

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT



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Weekly on Wednesday

February 1, 2019

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Closed 12-1 pm

NE District: Do you know where NED is at? Let us know.



*In Mission Together: A new way of planning and reporting our mission outreach.  
(In Mission Together is replacing the “Rainbow Covenant”)*

*Here is a brief introduction to In Mission Together that will be taking over for the rainbow covenant. There is still one more time of that and then straight into I.M.T.*

*“In Mission together” is just that, making sure that we are doing mission together and not at people. Instead of miles churches will mark down where they are giving, serving and partnering.*

*Giving*

*Provides financial and material gifts at local, conference, national, and international levels.*

*This is what has always been reported on the Rainbow Covenant forms before.*

*You can still support the same missionaries and advance projects.*

*Churches will list all giving in each category (local, conference, national, and international), whether it is a United Methodist project or not.*

*Serving*

*Provides a physical presence to assist in programs that help spread the word of God and make disciples of Jesus Christ.*

*Churches will list volunteer hours and mission team experiences for each category.*

*Remember we want to “Be with” instead of “Do for” others*

*Who is going to be there with us?*

*Do you know the names and circumstances of those you are serving?*

*Partnering*

*Deepens the relationship.*

*You learn names, acknowledge and share your gifts, sit, listen, laugh, cry, and worship together. You understand each other’s circumstances and make real, long-term friendships.*

*Churches will give a brief narrative of partnering experiences for each category.*

*Remember this is shared empowerment.*

*They are making decisions*

*Allow them to fail forward*

*Don’t do for them what they can do for themselves.*

*Long-term involvement, not one and done*

*A partnership leads to relationships.*

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Lay Servant Training available in the North Central District. See all information [here](#).

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Do you need information on Insurance Requirements for UM Churches? See information sheet [here](#).

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Resources on how to Help “When you Don’t know what to say”.

Iowa Concern Hotline: Toll-free: 1-800-447-1985 or [www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern)

For more information – click [here](#).

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***Important Dates and forms that are coming soon:***

**Thurs. February 14<sup>th</sup> – Statistical collection date – NEW**

Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> – District Askings Grant Application are due – *they are now on the NE District web page under “Resources”*. <https://northeast.iaumc.org/resources>

Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> – Rainbow Covenant forms are due – click [here](#) for more information.

February 9<sup>th</sup> – Vital Mergers Event at Iowa Falls First UMC – see [flyer here](#).

Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> – Fund Balance Report – aka – Audit Report – ***is due in the NE District Office*** – see the NE District web page and this is under “Forms” - <https://northeast.iaumc.org/forms>

Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> - NE District Conference is scheduled – more information to come later (District Askings Grants are handed out here.)

Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> – Another Set of Eyes are due – by everyone – **even if you are retiring the end of June.**

June 7 – 10<sup>th</sup> – Annual Conference in Des Moines – see web page at Iowa Conference - <https://www.iaumc.org/eventdetail/12062135?month=6&year=2019&day=1&display=m> Hotels are available to make your reservations.

\*\* If you have a Lay member to Annual Conference that was not in your fall charge conference minutes – get this information to me ASAP as I have registered everyone that I have information on. All Clergy have been registered also. Do you have your charge conference minutes turned into the NE District Office yet? Please do so right away.  
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Parsonage Inspection Reports are due - we also have a "NEW" form - Parsonage Information Sheet - and you can view these on our NE District Web page at: <https://northeast.iaumc.org/forms>

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*Leadership information is due at the NE District Office this week. If you have elected “new” officers, please get that information turned in.*  
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**Calling all Youth who want to go skiing: See more information [here](#).**

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VBS Showcase on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at Charles City Trinity UMC – see more information [here](#).  
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## Guidelines for 2020 General Conference Petitions

They must be sent to the Conference Secretary by  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Persons or groups interested in having Annual Conference adoption of petitions going to the 2020 General Conference, please refer to the following guidelines:

**Rule 1050.05.** Annual Conference adoption of Petitions to General Conference. All General Conference petitions must be submitted in accordance with the current [Book of Discipline \(¶507\)](#).

1. Persons or groups seeking Annual Conference adoption for petitions must submit the petition to the [Conference Secretary](#) by February 1 of the year preceding the General Conference. Petitions must originate with or be sponsored by the individuals or groups who are members of or related to The United Methodist Church in Iowa.

2. After February 1, the Committee on Rules of Order will review the petitions for accuracy, duplication, and compliance with Disciplinary guidelines.
3. The petitions will be printed in their entirety in the Pre-Conference Manual. These petitions are amendable and debatable.
4. Petitions adopted by the Annual Conference are sent by the Conference Secretary to the General Conference Petitions Secretary.

Petitions not adopted by the Annual Conference may be submitted by individuals or groups directly to the General Conference Petitions Secretary in accordance with ¶507

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### 2019 Thanksgiving Ingathering

#### Northeast District Hunger Relief Grant Funds Now Available!

As part of the Bishop's Ingathering held each November, cash gifts are received in addition to quilt auction and bazaar funds. A portion of these cash gifts is returned to each of the eight districts in Iowa to be used in combating hunger in local communities through food pantries, feeding programs, community gardens, etc. This year \$2,000 is available for each district to distribute.

Churches may apply for a grant to fund a program that they themselves administer, or a church may pass an application to a local community agency that addresses hunger. A copy of the application form is included [here](#). ***The deadline for submission of completed applications is February 15, 2019.*** It is imperative that this deadline is met as the State Ingathering Committee has revised the payment process so that payment may be made to recipients in a timely manner.

