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Instant Connection

California-Nevada Annual Conference



March 11, 2010



Bishop Takes Proposed Legislation on 'Rethink Conference' Tour

"It is time for us to return to our calling"

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. has scheduled a series of "Rethink Conference" events to outline his vision for the conference, along with some legislative changes to be put

before Annual Conference Session in June.

Beginning this **Sunday, March 14** in Redding (**Redding UMC, 3-5 p.m.**), the bishop will engage with United Methodists across California and in Nevada to cast his vision for the conference, detail a series of proposals, and answer questions.

In a [letter](#) to United Methodists conference-wide, the bishop says we have been inconsistent in our covenant to be disciples who make a difference, and says, "It is time that we recommit to living the Wesleyan way."

"This is not a time to be timid," he continues. "We must take responsibility to *make* the future to which we are called."

The Conference Council on Ministries is calling for a suspension of the conference rules governing program, organization, and administrative practices; the Cabinet, for realignment and consolidation of districts; the Clergy Benefits Task Force, for direct billing for pastor pension costs; and the Commission on Equitable Salaries, for adjustments to the plan and structure for minimum salary.

The proposed legislation is designed to help the conference become both mission-focused and fiscally responsible.

"These changes will help us shape our future," the bishop writes.

"I invite you to attend one of the six gatherings ... as we have conversations about how we may live in a new way of being servants together," he concludes.

The other "Rethink Conference" dates and locations are:

April 10 (Saturday)	Stockton, Central UMC	3-5 p.m.
April 17 (Saturday)	Livermore, Asbury UMC	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
April 18 (Sunday)	Palo Alto, First UMC	3-5:30 p.m.*
April 24 (Saturday)	Visalia UMC	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
May 1 (Saturday)	Sparks UMC	10 a.m.-noon

*arrive early - parking will be a challenge

Read the bishop's letter, [Returning to Our Calling](#), in its entirety here.

Or click on "Bishop" on the main navigation bar at the top of the conference website Home Page at cnumc.org, then click on "Bishop's Articles" in the menu on the right.

Returning to Our Calling

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I greet you in this season of Lent looking forward to the celebration of God's astounding act of resurrection in Jesus Christ.

Over the past year and a half I have been listening closely as I have travelled across the Conference. I have heard stories of faith and faithfulness in our churches and extension ministries. I have heard, as well, the pain and worry of economic troubles and the loss of heart that plagues many in our midst.

These are difficult times. The temptation is to be timid in such times, but the witness of the resurrection is that God is the God of abundance who will provide what we need, though not always what we want.

As the people called Methodist, we are a covenant people. But we have been inconsistent in that covenant with one another – to our churches, to the Annual Conference, to the General Church. We have been inconsistent in our covenant to be disciples who make a difference. It is time that we recommit to living the Wesleyan way.

The need for that recommitment is no secret. For the past 40 years California and Nevada have steadily increased in population while our baptisms, professions of faith, worship attendance and membership have declined. Drifting from our focus on actively living our discipleship, we have become complacent and let our preferences take the place of mission.

It is time for us to return to our calling to work connectionally on behalf of the mission of Christ. Our mission is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This will require a shift away from the comfort of the familiar, well-worn path of what we have always done and already know. Instead, we will need to learn, collaborate and innovate as we develop effective systems that form and support us in becoming faithful disciples of Christ. This must be done in faith-filled, compassionate, efficient and fiscally responsible ways.

We have already begun that journey. Circuits have re-connected clergy efforts toward

cooperative ministry within their communities. Superintendents have begun to spend time in coaching and visioning beyond management. The Board of Laity is in a deepening partnership with me as we seek ways of returning to a true discipleship-focused partnership between clergy and laity.

There is more to do. In order to return to our primary work of discipleship we will need to make changes in the way that we do our work on every level. It is necessary for us to reevaluate how we use the resources available to us so that we might use our time and treasure in ways that bring the results we are called to produce.

This June the Annual Conference will be asked to take several steps to help us become mission-focused and fiscally responsible. Many thoughtful conversations have been underway about steps we should take.

While many good things have happened within the Conference through our current structures, our giving pattern means we can't pay for all the things that we have been doing in the way we have been doing them. We need to be clear on our priorities and to order our life to support the primary mission. Therefore, the Conference Council on Ministries is calling for a suspension of the conference rules (Section V of the Standing Rules) that govern our program, organization, and administrative practices to allow us an opportunity to find ways to more efficiently order our life together.

