



Marion First United Methodist Church

Issue No. 8

April 8, 2016

The **mission** of the Church is to make Disciples of **Jesus Christ** for the **transformation** of the world.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016 - HOW TO STRUCTURE A WORLDWIDE CHURCH



General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet May 10-20, 2016, in Portland, Oregon. 864 delegates, elected from around the world, (including Rev. Morgan) will gather to set policy and direction for the church. General Conference meets every four years and is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. Much, Much more about General Conference is available at www.umc.org

General Church Delegates will consider a number of proposals to restructure the ministries of the general church. The proposal that has drawn perhaps the greatest amount of attention is **Plan UMC Revised**, which aims to restructure the church's general agencies.

In 2012, almost 60 percent of General Conference delegates voted for **Plan UMC** to restructure general agencies. On the last day of conference, the Judicial Council declared that the plan violated the Constitution of the United Methodist Church. In the years since, proponents of the plan have developed a revised proposal to present to General Conference. They see the proposal as a critical component in fostering vitality and reversing membership declines in the United States.

Key components of **Plan UMC Revised**:

- It gives the Connectional Table* new authority to elect top executives for United Methodist Discipleship Ministries and the general boards of Global Ministries, Church and Society, and Higher Education and Ministry following nominations by the agencies' boards. The top executives would be accountable programmatically to their boards and administratively to a newly created position of Connectional Table executive general secretary.
- It authorizes the Connectional Table executive general secretary to

evaluate these agencies' top executives annually. It includes possible dismissal of such executives, "based largely in part on the degree of cooperation and collaboration with other agencies toward the goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ." The legislation prohibits a bishop from serving as executive general secretary. It details the Connectional Table's authority to evaluate agencies based on how they direct the flow of energy toward vital congregations and carry out the mission of the global church.

- It reduces the size of some agency boards, while increasing representation from outside the United States, especially Africa. It reduces the size of the Connectional Table from 59 to 45 members.
- It eliminates the General Commission on Archives and History and moves its functions to the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA).
- It eliminates the general commissions on Religion and Race and the Status and Role of Women and moves their work to a new Connectional Table committee called the United Methodist Committee on Inclusiveness.

In May 2015, active members of the Council of Bishops voted to ask the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision regarding the constitutionality of this proposed legislation. In October 2015, the Judicial Council announced it would defer ruling on the constitutionality of the plan until its meeting in May, just before General Conference. The court said it would be "an untimely intrusion" into the legislative process to rule on one plan, when other proposed plans might face constitutional questions. The decision left open the possibility the Council of Bishops could also refer any other such plans for constitutional assessment.

*(Created at the 2004 General Conference, the Connectional Table was formed to serve as both the visioning body of the church and the steward of resources to carry out the vision of the denomination worldwide. The purpose of the Connectional Table is to discern and articulate the vision for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church as determined by General Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops.)

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- iTunes Podcast - Sermon Audio
itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/marion-methodist/id562893153

Each week on Tuesday, the church sends out an email detailing the events taking place in the next seven days, and devoting some space to explain a little more about one of the multitude of ministries and missions in which we participate. To sign up to receive this email each week, please contact the church office at (319) 377-4856 or by email at info@marionmethodist.org.



Marion First United Methodist Church

Corner of 12th Street & 8th Avenue

Sunday Morning Worship

7:45 AM

Early Worship - Chapel

8:30 AM

Spirited Traditional - Sanctuary

9:45 AM

Contemporary Praise - Sanctuary
Church School for children and adults

11:00 AM

Contemporary Praise - Sanctuary
Kids' View - Room 350

Upcoming Sermons

April 10 - 2 Peter 3:9, Acts 17:30, Titus 2:11

April 17 - Romans 2:4 and 3:20-24, John 6:44

 Marion First United Methodist Church
1298 7th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302
Return Address
Service Requested

For any information needing to be published in the Marion Methodist newsletter, please contact the church office.
(info@marionmethodist.org)

LABEL HERE

Easter 2016 – Donations exceed \$10,000

One of the ways our congregation has traditionally served our Lord has been through an Easter Offering designated to a local or global mission. This year our Easter Offering will be equally split. Half will go to **Marion Cares**, an interdenominational program that reaches to students in the Marion and Linn Mar districts with various Christian, academic and social programs. The other half will go to assist programming at the **Marion Churches Senior Living Community** on Highway 13.

