



West District News

January, 2018



Sticking with Love

January 15 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the USA, and would have been the civil rights leader's 89th birthday. It is hard to believe that this year also will mark, On April 4, the 50th anniversary of his death. Although I was just a kid, I was keenly aware of Dr. King and his leadership long before his death. My admiration and respect for him has grown through the years.

Dr. King's work for human rights, equality, and his commitment to non-violence have long inspired me. So, I want to take a moment and remember some of the powerful things he said in his writings and speeches. I hope they will inspire you to follow Christ in his mission of preaching good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind.

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." – from *Stride Toward Freedom*, 1958

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." – from *Strength to Love*, 1963

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." – from *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, 1963

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." – from *Strength to Love*, 1963

"I have decided to stick with love... Hate is too great a burden to bear." – from *Where Do We Go from Here*, 1967

My prayer for a fruitful 2018 is that we all decide to stick with love. I can truly say that I love my life and ministry here in West Texas, and I love and pray for each of you.

Blessings and peace,

Andy

A Christian Greeting



The Examen in a Nutshell

The Examen is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God

1. **Ask God for light.** *I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own. I ask for freedom from things that often trip me up, distract me, or bias my judgments.*
2. **Give thanks.** *The day I have just lived is a gift from God. I want to be grateful for it. I can always find something I am grateful for. I express my gratitude in simple words.*
3. **Review the day.** *I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit. I pay attention to my feelings, and ask what God is saying through these feelings. I notice whatever those feelings are as they surface.*
4. **Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.** *I ask the Holy Spirit to direct me to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. Positive or Negative. Look at it. Pray about it. I face up to what is wrong-in my life and in me.*
5. **Look toward the day to come.** *I ask where I need God in the day to come. Feelings begin to surface as I look at the day I face. Fear? Delighted anticipation? Self-doubt? Regret? Weakness? Whatever it is, I turn it into prayer-for help, for healing.....to finish the examen, I say the Lord's prayer or another prayer from the heart.*

Adapted from" A simple Life-Giving Prayer: Discovering the Power of St. Ignatius Loyola's Examen. (shorter version due to limited space)

*More of Him, Less of Me,
Gini*

Ministry through Administration

Dates to remember:

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|------------|--|
| January 12 | 2017 Apportionments due in the Conference Office |
| January 13 | Leadership Training |
| January 23 | Year-end reports must be entered online. |

Each church should have received their year-end report from the Conference Office. It is in a large white envelope marked "**2017 Local Church Report to the Annual Conference**". It includes a letter, Tables 1, 2, and 3, and instructions. Please pay close attention to these reports as some of the line items have changed. If you have any questions or problems you can contact me at the District Office.

On January 13, 2018 at the Leadership Training, Debbie Steinbach will be leading the Finance / Treasurer session and will be able to answer questions if needed as well.

Let's stay connected,
Amy

West District
Leadership Training with
Special Guest, Rev. Karen Horan
January 13, 2018
First United Methodist Church
37 E. Beauregard, San Angelo, Texas

Schedule:

Gather & Fellowship:	8:45 a.m.
Training Session:	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker & Closing Worship:	10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Sessions Available:

Staff / Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Rev. Andy Smith

Finance / Treasurer, Mrs. Debbie Steinbach

Lay Ministries – Rev. Karen Horan

(Lay Leaders, Lay Delegates to Annual Conference, Lay Servants/Speakers, etc.)

Administrative Board / Church Council – Rev. Phil Steinbach

Board of Trustees – Rev. John Saint

Entrance will be the ground floor doors near Celebration Hall from Beauregard and the parking garage (look for signs). Room assignments and coffee will be available in *FirstPlace* Café across from the information desk. Sign-in sheets will be in each room so everyone will register there. Rev. Karen Horan, Executive Director of Mission Vitality of the Rio Texas Conference, will be our guest speaker.

Please Mark Your Calendar with these 2018 Dates:

January:	12	2017 Apportionment Payment Deadline – must be at the Conference Office to be counted for 2017
	22-25	Mandatory Clergy Sexual Ethics Training (see below for locations/ time)
	23	Deadline to file year-end reports online
	26-28	Adult Choral Workshop
February:	3	Missional Leadership Development
	10	Lay Speaker Training – Basic & Advanced, Menard
	15-16	Clergy Convocation
March:	6	District Committee on Ordained Ministry Training, 9-noon
April:	4-5	dCOM Annual Interviews
	12-14	PAUMCS Conference
	20-22	Confirmation Retreat
May:	19	District Conference, 1:30 pm
June:	7-10	Annual Conference
August:	5-9	Children’s Camp, Camp Butman

Mandatory

Clergy Sexual Ethics Training – “A Sacred Trust”

January 22	University UMC, San Antonio
January 23	First UMC, Kingsville
January 24	Manchaca UMC, Manchaca
January 25	First UMC, San Angelo

All clergy and laity working in ministry should have received a letter from the Bishop and information to register for this mandatory event. They will be from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Please register as soon as possible. Thanks!

Calendar

- Jan. 1 District Office Closed
2 Doug Hester Class, SA:FUMC, 11-2
2 Concho Country Emmaus Community Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 pm
11-12 Cabinet Meeting
12 2017 Apportionment Deadline
13 District Leadership Training, SA:FUMC
15 District Office Closed
15-17 Andy – DS Group Meeting
22 Shush Free Worship, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 pm
25 MANDATORY – Clergy Sexual Ethics Training
26-28 Adult Choral Workshop, Fredericksburg UMC
29-31 Andy – DS Development
- Feb. 3 Missional Leadership Development
6 Doug Hester Class, SA:FUMC, 11-2
6 Concho Country Emmaus Community Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 pm
8-10 Cabinet Assessment
10 Lay Speaker Training – Basic & Advanced, Menard
15-16 Clergy Convocation
22-23 Cabinet Meeting
26 Shush Free Worship, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 pm
28 Cabinet Meeting

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Rio Texas Conference
United Methodist Church**

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