



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

Strong Rural Churches Build Strong Rural Communities!

Volume LXIII

Website: www.umrf.org

Tampa, Florida

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Hooray, Global Ministries!

As the Global Ministries legislative committee did its work on Thursday, they approved 3 valuable pieces of legislation related to rural ministry. These were passed on through the system to be included on a consent calendar for final approval by the plenary:

National Cooperative Ministry Leadership (R. 3101, p. 1175 ADCA), calling upon several general agencies to work together in fostering cooperative ministries as a vital strategic approach for the church's mission.

Rural Chaplains (R.3396, pp. 1181-1182), affirming the ongoing work of the Rural Chaplains Association as an ecumenical, international base for ministry to rural communities and people.

Rural and Urban Ministry Plan (R.3411, pp. 1182-1183), in which the "Holy Boldness" plan for Urban Ministries was adapted and expanded to incorporate rural/town & country strategies and resources, and also authorizing the continuation of

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

Konica Minolta is pleased to provide the printing capabilities for the United Methodist Rural Fellowship at General Conference.

Rhonda Gledhill 813-297-8229

Konica Minolta Faith Based Representative

RGledhill@kmb.konicaminolta.us



the Office of Rural-Urban Networking, supported by a RUN Advisory Council. This petition will be the functioning basis for the UMC's ongoing denominational work with rural and urban leaders and congregations.

We thank the committee for their conscientious and faithful work!

* * * * *

Continue Support for CLM

Across the denomination, annual conferences are training lay persons to serve small membership churches, to assist pastors in medium and large churches and to engage in a variety of other ministries in districts. The Western Pennsylvania, Kansas Area, West Virginia, and Iowa conferences have developed programs that are models that can be used by other conferences. The programs blend theory and practice which help CLM's serve the church effectively.

Small membership churches that are unable to afford a pastor and medium size churches that are unable to find help for the senior pastor now have ministerial leadership. Districts are able to develop capable leaders for district ministries.

Small membership churches thrive when they have ministerial leadership that stays more than two years, and are able to move from a survival mentality to being disciples. Most importantly, small membership churches served by CLM's are making disciples for Christ as they experience resurrection and new life.

For more information on the programs we would like to suggest you contact:

Western Pennsylvania Conference
 Rev. Sharon Schwab Indiana.District@wpaumc.org
 Kansas Area Conferences
 Rev. Carl Ellis at cellis@kswestumc.org
 Iowa Conference
 Patty La Gree at patty.lagree@iaumc.org
 West Virginia Conference
 Royce at rlyden5389@aol.com

Churches Fight Poverty

Churches or other organizations wanting to make an impact on poverty can participate in a program called Circles, which is a proven advocacy program enabling people to move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

United Methodist congregations can start a Circle site offering any number of resources to surround the person in poverty with the social capital necessary to increase their income, reduce their reliance on welfare programs, obtain needed education/skills, and gain hope for a future. Once a month there is a “Big View” meeting with the community leaders, which facilitates efforts to eradicate poverty systemically.

found the Circles’ experience more meaningful than Sunday morning worship.”

While well-meaning Christians often offer a short-term “bandaid” for the need of those in poverty, Circles offers instead a long-term solution which provides healing for the “wound.”

Theologically the Circles’ initiative is biblically grounded in Jesus’ compassion for all those less fortunate. Denominationally, the initiative supports the Bishops’ focus on “ministry with the poor.”

For more information about Circles, contact www.movethemountain.org, or alan@rfdcdc.org.

* * * * *

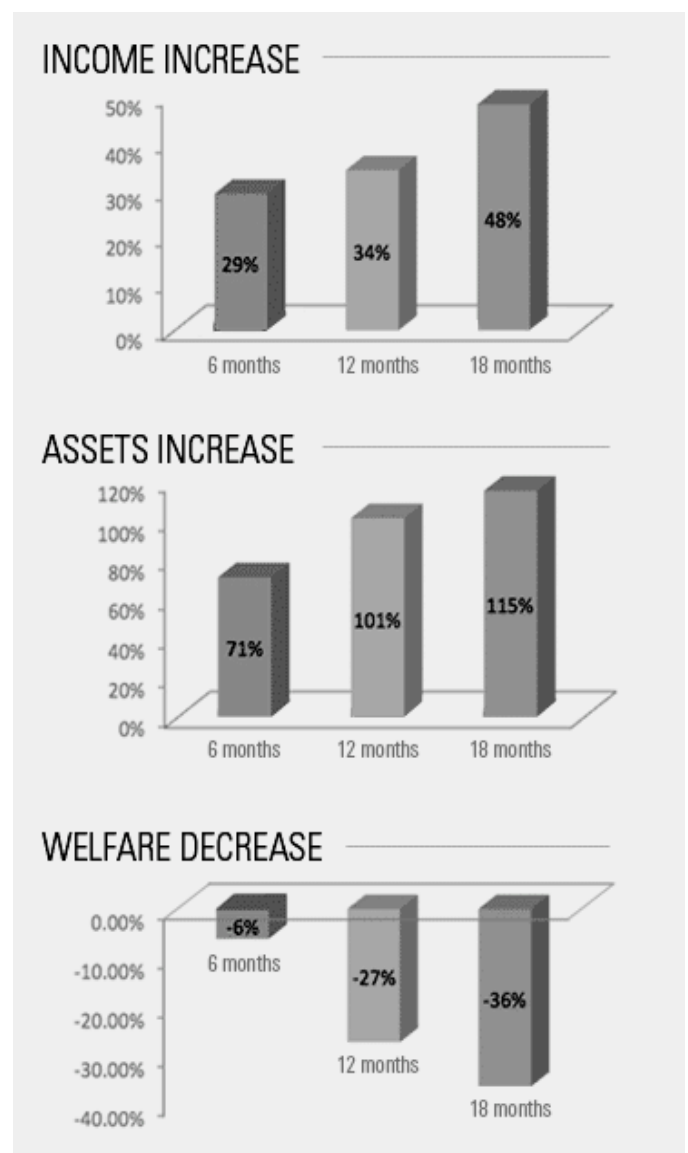
A Vision Fulfilled

by Ed Kail, past president, UMRF

In 2008, I was a delegate assigned to the Global Ministries legislative committee. At the session for organizing the committee, I met a lay woman from Zimbabwe named Betty Katiyo. She was energetic, articulate and joyful – and she was interested in serving as chair of the committee. So we, her neighbors, nominated her. Also nominated was a person associated with the Women’s Division.

The vote was close, and the other candidate prevailed; Betty was named vice-chair of the

Benefits to Circles’ Clients:



POVERTY SIMULATION TICKETS

Tickets for the Poverty Simulation experience Tuesday-Friday, May 1-4, at 9 am in Ballroom D are available from UMRF members. There are only 120 tickets for each day, but entry may be

committee. In her remarks, she said, “That’s okay for now. But I believe that four years from now, a woman from Africa will not only have opportunity to chair a legislative committee, but she will stand before the entire General Conference to speak.”

Did you notice who kicked off the Laity Address to the 2012 General Conference? Watch out for a woman with a vision!!