

**Oklahoma Conference of the
United Methodist Church**

New Christians Evangelism Training

Sponsored by the Conference Evangelism Team

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Oklahoma Conference Evangelism Assimilation Resource

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Evangelism: Assimilation

Assimilation is the corporate role of each local church and individually every Christian's responsibility to provide an atmosphere where all persons have an opportunity to be incorporated into the Body of Christ. Assimilation is the process which gives individuals the means to become mature followers of Jesus Christ, leading to the transformation of the Christian's life & world.

Assimilation Leading to Christian Maturity

- 1. To Know Christ – Initial Decision & Commitment**
- 2. To Grow in Christ – Spiritual Growth**
- 3. To Serve Christ – In Union With the Body of Christ**
- 4. To Share Christ – Missions & Evangelism**

Membership Classes

During the past decade, The Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth has conducted research among evangelic churches in America. Two of their studies showed the correlation and significance of membership classes in growing churches. As a result of these findings extensive research was done to discover what was happening in churches who were offering New Member Classes. *Membership Matters* by Chuck Lawless is not only a summary of the Billy Graham School's research findings, but a wealth of information for churches wanting to provide membership classes.

Membership Matters states two reasons why church membership classes are important:

1. *Strong church membership begins with the front door process. People tend to be much more committed if the church publically expects them to be committed up front—and a membership class provides a place to communicate these expectations.*
2. *A membership class is an opportunity to say, “What we believe and do is important.” Lawless says, “... a healthy church produces disciples whose theological foundation is sound and their faith influences all that they do.”*

(Lawless, pp 33, 34)

On the following pages you will find five ideas for New Member or New Comer Classes offered at United Methodist Churches in the Oklahoma Conference, as well as a list of resources we think you might find helpful. You are invited to use the sample course descriptions and notes in your own local church. Feel free to modify them in any way you find helpful. It is our hope that these might be a springboard to your own ideas and that they might help to generate your own Membership Classes tailored to your own unique situation.

New Comer Class

FUMC 101: Christian & United Methodist Basics

(Using Channing Bete booklets and other user friendly handouts)
Rev. Janelle Brammer, Claremore FUMC

This class syllabus is an example of a class I led that began on Palm Sunday. A class beginning at Christmas could similarly use a Advent Season Theme beginning with a nativity or Advent Wreath lesson. The next time I lead this class I intend to include a session on Spiritual Gifts & Sharing Your Faith. More than likely I will not do the session on prayer and will do only one session on the Bible. Each class make-up is different. The nice thing about using Channing Bete books, they almost lead themselves. They come in a wide variety of topics. If you are unable to afford to purchase a copy for every participant, use the books as a guide for the leader. They do a great job of summarizing the material.

Next time I am leading a more in-depth class in the evening in addition to the Sunday Morning Class. I am going to try using some media resources from the Conference Office Lending Library to supplement my teaching materials, in addition to using some of the excellent suggestions in this resource!

New Comer Class

Christian & United Methodist Basics

(Using Channing Bete booklets and other user friendly handouts)
Rev. Janelle Brammer, Claremore FUMC

1. *Why Jesus Gave His Life for Us* (suggested start date - Palm Sunday)
2. *Why the Resurrection is Essential to Our Faith* (Easter Sunday)
3. *What's So Amazing About Grace? Forgiveness*
I used *Going on to Salvation* by Maxie Dunam as a resource for this lesson
4. *United Methodists: Baptism*
5. *United Methodists and Communion*
threefold pamphlet available from Cokesbury published by the UM Publishing House
6. *History of the United Methodist Church / About John Wesley*
(I found the Wesley booklet good for class, it includes UM history. I distributed both booklets. The *UM History* booklet is excellent, but may provide too much detail for class use.)
7. *What Every Christian Should Know About Prayer*
8. *How the Bible Came to Be & The Bible and You*
9. *Mission and Ministries of the Local Church* (include extensive list of ministries and small group opportunities – sample time and talent survey included in this resource)

Note: *Titles in italics are taken from Channing Bete booklets. The booklets provide an easy, yet effective basis for class material. Booklets are available online or by calling: 800-226-8926.*

New Member (Get Connected to the Church) Class

Rev. Jim Stillwell,
Christ United Methodist Church, Tulsa

Possible topics

History of United Methodist Church

Methodist Beliefs

History of the local church

List and description of Sunday School classes

List and descriptions of Ministries of the church

List and descriptions of Bible Studies

List of current needs for the church

Include a spiritual gift test:

http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355371/k.9501/Spiritual_Gifts.htm

Living Your Strengths by Albert Winseman (which has a talents survey)

StengthFinder 2:0 by Tom Rath

*** see additional resources in separate section on Spiritual Gifts and God Given Talent Resources**

UNDERSTANDING THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Facilitator Resources:

* *"A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism."* Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2001.

