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Delegates from the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church met on Feb. 20-22 to interview candidates for bishop and discuss matters relating to the 2020 General Conference, a meeting of the denomination’s top law-making body, taking place May 5-15 in Minneapolis.

A major part of the weekend was hearing about the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation.

Rather than explain recently released legislation for the protocol, representatives of the jurisdiction’s College of Bishops focused on how and why they made the decision to support the protocol.

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, episcopal leader of the Louisiana Annual Conference, opened the presentation by sharing about the thought process and reasoning behind the protocol.

“We recognized that this group had no authority except that the church could not continue the way it was,” Harvey said. “We could not continue the harm we were doing to each other; we needed a better way.”

She was joined by Rev. Junius Dotson, the chief executive of Discipleship Ministries. Both Harvey and Dotson, who were a part of the mediation process that led to the protocol, acknowledged that separation was not their ideal choice in addressing theological differences surrounding LGBTQ inclusion.

“I must tell you, that is not what I signed up for,” Harvey said. “I never thought I would be in a group that would be at this point, but it became very clear that [separation] was the next step that we needed to take.”

Dotson explored some financial aspects of the protocol, including the protocol’s allocation of $39 million to ensure ministries like Africa University would not be impacted by an interruption in funding during the separation process.

He said the committee approached the financial implications of the protocol by examining what would be needed for new, healthy expressions of Methodism post-separation.
Bishops urge delegates, cont.

“We’re anticipating that there will be a need for a budget reset,” Dotson said. “There’s a need for innovation. There’s a need [to ask] how do we deliver general church ministry in the 21st century. This gives us a way and a time frame that makes sense.”

Dotson also explained that LGBTQ inclusion, regional governance structure and the process of reformation are not addressed in the proposed separation legislation. The three items were covered in Article VI of the protocol’s initial agreement, but because they affect the post-separation UMC, they were not included with the separation legislation. He said those matters would be addressed by the post-separation UMC.

“The driving question behind Article VI still remains the same: how do we help each other get what we need? The only way this can happen is if we lay aside general conference thinking, which is often about exerting one’s will to create a winner-take-all victory,” Dotson said. “This mediation process was not about winners or losers. It was about how we could all get to yes, and how could we help each other get what we needed? It will take an unprecedented level of cooperation and coordination, but we can get there.”

Bishop Robert Schnase, episcopal leader of the Rio Texas Annual Conference, also spoke about the protocol. He shared how a question posed during a meeting with fellow bishops helped him see a bigger picture.

“Here’s the foundational question of the protocol: Do you fundamentally believe the witness of Christ is multiplied and expressed by two denominations who peacefully separate or by one denomination that continues conflict over LGBTQ inclusion?” he said. “It was an inventory of sorts as one by one, each bishop said, ‘two.’”

Schnase, a member of the Commission on a Way Forward, described how he came to accept the protocol as the best way for the denomination to move forward after restrictions on LGBTQ inclusion were upheld at the 2019 Special Called General Conference.

“The fundamental premise of the One Church Plan was that we can find a space to do our ministries without having to restrict each other,” Schnase said. “It still breaks my heart to think about some kind of divergence, but if there’s going to be one, I’d rather it be one that has some direction, some buy-in, with some thinking behind it from people of various perspectives.”

Schnase noted that the protocol provides a broad timeframe for clergy, churches and annual conferences to decide whether they would like to stay in the UMC or move to a new expression of Methodism that may come out of the protocol. He asked that delegates “give this plan room to breathe.”

“There’s space to live with this for a while to see if this is tolerable,” Schnase said. “[There’s time to ask,] is there room for me in this denomination? Am I still going to feel at home?”

He also asked delegates to be a non-anxious presence when discussing the protocol or General Conference, urging delegates to refrain from trying to “sabotage it with 1,000 things that absolutely must be changed.”

“When these conversations take place, you do the Body of Christ no favors by using fear as a way to create cohesion in community,” Schnase said. “That’s not the way Jesus led.”

Bishop Bob Farr, episcopal leader of the Missouri Annual Conference, closed the presentation by reminding delegates that the denomination has a long history of reorganizing into new expressions of Methodism. He urged delegates to accept living into the uncertainty of the time before the 2020 General Conference.

“I’ve been to five General Conferences, and I’ve never seen anything start the way it ends,” Farr said. “The document you have in front of you is the beginning point, and I don’t know what the end will be. I just hope we don’t pick it apart.”

