

Connectional Ministries Council Report

Paul Wilke, Chair

Living out the Vision

As we make disciples of Jesus Christ,
The Kansas West Conference calls God's people to...
INVITE through radical hospitality
EXCITE for intentional faith-sharing
UNITE in risk-taking mission
For the transformation of the world

The Connectional Council Staff and Executive Team completed the Incubator study under the leadership on our Director Dr. Linda Louderback. The Incubator work is one of the key initiatives of our Annual Conference in equipping pastors and leaders across our churches with leadership tools for the advancement of mission and ministry. Conference Associate Director Bev Weber has also advanced communications with a newsletter and on-line access to news and resources along with support to all of our teams and commissions. Please review the reports of each of our agencies and teams in celebration of the great work done this past year.

The Council faced the difficult responsibility of cutting %16 from the program operating budget for 2009 in light of the stressed economy. This resulted in a reduction of our approved budget from \$1,501,360 to \$1,211,888. We were able to protect our personnel, a part time position to help with Disaster Response, a reduced but substantial recommitment to our colleges, and strong support for our campus ministries and camps. The deepest cuts and hurt came in the reduction of funds for New Church Development to the tune of a \$105,000 cut. Our mission agencies also received less support even though the need is greater.

The budget request for 2010 is flat with our 2009 requested budget in response to the Conference Finance and Administration Team request, but will still likely face the same additional cuts next January when the approved budget is adjusted in response to 2010 revenue projections.

We give thanks for the great care our ministry teams and agencies use in the application of our Conference resources. Each area is intentional about the mission of our Conference and their parts in extending and supporting the mission of our churches and Conference. We also are grateful for the success of the Bridges to the Future Campaign which has so helped our Camps, our Campus Ministries, and given New Church Development additional resources.

As I complete my six year term, I am grateful for the wonderful ministries that continue across our Annual Conference. Often with little fanfare or recognition, faithful people work toward the transformation of the world with hope and determination. I am deeply appreciative of our Conference Staff and the many who consistently offer themselves in loving service.

Mission Coordinator Report Mike Rose

Greetings, in the Name of Christ!

Long ago, the Risen Christ said, “*Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*”

As Mission Coordinator for the KWC Connectional Ministries Council, it has been my honor to serve with many gifted, caring, and Spirit led people in this annual conference in 2008 that have endeavored to do just that. It has been a year in which we focused upon *our mission* and *our purpose* as the people of the Connectional Ministries Council and that mission is: “*to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*” And to accomplish this, our purpose is:

To Invite through Radical Hospitality;
To Excite through Intentional Faith Sharing; and
To Unite through Risk-Taking Mission;
For the transformation of the world.”

My colleagues on the Connectional Ministries Council are doing this in many inspiring ways, and as Mission Coordinator, I am ‘humbly-proud’ of the good work that the groups and agencies are doing in the areas of ‘Risk-Taking Mission’. Below are those Mission groups who have worked prayerfully and faithfully in carrying out our mission and purpose.

***Board of Global Ministries:** Relating to the General Board of Global Ministries, the KWC Board of Global Ministries has and continues to support and interpret the mission related needs for the KWC local churches and their communities, and offer opportunities that extend through out the KWC, nation, and world. The KWC Board of Global Ministries supports programs such as Western Kansas Mexican/American Ministries, GraceMed Health Clinic, Open Doors (formerly Urban Ministries), and other important mission related agencies. Advance Specials are part of the mission of Global Ministries that serve our mission initiatives regionally and internationally. On an international level, it is also considering a future connection with our United Methodist sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe (East), Africa.

***Congregational Growth and Development:** Under the leadership and direction of Rev. Jeff Gannon and Kansas Area Superintendent of New Church Starts Kent Melcher, the Congregational Growth and Development team has been busy building a strong foundation for future new church starts through a thorough discerning process for both potential leaders and potential new church start sites. They have also endeavored to assist with the present new and revitalizing congregations of Gracepoint, Brookside, and New Covenant. CG & D works with Hispanic Ministries leaders Sergio Tristan and Corey Godbey in the area of developing and supporting new Hispanic congregations.

