

# EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR August 26, 2015

## Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:

Because of the recent launch of a redesigned Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Website (<http://www.epaumc.org/>) which has a link, at the bottom of the Home Page, to a new East District website (<http://www.epaumc.org/districts/east/>; see article below), articles will appear for only one week, and, if pertinent, will be posted on the District web site. Previously published E-Alerts will be posted to the East District website.

The 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.

## NEWS

### UM DENOMINATION CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF COMMUNICATIONS (1940-2015)

*In 1972, United Methodist Information, TRAFCO, and the Division of Interpretation combines to form UMCom.*

Interesting facts and little-known tidbits of information make United Methodist Communications' [75-year history](#) intriguing. The agency's building in Nashville is equipped with state-of-the-art production facilities that have welcomed a wide range of talent. From Alex Haley to Loretta Lynn, the agency's for-profit multi-media services company has hosted its fair share of famous faces.

What role did the agency play in a Billboard chart-topper in the late-1950s? Chet Atkins was wrong when he said, "the kid from Memphis ... he's a passing fad." [Read more...](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TODAY IS THE AUGUST VIGIL AT MIKE & KATE'S GUN SHOPPE

Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of August, so the **Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence Northeast Philadelphia chapter** is holding its monthly sign-the-code vigil at **Mike & Kate's Gun Shoppe**, 7492 Oxford Ave. (corner of Oxford & Rockwell), Philadelphia 19111 **from 4 pm-5 pm**. At that time of day, the building casts a nice shadow on the sidewalk, so the heat will be less (only 82° forecast). Bring water anyway.

### CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Attached to this E-News email is the 2015 East District Charge Conference schedule. There has been some tweaking of dates and times since the first and subsequent distributions. **Please download and check the date, time, and location (for churches paired for joint proceedings) to be sure that you and your church leaders are expecting Charge Conference at the time indicated on the schedule.** If there are any questions, do not hesitate to call the District Office at 215-914-2130.

### FREE WEBINAR FOR PASTORS AND MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

**Religious Alliance Against Pornography (RAAP)** offers a free webinar on **September 10** from **Noon to 1 pm** and a second on **September 17** from **8 pm to 9 pm**. RAAP is an ecumenical group determined to curb the plight of the effects of internet pornography at the individual, familial, and community levels. The organization also explores a model of

discipleship for those struggling with the problematic sexual addictive behavior. The link to register for the September 10<sup>th</sup> broadcast is <http://bit.ly/T-Bowman-9-10-15> and the September 17<sup>th</sup> broadcast registration link is <http://bit.ly/T-Bowman-9-17-15>. The broadcast agenda will cover such topics as “how to bring God’s light into a pornographic and sexualized culture via education about the problem,” “what is it about pornography that puts people at risk,” “what impact pornography has on individuals, families, marriages, etc.,” “the sexual sin continuum,” “what addiction looks like when it is full blown (sin if unchecked leads ultimately to death),” and “how healing can be facilitated via preventative measures and remedial intervention.” Dr. Bowman, the presenter, is Associate Professor of Counseling at Indiana Wesleyan University. He will also share a certification program that is occurring to provide further in-depth training on how to help other with pornographic sexual addiction.

### I’M NOT RACIST...AM I?

**First UMC of Germantown (FUMCOG)** is offering a Sunday afternoon film screening and discussion of the Point Made Films production called “I’m Not Racist...Am I?” on **Sunday afternoon, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm** for FUMCOG members and others in the church’s **Pilling Hall**. The presentation, made possible by The Fred Clark Speakers for Racial Justice Memorial, is appropriate for youth (grades 7 & up) and adults. The hour and half film will be followed by reflection and discuss at 2:30 pm, and the afternoon will conclude with refreshments at 4 pm. If planning to attend, please send “**Attn: September 20 event**” (by email to [office@fumcog.org](mailto:office@fumcog.org)), your name and e-mail address or telephone number and the number of persons who will be attending with you, noting any childcare needs and the ages of the children.

To further prepare for participation, note the following resources to either read or watch:

**Read:** Understanding Race.org is the online supplement to the traveling **Race: Are We So Different** exhibit. The website has an extensive amount of resources and activities to engage people around the scientific, historical, and social concepts of race. Suggested viewing is the “Lived Experience” section of the website to explore the everyday realities of race through reading, quizzes, and online games. <http://www.understandingrace.org/lived>.

### **Watch:**

1. **The Myth of Race Debunked in 3 Minutes:** This Vox video uses graphics and plain English to explain how race is a social and political construct that has evolved over centuries and continues to confuse: <http://www.vox.com/2015/1/13/7536655/race-myth-debunked>
2. **Color Blind or Color Brave? (15 minutes):** in this **TED Talk**, finance executive Mellody Hobson argues that race will always be an uncomfortable topic for Americans if we continue to avoid talking about it. Wat this video to help you prepare for being “comfortable with being uncomfortable.” [https://www.ted.com/talks/mellody\\_hobson\\_color\\_blind\\_or\\_color\\_brave](https://www.ted.com/talks/mellody_hobson_color_blind_or_color_brave)
3. **Immaculate Perception (14 minutes):** The brain science research around Implicit Bias – the theory that we all hold biases that we aren’t aware of – is fascinating and convincing. In this **Tedx Talk**, UCLA law professor Jerry Kang uses wit and plain English to explain unconscious bias, how it plays out in everyday life, and ways we can identify and interrupt it. [tedxtalks.ted.com/video/immaculate-perception-Jerry-Kan](http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/immaculate-perception-Jerry-Kan)

### **SPACE STILL AVAILABLE FOR CHANGING RACISM TRAINING –OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1, 2015**

There are a few spaces still available for the **Changing Racism** training scheduled for the weekend of **October 30 through November 1**. Registration and information can be found at <http://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/2015-changing-racism-training/>.

Future dates for Changing Racism trainings are **April 1-3, 2016** and **October 28-30, 2016**. Both 2016 trainings will be held at the Daylesford Abbey in Paoli. Registration will be open in October 2015.

## **RESOURCES**

### **DON’T BE TARDY—LAST CHANCE FOR BACK TO SCHOOL!**

**Outreach just got easier** – Everyone loves getting an invitation, and United Methodist Communication’s current **Back to School postcard** offer will help your church to send a welcoming message to your community. Order by **September 1** and UMCComm can print and mail postcards to household based on a radius around your church for a fraction of the cost. [Order here now.](#)

**Knock! Knock!**—Every door is an opportunity to make an impression. The full-color front of UMComm’s door hanger carries an inspiring message about education, and the back provides complete contact information about your church. Easy to use and a smart, grass-roots communications resource. [Get 100 free door hangers!!](#)

**Tune In**—The Rethink Church national Back to School campaign began on August 24! As students of all ages head back to the classroom, UMComm is making a splash with TV and digital advertising in select cities throughout the country, online content and customizable print resources for outreach and social media. Videos can e downloaded from the UMComm e-store. ***But why wait?*** Here’s a sneak preview of the newest [30-second](#) and [15-second](#) commercials.

**Check out the entire line of free “Church can happen anywhere” resources for use throughout the year. Click [here](#) to learn more about how to rethink church!**