



# Gramling United Methodist News - June 2018

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☞ Sundays: Classes, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. ☞ Adult Choir, 7 p.m.

## Pastor's Corner:

I recently attended a meeting, for clergy only, about Our Way Forward in the United Methodist Church. I had told the congregation that I would have a meeting scheduled sometime afterwards for those

wanting to know more about Our Way Forward. I have decided to share in this newsletter parts of the information given at the meeting - that is what follows.

The United Methodist Church is a conferencing, connectional church. In our 2016 General Conference - which is a global gathering - we came to an impasse over the issue of sexuality. Thus the conference challenged the Council of Bishops to come up with a plan. So the Council of Bishops formed a Commission on the Way Forward to pray, study and come up with a plan.

The Commission on the Way Forward is made up of 32 members, clergy, laity, and bishops from across the globe. Thus they come to the table with many different views on sexuality. For instance, in Africa, one cannot even speak the word gay socially, it is taboo. When the commission first came together, they knew there needed to be some rules in order for them to sit and discuss these issues together. The following is a simplified version of the covenant that they agreed upon and read together at each meeting:

### Accountability Covenant

**What are the covenantal practices that are so essential to our work together that we must perform them with excellence in order to fulfill our mission?**

- We covenant to pray
- We covenant to attend all meetings and to prepare adequately
- We covenant to treat one another with respect
- We covenant to listen actively to others, to seek first to understand rather than to be understood, to be patient with one another
- We covenant to maintain strict confidentiality

**What behaviors are so harmful that they put the success of our mission at risk?**

- We covenant to avoid harmful speech toward or about others on the Commission, during our meetings and outside our meetings.
- We covenant to avoid the practices of interrupting others, ignoring others, discounting others, speaking for others, or exhibiting dominating or domineering behavior.
- We covenant to avoid dividing into factions, politicizing our processes, and retreating into camps and silos based on ideology or regional affinities.
- We covenant to restrain ourselves from distracting behaviors during our meeting sessions

Having received and considered the extensive work of the Commission on a Way Forward, the Council of Bishops will submit a report to the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019 that includes:

- **All three plans (The Traditionalist Plan, The One Church Plan and the Connectional Conference Plan) for a way forward considered by the Commission and the Council.**
- **The Recommendation of the One Church Plan.**
- **An historical narrative of the Council's discernment process regarding all three plans.**

**Rationale:** In order to invite the church to go deeper into the journey the Council and Commission have been on, the Council will make all the information considered by the Commission and the Council of Bishops available to the delegates of the General Conference and acknowledges there is support for each of the three plans within the Council. The values of our global church are reflected in all three plans. The majority of the Council recommends the One Church Plan as the best way forward for The United Methodist Church.

Guided by the mission, vision and scope document, the bishops agreed to recommend the One Church Plan. This plan provides conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their missional

context while retaining the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.

The One Church Plan allows for contextualization of language about human sexuality in support of the mission; and allows for central conferences, especially those in Africa, to retain their disciplinary authority to adapt the Book of Discipline and continue to include traditional language and values while fulfilling the vision of a global and multicultural church.

This plan also encourages a generous unity by giving United Methodists the ability to address different missional contexts in ways that reflect their theological convictions. The One Church Plan removes the restrictive language of the Book of Discipline and adds assurances to pastors and Conferences who due to their theological convictions cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

The Council's discernment process was guided by the over-arching desire to strategically help the General Conference do its work and to honor the General Conference's request for the Council to help the church find a way forward.

*This is my last newsletter. I don't know how all this will turn out. What I do know is that there will be change in our future, no matter what decision is made. I am thankful and blessed to have been your pastor. I place you in Rev. Rick Brown's hands to lead and guide you in the way forward, whatever that may be.*

**Peace and love,  
Pastor Rebecca**



## Farewell Luncheon

On **Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**, we will give Pastor Rebecca a Retirement Party to thank her for all she has done for our church body and for her many years of dedicated service to the United Methodist Church. This will be a covered-dish fellowship right after the worship service. **Please bring meats, sides, desserts, and drinks.**

## Vacation Bible School June 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>!

We'll gather 6-8:30 pm Sunday through Thursday nights, with supper and activities for children.

**Sign up to help and let the children in our community know they are welcome to come!**

See Bonnie, Lucy, or Nancy for more details.



## District 1 Community Back-to-School Bash

Our Second Annual event is set for **Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** from **2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Area parents and children are invited to enjoy games and snacks while visiting agency stations to find assistance they may need.

**Members!** We are in need of support of all kinds (time, talent and treasure). We are also **collecting school supplies** (marble composition notebooks, 3-ring binders, pencils, glue sticks, notebook paper, pencil boxes, crayons, and more) the entire month of June. Baskets will be in Sunday School classrooms, the office, choir room and in the back of the Sanctuary.

