

IN MISSION & MINISTRY

United Methodists at Work Developing Disciples



Mullinville United Methodist Church, east of Dodge City, is experiencing a renewed energy thanks to the work of Rev. Carl Ellis and the Center for Small Membership Churches. The center is a partnership between the Kansas West Conference and Kansas Wesleyan University. Conference funding for the center comes from mission and ministry funds and the Bridges to the Future capital campaign.

“Basically, what we do is we come and work with a church in understanding the culture,” Ellis said. “We then turn conversations around. What is it they would like to see in their church? What would they need to do in the next few years to become more effective?”

Ellis has been working with Mullinville for about a year on a visioning process that has led to a renewed enthusiasm for working together as a community of faith.

“Since Carl came, several things have changed here in the church,” said Brad Zimmerman, a member of the church. “He has brought an awareness of where we are going, where we need to go, and most of all, he’s shown us where we are.”

Thinking Forward for Small Churches



Pastor Scott Rose said working with Ellis has helped the church move beyond past tensions and begin to see a hopeful future.

“I think Carl’s workshops have helped people realize that we can’t continue to focus on the past,” Rose said. “We have to work through some things, but we also need to start focusing on the future—who we are and the future God has for us as a church.”

Church member Hannah Headrick said the congregation has a more positive attitude and a good spirit.

“In the past, we were kinda headed down two different roads; now we’re coming together, I feel, as a more unified, Christ-centered church,” Headrick said.

It also has given the church permission to think of new ways to do things, Rose said. Instead of relying on the methods they’ve used in the past, congregation members are beginning to look for new ways of doing ministry.

“I think it’s important because it shows us that we can do things differently,” he said. “It shows us that other people have gifts that will be valuable, and we need to listen to new and different ideas to help us grow. I think that’s a message that needs to be brought to every church.”

United Methodists at Work ...

Partial funding for the Center for Small Membership Churches comes from the conference’s mission and ministry funds. Additional funding comes from the Bridges to the Future capital campaign.

Learn More About ...

The Center for Small Membership Churches at www.kswestumc.org/smallchurchcenter

Small Churches Find Vitality



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Your congregation’s support of the conference mission and ministry funds and Bridges to the Future makes the work Ellis does with small congregations like Mullinville possible. ■