

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT



**Rev. Paul Wilcox**  
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NED – North East District

April 25, 2019

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

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
**SUNDAY APRIL 28, 2019**  
**2:30 PM TO 5:00 PM**  
**WAVERLY HERITAGE UMC**

The top 5 reasons to come to the District Conference this year:

- 5) Get a preview of what may prove to be the most unusual Annual Conference session EVER!
- 4) Learn the secret of the fastest growing churches in our District
- 3) Make sure you are not elected to an office you didn't volunteer for
- 2) See if the District Superintendent can preach for only 6 minutes!
- 1) Say farewell to our District Office Manager, Karen Wersinger

**BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!**

Annual Conference update: Pre-Conference Manuals will be on the website this week – see the web page here: <https://ac2019.iaumc.org/>

*In this world you have tribulations but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world. John 16:33*

You may not believe this, but back in my grade school days I used to spend a lot of time in the gutter! My boyhood home was at the top of a very steep hill and when my father or one of my brothers would wash the car, a river of soapy water would go surging down the gutter to the sewer at the hill's bottom. I used to love to build little dams across that gutter to hold back the "raging" waters and sometimes I would spend a whole afternoon trying to "stem the tide". But how vividly I remember that the water would not be held for long. Moving irresistibly, ceaselessly downward, the stream would probe and fill every crack, every seam of my little dam, and then slowly, but surely, it would snake its way through or worm its way under or build its way over or around and flow on to the next obstacle. Finally at the bottom of the hill, the water would encounter my ultimate weapon; a miniature Hoover Dam made of

the finest clay my hands could find. It stopped the rushing stream dead in its tracks for a while. But again, the stream slowly, drop by drop, overwhelmed even my ultimate obstacle. And went crashing through unstoppable along its appointed course.

Although I didn't see it then, I see it now: the ever-flowing love of God can overcome every barrier, every obstacle that this world can put in front of it. Even the ultimate obstacle – death itself – can't hold God's love back. And though we experience setbacks and genuine tragedies that we will never understand fully, by faith in the power that raised Christ on Easter morning, we can overcome every obstacle that stands between us and our Lord.

*"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our Faith." 1 John 5:4*

May your Easter Season be filled with the ever-flowing love of God.  
Blessings. Paul

Information from Bishop Laurie Haller regarding Judicial Council 2019:

I commend to you this letter from Bishop Ken Carter, President of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church. As our UM Judicial Council meets during these next several days, I ask you to pray for wisdom and grace as Judicial Council members prayerfully deliberate and make important decisions that will affect the future of The United Methodist Church. Once the Judicial Council has announced their decisions, I will be sending you a pastoral letter as your episcopal leader.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings, Bishop Laurie

### [Call for prayers for Judicial Council 2019-Bishop Carter](#)

**NE District Basic and Advanced Lay Speaker Training – for more information see this under District Calendar on the NE District Web Page at: <https://northeast.iaumc.org/>**

Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> – Another Set of Eyes are due and they are on the NE District Web page: <https://northeast.iaumc.org/forms> – by everyone – **even if you are retiring the end of June.**

June 7 – 11<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 need to order your Pre-Conference Manual, make sure you keep checking here.**

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>

Hello mission-minded Methodists of the North East District,

It was a real joy to be able to accompany our Bishop and Cabinet to visit Africa University in Zimbabwe last October. Bishop Laurie and her husband, Gary, have been instrumental in the building and completion of the visitor's center that we stayed in during our visit to AU. One noticeable shortcoming, however, was the lack of a kitchen, so that guests didn't have to shuttle all across campus to find a meal. Wanting to finish the job she started as a parish pastor, Bishop Laurie challenged us and our 8 districts to raise funds for an offering to be presented at Annual Conference for the Ubuntu Center Kitchen.

I want to encourage you to view the video link below to learn more about the project and then share the video with your congregation via email, web site and Sunday morning worship. This would be a great "noisy offering" project for the next couple months. The cost of the project is around \$40,000, so if each district could bring \$5000, we'll reach our goal! Bring your offering with you to Annual Conference and we'll collect it then.

Thank you for your faithfulness, Paul Wilcox

### **Here are the links**

- Vimeo (for viewing): <https://vimeo.com/322516265>
- Vimeo (for downloading): [vimeo.com/iowaannualconference/download/322516265/e94e608b0e](https://vimeo.com/iowaannualconference/download/322516265/e94e608b0e)

Iowa Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation – for Laity and Clergy – see flyer [here](#).

La Porte City St. Paul UMC has a few items they would like to find new homes for:

Several Sunday School Chairs

Rainbow of colored robes that would fit Middle School or High School students

Contact them at [st.paulumclaporte@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulumclaporte@gmail.com)