

July 2021

Alive Together At The Table

Some First Steps for Pastors When Moving In

**By Rev. Stephen B. Grantham
Northeast District Superintendent**

Moving can be an adventure. It is filled with new opportunities places and people. It can also be painful as we experience the grief of leaving people we know well and cut ties to churches and communities we have cared about for years. The longer we stay the deeper those relationships and the more painful it is to move on. But, move on we must. To move on is to give a new pastor the opportunity to build those pastoral relationships he/she needs to build to be an effective pastor. To cut those ties, though not fun and it is often relationally gut wrenching, is the sacrifice we make to be part of an itinerate system. The reason we do it is to be a good colleague in ministry.

I find there are many things important to do as I move into a new charge. These build trust and respect quickly:

1. Visit the shut ins. They are not able to come to worship.
2. Visit those in the hospital. They will remember this down the road.
3. Visit with your leadership. You need to build good relationships with the leadership team.
4. Learn the names of the children and youth. They are the church now.
5. Listen carefully to what people tell you. Listening is the number one most important skill in ministry.
6. Have fun. Find ways to be full of laughter and positive emotions. People bond to people who are having fun in life.

7. Do not compare this church to your former church. All churches are different. We as persons do not like to be compared to others.
8. Remember this math; 1 = 10, 2 = 20, 5 = 50, 10 = 100. Lay and pastoral visitation translates into worship attendance on a 1 to 10 ratio. Build worship attendance on a solid foundation of lay and pastoral visitation.
9. Remember, visitation can be done in person, on the phone, by snail mail or email, text message and on Facebook. In person is the most effective.
10. Remember you are a servant. Servants give of themselves without thought to repayment. God will use you to help and to give priority to the work of His Kingdom.

Reception for Bishop Bryan and Sherrill

We have been blessed to have the Episcopal leadership of Bishop Lawson Bryan since September 2016. Additionally, in the midst of the Corona Virus he consented to stay an additional year to provide us with stable and continued leadership. We are very grateful for his service to our Annual Conference. He will be retiring effective September 1, 2021.

A reception for Bishop and Mrs. Sherrill Bryan is scheduled for Sunday, August 15, 2021, at Vineville UMC in Macon, GA from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. This will be a come and go reception. Please be in prayer for Bishop and Mrs. Bryan as they enter into retirement and spend more time with their family.



IMPORTANT FOCUSES IN OUR WORK FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Rev. Stephen B. Grantham

June 21, 2021

Welcome to the Northeast District Set up meeting. You are some of the most gifted people in the world and God has blessed you with a high and holy calling. I get the privilege of being your District Superintendent. I do not take this lightly nor do I see it as a burden. My cell number and email are 478-960-6438 (stephen@sgaumc.com) and I am available to you. Do try calling the office number first (912-871-3306) as a message may help me get to you what you need especially if some research is needed. Sometimes Jodi will be far more helpful than I will.

1. Pay attention to your soul and your body. Both matter to God. What we put into them affects how we serve God.
2. Pay attention to who is not in worship. Be in contact with them. You are the Shepherd. The good shepherd cares for the sheep and looks out for them.
3. Pay attention to your apportionments. They matter for the sake of mission. Many apportionments affect the lives of missionaries and the missions they help sustain. Make sure your church has some form of missional appreciation outside its walls. It will be a healthier church.
4. Pay attention to the children. They need your tender care. The children are not the future of the church as much as they are part of the church now. Cultivate relationships with them and let them know they matter.
5. Pay attention to new-comers. They can bless you in all kinds of ways. Good ideas come from people who did not grow up here. Creativity in the form of new ideas can breathe new life into a church.

Sometimes people see the District Superintendent as a middle level manager. While management is part of what I do, I see my role as having a strong spiritual and pastoral component. I believe I am the following:

-An enthusiastic coach and cheerleader. We all need people to encourage us and help us be at our best and show us how to do better.

-A wise sage. Wisdom comes with years and experience. Some of you have more than me. I trust you to share your wisdom with me.

-A good friend. A good friend is on our side and helps us to experience grace in a variety of ways. This grace empowers us to do well. They are also honest with us.

