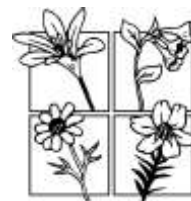


Bear Fax



June, 2008

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

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Proposed UM Social Creed adopted as a litany instead

A new United Methodist Social Creed was considered when the 2008 General Conference met in late April/early May in Fort Worth, Texas.

A six-person task force led by the General Board of Church and Society worked on the 2008 Social Creed. The original creed, revised in 1972, was written in 1908 as a denominational statement decrying child labor and supporting the rights of workers.

The Book of Discipline recommends the Social Creed be emphasized regularly in every congregation and used frequently in Sunday worship.

This new "poetic" creed will not replace the Social Creed but was instead adopted by the Conference as a "companion litany" to the social creed. It is "a gift to the church and reinforces and reframes the creed," according to a member of the task force.

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Companion Litany to UM Social Creed

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,
calls us by grace
*to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one
in divine love for the world.*

Today is the day
God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of
all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's
goodness
And so shall we.

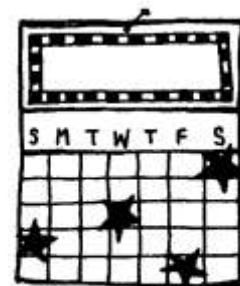
Today is the day
God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming
strangers into friends.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God cries with the masses of starving
people,
despises growing disparity
between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the
marketplace.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God deplores violence in our homes
and streets,
rebukes the world's warring
madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up
the lowly.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God calls for nations and peoples to
live in peace,
celebrates where justice and
mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with
the lamb.
And so shall we.

*Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.*



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, June 8
Recognition Sunday
Youth Mystery
Dinner

Tuesday, June 10
Community Blood
Drive at BCUMC

Sunday, June 15
Confirmation Sunday

June 17-20
Annual Conference

PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,
As a church, we are feeling the need to put emphasis on the value and significance of the Christian education our children.

I think it must be unanimous that we have no more important task than to teach our children well the love of God and how we might live such love in our lives. So it is always surprising to discover that recruiting for this most important task is very difficult. Maybe that is just the point. Its significance frightens.

I know not everyone is made to teach children. I know for sure that I have not been given the gift **of children's ministry because I had a church forbid (not request, but forbid) me to lead Children's Church.**

But I also know that, within Bear Creek, there are those of you who have a gift for ministering to children. There are those of you whom God has made in such a way that you love children and can teach them or nurture them.

If this is you, then please contact Marge Kuykendall and let her know that you would be willing to assist in ministry to the children.

You see, I have a dream that this year Marge and the Christian Ed folks won't have to go begging for a Children's Ministry team in Sunday School, Children's Church or for midweek activities, but will instead have to develop an elaborate scheduling chart to make sure every gifted person gets his or her turn.

Shalom,

WORSHIP

Join us Sundays 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Make worship a regular part of your life of discipleship. Whether the music is loud or soft, the sermon good or bad, our worship of God and with our brother and sister disciples of Jesus will be just right.

June 1—3rd Sunday after Pentecost

"Building a Stable Home"

The rock upon which we build our houses, houses that can endure any storm, is our response to God's love with our loving actions.

Matthew 7:21-29

Sunday Vespers *Mark 3:7-12*

only the love of God can free us from the destruction fear reigns upon us.

Matthew 10:26-31

Sunday Vespers *Mark 5:1-20*

June 8—4th Sunday after Pentecost

"Pungent Lovingkindness"

On May 7, 1996, I went to visit Jim Palmer. I didn't want to go because Jim, a longtime friend, was dying of cancer, but I had promised his wife that I would go. On that day he taught me about Pungent Lovingkindness.

Matthew 9:9-13

Sunday Vespers *Mark 4:35-41*

June 22—6th Sunday after Pentecost

"Risk Conflict"

I am one of those folks who really doesn't like conflict, but if we are to be transformed and transforming, then conflict is inevitable. How do we have conflict and still love?