Brochures and Pamphlets of various ministries of the Oklahoma Annual Conference

Oklahoma Annual Conference DVD: Apportionments

*Outline of History of The United Methodist Church.

*Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, 2009-2012. Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2009.

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008. Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2008.

The United Methodist Hymnal. Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989.

The United Methodist Book of Worship. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, January, 1996.

* *"United Methodists and Communion: Some Questions & Answers."* Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2001.

*Joyner, Jr., F. Belton. United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

**These materials are made available to each participant..*

“UNDERSTANDING THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH” CLASS SCHEDULE

Read

Week #1:

Getting to Know One Another
History of the Local Church
List and Descriptions of
 Sunday School Classes
List and Descriptions of
 Ministries of the Church
Lists and Descriptions of
 Small Group Studies

Week #2:

Where did the UMC come from?
What is Salvation?
 (Prevenient Grace; Justifying Grace)

Joyner – Chap. 12
Joyner – Chap. 5

Week #3:

Means of Grace
What is Sanctifying Grace?

Week #4:

Baptism and Communion

Joyner – Chap. 7

The Cycle of the Christian Year

Joyner – Chap. 1, 2, & 3

Week #5:

Social Principles of the UMC

Social Principles of the UMC

Week #6:

The Book of Discipline of the UMC
The Book of Resolutions of the UMC
General Church Organization
Annual Conference Organization
Apportionments
Itinerancy of Pastors

Joyner – Chap. 13

Joyner – Chap. 6

Week #7:

What is Membership?
Local Church Structure
Opportunities to Serve:
 Conference, District, Local
Other Topics of Interest
Questions & Discussion

Joyner – Chap. 4, 8, & 9

Joyner – Chap. 10 & 11

WEEK #1 – FACILITATOR NOTES

Recommended Supplies:

Name Tags

Pocket

Folders – for Handouts and Notes

Pens

Notebook Paper (in Folders)

Lists and Descriptions of Sunday School Classes

Lists and Descriptions of Ministries of the Church

Lists and Descriptions of Small Group Studies

1. Getting to Know One Another:

- Invite class members to fill out name tags as they arrive.
- Hand out: pens, pocket folders, and notebook paper.
- If you have staff, invite each staff person to introduce self.
- Pastor introduce self.
- Invite each class member to introduce himself.

2. Class Schedule:

- Hand out: Class Schedule and the text, United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith, by F. Belton Joyner, Jr.
- Give an overview of the Class Schedule.

3. History of the Local Church:

Share the history of your local church.

4. Lists and Descriptions of Growth Opportunities:

Hand out and discuss the following materials:

- Lists and Descriptions of Sunday School Classes
- Lists and Descriptions of Ministries of the Church
- Lists and Descriptions of Small Group Studies

5. Reading for Next Week:

Remind class members to read Joyner, Chapters 12 and 5 for next week.

WEEK #2 – FACILITATOR NOTES:

Recommended Supplies:

- Handout: Outline of United Methodist History
- The United Methodist Hymnal
- Joyner, Jr., F. Belton. United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

1. Where did the UMC come from?

- Hand out: Outline of United Methodist History.
- Review the Outline with the Class. *(If you want to brush up on information, you might look through the book, Wesley and the People Called Methodists, by Richard P. Heitzenrater; or notes you may have from a United Methodist History Class.)*
- Review any information of interest from Chapter 12 from Joyner text.

2. What is Salvation? (Prevenient Grace; Justifying Grace):

- Discuss John Wesley's House of Salvation, explained in Joyner, Chapter 5.
- Discuss other information presented in Chapter 5 of Joyner.
- Look together at hymns by Charles Wesley that describe Prevenient Grace (ie: #339 – "Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast"), and Justifying Grace (ie: #363 – "And Can It Be that I Should Gain.")

3. Reading for Next Week:

Remind class members to read Joyner, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 7 for next week.

Handout Week #2: UNITED METHODIST HISTORY

1. Events prior to 1700's:

Protestant Reformation – Martin Luther, 1517

“Justification by faith”

English Reformation – King Henry VIII died 1547

Anglican Church – becomes the official Church of England; division within church

Calvinistic Theology -- T – Total Depravity

U – Unconditional Election

L – Limited Atonement to the pre-chosen only

I – Irresistible Grace

P – Perseverance of the Sanit

Wesleyan-Armenian Theology (John Wesley stood against the theology of John Calvin)

1. Christ died for ALL . . . not only for the “elect.”
2. FREE WILL . . . in response to God's grace.
3. Rejection of predestination.

