



Lilian Gallo Seagren ~ District Superintendent

Sherry Swanson ~ District Administrative Assistant

OFFICE HOURS ~ Monday – Thursday 8am-4:30pm, Friday 8-Noon

Phone ~ 563-293-1361

Homepage ~ <https://southeast.iaumc.org/>

Conference Vision ~ God's hope for the world made real through faithful leaders, fruitful communities, and fire-filled people.

Conference Mission ~ Inspire, equip, and connect communities of faith to cultivate world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ.



General Conference is coming and I am going with hope because we serve Christ who has done far greater things than all our labors combined! While some may see 2019 General Conference as the ending of what we have come to know as The United Methodist Church, I see the beginning of a new season full of unimagined possibilities for God's transforming and perfecting work.

I have learned a long-time ago that this grace-believing denomination is gifted with a blessing and a burden. When grace-saved and grace-filled people come together in God's anointed spaces, we can't help but celebrate what we are seeing in the life of our United Methodist Church; multi-language folks are worshipping Jesus together, the dark and light-skinned are dreaming God's vision together, young and old are doing volunteer mission work together, rich and poor are eating at the same table, political foes are in Sunday School together, men and women are commissioning and ordaining each other, and where pietists and social activists are singing the same songs. We bless the Lord who created such amazing places!

While it may be tempting to say that we take the blessing and stay where the blessing is, God gives us the burden to learn from each other and from the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit so that our hearts may be completely transformed for God's purposes. Learning from the

sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is not easy for we have been trained so well to only ask the Spirit to bless our decisions. Learning from each other is not easy for we have been trained so well to teach the other.

Since the adjournment of the 2016 General Conference, I have attended to my heart and soul in daily prayer and meditation. I have discovered what my heart and soul can commit to doing and what my heart and soul are resisting to commit. It is too obvious that my heart and soul are in two places: commitment and resistance. I remind myself that God's anointed spaces are His and God shares these spaces with us full of grace and truth. In God's spaces, I have been given the privilege of belonging to God's kingdom, inheriting heaven, claimed as one of God's children, receiver of God's comfort and mercies, watcher of God's face and glory, and seeker of righteousness and peace.

Please pray and hope with your delegation.

Lilian



»**Charge Conference**~ Even though Charge Conferences are done, I am still in need of paperwork from the following churches. **Please get this into me by ASAP. These are way past due!** I need your documents immediately, thank you! **Burlington,Asbury-West Burlington~Resolutions, Crawfordsville~Leadership Worksheet, Muscatine, High Prairie~Minutes & Leadership Worksheet, Trenton~Leadership Worksheet.** If you have any questions please contact Sherry Swanson.

»**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>

»**Fund Balance Report**~ This report is on the District Homepage under forms. This form is to be filled out and turned into the District Office by **March 1st!** This form is by the GCFA and is a very important document for the Church file as during an audit this is the form they will need. You can send a copy to the District Office and keep the original with Church. If you have any questions please contact Sherry Swanson.

»**Lay Servant Training**~ The brochure is now listed on the SE District homepage under Lay Servant Ministry and then Lay Servant Training.

March 16 & 17- Basic, UM Polity, Called to Preach
July 20 & 21 – Basic, Leading in Worship, Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders
October 27 & November 3 – Basic, Spiritual Gifts, Leading Bible Study

»**Annual Conference** ~ Annual Conference 2019 will be held on June 8-11, with Clergy and Laity Sessions on Friday evening, June 7. Hotel registration is open. **Please be sure to book your hotel room as soon as possible, as there are several events scheduled in Des Moines the same weekend as our conference.** Please use the following link to access the list of hotels for which we were given group rates:
[2019 Annual Conference Hotel Information](#)

Grand View dorm housing information will be available at a later date in 2019.

»**Ingathering Hunger Grants**~ Each district in the Iowa Conference has been given \$2000 to be used in that district for grants to various hunger projects. Then only stipulations are that the money is used in the district and that the money is used only for hunger causes. **Last year we had \$6250 to distribute and this year that has been dropped to \$2000.** That means that projects will receive less money than last year and not all applications will be funded. New projects that have not received funding in the past few years will receive priority. That doesn't necessarily mean that previously funded projects will not be funded this year but will be put at the end of the list and will not receive as much as in the past. The Ingathering did not receive as much undesignated money this year as last and that is why there is not as much to distribute. Please fill out the application that is on the District Homepage under Thanksgiving Ingathering and then Hunger Grant Application and return it to Judy Brotherton, Southeast District Ingathering representative. Her address is 2512 Mulberry Ave., Muscatine, IA 52761 or you can email it to judyb@machlink.com. Be sure to include contact information for the person filling it out so she can get back to you if there is a question. The deadline for these applications is **FEBRUARY 15**. Applications received after that date cannot be considered. Getting the application in before that date is much appreciated. New projects not connected with a United Methodist Church will need to fill out a W-9 form if the organization has not received Hunger Grants in the past; contact her for this form.

