

Looking Back and Looking Ahead (continued)

Pastoral Leadership Development

February marks the half-way point in our Pastoral Leadership Development (PLD 1) class. Eleven pastors in our district have committed themselves to learning and growing in their ministry skills. Geoff Posegate and Ron Watts are leading the PLD 1 sessions. Those participating include:

Charles Buck	Poplar Bluff First
Jim Coffey	Eastwood Memorial, Caruthersville
Greg Dowler	Malden/Holcomb
Dan Faust	Charleston
Jeff B. Long	New Madrid/Kewanee
Doug McClellan	New Salem/Old Salem
Darrell McFarland	Portageville
Jeremiah Reeve	Sikeston First
Ron Spell	Sikeston Wesley
Sue Welborn	Lake Wappapello
Michael Woods	Piedmont Trinity

In addition to spending one day a month in a learning session, each pastor has a telephone conversation with a ministry coach. This program is funded through the contributions of each pastor, the district budget, and a leadership development grant from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation.

Small Church Initiative

In January, four of our churches agreed to be part of the Small Church Initiative. This is a new program in our conference which is designed to help small membership churches grow. After a year of study together each church will have a consultation designed to help each congregation develop a growth plan. Those churches in our district that are a part of this new initiative are:

Hayti: First	Pastor Roger Cary
Doniphan	Pastor Kent Wilfong
Williamsville/Greenville:	Grace Pastor Jerry Mattson

Plans are already being developed by the conference to increase the number of churches that can participate in 2011.

Healthy Church Initiative

Last year two churches in our district had a Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) Consultation. New McKendree, Jackson (Pastor John Rice) and Sikeston: First (Pastors Geoff Posegate and Jeremiah Reeve.) Each church is presently working through the prescriptions given and adopted by the congregation as a part of the consultation.

Gordonville: Zion (Pastor Ann Mowery) had their HCI Consultation on January 15-17. They are presently in the discernment phase of reviewing their prescriptions. The church will vote March 7 with regard to the prescriptions and their desire to continue in the process. Bloomfield: Trinity (Pastor Susan Hoyle) will have their HCI Consultation on March 5-7.

Assessment and Appointments

The cabinet will spend February 7-11, 2010 in a time of assessment in preparation for making appointments for 2010-2011. The first appointive session for the cabinet is February 24-25.

These are challenging times in our conference and in our district. But within those challenges there is excitement and enthusiasm and a sense that God is with us. I can think of no better place to be!!

Praying with you and for you,
David D. Norbury