2. Background of John Wesley:

Samuel Wesley

Susanna Wesley

John Wesley (1703-1791); Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

2 of 19 children born to Samuel and Susanna Wesley

1709 “Brand plucked from the fire” (parsonage fire at 6 years old)

1725 Studied at Oxford

1728 Ordained an Anglican priest

1729 Charles Wesley forms Holy Club at Oxford University – Methodist term first used.

1735 Missionary to Georgia

1738 Returned to London – Shipboard experience of Moravians

May 3, 1738 – Aldersgate experience

1744 1st Annual Conference held by John Wesley

1771 Francis Asbury sent by John Wesley to America

1772 First Annual Conference in America

1776 John Wesley names Coke as 1st American Superintendent

1784 Christmas Conference – The Methodist Church began in America after the Revolutionary War when the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed.
There is no Church of England any more.

1791 John Wesley dies

1792 1st Quadrennial Conference in American Methodism

1845 Methodist Episcopal Church splits:

- Methodist Episcopal Church (not “North”...but was “the church”) – no slaves.
- Methodist Episcopal Church South – could hold slaves.

1900 Methodist Episcopal Church gives lay rights to women.

1939 Meth. Episc. Church + Meth. Episc. Church, South + Meth. Protestant Church =
The Methodist Church

1968 The Methodist Church merges with Evangelical United Brethern =
The United Methodist Church

3. Rise of Methodism:

- Holy Club
- Georgia Missionary Experience
- London Society

4. Theology – To Scripture, Tradition, and Reason, added Experience. Scripture is primary.
5. Societies – Organized by age, gender, and spiritual needs.
Classes – Organized by neighborhood.
6. American Methodism, United Brethern, and Evangelical Union
 - 1784- Moved Westward: Circuit Riders, Camp Meetings, Revivals, Limited communion,
 - 1860 and division over slavery.
 - 1784 Christmas Conference = The Methodist Church began in America after
the Revolutionary War when the Methodist Episcopal Church was
formed.
There is no Church of England in America any more.
 - 1791 John Wesley dies
 - 1792 1st Quadrennial Conference in American Methodism
 - 1845 Methodist Episcopal Church splits:
 - Methodist Episcopal Church (not “North”...but was “the church”) – no slaves.
 - Methodist Episcopal Church South – could hold slaves.
 - 1900 Methodist Episcopal Church gives lay rights to women.
 - 1939 Meth. Episc. Church + Meth. Episc. Church, South + Meth. Protestant Church =
The Methodist Church
 - 1968 The Methodist Church merges with Evangelical United Brethern =
The United Methodist Church

WEEK #3 – OUTLINE FOR FACILITATOR:

Recommended Supplies:

Handout: The Means of Grace
Handout: What Is Holiness
Pair of Candlesticks from Altar Table
The United Methodist Hymnal.

1. Means of Grace:

- Hand out: The Means of Grace.
- Review the Hand-out with the Class.
(Note: This hand-out is only a guide and example. Feel free to expand the topics.)

2. Holiness (Sanctifying Grace):

- Refer back to John Wesley's, House of Salvation, in Joyner, Chapter 5, and discuss how it incorporates Sanctifying Grace.
- Hand-out: What Is Sanctification?
- Review the Hand-out with the Class.
(Note: This hand-out is only a guide and example. Feel free to expand the topic.)
- Pass out hymnals.
 - Look together at hymns by Charles Wesley that describe Sanctifying Grace (ie: #384 – "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.") (Note: "Love Divine" was a phrase that Charles Wesley used as a description of God.**)

3. Reading for Next Week: None.

**Dr. Hal Knight, notes from class: History of the United Methodist Church, Summer 2003.

Handout Week #3: MEANS OF GRACE

Grace is God's undeserved favor and blessing. Grace is God's love at work in our hearts and lives through the Holy Spirit. While God always acts first in stirring within us a desire for relationship with God, there are things that we can do to help us keep focused toward God and to love God with all our heart. Those things are called Spiritual Disciplines or Means of Grace. Through the Means of Grace, God can shape up and help us to grow deeper in our relationship with God.

1. **Means = Vehicle** = the manners in which Gods grace comes to us and shapes us.

If we want to be closer to God, we too must practice one or more of the spiritual disciplines each day.

2. What are the Means of Grace?

A. Bible Study: "Dancing with the Word"; Gods love letter to us.

- Reading and meditating by oneself (Devotions)
- Small Group Bible Studies
- Sunday School Class
- Hearing the preached Word

B. Prayer:

-- Why pray? To praise God; to give God thanks; to share ones concerns with God; to seek Gods direction or wisdom; intercessory prayer; to listen for God to speak to us.

-- Discuss various ways to pray:

- kneeling to pray.
- walking through nature and praying.
- Bullet prayers (or sentence prayers).
- Intercessory prayer.
- Full body motion prayer.
- Praying Scripture.
- etc.

