

# THE SNAKE RIVER EDITION

Oregon-Idaho Conference—The United Methodist Church

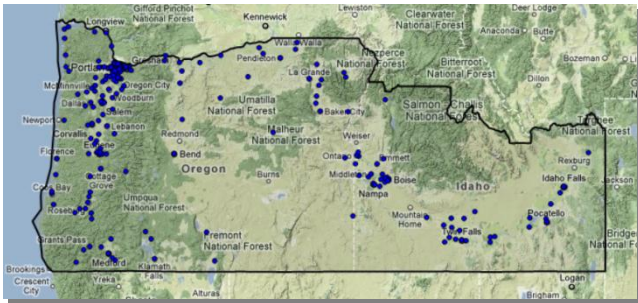
FEBRUARY 2012

Rev. Kim Fields— Assistant to the Bishop

Phyllis Ross — Administrative Assistant

## *FROM OUR ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP*

### *for SNAKE RIVER DISTRICT*



I imagine that you have heard the news by now.

Our Bishop has asked me to move into a new position within the conference structure. As of July 1, I will no longer be the Assistant to the Bishop for the Snake River District. Instead, I will be an Assistant to the Bishop for the entire conference. With the recent vote to change to four districts, what has been the Snake River District will become larger (ironically enough, our district boundaries will be almost identical to those of the old Idaho Conference).

In fact, all the current Assistants to the Bishop will have a change. In addition to the redesigned district boundaries, and reexamined district names, those “supervising” the districts will return to the title District Superintendent in July. The times (and titles) are changing.

As I take on my new title and boundary, my primary field of operation will change from the churches of Southern Idaho (and a bit of Eastern Oregon) to the conference office and beyond that to all of the Oregon-Idaho Conference. The need for my new position of Assistant to the Bishop has come about because of another change which will happen this year. Beginning in September we will be sharing a bishop with the Pacific Northwest and Alaska Conferences. This means we will no longer have a bishop solely focused on the Oregon-Idaho Conference. Knowing that there will likely be extended times when our Bishop is elsewhere, serving our sister conferences and the general church, Bishop Hoshibata has decided to create the position of Assistant to the Bishop in order to assist the Bishop in providing and supporting excellent leadership and in maintaining the presence of the Bishop’s office in his/her absence. Bishop Hoshibata has indicated his intention to appoint me to this conference-wide position in July.

I have accepted this new position with mixed feelings. I love the high desert and mountain valleys of the Snake River District and have never desired to serve anywhere else. I grew up here and have always served here. This is my home and you are my people. I have taken great pride in being the first “Idaho boy” to superintend this district in some time. Yet it is a great honor to be asked to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop. I am excited about the potential to more deeply focus our churches and conference on the vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Besides, who would have thought someone from Idaho might oversee the conference office in Portland?

Leaving you to go to Portland is hard, but it is made much easier by knowing the superintendent who will step in to take my place. I have the highest confidence in Rev. Stephan Ross who will move from the current Oregon Trail District to serve you. He has served both in Idaho and in Central Oregon and understands our culture. More than that, he is one of the sharpest folk I know and is deeply committed to the mission of making

disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You could not have a better District Superintendent than Steve.

My guess is that a year from now I will miss you far more than you miss me. Then again I won't really be gone. I will simply be serving you, and God, from the conference office.

Yes, the times are changing, but God is with us and God is good.

Blessings,

Kim



January 9, 2012

Dear Members and Friends of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference:

2012 will be a year of change for our annual conference! While some changes come as a challenge, I believe the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference is ready to move forward with these changes as opportunities for health and vitality in our ministries.

We already know of two organizational changes this year: the shift to four districts and the reduction of the number of bishops serving the Western Jurisdiction. This latter change means that beginning in September, 2012, the Oregon-Idaho Conference will be led by the same bishop that serves the Pacific Northwest and Alaska conferences. To ensure continuity of our positive strategies already in place, I am making key appointments that will impact the Cabinet and Ministry Leadership Team. Let me share some of these strategic appointments with you now.