Matthew 10:34-36

Sunday Vespers *Mark 5:21-43*

June 15—5th Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

"Love Casts Out Fear"

I have come to believe that the most negative and destructive of our emotions is fear and that

June 29—7th Sunday after Pentecost

"Drawing Circles of Love"

In Matthew's day, a person's place in life was often defined by the negative, by exclusion. You knew who you were by who you were not. Jesus challenges us to define ourselves by inclusion. Can that really work?

Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday Vespers *Mark 6:30-44*

How friendly is our church?

The sign proudly proclaimed, *The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church*. An hour later, the guest was sure someone had violated the truth in advertising laws.

If you've been comfortably ensconced as a church member for awhile, perhaps you owe it to your church to visit some other churches and sense for yourself **what it's like to be a guest again**. Most staffs and members want to be caring and friendly; but in the midst of teaching, preaching and fellowshiping, too many give little, if any, attention to the impressions their guests receive.

Perhaps if every church and staff member would figuratively slip into the shoes of a guest for a few Sundays, we would all be more sensitive to guests and new members in our congregation.

Churches send positive messages by:

- * choirs and song teams that smile during the songs and stay awake during the message;
- * parking near the door being reserved for guests
- ** members that are friendly **beyond the time "designated"** to be friendly.
- ** clean and well-cared-for buildings and grounds;
- * attractive, functional signs inside and out;

- * members who refrain from chatting during the music or message;
- ** words of choruses printed in the bulletin for those unfamiliar with them;
- * the pastor acknowledging the visit with a letter;
- ** a reception area staffed with friendly people ready to give directions or help;
- ** crisply-printed bulletins with print large enough to be read easily;
- ** personable music directors who look like they enjoy what **they're doing**.

Things that should never happen, but often do:

- * bulletin boards or outdoor signs contain out-of-date information;
- ** scruffy, hand-lettered signs designating classrooms, and cluttered walls;
- ** the only greeting guests receive is an obligatory handshake during the service;
- ** only a few members welcome visitors following the service;
- ** **people's talents are ignored** when they are asked to fill positions in the church.

Things that could always happen, but seldom do:

- ** pretty bowls of wrapped mints are on the reception desk or in the restrooms;
- ** new members receive a handwritten note from the pastor;
- ** beautifully landscaped grounds are planted and cared for by volunteers;
- ** professional or neat computer-generated signs are used.
- ** guests receive a call from the church office by Monday afternoon;
- ** churches benefit by allowing members to use their unique talents.

By working together, any church can become more guest-friendly. Secretaries can bring about significant differences. Pastors and ministering staffs can become more sensitive to what **it's like to be on the other side of the pulpit**. Congregations can follow their lead.

Why? Because people want to end their search for a friendly church. What will they find at ours?

Adapted from
Just How Friendly Is Your Church?
Communication Clues
by Gayle Hilligoss
PROFile

2008 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2008	\$361,717	
Year to-date offerings <i>through May 25</i>	\$125,293	85.8%
Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)	(\$20,785)	-14.2%



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Help us meet our goals

Hope for the Children of Africa

Bear Creek Missions is proud to report that we collected \$840 at the Sojourners benefit concert to support Hope for the Children of Africa, specifically the Jaama Letu Orphanage in the Congo. The Sojourners donated 100% of their CD sales to support this cause. There are no administrative costs associated with the concert or the church, so 100% of the offering goes to the children.

However, we are still shy of our **last year's contribution and would like to meet or exceed this goal** before Annual Conference on June 17, where a special presentation will be made to benefit this cause.

If you missed the concert but would like to help us reach our goal, please send your donation, **clearly marked "HOPE,"** to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

30-hour famine

Last year BCUMC supported the youth from the church where I volunteer during their 30-hour famine. Because we were so successful last year and had a good time as well, they decided to do it again this year.

There will be about 20 youth participating at Highland Park UMC in Spokane. It is not in a very good part of the city, and most of the kids that come to youth group come from families that are struggling.

The 30-hour famine is a chance for all of us to see what **it's like to be hungry and what we can do to help. We will go for 30 hours without eating**, and all the money raised goes to World Vision to help aid children in Africa.

Last year we raised over \$5,000 and were so grateful for all the support we received. The famine will take place on the 21st and 22nd of June. Checks can be made out to BCUMC with "World Vision" in the note line and mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday.