C. Fasting:

- 24-hour fast.
- Solid food fast.
- Fasting from an activity in order to devote that time period to meet with God.
- Fasting from a food or food group.
- Caution: Please take your health situation into consideration before deciding to fast.

D. Christian Conference:

- rightly ordered and respectful conversation
- fellowship
- greater understanding

E. The Lord's Supper

F. Hymns, and the Christian Library (devotional classics)

Handout Week #3: WHAT IS SANCTIFYING GRACE?

1. What is “Grace”?

Grace is God’s undeserved favor and blessing: God’s love at work in our hearts and lives through the Holy Spirit.

2. What is John Wesley’s “Way of Salvation”?

(a) Prevenient Grace: God reaches out to us in grace first to initiate the restoration of our relationship before any thoughts, actions, or attempts of reconciliation with God on our part. It is God reaching out in love to draw us unto God. We believe that God’s prevenient grace reaches out to all people. God’s grace makes us aware of our sinfulness and stirs within us a longing for God.

- Standing on the front porch of the “House of Salvation.”

(b) Justifying Grace: Justifying Grace is God’s forgiving grace.

- Also called “Salvation” and “Being born again.”

- Includes Repentance. “Repentance” means “a turning around.” It implies that one’s sins have been leading on e in the wrong direction and that a change is called for.

- Wesley: Crossing the “doorway” into the “House of Salvation.”

- Occurs the moment one believes in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

- Includes a change in behavior – repenting of one’s sins – although sin will return

Soon enough. This is in response to what God has done for us through Christ.

(c) Sanctifying Grace: God at work in us to help us grow in our love for God and for neighbor.

- Begins at justification.

- Wesley: Is what happens after one enters the “House of Salvation.”

2. What are other names for Sanctifying Grace?

Holiness

Sanctification

Christian Perfection

2. What does the Bible say about Holiness/Sanctification?

Matt. 5:48, 22:37-38

Hebr. 6:1

1 John 4:12

2 Cor. 7:1, 13:9

1 Peter 1:15

1 John 4:18

Eph. 5:1

2 Peter 3:14

1 Thess. 5:23

1 John 2:5

In the passages below, everywhere the Greek word “*teleios*” is used the KJV translates it into English as “perfect” or “perfection”:

1 Cor. 2:6

Eph. 4:13

Phil. 3:15

Col. 1:28

Hebr. 13:20-21

Handout Week #3 – What is Sanctifying Grace?

3. Perfectus (Latin) vs. Teleios (Greek):

The phrase Christian Perfection caused as much stir in John Wesley's day as it does in ours. What does the Greek word for perfection, "*teleios*," mean? When we think of perfection most of us think of the understanding connected to the Latin word for perfection, "*perfectus*." An explanation of the meaning of the Latin word for perfection (which is NOT the New Testament understanding of the word perfection), compared to the Greek word used for perfection (which IS the New Testament understanding of perfection) follows.

"Perfectus" (Latin):

- a finished, complete state; no room to improve.
- To be perfect (using the Latin word) is to have arrived.
- (Note: Too many people assume the Latin meaning is the only meaning of the word, perfection.)

"Teleios" (Greek):

- **Perfect** in a particular way in terms of a **goal** ("*telos*").
- Growth in perfection.
- Dynamic (always changing and growing)
- Means almost full grown (ie: a child growing into an adult)
- Can also mean: to bring a thing into its right condition so it can be used as it should be. (ie: To repair damage of a net so it is in working order.)
- When we fully image God, we are perfected.
- The goal . . . is Love.

4. An Old Testament understanding of sanctified or holy is: "To be set apart for God to use."

-- An example is: (insert here OT Scriptures of items being set apart for use in Temple).

-- Show class the pair of candlesticks from the altar table used during worship. Ask, "Would you take these home and use them on your dining room table? Why, or why not? These are DIFFERENT than the candlesticks we would use at home.

They are SPECIAL. They have been 'set apart' for God to use. When we respond

to God's sanctifying grace, we choose to let our lives be 'set apart' for God to use. We desire for God's grace to continue to work in us and through us."

5. A New Testament understanding of sanctification, or holiness, is:

A. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind (Matt. 22:37).

B. To love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22:39).

6. What Sanctification is NOT:

- John Wesley believed that Christian Perfection does NOT mean that we are ever free from: ignorance or lack of knowledge. Some of the things we do from the very best of motives can turn out to be extremely detrimental to people we love. In John Wesley's view, we have not committed sin if our motive is love.¹

- In his sermon, "*Christian Perfection*," Wesley preaches that Christians are NOT perfect in the following ways: in knowledge (of the Trinity, of the incarnation, of God's timing of things, of how God works and creates even that which we see); in freedom from mistakes (which he states is almost unavoidable in this life); in interpretation of Scriptures; in physical illness and outward difficulties that are not moral in nature; or, in freedom from temptation (Jesus was tempted!).²

- Sanctifying Grace does not indicate that one will never make another mistake, but rather that all one's actions will proceed from the motive of love. Any mistakes which did occur would be just that – mistakes made despite good intention – rather than willful acts done out of any intention other than love.

