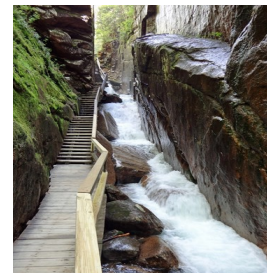


# *The Watercourse*

FLUME - Florida United Methodist Evangelicals in the Wesleyan Orthodox Tradition

2015 – Quarter 3 Edition



## **Delegates Elected to 2016 SEJ Conference & 2016 United Methodist General Conference in Portland, Oregon**

### **Elected to the General Conference 2016 delegation:**

**Lay** delegates: Molly McEntire, Derrick Scott III, Alice Williams, Mickey Wilson, Russ Graves, Jeremy Hearn, Rachael Sumner, Carlene Fogle-Miller and Janet Earls.

**Clergy** delegates: Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Alex Shanks, Rinaldo "Rini" Hernandez, Dionne Chandler Hammond, Harold Lewis Sr., David Dodge, Cynthia Weems, Jacqueline Leveron and Sharon Austin.

### **Headed to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference 2016:**

**Lay** delegates: Tiffania Icaza Willetts, Alexia Michelle Valle Velez, Martha Gay Duncan, Marie Anne Pierre-Louis, Paulette Monroe, Rod Groom, Joyce Waldon Bright, Rodney Akers and Benjamin **Spangler**.

**Clergy** delegates: Joanes Martin, Geraldine McClellan, David Allen, W. David McEntire, Audrey Warren, Jay Therrell, Bob Bushong, Armando Rodriguez Jr. and Kevin James.

### **Alternates:**

**Lay:** Rushing Kimball, Kelly Minter, Walter Dry, Brittany Erin Cott, Frances Jennings, Michael Reed Coffey and Gary Sanders.

**Clergy:** Vicki Walker, Wayne Wiatt, Catherine Fluck Price, Melissa Cooper, Jamie Westlake, Annette Stiles Pendergrass and Joe MacLaren.

## **From Boy Scouts to “A Way Forward” to “But it won’t end there”**

The church I am privileged to serve (First UMC of Brandon) is theologically orthodox and evangelical in our expression, and in the midst of the controversy that the Boy Scouts of America has found itself in, we have decided to be the chartering organization for a Trail Life Boys Troop (which quickly has grown to 45 active boys) and the American Heritage Girls (65 active girls) while still offering hospitality to local Boy and Girl Scout Troops with different sponsoring organizations. We plan to continue to offer this hospitality.

I do think what we’ve seen happen in the BSA over the last few years is indicative of what the United Methodist Church could anticipate if “The Way Forward” or the Connectional Table proposals (local options) are adopted at General Conference in 2016. In 2012, for example, many BSA troops didn’t imagine the decision from 2013 to allow GBLTQ boys to be a part of local troops would come so quickly. At that time the executives sold the decision to rank and file members by saying this expansion didn’t (and wouldn’t) include leadership.

Now just two years later there is another shift in policy, and they say “This is it; you still have local freedom to do as you please as it relates to GBLTQ leaders,” but it won’t be the end of this slippery slope, because the people demanding the changes won’t settle for such small victories. I also doubt the corporate funding the BSA expects to return will be on the way just yet. Troops that refuse to allow GBLTQ leadership will now be targeted for attack by outside organizations, and this should be diagnostic for what awaits us if “The Way Forward” or the Connectional Table proposals are adopted. Such local options will cause chaos, and strong evangelical, orthodox congregations will then be targeted by activists who aren’t invested in making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Just my take on what may be in our future,  
Jamie Westlake

## A CALL FOR FASTING & PRAYING - Chet Klinger

Maxie Dunnam, a renowned writer and pastor throughout American Methodism, has been calling for evangelical Methodists to engage in fasting and praying modeled after John Wesley's model.

We all know regardless of our opinions and contrived methods for influencing the church, that the head of the church is not us, but Jesus Christ Himself. And it can only be through fasting and prayer that we can hope the Lord hears us and spares us of the anguish of the trials that lie ahead.