Your continued generosity enables The First United Methodist Church of Marion to make a difference in our community.

Change a Child's Story

One million books and a million hours of reading with children - that is the goal of Iowa United Methodists in the next two years in an initiative, Bishop Trimble is calling, "Change a Child's Story".



Roughly 1 in 4 Iowa fourth graders scored below proficient level on the state reading test. Research indicates that a quarter of kids who are behind in reading by the 4th grade will eventually drop out of school, making them more likely to experience other hardships, including jail.

Together we can change their story!

Please donate new or gently used books for children Pre-School through 3rd Grade,

Bring them to church Sunday, April 17 or to the Mission Depots in Fellowship Hall or the Church Office.

Give time to read to children. It can be life changing for them and for you!

Marion Methodist is Praying for:

Prayer is an important part of our life as a church family at Marion Methodist. Prayers are being added almost daily to the prayer wall which can be accessed through our website at www.marionmethodist.org. Please check there regularly to pray for the requests that have been posted. Every time you are there to pray, click on the "I Prayed For This" button to encourage those who have shared their concerns. If you have a smartphone, you can also add the prayer wall to your home screen, providing even easier access to the prayer wall at all times.

This month, our mission team will be in Haiti from April 15-23. Please keep the members of the team in your prayers:

Curt and Deb Liscum

Tom and Joan Padley

Logan Barr

Jim Bys

Don Semple

Luann Byerly

Marty Labs

Jason Showalter

Spring is Here and We Need Your Help!

It's time for our annual Spring Cleanup Day. We need your help to make our church look its best.

In addition to the usual painting, inside cleaning and outside cleanup work; extra hands are needed, because we will be taking an inventory of the contents of the church. This inventory will be used for planning purposes for our move to the new church.

If you can volunteer for an hour or the whole morning, please come join us **Saturday, April 23 from 8:00 AM to Noon** (rain or shine). Signup sheets will be outside the sanctuary.

Thank you,
The Trustees

UMW Fun and Fellowship Day

Come and join the entertainment and opportunity at the "UMW Fun and Fellowship Day" planned for Saturday, April 23, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The featured speaker will be Marion author, Robert Buckley. He has written four books, "Two Miles an Hour", "Slave Tag", "Ophelia's Brooch", and "The Denarius". Mr. Buckley will have his books for sale and one lucky person will win an autographed copy. We will also hear from Eden Youngberg from Matthew 25, sharing about the "Book Buddies" program and how we can get involved in their year around program, reading to children.



Admission to this event will be the donation of one or more new or gently used books for children pre-K through 2nd Grade. These books will go to Matthew 25. As time goes on we hope to find other places to share our ministry. This program is tied in with our UMC Bishop's initiative to "Change a Child's Story", by giving books and time to read to children. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to Lorie Bramley at 550-8844 or bramley62@hotmail.com. Come for the fun, food, and fellowship of mind and body. Perhaps the Lord will guide you to a new way of ministering to others.

This event hosted by the Page Turners and Bookends Circles is open to everyone, but please RSVP so we can plan for you.

Greetings from the April 2016 Haiti Mission Team!

After weeks of praying, planning, and meetings, our April 15-23, 2016 Haiti team is assembled and eager to be on our way. Our team includes ourselves, Tom and Joan Padley, Luann Byerly, Marty Labs, Jim Bys, Jason Showalter, Don Semple, and Logan Barr. Our task once there will be spreading the word of our Savior through the building of another church and ministering to the beautiful people of Haiti. We have already been the recipients of the generosity of our FUMC family and others through prayer, support, and donations of dresses, shorts, peanut butter, and school supplies, and for these things we are truly grateful.



Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we go out to do what the Lord has called us to do.