Karen Distefano, who leads UMVIM/Disaster Response for the South Central Jurisdiction, speaks with delegates from the Rio Texas Conference during the SCJ Delegates Meeting held Feb. 20-22 at St. Luke’s UMC in Oklahoma City. Photo by Meagan Ewton.
Clergy in the Oklahoma Conference are responding to concerns about COVID-19, the official name for the coronavirus. Rev. Jeremy Basset, director of the Office of Mission, released a statement on March 5 that encouraged conference members to make informed decisions regarding travelling for mission trips. He said if travel does become a challenge due to concerns about the virus, the office would help churches stay connected to the mission in other ways.

"While taking the best possible precautions in the face of this virus, it is also important that we continue to be about God’s mission in the world,” Basset said in the statement. “Our presence and commitment to each other is a witness to our hope and confidence in our shared journey of faith in Christ.”

As of March 5, there were zero cases of the virus in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma State Department of Health had tested a total of seven people for the disease: five tested negative, and two cases were still pending results. Although the virus has yet to be confirmed in the state, some conference ministries are still feeling the effect of people’s fears.

Rev. Victoria Lee said she and her team had to consider whether or not Charis Alive, a multiethnic ministry that reaches out to the Asian community in Oklahoma City, should cancel a Feb. 2 event to celebrate the Lunar New Year, which took place on Jan. 25. Ultimately, the team decided to move forward with the event.

“We took all the precautionous measures that we could take; safety is our number one priority, and we want to make sure the worship area is a safe place,” Lee said. “If we had closed, we would send the signal that we are not different than the outside community, that we are for fear, instead of trusting God and taking every precautionous measure.”

Unlike Charis Alive, the Chinese New Year
celebration at the University of Oklahoma Wesley Foundation did need to be cancelled due to concerns about the virus, according to Fuxia Wang, the foundation’s director of international ministries. She said the foundation’s international students continue to meet for worship, bible study and English as a second language classes, but some students have families in China who can not go to classes because schools are closed.

“We took this opportunity to minister to the students and asked our students to join us together to pray and fast for China for 30 days,” Wang said. “We continue to pray for China during this Lent season, asking for God’s healing and mercy because God is our help in the time of our need. We pray and believe that God is working and bringing something good out of this situation.”

When asked whether churches who have mission trips scheduled should keep those commitments, Basset said yes, unless the trip takes place in or changes airports in one of the countries where the virus has widespread or sustained rates of transmission. As of March 5, those countries are China, Iran, South Korea, Italy and Japan, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We are still called to be about God’s mission, and we need to find ways to remain active, even if in the face of a possible increase in this virus,” Basset said. “(If) people want to cancel travel plans, they should not cancel their engagement in that mission. There are other ways to stay in connection and to send resources without people going there, but do not simply abandon mission because of fears about a virus.”


To learn more about the OSDH response to COVID-19, visit www.ok.gov/health. To learn more about the Commission on General Conference’s response to the virus, visit www.umc.org/en/content/public-health-awareness-planned-for-general-conference.
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Youth Advocate & Author of CinderGirl

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Leawood, KS – Alumna Rev. Dr. Lois V. Glory-Neal will be presented with the prestigious Distinguished Graduate Award on Friday, March 27 for reflecting the mission of the seminary and exemplary service in ministry.

The Mission of Saint Paul School of Theology is to be centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition. Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of intentional relationships committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life; the exploration of Scripture, tradition, and ministry practices; and diverse, contextual experience.

Born in the Cherokee Nation, Rev. Dr. Glory-Neal was the first Native American woman to be received into full connection as an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She became the first Native American District Superintendent in 1992. Rev. Dr. Glory-Neal graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma City University in 1984. She continued her education by earning her Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology in 1988.

The Distinguished Graduate Award is presented annually at Saint Paul School of Theology. This year the award will be presented at the Saint Paul 60th Anniversary Celebration held at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the Convention Center in Overland Park, KS. She will also be honored during the Oklahoma Campus Commencement on Friday, May 15 in Oklahoma City, OK.

Full details about both events can be found at www.spst.edu/calendar.
Churches helping ensure ‘everyone counts’ in the U.S. census

The United States Constitution mandates that every 10 years a national census be taken to count the total number of people living in each state, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. The data collected determines the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the number of electors in the Electoral College. The census also determines the distribution of federal government funds and provides vital information for lawmakers/public servants, economists and businesses.

