

THE WATERCOURSE

FLUME - Florida United Methodist Evangelicals in the Wesleyan Orthodox Tradition

2015 – Quarter 2 Edition



**WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 10, 2015**

5:30 – 7:00 PM

DINNER WITH DR. WENDY DEICHMANN

*Dinner is limited to 120
paid reservations.*

**\$10.00 Register by June 1
online at:**

Click [https://florida-
reg.brtapp.com/2015ACGroupMeals](https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/2015ACGroupMeals)

*To attend Keynote speech only:
Extra seating available after dinner
in sanctuary at no charge.*

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST EVANGELICALS (FLUME) ANNUAL GATHERING

**Keynote Speaker: REVEREND
DOCTOR WENDY DEICHMANN,
PRESIDENT & CEO, UNITED
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

- Orthodox and Wesleyan Theologian
- First woman president of a United Methodist Seminary
- Took seminary from decline to the fastest growing seminary in the country.

Dinner Reservations required \$10.00

*FLUME is collaborating with Asbury
Theological Seminary, Covenant UMC, Port
Orange, and First UMC Brandon, to welcome
Dr. Deichmann to Florida for her talk at our
annual gathering.*

*For more about Dr. Deichmann and United
Theological Seminary, go to
<http://united.edu/presidents-messages/>*

**At Covenant United Methodist Church
3701 South Clyde Morris Blvd.
Port Orange 32929**

Bishop Carter elected President-designate to Council of Bishops

Carter, [elected bishop in 2012](#), told his colleagues that the call to be the council's future president "came as a surprise to me." As president-designate, he will serve on the council's executive committee alongside Ough.

Since he was asked to take on this role, Carter said he finds himself praying often for three things: "the unity of the church, the faithfulness of the church and the fruitfulness of the church."

Carter, who leads the Florida Conference, has spent much of ministry in the Western North Carolina Conference, where he served as a pastor of multiple congregations and later as district superintendent.

New President elected to Council of Bishops - Dakotas-Minnesota Area Bishop Bruce R. Ough will be the next president of the Council of Bishops.

After his election, Ough told the bishops how he hoped to lead.

"I want to be a person with a passion for the saving of souls," he said. "I want to be a person that is a strong advocate for justice in the transformation of the world. I want to be a person who lives joyfully and obediently before the Lord, day in and day out."

Ough will receive the gavel on the third day of the 2016 General Conference, and Carter is scheduled to take office as president in spring 2018.

What the council president and the president designate do --

The council president is responsible for presiding over all meetings of the bishops' executive committee and council.

Only General Conference — the denomination's lawmaking assembly — can speak officially for The United Methodist Church. However, the **council president** sometimes must speak to the public on behalf of the bishops and church teachings. The president also often takes a leading role in council initiatives.

"We are entering an interesting, some would say 'difficult,' season in the life of the church," Ough told his fellow bishops after his election.

Bishop Ken Carter, [elected bishop in 2012](#), told his colleagues that the call to be the council's future president "came as a surprise to me." As **president-designate**, he will serve on the council's executive committee alongside Ough. Since he was asked to take on this role, Carter said he finds himself praying often for three things: "the unity of the church, the faithfulness of the church and the fruitfulness of the church."

Excerpts from: <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/bishops-ough-carter-win-elections-to-lead-bishops>

Nominations for 2016 Delegates to be elected at 2015 Florida Annual Conference

Take a look at the candidates for consideration by the Florida Annual Conference for election to the General Conference in 2016 in Portland. These candidates submitted their self-nominations in by February 15. Other candidates who did not meet the February 15 posting you see here will be posted at the Conference in June in time for the election as they are submitted.

Laity candidates: <http://tools.flumc.org/nominations/print/2>

Clergy nominees: <http://tools.flumc.org/nominations/print/1>

FLUME is still looking for strong, enthusiastic, and passionate orthodox Methodists to run as candidates for the 2015 election of delegates for the General Conference and SE Jurisdictional Conference in 2016. Lay members who have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least 4 years preceding the election (since June 2011), and are members of a Florida Conference UM church as of February 15, 2015 are eligible. Clergy members are eligible, who are ordained ministers in full connection with the Annual Conference. Lay members who are enrolled in seminary and who have not yet been ordained are urged to avoid running for election as a lay delegate.

This comes from Ken Minton, Conference Secretary of the Florida Annual Conference (edits in brackets [] added by FLUME) - *Eligible members of the Annual Conference [not already listed at the links above] will have a **second opportunity to nominate** themselves for consideration as a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Sessions. Representatives from the Elections Procedures Committee will be available from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the locations established for the meetings of the Clergy Session and the Lay Session [at the Annual Conference]. Eligible members may complete the registration form at that time. Once verified, those names will be provided to the members of the Annual Conference for consideration of election during the balloting process. No additional names may be added after the 11:00 a.m. deadline. <http://flumc2.org/pages/detail/2536>*

Who can be elected as a delegate of our Annual Conference? *The Florida Annual Conference uses an online self-nomination process. Anyone who: (1) senses the leading of God to serve as a delegate, (2) who meets all of the Disciplinary eligibility requirements, (3) who successfully completes the self-nomination process before the February 15, 2015 deadline, or (4) who successfully completes the self-nomination process during the Lay or Clergy Sessions on the first day of Annual Conference, can have their name placed on the ballot for election at the 2015 Annual Conference Session in Daytona Beach, Florida.*

Have We Forgotten? - Rev. Mason Dorsey

(Joh 1:1-3 NAU) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

(Col 1:15-18 NAU) ¹⁵ "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."

