

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR April 13, 2017

***Blessings on this Holy Thursday,
Peace for Good Friday,
Anticipation on Holy Saturday,
GLORY on Easter morning!***

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:

Generally, articles will appear for only one week, and, if pertinent, will be posted on the East District website (<http://www.epaumc.org/districts/east>). Or, if you are on the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference website (<http://www.epaumc.org>), there is a link to the East District website at the bottom of any page. Previously published E-Alerts will be posted to the East District website.

This E-Alert is sent to Pastors and Church Offices on the East District and to lay people who have requested being added to the distribution list. Feel free to clip or copy any article for your church's bulletin or newsletter unless permission has specifically been granted to the East District for publication, in which case, request permission from the source. The District Office requests that pastors forward the E-Alert to church leaders and congregants who might find the E-Alert helpful and informative.

SURVEY FOR THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF THE FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

In 2015, The Mid Atlantic United Methodist Foundation established the hugely successful 2-year **Financial Leadership Academy** for clergy which resulted in those pastors *implementing actual positive changes* in their local churches. Now, the Foundation would like to provide similar program materials to **Clergy and 2-4 Change Advocates (Laity)** in a **church-centered educational program**. Your help is requested in helping to determine the best way to communicate this excellent program called the **AFLC** (Academy on Finances for Local Churches). Please take a moment to fill out the 10-question Survey for the **AFLC (a Laity and Clergy Generosity Academy)** using this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7F7PCK>

Blessings,

Frank Robert, Associate Director

Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation

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"It's amazing how much people can do when they divorce themselves from concern over who gets the credit." Cavett Robert

EAST DISTRICT TOOLS for MINISTRY REGISTRATION CLOSING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21!!!

Saturday, April 29, 2017

LOCATION: Bensalem UMC, 4300 Hulmeville Rd., Bensalem PA 19020

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register now to get your first choice workshops.

Online registration now available for East District Tools for Ministry:

Click [TOOLS](#) to register online.

Registration fee includes Plenary, 2 Workshops, & Food

- Standard registration is \$20
- Group registration is \$15 per person with 5+ registrants
- Late registration is \$25 after April 21st and walk-ins

Schedule

8 am-9am Sign-in and Breakfast Foods available

9 am-9:45 am Worship, Offering received, Plenary

10 am-11:45 am Workshop Session #1

Noon - 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30 pm-2:15 pm Workshop Session #2

2:15 pm Adjourn

A 2+ page paper brochure is attached to this email. Online registrations are encouraged.

DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

When you experience God's love, you want to share it with everyone!

The United Methodist [Foundation for Evangelism](#) helps annual conferences annually honor extraordinary clergy, youth, and adult laypersons with the [Harry Denman Evangelism Award](#) for sharing with everyone God's message of love through Jesus Christ. As Christians, we work in a variety of ministries and contexts with a common goal to build up of God's Kingdom.

This year, **until May 5**, the Eastern PA Conference's Congregational Development Team (CDT) is pleased to accept your nominations of persons to receive the 2017 Harry Denman Evangelism Award. That noteworthy award signifies a remarkable commitment to introducing others to the living gospel in ways and places where "new believers can encounter Christ."

All completed nominations with comments should be submitted to the CDT by May 5. Please send e-mail nominations to sjd624@ymail.com, addressed to the EPAUMC/Congregational Development Team, c/o of Suzette James/Attn: Denman Award Nomination, or mail them to the Eastern PA Conference Office, ATTN: Dr C. Kurien (identified as "2017 Denman Nominee"), P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0820.

Applications can be downloaded by visiting:

foundationforevangelism.org/grants/recognition/harry-denman-evangelism-award

NOT YOUR SAME OLD COMMUNION

What: Communion Workshop

When: Thursday, May 11, 2017

Registration 9-9:30 am

Where: First UMC of Phoenixville, 856 S. Main Street, Phoenixville

RSVP: Bron Yocum at bronyocum@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Order of St. Luke

Bringing Communion to Life! Too often, our communion services are simply, tacked on to the end of our Sunday worship. The Rev. Michael Johnson has a passion for making communion relevant to the day's worship and to the congregation by preparing original prayers including the Great Thanksgiving. Using his theological understanding of the communion liturgy, he has created Great Thanksgiving prayers that range from traditional language to unique approaches including musical responses, a rap Thanksgiving and one done without words but entirely in video/photos. Join us for a morning of inspiration as we welcome Rev. Johnson to share his experience and his approach to bringing communion to life. Our morning ends at Noon following communion.

CLAIMING SABBATH FOR CLERGY SPOUSES

May 13, 9 am to 4 pm, lunch included

Daylesford Abbey, Paoli (220 S. Valley Rd, Paoli, PA 19301)



FOR clergy spouses **BY** clergy spouses. Reduce your isolation, safely express common clergy spouse issues, solve real-life clergy spouse scenarios, and practice setting boundaries for Sabbath. To hear what other clergy spouses said about this retreat, click here.

