



West District News

July, 2018



The Mighty Ampersand

At our Rio Texas Annual Conference meeting in Corpus Christi in June, we delegates were blessed to receive a copy of Bishop Robert Schnase's brand new book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Revised and Updated. You may be thinking, "I've read *The Five Practices*; it's not new."

While it is true that the five practices are the same as when the book was originally published in 2007 - *Radical hospitality, Passionate worship, Intentional faith development, Risk-taking mission and service, and Extravagant generosity* - the book is radically different now.

The original *Five Practices* is full of good advice and ideas for attracting persons to our churches. Bishop Schnase characterizes this approach as the *attractional model* of ministry - kind of like, "if we build it, they will come." But much of what has been written about church leadership in the past few years is based upon more of a *missional model* that assumes that persons are more interested in being part of a church that makes a difference in people's lives.

In light of this shift, the theme of our annual conference was: *from come and see to go and do: Rethinking the FIVE PRACTICES*.

In the new *Five Practices* book, Bishop Schnase acknowledges this vital shift, but he suggests that we don't have to choose one model over the other; that we need to be, in our churches, *both* attractional *and* missional. The symbol for this *both/and* approach is the simple but mighty ampersand: *&*.

Bishop Schnase tells about a six-inch ceramic ampersand he received as a gift from a friend: "I keep the ampersand in a visible place in my office to remind myself that ... I can do things *both* this way *and* that way. Working with missional assumptions and attractional assumptions is not an either/or choice. Healthy, fruitful, growing congregations seek to do both with excellence." (p.9)

I strongly encourage every congregation to get several copies of the new *Five Practices*, read it together, *&* put it into "practice."

Blessings & peace,

Andy

A Christian Greeting



Once again I want to thank the District Superintendency Committee for allowing me to use vacation and comp time to be in Colorado this summer. We look forward to greeting our new appointed Pastors this summer, and pray for the Pastors leaving and wish them the best. Change is a part of life, and a part of God's strategy. Embrace it!

*More of Him, Less of Me,
Gini*

West District Conference Summary

The District Conference was held Sunday, May 20, 2018 at St. Luke United Methodist Church. There were around 80 in attendance with Rev. Andy Smith presiding. A few of the highlights are below.

Rev. John Saint, Board of Trustee Chair, provided his report. He told of all the work done in the parsonage prior to Andy moving in, new appliances and some painting, then a water leak under the hallway, which buckled the floors and required new flooring happened after he and Robyn moved into the parsonage. All has been complete except one area of floor which will be done after Andy moves to Kerrville in August. John then turned it back over to Andy to discuss his move. Andy explained he was appointed to both the Hill Country and West Districts beginning July 1. With this appointment, he will be moving to Kerrville so he will be more central to both Districts. He reported there are 14 churches in the West District closer to Kerrville than to San Angelo so it makes sense to move. The District Trustees have met and discussed what to do with the parsonage and they voted to put it on the market in August. A couple of our San Angelo churches have expressed interest. The *Book of Discipline* states the District Conference has to approve the purchase, but not the sale of property, but I would like to ask for a vote. Andy asked for any questions: Where does the money go? Andy—we will request to keep the money in the district for missional purposes less the funds used for the update and renovation expenses this past year. Has it been discussed to sale the office and use the funds from both to purchase a larger office with meeting space? Andy—it has been mentioned. You said this may not be permanent, does it mean this in an interim move? Andy—I don't believe it is interim. I think the conference will change the district lines eventually. Will a District Office remain here? Andy—yes, at this time. Andy then announced Colleen Haley will be the DS Ministry Assistant and will assist him with both Districts. Following the questions the vote was taken and approved unanimously to sell the West District Parsonage following the move of the DS.

Andy explained in detail the 1 board model and directed everyone to the Nominations Report. The 1 board model District Strategy Team will replace the Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and the District Superintendency Committee. The board will consist of 12 people, 7 lay and 5 clergy, and the staff will be ex-officio members. The District Committee on Ordained Ministry will remain a separate body and is listed on page 2 of the report. He announced the Hill Country district is voting on a similar model at their district conference as well. Andy asked everyone to review the nominations report before them and the vote was unanimous to approve the nominations report presented.

The proposed budget for 2019 was discussed and the changes pointed out for everyone to review. The most important changes: salaries increased by 3%, parsonage utilities down, but still there with the expectation we will share some expenses with the Hill Country for utilities. With no further questions, the vote was taken and was unanimous to approve the 2019 budget as presented.

