

GPconnect 01-27-16

Great Plains Conference recruiting for new treasurer

Bishop Scott Jones regrets to announce that the Rev. Gary Beach is retiring effective July 1, 2017, and as a result, will be stepping down from his current position as treasurer of the Great Plains Conference as of that date. Gary has served the Kansas East, Kansas West and Great Plains annual conferences in this position for six years, and his services and contributions will be sorely missed.



Consequently, the conference is seeking a qualified person to fulfill the responsibilities of the conference treasurer and director of administrative services ("treasurer"). The treasurer shall assume, in accordance with the actions of the conference and the provisions of the "Book of Discipline," all financial and administrative services of the conference and those bodies amenable to it. The treasurer is accountable to the Council on Finance and Administration, and is supervised and evaluated at least annually by the conference bishop. This position currently manages an organization of 11 other staff, with four persons currently reporting directly to the position.

Qualified candidates shall have the following key attributes:

- Ordained elder in the United Methodist Church preferred, but not required.
- Strong knowledge and experience with developing and implementing operating budgets.
- Strong background in and experience with accounting principles, and their application in the development of monthly financial and annual financial statements.
- Excellent communications skills and the ability to relate to clergy and lay people.
- Good institutional knowledge of the Great Plains Conference.
- Good institutional knowledge of the General Conference.

The new treasurer should be prepared and able to work with Gary during a transitional phase for several months on a full-time or part-time basis prior to Gary's retirement.

Please contact Barb Campbell at bcampbell@greatplainsumc.org if you are interested in receiving a copy of the job description. If you are interested in applying for this position, please send your cover letter and resume electronically to Barb Campbell no later than Feb. 29, 2016.

Briefing provides preview into General Conference topics

In a gathering that repeatedly stressed the need for church unity, about 400 delegates, communicators and others gathered Jan. 20-22 in Portland, Oregon, to hear learn more about issues that will be discussed when the worldwide United Methodist Church's governing body convenes later this spring for the 2016 General Conference.

Topics included human sexuality, a possible reorganization of the church, the possibility of the creation of a central conference for the United States and potential changes for both the election of bishops and ordination of clergy.

[Read the story about the pre-General Conference briefing.](#)



Disaster response training available

The Conference Disaster Response Ministry offers trainings to get you prepared for all types of disasters. Make plans to host a training at your church by contacting the Rev. Hollie Tapley at htapley@greatplainsumc.org.

Trainings offered are Basic Disaster 101, Early Response Training, Spiritual & Emotional Care, Active Shooter, Connecting Neighbors (Ready Congregant, Ready Church, Ready Response), Children & Youth After a Disaster and Family Disaster Planning.

Christian comedian to headline Joyfest 2016

Women of all ages are invited to a day of laughter, fun and fellowship at Joyfest 2016 at St. Mark's UMC in Lincoln, Nebraska, featuring America's top selling female comedian, Chonda Pierce.



Armed with an abundance of unpretentious Southern charm and laser sharp wit, Pierce has been entertaining audiences from coast to coast for more than a decade. An in-demand stand-up comic, television hostess and author, Pierce has parlayed her gift for storytelling into a multi-faceted career.

Pierce is the highest-selling female comedian in history. She has more live concert, comedy DVD and book sales than Carol Burnett, Wanda Sykes, Ellen DeGeneres, Whoopi Goldberg, Rosanne Barr and countless other high profile comedians. She is a master at using the art form of stand-up comedy to reach and inspire people.

“I come straight from the world of wooden pews and hell fire preaching. Some of it probably did a little damage – that’s where I get my warped sense of humor – but most of those days gave me solid roots,” she says. “You learn a lot from your past – what to weed through and throw out and what to hold onto forever.”

Pierce has authored eight books with the most recent being, “Laughing in the Dark,” which was released as a movie in November 2015. “Laughing in the Dark” chronicles Pierce’s life, her struggles and God’s faithfulness in a way that only she can – with openness, honesty and the humor. But it is more than her story. It reveals a path to hope and healing for all those who are suffering from depression, anxiety, loss and grief.

Registration for Joyfest is \$40 and includes a light breakfast and lunch. Register online at www.stmarks.org/joyfest-2016 or call 402-489-8885. The event runs from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Doors will open at 9 a.m.