Jan Benson, Northeast District Ingathering representative, is administering this hunger grant for our district. The application is on the Iowa Conference Homepage under [Thanksgiving Ingathering](#) and then Hunger Grant Application. Be sure to include contact information for the person filling it out so she can get back to you if there is a question. The deadline for these applications is **FEBRUARY 15**. Applications received after that date cannot be considered. Getting the application in before that date is much appreciated. New projects not connected with a United Methodist Church will need to fill out a W-9 form if the organization has not received Hunger Grants in the past; contact Jan for this form.

Send completed applications postmarked on or before February 15, 2019, to Jan Benson, 3925 Briarwood Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613. Questions may be directed to Jan at 319-268-9111 or [jbenson@cfu.net](mailto:jbenson@cfu.net).

Jesus said, "...For I was hungry, and you gave me food..."

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The NE District Office will be closed if the Cedar Falls Schools are also closed. We hope that everyone is staying safe and warm and watching out for not only yourself but others in this bitterly cold weather. Don't forget the animals too!

More pictures from NED



Do you know where NED is? Let us know.

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Updated Statistical Reporting as of Jan. 31, 2019 – THEY ARE DUE FEB. 14<sup>TH</sup>!!!!!!!

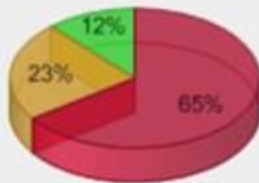
January 31, 2019

TO: Iowa Conference Pastors, Treasurers, Finance Chairs and Church Secretaries/Admins

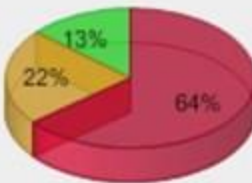
RE: 2018 Annual Statistical Reports

We have made good progress in the last few days. Today we are at 41% in progress or completed. **But, with only two weeks to go, it's time to get started if you haven't already.** Beginning next week, you will start to get phone calls from your district office if you have not started the process. I will be supplying daily updates to the District Superintendents with the current status reports.

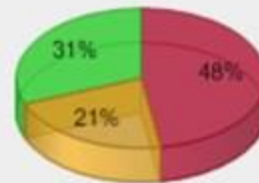
## Overview of Statistical Reports for IOWA Annual Conference



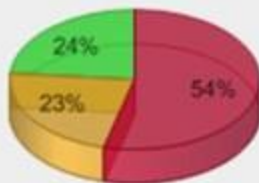
Central District



East Central District



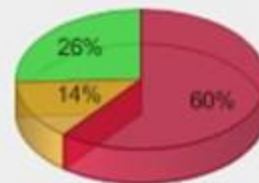
North Central District



Northeast District



Northwest District






South Central District



Southeast District



Southwest District

 Not Started  In Progress  Submitted

This next tidbit comes from Lorene Dykstra, District Statistician for the North Central District

A different statistics reminder: Please notice that there is a new line on the form this year. We are asking you if your church has a stewardship campaign. I have found several churches indicate no (or they overlook the question?) yet indicate that they have pledged giving. I have contacted churches when I find this and often get told that they only send out pledge cards, or a letter each year.

I would encourage you, if you do something such as this, to please check "yes" on that stewardship campaign line. Here is why: I have found many of our churches don't even do that. Indeed, my own church had a conversation about this topic recently at

Administrative Board, and one faithful member indicated he had not increased his giving "because nobody had asked."

We have to ask. We have to tell folks that utilities and salaries and insurances rise with regularity. We have to tell our congregations that being a faithful United Methodist means being faithful in prayers, presence, GIFTS, worship and witness. We know that people want to be asked. And a general invitation from the pulpit is not an invitation at all. A letter to each member, or a pledge card inviting folks to consider their giving is not too much to do when we see our budgets increasing each year. As we lose those older faithful givers to nursing homes or death, our fears increase because we worry about not being able to meet the needs of the church, or of not paying apportionments. What if we just needed to ask? What if we stopped thinking that money would just flow in, even when people don't know the needs?

Let's get proactive and invite faithfulness. Lorene

**Another thing to keep in mind is that when entering information, you need to move from one field to the next using either the Tab key or the Enter key. Please do not move with the mouse as this bypasses the auto-summing on the total's fields.**

**As a reminder, the reports are to be submitted by Thursday, February 14th.**

Also, remember that the username for the Ezra system is comprised of your six digit church number, which if you do not know this can be found by looking at your church apportionment statement (online at <https://www.iaumc.org/remits> ) by selecting your church from the drop down list. This is followed by either a letter "p" for pastors or a letter "o" (not a zero) for a total of seven characters.

Also keep in mind that the passwords reset EVERY YEAR to the default of "password", so don't worry about the password you set last year.

As we have done in past years, we are asking all churches, to submit their statistical tables on-line **by Thursday, February 14th, 2019**. Please visit the Statistics page on the conference website <https://www.iaumc.org/2018stats> for directions. This date is earlier than last year due to some denominational timing requirement changes. We sent the original notice much earlier this year to give you sufficient time to prepare for this reporting, especially those churches who may have "snow bird" treasurers who might be out of town during the reporting period.

If it is impossible for you **or someone from your congregation** to submit your statistics on-line, please contact me at 515-974-8924 and we will send you paper copies of the report.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation by providing this valuable information. Again, remember that submission must be completed no later than **February 14th, 2019**. According to rules approved at last year's Annual Conference Session, congregations that do not complete the report by that day will have an automatic 10% increase added to their 2020 apportionments.

Roland Minshall - Director Information Technology / Conference Statistician