

**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN . . . . .**

The 2024 session of the Missouri Annual Conference of the UMC concluded Sunday afternoon, June 9<sup>th</sup>, in St. Charles. Randy and Missy Heilman (and dog, Lindy) accompanied Donna and me to the 3-day conference entitled "Share the Love of God for All".

In his plenary remarks on Friday morning, Bishop Bob Farr spent some time unpacking what happened at General Conference. The bishop set the tone for the entire conference reminding us that we all have different gifts because of God's generosity. He said, "We've had a huge disagreement over whether we can have different gifts, and we've settled it. Hear this: you belong here. Do you hear me? We belong here. I don't care what part of the state you're from or your theology; you belong here."

We like our numbers in the United Methodist Church, so here are few from this year's conference, with last year's numbers in parentheses:

- **3** individuals were ordained as Full Elder (8);
- **1** individual was ordained as Full Deacon (3);
- **4** individuals were commissioned into ministry as Provisional Elder (8);
- **2** individuals were commissioned into ministry as Provisional Deacon (1);
- **3** Certified Lay Ministers were recognized (not recognized previously);
- **6** Certified Pulpit Supply were recognized (not recognized previously);
- **4** Course of Study graduates were honored (5);
- **13** Licensing School graduates—Licensed Local Pastors—were recognized (16);
- **29** [clergy members entered into retirement](#) (32).

One thing these numbers show is that laity and second career non-ordained men and women are outnumbering the ordained elders and deacons who are becoming pastors/preachers in Missouri UMCs; by these 2024 numbers, that ratio is 27 to 10. What it also shows is that, overall, there were fewer entering the ministry this year

than last, 27 to 41 (although lay ministers and pulpit supply were not in those numbers).

The financial viability of the Missouri Annual Conference is also good with net assets of about \$10.7 million. After a 16% budget decrease last year, the 2025 budget was decreased by about 2.5% which will be passed along to the local church in the way of decreased apportionments.

All in all, the tenor of this year's Annual Conference was very good. My vibe coming away from this session is that the UMC—especially in Missouri—is now leaner, able to adapt more quickly to a changing world, and is much more inclusive and broader minded than only four years ago when I entered this conference. (Oh, by the way, I am now a bona fide member of the Missouri Annual Conference, having been affirmed at this year's clergy session. Yippee!)

I urge you to find out more about this year's annual conference by reading the latest Missouri Methodists Magazine (<https://www.moumethodist.org/magazine>), or by going to <https://www.moumethodist.org/annualconference>. Both provided excellent coverage of this year's conference. We will be discussing these items and more at the upcoming PUMC Council meeting after worship on Sunday, July 14. You are welcome to attend.

Blessings on your heads! Pastor Rob

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Please join us for Sunday School at 9:45 Sundays. We are finishing the last two chapters on a Max Lucado book on the Holy Spirit. We will be starting a new book that is easy to join in even if you haven't been there for a week or two! It's titled, "When You're a Christian, the Whole World is from Missouri: Living a life of Faith in a "Show Me" State" and it's by James W. Moore. Just let me know if you would like to join us! - Angie

**PARADISE RUBIES**

Rubies will try to gather some of us to meet over Ice Cream in Paradise this month, just for fun. Pastor Rob is asking that we assist with the Camden event so currently that is what the event is for August.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

The council will meet on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the worship service. Please let Shay or Missy know of agenda items by the evening of Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **JULY POTLUCK**

The next Potluck luncheon is Sunday, July 28th! Bring a dish and come join the fun right after church!

## **JAM SESSION**

Join us on Wednesday, July 31 for a Jam session and games. Bring a snack if you'd like and come on out and invite your friends to join us. You can sing along, listen, play your instrument (all skill levels encouraged!) or bring a game and enjoy!

## **A TURNING POINT**

Join us for an inspirational and fun mission morning on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at A Turning Point as we help with the Food Pantry and with school supplies in preparation for back-to-school backpacks. The signup sheet is at church.

This nonprofit's mission is to transform lives by empowering people to self-sufficiency (Google A Turning Point KC to learn more).

ADDRESS: 1900 NE Englewood Road  
Gladstone, MO 64118

DATE: July 20, 2024

TIME: 8:00 to 10:00 or 10:30

If you need a ride, please note that on the signup sheet so we can arrange it.

## **OUTREACH/MISSIONS**

### **June Collections:**

Box cereal for Smithville Food Pantry 75 boxes

UMCOR for pink can/monetary \$158

Plattsburg pantry \$50

Trimble Pantry - \$200 + 16 dozen organic eggs were rescued from Costco by A Turning Point and Bill brought several dozen up to the Smithville Pantry as well.

We had a guest who requested assistance, Ann, as she said she was living in her car and raising her grandkids. A cash donation in excess of \$600 was taken up during worship and given to her.

### **July Collections:**

Smithville Food Pantry: Canned vegetables no corn or green beans as they have someone who donates those already.

July Action: A Turning Point Food Pantry July 20 - see separate article

TRIMBLE Food Pantry: monetary collection in the white can on the table in the family center or online through church connect.

**Fishes & Loaves Ministry** (Unhouse ministry with Scott & Darcy)

We will be providing meals for the Langs to serve to the unhoused again on a quarterly basis this year. Tooti has signup sheets on the back counter along with recipes. We will do August 3 and December 7. Please have your casserole hot and drop it off at the church on those Saturdays (they go along with Rubies & AMen group to try and make it easier). You can also sign up for dessert or side items. June 1st, we sent out 4 large pans of "Texas Hash" along with fruit cups and dessert for the Lang's to serve. If you would like to go along and help serve, please get with Scott or Darcy.

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Ice Cream Social is coming soon! Mark your calendars for August 18th from 3:30-5:00p.m. We will send out more information in the next few weeks! It is a great time to bring a neighbor or friend!

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly Report for June 2024 is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$45,229.96
General Offerings:	+\$7,595.47
Capital Improvement:	+1,737.70
Expenses:	-\$4,482.77
Final Balance:	\$50,080.36