- Christian Perfection (holiness) is not a destination or an ending point . . . it is a new beginning in our spiritual journey.

- Sanctifying grace is NOT obtained or earned by keeping a list of rules; although, the sanctified life lived out will include caring about how one's behaviors affect one's neighbor. As United Methodist Bishop Bruce Blake titled one of his books we must, Behave Our Beliefs. Dr. Randy Maddox describes sanctifying grace in his book by the same name as, Responsible Grace; we "respond" to God's grace which is first offered to us (Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology). It is as a result of God's grace at work in us that we choose to live out love for neighbor and to God. Maddox calls this "responsible grace."

- Holiness is NOT thinking of oneself as "holier than thou," but as one whose heart's desire is to wholly love God and neighbor and to, with God's help, live that out in our lives.

7. What is Sanctification?

- Claim the Name youth confirmation curriculum gives this definition, "Sanctifying Grace is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, helping us to become more Christlike in our living."

¹ "Christian Perfection," by John Wesley, in John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology, Edited by Albert C. Outler, and Richard P. Heitzenrater, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991, pp. 71-72.

² "Christian Perfection," pp. 71-73.

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Handout Week #3 – What is Sanctifying Grace?

-- Some comments by John Wesley on Sanctification:

- *“Justification (salvation) implies what God does FOR us through (God’s) Son; (sanctification is) what (God) works IN us by (God’s) Spirit.”³*

- *“What is perfection? The word has various senses: here it means **perfect love**.*

*It is love excluding sin; love filling the heart, taking up the whole capacity of the soul. It is love excluding sin; love filling the heart, taking up the whole capacity of the soul. It is love ‘rejoicing evermore, praying without ceasing, in everything giving thanks.’⁴ According to John Wesley, Christian Perfection is neither more nor less than **pure love**. Love expelling sin and filling both the heart and life of a child of God.*

-- Some thoughts on sanctification from Dr. Hal Knight, from notes from United Methodist Doctrine Class, Summer 2003, at St. Paul’s School of Theology:

- We can have pure intentions in this life.

- Intentional sin is gone; involuntary sins remain. We are aware of the involuntary sins, ask forgiveness, and move on...constantly dependent on Christ.

- We are free from the root of sin (inclination to sin). Sin is gone. Now . . . the inclination is to love. (Note: The root can come back.)

- You grow even closer and in love to God; in the process you become more aware of your differences from God and your need for God . . . and grow even closer and more in love with God . . . and

-- “Many people stop just after justification and do not experience the fullness of the Christian life in its application. Justification is the first of the two-part salvation process; Sanctification is the second. Justification is the first step into relationship with God; Sanctification is all the other steps in growing in the image of Christ.... In brief, Sanctification, or holiness, means that we are consumed with our love for God and for neighbor, united with God, being made in Christ’s image, walking as He walked, being taught and led by the Spirit, serving Christ in the world. Holiness is a life consumed by Christ.”⁵

³ “Justification by Faith,” by John Wesley, in John Wesley’s Sermons: An Anthology, Edited by Albert C. Outler, and Richard P. Heitzenrater, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991, p. 114.

⁴ “The Scripture Way of Salvation,” by John Wesley, in John Wesley’s Sermons: An Anthology, Edited by Albert C. Outler, and Richard P. Heitzenrater, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991, p. 374.

⁵ Restoring Methodism: 10 Decisions for United Methodist Churches in America, Dr. James B. Scott and

WEEK #4 – FACILITATOR NOTES:

Recommended Supplies:

- Handout: Sacraments
- Handout: Methods of Baptism
- Handout Brochure: "A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism." Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2001.
- Handout Brochure: "United Methodists and Communion: Some Questions & Answers." Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2001.
- Joyner, Jr., F. Belton. United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

1. Sacrament:

- Review Handout: Sacraments.

2. Baptism:

- Review Handout: Methods of Baptism.
- Review baptism brochure handed out.
- Review Joyner's comments on baptism in Chapter 7 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

3. Communion:

- Review Handout: What is Communion?
- Review communion brochure handed out.
- Review Joyner's comments on communion in Chapter 7 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

4. The Cycle of the Christian Year:

- Review Handout: Cycle of the Christian Year
- Review Chapters 1-3 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

5. Reading for Next Week: Chapters 1-3, & 7 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

Handout for Week #4: SACRAMENTS

SACRAMENT

= Outward sign of inward grace.

= God's presence in a wonder-filled way.

