



Southwest District Office

IOWA CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

January 2019

Terra Amundson
Conference Superintendent
terra.amundson@iaumc.org

If you have any questions or items to include in a future newsletter, please contact:

Jamie Newbury
District Administrative Assistant
jamie.newbury@iaumc.org

Reminders:

Please remember to submit any forms you may still have from Charge Conferences. You may submit them via email to jamie.newbury@iaumc.org or whichever method is most convenient for you. I am still missing forms from several churches. **A few churches have not yet submitted ANY forms but the majority are mainly missing their Church Leadership Worksheets.** Each church (not charge) must submit this form. Please submit your missing forms to our office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Also, please note the importance of completing the Church Leadership Worksheets with correct spelling and complete information for every person listed— not just a name (and please not their nickname— list their legal first name; for example **James** instead of **Jim**) but also a mailing address, phone number(s), and email. The additional information is not only needed for contact but to verify the correct record. Even if only updating contact info, the name is still needed. Inaccurate information creates invalid duplicate records and extra work for the office. Please double check all information entered and, if hand-written, please print legibly. In other words, the more accurate the information is that is provided to our office means more accurate information in our records.

Statistical Reporting

Statistical reporting is due on Feb. 14, 2019 this year and not the end of February.

Mark your calendars as this date is very important. Letters have been sent to all Pastors, Treasurers, Finance Chairpersons and Church Secretaries. If you did not receive this letter you can go to the web page of: <https://www.iaumc.org/2018stats>

General Conference Special Session 2019

Pre-Registration for guests and observers is now open. Go to: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/special-session-pre-registration-now-available> for more information.

BUDGET TEAM

The Budget Team has scheduled listening sessions around the Conference to gain feedback regarding their recently released recommendations. Dates and locations for these meetings are:

January 13, 2019 (Sunday) @ **North Liberty UMC from 2:45 pm-4:15 pm** (85 N. Jones Blvd, North Liberty IA)

January 20, 2019 (Sunday) @ **Carroll, First UMC from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm** (1621 N Main St., Carroll IA)

January 26, 2019 (Saturday) @ **Ames, First UMC from 10:30 am-12:00 noon** (516 Kellogg Ave, Ames IA)

Please see below for a copy of their letter with their recommendations.

November 30, 2018

Budget Team Update

To: All Pastors & Local Church Leadership

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We bring greetings in the name of Jesus as we enter the Season of Advent and with it a new Christian year.

The Budget Team has been tasked to recommend a 2020 budget that is missionally-directed by the three Strategic Priorities adopted by the Annual Conference (2013). The Team has also been tasked to propose expense reductions of \$1 million for the 2020 budget. The team seeks collaboration and open communication with all the stakeholders of the Conference Budget. Our team will make its final recommendation to the Bishop's Operational Team who will then communicate their recommendation to CFA for the upcoming budget years. In our second letter we laid out the process of communication with you. That information may still be accessed at: [Budget Team Updates](#).

We now have specific recommendations to share with the Iowa Conference. These recommendations have been shared with affected Conference staff, the chairs of affected Boards and Agencies, and now with you, our leaders, both lay and clergy on the forefront of our mission to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. To that end, we are striving to keep more resources available to the local church.

There are some assumptions that the Team felt have been dominant in our ministry together.

a) Foremost has been the belief that money equals ministry. While certainly much of ministry does require financial resources, we believe that personal investment along with spiritual commitment are what is required for transformation, trust, and sustainable ministry.

b) Another of those assumptions is that our connection is best represented in our apportioned giving. This may be an efficient way of supporting ministries, but we don't believe it is the best representation of our connection.

We on the Budget Team believe that we are at our best when we join in ministry together. We believe we can do far more together than we can separately. That means local congregations and their leaders coming together in mission and service. In this way, we demonstrate our love for Jesus by living in love with one another and reaching out to join the Holy Spirit in what God is doing in a hurting and often broken world.