God's Blessings on you all!
Curt and Debbie Liscum

Fill Your Body • Fill Your Heart • Fill Your Head



Meal Schedule:

4/13 Taco Bell
4/20 Chicken
4/27 Dairy Queen

Powerhouse meets every Wednesday. From 5:45 PM - 6:15 PM we have a Family Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM we have activities for all ages

Preschoolers: Kids may forget what you say - but they remember what they discover on their own. Get them "Hands On" with God's Word. (Room 205)

KDG - 5th Grade: Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant in your everyday life! Discover Jesus in you. (Room 303/305)

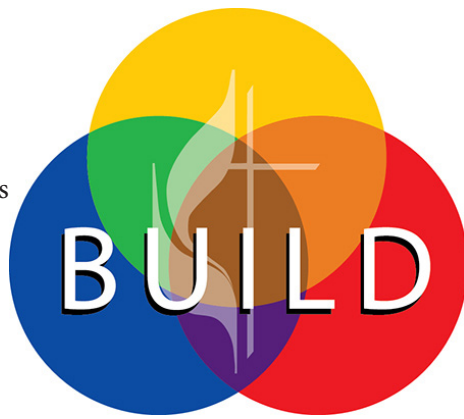
4:12 Youth Group: Junior High 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, High School 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM

Adult Classes: Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marionmethodist.org

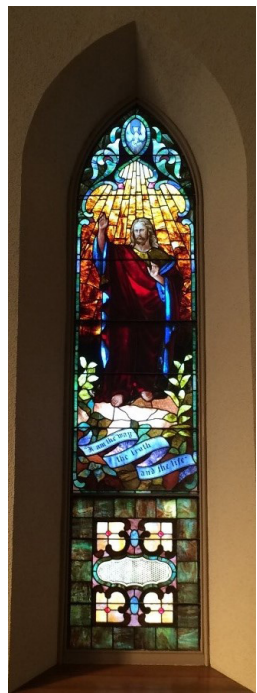
Nursery: Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators.

BUILD Campaign – responsible Fundraising?

United Methodist Churches by nature are cautious and by rule are required to be responsible. In the acquisition of property or building of buildings, we must follow the “**Four thirds**” rule. Obviously that is bad math but the catchy title describes the philosophy of fund raising in the United Methodist Church. Here’s a brief interpretation with our BUILD campaign notes inserted.



- The First “third” of the cost of the project must be cash in hand. {Because our target building project is in the neighborhood of \$9,000,000 a successful BUILD campaign will accomplish this third.}
- The second “third” of the cost of the project can be pledges. {To make the project manageable financially, as the BUILD campaign is completed we need another campaign with results as strong as it. Our lending institution will “cover” this portion of the project with short term debt (a line of credit) and we will of course reimburse them as the campaign succeeds.}
- The third “third” regarding the cost of the project can be long term financing. {Various local lenders have already contacted us to compete for this and the short term loan noted above. As the builder completes the final bidding process and we have a project that is guaranteed to exceed a certain dollar amount, our Finance team will be requesting proposals from lending institutions to finance the project. The good news is, the lenders who we have been in contact with thus far, perceive that we are a good risk given our history of faithful debt retirement.}
- The fourth “third” regarding the cost of the project is that the annual debt retirement cannot exceed 1/3 the annual budget of the church, though it can be in addition to the budget. {The church has a \$1,000,000+ annual budget, thus, debt retirement cannot exceed \$333,333 per year. Given that the second third will pay off in the first three years, it is likely this debt will be a bit more than \$3,000,000. This is a large number, but given the long term nature of the debt and perceived and prayed for congregational growth, very manageable.}



Memorials Committee

The Memorials Committee has been spending significant time identifying and discussing items that have been purchased with Memorial funds. The committee has specifically discussed how “Precious” those items are to the church. The committee has agreed that while they are all functional, they are not “Precious” and do not have to be incorporated into the design of the new church site, with 1 exception. The stained glass windows. We have MANY beautiful windows, but we cannot take them all. It was tasked to the committee to select 2 windows to move forward to the new church site as a link to our past heritage. The committee recommends the Christ window and the Moses window be incorporated into the site design of the new church. If space and money are available, they also recommend the Peace window and the Tablet window.

In coordination with the Trustees, the Foundation, and the Memorial committee cost estimates are being developed to further understand the feasibility and difficulty of preserving our legacy through these stained glass windows.

Vano Kiboko

Vano Kalembe Kiboko, a United Methodist lay evangelist and a former congressman, has been imprisoned in his native Democratic Republic of Congo for nearly 2 years. His arrest came after he publicly denounced the Dec. 8 shooting of a woman, who was engaged in a nonviolent protest. During the same press conference, Kiboko said the country should not amend its constitution to allow President Joseph Kabila to run for a third term in 2016.