From the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord..."

From the Nicene Creed: "We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made."

How much do we believe all of these statements of our faith in God? Sometimes we think of Jesus as bursting onto the scene with His incarnation. We celebrate God taking on human flesh in Jesus the Son as the beginning of Jesus' involvement in our world. Somehow in the incarnation we diminish Jesus' eternal nature, forgetting that He did not begin to exist at the incarnation, but as the Son of God has always existed. And as the Son of God, He has always been in existence to the point that He has never not existed. As the eternal Son of God, Jesus has done all that the Father has done, including every aspect of creation.

Drilling this down more, do we realize the co-eternal Son of God created man and woman and gave them to one another? The Hebrews properly describe God with the collective noun in Genesis 1 as God says, (Gen 1:26 NAU) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;..."

And walking through the Bible further, we read the moral rules for how man and woman relate to each other, given at Sinai and in subsequent meetings with Moses in the tabernacle. Do we realize Jesus was every bit as involved as the Father, the Spirit and Moses were?

Then, when Jesus became incarnate and dwelled among us, He said that He came not to dismiss the Law of Moses but to fulfill the Law and that not one iota of the law would disappear, but all the Law would be fulfilled completely. The priestly and cleanliness laws were completely fulfilled in His crucifixion and resurrection. The moral laws were and are still being fulfilled in us. We have to live the moral law and only by the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in us can those laws be fulfilled in us. Jesus has not changed the laws, but has changed the fulfillment of them from the sacrificial system to Himself and to the ongoing work of His Holy Spirit in us.

Our response is to let Him fulfill the law in us. Granted there are some things in the Law I'm pretty safe on and need a bit of Jesus' help. I'm not planning on killing anyone. I'm not lying on my income taxes or

cheating on my wife. Still, the finer points of those laws and fulfilling them to the perfect degree God asks, can only be done by Jesus living in me. But the goal is still the same, complete fulfillment, not ducking or dodging, or changing God's law.

Why is He the One to do this? Because He's the One, along with the Father and the Spirit who created all things and determined how all things should interact. If we don't let Him, we have not followed Him, nor have we given ourselves to be His disciples. If we don't let Him, then have we been saved by His blood and His resurrection?

The Laity and Clergy sessions at the Annual Conference - Russ Graves, Conference Lay Leader

Laity Candidates for election as delegates to the General Conference will be present at Annual Conference at 8:30 am Wednesday morning June 10 to meet lay delegates to the Annual Conference and to answer questions.

Who are the Delegates attending this year's Annual Conference and whom will they be electing?

We are merely weeks away before the Annual Conference decides who will be going to the General Conference, at Portland, Oregon, and to the Southeast Jurisdiction to represent the Florida Conference of churches.

Call your District offices. Find out who the delegates are attending this year's Annual Conference. Contact them. – Talk to them – Ask questions. Your expressions and concerns can make a difference in the direction the United Methodist Church will be heading in years to come.

Apathy will doom the church. Active participation by orthodox Bible-believing Methodists is essential, now more than ever. Don't wait. Call around now and let these delegates know how important the church is to you and what our delegates should be doing to keep the church from being divided and to adhere to the Word of God.

Who Will You Vote For?

As delegates from our churches and from our districts this year, we all share a heavy obligation to help elect delegates to our General Conference and our Jurisdictional Conference in 2016. Who should you vote for? Of course, election decisions should always be bathed in prayer. Pray for wisdom and for discernment in making and voting for delegates. Learn as much about them as possible, and look to the covenant we adopt at annual conference to reflect our wholeness and our diversity in age, race, gender and theology. To that end, we suggest that you find out each delegate's opinion in these four areas:

What About the Authority of Scripture?

Does Scripture have any moral force in the delegate's opinion? Or is it just a collection of stories, sayings and principles, which may be outmoded? Of course, we at FLUME believe that when we read it prayerfully in the Holy Spirit and in proper context, it is the word of God and the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice.

Does the Delegate Want to Change the *Book of Discipline*? What and Why?

Except for the Constitution and the Restrictive Rules, many parts of the *Discipline* change every four years. This is due to operational and legal concerns in our complex modern society. However, in the Social Principles and elsewhere, there are moral provisions that have stood the test of time and holiness in living out our faith. Do you want our traditional, Wesleyan stances on morality to change? Does the delegate? What should change in the *Discipline* in their view, and why?

Should We Agree to Disagree?