***Volunteer-in-Mission (VIM):** The Kansas West Conference VIM program, under the direction of Rev. Martin Holler, often picks up where the Disaster Response teams leave off. After an initial disaster situation has been stabilized, VIM teams often go into those areas to aid in rebuilding and redeveloping homes and churches. In addition to this important task, VIM teams also go all over the world to help develop the underserved and help rebuild the lives of victims of hurricane, flood, fire, or wind. Literally dozens and dozens of VIM teams have participated both ‘around the corner and around the globe’ bringing the good news of Jesus to the hard pressed through their hands on ministry of mission.

1 *United Methodist Men: Under the direction of Loyd Hamrick, the Kansas West Conference United
2 Methodist Men has taken on the focus of the “Wesleyan Building Brothers” program, with the
3 intent of developing ‘spiritual fathers’ for leadership in the family, the local church, the annual
4 conference and the general church. UMM has worked diligently during 2008, holding WBB
5 workshops and training events throughout the Kansas West Conference.
6

7 *United Methodist Women: Under the direction of Betty Hodson, the Kansas West Conference of
8 the United Methodist Women has done much to uplift and train leaders in the local church and the
9 Kansas West Conference. UMW provides for a vast array of mission opportunities, including the
10 annual “School of Missions” that has been held on the campus of Kansas Wesleyan University and
11 University UMC for many years. UMW also sponsors the very successful MET Tour (Mission
12 Education Tour) in which teen aged girls take a two week summer bus trip to various parts of the
13 U.S. and tour the wide variety of mission agencies and activities of the United Methodist Church.
14

15 As Mission Coordinator for the Kansas West Conference, I am indeed humbled by the selfless
16 actions and activities of risk taking mission by so many in Kansas West who are called by God,
17 moved by the Holy Spirit, and see the eyes of Christ in those they serve. I envision those eyes
18 brighten as I hear the words. . . . **“for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave
19 me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and
20 you took care of me.”*

21 Thank you for supporting these ‘Risk Taking Missions’ by your prayers, your presence, your gifts,
22 your service, and your witness, and may God richly bless you as you are a blessing!

23 Grace and Peace,

24 Rev. Mike Rose, Mission Coordinator
25
26

27 **Disaster Response Committee**

28 **Sandy Hendrickson, KS West UMC Disaster Response Coordinator**

29 **Keith Fink, KS West Conference Disaster Response Committee, chairperson**
30

31 With the increase of tornado activity in our conference, the Disaster Response Committee has also
32 seen an increase of United Methodists ready and willing to respond as well as generous donations to
33 the Area Disaster Fund. Over 21,000 hours of disaster recovery were logged in by 1,482 Disaster
34 Response teams and individuals. Also the Area Disaster Fund has enabled us to bless many people
35 and families throughout the state by helping them on a case-by-case basis. Your donations are the
36 sole support for this fund.
37

38 We also have had to use the Rebuilding Churches Fund this last year, which is used solely to assist
39 local United Methodist churches whose ministries have been interrupted or buildings destroyed by
40 disaster. This past year this committee has helped 3 churches in our conference this year reestablish
41 their vital local ministry.
42

43 This committee together with the Kansas East Conference committee has developed and adopted
44 an “Area Disaster Response Plan”. This plan provides guidelines for our conference on how to
45 respond to the next disaster, that way our Conference can be pro-active in our ministry of helping
46 victim of disasters through out Kansas.
47

1 Other ways that the committee has expanded its mission of helping our neighbors in time of need is
2 to develop a strategy of preparedness. We have done that by doing the following: Each district in
3 our conference has a Disaster Response Coordinator prepared to respond to a disaster in their
4 district. Many Basic Disaster Response trainings took place in each district over the year allowing
5 responders to obtain a photo ID card to enter disaster areas and assist those in need. A new training,
6 Connecting Neighbors, has been developed by UMCOR and is now available in our conference to
7 help local churches to design and implement a disaster plan. The Hays District continues to train for
8 their specialized ministry of Daytime Companion Care for Dependant Adults during times of
9 disaster. Hutchinson District has a hot food trainer available to respond and serve at disaster sites.
10 Salina District maintains a liquids trainer that has provided water to disaster workers and survivors.
11 Wichita East District has a tool trailer with tools and equipment for securing and clearing debris
12 after the storm. Dodge City District is maintaining a travel trailer that has been used as sleeping
13 quarters for volunteers and Wichita East District is developing a trailer to be used as a base of
14 operations at a disaster site.
15
16