<https://www.epaumc.org/home-page/home->

[feature/2017/01/clergy-spouse-retreats-offer-sabbath-and-support/](https://www.epaumc.org/home-page/home-feature/2017/01/clergy-spouse-retreats-offer-sabbath-and-support/)

To register online, click here. Only \$25 for the first 10 registrants.

<https://epaumc.churchcenteronline.com/registrations/events/51808>

Retreat Leader is Julie Anderman, EPA UMC clergy spouse and Executive Director of Artos Retreats.



DIALOGUE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESOLUTION, MAY 20

Bishop Peggy Johnson will convene on **Saturday, May 20**, [a one-time dialogue on the Religious Freedom Resolution](#) (#2016-18), which was debated but not voted on at the 2016 Eastern PA Annual Conference. The resolution was committed to the bishop with a request for representative dialogue and a report in lieu of legislative action. The dialogue will take place at **Asbury UMC in Allentown (1533 Springhouse Road), on Saturday, May 20**, from 9 AM to 12 noon. [Learn more...](#)

DISTRICT CONFERENCE LOCATION ANNOUNCED

The East District Conference on **Sunday, May 21** will be held in the Sanctuary of the UMC of Huntingdon Valley (3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley 19006) **at 4 pm**. Names of nominees to serve as Lay Equalizing delegates may be forwarded in advance to the District Office (cakrall@epaumc.org).

ClereEconomics: Innovations in Philanthropy and Financial Stability Seminar

Romal Tune & Associates

Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM (EDT)

Atlanta, GA

The ClereEconomics seminar uses the ClereStory methodology to *shine a light* on how your financial narratives influence your ability to live a life of purpose while making a positive impact on the lives of others. This seminar will include small group breakout sessions to create customized plans of action. During the seminar participants will witness the success stories of people who are building infrastructure for financial stability in the market place and ministry. Participants will also gain access to models of successful initiatives taking place across the country, creating jobs, funding small business startups, and identifying resources for community-based ministry.

Each participant in the ClereEconomics seminar will:

- Examine the gifts and obstacles in one's community financial narrative
- Work with design groups to build new narrative with a strategic action plan
- Network with local and national leaders of impactful economic initiatives
- Learn about effective replicable models of entrepreneurship and social impact investing, and
- Hear the success stories of leaders who have built small businesses, community-based ministries, and changing economic models for fundraising

In the process of creating a personal action plan, participants will explore the impact of narrative on the economics of community change. The action plan will enhance one's ability to live a life of purpose that positively impacts the lives of others. This will be an exciting opportunity to network with leaders and identify potential partnerships with local and national economic initiatives.

Workshop modules will include:

- Giving and Investing for Impact
- Creating Jobs, Creating Wealth
- Old and New Banking Platforms
- Designing a New Financial Narrative

For more information and to register, click [here](#). To read the bios of the presenters, click [here](#).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Details regarding Annual Conference 2017, including submission deadlines, are in a website article, "Annual Conference 2017 to focus on prayer" at

<https://www.epaumc.org/news-information/2017/02/annual-conference-2017-to-focus-on-prayer/> and on the Annual Conference page under News & News & Events: <https://www.epaumc.org/annual-conference/>. More details will be added to the website as they become available.

EAST DISTRICT ANNUAL PASTORAL INTERVIEW SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

This year's (2017) pastoral interviews for pastors who will be on the newly forming East District, effective July 1, 2017, are **ALL** calendared **to take place prior to the 2017 Annual Conference** (June 18-20). **Attached to this email E-Alert is the current schedule.**

Pastors who have been serving on the current East District will be meeting with District Superintendent Bass in cluster groups. If you believe your interview is erroneously placed within a particular cluster, please notify Clarita Krall (cakrall@epaumc.org or [215-914-2130](tel:215-914-2130)).

Pastors who have been serving on the current Central and Northeast Districts, but who will be on the newly forming East District, will be meeting individually with Rev. Bass. Some interviews will take place in various church locations and some will take place at the Central District Office at Simpson House.

Deacons working out of the Conference area and extension ministers have telephone call appointments. The schedule shows the telephone number to use when calling in at the appointed time.

Also **attached is the 2017 Clergy Profile**. Be sure to complete it and return it 2 weeks prior to your interview to cakrall@epaumc.org.

If you have not done so already, please check the schedule now to be sure you know when and where your interview is scheduled to take place, and **then please confirm your interview date and time via email to cakrall@epaumc.org**.

GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION & RACE ANNOUNCES 2017 CORR ACTION FUND GRANT

April 12, 2017

CONTACT: Selby Ewing, Communications Director; (615) 887-8027; sewing@gcorr.org

WASHINGTON-The General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), The United Methodist Church's racial justice agency, announced that the CORR Action Fund (CAF) will be releasing the United States Program Grants for 2017-2020 with \$750,000 in available funding. Applications will be accepted starting May of 2017 with a deadline of August 2017.

GCORR is seeking to fund innovative and bold initiatives that will support [vital conversations](#) about race, cultural diversity, xenophobia, and systemic equity.