The Cabinet and I are ready to realign the districts to more effectively support the leadership being provided through the circuits. It is clear to us that the Cabinet can also realign its work in ways that will make us more efficient and provide better stewardship. With the full support of the Cabinet, I will be asking the Annual Conference to consolidate the number of districts from seven (7) to four (4). This step will further build on the strength of circuits as the place where ministry is developed and implemented.

With Rev. Ben Silva-Netto's decision to retire this year, we will be able to implement this change as of September, 2010. The new district alignment will be developed over the next few months and will be presented before Annual Conference.

Financial issues are pressing, as well. Last year we trailed every other Annual Conference in the Church in fulfilling our connectional obligations through the Apportionments. The pension Apportionment is the only one that was paid at a rate of 90% or more. But, unfortunately, we cannot take comfort even with our current pattern of paying pension costs. Many churches, while paying some or all of their pension Apportionment, do not pay for the full pension cost for their pastor. The weight of this growing imbalance has become too heavy for those who pay more than their true share of pension costs.

The Clergy Benefits Task Force and others will be recommending that we join the majority of the other conferences in billing local churches directly for their pastor's actual pension costs by 2012. This will enable congregations to more accurately gauge the true cost of ministry and make mission decisions accordingly.

Another important cost of ministry is salary for clergy. Clergy persons should receive a fair salary for the work they are doing. Yet churches must be realistic about what they can pay so that they can be faithful in all of their obligations. The minimum salary concept is intended to set a minimum level, and the cost of assisting churches that cannot meet that standard is included in your Apportionments. But our rate of payment on Apportionments limits our ability to honor that ex-

pectation.

In addition, our minimum salary formula provides for an automatic escalation of salary that often is beyond the means of some local churches, and beyond the cost of living increases for our region. The Commission on Equitable Salaries will be proposing some adjustments to the plan and structure for minimum salary. It is important that our minimum salary program be both fair and affordable.

As United Methodists we covenant to share our entire ministry. Each local congregation and every pastor is expected to support the ministries we share. Our standard practice must be for each church to cover the cost of the ministry it receives and provides. That cost includes salaries, Apportionments, disciple formation, missions, community outreach, facility maintenance, insurance and more.

These changes will help us shape our future. The steps being taken will hopefully help us become what God dreams for us to become. We are graced with an abundance of opportunity and we cannot let this time pass us by.

We remain committed to our call to be and make disciples. We remain committed to mutual accountability, shared ministry and mission. We must live out this commitment faithfully, fully and efficiently.

This is not a time to be timid. God has called us for this time and we must take responsibility to make the future to which we are called.

I invite you to attend one of the six gatherings listed below as we have conversations about how we may live in a new way of being servants together.

May the blessed spirit of God continue to guide all of us.

Your bishop and brother in Christ,

Warner H. Brown, Jr.

Giving, Membership Decline in Recession

By Kathy L. Gilbert*

March 8, 2010 | NASHVILLE, Tennessee (UMNS)

The recession continues to affect giving to The United Methodist Church at a time when the denomination is experiencing its largest percentage decline in membership since 1974.

United Methodist churches in the 63 annual (regional) conferences of the U.S. contributed 84 percent of what the denomination budgeted to support ministries around the world in 2009. The total apportioned was \$150.3 million; \$126.3 million was collected.

Meanwhile, membership dropped 1.01 percent to 7,774,420 in 2008, according to the latest data from the United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration. The council coordinates and administers finances for the denomination. Average worship attendance was down 1.83 percent.

What continued, amid sacrifices, was the work of the church, officials said.

"With the economic ups and downs of 2009, church leaders are reporting that ministry hap-

pened on tighter budgets, and the people of The United Methodist Church are still supporting the mission of the church," said Moses Kumar, top executive of the council, and Bishop Lindsey Davis, president of the council.

Apportionments

Fourteen of the U.S. annual (regional) conferences contributed to the church's global ministry funds at the 100 percent level. Fourteen conferences also increased their giving percentage over 2008. In 2008, 18 conferences paid 100 percent.