An important part of Joyfest each year is the Women Helping Women Mission Project. Through the project, Joyfest supports local organizations Fresh Start, Voices of Hope, St. Monica’s and Friendship Home. Those who attend Joyfest are encouraged to bring donations of cash and/or basic toiletry items, including feminine hygiene products for distribution to these organizations. The event also includes music, testimony and an opportunity to shop at the many vendors who participate in the day.

Joyfest is an annual event for all women hosted by St. Mark’s United Methodist and the UMW Joanna Group.

EmberHope to sell south side of Newton campus

EmberHope, a 501(c)3 affiliated with the Great Plains Conference, has experienced a number of financial challenges over the past two years. The landscape of child welfare services has changed and therefore the financial burden of retaining our very large residential campus located in Newton, Kansas, is not sustainable.

Effective immediately, the EmberHope board has voted to proceed with the sale of the south side of the Newton campus. EmberHope will retain all current services offered in Newton which includes the Secure Care cottage and a Youth Residential II cottage for girls in the foster care system between the ages of 10 and 18. Programming will now be provided on the north side of the campus on Whitfield Circle. Please note, all Newton staff will retain their employment.

At this time, there are no immediate plans for the current tenants on the south side of the campus to relocate. EmberHope remains committed to the Newton community and hopes to continue providing services there indefinitely.

Many churches, individuals and the general community support the Newton campus. It is critical for this charitable support to continue as the needs in serving at risk, vulnerable children on the Newton campus remains a top priority. EmberHope is regularly in-need of basic hygiene supplies. For example, anti-dandruff shampoo and conditioner, body wash, deodorant, lotion, new women's socks and underwear.

If you would like more information on the needs of youth EmberHope is serving, contact LeAnne Miller at lamiller@emberhope.org or 316-350-5364.

EmberHope would like to thank you for your continued prayers and support as it makes this transition, and is happy to address any questions, please contact Shelley Duncan, president/CEO at sduncan@emberhope.org or 316-529-9100.

Conference communications team wins UMAC awards



The Great Plains Conference communications staff won five second-place and four third-place awards at the annual United Methodist Association of Communicators banquet, which was conducted just prior to the pre-General Conference briefing Jan. 20 in Portland, Oregon. The Great Plains winners are:

Second place

- Website content, staff.
- Digital publications, led by Communications Coordinator Rachel Moser, for the 2015 annual conference session daily email newsletters.
- Writing-series, Communications Director Todd Seifert, for a series on Lay Servant Ministries and a three-church charge assisted by Lay Servants near Hastings, Nebraska.
- Writing-nonfiction, Seifert, for a story about the combined new-church plant and campus ministry at New Church Lawrence.

- Visual design video, Media Producer Eugenio Hernandez, for videos prepared for the Great Plains candidacy summits

Third Place

- Graphic design, Wichita graphic artist Greg Sullivan, for logos designed for Great Plains camps.
- Visual design, Moser, for the magazine design of a story about the Transition into Ministry program.
- Photography, former Communications Director Kathryn Witte, for her magazine cover shot from the Zimbabwe Ebenezer Convention.
- Video production, freelance videographer Kent Taylor, for the "Though Many, One" 2015 annual conference session video.

UMCOR needs items for health, school kits

Those attending the Great Plains annual conference, June 1-4 in Topeka, Kansas, are asked to bring items for health kits and school kits for The United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR, to fill a truck.

Health kit items include a hand towel, washcloth, nail file or clippers, bath-size soap, toothbrush, adhesive bandages, a gallon-size sealable plastic bag and \$1 to purchase toothpaste.

School kits include a pair of blunt scissors, three pads of paper, a handheld pencil sharpener, a 30-cm ruler, six unsharpened pencils, a 2-inch or larger eraser, a 24-pack of crayons and a 14-by-16 bag.

Details on the items are available at UMCOR.org.

Boundary Training 201 to be offered day before Orders & Fellowship

All clergy serving churches in the Great Plains conference are required to have Safe Gatherings certification. A second training that conference policy requires is called "boundary and ethics training." Boundary training focuses on developing healthy boundaries in ministry and is specific to the role of a clergy person. Of particular concern is the power difference between a person in a ministerial role and a member of his or her congregation or a person being counseled. Boundary training also includes conversation about personal and professional health and the use of social media. Boundary Training 101 classes were scheduled across the conference for those who have not previously had training, primarily for new clergy, DSA or CLM.

Boundary training must be renewed every four years and for those needing renewal. A Boundary Training 201 is scheduled for Feb. 16, the day before Orders and Fellowship.