Thanks for your support!

Jamie Wilson

Missions – Around
A sneak peek at upcoming

The Corner

Mission events

June

- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday June 14th 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tent City 4 Dinner – Monday June 16th 6 p.m. at B'Nai Torah

July

- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday July 12th 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- White Swan Mission trip – July 27th – August 1st
- Tent City 4 Dinner – Monday July 21st 6 p.m. at B'Nai Torah

August

- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday August 9th 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tent City 4 Dinner – Monday August 18th 6 p.m. at TBA
- Assemble UMCOR kits during coffee hour – date TBD



Vacation Bible
School
Adventure!

July 14-18

Mark your
calendar!

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

It takes a village

Technology was sputtering, but there was no money in the cookie jar to correct it.

So, the BCUMC village got together to figure out how to solve the issue.

Someone remembered: *We have an endowment fund* for just these types of situations! Perhaps we can get a grant to fix our problem.

The timing was right. Annually, the Endowment Committee makes grants, focusing on the purchase of tangible items that will have a long life and/or nonrecurring activities or special projects. And, this was the season

when they were doing that.

The Endowment Committee's answer was YES! From the 2007 Endowment Fund earnings, \$1,500 was granted for the purchase of equipment necessary to upgrade the office computer system.

But, it didn't stop there. A computer, router, software, memory and audio recording components were also donated by several members of the village, not to mention the time that many spent to get it up and running.

Yes, together a village can make a big difference.

As you're thinking about the future, please consider a donation to the Endowment Fund. Your contribution won't be spent; rather, it will be invested, and the earnings from those monies will be used for things not typically covered in the normal operating and capital budgets.



STEWARDSHIP

We want your interest, talent and skills surveys

THANK YOU to all who have completed the time and talent survey. If you have not completed yours yet, you will be getting an e-mail version during June. Please complete it and return it to the church office.

Our first use of the survey will be to identify potential committee members. If you are waiting to hear, please be patient. The committee chairs will be contacting you this summer.

Remember, Stewardship is about more than giving our funds. It is also about sharing the talents and gifts that God has bestowed upon us. It is part of our discipleship. It is the service part of Worship, Study and Service.

Jim Morris, Chair
Stewardship Committee



Elaine Stanovsky endorsed as candidate for bishop

Every four years, following General Conference, the five jurisdictions within the United States meet to elect new bishops. The Western Jurisdiction will meet July 16-19 in Portland, Oregon.

Prior to that time, each Annual Conference will be considering names to submit for election for this essential office.

When the Pacific Northwest lay and clergy members gather in Moscow, Idaho, for the opening of the plenary of Annual Conference (in June), the Jurisdiction Delegation will proudly put forward the name of Reverend Elaine Stanovsky for nomination as a candidate for the office of Bishop.

Following an intensive question and answer session with Elaine in February, the delegation spent a significant amount of time talking about what they had heard.

Following a time of discernment and prayer, the **delegation unanimously decided to support Elaine's** candidacy for Bishop.

As some of you know, Elaine is the sister of one of our members, Doug Woodworth, and an area **pastor, Melvin Woodworth. You can visit Elaine's** website at elainestanovsky.org to learn more about her passion for the church and her calling to the Office of Bishop.



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WE NEED YOU!

We've got mail

Dear Bear Creek UMC family,

What a joy to be with you in worship again this weekend and for housing the Kennewick First UM Youth Choir this weekend while they participated in the Choristers Guild Festival. I'm delighted that my youth had the opportunity to experience Bear Creek's hospitality. A huge thank you also to the Stroh family for feeding us during our stay and for Terri and Caitlin Stewart's help with our anthem.

May God continue to bless your ministries and each of you.

With love,
Nancy Barr

Dear Bear Creek UMC, thanks for having us!

It was great having a comfortable place to stay! Thanks so much for housing us! - Joanna

Thank you for housing us, it was nice to have a place to stay that was so close to our workshop, and thank you for making us feel welcome. - Kristen

Thanks so much for letting us stay here! You guys are great! - Amanda

Thanks so much for the couch.



