



## North Michigan District of The Wesleyan Church

- NMD Vision:** *Transforming people through Christ.  
Empowering an expanding number of churches to be missionally healthy, to passionately transform diverse cultures for Christ.*
- NMD Mission:** *Exists to equip, enrich, administrate and communicate to pastors and laity in redemptive ways to accomplish the Great Commission*

### **DS Tom Newsletter**

**April 27, 2016**

Acts 15 tells us about some differences of opinion within the church body. Who would ever believe that people are on different trains of thought within the church? I guess only people who are not actively engaged in the church are not aware of difference of opinions which often leave to some internal conflict. Resolution to this conflict was that Paul chose Silas to go with him on his next missionary tour. Barnabas chose Mark and off they went to serve in ministry. Have you thought about these differences and the end result? More people were reached for the kingdom of God. Was there a total agreement on the ability of Mark to serve? No. Paul and Barnabas still had opposite thoughts on Mark. What seems to be important is that Mark received a second opportunity to serve. Serve he did and in a notable manner.

We are approaching a time when differences of opinion will be evident. In just 5 weeks the quadrennial denominational conference will take place in Buffalo. One discussion will be on membership requirements and the opinions on that subject are at times very different. But what matters in the church, which is through us believers, is that the Good News of the gospel is proclaimed. What is important is that we all of us come to faith through Jesus Christ as it states in Acts 15:11: "We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

So what am I trying to say through this message? Leaders need to provide a safe environment for people to share their thoughts and opinions. In this environment differences of opinion should not cause dissention. In the midst of deep discussion, leaders need to be considerate of others and maintain an attitude of peace making. The question needs to be posed at all times: "What we are doing, does it honor God and does it direct the church to reaching people who need God?"

Just some thoughts for you to ponder! How about having a discussion on the rights and wrongs of sharing different opinions and ideas?

### **THE WESLEYAN CHURCH SPIRITUAL FORMATION TOUR IN NORTH MICHIGAN DISTRICT**

Register for the Church Multiplication and Discipleship SPIRITUAL FORMATION TOUR to be held this Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Fremont Wesleyan. Register before Friday online: <https://secure.wesleyan.org/ors/sf-tour-northmichigan-2016/>.

### **LEADER CONNECT** (How to connect to Zoom is at the end of this newsletter).

Leader Connect Tuesday May 3 (9am or 7pm). Facilitator Jack Steenberg. Subject: Follow up & New Believer Discipleship Questions: 1. When a person receives Christ, how do you begin the disciple process? 2. Do you have trained laymen to "disciple them"? 3. What materials or curriculum do you use? 4. Do you encourage them into small groups, Bible studies or Sunday School classes? 5. What are some of the biggest problems you have in discipleship?

### **GENERAL CONFERENCE MEMORIAL DISCUSSION ON ZOOM**

Do you want to join in on a discussion about the Memorials being presented to 2016 General Conference? Attached is the file of Memorials. General Conference delegates will want to join in on one of the Zoom video conferences. Here are dates and times: Thursday May 5 at 2:00 pm or 7:00 pm; Tuesday May 17 at 9:00 am or 7:30 pm. We cannot discuss all the General Conference Memorials but maybe take a look at these: 54, 64, 75, 76, 353, 361 & 515. Others to consider might be 60, 63, 106, 110, 351 & 355. See you on Zoom on one of these dates or you can join in at more than one time.

How to connect to Zoom is at the end of the newsletter.

**PASTOR PRAYER & FAST – May 8-9 at Whispering Pines**

Getting away to pray and fast is always valuable. Join in with other pastors on May 8 & 9 for this time to share in prayer, God's Word, discussion and fellowship.

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE IS JUNE 25 at FREMONT WESLEYAN**

Rev. Mark Wilson, servant leader, trainer, encourager is our guest speaker at our Celebration of Leadership event. Delegates and other local church leadership team will experience a time of training and interaction. Delegates will fulfill their responsibilities related to voting on General Conference Memorials, elections, receiving reports and approving pastoral positions.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR MINISTRY?**

We want to share some stories and pictures of your local church ministries. Send them to: [nmdoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:nmdoffice@yahoo.com) and [nmdoffice1@gmail.com](mailto:nmdoffice1@gmail.com).