If you have questions about your need for boundary training please contact your district office. You may also contact the Rev. Nancy Lambert at nlambert@greatplainsumc.org or 402-464-5994, ext 126. Training will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Christ UMC (4530 A St.) in Lincoln. The cost for lunch and the participant book is \$25, but the Board of Ordained Ministry is covering a portion of this, so your cost is only \$10.

Bishop Scott Jones to speak at 158th annual Founders Day



Baker University will celebrate its annual Founders Day at 11 a.m., Feb. 11 at First UMC in Baldwin City, Kansas. Bishop Scott Jones will provide the keynote address.

At Founders Day, Baker University will celebrate its origin in an annual celebration dedicated to the school's 1858 founding by what is now the United Methodist Church.

Bishop Jones will deliver the keynote address at the event, which is titled "A Faithful Legacy," and celebrates Baker's longstanding relationship with the church. The event will include performances from the Baker University Concert Choir.

In addition to his position as bishop of the Great Plains Conference, Jones also serves as an ex-officio trustee of Baker University. He is highly revered in the area, having preached and taught throughout the United States, Europe, Africa and Asia and is a published author. Jones has been both a United Methodist pastor and university professor, and will speak about the importance of higher education in the United Methodist Church. The Rev. Kevin Hopkins, minister to the university, believes Jones' passion for the church and his background in education will reinforce the message of this year's Founders Day ceremony — to lift up Baker's beginnings and current relationship with the church.

Dr. Lynne Murray, university president, is looking forward to showcasing Baker University's core values.

"We are truly blessed with a great community here at Baker University," Murray said. "This celebration is a time to remember that, while also delving into our Methodist roots. Bishop Scott Jones will be an important part of the ceremony and we are honored to be hosting him."

The celebration is open to all Baker students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Lunch will be provided after the ceremony in the Susanne Teel Dining Hall.

Unpaid workers' compensation invoices past due

Workers' compensation invoices were sent to all churches in the Great Plains Conference in late December by Assured SRA. All churches in the former Kansas East Conference had invoices sent in late December also, but these not only included worker compensation but also property and liability coverage.

All these bills are now past due. Please remit this week to: Assured SRA, P.O. Box 2726, Mission, KS 66201.

If you didn't receive an invoice, please contact either Sue Courtney at 913-236-3017 or sue_c@srains.com or Karen Hoskins at 913-236-3015 or karen_h@srains.com. Assured SRA appreciates you paying on a timely basis.

Self-care workshop offered for Great Plains clergy



Join Michael T. Curd, D. Min., founding director of Institute of Pastoral Care, and your pastor colleagues for a psychodrama workshop 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 29, at First United Methodist Church, (Parlor, 7020 Cass St.) in Omaha, Nebraska. Cost is \$135 for the day, and includes snacks and lunch.

At the completion of this introductory self-care seminar, participants will:

- Experience multiple demonstrations of the psychodrama (PD)
- Understand the history of PD and its founder, Jakob Moreno, M.D.
- Know how PD provides trauma and/or grief resolution
- Learn how PD can be used for self-care by clergy.
- Receive a certificate of completion for five contact hours of training.

Fear not! The only thing participants will be expected to do is say their name, as a vow of confidentiality.

Please dress casually, bring throw pillows (if you like sitting on the floor) and enjoy light refreshments.

Contact Curd if you have any questions. Register via email to ipcsanantonio1@aol.com or call 402-802-7826.

Conference offers debt-free seminary experience at Saint Paul

The Great Plains Conference is offering a groundbreaking opportunity of a full-ride to seminary through the Saint Paul School of Theology Fellows Program beginning fall 2016.

The Fellows program equips candidates called to full-time ministry with academic formation and real-life pastoral experience while eliminating the need for student loans. The award covers tuition, books and fees for three years. The Great Plains Fellow will receive a pastoral mentor and a student appointment with a stipend to cover living expenses.

Learn more at www.spst.edu/fellows. Deadline for applications is Feb. 1.

Train worship arts team with workshop series in Omaha

Dr. Marcia McFee is a nationally known worship designer, professor and consultant. In the past 25 years, she has helped churches create more vital and sensory-rich worship, no matter the size of church or style of worship.