Save the Date

Recognition Sunday—June 8

Blood Drive—June 10

Confirmation Sunday—June 15

Vacation Bible School—July 14-18

White Swan Mission Trip—July 27-August 2

Blood Drive—August 12

Back to School Sunday—September 7

Kick-Off Sunday/Luncheon September 14

Commitment Sunday—November 2

Thanksgiving Service—November 23

Advent Festival—December 7



Prayers for Gary Linstedt who is waiting for another liver transplant.

Prayers for Shallon Tagg who recently underwent hip surgery.

Continued prayers for Debbie Brown who continues to face life's big and little challenges.

Lillian Russo, who is facing surgery for a suspicious growth on her ovary.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Committee votes to become a reconciling community

The Church and Society Committee of BCUMC has voted to become a reconciling community. It was unanimous in favor of adopting the following inclusion statement:

"As part of BCUMC, the Church and Society Committee affirms God's grace for all persons by committing ourselves to welcome persons of any race, age, gender, economic condition, disability, or sexual orientation. We also commit ourselves, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to continuing reconciling relationship with all we meet."

By adopting this reconciling statement, the Church and Society Committee is committing itself to honoring full inclusion of all persons in our committee community. It is not a congregation-wide inclusion statement.

Reconciling Communities are small groups that go through a formal process and create a relationship with the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). RMN is a national grassroots organization of Methodists that exists to enable full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life of the United Methodist Church, both in policy and practice. The RMN is an independent, not-for-profit organization with no official ties to The United Methodist Church.

In making this decision, the Church and Society Committee

has weighed the harm that has been done in the past by exclusion. The United Methodist Church currently has policies that will allow membership to be denied to people who are lesbian, gay, transgendered, or bisexual. It is our feeling that our committee, in supporting grace for all persons, should do so publicly and with a prophetic voice, calling to stand with and for the people in our community who are marginalized and shut-out of the decision-making process.

Our General Conference, the UMC decision-making body, is nearly split on this issue. This year, regarding full inclusion, our voting body has struggled to bring together the many world-wide voices on this issue. Decisions were made that make membership inclusive; however, there is still language that does harm to people of non-heterosexual orientations. By retaining the language that does harm, yet moving towards an inclusive membership, the General Conference truly reflects our church on this issue— as a church, we are split and confused.

To illustrate the harm, Pastor Bill Taylor from Texas saw his successful ministries fall apart when his son declared that he was homosexual. Pastor Taylor, through prayerful discernment, did not condemn his son but continued to love and support him.

"Through several years of struggle, prayer, and searching the Bible, God answered my prayer. God changed me. Let me be honest. If I could make Dawson heterosexual, I would, because his life would be easier and so would mine." -

Katalyst, Winter 2008

Pastor Taylor was removed from his position because he did not condemn his son. For the members of the Church and Society Committee, the cost of silence is too high.

As part of the process of adopting this statement, the Church and Society Committee welcomes input from the congregation in a thoughtful and reconciling process. We will be working over the summer to create a group of people who would be willing to field questions on this issue. The group will be inclusive of all points-of-view. In the fall, we will take questions and answer them in an ongoing, open dialogue. It is our hope that it will be an inclusive process for all.

If you have any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Brown or Terri Stewart. You can also join the conversations that the Church and Society community has by joining our e-mail group at bcumc-social-justice@yahoogroups.com.

In Peace,
Terri Stewart



Did you know that the BCUMC sermons are now available via iTunes on www.bcumc.org? You can subscribe for automatic downloads OR you can simply listen to Dave O by going directly to the www.bcumc.org website Sermon Page and clicking on the "MP3" icon. You can also read the printed version, get the latest calendar dates, and lots more! Check it out today!

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The Bear Fax is published monthly. The deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of each month.

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On the Horizon



July 14-18
Vacation Bible School

July 27-August 2
White Swan Mission Trip

August 12
Bloodmobile at BCUMC

Sunday, September 7
Back to School Sunday

Sunday, September 14
Kick-Off Sunday

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School
11:00 a.m.

Sunday Vespers
8:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

Office hours
9:00-3:00

Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays

The mission of Bear Creek United Methodist Church is to create a diverse family place of belonging for all people and to reach out and make disciples of Christ.