**Request for small Bibles or New Testaments**

Bible Wesleyan of Sheridan and Rachel Brockway is requesting compact Bibles and New Testaments, Gospel of John in NIV, NRSV, NLT, the Message or an easy to understand version to be able to give away in a new hygiene pantry ministry that opens in June. Contact Rachel by phone 989-261-4447 or by email: [rachelbrockway@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbrockway@gmail.com)

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**2016 Dates for Leader Connect - (ZOOM) 9:00 am or 7:00 pm**

**May 3; May 31** (Week before General Conference) ; **July 5; August 2; September 6; October 4; November 1; December 6**

**April 30, 2016 – Spiritual Formations Tour – Lighthouse Leadership Event** Register at the website: <https://secure.wesleyan.org/ors/sf-tour-northmichigan-2016/>.

**May 5, 2016 – General Conference Memorials Discussion (ZOOM) 9:00 am or 7:00 pm**

**May 8 & 9, 2016 – Pastor Prayer & Fast Retreat at Whispering Pines (Mon 3:00 pm – Tuesday 2:00 pm)**

**May 17, 2016 - General Conference Memorials Discussion (ZOOM) 2:30 pm or 7:00 pm**

**June 13 & 14 – Lead On Lead Up –** Locations to be determined. Meet together and discuss General Conference actions in preparation for District Conference.

**June 20 – 24 – Junior High Camp 180 at Whispering Pines**

**June 25, 2016 North Michigan District of The Wesleyan Church District Conference at Fremont Wesleyan Church 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.** Celebrating Leadership in the North Michigan District!

**June 26 – 30 – Senior High Camp 180 at Whispering Pines**

**July 8 – 14, 2016 – Family Camp at Whispering Pines**

**July 18-23, 2016 – Kid's Camp at Whispering Pines**

**September 10, 2016 – Celebration of Ministry and Ordination**

**November 7 & 8, 2016 – Lead On & Lead Up Investment**

**CHURCH MINISTRY PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Pastoral Search for Cornerstone Mt. Pleasant, Crystal Lake Community, Greenville Community, Shoreline Church Alpena, Solon Center Wesleyan and Traverse City Bayview
- Pray for pastoral families who have resigned their ministries and are seeking God's direction: Chad & Tracy Brown; Jim and Rachel Gulish; Joel & Marlene Heron; Matt & Joelle Mabey, Stephen & Michelle Mowat; Steve & Dorothy Pense.
- Pray for General Conference services, attendees, travel, elections, sessions and direction.
- Pray for ministry transition of Stone Pillar and new ministry relationship with Hart Wesleyan.
- Pray for professors, administration, staff and our North Michigan students at Asbury Seminary, Houghton College, Indiana Wesleyan, Kingswood University, Oklahoma Wesleyan, Southern Wesleyan & Wesley Seminary at IWU
- Pray for District Conference and Rev. Mark Wilson as it is to be celebratory, challenging, a time impactful leadership application and great fellowship.
- Pray for Whispering Pines Camp and Conference Ministries. Pray for the ministries taking place and for financial support.

Following God's Plan to enable believers in North Michigan to serve our Lord in greater ways,

***D.S. Pastor Tom***

## Instructions for Connecting on Zoom Meetings:

1. Go to <https://zoom.us>
2. Look in the upper right hand corner and find where it says... JOIN A MEETING, then double click.
3. You will be asked for a MEETING ID. Our meeting ID is... 9897790188. Please enter and double click, JOIN.
4. You will then need to install the Zoom software or click on Launch Application. Please follow all the instructions from Zoom.
5. Following installation, execute the software and open.
6. Or, there should be a Zoom Icon on your desktop. Double click.
7. Once you have double clicked the icon, this may take you right into the Zoom Online Meeting or you may have to reenter the MEETING ID.
8. Make sure your audio is unmuted and running through your computer.

## Instructions For Zoom Meetings on cellular smart phones (Apple and Android)

1. Go to your app store.
2. Download Zoom
3. Select, Join A Meeting
4. For meeting ID, type in, 9897790188, and select JOIN.
5. You will now be connected.

## Other information:

- Zoom can be used across all platforms, computers, tablets and smart phones.
- You do not need to create a user account to be a part of a meeting, but you may want to.
- If you are getting feedback from your speakers, you may need to turn the speakers down or your mic down. The best way to communicate without feedback is by using a headset with a microphone built in.