During March, the Census Bureau will mail invitations to every U.S. household to complete and submit its data. April 1 is the designated Census Day for submitting information, although it can be done on other days. Many faith communities will participate in Census Sabbath, March 27-29, to draw attention to Census Day. In May through July, census workers will go door-to-door to collect information from households that did not respond earlier online or by telephone or mail. Times are also set for counting people experiencing homelessness and for those living in-group settings, such as nursing homes or prisons or on college campuses.

Be Counted

The United Methodist Church advocates for fair representation and just distribution of government resources to all. Local congregations and the General

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference members holding a photo shoot at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City to promote Native American participation in the 2020 U.S. census. Courtesy of Ginny Underwood.
Board of Church and Society are encouraging people to participate in the census and working to allay fears that the information collected might be used to harm those responding.

Raul Alegría, a member of Brentwood (Tennessee) United Methodist Church and of the Church and Society board, considers the census vital to ensuring equitable distribution of power and resources.

“I’ve moved around a lot and taken the census while living in a number of different states,” he said. “Often minorities’ communities go undercounted, including families or households where some members may be undocumented. But many of these communities also place a lot of trust in their church, so they are probably more likely to fill out their census information if their pastor or members of their congregation ensure them that it is safe.”

Efforts in 2018 and 2019 to add a citizenship question to the census document would likely have caused undercounting of immigrants. That effort was defeated. The 2020 U.S. census will not ask whether respondents are U.S. citizens. All personal data gathered from the census is protected by Title 13 of the U.S. Code and cannot be released to any third party, including other government or law enforcement agencies or courts of law.

While the census is intended to ensure fair representation across the United States, the counting has not always fulfilled expectations. Estimates are the 2010 census failed to count over 1 million children under 4. The census also frequently undercounts minorities and low-income households.

In 2010, 4.9% of Native Americans and Alaska Natives were left out, making them the most undercounted racial-ethnic demographic. The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) is working with the National Urban Indian Family Coalition to help Native American households in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma, complete their census data.

“70% of Native Americans live in urban areas today,” said the Rev. David Wilson, OIMC superintendent. “We are hosting gatherings in our local churches where we will have iPads available for people to use to fill out their information with volunteers to help them,” said Wilson.

Recently the conference hosted a photo shoot for a campaign to help publicize the census among the Native American community

How Churches Can Help

“Low income households and immigrant families are often undercounted due in large part to ingrained mistrust toward government, but also because it’s sometimes difficult to get the proper information to these communities,” said the Rev. Joe Tognetti, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Rio Grande City, Texas.

The church received a grant from Church and Society to help raise awareness of the importance of the census within its community. In partnership with local leaders and institutions such as city government, libraries, hospitals and economic development groups, Rio Grande City First is using its print and online media to promote the census. It is also hosting informal gatherings with the neighborhood to share information and answer questions.

Churches in neighborhoods with many who do not speak or read English might consider hosting events can complete the census. While guides to completing the census are available in 59 languages on the www.census.gov website, people can respond online or by phone in only 13 languages. The paper form is available only in English and Spanish.

“From a Christian perspective, I see it as a simple way of loving our neighbors. It is a crucial way of ensuring our community gets its fair share of resources in terms of democratic power, education, health care and other services. Not participating in the census will hurt communities,” Tognetti said.

Your church can help ensure every person in your community is counted in the 2020 U.S. census. These resources will get you started.

The original publication of this story can be found at resourceumc.org.
BY DERREK BELASE

Lisa Greenwood, vice president for leadership at the Texas Methodist Foundation, is fond of saying, that growing organizations need management, and declining organizations need leadership. This moment in time for the church, unfortunately, is a time of decline. It is a time which calls for leadership.

In our local churches, the task of leadership development is ambiguous at best. While the Committee of Nominations and Leadership Development is given this responsibility, the group often only meets once per year, and that is to elect new officers for the coming year. Little intentional thought or attention is paid to developing and nurturing new leaders as well as training those who are currently in leadership.

According to an article on the Discipleship Ministries website, “An effective committee on nominations and leader development identifies, develops, deploys, evaluates and monitors Christian spiritual leadership so that the congregation carries out the ministries for transformation of the community.”

Now, people might ask, “How does this happen?” or “What resources are available to assist my local church in doing this task?” Two recent publications provide roadmaps and pathways for churches of all sizes.

The four authors – two lay and two clergy – have tremendous experience in both secular and religious leadership. Today, all serve in conference positions throughout the U.S. In these books, they apply their vast experiences to the church today.