UMC churches and other UMC entities in the United States are invited to apply for funding to disrupt racism and xenophobia by working with a community partner or alliance to:

- Identify and change at least one racist and/or xenophobic system, policy, or practice in the wider community.
- Engage UMC people with diverse community partners in frequent vital conversations about racism and xenophobia.
- Build understanding and trusting relationships among diverse people in the wider community.

Erin Hawkins, GCORR General Secretary stated: "The CORR Action Fund is an exciting part of the ministry of the General Commission on Religion and Race and The United Methodist Church because it provides empowerment and encouragement to people working to make a difference in their local communities all around the world."

CAF Committee Chair, Rev. Stephen Handy, remarked: "As a CAF committee, we are committed to building the capacity for our beloved United Methodist Church to reach more people, younger people and diverse people by starting vital congregations that develop intercultural competent leaders who participate in building institutional equity that levels the playing field so that God's kingdom is evident on earth as it is in heaven."

Hawkins noted that especially "During this time where racial and cultural divisions run deep and racism is as visible and destructive as ever, we invite leaders in local churches, districts and annual conferences who are committed to dismantling the sin of racism and building the Beloved Community of God to apply for the CORR Action Fund grant. And while we won't be able to fund every project, we look forward to supporting as many as possible."

RELIGIOUS ALLIANCE AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY (RAAP) SPRING 2017 WEBINAR

RAAP is hosting a **FREE** webinar, **Marriage Crisis: Pornography's Destructive Impact** on **Tuesday, May 9th** at **Noon (EDT)** and on **Thursday, May 18th** at **8 pm (EDT)**. Click [here](#) to access an advertising flyer. To register for the webinar, go to bit.ly/marriagecrisis.

UPDATE YOUR FIND-A-CHURCH PROFILE

Developed by United Methodist Communications, Find-A-Church helps your church connect with people who may be looking online for a church to provide worship, fellowship, spiritual nurture, and other needs. If your church has a Website, having a church page in Find-A-Church doubles your local visibility to reach people searching by city, town or zip code. It is the official online directory of United Methodist churches in the United States and one of the most visited sections of UMC.org, averaging more than 1,000 page views a day. You'll achieve the best results from your Find-A-Church profile when you [update your church's information](#). For video instructions on how, visit [Video Tutorial: Find-A-Church Overview](#).

INTERPRETER MAGAZINE

2017 is a great year to subscribe to **Interpreter**. Each issue – available every other month in three digital formats – delivers inspiring stories to fuel your spiritual development and lead you to deeper involvement with The United Methodist Church.

The stories and articles in **Interpreter** will help you live your faith locally and think globally. Each issue shares stories about world-changing congregations, tips for abundant living and reports of faithful discipleship — as well as popular sections such as It Worked for Us, IdeaMart and Technology.

Ready for your 2017 free subscription? This [online subscription form](#) makes signing up quick and easy.

Don't wait any longer. Subscribe today!

SAVE THE DATE!!

NEW EAST DISTRICT CELEBRATION WITH BISHOP JOHNSON

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Christ UMC of Lansdale (1020 S. Valley Forge Rd., Lansdale PA 19446)

- **4 pm** **Mandatory Clergy Gathering**
- **5:30 pm** **Dinner for Clergy and Laity**
- **6:30 pm** **Laity Gathering**

Stay tuned for further details!

PRAYER REQUESTS

We received word that **the Rev. James D. Corbett**, Retired Elder, passed away on April 7. Rev. Corbett is survived by his wife, Mrs. Shirley Corbett, and their children: Matthew J. Corbett and Susan S. Simonton. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Corbett, at P.O. Box 390, Mount Gretna, PA 17064-0390. Rev. Corbett served as a District Superintendent from 1985 to 1991. He also served the following local churches: Millersburg Circle: Riegles, Cressona, Landingville: Welcome, Parkside Parish: First Dayton, Halifaz: Otterbein, Shamokin: First, Hempfield, Newtown, Drexel Hill, Mount Joy: St. Mark's, and Elizabethtown: St. Paul's. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, April 22 at

11 a.m. at Elizabethtown: St. Paul's, 398 N. Locust Street, Elizabethtown PA 17022. Memorial Contributions can be sent to UMCOR, in care of Elizabeth: St. Paul's UMC, or to Elizabeth: St. Paul's UMC Memorial Fund.

Dr. Glenn Asquith, the husband of the Rev. Connie Asquith (Retired Elder), passed away on April 5. An ordained Baptist minister, he served at Asbury UMC in Allentown for years as the Director of Pastoral Care and was a religion professor at Moravian College in Bethlehem PA. His funeral is Tuesday, April 11, at Emmaus Moravian Church, 146 Main Street, Emmaus, 18049. The visitation hour begins at 3 pm and the service at 4 pm. The Rev. Connie Asquith served the following UM churches prior to retiring in 2012: Tobyhanna, Easton: First, and Allentown: Salem. Condolences may be sent to her at 106 Brookfield Drive, Macungie PA 18062.