



The United Methodist Rural Fellowship
(Soon to be U. M. R. Advocates)
Bulletin

Strong Rural Churches Build Strong Rural Communities!

Volume LXIII

Thursday, April 26, 2012



Poverty Simulation May 1-4

Increased awareness of poverty will be available to Conference participants next week. They will have a chance to “role play” a low-income person’s life in poverty by taking part in the simulation offered Tuesday through Friday in Ballroom D of the Convention Center.

The simulation enables the participant to

- experience what it feels like to live in a “survival mode;”
- live a real life story about a family living in poverty;
- increase their understanding of what a low-income person must do to care for their family;
- learn about the different factors that contribute to poverty;
- develop an awareness of the skills and tools needed to navigate the systems that confront low income persons; and
- feel the importance of helping others and building community.

Since space is limited, participants must register for the simulation which is sponsored by GBGM, UMRF, and Urban Network.

UMRF Honorary Life Memberships were presented to Sharon Schwab, pastor and district superintendent from Western Pennsylvania, and Ron Williams (right), former bulletin editor and pastor from Kansas East, by Roger Grace, national UMRF president and pastor from West Ohio.

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Hospitality Center

Contact Info: 740-707-2901

Hours: 7 AM to 7 PM

(fellowship, light meals, snacks)

Office

Hours: 7 AM to 7 PM

(copies, computers)

Sheraton Riverwalk Hotel
200 North Ashley Drive

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Konica Minolta is pleased to provide the printing capabilities for the United Methodist Rural Fellowship at General Conference. Rhonda Gledhill 813-297-8229
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GREETINGS TO UMRF

Gladys Campbell sent greetings and blessings to UMRF during its time at General Conference. Best known for her work with Town and Country Ministries with GBGM, Gladys has been a presence at General Conference since 1968. She also sent greetings from another long-time worker for Town and Country, Dr. Harold McSwain. As we prepare for the future, let us remember those who have brought us thus far.

Have You Heard of R.U.N.?

by Ed Kail, co-chair
RUN Advisory Council

One of the intriguing developments in the past quadrennium has been the creation of the Office of Rural and Urban Networking, or R.U.N., at the General Board of Global Ministries. When GBGM was faced with reorganizing and restructuring due to budgetary upheaval, the former Office of Town and Country Ministries and the Office of Urban Ministries were both slated for downsizing and recombination with other units for staffing. Several different combinations were proposed, and along the way, leaders of UMRF were consulted for their opinions.

UMRF had for decades been in partnership with the office of Town and Country Ministries, and so we were naturally concerned for the staffing of that portfolio at GBGM. A number of us, especially those from the North Central Jurisdiction, had developed close partnerships with our counterparts in the Urban Ministry Network. In the NCJ, T&C and Urban had collaborated for over 20 years on joint training and education opportunities. And, over the years, we had come to realize that the challenges of being in sparse-resource and marginalized areas gave rural and urban (inner city) ministries more in common with each other than either had with suburban communities or contexts. We proposed a collaboration of rural and urban ministries.

And so, the Office of Rural-Urban Networking came into being. During the transition, 10 representatives of T&C and of Urban networks were formed into an Advisory Council to develop a transitional strategy, and to help orient and support

a new RUN executive. John Southwick, already working in the Research Office of GBGM, was named to be the director of RUN. Some initial goals were set out in order to develop connections with the work going on in the US jurisdictions, while exploring participation by the Central Conferences.

Because of the proposed restructuring of the boards and agencies at this General Conference, all of this work has been rather tentative. However, you will find in the legislation proposed in the section on Global Ministries, a provision for the continuation of the RUN Office and its Advisory Council. We hope that you will support that legislation. It is clear to us that the days of general agencies' offering us programs to implement or resources developed for particular constituencies is drawing to a close. But effective networking of practitioners in the field and connectional support for people on the ground in these mission fields holds great promise. If you agree, RUN with us!!

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Training session for legislative observers at General



Conference, Tampa.

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Country Humor

The local car dealer, who was known to have taken advantage of several people in the community, informed a farmer he was coming over to purchase a cow. The farmer attached the following information to the cow so the car dealer knew what he was paying for:

- 499.95 Basic Cow
- 79.25 Extra Stomachs
- 142.10 Two-tone Exterior

126.50 Produce Storing Compartment
189.60 Heavy-duty Straw Chopper
49.20 Four spigot/ high Output Drain System
88.50 Automatic Flyswatter
179.90 Genuine Cowhide Upholstery
884.16 4X4 Traction Drive Assembly
69.80 Pre-delivery Wash and Comb
35.75 Shipping and Handling
306.63 Tax, License, and Title
\$3,049.99 Total List Price