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# Instant Connection

California-Nevada Annual Conference



January 28, 2010

## Living out Our Faith in California-Nevada

What are congregations in the California-Nevada region of The United Methodist Church doing to live out their faith?

How are they:

- Fighting diseases of poverty?
- Engaging in ministry with the poor?
- Creating new places for new people, and renewing their vitality?
- Developing principled leaders?

Our Church says we need to focus our efforts on those areas - and Cal-Nevada congregations are doing so.

Watch the Home Page for stories of *how* we're "Living out Our Faith in California-Nevada."

We'll have a special section for this feature in the coming weeks, but for now, click on "[Living out Our Faith in California-Nevada](#)" under "What's New," in the lower right quadrant of the Home Page at [cnumc.org](http://cnumc.org).

## California-Nevada Health Kits for Haiti Are Safely Escorted to Salt Lake City



A small band of volunteers braved the elements to deliver a shipment of health kits, assembled for Haiti by California-Nevada churches, to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) depot in Salt Lake City, this week.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Director Phil Bandy and two others trucked the shipment 665 miles from Woodland, California across the snowy Sierra-Nevada Mountains to UMCOR West.

Woodland UMC was the collection point, over the weekend, for health and layette kits and raw materials gathered by churches – and two members of the congregation there accompanied the shipment, alongside Bandy.

One of them, 59-year-old Dave Shoemaker, is homeless. He sought out an opportunity to be of service soon after he began worshipping at Woodland.

"My interest was in helping, [even] before Haiti happened," he says.

Shoemaker identifies himself as a non-denominational Christian, and Woodland UMC is right up the street from the shelter where he's currently staying. When he lands in a new place he looks for "the quickest place I can find to volunteer and be with good people," Shoemaker says, adding, "Survival on the street can be a civilian combat zone."

**Watch 1 min. 54 sec. video:** [California-Nevada Churches Send Health Kits to Haiti](#)

**Watch 3 min. 38 sec. video:** [Homeless Member of Woodland Congregation Volunteers](#)

They are featured videos this week on [Reel Witness](#), the video library on the website of the California-Nevada Annual Conference at [cnumc.org](#). (Link to Reel Witness under "Quick Links" on the left side of the Home Page.)

### **Support African Children's Choir - Fill Sanctuary at FUMC Sacramento**

The African Children's Choir will perform at First United Methodist Church of Sacramento next Wednesday evening, February 3 (at 7 p.m.), as part of a nationwide tour. There is no charge to attend the concert – but a love offering is requested.

Please – help fill the sanctuary, in support of these children.

First UMC is located at the corner of 21st and J Streets in Sacramento. Enter the sanctuary through the 21<sup>st</sup> Street entrance.

For more information call the church at 916.446.5025 or visit [www.firstumcsac.org](http://www.firstumcsac.org).

Download brochure (in PDF format) to learn more about the African Children's Choir, or visit [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com).

### **'Holy Spirit, Lead Us' Is Theme of Clergy-Diaconal Women Retreat**

The Clergy-Diaconal Women in Ministry Association invites you attend a 24-hour retreat February 8-9 (from lunch on Monday to lunch on Tuesday), at the Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo, California.

"We will create within and with one another a sacred space for the Holy Spirit to lead us, supported by a beautiful setting with labyrinth, meditation gardens, beds with linens, and meals supplied with grace," organizers say. "We look forward to retreating with you, empowered by the Spirit's presence and leading."

Attendees will consider decisions within the association's covenant, made nearly 20 years ago – including the future of the organization, whether and how to move forward, and whether to continue the association's Annual Conference Session luncheon.

"We will consider these decisions within our association's covenant, that we are women in ministry who commit to be in relationship with one another, discovering the integral kingdom of God," according to retreat leaders.

The association is applying for 1 CEU for the event.

Cost of the retreat will range from free to \$50, payable by check at the retreat. Full and partial scholarships will be available by request during on-site registration.

The retreat is for current members of the association, but you may join during on-site registration. Much of the cost of the retreat will be financed by membership dues.