Bishop Graves to Provide Interim Episcopal Leadership for South Georgia Beginning September 1st



The Council of Bishops, in consultation with the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) and the respective Annual Conference Committees on Episcopacy, on May 14 announced projected episcopal assignments. [Click here to read the published assignments.](#)

Upon Bishop Lawson Bryan's retirement and during the interim – from September 1, 2021, until new bishops can be elected at the next Jurisdictional Conference, projected to be held fall 2022 – Bishop David Graves, current episcopal leader of the Alabama-West Florida Conference, will provide episcopal leadership to both the South Georgia and the Alabama-West Florida Conferences.

“Because I love both South Georgia and Alabama-West Florida, I am excited about this coverage plan,” Bishop Bryan said. “Bishop Graves is a colleague whom I respect and appreciate.” [Read more](#)



District Office Closed

Jodi will be out of the office starting Monday, June 28 until Monday, July 5th. The office will reopen on Tuesday, July 6th. You can call the office phone and leave a message, and someone will return your call as soon as possible. You can always call Rev. Grantham on his cell phone – 478-960-6438.

Rev. Grantham will also be out of the office at a Cabinet Retreat June 29th – July 1st.

I hope each of you has a safe and blessed 4th of July!

SEJ College of Bishops Calls for Special Session

(SEJ) The College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, in accordance with ¶1521 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, calls for a Special Session of the Jurisdictional Conference on July 21, 2021. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. EST and will be held virtually.

The purpose of the special session is to vote on a proposed resolution to unite the Memphis Annual Conference and the Tennessee Annual Conference into the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference.

Delegates will also receive a report from the Southeastern Jurisdiction on the pandemic response in the jurisdiction, the work of anti-racism across the jurisdiction, and the work of the jurisdiction moving forward into the next 18 months.

The 2020 SEJ Conference, originally scheduled for July 15-17, 2020, at Lake Junaluska, NC, has been postponed due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The College of Bishops encourages all churches of the Southeastern Jurisdiction to be in prayer for the Church and the world during these challenging times.

15 Annual Conferences comprise the Southeastern Jurisdiction: Alabama-West Florida, Florida, Holston, Kentucky, Memphis, Mississippi, North Alabama, North Carolina, North Georgia, Red Bird Missionary, South Carolina, South Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and Western North Carolina.

The Secretary of the Jurisdiction will provide the necessary information for delegates to participate in the special session.

Guests will be able to watch the live stream at www.sejumc.org.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE TO WORK

A FOUR-DAY WEEK IN JULY

The Administrative Services office is going to work four-day weeks in July. They will be in the office 7:45 am – 6:15 pm Mon-Thurs and take Fridays off. Starting June 28 and ending July 30th.

Friday is the day with the least contact from outside the office, so they do not expect this to cause much hardship on others.

If you need assistance, please call during these hours. You may also leave a voice mail, or send an email, and they will respond when they return to the office.

Pastors Due for Sexual Ethics Workshop Before Annual Conference 2022

Bill Bagwell	David Boggs	Steve Brown
Faye Burgamy	Allen Cason	David Donnan
George Durham	Rene' Enlund	Tammy Fincher
Carroll Gay	Chris Holt	Bill Lee
Clay Loadman	Perry Medley	Mark Miller
Ros Parker	Steve Posey	Uley Robbins
Isaac Salgado	Jerry Sharpe	Steve Sirmons
Stephanie Smith	Chip Strickland	Jeane Sturdivant
Ricky Varnell	Tommy Veal	

Everyone on the lists will get emails from the Conference in July and August with the pre-video dates and the dates and locations for the 2.5-hour discussions. This information is still being scheduled.

Georgia United Methodist Foundation Newsletter

Check out the latest edition.

Sign up at www.gumf.org/stay-connected to have Growing Generosity delivered right to your inbox.

For more information, please contact GUMF at 770-449-6726, 877-220-5664 or info@gumf.org



SGA CONFERENCE GATHERING | October 9, 2021

In addition to the June Annual Conference session, Bishop Lawson Bryan has set Saturday, October 9, 2021, for a Conference gathering. Our hope is that this gathering will take place in person at a conference-central location to be announced later. However, if it is not yet safe to do so, Bishop Bryan has asked that all members plan to gather electronically.