Church Ecology: Creating a Leadership Pathway for Your Church by Ken Willard and Kelly Brown uses the scientific term ecology as a metaphor for their work. They write, “An ecosystem is a community of living and nonliving components and their various types of relationships interacting as a system for life. (The church) is an interconnected community of people working and serving together as a system for life.”

Every chapter is filled with practical examples from churches with which they have worked, and each chapter concludes with reflective questions to
contextualize the work to your setting as well as a prayer.

Grounded in a deep spirituality, the authors write that the concluding prayer “is our way of praying for you and your ministry on this journey to create a leadership development process in your church.”

Important topics such as coaching, covenants, leadership structures as well as approaches to leadership are covered in the nine chapters. They also include a chapter on leadership in the small membership church, an important inclusion for a denomination made up of so many small and rural churches.

Kay Kotan and Phil Schroeder provide readers with a practical, step by step leadership development tool in Launching Leaders: Taking leadership development to new heights.

Using the analogy of developing leaders to learn how to fly, along with a bit of alliteration, they lead a journey through the H’s: helpful communication, holy conversation, healthy conflict, healing candor, humbled confidence and hope-filled collaboration. Along the way, readers will be delighted to learn more about Orville and Wilbur Wright as their first-in-flight experiences provide helpful comparisons.

The first half of the book explores these six concepts (the authors call them “traits and practices of spiritual leaders”), and the second half of the book is a user’s guide for pastors or other leaders to engage church members in a six-week leadership development class.

About the six-week class, the authors reflect, “With this intentional leadership development process, we are hoping to introduce a culture of leadership development.”

Both books are published by Market Square, a relatively new imprint which focuses on effective tools for effective ministry. I highly recommend either of them or maybe both. You will not be disappointed in what you learn, and immediate application is possible for a variety of ministry contexts.
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ECU Wesley worship impacts students and congregations alike

The worship team has been a ministry of the East Central University’s Wesley Foundation since before campus minister Janey Thomas arrived in 2014. This semester, the team will spend 10 weekends on the road sharing the gospel of Jesus and the work of the ECU Wesley.

Thomas often sees congregation members connect with students who share their testimony or speak about the impact of the campus ministry.

“As a campus minister, you see a lot of the students day in and day out,” Thomas said. “Sometimes it is easy to overlook just how far they have come in their spiritual journey from year one of college to year four of college.”

Chris Byers, a 2008 graduate from Oklahoma State University who now serves as the ECU Wesley’s worship leader, said the churches they visit like to hear older Christian songs and hymns. He said it can be “especially impactful” for older congregation members to see a younger generation lead worship using songs they grew up hearing.

“It’s great to lead the students, and see them grow and develop their own skills and confidence,” Byers said. “Traveling to other churches gives a chance for them to tell their story, whether in music or their testimony, to folks who might not hear it otherwise. And, that helps to spread the word about campus ministry and its overall impact on student lives.”

Emily Taylor, a 20-year-old family and consumer sciences junior from Marlow, said the churches they visit are often unaware of what a campus ministry does.

“I am a pastor’s kid growing up, and this place has kept me grounded and in the word while attending college,” Taylor said. “The ECU (Wesley) has become my home away from home with great people who I now call family. They keep me accountable and help me in my times of trouble.”

Sam Adams, a 23-year-old elementary education senior, often speaks at the churches the team visits. He said God has touched lives through the stories they share.

“Because of this ministry, I have had connections grow in places all around the state that are Christ-centered and always showing me where to step for Christ,” Adams said. “After I graduate, I know I will always have my Wesley family and church groups that we met to talk with and go to when times are good and bad.”

Traveling to different churches and sharing her story has been one of the greatest opportunities of Sage Barrett’s life. The 19-year-old nursing freshman from Oklahoma City said being part of the ECU
ECU Wesley worship, cont.

Wesley will remind her to grow as a Christian even after she graduates.

“This ministry has allowed me to be more comfortable with myself,” Barrett said. “It has also allowed me to grow my faith more.”

Piedmont freshman Braden Culp said the ECU Wesley changed his life in a way he never imagined. Though the 19-year-old hasn’t yet chosen a major, the campus ministry has helped him in meaningful ways.

“I think this ministry helped me figure out what I wanted to do with my life,” Culp said. “It has helped me know God better and the friends I met through this ministry are friends for life, and I know that God put them in my life for a specific reason.”

Though Shawna Rodgers is not on the worship team, she said she’s seen God in a lot of the places they visit. The 19-year-old freshman from Union City said she wants others to have the ministry experience she’s had.