Countryside Community Church UCC in Omaha will host the Worship Design Studio Experience, a series of workshops with Dr. McFee that churches may register for and send unlimited numbers of people to be trained in all the worship arts as well as how to “plan together and plan ahead” for a more creative process of worship design. The workshops are scheduled weekly from April 2 to May 3. Registered churches will also receive recordings of all the workshops for those that missed the sessions and for their continued training use.

[View the flier.](#)

[Find out more information and register.](#)

Gather to see how men can make difference for Christ

The Rev. Mike Marion and George Houle, a certified paraprofessional specializing in men’s ministry, were visiting about that topic when Marion asked if his church, Calvary United Methodist Church in Wichita, could host an area-wide gathering for Christian men to come together and share the Gospel. Houle asked Marion why he wanted to do that and the answer came quickly: Men are foundational to the ministry life of a church, and we need to get that message out. A vision was born, and Houle was off and running.



Five area churches joined the vision guided by Ephesians 4, where we are told that Christ gave us many gifts so that we would go out into the world to do the work God has prepared for us to do, the key task being to make disciples. The theme became “Men Make the Difference”: a challenge for us to make the difference for Christ in our worlds. The men decided that one way for people to make disciples was to provide scholarship aide to men and women who wanted to pursue a Christian education. The men decided that all the proceeds from the registration would be dedicated to providing scholarships as a means of reproducing their faith into the future of the church. Two men and two women will have financial aid when they attend Kansas Wesleyan and Southwestern College next year.

More than 60 men heard Rev Tom Albin, dean of the Upper Room, challenged us in the first event not to shrink the Bible to our limited experience, to enter into small groups where through sharing life stories and asking questions we can learn more about ourselves and, therefore, be more effective as men serving our God. Don Davis, two-time Super Bowl champion, challenged us to examine the moments in our lives when we encounter Jesus. How do we respond? Do we accept his challenge to “follow me,” or do we go back and take care of daily business. He shared from scripture the tools we have to make disciples like the dominion authority of Genesis 1:21-28, the access to the spiritual realm of Jesus from Ephesians 1:1-3, the anointing of the Holy Spirit in John 2:20;27 and called to be ambassadors in Mathew 28:18. During the day, men broke out into small groups to share the messages from Albin and Davis and how they impacted their personal lives.

Young adults from Southwestern College helped us worship with music and shared personal testimony of how men impacted their life and made a difference.

You are invited to the 2016 Gathering in Wichita. Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, 1550 N. Chapel Hill Road, will be the host site this year on April 16. Rod Handley, founder of Character that Counts and also with long ties to Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will team with Dan Meers, the wolf mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs, to challenge us to show the world how our Christian character makes a difference. Four more young men and women will receive the blessing of financial aid.

Register at www.makethedifference.care

Explore God’s call for your life

Did you know that everyone has a call into ministry by God? It’s true. Sure, not everyone is called to be a pastor, but we all have been given gifts that God expects us to use to reach out to our congregations, our communities and the world.

Jeanie Leeper, Lay Servant Ministry director in the Prairie Rivers



District in Nebraska offers some thoughts on the subject in our newest LSM blog.

[Check out what Jeanie has to say.](#)

Facilitating Difficult Conversations workshops set for Wichita

Conflict, controversy, and hard conversations are inevitable in the life of the church. They are normal. But can they actually be a positive force?

The Wichita East and West Districts are offering a free workshop that will help you explore the possibilities and strengthen your skills in guiding your church through difficult conversations. The workshop will be offered on two different dates, at four different times. Pick the location and date that works best for you.

Saturday, Feb. 13: 9 a.m. – noon

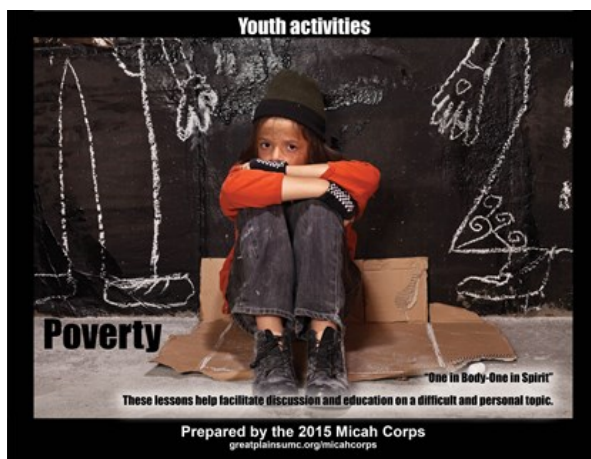
- Cheney UMC in Cheney, Kansas
- First UMC in El Dorado, Kansas

Saturday, Feb. 27: 9 a.m. – noon

- Aldersgate UMC in Wichita, Kansas
- College Hill UMC in Wichita, Kansas

Clergy and laity are encouraged to attend together as a team, but you can come by yourself if that works best for you.