17 **Commission on Camping Ministries**
18 **Tom Schneider**

19
20 In the wide variety of experiences that are offered through Kansas West conference camping, the
21 work continues of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by
22 discovering spiritual gifts, developing leaders who offer radical hospitality, share their faith, and live
23 in mission. Conference camping leads people into lives that reach up to God, reach in to their
24 hearts and talents, and reach out to welcome and serve others. Camp Horizon, Camp Lakeside, and
25 Off-Site Camps (not held at Horizon or Lakeside), offer camping opportunities for children (3rd-6th
26 grades), youth (7th-12th grades), and adults (post high school). The budgets of Camp Horizon and
27 Camp Lakeside are developed by each site and are based upon the necessary financial support to
28 provide quality camping experiences. Financial support includes such items as on-site camp staff
29 support, camp events staff training, site staff support, publicity of camp sites and events, certified
30 health worker for each site, camper fee stabilization, office expenses and miscellaneous expenses.
31 The "Bridges to the Future" Capital Campaign has made possible the reduction of debt, and
32 upgrading of facilities. Camp Horizon: \$300,000 elimination of Debt, \$101,000 new sewer system
33 for the south end of camp and also good for a future building, \$25,000 for the new Cedar
34 bathrooms, \$7,000 for new windows in the north and south building. Camp Lakeside: \$200,000 new
35 waste water system, \$90,000 remodeled Lodge and Baker Cabin, \$70,000 new retaining wall, loading
36 dock, and parking lot.
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40 **Educational Ministries Team**
41 **Dianne Tombaugh, Chair**

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43 The Educational Ministries Team (EMT) continues to promote Christian education throughout the
44 annual conference. Specifically, the team addresses the preparation of leadership for ministries of
45 Christian education in local churches. It attempts to provide tools and training that will be of use to
46 persons in local churches and will fit in with the ministry goals of the annual conference.
47

1 Using the theme of faith-sharing the Team laid plans for an event in the spring of 2009. Jenny
2 Youngman, whose ministry includes music, work with you, and writing and editing curriculum, was
3 engaged as the Keynote Speaker. Workshop plans were made and leaders, both from the Team and
4 from persons with specific expertise, were secured. However, a family matter made it necessary for
5 Ms. Youngman to cancel her plans to be present.

6
7 The Team continues to work diligently, and has begun plans for the spring of 2010. Ms. Youngman
8 has agreed to come again. The event is scheduled for March 6, 2010 at Calvary United Methodist
9 Church and will feature Ms. Youngman's presentation and workshops on "Unwrapping God's Gifts
10 for All Generations".

11
12 The team longs to empower ministry that builds faith and hopes it can assist churches in providing
13 opportunities, through ministries of Christian education and formation, for Kansas United
14 Methodists to discover and prepare to engage in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the
15 transformation of the world.

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18 **UNITED METHODIST MEN**
19 **Loyd Hamrick, President**

20
21 As we entered into 2009 and a new decade for the United Methodist Men, the men in the Kansas
22 West Conference continue to make a difference in the local churches across the conference. We are
23 reminded in Ecclesiastes "that we are not here on earth to serve ourselves but to serve God and
24 others and a cord of three strands (GCUMM, Conference and Local Churches) is not quickly
25 broken."

26
27 We need to continue to be steadfast, affecting the lives of men across the conference and having a
28 closer relationship that will enable us to create the likeness of Christ and help men to come and
29 know Christ. We need to continue to take significant strides to unify clergy and laity. In developing
30 the relationships in our men's Ministry we have to increase the number of churches to charter. Hear
31 what is being said here, "it is believed that the church should hold the charter." Men in a church are
32 doing ministry whether it is singing in a choir, ushering, going on mission trips or whatever, so by
33 the church holding the charter this would include all men ministry in the church. Men's Ministry
34 must be outward and not inward – we need to go out and be invitational. Our Men's Ministry needs
35 to continue to be reaching out beyond the boundary lines of the districts in the conference.