Read the attached call for prayer and fasting and consider starting this movement with your small groups at your churches and in your community. What better way can there be to invite non-church-going people into a fellowship to address the struggles we are all facing.

<http://wesleyanaccent.seedbed.com/2014/09/18/maxie-dunnam/>

Also check at this site: <http://www.worldmethodist.org/prayerandfasting.htm>

Check out – **The Biggest Lie – Same-Sex Marriages Don't Affect You** by the Florida Family Policy Council Go to: <http://flfamily.org/marriage/thebiggestlie/>

## PEACE – LIKE A RIVER

This familiar song "It is Well with my Soul" conveys in part the Watercourse of the Gospel that binds us at FLUME. Of the six verses, three describe the flow we feel when we are washed over by Jesus' Love -

"When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to *know*,<sup>a</sup> It is well, it is well, with my soul.

"Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

"For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live: If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life, Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul."

These words were written by Horatio Spafford shortly after a tragedy in 1873 when he and his wife lost four daughters at sea. This event followed another tragedy in 1871 when he suffered severe financial loss of property in the Great Chicago Fire. If that wasn't enough, after having three more children, the Spaffords lost a four year son in 1880 to scarlet fever. None of this broke his faith, for he took his family to Jerusalem after that and established a messianic missionary group called the American Colony. Learn more about the song and the writer at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It\\_Is\\_Well\\_with\\_My\\_Soul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Is_Well_with_My_Soul)

## The Methodist Church and Abortion – The latest from the United Methodist News Service -

<http://view.esp.umcom.org/?j=fec910777560017f&m=fe9312727562057570&ls=fe1516777d640d757c1378&l=ff65107675&s=fe4c137573620d78711d&jb=ff9a1673&ju=fe6115737266007a7314&r=0>

Notice the news from August 8 in the link above about race relations, about Obama's deal with Iran, about break-away churches, atom bombs, shootings and even Charlie Brown in the August 8 UM News Service. Going back through all of the articles from the UMNS back to May of this year, the reader will find everything from global warming to Ebola, from Legos to same-sex marriages, from churches closing to No More Malaria. Many of these articles lift up the plight of people suffering in third world countries and how Methodism is reaching out to help. Many of these articles reflect upon the current news in our society. Yet I had trouble finding one word about one piece of news that has been making headlines over this same period of time - the plight of unborn human lives and the methods employed by Planned Parenthood to destroy these lives. I read no outrage from the UMC here in Florida or across American UMC churches. I did find these at another UMC site. <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-is-the-united-methodist-position-on-abortion> *“Organizations like Planned Parenthood and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) receive no denominational funding.”* <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/the-nurturing-community#abortion> *“Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion..... We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers.”*

Yet we hear no outcry from the UMC. What gives? - Chet Klinger

## UMC BISHOPS RESPOND TO US SUPREME COURT RULING ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

**Bishop Lindsey Davis, Kentucky Conference** - "While I am personally disappointed in the Supreme Court's decision to alter the government's definition of marriage to include same-gender couples, their decision is not much of a surprise. The Court's reasoning runs counter to the teachings of almost all world religions including Christianity, Judaism and Islam. I remain hopeful that the United Methodist Church will remain faithful to the biblical understanding that marriage is a lifetime covenant between a man and a woman."

**Bishop James Swanson – Mississippi Conference** - "The question that I believe is foremost upon the minds and hearts of United Methodist clergy and laity is, "How does this affect our church's official position on same sex-marriage?" A very simple answer is, it does not. Only the General Conference can make a change to our position.

This is affirmed even in the Supreme Court's decision. I would direct your attention to [page 27](#) of the

decision where the court points out "... It is to be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned."

In making this statement, the Supreme Court of the United States recognizes that obviously the First Amendment protects religious organizations' "rights" to teach our principals in accordance with our beliefs.