“The (ECU Wesley) ministry motto is ‘to know Christ and to make Christ known,’” Rodgers said. “This ministry has brought me some of my closest friends, and to be able to share this ministry with them is absolutely wonderful.”

Thomas is honored to lead the campus ministry, and the team is open to share their story with any churches or organizations that want to hear it. She said she is proud of the work God has done, is doing, and will continue to do through the ECU Wesley.

“I have seen students come to college with layers and layers of masks on. It takes time and patience to walk with students down that path to taking those layers off, one by one,” Thomas said. “When that final layer is torn off, you can physically see the load off of their shoulders. When they allow God into their lives, when they turn to God for daily needs, they learn scripture, they disciple others, that is what our ministry is about: knowing Christ and making Christ known.”

To learn more about the ECU Wesley, visit www.ecu wesley.org.

“COME THRIVE WITH US HERE!!”

Marsha Purtell | Chaplain | Epworth Villa

At Epworth Villa, there are plenty of enthusiasts, including Marsha Purtell. As Ewphot’s newly appointed Chaplain, she knows firsthand about all the great things this community has to offer. “There are awesome living opportunities here, and you will be amazed! We have to dispel the myth it’s expensive to move here when, in reality, it’s quite affordable and offers so much.”

Add visiting Marsha Purtell at Epworth Villa to your to-do list and call us today at (405) 367-1134.

14901 N. Pennsylvania Avenue | Oklahoma City, OK 73134 | epworthvilla.org | 🌻
Operations Team to help churches prepare for GC2020

The Oklahoma Conference has appointed a General Conference Operations Team to help local churches prepare for and respond to the 2020 General Conference, happening May 5-15 in Minneapolis. The 10-member team of laity and clergy is led by Revs. Wendi Neal and Chuck Horton.

The team has been tasked with determining what resources would be most helpful to local churches with regards to General Conference and its potential impact on the denomination.

Rev. Derrek Belase, director of Connectional Ministries, said budget cuts and staff retirements have left the Cabinet and the conference staff stretched too thin to take on the work alone.

The Oklahoma Conference currently offers a daily devotion centered on 150 days of praying through the Psalms, questions and answers about General Conference from Bishop James Nunn, a curated list of denominational resources, and ongoing coverage in the Contact. There is also an online class on productive conflict titled, “Healing the Wounds that Divide.”

The Operations Team will help determine what specific resources will help local churches be ready to respond to the 2020 General Conference. Conference staff will be available to help develop resources that the Operations Team identifies.

Belase hopes the team-led approach will prevent the conference from pursuing ideas that are not helpful to local churches.

In addition to General Conference resources, the team is also looking for prayers written by conference members which might be used during a weekly prayer cycle.

Submissions may be sent to the group email address. Resource and idea suggestions from conference members can be sent to the group email address at gcoperations@okumc.org.

Conference prepares for GC2020 with constructive conflict class

Conflict in interpersonal relationships is taking center stage during a six-week online training aimed at re-framing a person’s approach to conflict.

Healing the Wounds that Divide Us is a training series led by coaching consultant Rebekah Simon-Peter, author of Dream Like Jesus: Deepen Your Faith. Each training session is held on Monday from 5-6:30 p.m. The cost for the class is $150, which includes the cost of the Productive Conflict DiSC profile that serves as the textbook for the training.

The training schedule includes:

- Pre-Work: Set up online account to take DiSC Everything DiSC Productive Conflict profile, complete profile and upload into MyEverythingDiSC.com, print profile.
- March 16: Setting the Stage: Creating a safe space for the group. Welcome from the Bishop/Conference.
- March 23: DiSC in Conflict.
- March 30: Destructive Responses.
- April 6: Changing Your Responses.
- April 13: Tools to think/talk theologically. Quadrilateral for faithful UM decision-making. Includes short history of biblical hermeneutics/interpretation. Teaching from the Bishop Nunn on soul wounds/PTSD.
- April 20: Courageous conversations. Equips people to share what they have learned with their colleagues and congregants.

Register for the class online at okumc-reg.brtapp.com/ProductiveConflictClass.
Ministry in a Minute

Approximately 30 attendees gathered for a live stream of the inaugural Governor’s Prayer Breakfast at Epworth Villa. The prayer breakfast was held on Feb. 18 in conjunction with the state’s launch of a website that would connect communities with local resources to combat aging out of foster care, completing a high school education, and reducing recidivism. Rev. Jessica Moffatt, who leads Tulsa-First, prayed for members of the state Senate. “Bring creative and godly solutions to the troubles of our state, and where there is a need for healing, bring it,” she said. Photo by Meagan Ewton.