The conferences at the lowest end include Northwest Texas, 58 percent; Alabama-West Florida, 59 percent; Memphis, 59 percent; and California-Nevada, 50 percent.

Those paying 100 percent are Alaska Missionary, Baltimore-Washington, Central Texas, East Ohio, Greater New Jersey, Illinois Great Rivers, Iowa, North Carolina, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, Peninsula Delaware, Red Bird Missionary, Rio Grande, New York, and Wisconsin.

The conferences that increased their giving over 2008 are Holston, Kansas West, Louisiana, Missouri, North Texas, Northern Illinois, Rocky Mountain, South Georgia, Southwest Texas, Texas, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, Wyoming, and Yellowstone.

Membership drops

Statistics reported by local churches and annual conferences indicate that professing membership in 2008 was down 1.01 percent over 2007, the largest percentage decline since 1974, when membership dropped 1.06 percent.

Membership was the highest, 10,789,624, when the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist churches merged in 1968. It has been declining since the mid-1960s.

There are signs of growth, however.

Eight conferences reported increases in membership, and seven reported increases in worship attendance, said Scott Brewer, executive with the council.

The number of constituents – persons who are not officially members of the church, but for whom the church assumes pastoral responsibility – increased 1 percent over 2007, with 36 conferences reporting increases in this category.

"We assume that increasingly, people getting active in churches today are more reluctant to officially become a member of the church," Brewer said. "This indicates the picture may not be as bleak as the membership data alone indicates."

Churches with memberships of 100 and fewer reported a decline in membership of 2.25 percent, while churches with 3,000 and more members increased membership by 1.9 percent.

Spending in the local church was down 3.63 percent from 2007, with expenditures down in all categories except spending on lay staff compensation and benefits, which saw no change.

2011 budgets

The 2011 apportionments distributed to annual conferences are 2.68 percent lower than originally approved in the budget by the 2008 General Conference, the denomination's lawmaking body.

"The apportionment formula is designed to adapt to changing economic conditions," Brewer said. "We expected spending in the local churches to be below expectations for 2008, and it was. By apportioning less than was originally budgeted, we hope we can aid more conferences and churches in fully paying their part of the apportionment covenant."

"It is clear from the data that 2008 was not an easy year for our churches. The reductions in spending reported in the statistics and the stories we hear from individual churches tell us that many congregations had to make tough decisions in the face of some difficult situations. However, it is also clear from the data that the work of The United Methodist Church continues on. Ministry is still happening, lives are still being touched, and we are still making disciples."

*Gilbert is a news writer for United Methodist News Service in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bishop Schnase Outlines 'Five Practices' in Reno, Brings Them to ACS in June

It's all about the adjectives.

That was the message Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Conference delivered on Saturday (March 6) in Reno.

Bishop Schnase led a series of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* workshops for the Nevada-Sierra District's Leadership Training Day. The five practices, as identified in the bishop's book by the same name, are Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. And while most congregations extend hospitality, provide worship, faith development, mission and service projects, and opportunities for giving, it's the adjectives that set fruitful congregations apart.

To practice "radical" hospitality, for instance, is to "go the second mile" and be outward-focused rather than inward-focused – while "passionate" worship is that in which "fundamental change of heart and mind happens, in which God shapes and re-shapes us."

Interestingly, the bishop said the adjectives themselves are interchangeable because "all play the same role of intensifying the practice."

And "practice" is the operative word. The principles Schnase identifies "are not qualities that some churches have and others don't," he said. They are the product of intentional work and repetition.

"You don't run into a professional baseball player who says, 'I don't practice batting anymore; I learned that back in high school,'" he pointed out. "You're always going to have to practice batting."

Likewise, becoming a fruitful congregation, the bishop said, is "hard work and it is repetitive work and it is unending work, until it just becomes instinctual."

Schnase, the author of six books including *Five Practices of Fruitful Living* (not yet released; available to pre-order), will be the featured speaker for the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session, June 16-19 in Sacramento. He will conduct a workshop Thursday morning for which the public is invited to register, and will lead afternoon Plenary and evening session that day - both of which will be open to the public.

Worship designer and leader, artist and author, Dr. Marcia McFee will create the services of worship during the conference, and also will lead a Thursday morning workshop.

There will be a registration fee for the workshops.

[Download flyer](#) for more information.