As the Budget Team, we make the following recommendations:

- 1. Move from eight District Offices with eight District Administrative Assistants to four bi-District Offices with four District Administrative Assistants. The District files and equipment would be housed with the DAA in the District Office. Superintendents would work from virtual offices throughout the District. The intention is to be accessible to local church laity and clergy.
 - a. Estimated expense reduction: \$319,000 for 2020.**

- 2. Reconfigure the deployment of Associates for Congregational Excellence from four full-time positions to two full-time positions to focus on revitalization, with two ¼ Associates to resource new and existing immigrant Communities of Faith. This would enable broader cultural competence. We recommend implementation July 1, 2019.
 - a. Estimated expense reduction: \$60,000 for 2019 and \$120,000 in 2020.**

- 3. In place of the support staff position to the Assistant to the Bishop, we recommend moving to a “Secretary” to the Cabinet. That person would take minutes, track the appointive process and the audit of clergy and churches, schedule clergy moves, and release appointments, among other duties. This would relocate some responsibilities from the District Administrative Assistants to increase efficiency. It would also relocate responsibilities from Superintendents to allow them more time to serve as district missional strategists.
 - a. Estimated expense reduction: \$45,300 in 2020.**

- 4. Combine the Address Services/Journal Editor position with the Director of Ministerial Services.
 - a. Estimated expense reduction: \$51,240 in 2020.**

- 5. Reduce the apportioned funding to the Board of Higher Education and Campus ministry from \$544,933 to \$44,933. We recognize this is a dramatic reduction. Every person on the Budget Team believes that ministry with students is vitally important. It is our hope that local churches will partner with our Wesley Foundations and United Methodist related colleges and beyond to expand ministry to young adults. Other Conferences that have moved in this direction have seen a growth in ministry to young adults and students.
 - a. Estimated expense reduction: \$500,000 in 2020.**

- 6. Reduce the apportioned funding of Community and Institutional Ministry grants by \$150,000.
 - a. Estimated expense reduction: \$150,000 in 2020.**

- 7. End our apportioned funding of the Iowa Religious Media Service.
 - a. Estimated expense reduction: \$78,000 in 2020.**

- 8. Reduce the apportioned funding to the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministry from \$687,887 to \$617,887.
 - a. Estimated expense reduction: \$70,000 in 2020.**

These recommended decreases in the expense of the Iowa Conference are painful, but we believe they are needed if we are to be faithful stewards to maintain the health of the Iowa Conference. This will result in over a million-dollar reduction to the 2020 apportioned budget. These are monies that will be available to local churches to further our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

We have set time for feedback and listening sessions to begin with our Boards and Agencies here at the Conference Center on December 8. We have scheduled three one and half hour feedback/listening sessions throughout the Conference in January at the following dates and locations:

- January 13, 2019: North Liberty United Methodist Church from 2:45 – 4:15 PM
- January 20, 2019: Carroll, First United Methodist Church from 2:00 – 3:30 PM
- January 26, 2019: Ames, First United Methodist Church from 10:30 – 12:00 Noon

We continue to receive questions, comments, suggestions as we conduct our work. Thank you to all who took time to email us. Your input is helpful and welcome. A temporary email address has been set up for you to use if you'd like to communicate with the Budget Team. It is budget@iaumc.org.

Please join us as we continue to pray for our Iowa Conference and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

Bill Poland
Chair, Budget Team

Harlan Gillespie
Assistant to the Bishop

Maggie Biggs
Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services

Paul Burrow
Chair, CCMC

Jon Disburg
President, CFA



Resolutions to the 2019 Iowa Annual Conference due February 1, 2019

Every two years the Iowa Annual Conference receives and acts upon resolutions. The 2017 Book of Resolutions is located on the Conference website at https://www.iaumc.org/files/fileslibrary/journal/2017/2017_book_of_resolutions.pdf.