[View flier for more information and how to register.](#)



Micah Corps interns create several youth activities

Creating change in the world — youth activities focus on poverty, environment, food security, peace/nonviolence and immigration.

The 2015 Micah Corps interns have created activities for youth groups that offer a series of discussions, videos and activities which will teach youth how the

issues connect to their faith and challenge and inspire the youth to use their power to change the world. These activities are formatted under five four-part units where through the activities, Scripture and discussion students will learn concrete ways to be accepting, be aware and create change in their society.

[Download the activities.](#)

Throughout the next few months, we'll highlight a different topic. This week, we focus on poverty.

Poverty — "One in Body and One in Spirit"

Poverty is an issue that affects every community across the US. Help be part of the solution by learning more about poverty, the cliff effect, food security and advocacy. These lessons help facilitate discussion and education on a difficult and very personal topic. Only when we all raise our voices can the problem of systemic poverty change for the better.

Download poster for poverty lesson. ([PDF](#)) ([image](#))

Read more about the activities. You can learn more about the Micah Corps interns at greatplainsumc.org/micahcorps.

Nominations open for Denman Evangelism Award



The Great Plains Annual Conference is now accepting nominations for The Harry Denman Evangelism Award for clergy, lay and youth. The Harry Denman Evangelism Award recognizes a person whose life and ministry exemplifies the

teaching of Christ and the Great Commission.

Recipients of these awards, nominated by individuals, churches, or districts, and selected by the conference, live their call to "Offer Them Christ" daily as modeled by Dr. Harry Denman, founder of The Foundation for Evangelism that sponsors these awards.

- [Download a brochure to learn more.](#)
- [Download the clergy nomination form.](#)
- [Download the laity nomination form.](#)
- [Download the youth nomination form.](#)
- [Download a sample information item for your bulletin.](#)

Nominations must be received no later than March 1 to be considered for the 2016 awards. Call the Rev. Patrick Broz at 620-532-3381 for more information.

The Water's Edge UMC completes capital campaign

The Water's Edge UMC in Omaha, Nebraska, recently completed its second capital campaign: From the Ground Up. The people of The Water's Edge pledged to give \$2.4 million for the construction of the church's first building and related improvements. A previous campaign, WE imagine, raised \$1.3 million.



These campaigns will allow the church to move forward and hopefully break ground this fall on the 23.3 acres of land it owns in southwest Omaha. Phase one of the project will include a worship center, children's classrooms, a large commons area, parking, landscaping and site improvements. The Water's Edge currently gathers for worship at Millard West High School and Beadle Middle School and has dozens of small groups that meet at homes throughout the Omaha metro area.

Learn more about Water's Edge UMC at www.weomaha.com.

New Creation Care team being formed in the Great Plains



If you are interested in linking your faith with the reality of climate change and would like to work with other Great Plains United Methodists to pray, study and act, contact Carol Windrum cwindrum@greatplainsumc.org.

This team will meet primarily by conference call so geography shouldn't be a factor in participation.

Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty plans spring event, provides resources

Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NADP) has released two resources to help pastors and congregation engage in informed conversations about capital punishment.

[“Christian Reflections on the Death Penalty”](#) includes questions for discussion on a number of Bible passages, along with some facts about the death penalty and several sources for more information.

[“Reflections on the Lenten Gospel Readings”](#) takes a look at the scriptures for Ash Wednesday and Sundays in Lent in the context of Nebraska’s present conversation about the death penalty. The United Methodist Church has a strong, long-standing position opposing the death penalty. [A bulletin insert](#) is available with the complete statement in the Social Principles.

NADP is planning a day-long workshop later this spring for religious leaders across Nebraska who want to learn more about the death penalty and how to lead conversations in their communities and congregations. Watch for more information. Please note that the workshop originally scheduled for Jan. 30 has been postponed.

For more information, contact the Rev. Stephen Griffith, NADP, 941 O St., Suite 725, Lincoln NE 68508. Call him at 402-477-7787, or send an email to griffith@nadp.net.