I am appointing **The Rev. Kim Fields** to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop, effective July 1, 2012. Kim's deep faith, inspiring pastoral presence and love for the church will serve him well in this new role.



Kim's primary responsibilities as Assistant to the Bishop will be coordinating and aligning staff, energy, and resources and supporting the leadership of the bishop. Specific tasks will include vision management with the Ministry Leadership Team; support of the clergy and lay assigned pastors;

serving as Dean of the Cabinet; and supervision of Conference staff. He will also preach, speak and be a visible presence representing the Bishop.

Additional changes will relate to those who have direct responsibility for administration at the district level. On July 1, 2012, we will return to the traditional title of "District Superintendent," and the following changes will become effective for the [four new districts](#):

- The District Superintendent for the “52 District” will be **the Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse** who is now serving the Metro District.
- **The Rev. Gwen Drake** who is now caring for the Southern District, will be appointed as Superintendent of the “48 District”.
- **The Rev. Dr. Steve Ross** will move from the Oregon Trail District to become the new District Superintendent of the “56 District”.

**The Rev. Dr. Kate Conolly**, Dean of the Cabinet and superintendent of the Western District will be leaving the Cabinet to take an appointment to a local church. She has served with excellence in this position for 8 years, the maximum tenure for a Superintendent. I am currently discerning what the best appointment to utilize her considerable gifts and experience will be.



The fourth District Superintendent will be the **Rev. Margaret (Peg) Lofsvold**, who now serves as the senior pastor of Montavilla United Methodist Church in Portland, an appointment she has held since 2009. Rev. Lofsvold brings many important gifts to her ministry and is well respected by her colleagues for her leadership. Recently she has demonstrated her desire to see the church grow and expand its ministries with a focus on new disciples and new faith communities. She is creative and has a passion for healthy vital congregations as well as skill and experience in the processes that lead congregations to fruitfulness. Peg will be appointed as District Superintendent of the “50 District”.

As we move into a time of transition in July, the four new districts will be gathering suggestions for names. Although we will continue to be configured in the current five districts until July 1, members of the annual conference from our new districts will meet on Saturday, June 16 to formally vote for a name to replace the numerical designation.

With these changes in leadership, we are well positioned to continue the path of positive change in our annual conference as we channel our resources and energy toward a bold vision that leads

us through change. I ask you to keep Kate Conolly, Gwen Drake, Kim Fields, Lowell Greathouse, Peg Lofsvold, Steve Ross, and me in prayer as we work toward a smooth transition in July. And I commend you to keep up your bold efforts to be in ministry in the name of Jesus Christ, growing healthy vital congregations that change lives and transform communities!

In Christ,



Robert T. Hoshibata  
Resident Bishop

## COMING EVENTS

### **Measuring Our Congregational Vitality for Success Workshops:**

Saturday, February 4 at Twin Falls First UMC from 1 pm to 4 pm

Saturday, February 18 at Hillview UMC, Boise from 1 pm to 4 pm

### **MISSION LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

"An UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteer in Mission) Leadership Training will be offered at Boise First United Methodist Church, Cathedral of the Rockies; Sunday, March 18, 2012. This is required training for leading insured UMVIM domestic and international trips, and recommended training for leaders of any Methodist mission trip. Contact Scott or Bev Pressman at [bspresman@gmail.com](mailto:bspresman@gmail.com) for more information and registration."

### **SOUTHERN DISTRICT ENRICHMENT EVENT**

**Worship with Deep Soul with Marcia McFee**

**March 3, 2012 ~ 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.)**

**First United Methodist Church ~ 1771 West Harvard Avenue, Roseburg, Oregon**

The Southern District will host [Marcia McFee](#), author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher and artist, at the district enrichment event on March 3. Marcia's passion for helping the church to worship God fully is especially directed toward the education of local congregations. She travels extensively in order to teach regional workshops that are accessible to congregational leaders and worship teams.