If you have any questions about the Hunger Grants, please contact her at her email address (above) or call her at 563-264-5372.

»**MUMM~ Looking for VBS help? MUMM & EP3-20 to the rescue!** MUMM is working on its calendar for Summer 2019. If you're a church in Southwest, South Central or Southeast district, looking for help, let us know. We're also sharing our VBS plans at three VBS Fairs in February and March. Preview the 2019 Cokesbury To Mars & Beyond VBS curriculum with puppet and DVD, crafts and science experiments.

Mark your calendars to attend one:

2-3:30 p.m., Sun. Feb. 24 at Chariton First UMC

2-3:30 p.m., Sun. March 3 at Atlantic First UMC

2-3:30 p.m., Sun. March 24 at Mount Pleasant First UMC

Free-will donation to help defray costs

Rev. Bob Dean, Cokesbury Community Resource Consultant for the Iowa Annual Conference, can offer discounts and free shipping on VBS materials to churches that attend any MUMMs VBS Fair! (He will only be with us at the Mount Pleasant Fair, but those at other locations can contact him at bdean@cokesbury.com or 515-318-8981.)

Enjoy fellowship with MUMM staff and others to ask questions and share experiences over coffee and cookies. Get your VBS plans launched!

»**Disaster Response Information~** If Disaster happens... Contact Your District Disaster Response Coordinator or the District Office.

District Disaster Response Coordinators (DDRC) ~Southeast – Don and Mary Timmermann – mtimmermann@aol.com , 563-381-4848



+ February 5, 2019~ Clergy Day Apart ~ 10am – 2pm at Crawfordsville. Creating stronger connections with fellow clergy and God through Worship & Song, Art, Play, Prayer, Story Cards, Rest, and Food. Snow date, if needed, will be February 7th. If you have any questions please email Melanie Greengo at melaniegreengo@gmail.com

+ **District Wide Church Officers Training** ~ Administrative Council/Board, Trustees, SPPRC and Finance

February 9 ~

Wellman, Asbury – 9am-11am – Shannon Pascual

Columbus Junction – 9am-11am – Marsha Gerot

Burlington, Asbury – 9am-11am – Elizabeth Bell

Birmingham – 9am-11am – Beth Harbaugh

February 16 ~

Mount Pleasant, First – 9am-11am – David Morris

Muscatine, New Hope – 9am-11am – Tom Berryman

Davenport, Faith – 1pm-3pm – Tom Berryman

Keokuk, Trinity – 9am-11am – Elizabeth Bell

February 17 ~

Sigourney – 2pm-5pm – Shannon Pascual

+ **February 10th, 1:30pm** ~ Lay Servant Chairs meeting at SE District Office

+ **February 10th, 2:30pm** ~ Leadership and Development/Nominations Committee meeting at the SE District Office

+ **February 10th, 4pm** ~ DCMC meeting at SE District office.

+ **General Conference Follow-up**~ Conversation with Bishop Laurie Haller. Listed below are the dates, times and locations.

March 10 – Cedar Rapids – 3:30pm-5:00pm

March 16 – Des Moines, New Hope – 1:30pm-3:00pm

March 17 – Trinity Fort Dodge – 3:30pm-5:00pm



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| 1- Moody Colorado | 14- Alanna Warren |
| 2- Courtney Dake | 16- Donna Wittmann |
| 5- Judi Calhoon | 19- Gerry Kahler |
| 6- Roberta Gimmy | 22- Michael Elrod |
| 8- Rhonda Mixon | 25- Shannon Pascual |
| 12- David Bracht-Wagner | 29- Gayle Wilcox |
| 13- Vicki Homan | |



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| 5- David & Rhonda Mixon | 21- Heecheon & Hyunjae Ann Jeon |
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- Prayer for Melisa Bracht-Wagner as she continues to fight the cancer that is in her body. May God give her strength and the love needed to fight this disease. Also pray for her family as they watch her go through this. May God give you strength and comfort.
- Prayer for Scott Butler, husband of Pastor Dawn Butler, as he continues to deal with health issues.
- Continued prayers for the guidance of our General Conference as they make the upcoming decisions that will be difficult.
- Continued prayers for our military who are active, reserves, and veterans. May they find peace and understanding with their daily struggles and try to understand.
- Continued prayers for our police, firefighters and first responders who answer the call without hesitation for the safety of their communities.
- As always, prayers to the ones who may not ask for prayers but need them. May they feel the love of God wrap around them during their time of need.