Mark your calendar for Global Youth Service Day in Omaha



United Methodist Ministries/The Big Garden is hosting [Global Youth Service Day in Omaha](#) on Saturday,

Established in 1988, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) celebrates and mobilizes the millions of young people who improve their communities through service. GYSD is the largest service event in the world, and the only one dedicated to the contributions that children and youth make 365 days of the year.

Youth groups and individual volunteers will gather in Omaha for a fun and engaging day of service to our community. This year's work will primarily take place in community gardens. Work will include topping off soil, routine maintenance and preparing gardens for spring planting. Community gardens help neighbors in low-income areas have access to fresh, healthy produce while increasing skills and reducing food expenses.

This day of service is open to all ages and denominations. The cost to participate is \$10, and pre-registration is required by April 22. Groups should bring one adult for every five youth. All United Methodist Ministries staff members have undergone background checks and are certified under the United Methodist Safe Gatherings system. Contact <mailto:info@biggarden.org> for more information.

[Register now.](#)

Editorials

- [Krusing the Capitol: God's Dream](#)

Nudging students to serve

Editor's note: the following was submitted by Derek Bergman, program director at Camp Fontanelle.

As I reflect back on how I arrived to this point in my life, I am grateful to all those nudges I was given.

Today I am doing my best to raise the three kids God has blessed us with and the hundreds of children, youth and adults that call Camp Fontanelle home for a short time each summer.

Thanks to my parents, friends and my church family, I find myself in a very good place.

I first attended Camp Fontanelle as a third-grader. My parents and my church helped me come back to camp every summer after that, and I am truly grateful to them all. I was able to find myself. I discovered that my faith is my own. I found a new worship style, around a campfire and I loved it! I connected with other children and youth that had the same beliefs as I did. I met leaders within our conference whom had a passion that I wanted too! Some of those leaders were pastors, some were college age and some were the older youth who were also campers with me.

Our church camps helped to shape the person I am today!

In college I found new life struggles, I was on my own. Thanks to the experiences I had at camp many



summers before, I knew how to find the groups I needed to be connected with. I found my faith again! Then I discovered, I could go back to camp as a college student. This time as an employee and stay for the entire summer and get paid! My local pastor presented the idea to me and shared that he thought I would be good and enjoy the job. He was right!

I know there are many others that are where they are today because of a conversation or nudge from their mentor and/or local pastor. Now as the program director at Camp Fontanelle, I have seen some of these people serve with me and they are now involved greatly within our conference at a local church, or as a new seminary student, or serving local churches as pastors, and some are still discerning their call.

Had it not been for my local pastor taking the time to know me and nudge me toward the ministry at Camp Fontanelle, I may have not become involved in any type of ministry. Please take the time to know the youth in your church, keep them connected, and use our camps as a resource to help you.

Camp Fontanelle is looking for [14 college age staff to enhance our camp experience this summer](#).

So are our other [Great Plains camps](#).

Our conference also has [other internship opportunities](#).

Newsletters

- UMCOR: [Hotline](#)
- Nebraska United Methodist Foundation: [8 Reasons to Give to Your Church](#)
- Ministry Mattes: [Jan. 14, 2016](#)
- Ministry Matters: [Jan. 22, 2016](#)
- UMC Development Center: [Spiritual Giving](#) (Jan. 19)
- UMC Development Center: [Spiritual Giving](#) (Jan. 26)
- Lewis Center for Church Leadership: [Leading Ideas](#) (Jan. 20)
- Lewis Center for Church Leadership: [Leading Ideas](#) (Jan. 27)
- General Board of Global Ministries: [connectNmission](#)
- United Methodist Communications: [MyCom](#)

Classifieds

- [Conference treasurer and director of administrative services sought for Great Plains Conference](#)
- [Children's ministries coordinator sought at St. Paul's UMC](#)
- [Seward UMC in need of ministry assistant](#)

- [Monticello UMC seeks vocal ministry director, worship leader](#)
- [Missouri Conference seeks mobile-camp counselors](#)
- [Indiana Conference seeks director of administration and financial ministries](#)

To view these and other classifieds, go to greatplainsumc.org/classifieds.

Press Clips

Congregations across the Great Plains Conference are making the news in their local newspapers.

View our newspaper clipping reports to see if there are stories, ideas and ministry happenings you can learn from to use in your own congregation. Press clips can be found at greatplainsumc.org/inthenews. You can see education partnership ideas at