Rev. Heather Scherer, associate pastor at Tulsa-Faith and pastor of Living Water in Glenpool, presents Jeff Jaynes with a check for $14,000 to benefit Restore Hope Ministries, where Jaynes serves as the executive director. Restore Hope’s 2018-19 Annual Report shows that the ministry gave out more than 210,000 lbs of food to nearly 4,000 families in the Tulsa area, including fresh produce and meat from local farmers and ranchers. Photos courtesy the Tulsa-Faith Facebook page.
**OKUMC Briefs and Events**

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**Save the Date**

**2020 Friends of Children Banquet & Silent Auction**

April 4 | 5 p.m.
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
Guest speaker: Christina Meredith
Tickets: $85 | Sponsorships available
[www.circleofcare.org/event/foc2020](http://www.circleofcare.org/event/foc2020)

**ECU Wesley High School & Transfer Night**

7-9 p.m. | April 13
205 S. Francis St., Ada
For questions, email [ecuwesley@gmail.com](mailto:ecuwesley@gmail.com)

**ECU Wesley Golf Tournament**

May 4 | Oak Hills Golf & Country Club
519 N. Country Club Road, Ada
2-person team $250 | 4-person team $500
Registration at 7 a.m. | Shotgun start at 8 a.m.
Email [ecuwesley@gmail.com](mailto:ecuwesley@gmail.com) for registration form
Sponsorships due April 20 | Teams due by April 26

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**Employment**

- Executive Director. Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries Oklahoma, Inc., Oklahoma City, full-time. Must have experience with nonprofits, the criminal justice system, human resources, administration, employee oversight and budget. Requirements include bachelor’s degree or higher and Methodist affiliation. Please send resumes to PO Box 1149 Oklahoma City, OK 73101 or email to judgeapril@aol.com. All resumes must be received by March 20.

- Children’s Director and/or Youth Leader. Cushing, part-time. Please contact Temple Diehl at NobgDiehl@aol.com.

- Organist. Wichita-First in Wichita, Kansas, part-time. Bachelor’s in music or the equivalent required; compensation commensurate with experience. Contact Teresa Fields at TeresaF@firstwichita.org or call 316-267-6244 ext. 310.

- Worship Leader. Union City, part-time. Audition requires playing guitar or piano while singing one traditional hymn and one contemporary song. Contact Levi Duggan at pastor@unioncityumc.com.
**Appointments**

- Chuck Rettig, from Cache to retired, effective July 1.
- Daniel Llanos-Jimenez, from Tulsa-Nueva Esperanza to retired, effective July 1.
- Jay Smith, from associate to senior pastor at Edmond-New Covenant, effective July 1.
- Robert Johns, from Verdigris to retired, effective July 1.
- Charles Nordean, from Director of Clergy & Congregational Development to retired, effective July 1.
- Linda Harker, from Norman-McFarlin to retired, effective July 1.
- Dale Durnell, from retired to Harrah, effective March 1.
- Diana Matli, from not appointed to Watonga, effective Jan. 1.
- Jonathan Rodkin, from Lucien to no longer clergy, effective March 1.
- Scott Logan, from Wetumka to no longer clergy, effective March 1.
- David Burris, from Muskogee-St. Paul to retired, effective July 1.
- Emery Mason, from Enid-First to Muskogee-St. Paul, effective July 1.
- Michael Robnett, from associate at Enid-First associate to associate at Bartlesville-First, effective July 1.
- Emily Robnett, from Enid-New Hope to associate at Bartlesville-First, effective July 1.
- Devaunjue Williams, from co-pastor at OKC-Village to associate at OKC-Mosaic, effective Feb. 1.
- Kristen Melton, from New Mexico VA Health Care System to Black Hills VA Health Care System, Staff Chaplain, effective Dec. 15, 2019.
- Levi Duggan, to Cogar/Union City, effective Jan. 1.
- Paul Hamilton, from retired to Wynnewood/Paoli, effective Sept. 1, 2019.
- Scott Ware, from Woodward-First to retired, effective July 1.
- Michael Mahaffey, from Fairview/Catesby, effective July 1.
- Linda Grounds, from Aline to retired, effective July 1.
- Allan Patterson, to Vici, effective March 1.

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**Share your event or job opportunity in the Contact.**

*For consideration, email your listing to editor@okumc.org.*

**Deadline for the April issue is March 19.**