Protestant Understanding of a Sacrament – The act must meet the following 3 requirements:

1. Divinely instituted. (Jesus performed, commanded, and/or participated in them.)
2. Has a physical sign.
3. Has a word of promise from Scripture (that requires faith).

Catholic Understanding of Sacrament – Aquinas believed that a sacrament should show the similarities between the “spiritual” and the “natural” life.

Protestant Sacraments

Sacraments

1. Baptism

Baptism

2. Communion

Penance

3. Eucharist

4. Confirmation

5. Extreme Unction (“Last Rites”)

6. Marriage

7. Ordination

Catholic

1.

2.

Handout for Week #4: METHODS OF BAPTISM

Resource: The Gift of Water, by Gayle Carlton Felton.

INTRO.:

There are three modes (styles) of baptism: (1) Sprinkling; (2) Pouring; (3) Immersion. “In general, the Methodist position was that there was no scriptural warrant for insisting upon any particular mode of baptism to the exclusion of the others” (The Gift of Water, by Gayle Carlton Felton, p. 86). Many Methodist theologians believe that sprinkling or pouring are preferred modes because: (1) they are very practical; (2) they best represent the operation of the Holy Spirit in renewing our spiritual life (The Gift of Water, by Gayle Carlton Felton, p. 86).

Historical records provide evidence that Methodist preachers usually were willing to allow converts to choose their mode of baptism. Immersion was most commonly practiced on the frontier and in other areas where competition with the Baptists and Campbellites was strong. Emphasis was usually placed on the choice of mode as being a matter of preference as long as the spiritual significance of the sacrament was understood. (The Gift of Water, by Gayle Carlton Felton, pp. 86-87.)

1. Sprinkling: Numbers 19:18-20

Note: The items to be used for worship were sprinkled with water to make them ceremonially “clean.” It was to represent that those items were SET APART for God to use. When we baptize by sprinkling, this too represents that the individual is SET APART for God to work IN and THROUGH. His or her life is set apart in service to God.

2. Immersion or Sprinkling or Pouring: Matthew 3:6, 16

The truth is that we do not know WHAT method of baptism John used to baptize the converts. Matthew mentions that Jesus “came up from the water” (Matt. 3:16). This indicates that Jesus may have been immersed. However, we also know that the Jordan river, in that desert region, is not deep enough to baptize by full immersion. There is, therefore, the possibility that Jesus knelt in the water to be baptized as John poured water over his head or sprinkled water on his head.

It is also thought that in those times immersion was not realistic given the nature of the layers of long clothing that was worn. We read nowhere that they were provided special

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Handout Week #4 – Methods of Baptism

clothing for the baptism, nor do we read that fresh, dry clothing was provided afterwards. Modesty was important in that time, so it is unlikely that they were baptized naked. In her book, The Gift of Water, Gayle Carton Felton suggests that, “It seems, therefore, that they stood in ranks on the edge of the river; and that John, passing along before them, cast water on their heads or faces: by which means he might baptize thousands in a day.”

Also, note that Jesus nowhere in Scripture specifies HOW the waters of baptism are to be applied. He simply commands us to “baptize.” Also, it is probable that infants were baptized in New Testament times. In a patriarchal society, when the husband made a decision, generally the whole family followed his leading.

3. Pouring: John 1:32-33.

In this passage what is the method of baptism? What does this method of baptism represent? (The Spirit came down from heaven as a dove and remained on him. Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 1:5 and Acts, Chap. 2. The disciples are baptized by the **pouring out** of the Holy Spirit on them gathered in the Upper Room.)

Acts 10:37-38 – “*You know what has happened...how God anointed Jesus...with the Holy Spirit and power,....*”

Note: Anointing in New Testament times was done by pouring or sprinkling. (Remember the woman who anointed Jesus with perfume? She **poured** out the perfume onto Jesus.) Baptism includes us being “anointed by the Holy Spirit,” so we believe that pouring is an acceptable method of baptism, based in Scripture. (The Gift of Water, by Gayle Carton Felton.)

4. Infant Baptism: Peter baptized Cornelius and his “whole household” (Acts, Chap. 10:1-8, 30-36, 44-48). Also read Mark 10:14-16.

In New Testament times there was no birth control. Therefore, it is probable that infants and young children were present also. This is one reason that we baptize infants. Also, Jesus said, “*Let the little children come to me.*” (Read Mark 10:14-16).

We believe that it is God who is at work in baptism...not us. We baptize infants, as well as adults, because we believe: (1) that it was likely practiced in New Testament times; (2) that a

Page 3 of 3
Handout Week #4 – Methods of Baptism

child should not have to wait until an “age of accountability” before affirming that God’s grace is there with and for that infant until and unless that child decides one day to turn his back on God;

(3) Since the time of the 1st Century Church, we know that baptism was required before a person could sit in a worship service or partake of communion. By the 3rd Century baptisteries were located at the entrance to the church doors. We do not believe that anyone (including an infant) should have to wait to be included as a member of the faith family in a local church.