Gwen Drake, Assistant to the Bishop in the Southern District, shares the following thoughts: “During my last year as the Senior Pastor at Hillsboro UMC, I finally formed a Worship Design Team and wondered – how did I get through 23 years of ministry without one! Marcia McFee is a great advocate for designing passionate worship; however, she doesn't do it by herself. She involves others who are also passionate about worship. Please come and learn and experience Marcia McFee on March 3rd. It will change how you want to experience worship. It will inspire you to design worship intentionally.”  
Cost to attend: \$20 per person individually (group rate for Churches with 6 or more people participating: \$100); \$5.00 per student (middle school through college); Children – Free (childcare provided for children age 5 and younger). Download a [registration form](#). Click here for a [flyer](#) that can be posted or used as a bulletin insert.

## RETURN TO ACTS

ALIGNING. CLARIFYING. TRANSFORMING. SERVING.

**MARCH 8-9, 2012**

Whether you are a pastor, lay staff member, or volunteer leader, plan to attend for ministry-specific workshops, dynamic speakers, and the opportunity to energize and enhance your ministry.

**Boise First United Methodist Church**

GUEST SPEAKERS

Register online: [www.cathedraloftherockies.org/oili](http://www.cathedraloftherockies.org/oili)

**Sue Nilson Kibbey:** Director of Connectional and Missional Church Initiatives for the United Methodist West Ohio Conference. Author of *Ultimately Responsible: When You're In Charge of Igniting the Ministry*.

**Eric Geiger:** Vice President of the Church Resource Division at LifeWay Christian Resources. Previous executive pastor of Christ Fellowship Miami. Eric has authored or co-authored several books including the best-selling church leadership book, *Simple Church*.



## MARCH FOR HUNGER REMINDER

When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'  
(Matthew 25:37b-40.)

The March for Hunger has two events to highlight the month. First we will host a “hunger banquet” on March 24 at a place to be determined. This event will focus on our youth and young adults.

The second event will be an actual march to the capital building on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The time and route of the parade are still being worked out. Again, our focus is to bring attention to the number of persons who are hungry in Idaho. We will have music, speakers, and information on how each person can respond to end hunger in Idaho.

It is our hope that we can achieve two goals through this event. First, we can be part of the solution to end hunger in Idaho. This is also an opportunity to reach out to the un-churched persons in your church inviting them to be part of an alive and vital community of faith. I hope you will join us in this outreach ministry.

David Thompson, Chair, March on Hunger

## OPPORTUNITIES



Currently there are three districts including Snake River District that are in need of a coordinator. This is a volunteer position for someone with a heart for eliminating hunger. Please contact any of the task force members, coordinators or your District Assistant the Bishop to get more information about this opportunity.

### District Hunger Coordinator JOB DESCRIPTION

Serve as liaison between Bishop's Task Force and local church hunger coordinators.  
Coordinate district involvement in Conference hunger events.  
Communicate advocacy alerts and issues to local churches.  
Coordinate district delegations to legislative events and days.  
Serve as district hunger resource person and be knowledgeable about hunger issues.  
Meet with the Bishop's Task Force at least once a year; more often if needed.  
Become familiar with hunger relief efforts and advocacy issues in the district.  
Share news and stories of events and programs with the Hunger Task Force.

## Snowmobile Retreat - Sawtooth

**Dates:** February 18 - February 20, 2012

**Location:** [Sawtooth Camp](#)

**Ages:** adults

**Fee:** \$95

**Dean:** Dave Hargreaves & Wes Remaley

**Status:** Accepting registrations

## Description:

If you thought Sawtooth was magic in the summer, you have yet to experience the crystal magic of a weekend of fun, spiritual renewal, and worship in the white wonderlands of Idaho backcountry. Come play, worship, and celebrate life in the wilderness over President's Weekend.

It's predicted to be a beautiful winter! Campers need to provide their own snowmobiles. Contact Dave Hargreaves at [SawtoothUMCamp@hughes.net](mailto:SawtoothUMCamp@hughes.net) if you need to arrange to borrow a machine.