GEORGIA PASTORS' SCHOOL

Thursday, July 15, 2021

We are excited to announce our Virtual One Day Pastor's School! The theme is "Pastoring for the Long Haul: What it Looks like for a Lifetime of Ministry."

Presenters will be: Steve Carter – "Working on Your Craft of Communication", Tyler Reagin – "Leading Things You Didn't Start", Jenni Catron – "Creating Healthy Cultures of Feedback", and Wayne Francis – "Leading Through Trying Cultural Times."

This event will be held Thursday, July 15th, 10 am – 3 pm (with a break for lunch), via ZOOM (registration link to be posted soon). Fee will be \$35.00.

CEU information: .5 CEUs offered for reading a recommended book and writing a 2-page paper.

Please share and help spread the word!

Facebook – Georgia Pastors' School

2021 Dates for Lay Ministries (LSM and CLM)

The 2021 dates for Lay Ministries - [Lay Servant Training](#) and [Certified Lay Ministry](#) - have been posted on the [conference website](#). The time is right for churches to take advantage of these leadership development opportunities.

More than ever, we need well trained leaders in our local churches. For more information, contact Anne Bosarge, Associate Director, Office of Congregational Development, at anne@thechapelministries.com or 912-262-1331.



1st Jonathan Smith
3rd Cyndee Drake
3rd Sheri Grantham
5th Don & Helen Sparks
7th Charles & Renee Cravey
10th Carol Collins
10th Stephanie & Jonathan Smith
11th Terry & Patsy Deloach
13th Randy Carnley
13th Ron & Deborah Johnson
14th Kenneth Griffin
19th Jill Lyons
21st Steve & Merrie Posey
25th Mike Collins
27th Dan & Joanna Underwood
29th Jackie Varnell

2nd Janice Lee
3rd Carolyn Gay
5th Pam Pettis
6th Stephen & Sheri Grantham
8th Scott Brenton
10th Shirley Lott
10th Charles & Lee Way
12th Renee Cravey
13th David Unkles
13th Jennifer Wilder
17th Thomas Kennison
21st Carter & Faye Berkeley
24th Sue & Richard Diebolt
25th Sam & Jennifer Wilder
28th Helen Sparks



Cares and Concerns

Rev. Randall Smith lost his aunt, Lisa Chandler, two weeks ago and his uncle, Jackie Chandler, this week. Please be in prayer for the family.

Rev. Hugh Baxter is recovering from hip replacement. Please be in prayer for his recovery process.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Full Time Director of Youth Ministries – Swainsboro First UMC

Swainsboro First United Methodist Church is seeking a full-time Director of Youth Ministries. Swainsboro is a vibrant mid-sized church with a growing children's ministry and desires to extend this success into the youth and young adult age groups. This position would begin in June. Salary and benefits would be commensurate with education, experience, and position development. Interested applicants should submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and a list of references to the following email address: funcswainsboro@gmail.com.

Contact: Rev. David Unkles at 478-237-7535 for more information.



Grants Available for Local Church Racial/Ethnic Ministries

Nashville, Tennessee/Discipleship Ministries

Grants up to \$10,000 will be available this fall from Discipleship Ministries to strengthen leadership training, small groups, worship, stewardship, and spiritual formation in ethnic local United Methodist churches.

The application deadline for Racial Ethnic Local Church Concerns (RELCC) grants is Sept. 1.

“Discipleship Ministries is grateful to be able to serve The United Methodist Church by offering support to ethnic local churches and other entities that develop disciples and promote racial reconciliation,” said Naomi Hope Annandale, director of research and strategic evaluation at Discipleship Ministries. “We have been thrilled to learn about new ministries launched with previous RELCC grants that bring youth to Christ, support recent immigrants and strengthen parents, among other projects.”

RELCC grants are made available each year, with priority given to new programs. Funds are not provided for personnel, equipment, or ongoing building costs.

For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/3vSgb5G> or contact Annandale by phone at 615-340-1743 or by email at nannandale@umcdiscipleship.org. Applicants must apply online at <https://ypm-umc.smapply.io> / and are encouraged to consult with Discipleship Ministries staff for guidance in preparing the application.

Applications must be for a ministry or project of a local United Methodist church or of the United Methodist connectional system.



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES
The United Methodist Church