A DVD set is being produced from Bishop Schnase's workshop in Reno. Click here to [pre-order DVDs](#). The set will be available before Annual Conference Session, so that it can be used as a resource in preparation for attending.

Cal-Nev Sends Two to 2010 Summer Collegium

The Rev. Kathryn and Rob Dunning of Kings Beach United Methodist Church in the California-Nevada Annual Conference are among those who have been chosen to participate in the Virginia Theological Seminary's 2010 Summer Collegium in Alexandria, Virginia.

Nearly 175 applications were received from 20 denominations in 43 U.S. states and eight Canadian provinces. Twenty-five of the top applicants were chosen to be participants in the 2010 Collegium after being carefully screened and evaluated by a team of 10 readers. These participants serve rural, small town, suburban and urban churches ranging in size from about 11 to 100 worshippers on an average Sunday.

The Summer Collegium is a project in support of small congregations, funded by the "Making Connections" initiative of the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The generosity of the grant allows VTS to offer the Summer Collegium at no cost to participants. The estimated cost for each clergy participant is more than \$15,000.

Participants and their spouses/partners will spend nine days at VTS learning about and renewing their appreciation for the small church by attending workshops led by small church experts. There will be numerous opportunities for worship and renewal. The project is fully ecumenical, with faculty drawn from a wide variety of denominations. The keynote speaker for the 2010 Summer Collegium is the Rev. Dr. Alice Mann, a senior consultant of the Alban Institute who has written extensively on life in the church. The theme for the 2010 Collegium is Leadership in the Small Church. Workshops will focus on transformational leadership, conflict, bi-vocational ministry, and spiritual leadership, with an additional workshop on the ministry of spouses and partners.

An important part of the Summer Collegium is its emphasis on the arts as an exciting way to express faith in churches, large or small. Musician-in-residence this summer will be the Rev. Dr. John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland. The Summer Collegium will host a one-day Small Church Religious Arts Festival on Saturday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., open to the public, to celebrate the wide variety of arts and crafts in small congregations.

Participants will read assigned texts and work with their congregations in preparation for their time at Virginia Seminary from June 23 to July 1, and will do a follow-up project after they leave Alexandria. Project Manager Marilyn Johns, D.Min., and Project Director the Rev. Roger A. Ferlo, Ph.D., anticipate a visit to each of the congregations in the coming year.

The Summer Collegium began in 2006 and will continue through the summer of 2010, with a different group of 25 pastors each summer. More information can be found at www.vts.edu/education/collegium, or by calling 703.461.1760.

Participants in the 2010 Summer Collegium are:

- The Rev. Mary Beene and Eric Beene; Faith Presbyterian Church; Rincon, Georgia
- The Rev. Steve Bieghler; Lamb of God Lutheran Church; Anaheim, California
- The Rev. Bill Burke and Judy Burke; Berea United Methodist Church; Cordesville, South Carolina and Eccles United Methodist Church; Huger, South Carolina
- The Rev. Michael Calderwood and Karen Calderwood; St. Paul's Anglican Church; Brighton, Ontario
- The Rev. Shawn Carty and Jeanne Carty; Emmanuel Episcopal Church; Hailey, Idaho
- The Rev. Cynthia Chertos and Bill Dodge; First Congregational Church of Silverton; Silverton, Colorado
- The Rev. Marianne Cotter and Jim Cotter; Marshall United Methodist Church; Marshall, Wisconsin
- The Rev. Tim Devine and David Anderson; St. Paul's United Church of Christ; Seattle, Washington
- **The Rev. Kathryn Dunning and Rob Dunning; Kings Beach United Methodist Church; Kings Beach, California**
- The Rev. Daniel Erdman and Anne Sensenig; Iglesia Congregacional Unida United Church of Christ; Albuquerque, New Mexico
- The Rev. Judith Evenden and Eleanor Belfry-Lyttle; Land O'Lakes Emmanuel Pastoral Charge (United Church of Canada); Flinton, Ontario
- The Rev. Dan Fahs and Jill Fahs; Hayward United Methodist Church; Hayward, Wisconsin
- The Rev. Dr. Rodney Franklin and Angela Balfour Franklin; First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ; Birmingham, Alabama
- The Rev. Kay Gaier and Jim Gaier; Wabash Church of the Brethren; Wabash, Indiana
- The Rev. Ann Gaillard and Lee Gaillard; Church of St. Luke the Beloved Physician (Episcopal); Saranac Lake, New York
- The Rev. Kim Gladden; ZionQuest Christian Fellowship (Interdenominational); Buffalo, New York
- The Rev. Dr. Pat Harris and John Harris; Community Lutheran Church; Enfield, New Hampshire
- The Rev. Eric Hullstrom and Connie Hanson-Hullstrom; Salem and Belmont Lutheran Churches; Jackson, Minnesota
- The Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque and Andre Bell; Community Church (American Baptist); Barrington, Illinois
- The Rev. Jean Kuebler; Big Spring United Lutheran Church; Newville, Pennsylvania
- The Rev. Shelley Lavenne and Joel Den Haan; Diamond Valley Pastoral Church; Turner Valley, Alberta
- The Rev. Nathan Lim; Anchor Presbyterian Church; Anchorage, Alaska
- The Rev. Brenda Hostetler Meyer and Rich Meyer; Benton Mennonite Church; Goshen, Indiana
- The Rev. Laurie Rudel and Barb Scamman; Queen Anne Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Seattle, Washington
- The Rev. Carol Wedell and Mark Wedell; Church of the Western Reserve (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.); Pepper Pike, Ohio