At the 2019 Session of the Iowa Annual Conference, lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference will consider and act upon resolutions submitted no later than February 1, 2019. Resolutions may be submitted by individual persons, congregations, districts, or agencies of the Iowa Conference. Both resolutions or recommendations for the repeal of existing resolutions are accepted. The Resolutions Committee of the Iowa Annual Conference will receive and review submissions and present them to the 2019 Session of the Annual Conference based upon the procedures defined by the Conference Rules Order. The Procedures for Submission and Processing of Resolutions and the form for submitting a resolution are found at <https://www.iaumc.org/2019resolutions> on the Conference Website. The form for submission provides guidance for composing resolutions.

Resolutions may be submitted by email attachment to Harlan Gillespie, Assistant to the Bishop, at harlan.gillespie@iaumc.org by 4 pm on February 1, 2019 or by post mail to Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church, Attention: Harlan Gillespie, 2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA 50301 postmarked no later than February 1, 2019.

Prayer Requests

Continuous prayers for our military men and women who are active, retired and veterans. May they find peace and understanding with the struggles of dealing with what they endure and have endured while serving.

Continuous prayers for those who do not specifically ask for prayers but need them. Especially pray for the people of your church and surrounding area who are enduring struggles and sickness.

Continuous prayers for our police, firemen and first responders who answer the call without hesitation and not knowing the situation they are coming into. May they find strength and courage to keep going when they are misjudged or not always supported.



2019

Thanksgiving Ingathering

SW District Hunger Relief Grant Funds Now Available!

As part of the Bishop's Ingathering held each November, cash gifts are received in addition to quilt auction funds. A portion of these cash gifts is returned to each of the eight districts in Iowa to be utilized in combating hunger in local communities through food pantries, feeding programs, community gardens, etc. Churches may apply for a grant to fund a program that they themselves administer, or a church may pass an application to a local community agency that addresses hunger.

This year, only \$2,000 is available for each district to distribute.

An application form is now available. **A copy is included below.** The deadline for submission of completed applications is **Friday, February 1, 2019.** **It is imperative that this deadline is met as the State Ingathering Committee has revised the payment process so that payment may be made to recipients in a timely manner.**

Jim Tussey, SW District Ingathering representative, is administering this hunger grant program.

Send completed applications **postmarked on or before Friday, February 1, 2019**, to Jim Tussey, 3277 Hwy 25, Orient, IA 50858. Questions may be directed to Jim at 641-782-8704 or jim_w_tuss@yahoo.com.

REMINDER: Applications are due **postmarked Friday, February 1.**

Jesus said, "...For I was hungry, and you gave me food..."

Iowa Conference United Methodist Church
Thanksgiving Ingathering
Southwest District Hunger Grant Application – 2019

Each year on the first Saturday in November, United Methodists gather for the Thanksgiving Ingathering at five sites across Iowa to offer cash and other items for missions in Iowa and across the world. A portion of the funds collected is returned to Iowa Hunger Relief Programs in the eight districts in Iowa. There is a modest sum of money available for use in the Southwest District. If your church is involved with a hunger project, or wish to begin a program, you may apply for a portion of the available funds. You may also pass the application on to a hunger relief agency in your community, if your church does not have a hunger relief program.

Application for Hunger Relief Grant
Due Date--Postmarked on or before Friday, February 1, 2019

Date _____

Church Sponsoring this Application _____ Church # _____

Title of Project _____

Church Address _____
(Street) (Town) (Zip)

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Contact Person _____
(Name) (Street) (Town) (Zip) (Phone-If Different From Above)

*Tax Identification Number (Required) _____

Number of Households Served _____ Number of Individuals Served _____

Area Served (Towns/Counties) _____

Narrative, include how the money would be used for project/s: (use other side as needed) _____

List other funding sources and amounts per source received for this project. _____

Has this program received an Ingathering Hunger Relief Grant before? ___ Yes ___ No

Signature of Person Making Application _____

Person to receive check/address _____

*Please send postmarked on or before **February 1, 2019** to: Jim Tussey – 3277 Hwy 25, Orient, IA 50858.

*For information or with questions: 641-782-8704; jim_w_tuss@yahoo.com