

EAST DISTRICT

E-ALERT FOR

September 21, 2017

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.

REQUEST FROM BISHOP JOHNSON

Dear Members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference,

As United Methodists, our social principles (162.H - Right of Immigrants), state that "We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God."

We now have an opportunity to take a stand on behalf of the nearly 800,000 Dreamers in the United States that have benefited from DACA (the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). The attached information is provided for you to advocate on their behalf.

We, the Rapid Response Team and I, ask that you participate individually and as a church in this advocacy by getting signatures and submitting them to your senators and representatives, making phone calls and keeping all those affected in your prayers. The attachment contains a suggested letter and signature page.

Churches, please let your DS know once you have contacted your legislators. I would like to have 100% participation from all churches.

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

[attachment](#)

DEADLINE IMMINENT FOR THE ACADEMY FOR CHURCH FINANCES

The Academy for Church Finance registration deadline is Friday, September 22. To register, access [the Registration link here](#) for the ACH (Academy for Church Finances) to generate a Registration Form and Voucher. Email the completed Registration Form to frankrobert.mafoundation@gmail.com and the deposit check of at least \$200 should be made out to the **Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation** and mailed with the voucher. Remember: the total \$1,500 fee--a real value--may be paid over 3 payments over the 18-month academy.

[MENTOR TRAINING NEXT WEEK](#)

The next mentor training will be held at **Wesley UMC in Bethlehem** (2540 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017) **on Tuesday, September 26th, from 9-12.** The Rev. Andy Krpata, trainer notes that **.3 CEU's** are available for attendees through the Board of Ordained Ministry. The training will cover basics of mentoring, as well as the UMCares.org website and the process, including hands-on work with the system. Please bring with you a tablet, laptop, etc. to use during the training. Rev. Krpata's cell number, in case you get lost on the way, is 267-250-4912. The church number is 610-865-5715. Please notify Rev. Krpata directly at pastorandykrpata@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Here is a link to an article "(More than) 10 ways to appreciate your pastor" which was originally posted three years ago:

<http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/more-than-10-ways-to-appreciate-your-pastor>

HOPE! Talks: Inspiration for Small Congregations, Oct. 21

HOPE! Talks: Inspiration for Small Congregations happens Oct. 21, from 9 AM to 3 PM, at **Lighthouse Fellowship UMC**, 137 North Easton Road, Glenside, PA. Be inspired as speakers from small congregations doing great ministries share how God is moving and imparting hope to and through them.

A link to live-streaming of the event, which is scheduled to begin at 9 am on the 21st, will be available on the Lighthouse Fellowship UMC website (<http://lfumcglenside.com/>) by the week of the event. There will also be a download available on the site so that those participating on the web can participate in a discussion that will take place around the tables during lunch. The discussion will be aimed at helping congregations to think in new ways, in God ways, about their situations.

Gain a new perspective. Ask questions. Connect. Be refreshed. Get hope! Join us for this live-streamed, TED talks-style event sponsored by Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet. ASL Interpretation and Handicapped Accessibility will be provided. Registration is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door (includes breakfast and lunch). To register online, click [here](#). A flyer is attached for posting and distribution at your church.

SAVE THESE DATES

- **Saturday, October 21, 2017: Hope! Talks** registration is open. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 3 pm** – "Joyful Noise Choir Concert" at **Tindley Temple**, 750-762 S. Broad St., Philadelphia 19146.
- **Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Noon**, luncheon meeting with representatives of TMS Global (formerly The Mission Society). Call the East District office for more information.
- **Tuesday, November 28** is UMC #GivingTuesday
- **Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 9 am** – East District Ministerium Christmas Breakfast at **Jarrettown UMC**, 1460 Limekiln Pike, Dresher PA 19025.
- **Saturday, April 5, 2018** – encore presentation of **Walking With: The African American Experience** – East District Conversation on Race Relations. More information will be forthcoming. This event is designed for clergy and laity who missed this East District retreat event held in January 2017 at Washington Crossing UMC.
- **Sunday, May 6, 2018** – East District Pre-Annual Conference gathering, **3 pm-5pm**. Location to be determined.

PLANTING SEEDS FOR MINISTRY GROWTH 2017

If you have not yet registered for the 14th annual *Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth* on **September 30th** at **Hopewell UMC** in Downingtown, there are at least five really good reasons why you will likely want to do that now.

1. Excellence in faculty, including keynote speaker and workshop leader Scott Chrostek, Pastor of Resurrection Downtown, Kansas City
2. CEUs!
3. Spectacular worship with Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. *and* The Philadelphia UM Mass Choir
4. An array of workshop topics – 2 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon
5. It's easy to register

Just click this link (or copy it into your browser)!: **<http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds-registration>**. And if you need more than five really good reasons to register for *Planting Seeds*, here are three more!

1. Fabulous fellowship and remarkable refreshments
2. Onsite childcare is available
3. Concluding before the sun goes down

Need more than 8 really good reasons? You'll find them, along with detailed information about the ministry workshops, schedule, faculty, and more at <http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds>.

CONNECT YOUR PASSION WITH GOD'S MISSION

SAVE THE DATE! UMC #GivingTuesday is November 28.