I am committed to that and to doing so with love, grace and humility. I trust that we all can have the same spirit."

**Bishop James R. King, Jr – South Georgia Conference** - The polity of our United Methodist Church did not change. Our Book of Discipline in paragraph 341.7 states, ceremonies that celebrate same sex unions "shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." As a denomination, we have agreed that the only body authorized to change the Book of Discipline is the General Conference, which will meet in 2016.

*Stand strong in your faith in God. Hold to the timeless values of faith rooted in the love of Christ. I will uphold the discipline of the church and expect you to do likewise.*

*Let us continue to be in constant prayer.*

**Bishop Ken Carter – Florida Conference** - Facebook post by Bishop Carter  
June 27, 2015 - 7:15 AM

In light of [#scotusmarriage](#), what if...

1. Those on the left side of the aisle allowed space for conscience (as Kennedy does) for people of faith who cannot interpret marriage in this way.
2. Those on the right side of the aisle began to focus on fidelity in marriage relationships.
3. Preachers began to teach counter-culturally about marriage, acknowledging the profound brokenness in our culture, in relation to grace and holiness.
4. We clarified the distinction between marriage as a right (in the state) and marriage as a gift (in the church).
5. We repented, on both sides of the aisle, from speech that reduced those different from us into one-dimensional people.
6. We repented, as well, from the historical reality that Christians have been an obstacle in each movement toward greater civil rights in our country.
7. We recovered a passion to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

For more about what bishops are saying – Go to: <http://www.okumc.org/blogdetail/1456861>  
and <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/bishops-offer-advice-after-gay-marriage-ruling>.

Florida UMM Fall Spiritual and Educational Retreats

WAKING TO GOD'S DREAM – **OCTOBER 9-10, 2015** Lay Leader – Russ Graves  
“Building Biblical community with the men in your church and community.” Also, Rev.  
Dale Locke – “John Wesley woke to God’s Dream with his movement.” Bishop Dick  
Wills – Starting with a small group of 12.

PARTNERING WITH GOD – **OCTOBER 23-25, 2015** Location: Leesburg Life  
Enrichment Center – with the Lighthouse Band from Cape Coral UMC and Dr. Max  
Wilkins [www.themissionsociety.org](http://www.themissionsociety.org) - “Challenges and encouragement for men’s  
concerns” Rev. Ed Diaz [www.71:17.org](http://www.71:17.org) “Ministering with the next generation”

Both of the events above are being held at the United Methodist Life Enrichment Center  
at Leesburg (Fruitland Park), Florida Register with the Florida Conference United  
Methodist Men by calling 863-858-4985 or go to [www.ummflconf.org](http://www.ummflconf.org)

EVENTS FOR ALL CONFERENCES INCLUDING THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE

NEW ROOM CONFERENCE – **SEPT 16-18, 2015** Christ Community Church, Franklin,  
Tennessee; Sponsored by Seedbed Learn more at <http://newroom.seedbed.com/>

**New Online Resource for Wesleyan Ministry from Good News  
Magazine** – Check it out at <http://wesley21.com/>

Books, sermons, articles, Ministry Resources, Church Profiles,  
YouTube Channel, and more.

**"The sabbath and marriage were two ordinances instituted in innocency, the  
former for the preservation of the church, the latter for the preservation of  
mankind." - John Wesley**

*"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](http://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](mailto: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.

**Welcome aboard John and Carolyn Welsh.** Their passion for preserving the Wesleyan orthodox tradition of Methodism and their trust in the Truths of the Holy Scriptures led them to join FLUME's Steering Committee.

**FLUME Steering Committee**

Rev. Mason Dorsey – Pembroke Pines [masondorsey@hotmail.com](mailto:masondorsey@hotmail.com)

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John & Carolyn Welsh - Ft Pierce - [jw1333@aol.com](mailto:jw1333@aol.com)

**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](mailto:lifewatch@charter.net)

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

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

Wesley21.com - <http://wesley21.com/>