God’s power is enabling the United Methodist to lead his fellow prisoners to new faith and transformed lives in Christ. Because of this, he was transferred to a military detention centre in Kinshasa on 27 January, following accusations that he was trying to create an “insurrectional movement” (eating with prisoners and praying with them) within the civilian prison where he was detained.

The 56-year-old Kiboko is testifying to Christ’s liberating grace. Each week, he preaches and his family brings massive amounts of food for a communal Agape feast. In eight months, more than 700 have made a profession of faith at these services, and he has baptized more than 300.

Amnesty International considers Kiboko a prisoner of conscience and continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release. The United Methodist Church has asked its members to:

- Pray for Vano Kiboko
- Write letters to President Obama, Senators Grassley and Ernst urging them to ask Congolese’s president to immediately and unconditionally release Vano Kiboko, as he is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

Mr. Kiboko is the brother of our United Methodist District Superintendent Kiboko Kiboko.

Easter Flower Donations

Mark & Shelly Woodwick in memory of Violet Morlan

Sundee Raudabaugh in memory of Charles & Beulah Hickman and Perry & Blanche Nussbaum

Mona Morgan in memory of Lowell Morgan

Greg & Becky Tallman in memory of Joyce Tallman and in honor of Tom Tallman, Bennie & Bonnie Cox

Sheila Hahn in memory of Robert L Hahn

Kathi Decker in memory of Cliff Decker (father)

Ken & Connie Leahy in memory of our parents Gene & Betty Gabbard and J. Robert & Geraldine Leahy

Bruce & Pam Proctor in memory of Ron Wheeler

Carma Wiese in memory of Eldon & Elsie Wiese

Steve & Jan Dickinson in memory of Darrell Wahlers and Elsie & Loren Dickinson

Chuck & Sherry Alexander, Bill & Amy Stevens and Troy & Katie Little in memory of Jim & Mary Thomas and Todd Little

Eric & Kim Brown family in memory of Robert E Brown (father)

Cheryl & John Harp in memory of Norma Klotz and Sally Harp

Ila Mae Greer in memory of Ray Greer

Rob & Cheryl Andrews in memory of Mr & Mrs Donald Andrews and Mr & Mrs Fern Stelter

Chris & Kim Reed in memory of our family members who have passed and in honor of “Our Lord Jesus Christ”

Elizabeth Smith in memory of Bert, Lois & Mark Muir, Larry Smith and Anthony Taylor

Joni & Larry Witzel in memory of Rose Genoves, Rosalie Marvin and Enid Cowles

Ron & Ruth Jahnke in memory of The Blairs & The Jahnkes and in honor of the Church Staff

School Supplies for Haiti

We are collecting school supplies for children in Haiti. Donations can be dropped off at the Church Office.

Needed Items:

- Pencils
- Pens
- Plastic rulers
- Folders with prongs
- Black dry erase markers
- Chlorox wipes

Hospitality Center

The Connections and Hospitality Team at Marion Methodist welcomes you to use the Hospitality Center. During normal weekday business hours the 8th Avenue (Overhang entrance) church doors are open. The Hospitality Center is located right inside the doors and has a Keurig individual serving hot drink machine and lots of “K-Cups” from which to select. You are invited to come into the church and:

- Meet with friends in the hospitality or family room
- Pray in the Prayer Room
- Use the free WiFi to do your devotions or just have some quiet time

In addition, all of these things are available to you on Sunday afternoons while you wait for your child in bell choir or 19:14 puppets. Take advantage of your church facility as a welcoming place for your friends and family.

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

DEATHS:

BIRTHS:

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

The Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule

Articles for our Marion Methodist need to be submitted by due date at 12:00 PM. You may email them to:

jwildman@marionmethodist.org with [newsletter] in the subject line. Please send any information or images as an attachment. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call or bring to the office items to be published. We ask that you honor the deadlines listed below:

Date Arrived in Mail	Date Articles Due
4/22	4/13
5/6	4/27
5/20	5/11
6/3	5/25
6/17	6/8

Church Information

Marion First United Methodist Church
 Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue
Church Office
 1298 7th Avenue
 Marion, IA 52302
 Office: (319) 377-4856
 Fax: (319) 377-5392