Thomas Kemper, General Secretary, General Board of Missions, invites you to join United Methodists around the world to support Global Ministries missionaries and Advance projects on UMC #GivingTuesday Nov. 28.

Frederick Buechner once described "calling" as the place "where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." One of the great things about The Advance is that it allows you to invest your resources where your passion answers specific needs in the world.

The UMC #GivingTuesday theme this year is "Connect Your Passion with God's Mission." **One hundred percent of the gifts made online through [The Advance](#) goes to the missionary or project of the donor's choice.**

In 2016, more than 2,550 people from 19 countries gave gifts of more than \$850,000 toward missionary support and Advance projects. The countries or territories represented included Argentina, Austria, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Guam, Ireland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This was truly a global effort.

Thank you for your generous gifts through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church.

This year's impact areas are:

- Food and Agriculture
- Church Development
- Disaster Response and Relief
- Education
- Health
- Economic Empowerment

- Social Justice
- WASH/Water and Sanitation
- Women and Children
- Mission Personnel

Now is a great time to start thinking about how you want to connect your passion to God's mission on Nov. 28. Visit umcmmission.org/give to learn more about missionaries and projects. Your gift on UMC #GivingTuesday will help bring hope and healing to a world in need.

Please share this information with your friends, family, and church members.

CHARGE CONFERENCE FORMS NOW AVAILABLE ON CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Charge Conference forms are now posted on the Conference website. Click [here](#) to access and download. **All forms except the Church Budget and Fund Balance report are due two weeks before your charge conference.** Completed forms may be emailed as attachments to the East District Office at cakrall@epaumc.org, mailed (East District Office, Simpson House, Suite 1, 2101 Belmont Ave., Philadelphia PA 19131), or hand-delivered to the District Office.

Pay close attention to the [2017 Church Forms Schedule](#). This is the "on year" for submitting the "**Safety and Accessibility Inspection**" form. The **Action Plan** does not have to be submitted. All Safe Sanctuary policies should be updated according to the Resolution 2016-09. **The Accountability Agreement between the EPA UMC and the BSA** was introduced in 2016 and must be completed every three years. Therefore this must only be completed this year:

- if it was not completed in 2016
- if there is a new BSA troop at your church
- if there has been a change in scout leadership

District Superintendent Tracy L. Bass will be conducting all the charge conferences for the churches that have recently become part of the *new* East District. Churches that have been under the supervision of District Superintendent Bass as part of the previous East District will participate in cluster charge conferences with an elder officiating. Information about dates, times, and facilitators is available in two formats: click [here](#) for the alphabetical format by church "location: name" or [here](#) for the calendar format.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Marianne Thorne Wright, 83, passed away on September 16. She was the widow of **the Rev. Robert H. Wright** and a member of Asbury UMC in Allentown, where he served prior to his retirement. Her husband of 52 years passed away in 2007. Mrs. Wright is survived by her daughters, Elizabeth "Libbie" Wright Jae (and husband Jeff) and Marian Wright Sieke (and husband Steve), plus four grandsons, a great-granddaughter and two sisters, among other loved ones. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, November 18, 2017, at 11:00 AM at Grandview Heights UMC, 888 Pleasure Road, Lancaster PA. Friends may call at Grandview UMC from 10 AM.

One of "Mannie's" last wishes was to be a donor to the Johns Hopkins Brain Bank to help researchers find a cure for Parkinson's Disease. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation as a tribute gift in honor of Mannie Wright. (www.michaeljfox.org).

Rev. Wright served the following appointments: 6/1/1959 Springfield: Covenant; 6/1/1964 Havertown: St. Andrews; 6/1/1967 Lancaster: Grandview; 7/1/1973 Extension Ministry: Conference

Consultant and Program Director; 9/1/1980 Extension Ministry: Superintendent, Lancaster District; 7/1/1984 Allentown: Asbury; 2/1/2000 Elder Retired.

Remember the family of **Mr. Sterlin Carnell Daniel, 77**, former member of Janes Memorial UMC, who left this life on September 9 at Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Hospital, Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Daniel was an active layperson, serving as a steward and as President, Board of Trustees, Janes Memorial, for over 30 years, and who was, at one time, a resource and advisor to Metro Ministries, Inc. He was a registered architect in the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia and worked for his own firm, Daniel Group, Inc. He was employed by the Philadelphia Public School District for 33 years as a Compliance Officer. Upon retiring to Goochland, Virginia, Mr. Daniel united with the Emmaus Baptist Church where he was well respected for his wisdom and was very supportive of many activities. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Marion Daniel, as well as his siblings, Jack L. Daniel, Phillis D. Lavelle, Stephen B. Daniel and their spouses, many nieces and nephews, many double-first cousins, and many, many other cousins and friends.

Please pray for **the Rev. Marilyn Schneider** (Deacon, serving at Grove UMC on the South District) as she is hospitalized for treatment of an unidentified infection. Please pray for discernment of an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment. **No visitors are permitted at this time.** If you would like to send well wishes to Marilyn, please send them to her home address: 74 Jolind Road, Paoli, PA 19301