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 3. \$50 cancellation fee.

Download [registration form](#) here. Complete and email to [patriciaparfett@laumc.org](mailto:patriciaparfett@laumc.org) – or phone Debbie Weatherspoon or Patricia Parfett at the Los Altos United Methodist Church, 650.948.1083.

### **Download Contemporary Ash Wednesday Service**

A Contemporary Service for Ash Wednesday is available to download from GBOD, for use on Ash Wednesday, February 17.

Access this free download at:

[http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item\\_id=48456](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48456)

### **Health Care Reform Workshop Scheduled for February 20**

You are invited to explore the current National Health Care Reform package, what gaps exist, and why a single payer program for the state of California may still be necessary – at a February 20 workshop at Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Rocklin.

The Saturday morning (10 a.m. to noon) workshop will feature Elizabeth Sholes, Director of Public Policy at California Council of Churches and California Church IMPACT, and Cindy Young, Chair of the California Education Coalition for Health Care Reform and Senior Health Care Advisor for CSEA.

Participants will receive a Tool Kit on health care issues supplied by the California Council of Churches.

The workshop is FREE and sponsored by the California-Nevada Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA).

Please register in advance, by contacting Jean Reynolds at 510.235.2988 or [sweet-heart05@mac.com](mailto:sweet-heart05@mac.com).

Cornerstone UMC is located at 4495 Granite Drive, Rocklin, CA 95677.

Download [flyer](#) here.

### **Alternative Spring Break for Youth, Young Adults**

Are you exploring the possibilities of a meaningful alternative spring break – filled with service, fun, faith, and learning – for your campus ministry group or high school youth group? Sierra Service Project will host three Alternative Spring Break sessions at its South Los Angeles site (one college session and two high school sessions).

Volunteers will stay at the Vermont Square United Methodist Church. Work will include renovation of a church community center to make it usable as a school, plus other repair projects. Participants also will have the opportunity to visit several social service organizations and learn about the history of this diverse city.

Three sessions will take place this spring:

March 14-19, 2010: Campus groups and college-age individuals

March 22-27, 2010: High school youth groups

March 31-April 6, 2010: High school youth groups

Visit the [Sierra Service Project website](http://SierraServiceProject.org) for more information. Please call the office, 916.488.6441, or email [director@sierraserviceproject.org](mailto:director@sierraserviceproject.org), to discuss participating in one of these weeks.

### **Honduras Service: Learning Opportunity for Youth, Young Adults**

Sierra Service Project (SSP) will send four teams of young people, motivated to put their faith into action, to build homes in Honduras this summer. Participants will have the opportunity to be immersed in the culture and life of one of the poorest countries in the Americas. Volunteers will work alongside Hondurans to build two simple, but safe and dry homes.

In 2010, SSP will send volunteers June 23-July 7 and July 14-28. There will be two groups in-country during each of these sessions. One of the July 14th sessions is available for college credit from Northern Arizona University.

Participants must register as individuals and must be mature high school juniors or seniors, or college-age young adults. The cost is only \$1,800! Visit the [Sierra Service Project website](http://SierraServiceProject.org) for more details and registration information.

### **N-S District Invites You to 'Five Practices' Workshop in March**

Sign up now for the Nevada-Sierra District Leadership Training Day, Saturday, March 6 at South Reno United Methodist Church in Reno, Nevada. Bishop Robert Schnase will lead a **Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Workshop**, based on his book by the same name. The event is open to **all** who are interested and carries .5 Clergy CEU credits (Spiritual Formation, Disciple Making, or Professional Competency) and Lay Speaker Refresher Course credit.

Download [updated flyer/registration form](#) (in PDF format) here.

Return registration form with \$20 today, to guarantee your spot! (\$25 after January 31.) Make checks payable to NS District, P.O. Box 2915, Reno, NV 89505.

Call 775.786.2332 for more information.

### **Small Church Leadership Institute Is March 8-12 Sign up Now for Early Bird Discount**

It's time to register for the upcoming Small Church Leadership Institute, March 8-12 at Mount Sequoyah Conference Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Space is limited – so register today! You'll also save money: An Early Bird discount is offered until February 15.