Caring Corner Daycare
 Office: (319) 377-8490

Kitchen/Fellowship Hall
 Phone: (319) 377-4252

www.marionmethodist.org

Staff

- Lead Pastor, Mike Morgan**
mmorgan@marionmethodist.org
- Pastor of Youth and Mission, Keith Nester**
knester@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley**
vstandley@marionmethodist.org
- Church Business Administrator, John Terry**
jterry@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Hospitality and Membership Connections, Karen Schmitz**
kschmitz@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Worship and Technology, Simon Campbell**
scampbell@marionmethodist.org
- Caring Corner Daycare Director, Dawn Blair**
dblair@marionmethodist.org
- Communications Director, Jennie Wildman**
jwildman@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Children Christian Education & Discipleship, Luann Byerly**
lbyerly@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Adult Christian Education & Discipleship, Jen Digmann**
jdigmann@marionmethodist.org
- Director of Music, Jonathan Dyrland**
jdyrland@marionmethodist.org
- Organist/Keyboardist, Diane Beach**
dbeach@marionmethodist.org
- Handbell Choir Director, Mary Lee Parks**
mparks@marionmethodist.org
- Nursery Volunteer Coordinator, Amelia Echols**
aechols@marionmethodist.org
- Custodian, Alan Arduser**
- Maintenance, Leon Smock**
- Assistant/Evening Custodian, Gary Barr**

Pantry Partners for Marion Food Pantry

We help folks in need by supplying items for the Marion Churches Food Pantry. You may bring the following items to church any time during each month. Please put your contributions in one of the grocery carts located in the Narthex or at the 8th Avenue glass doors, or in the Mission Depot in Fellowship Hall dining room or the Church Office.

April: Macaroni and Cheese

May: Toilet Tissue

June: Soup

July: Macaroni and Cheese and Soup

August: Peanut Butter

September: Soup

April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Sunday School for all ages 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm The Daniel Plan (Room 105) 1:00pm Disciple 1 (Room 107) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room)) 2:15pm Joyful Noise Handbells (Choir Room) 3:00pm Jubilation Handbells (Handbell Room) 4:00pm Bell Canto Handbells (Handbell Room) 5:00pm Friendship Ministry (Fellowship Hall)	11 8:00am Tax Preparation (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30pm Caring Corner Board Meeting (Room 106) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	12 8:00am Tax Preparation (Carnegie - Youth) 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00pm Touch of Brass Handbells (Handbell Room)	13 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 9:30am Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:00pm Confirmation (Carnegie - Conference) 5:30pm Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Basic Bible Class (Carnegie - UL) 6:30pm Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World (Room 107) 6:30pm Choir Practice (Choir Room) 6:30pm Powerhouse - 3yrs to 5th grade 6:30pm 4:12 Junior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 7:15pm 4:12 Senior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	14 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:30am Needle Designers (Room 104) 5:30pm Precept Bible Study (Room 107)	15 9:30am Precept Bible Study (Room 107) 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	16 Wedding - Shelby Braden & Jordan Schott

April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 7:45am Worship (Chapel) 8:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Hospitality Room) 9:45am Sunday School for all ages 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Newcomer Orientation (Library/Hospitality Room) 11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm The Daniel Plan (Room 105) 1:00pm 19:14 Puppets (Room 350 (former Blacklight Room)) 1:00pm Baby Shower (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Disciple 1 (Room 107) 2:00pm Girl Scouts (Room 104) 2:15pm Joyful Noise Handbells (Choir Room) 3:00pm Girl Scouts (Library/Hospitality Room) 3:00pm Jubilation Handbells (Handbell Room) 4:00pm Bell Canto Handbells (Handbell Room) 5:00pm Friendship Ministry (Fellowship Hall)	18 6:00pm Caring Corner Staff Meeting (Chapel) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	19 9:00am Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 7:00pm Touch of Brass Handbells (Handbell Room)	20 8:00am Quilters (Room 104) 1:30pm Page Turners Circle (Room 106) 5:00pm Confirmation (Carnegie - Conference) 5:30pm Powerhouse Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Basic Bible Class (Carnegie - UL) 6:30pm 4:12 Junior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 6:30pm Choir Practice (Choir Room) 6:30pm Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World (Room 107) 6:30pm Powerhouse - 3yrs to 5th grade 7:15pm 4:12 Senior High Youth Group (Sanctuary) 8:00pm AA Support Group (Chapel)	21 6:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00am UMW Bazaar Planning Meeting (Room 106)	22	23 8:00am Clean-up Day 2:00pm UMW Fun & Fellowship Day (Chapel, Fellowship Hall)