When baptizing an infant or young child, baptism by immersion is considered unsafe to the child. Therefore, baptism is done by **sprinkling** or **pouring** in these circumstances.

For Discussion / Thought:

⇒ Why do other faith traditions baptize infants?

⇒ **Why do we baptize infants?**

- Read: Acts 10:1-8, 30-36, 44-48.
- Read: Mark 10:14-16

5. Immersion: Baptism by immersion is also practiced in the United Methodist Church. However, many churches do not have baptisteries. They choose to use the \$3,000 - \$8,000 to construct a baptistery for other ministry space needs or for missions, believing that God’s grace is not limited by the amount of water used and that Sprinkling, or Pouring are acceptable alternatives.

The biblical foundation for baptism by immersion is based on the imagery used in Paul’s teaching in Romans 6:1-14.

-- Read Romans 6:1-14.

As mentioned earlier, baptism by immersion is not practical when baptizing infants. Also, in cold climate areas churches that baptize by immersion and do not had the finances to construct a baptistery often wait until summer months to perform baptisms in a nearby lake.

We believe that people should not have to wait months to be baptized. Baptism by sprinkling or pouring makes it possible to baptize year-round, even though many of our churches are not located in desert climates.

HANDOUT WEEK #4: WHAT IS COMMUNION?

Names for Communion:

The Lord's Supper – We are reminded that Jesus was the first to initiate this supper.

Communion – a time of intimate sharing, making us one with Jesus and part of his body, the church.

The Eucharist – literally means, "Thanksgiving."

Major Views About Communion:

1. Memorial View: Believes that we take communion to remember Christ's death and that Christ died for us.
2. Transubstantiation: Believes that the bread and wine physically become the body and blood of Christ.
3. Consubstantiation: Believes that "...during the sacrament, the fundamental substance of the body and blood of Christ are present alongside the substance of bread and wine, which remains present."⁶

Methods of Communion:

1. Silver Tray with individual cups and cubes of bread.
2. Intinction, also called "The Common Cup."

Questions About Communion?:

- Can children receive communion? Read: Mark 10:14-15.
- May non-United Methodists receive communion?
- Why does the United Methodist Church use grape juice and not wine?
- Why does the minister and worship team partake of communion before everyone else?

Review: Communion Brochure

Review: Joyner, United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Beliefs – Chap. 7 – section about communion.

⁶ www.theopedia.com/consubstantiation .

Handout Week #4: CYCLE OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

Advent
(4 weeks, including 4 Sundays)

Christmas
Common Time /
Kingdomtide

Ascension Sunday
Epiphany
(50 days after Easter)

Lent
- (Ash Wed.)
Easter
Pentecost Sunday
(40 days after Easter)

Advent:

- Color: Purple = Royalty or Royal Blue = holy night of Christ's birth.
- 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays.
- From the Latin, "adventus," which means "coming."**
- Proclaims the comings of the Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings.*

Epiphany Sunday:

- Color: White = Holiness / Purity
- The day of Epiphany is January 6.
- Epiphany deals with beginnings. At the beginning of Jesus' life it marks the coming of the wise men, who were the first non-Jewish people to worship the Son of God. It also commemorates Jesus' baptism and the beginning of Jesus' ministry.**
- Epiphany: "Aha!" moments; a "seeing the light"; moments of experiencing God.

Epiphany (cont'd.):

- Symbols of light such as the star of Bethlehem are commonly used at Epiphany. People will say they have had an “epiphany,” which means they have “*seen the light!*”

Season of Epiphany:

- Color: Green – the color of vegetation and, therefore, of growth. In the spring, new life begins to grow. The color green reminds us of the triumph of spring over winter, of life over death, of new beginnings.**
- Includes 4 to 9 Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. It stands between the cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost.

Transfiguration Sunday:

- Color: White – Purity / Holiness
- The last Sunday before Lent begins.
- We remember Christ’s transfiguration on the mountain with Elijah and Moses.

Ash Wednesday:

- Color: Black – Sin and death; hopelessness; despair.
- The first day of Lent.

Lent:

- Color: Purple – penitence; sorrow for our sins. Also reminds us that Christ is the King of kings.
- 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (the Saturday before Easter Sunday).
- “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, “lencten,” which means “spring.”
- “Holy Week”: Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday); Good Friday; Holy Saturday.

Page 3 of 3
Handout Week #4: Cycle of the Christian Year

Easter Sunday:

- Color: White – Holiness / Purity
- Celebrates the resurrection of Christ; new life; forgiveness of sins made possible; Restored relationship with God made available. Christianity and Judaism are the only world religions that serves a living God!