36
37 The following are some exciting witnesses of the spiritual renewal of Men's Ministry across the
38 conference:

39
40 The Wesleyan Building Brothers continues to serve the local church by assisting them in
41 developing a leadership core of men who are pursuing God and capable of reproducing that
42 pursuit in the lives of other men within the church. The key in this process is establishing a
43 clear pathway with the church to lead men from spiritual immaturity to spiritual fatherhood,
44 developing leaders who can minister to others.

45
46 Men/Boys rallies continue to develop and grow in the Hays, Salina, and Hutchinson
47 Districts. These rallies, as they benefit the brothers who attend, also continue to provide
48 scholarships opportunities for students going to our Methodist colleges in the state.

49

1 The prison ministries continue to be strong influence across the conference and is making a
2 difference to those that are incarcerated.

3
4 The 10th National Gathering of UMM, that was held at Prudue, will be held in Nashville TN,
5 July 10-12, 2009, at Belmont University. The focus will be that of mentoring and will focus
6 on “God to Man – Man to Man and Man to Boy.” There will be a Kansas connection to this
7 gathering, in that, Rev. Kevass Harding will be one of the key note speakers. Dr. Harding is
8 pastor of the Dellrose UMC in Wichita. There will be other great featured speakers and
9 featured musicians, including Vince Gill. We are inviting all men of the conference to attend
10 and information can be obtained by calling Loyd Hamrick at (316) 267-6244 ext 109, or by
11 cell (316) 641-3526. You can also e-mail Loyd at loydh@firstwichita.org.

12
13 In July of 2011 the South Central Jurisdiction will hold it Men’s Gathering in Kansas City.
14 The Kansas East and West Conference UMM will host this conference. At this time there is
15 not a lot of information and the committee planning this conference has not been put
16 together. So there will be information coming soon. At this point just mark your calendars.

17
18 Launched in 2008 there was an initiative formed under the General Commission of UMM to
19 develop a Men’s Ministry Specialist program. This program would provide men specialist to
20 serve congregations by supporting clergy and lay leaders in ministry with men. As this
21 program developed, the GCUMM working with the United Methodist Board of Higher
22 Education, developed the curriculum that the men must complete before receiving
23 certification as a specialist in the UMC. The program is a response to the shortage of
24 qualified leadership in men’s ministry and the leadership emphasis of the church’s four areas
25 of focus. These specialist will motivate, inspire and serve as coaches for the conference and
26 districts to connect with local churches and connect to the GCUMM. On March 8, 2009
27 seven men, the first class, of Men’s Ministry Specialist, were commissioned during the
28 meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents in Nashville, TN – to provide
29 information and resources to help congregations develop ministries for men. One of those
30 men commissioned was George Houle of Calvary UMC in Wichita.

31
32 So as we move forward, we need to heed His calling and develop a relationship with God and with
33 each other as we continue to reflect the theme of UMM: “To offer ministry **TO** men for a ministry
34 **THROUGH** men.” Grace and Peace to all men of the Kansas West Conference.
35
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Kansas Area Resource Center (KARC)

The Kansas Area Resource Center, located at the Kansas West Conference office building, exists to provide visual media for use in local churches as they seek to carry out the mission of the church of making disciples for Jesus Christ. The resource center is funded through Mission & Ministry support, membership fees paid by local churches and usage fees paid by non-member churches. Membership fees are based on average worship attendance and range from \$40 to \$240 a year. We continually upgrade the collection by ordering visual media that supports the vision of the conference, therefore providing new and cutting edge materials for small group ministries in our conference churches.

Resources can be accessed by calling KARC, sending an email to karc@kswestumc.org or utilizing the online catalog available at www.kswestumc.org and clicking on the “resources” tab.

All resources at the center have public performance rights; therefore churches that use them do not have to be concerned about violating copyright laws. The center provides free consultation, the online searchable catalog, delivery to the address of choice and a convenient mailing pouch to return resources and a drop box for after-hour returns.