- Are you frustrated that your church is stuck at 25, 50, or 100 on Sundays? Are you saddened that your worship attendance is slowly declining each year? Does your heart break to see a bus load of school children drive past your building each weekday, but your children's department is empty on Sunday?

- Or are you excited that your church has recently experienced growth, new households are attending, and the congregation is filled with new energy and new life?
- And don't you dream of the day when every one of our United Methodist churches is alive, vibrant, and filled beyond capacity with people praising and worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ every Sunday?

Then this event is just for you! The Small Church Leadership Institute is designed to equip laity and pastors with the knowledge and skills to lead their small attendance churches to higher levels of health and vitality.

Through the generous financial support of five Annual Conferences (Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas East, Kansas West, and Arkansas) and the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, the Small Church Leadership Institute is able to attract the best authorities on small church transformation in the country: Alice Mann, Dr. Tim Reaves, and Dr. Doug Anderson (The Race to Reach Out).

Alice Mann, Senior Consultant with the Alban Institute and author of several books, including *Can Our Church Live?*, *Redeveloping Congregations in Decline*, and *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, will be the opening keynote speaker at this year's Small Church Leadership Institute.

Sign up today!

Download [flyer](#) here.

For more details call 800.760.8126 or email [programs@mountsequoyah.org](mailto:programs@mountsequoyah.org).

### **Do You Have Intergenerational Programs Scheduled in 2010?**

The Older Adult Ministry Council (OAMC) recently mailed a booklet, titled *Listening to Legacies*, to all United Methodist churches in the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

"Listening to Legacies" involves older adults and middle school-aged children in a two-session program in which the students learn to interview, and the older adults tell some of their life stories. Both age groups find delight in this interaction, which works best one-on-one.

The two-session program is intended to engage different generations in talking and sharing with one another. Please look for that booklet and consider implementing the "Listening to Legacies" program.

To learn more about the OAMC, visit its web page: Go to [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org), rest your cursor on "Ministries" on the toolbar, and then click on "[Older Adult Ministry](#)."

Click on the link at the bottom of the page to download a copy of the OAMC's latest newsletter. Also on the page, you'll find a description of Best Practices, and ways to get an older adult ministry going at your church.

You're encouraged to submit information about programs or services offered for older adults in your congregation, too. Email it to [susan.harlan@pacbell.net](mailto:susan.harlan@pacbell.net).

### **Please Send Nominations for 2010 Talbert Award**

Individuals and churches are invited to submit a one-page letter regarding their nominees for this year's Bishop Melvin Talbert Award for Racial Justice.

The California-Nevada Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race makes this award annually to a person within the conference who best exemplifies a proactive stance in addressing, and working toward dismantling, racism in the church and society.

Send nominations by April 1, 2010 to:

Dr. Jeffrey Kuan,  
Chair, CORR  
Pacific School of Religion  
1798 Scenic Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94709

Email: [kjkuan@psr.edu](mailto:kjkuan@psr.edu)

### **Worship Leader for 2012 General Conference Still Sought**

The United Methodist Church General Conference is still looking for the right person to serve as Worship and Music Director for the 2012 General Conference, April 24-May 4, 2012. The deadline for applicants is February 1, 2010.

Address questions to Alan Morrison, Business Manager of General Conference, at 615.369.2350 or [amorison@gcfa.org](mailto:amorison@gcfa.org). Look in the Classifieds section on the Conference website for [position description and instructions](#) for applying.

### **UM Congregations Invited to Stephen Ministry Workshop in Carmichael**

United Methodist congregations in the California-Nevada Annual Conference are invited to a Stephen Ministry workshop, hosted by Carmichael Presbyterian Church, on Saturday, March 6 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

It will be an excellent opportunity for church leaders and other members to learn about the Stephen Series, a ministry system that equips and mobilizes laypeople for effective caring ministry.

