

Here's what's happening during the next few months in Indiana

1. Leadership Team of five new directors to select rest of conference staff.

The newly elected Indiana Conference Directors will work together as a leadership team and begin selecting the rest of the conference staff to lead our new conference. The conference staff will begin working together beginning July 1, 2009. They have met or will meet on Dec. 15.

The five conference directors and one interim conference director and their areas of responsibility are:

- Director of Financial Services and Conference Treasurer: Jennifer Gallagher
- Director of Administrative Services and Conference Statistician: Brent Williams
- Director of Connectional Ministries: Rev. Jim Bushfield
- Director of Communication: Rev. Dan Gangler
- Director of Church Development: Rev. Mark Gough
- Interim Director of Human Resources: Rev. Adolf Hansen

2. Cabinets develop ministry clusters.

The two Cabinets will continue working to develop the Ministry Clusters of congregations. Bishop Coyner plans for a series of "Tip Offs" for these Clusters in February and March 2009. Bishop Coyner will be coming to all of the districts to meet with the pastors and lay leaders to guide the process of each congregation selecting other congregations with whom they wish to form a Ministry Cluster. More information is coming. These Sunday meetings are set for these dates, times and places.

- Feb. 15, 3 p.m. at Fort Wayne Aldersgate
- Feb. 15, 7 p.m. at Noblesville or Westfield
- Feb. 22, 3 p.m. at Santa Claus
- Feb. 22, 7 p.m. at Edwardsville
- March 1, 3 p.m. at South Bend Grace
- March 1, 7 p.m. at Monticello
- March 8, 3 p.m. at Castleton
- March 8, 7 p.m. at Terre Haute Mount Pleasant
- March 15, 3 p.m. at Muncie High Street
- March 15, 7 p.m. at Seymour First

3. Clergy Covenant groups

The chairpersons of our Clergy Orders are already working to launch the Clergy Covenant Groups in spring 2009. They want to begin by surveying our clergy to find out which covenant groups are already working well, and then to help the rest of our clergy to form their covenant groups. The "Our Life Together" retreat for all clergy April 20-21 will be held at St. Luke's UMC, 100 West 86th Street in Indianapolis. It will be a time of special focus on Clergy Covenant groups.

4. Incorporating new conference

The new Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) and the new Indiana Conference Trustees will be working to incorporate the new Indiana Conference and to move forward with the legal, property and financial issues that will be needed to implement the Imagine Indiana plan. Part of their work will be focused upon securing a new conference office – either leased or purchased – in the greater Indianapolis area plus five resource centers

across the state. Trustees will be disposing of the present district and conference office property. Retaining and enlarging the Indiana Area office location is one of several options trustees will consider.

Council on Finance and Administration: Rev. Kent Millard (chair), Rev. Dennis Alstott, Rev. Paul Arnold, Rev. Brian Beeks, Rev. Dave Byrum, Jack Dwiggins, Ronald Frieden, Jane Halper-Alport, Donna Howell, Rev. Jared Jennette, April Largent, Rev. Karen Ottjes, Rev. Beverly Perry, Robert Pimlott, Rev. George Purnell, Larna Spearman, Don Spence, Roger Summers and Ethelenor Washhum.

CF&A have met or are scheduled to meet Nov. 20, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19 and April 16. Meetings are held at St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis.

Conference Trustees include: Rev. Mark Dicken (chair), Al Brothers, William Clippinger, Patricia Klockow, Nancy Leonard, Rev. L. Wayne Smith, Stacy Stevens, Rev. Vickie Van Nevel, Brian Williams, John York, Susan Kirkpatrick and Tom Ream.

5. Interim conference committees and secretary

The other interim committees (Human Resources, Nominations, Rules and Structure, and Sessions) are working between now and the first Indiana Annual Conference session of the new conference next June 25-29 at Ball State University in Muncie to make plans for that conference session. Members by committee include:

Annual Conference Sessions: Rev. Karen Devaisher (co-chair), Rev. Mary Hubbard (co-chair), Rev. Karen Altergott, Rev. James Bushfield, Rev. Betty Ann Garret, Rev. Mark Gough, Elsie Miller, Kayc Mykrantz, Ruth Ellen Needler, Rev. Jennifer Pollard, Rev. Lynn Renne, Charles (Chuck) Scott and Ike Williams.

The sessions committee will meet on Jan. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Area Office.

Nominations: Rev. Curtis Hurley, Brian Jarman, Rev. Karen Koelsch, Kayc Mykrantz, Vickie Newkirk, Jeanie Park, Rev. Rob Seewald, Rev. Lisa Schubert, Martha Scott, James Shaw, Rev. Bob Vale, Ike Williams and Rev. Jean Wilson.

Rules and Structure: Rev. LaMont Bonath, Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, Rev. Greig Crowder, Rosie Jordan, Rev. Robert Land and Carolyn Marshall.

Human Resources: Sam Odle (chair), Jacqueline Blackwell, Jerry Moore, Greg Morgan, Ambry Morley, Rev. David Schrader, Pennye Siefert, Rev. Jeff Smith, Charles Young and Joseph Easley.

Conference secretary: Carolyn Johnson

6. District lines and final 10-district map

Bishop Coyner and the two current Indiana Area Cabinets will continue to work on finalizing district lines, using the currently proposed 10-district map and tweaking that map by Ministry Cluster choices made by all of our congregations. That final map will be prepared for the Indiana Annual Conference Session June 25-28, 2009. The new districts will be launched on or before July 1, 2010.

7. 2009 Indiana Annual Conference, June 25-29 at Ball State University in Muncie

We will hold our first session of the new Indiana Conference next June 25-28 at Ball State University with the theme – RETHINKING CHURCH. We plan to begin Thursday with a “Teaching Day” led by the Rev. Adam Hamilton, the dynamic pastor of Church of the Resurrection in suburban Kansas City, one of the largest United Methodist congregations in the United States. The Annual Conference will include many important business sessions and also will include times of worship, a Saturday afternoon of outreach and mission to the Muncie area, and our Ordination/Consecration Service on Sunday morning to commission and ordain new clergy, and to appoint all clergy for the coming year. See the Nov.-Dec. issue of Together for more details by logging on to www.inareaumc.org and clicking on Together.

8. Transition Team members

Transition Team members will continue to monitor and supervise all of these processes of transitioning from two former conferences into one new conference. They have or plan to meet on these dates: Nov. 11, Dec. 2, Jan. 9 and Feb. 26. Meetings are held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis.

Keep up to date with the Transition Team, CF&A, Trustees and the interim conference committees by reading news briefs in the weekly e-HUM newsletter issued each Friday. For more information on subscribing to e-HUM, log on to www.inareaumc.org and click on Subscribe to e-HUM.