Caregivers: Disaster Response Training Is for You!

By Norm Hardin

CA-NV Disaster Response Coordinator

When disaster strikes there always are those who are prepared to "jump into the trenches" and ride to the survivors' aid with everything from chainsaws and shovels to food and medical

kits. This is what we see on CNN and in the headlines of our newspapers – and maybe you don't visualize yourself in that role. What is not so obvious, however, is the vast amount of work that needs to be done behind the scenes by those in a nurturing and pastoral role. Maybe you *can* see yourself there.

Our churches are very good at providing spiritual and emotional care in life's day-to-day disasters, and cadres of Stephen Ministers and people in similar programs stand ready to help others who are faced with grieving, separations, and the myriad of events that can lead folks to question their faith. But how can they best apply those nurturing and pastoral skills, when the catalyst for spiritual trauma is a disaster involving death and destruction?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is conducting Disaster Response Training at Camp Lodestar in Wilseyville, California March 24-28 (Wednesday through Sunday), and two subjects being taught there are specifically designed for those of you who don't see yourselves jumping off a pickup truck and attacking a fallen tree with a chainsaw – but who *are* motivated to provide warm, loving care to children or others, and who regularly do so in Sunday School classrooms, hospitals, schools, or child care, geriatric, or counseling centers.

"Spiritual and Emotional Care" and "Care for Children in Disaster" will provide you with skills for translating what you already do, into a toolkit for use in a natural disaster or other crisis situation.

Other courses include Early Response Team (ERT), ERT Training the Trainer, Basic Disaster Overview, On-site Management, Hosting Volunteers, Conference Leadership, Connecting Neighbors, and Certified Chainsaw Training. UMCOR staff will provide the training.

Don't miss the chance to take part in this valuable training opportunity! Register by contacting the California-Nevada Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Office at 916.374.1584 or um-vim@calnevumc.org.

\$250 registration includes meals and lodging at Camp Lodestar.

Download [flyer](#) for more information.

Michael Christensen Blogs About Haiti's 'Shalom Zone' Mission

The Rev. Michael J. Christensen, National Director of The Shalom Initiative at Drew University Theological School and a member of the California-Nevada Annual Conference, shares his impressions of Haiti and the Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI) in his [blog](#).

Christiansen visited Mizak – a cluster of villages about three hours from Port-au-Prince, where there's no electricity and little food – March 5-11 in order to arrange for relief and development resources, help organize Shalom Zone training, and to assess the possibility of sending shalom interns there this summer.

HAPI, a three-year-old non-profit organization, focuses on honoring local artists and artisans and empowering women in order to work for peace and to build community from the inside out. HAPI, recognized as a "Shalom Zone" with the Communities of Shalom of Drew University the day of the Haiti earthquake, January 12, 2010, took up the challenge of creating a new shalom zone in their rural community of Mizak in the aftermath of the Haitian Earthquake.

"The Shalom Zone will serve as a demonstration area for what can happen in Mizak when people work together for peace, harmony, health, healing and wholeness in the name of God's Shalom," writes Christensen.