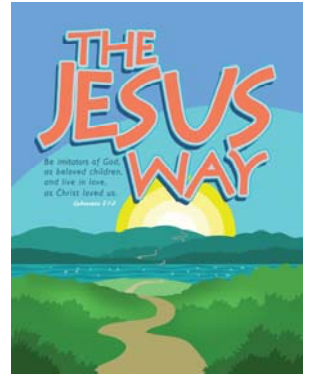
The meeting closed with the praise team sending us forth.

2018 Summer Camps

Information and requirements, camper release and permission/registration forms for this camp are on the District webpage, www.umcwayoutwest.org.

In the meantime, here is additional camp information:

- To sign up for this camp, kids should be entering the third through ninth grades in fall, 2018.
- All children are welcome.
- Camp facilities are air-conditioned, though many activities are outside.
- There is a very nice swimming pool, and time each day will be scheduled for this.
- Other activities include crafts, games, Bible study, worship, hikes, feet-on-bunk time, and many others.
- Camp Butman has a cafeteria where kid-friendly meals will be served.
- There will be qualified medical personnel at camp to administer medications and first aid, if needed.
- Parents are welcome to organize carpools to get kids to camp, and we will also plan to take the Church bus(es).



Kelly Duke

Director, Children and Family Ministries
Cell: 325.656.8068 [Texts welcome!]
Email: kduke@sierravista.org

Sierra Vista United Methodist Church
4522 College Hills Blvd.
San Angelo, Texas 76904

Tina Glass

Director, Youth Ministries
Cell: 325.450.1231 [Texts welcome!]
Email: tglass@sierravista.org

Church website:
<http://www.sierravista.org/>
Church: 325.944.4041
Fax: 325.947.7086

WEST / HILL COUNTRY
DISTRICT
PRETEEN SUMMER CAMP



JULY 26 - 29
SLUMBER FALLS
(3610 RIVER RD NEW BRAUNFELS, TX)

OPEN TO PRETEENS (GOING INTO GRADES 4 - 6)

REGISTER BY JUNE 25 FOR \$175.
\$225 AFTER THAT

TO REGISTER, GO TO:
[HTTPS://FUMC-BOERNE.CHURCHCENTER.COM/REGISTRATIONS/EVENTS/122656](https://fumc-boerne.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/122656)

SPACE IS LIMITED.
REGISTER EARLY!

"SPECIAL GRACES" FOR THE FIRST 5 REGISTERED.

Military Informed Ministry

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Stephens Central Library—Sugg Community Room

8:30 a.m. registration 9:00—1:00 Training

with Dr. Craig Combs

Lunch provided by Rivercrest Hospital

For more information go to www.wtcg.us or contact Paul Keeton, 325/315-8535 or paulk@wtcg.us. If you are interested in this event please contact them to register so they will have a count for food. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Pastors and Professionals Meeting

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Gather: 9:30 a.m.—Worship: 10:00 a.m.

London United Methodist Church

(behind London Hall)

Cost: \$10.00

(all funds go to the host church for expenses and lunch)

Please RSVP to the District Office, (325)486-1500 or westamy@suddenlinkmail.com no later than August 16th so a count can be given to the church. Thank you!

Calendar

July 1-31 Gini – Vacation
3-20 Andy – Vacation
4 District Office Closed
10 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC

For July, the District Office will be closed: 6, 12-13, 20, 26-27

Aug. 1-26 Gini – Vacation
1-3 Amy – Vacation
5-9 Summer Camp, Camp Butman
7 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC
20-21 Candidacy Summit, San Antonio
28 Pastors and Professionals Meeting, London UMC

Farewell & Welcome:

We would like to send prayers and best wishes to Clergy leaving our district and those joining us.

Retirement:

Colleen Haley
Sheldon Johnson
Jean Reardon
Phil Steinbach

Moving:

Cathy McCorkle
John Saint

Changing Churches within the District:

Bun Jackson, Brady
Mark Krause, Mertzon
Leigh Lloyd, Ozona
Art Mavrode, SA: Bethel

New Clergy in the District:

Peter Aguilar, Mason
John Alsbrooks, Goldthwaite
Kelly Duke, SA: Sierra Vista
Lori Jones, Christoval/SA: Grape Creek
Janet Larson, Eldorado
Scott Melton, Melvin
Judy Swarts, Menard

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District Web-Page:

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