

CONNECTION

Getting your priorities straight

By Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe
North Texas Conference

I just finished reading a great book entitled, "Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable" by Patrick Lencioni. In the book, Lencioni states that teamwork is the most powerful tool one has to accomplish a goal – not strategy, not technology, not money. Teamwork is sometimes rare in the church, especially among



Bishop Bledsoe

the clergy and laity.

We are embarking on a bold vision and mission for the Annual Conference that will involve all of us rowing in the same direction. We are clear about our mission and priorities. One of the issues that we will face as we move forward into this bold new future is how well we work together as a team in accomplishing our goals and priorities. Building a team is both simple and difficult. There are negative consequences, dysfunctions, if we do not learn how to work as a team.

According to Lencioni, the five dysfunctions are:

(1) Inattention to results—failure to make some sort of assessment of where we are and what the results of our efforts are;

(2) Avoidance of accountability—unwillingness to be held accountable for the stated mission or goal;

(3) Lack of commitment—willingness to give lip service and half-hearted efforts, but unwilling to make the necessary changes to make a difference;

(4) Fear of conflict; and

(5) Absence of trust—unwilling to give the leadership the benefit of the doubt to lead effectively.

If these are the five dysfunctions of a team, then what are the necessary functions of a team for successful work and ministry? As you probably imagined, they are just the opposite: paying attention to results and having a way to measure

Annual Conference 2010, risk-taking mission

The 144th session of the North Texas Annual Conference will be June 6–8 (Sunday through Tuesday) in Wichita Falls. The scriptural foundation for the conference, which will set the tone for work together in the year ahead is "Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly," an invitation to engage in "Risk-Taking Mission," the 2010 theme.

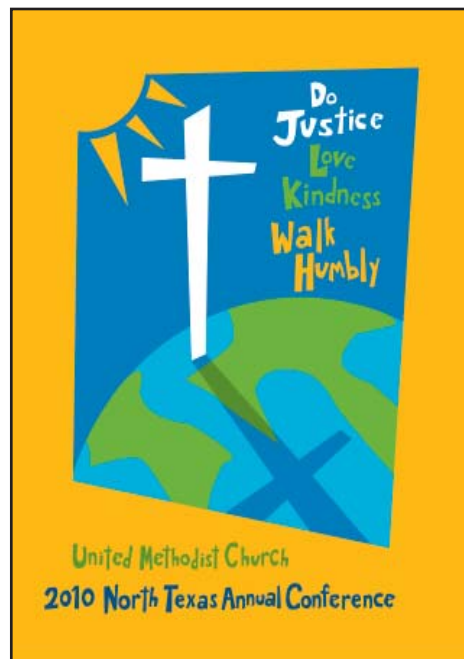
Conference members will have an opportunity to live out the theme by participating in one of three special mission opportunities. This will be a special Day of Service on Wednesday, June 9. All are invited to join Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe and the Extended Cabinet in doing a variety of projects in Wichita Falls. The other two service options include preparing United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) "Relief Kits" and bringing them to conference and an opportunity to give blood through an American Red Cross Blood Drive during the conference session.

The main item of business for the session will be presentation of the Strategic Plan. The 2009 Annual Conference session voted to call for the plan, and after more than a year of diligent work, the Strategic Planning Team (SPT) will present the legislation to approve the plan and align conference resources to it. The SPT leadership has conducted listening sessions in all of the NTC districts and continues to be in dialogue with lay and clergy members. The major resource for receiving information regarding the SPT and offering ideas and questions is the interactive website: www.holyconferencing.com.

The conference will begin at 3:30 a.m. Sunday with Laity and Clergy sessions. The Laity Session will be at First

accomplishments; willing to be held accountable; making a commitment to do the heavy lifting required to enable change; not fearing conflict, but working through it and learning from it; placing a lot of trust in the leadership to lead.

My hope and prayer is that we will work together to accomplish all that God has in store for us as the Church.



The 2010 Annual Conference logo features the scripture from Micah 6.8 that is the foundation for the conference theme "Risk-Taking Mission." Donna Aldridge, an artist and member of Greenland Hills UMC, Dallas, designed this year's logo.

UMC, Wichita Falls, and the Clergy Session will be at Floral Heights UMC. There will be a combined Clergy and Laity Dinner followed by the opening service at the Kay Yeager Coliseum beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$15 and will be available for purchase at District Conference sessions.

District Conferences

- Dallas-Denton District, 3:00 p.m. May 23 at Argyle UMC;
- Dallas Northeast District, 2:00 p.m. May 16 at First UMC, Frisco;
- Dallas South District, 3:00 p.m. May 23 at Kessler Park UMC, Dallas.
- Paris-Sulphur Springs District, 3:00 p.m., May 16 at First UMC, Sulphur Springs;
- Sherman-McKinney District, 3:00 p.m. May 16 at Lakeway UMC, Pottsboro; and
- Wichita Falls District, 3:00 p.m., May 16 at First UMC, Bowie.