We will meet at the Wrangler Cafe in Fairfield, Idaho

# 2012 Scholarship Guidelines: Reverend Frank Witman - UMFCU Scholarship Program

**Submissions Due: February 29, 2012**

The Reverend Frank Witman - United Methodist Federal Credit Union Scholarship Fund was established to offer four \$500 scholarships to students attending any institution of higher education for professional, academic or vocational training and development.

The scholarship program is open to students attending or planning to attend a college or university, community college, campus ministry, a technical college or trade school. Applicants are to write a 1,000 word essay communicating the importance of financial responsibility in their lives and the world around them. Applicants for scholarships are evaluated according to academic promise, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of the United Methodist Federal Credit Union.

Scholarship applications will be judged by a committee of impartial UMFCU staff.

For application and information contact:  
Denise Ponto  
United Methodist Federal Credit Union  
P.O., Box 60651  
Montclair, CA 9176301126



## UNITED METHODIST SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

***Please bring the information in this email to the attention of those in your congregation who are college students and those anticipating attending college beginning this fall (and their parents).***

Scholarships for higher education -- undergraduate, graduate, and seminary -- are available for members of The United Methodist Church through a variety of channels.

The ***General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church*** offers both loans and scholarships. Loans are available up to \$5,000 at 5% interest and there are a variety of scholarships. You can find more information at [www.qbhem.org](http://www.qbhem.org). The ***United Methodist Higher Education Foundation*** also offers scholarships. Their website is [www.umhef.org](http://www.umhef.org). The same minimum criterion exists for both agencies: you must have been a member of a local UMC for at least one year, and be enrolled full-time in an accredited institution of higher education. But beyond that there may be other criteria for specific scholarships. The deadline to have all scholarship application materials in for both programs is **March 1st** each year.

There are three general education scholarships available through ***the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference***. Applicants for any of the three scholarships must intend to be a full-time student and

must have been a member of a United Methodist church within the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference for at least one year. Applications and all supporting documentation must be received by the Conference Scholarship officer no later than Friday, **April 6, 2012** for the academic year 2012-13. More information and the application forms are available on the Conference website: [click here](#). Select "Resources" along the top menu bar, and then select "Scholarships" in the left hand column menu.

That same webpage lists information on scholarships offered by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for persons attending seminary and by the Conference United Methodist Women for women planning church-related careers.

## ***IN OUR PRAYERS***

You are invited to lift up these churches and their leadership in prayer this month. Pastors may also mention them during their worship services.



<b>Church</b>	<b>Pastor and family</b>	<b>Lay Leader</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>St. Paul's</b>	<b>Daniel Thompson-Aue</b>	<b>Jill Eckelsdafer</b>	<b>Feb, 5-11</b>
<b>Sweet</b>	<b>Linda Biggs</b>	<b>Karen Bruner</b>	<b>Feb. 12-18</b>
<b>Trinity</b>	<b>Brenda Sene</b>		<b>Feb. 19-25</b>
<b>Twin Falls</b>	<b>Phil Airhart</b>	<b>Ron Jones</b>	<b>Feb. 26-Mar. 3</b>

## **In Remembrance**

**Tony Holloman**, wife of Dean Hollomon passed away on January 19, 1012. She was the mother of Rev. Michael Hollomon, pastor at Hagerman and Wendell and Dean is the Western Jurisdiction UMM president.

## ***WHERE IS OUR A2B THIS MONTH?***

Feb. 4 – Measurement Seminar – Twin Falls, 1<sup>st</sup> UMC

Feb. 7-9 – Cabinet - Portland

Feb. 11 – Magic Valley CLD – Crossroads UMC

Feb. 14 – Meeting with Boise 1<sup>st</sup>

Feb. 15 – Treasure Valley Colloquy

Feb 18 – Treasure Valley Measurement Seminar – Hillview UMC

Feb 21-22 – Cabinet - Portland

*We welcome articles and information pertinent to your church. Please send them during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month to be included in our newsletter.*

*Snake River District*

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*Boise, Idaho 83702*

*208-385-0598*

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