Kansas Area Health and Wellness Committee Pam Harris and Susan Harvey

“Spiritually alive and growing”—our vision for our people and churches, those with a mission to invite, nurture, equip, and send forth disciples of Jesus Christ. In recognition that we will only be able to attain those goals through being as healthy as possible in body, mind, spirit, and relationships, the Kansas East and West Conferences voted at Annual Conferences in 2008 to establish a permanent area-wide Health and Wellness Committee. The new committee has been meeting quarterly to implement the resolutions calling for its existence:

- To encourage self care by clergy and lay members of the churches
- To promote and develop church and institutional programs to build health and wellness knowledge, skills, and practice
- To assist in developing partnerships with church institutions, agencies, businesses, health care providers, schools and other community resources to promoted health
- To increase communication concerning health—spiritual, physical, mental/emotional, and social
- To assist Kansas United Methodist churches, districts, conferences, and agencies in development of policies and activities which support and model health
- And to network United Methodists who are active in those issues for additional training and support.

Members of the committee for 2009:

Kansas East
Pam Harris, Co-Chair
Piet Knetsch, Secretary
Janie Van Wallegem

Kansas West
Susan Harvey, Co-Chair
Cheri Baer
Bob Cox

1	Ken Parker	Schaunta James-Boyd
2	Helen Stuckey Risdon	Kim Moore
3	John McCabe	Pat Kissick
4	Gary Beach	Linda Louderback
5	Carol Fusaro	Debbie Maltbie

6

7 The committee has established subcommittees to guide our efforts:

- 8 • Clergy health focus: promoting or developing programs to address clergy needs for health in
9 realms of physical, mental, and spiritual health
- 10 • Communication and education: developing materials in multiple formats to meet the needs
11 of our people and churches for health information and programming, emphasizing creation
12 of innovative materials
- 13 • Health support services, referral network, networking partners: incorporating health events
14 into the structure of the United Methodist church's events, identifying reliable health
15 information in the public sector, and connecting agencies and partners for collaborative
16 projects
- 17 • Health programs, models, and activities: identifying best practices and existing programs for
18 congregations desiring to begin or expand health ministries

19 Watch for new resource listings on the conference web page, monthly articles for health and
20 wellness, and an East vs. West walking challenge. If you have questions or ideas for the committee,
21 please contact any of the members. Here's to your health!

22

23

24 **The Kansas West Conference Hunger Committee** 25 **Harlan Rittgers, Convener**

26

27 Our Committee had a dream to feed hungry children and families in Kansas and Haiti. We are
28 pleased that in 2008 some 78 churches in the Kansas West Conference gave \$32,737.95 to help
29 alleviate hunger through the ONE FIELD - ONE ROUND PROJECT, the Hunger Sunday
30 Offering and the UNMeal at last year's Annual Conference registration. That represents an added
31 25 churches and \$7,000 more over the year before. But there are 297 churches that haven't
32 responded to the tremendous need. The \$300 goal per church seemed a reasonable one (less than
33 \$1 a day for a whole congregation)!

34

35 The money went to support 3 good programs: the Food Ministry at OPEN DOOR MINISTRIES
36 in Wichita and at MEXICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES in Western Kansas as well as the HOT
37 LUNCH PROGRAM in Haiti. We were able to help many hungry people - mostly women and
38 children.

39

40 But many more need our help. Because of the hard times right now, there are more and more
41 people who are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Perhaps, you are too. Yet Christians are
42 called to GIVE rather than just receive!

43

44 What if ALL 375 local churches would give to the cause. Would you be willing to give up a coke or
45 two, a latte or even a meal, if it meant helping another boy or girl have a hot lunch (which is the only
46 hot meal of the day for many school children in Haiti)? We hope many will join us in this effort to
47 reach out to those in need in the name of Jesus. Nothing is impossible with God!

48

1 We heard a story about a nun who wanted to build a convent. She had about 12 cents in her pocket.
2 One day someone said to her, "You'll never build that convent with just 12 cents." She replied,
3 "No, but 12 cents and God will." Do the churches of the Kansas West Conference have that kind
4 of faith? If 78 churches can give over \$32,000, then 3 1/2 times that can give 3 1/2 times that
5 amount, right? YOU CAN be a part of this! Think about it! Will we realize our dream? We CAN--
6 as individuals, as local congregations, as Districts-- if we put our faith in the hands of God! Thanks
7 to those who have given on behalf of the hungry last year. May God's blessing continue to be with
8 us all as we live out our faith.
9
10