**Mark your Calendars:** On July 1<sup>st</sup>, **Rev. Rick Brown** will be coming as our new pastor!

On the following Sunday, **July 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a **covered-dish luncheon** to welcome him.

**\*Please bring meats, sides, desserts, and drinks.\***

## Prayer List and Prayer Chain

**Prayer- Praises and Concerns: Call Lin Fisher (864-420-6080) or Anne Carroll (472-9434) or email [newsletter@gramlingumc.org](mailto:newsletter@gramlingumc.org) and Lin will forward your request.**

*Are any in your community suffering? They should pray. Are any celebrating? They should sing praises to God. Are any sick? They should call the elders of your church and ask them to pray. James 5:13-14a*

<p><b>Assisted Living, Nursing Home</b>                  Jane Fisher - White Oak at North Grove                  Joyce Evington - Wesley Ct. Assisted Living                  Jean Johnson . Skylyn Place Assisted Living                  Rebel Brackett . Lake Emory Care                  Helen Burrell . Woodbridge Assisted Living                  Carl Lane . Clemson Downs                  Carolyn Brackett . Country Christian Care, Fair Play                  Barbara Runion . Golden Age Room 110                  Betty Jean Campbell . The Bridge, Hendersonville</p>	<p><b>Church:</b> Gramling UMC                  Pastor Rebecca                  Gramling Church Leaders                  D.S. Paul Harmon                  Bishop Holston</p> <p><b>World:</b> District One Schools/ administration, teachers &amp; staff                  Immigrants/Israel/Iraq/US leaders/ SC leaders</p> <p><b>Military and Civil Defense</b> - Ed Hershberger</p>
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### Family & Friends

<p style="text-align: center;">Donnie Johnson                  Nancy Hamilton                  Jim Fletcher                  Stan Hilley . Sandra Wingo                  Christine &amp; Tim Fisher . Cindy Riddle                  Vernon Williams . Anne Carroll                  Brooke Harty . Laura Gramling                  Jackie Golightly . Lin Fisher                  Amanda Bradburn . Will Brown                  Polly &amp; Wally Harper                  Helen Burrell . Wanda Ballenger                  Gina Franco . Sue Pruitt                  Donnie Hodge                  Mark Mullen . Will &amp; Catherine Gramling                  Lee Bryan                  Jane Fisher . Lin Fisher                  Peggy Dean</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Craig Sims . Mary Lou Ridgeway                  Andrew Tweedy . Rick Pruitt                  Doug Nash . Laura Gramling                  Matthew Gansereit (Carlton) . Ruba Nix                  Jim &amp; Lucy Crowley                  Barry Johnson . Tom Ramsay                  Claircy (Gordon) Purrington . Ruba Nix                  Jerry Drew . Ed Hershberger                  Jack &amp; Barbara Quinn . Bonnie Gramling                  Donald Wilhoite . Joann Garner                  Tony Morrow . Lucy Granger                  Bob Hoover . Mary Lou Ridgeway                  Donna Fowler . Paula Rhymer                  Judy Vanadore . Sandra Wingo                  Karen Harrison . Sarah Harrison's mother                  Kay Hensdale . Sandra Wingo                  Travis Sloan</p>
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## Happy Birthday in June!

1 Donnette Griswold	8 Julia Woodfin	13 Bailey Condrey	22 Kimberly Lanford
2 Farroll Campbell	9 Henry Gramling	13 Lori Condrey	25 Melvin Covil
3 Casey Fowler	9 Jenna Bradley	14 Donnie Johnson	27 Crystal Davenport
3 Edgar Woodfin	10 Jane Fisher	14 Lula Mae Atkins	28 David Marlow
4 Bruce Etheredge	10 Jenny Bryan	15 Katie Bradley	29 Meredith Anne Martin
4 Charles Garner	10 Wayne Roberts	15 Nick Woodfin	29 Nikki Williams
4 Kris Johnson	11 Gayle McCants	16 Mark Weissenberger	29 Sue Pruitt
7 JoAnne Etheredge	11 Robin Gramling	18 Cindy Gramling	30 Adam Wong
8 Joseph Bell	12 Bobbie Johnson	19 Brenda Johnson	

### 2018 General Tithes & Offerings, week 21

Budget needed to date: \$118,785;  
 Received: \$108,027

### Electronic Giving Options:

GUMC accepts **electronic donations** through our **website**, [gramlingumc.org](http://gramlingumc.org) . **Or**, you may use your bank's online billing and they then send us your donation by mail.

**Gramling United Methodist Church**  
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 Gramling, SC 29348  
 Address Service Requested