Many take the view that we have a variety of viewpoints on sexual morality and on who should be ordained to serve as our pastors. Agreeing to disagree seems only to reflect what is actually true among United Methodists today. But what would be the result of "agreeing to disagree?" Only United Methodism, out of all traditional "mainstream" denominations of Christianity, has maintained traditional biblical stances on sexuality and morality. Do you want these to change? Over the last 15 years, every other denomination that has "agreed to disagree" or otherwise compromised on their denominational statements of morality has very quickly followed up by relaxing restrictions on marriage and ordination. The *Book of Discipline* is our rulebook/lawbook about what is acceptable in the conduct of the lives of our churches. What should be allowed? What not? Where does the delegate stand?

Should We Adopt a Separate Structure for the Church in the United States?

There are many suggestions for changing our church structure for the church. Some have merit. Some have not. When discussing differences in needs and in worship, some suggest we allow the American church to not be held accountable for differences in the way we conduct our lives and determine our moral principles, separate from the decisions of the worldwide church. Where does the delegate stand on these matters?

The Conference Table

I had the opportunity to attend the February 21st meeting of the Conference Table at our Conference Center in Lakeland. Representatives from many Florida Conference ministries were there. Rev. Debbie McLeod and Chuck Mallue co-chaired the day. Rev. Alex Shanks, Pastor at First Coral Springs, discussed the current work and objectives of the Strategic Leadership Team, including Fresh Expressions, the Nehemiah Project, Economically Challenged Churches, New Church Development, as well as some other items under Finance and Administration. Rev. Dan Jackson, Director of New Church Development, helped with questions in that area. Craig Smelser, Controller for the Florida Conference, was also there to help us understand budget issues.

Fresh Expressions and the Nehemiah Project both interested me immensely. Fresh Expressions tries to look for ministry venues outside the traditional church setting. In a few years, we may all be in home churches, parks, coffee shops—you name it. Fresh Expressions can help show us new experiments here in Florida and elsewhere; what works, what doesn't, and get our imaginations to percolating! The Nehemiah Project involves ministry with older "legacy" churches, where assistance is given to help turn them around into vital congregations, or to plan otherwise for the future.

Bishop Carter attended and seemed to really enjoy the open sharing and exchange. He talked with us about his views on the future of the church, as well as a covenant to be developed on the voting process for this year's GC and Jurisdictional delegate elections. A team would help write this to reflect our diversity of ethnicity, gender, age and theological viewpoints. Projection of the covenant and of delegates elected so far would be broadcast silently before each ballot.

All in all, I found this Conference Table meeting to be a very positive day.

-Rod Groom

More from The Conference Table – Rev. Dr. Bill Bouknight

<http://www.confessingumc.org/bill-bouknight-connectional-table-discusses-human-sexuality/>

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016 – PROPOSED LEGISLATION Sneak a peek at why we are voting for delegates <http://goodnewsmag.org/gclegislation/>

THE WESLEYAN COVENANT NETWORK - HELP IS ON THE WAY - Another Way Forward by Maxie Dunnam <http://www.wesleyancovenantnetwork.org/blog>

"FLUME, as an orthodox evangelical network, can serve as a watercourse with the help of the Holy Spirit to funnel the transforming waters of the evangelical heritage and Wesleyan traditions of The United Methodist Church throughout the churches and congregations of the Florida Conference."

Welcome to the Florida United Methodist Evangelicals!

Please check out our website at www.flumeevangelicals.com.

We are a group of faithful United Methodists who deeply love our churches and our Florida Annual Conference. What can we do to better prepare for the future? How as evangelical Christians can we become more and more Christ-like in our behavior and in our mission, as well as bringing new souls to Christ? Many people of different political, philosophical and theological traditions also care greatly about our church. How can we best respond in holiness to the various questions, issues and controversies facing our church today? What would you like to see in our newsletters and on our website? Share your thoughts with us by emailing us at info@flumeevangelicals.com. We would like to plan events to get together, fellowship, and listen to each other and exciting speakers on the issues facing our church today. What type of format would you like to see in such an event? When and where would be a good time for us to meet? Share your ideas with us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Dinner June 10, 2015 - Florida United Methodist Evangelicals/Asbury Theological Seminary – 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Covenant United Methodist Church 3701 S Clyde Morris Blvd, Port Orange, FL 32129 **Guest speaker: Dr. Wendy Deichmann, President – United Theological Seminary – Meal \$10. reservations required.** Limit 120 for the meal- Non-meal participants may join us in the sanctuary at the church at no charge. Click <http://www.flumc.org/groupmealsbyday2015>

For more information about this event, contact FLUME at info@flumeevangelicals.com

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Other Resources for evangelical Methodists

Confessing Movement – <http://www.confessingumc.org/>

Good News Magazine – <http://goodnewsmag.org/>

Institute on Religion & Democracy - <http://www.theird.org/page.aspx?pid=220>

Lifewatch – lifewatch@charter.net

RENEW Network – Liz Kittle - <http://www.renewnetwork.org/>

United Methodist Men Florida Conference - <http://www.ummflconf.org>

Wesleyan Covenant Network - <http://www.wesleyancovenantnetwork.org/>