### **Join More than 10,000 Congregations in Providing Care**

Are there hurting people in your church or community whose needs are going unmet? Can you imagine the difference it would make to have 10 or 20 lay caregivers in your church who are well trained and ready to respond to people in need? More than 10,000 churches have learned an effective, proven strategy for equipping laypeople to provide high quality, distinctively Christian care.

### **Practical Ministry Skills**

At the workshop, you'll experience a sample of the training Stephen Ministers (lay caregivers) receive, and take home practical knowledge and skills on "Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief" and "How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way." You'll also learn why churches from more than

150 different Christian denominations use the Stephen Series for training and organizing lay-people for one-to-one caring ministry.

### **A Highly Affordable Workshop**

The cost of the workshop is \$15 per person, or \$50 for a group of four or more from the same congregation.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. on March 6, and refreshments will be served.

For more information or to sign up for the Stephen Ministry Workshop, call Stephen Ministries at 314.428.2600 or register online at [www.stephenministry.org/workshop](http://www.stephenministry.org/workshop).

Download [printable flyer](#) (in PDF format) for more information.

### **Summer Camp Registration Information, District Newsletters Now on Line**

Summer Camp information for 2010 has been uploaded to the [Youth and Camping Ministries](#) site on the California-Nevada Annual Conference website at [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org).

You'll find a link to the site under "Quick Links" on the left side of the Home Page. Click on "Camping" on the landing page to access:

- Online camp registration
- Online volunteer registration
- Camp forms
- Scholarship information
- Brochures
- Maps
- Everything else you need to know!

### **District Newsletters**

The first newsletters for 2010 from the Delta, Nevada-Sierra, and San Jose Districts have been uploaded to the "District News" site, located under "News" on the green navigation bar near the top of the Home Page at [cnumc.org](http://cnumc.org).

Visit [District News](#) often for the latest newsletters and other information from the districts.

### **Submit Instant Connection Stories - Instantly!**

Do you have information that you want to submit for the *Instant Connection*? There's no need to email – you can get it to us instantly by completing a simple online form.

There's no need to spend time composing, either: All you have to do is to fill in the blanks with some basic information, and we'll take it from there!

To access the form, look under "Resources" on the green navigation bar near the top of the Home Page and click on [Instant Connection Submittal Form](#). Again, all you have to do is fill in some blanks and hit "Done" to submit electronically. It's just that simple.

If you have photos (please!) or a flyer to go with your story, email those items to [catem@calnevumc.org](mailto:catem@calnevumc.org) or [janeh@calnevumc.org](mailto:janeh@calnevumc.org), with a subject line or message "for \_\_\_ story, submitted on line" (or words to that effect).

The deadline to submit items is 5 p.m. on Tuesday for the week of publication.

### **Subscribe to receive Instant Connection emails**

If you don't receive the *Instant Connection* electronic newsletter that is emailed weekly, we invite you to subscribe:

Click on [Get Instant Connection](#) under "Quick Links" on the left side of the Home Page at [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org).

Pastors, please encourage members of your congregation to sign up – to stay informed and engaged in the United Methodist connection, here in the California-Nevada Annual Conference!

### **Complete Haiti News and Resources**

Visit [www.umc.org/haiti](http://www.umc.org/haiti) for all of the most up-to-date national and conference-wide news, blogs, and video and audio stories from within the United Methodist Church. In addition, customizable print ads, web graphics, and other resources are available there for downloading.

Access GBOD's Current but Still Growing List of Worship and Music Resources for Haiti Earthquake at

[http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?loc\\_id=739,1112,1198&act=nav\\_loc](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?loc_id=739,1112,1198&act=nav_loc)

### **Read These UMNS Stories:**

[We Were Spared to Help, Haiti Volunteers Believe](#)

[Worshippers Remember Haiti in Prayer, Song, Gifts](#)

[Hope in God Supplants Grief in Haitian Congregation](#)

[United Methodist Music Video Gives Hope to Haitians](#)

**The Instant Connection is published each week by Jane Horstman on behalf of Cate Monaghan, Interim Director of Communications for the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.**

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