51 Whereas, Paul reminds us in I Corinthians 12 that "to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is
52 given for the common good." He also tells us that each person is a part of the body of Christ.
53 Knowing that all gifts and all parts of the body are important to make the Church whole, we
54 encourage all churches to celebrate all laity gifts and parts of the body on Laity Sunday.
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1 Whereas, the Kansas West Conference has 212 Certified Lay Speakers in the 2010 Annual
2 Conference Journal, as well as other Local Lay Speakers, we would encourage the recognition of
3 their gifts not only on Laity Sunday, but throughout the year with opportunities to participate in
4 worship services through liturgy or lay speaking. These Lay Speakers are committed to the
5 Scriptures, doctrine, heritage and organization of the United Methodist Church. They take
6 training at least every three years to keep their certification current. Many of them serve not only
7 their local church, but also the District and the Conference on committees and boards.
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9 Therefore, be it resolved that each local congregation actively participate in the recognition of the
10 Laity and Lay Speakers, especially on Laity Sunday, October 16, 2011, and with opportunities for
11 Lay Speakers throughout the year in their worship services, group studies, and other activities to
12 enable them to employ their gifts.
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15 **Resolution to Celebrate Clergy Appointments in the Local Church**
16 **Board of Laity, Jill Foss, Conference Lay Leader**
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18 **Explanation:** The Board of Laity wishes to life up the Clergy of our conference and ask each
19 local church to **actively** participate in welcoming new clergy or celebrating the return of their
20 current pastor.
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22 **WHEREAS**, in the United States 1500 clergy are leaving the ministry each month due to stress,
23 burnout, and variety of other reasons. (Information from Renewal Ministries, Arvada, CO) And
24 we, as Kansas West Conference United Methodist Churches, do not want to be a part of this
25 staggering statistic.
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Peter spoke to the elders of the church to “shepherd the flock of God”
28 (1 Peter 5:2-4) and “be examples to the flock in your charge.” We must care for our clergy, as
29 they are tending the flock. In I Thessalonians 5:12-13 Paul tell us “ ... that you appreciate those
30 who diligently labor among you and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,
31 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work ... “
32

33 **WHEREAS**, if our clergy attitudes are positive, a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and
34 outcomes throughout the laity will occur, and it will be an opportunity for extraordinary results for
35 God’s Kingdom.
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37 **WHEREAS**, if you do not care for the pastor appointed to your local church, rise above the
38 circumstance and know that with God all things are possible; even celebrating the Clergy
39 appointment!
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41 **THEREFORE**, be it resolved that Pastor Parish Relations or Staff-Parish Relations Committees
42 will organize a “Clergy Celebration” for welcoming the new or returning pastor to the
43 congregation. The months of July or October are recommended for this celebration, and we
44 encourage all churches to use the “20 Ways to Lift Up Clergy” (available at the Board of Laity
45 booth) throughout the year.
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