Read [Christiansen's complete blog \(http://michael-christensen.blogspot.com\)](http://michael-christensen.blogspot.com) here.

Read the General Board of Global Mission article, [Of HAPI-ness, Gratitude Journals, and Haiti.](#)

You may support Communities of Shalom through The Advance – an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures that 100 percent of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry – by designating your donation to Advance # 742566. Visit <http://www.communitiesofshalom.org/> for complete details.

Want to Donate?

Gifts to support UMCOR's Relief efforts may be made on line, by phone, or by check.

Individuals:

Click here to make an [online donation](#) to the mission, ministry or relief effort of your choice through UMCOR. You may also phone 888.252.6174.

Your church will receive credit for your donation if you select your church's name from the dropdown list.

If you prefer to write a check and want your church to receive credit on its Apportionments statement, *do not make the check payable to a specific mission, ministry or relief effort.* Instead:

If you will be dropping your check in the offering plate at your church, make your check PAYABLE to YOUR CHURCH and add the name of the mission, ministry or relief effort and the Advance number on the MEMO LINE.

If you will be mailing your check to the Conference offices, make your check PAYABLE to CA-NV Annual Conference and note the name of the mission, along with the name and city of your church, on the MEMO LINE, and mail to CA-NV Treasurer, P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA 95798.

Churches:

Please ask members of your congregation to write checks PAYABLE TO YOUR CHURCH, with the name of the relief effort on the MEMO LINE.

Then write a check payable to CA-NV Annual Conference to cover those donations. (Checks made payable to a specific mission, ministry or relief effort must be mailed directly to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO New York, NY 10087-9068. Include your church's GCFA number on the check so your church will receive credit.)

The entire amount of each gift will be used to help the people for which it was designated.

List of designations and advance special numbers:

U.M.V.I.M. = #803

Angola Partnership = #814

Haiti Relief Fund = #418325

Chile = #3021178

Missionary Janet Lahr Lewis Sends Lenten Greeting

Janet Lahr Lewis, a General Board of Global Ministries' missionary who serves in Israel-Palestine and works as a liaison between ecumenical groups and the two countries, extends a Lenten greeting to Cal-Nevada.

She is the main contact for VIM teams and United Methodist visitors who wish to follow the recommendation of the General Conference to spend a significant amount of time in the Israel/Palestine area with local Christians, acting to make those connections with UMC partner organizations and Advance Projects. Read her Lenten greeting, [To Everything There Is a Season](#), here.

Lenten Resources Available Now on GBOD Website

New worship resources for the Lenten season are available to download from the Center for Worship Resourcing at the General Board of Discipleship [Worship website](#).

[Church of the Week: Moose Pass UMC, Seward, Alaska](#)

[Chile Earthquake Response](#) – Resources

["Is This the Judgment of a God," Hymn after the Earthquakes by Andrew Pratt](#)

[Preparing for the Easter Vigil, by Dwight Vogel](#)

[Reflecting on the Easter Vigil: An Exercise in Mystagogy](#)

[Worship Planning for Eastertide, Year C](#)

[Lectionary Hymns: March 14, 2010 – 4th Sunday in Lent](#)

[21st Century Worship Resources: March 14, 2010 – 4th Sunday in Lent](#)

[Worship Planning Helps: March 14, 2010 – 4th Sunday in Lent](#)

[Preaching Planning Helps: March 14, 2010 – 4th Sunday in Lent](#)

The GBOD Worship website provides an extensive set of worship, preaching, and music planning resources in support of The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). Suggestions and resources for planning sermons, selecting appropriate hymns and songs from the various United Methodist hymnals and The Faith We Sing, worship and liturgical resources, are also available.

For additional resources, visit GBOD's Worship website at www.UMCWorship.org.

Spring Ahead!

Don't forget to set your clocks **ahead** one hour this Sunday, March 14, 2010.

And to help you remember, the song "Time Change Song (Spring)" is available from the Center for Worship Resourcing at the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) on its worship resource website at <http://media.umcom.org/gbod/sibfiles/timechangesongspring.pdf>.

For additional resources visit GBOD's [Worship website](#).

The Instant Connection is published each week by Jane Horstman on behalf of Cate Monaghan, Interim Director of Communications for the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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