INFORMAtion:

◆ **The 2010 Owen Lenten Lectures, Lovers Lane UMC, Dallas**, featuring **Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe** as guest speaker are entitled, *“When Words Aren’t Enough.”* The lectures will be March 30 thru April 1 at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, followed by a luncheon in Watson Hall. For more information please call the **Lovers Lane Foundation Office**, 214-706-9561.

◆ Churches that offer **Home Communion Ministry** for members unable to attend a worship service will benefit from an April 10 **Dallas Cokesbury Store** presentation by **Dr. Mark W. Stamm, Perkins School of Theology Associate Professor of Christian Worship**, who will discuss the benefits of such a ministry.

◆ **UMVIM Mission Trip Leadership Training** is scheduled April 10 or May 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the **NTC Ministry Center**. For more information, please call **Rev. Marji Bishir**, 800-969-8201 or e-mail: bishir@ntcumc.org.

◆ **The Point, Center for Arts and Education, C.C. Young**, presents financial planner **Linda Murdock** of **Texas Methodist Foundation**, discussing *“Planned Giving: Extending Your Reach, Leaving a Legacy.”* April 30 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please call 214-841-2902, or log on www.ccyoung.org.

◆ **Lakeway UMC, Pottsboro**, and four other area churches gathered on Jan 31 at the **Denison Wal-Mart** to purchase food to stock the **Pottsboro Resale Barn** and **Visions of Sugar Plums** with emergency non-perishable foods for Grayson County persons in need.

◆ **Rev. Paul Meyenberg, Friberg-Cooper UMC, Wichita Falls**, led groundbreaking ceremonies on March 7 for a new multipurpose/fellowship hall. The building committee began work on the plans in October 2009. When completed, the building will have approximately 2,400 sq. ft., much of it flexible space. Partitions will allow for division into class or meeting rooms and a smaller fellowship space, or the possibility of opening up into a space to seat 120 at tables. Estimated cost is \$200,000.

◆ **The Point, Center for Arts and Education, at C.C. Young** will host its annual *“Art is Ageless”* exhibition for artists age 55 and older, April 22-May 24 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the 4847 West Lawther Drive facility in Dallas. All submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. March 31. Ebby Halliday will be featured speaker at the April 24 Awards presentation beginning at 2:00 p.m. For more information, call 214-841-2902 or log on to www.ccyoung.org.

◆ The Weekend of April 24-25 has been declared a time for United Methodists to *“Change the World.”* Goal is for 11 million **United Methodists** around the world to work in local communities and mobilize to battle the treatable disease of malaria that kills one child every 30 seconds in sub-Saharan Africa. **NTC** activities include: April 23-24, final weekend, **Amigos Days**; April 25, **Dallas Crop Walk**; April 24 **NTC Council on Youth Ministry** mission day, **Arapaho UMC, Richardson**; April 24, work projects in communities throughout the **NTC**; April 25, **Imagine No Malaria** Sunday. For more information contact **Rev. Marji Bishir**, 972-526-5000 or e-mail: bishir@ntcumc.org.

Bishop announces new appointment

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe has announced his intention to appoint Rev. Sharon Patterson, senior pastor of Highland Hills UMC, Dallas, as NTC Communications Officer. This leadership appointment will take place at the 2010 Annual Conference June 6-8 in Wichita Falls and will be effective July 1.

Bishop Bledsoe indicated that Rev. Lisa Greenwood, originally announced as the appointee for the position requested an extension ministry appointment and bishop and cabinet honored the request.

WESLEY-RANKIN COMMUNITY CENTER
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Join us for the 3rd Annual
In the Center
Leadership Award Luncheon

Honoring the family, friends and organizations
whose encouragement and nurturing support is
In the Center of our spiritual lives.

Hattie Rankin Moore
Leadership Award
to Honor
Sarah Miller
World Editor and Publisher,
Upper Room Ministries and
former Executive Director of
Wesley-Rankin



April 28, 2010
Royal Oaks Country Club
7915 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231-3204
11:00 am-1:00 pm


Wesley-Rankin Community Center is honoring *Sarah Miller* in recognition of her great work and leadership during her years of service at Wesley-Rankin.

Honor the family member or friend who is *In the Center* of your spiritual life with an *In the Center* recognition. The *In the Center* recognitions are \$10 apiece and will be listed in the program and on the website.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Nathaniel O'Dell at 214-742-6674 ext. 101 or nathaniel@wesleyrankin.org

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Annual Conference 2010
Wichita Falls, Texas

Risk-Taking Mission

BEFORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE—prepare **UMCOR RELIEF KITS** and bring them with you. There are many choices: safe birth kits, layette kits, cleaning buckets, and more. Go to www.umcor.org to choose the kit that most interests your church or small group.



DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE—give blood at our **BLOOD DRIVE** in partnership with the Red Cross. By supporting the Red Cross through your generous gift of blood you are supporting your community, state, and country. We've made it easy by having the blood drive right in the MPEC center.



AFTER ANNUAL CONFERENCE—participate in our **DAY OF SERVICE** on Wednesday, June 9th in Wichita Falls. See the back of this flyer for complete details on how you can participate and sign up!

For questions?
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800-969-8201 • bishir@ntcumc.org