Easter Season:

- Color: White – Holiness/Purity
- The “Easter Season” is known as “The Great 50 days.” It begins on the evening Of Easter Day and continues through the Day of Pentecost.
 - Ascension Sunday: 40 days after Easter. Celebrates the ascension of Christ.

Pentecost Sunday:

- Color: Red – Holy Spirit; flames like tongues of fire that descended on the apostles.
- The last Sunday of Easter Season.
- Celebrates God’s gift of the Holy Spirit: God’s offer to be present IN us.

Kingdomtide / Common Time:

- Color: Green – growth; new life; new beginnings.
- After Pentecost Sunday until the first Sunday of Advent (23-28 Sundays).
- This is a time where we focus on growth in God’s grace, and on building God’s Kingdom.

* The United Methodist Book of Worship. Nashville, TN: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1992.

** Zinkiewicz, Crystal A., Senior Editor. Claim the Name Confirmation Teaching Plans. Nashville, TN: Cokesbury Publishers, 2000.

WEEK #5 – FACILITATOR NOTES:

Recommended Supplies:

- Booklet for Each Class Member: Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, 2009-2012.
- Prep. for Next Week: Set out various brochures on ministries of the Oklahoma Annual Conference, and world-wide ministries of the United Methodist Church (ie: Circle of Care Newsletter, Circle of Care brochure, UMCOR brochure, CJAMM brochure, CJAMM Newsletter, United Methodist Education info., Camp Ministries, etc.) (Many of these brochures can be picked up at Annual Conference at the display booths.) Class members will have the opportunity to choose one or more brochures and present highlights at next week's class of what that ministry does.

1. Social Principles:

- Review the Social Principles.
- Note: There is a guide for teaching the Social Principles at back of Booklet, pp. 49-61.
- Read together: Our Social Creed, p. 47.

2. Reading for Next Week:

- Remind class members to read Joyner, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 7 for next week.
- Invite class members to each take at least one brochure on a ministry of the United Methodist Church, read it, and be prepared to present highlights on that area of ministry at next week's class.

3. Closing:

Read together: A Companion Litany to our Social Creed, p. 48.

WEEK #6 – FACILITATOR NOTES:

Recommended Supplies:

- Handouts for Week #6: District/Conference/General Church Level Committees
- The United Methodist Book of Discipline
- The United Methodist Book of Resolutions
- Brochures / Newsletters about United Methodist Ministries in Oklahoma Conference and World-wide.
- Apportionment DVD (from Conference Office)
- Find out the amount paid by your local church for Apportionments last year: _____
- Joyner, Jr., F. Belton. United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

1. The United Methodist Book of Discipline:

- Give brief overview of contents of the United Methodist Book of Discipline.
- Review Chapter 13 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

2. The United Methodist Book of Resolution:

Give brief overview of contents of the United Methodist Book of Resolution. You may want to choose 1 or 2 items in this book to highlight and use as examples of the types of issues it addresses.

3. General Church Organization:

- a. Local Churches: Lay members and clergy from the Local Churches may be elected to serve on committees at the District and/or Conference level.
- b. District Committees: The Oklahoma Annual Conference is divided into 12 Districts. A District Superintendent is appointed to each district to oversee those churches. Each district also has a lay person who serves as a District Lay Leader. A district might have committees such as the following: (see Handout for Week #6).
- c. Conference Boards & Committees: A Bishop serves over each Annual Conference. The State of Oklahoma is an Annual Conference. The 12 District Superintendents serve together with the Bishop to form "The Cabinet." Class members may want to go to the Conference Website to learn more: www.okumc.org . The Oklahoma Annual Conference has the following boards, committees, and ministries: (see Handout for Week #6).
- d. General Conference: A world-wide General Conference is held once every 4 years. Clergy and lay delegates are elected by each Annual Conference to attend the General Conference with power of vote on behalf of that Annual Conference. Any United

Page 2 of 2
Week #6: Facilitator Notes

Methodist church member may submit a request for revision to the Book of Discipline at the next General Conference except in regards to our history and doctrinal beliefs.

- Discuss: Chapter 13 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.
- Class Members Present Mission/Ministries of the Oklahoma Annual Conference and the world-wide United Methodist Church:

Invite each class member to share highlights from the area of mission or ministry for which they picked up a brochure last week. Class members who were not present last week may choose a brochure, quickly read it over, and give highlights.

4. Apportionments:

- Bishop Robert Hayes reminds us that apportionments are “a portion meant for others.”
- Show DVD about Apportionments (previously available from Conference Office).
- Tell what this local church gave in apportionments last year. Explain how your local church funds its apportionments.
- Connectionalism: The United Methodist Church is a “connectional church.” This includes apportionment-giving. By paying its apportionments every church (large and small helps make mission and ministry possible that otherwise could never happen). Through apportionment giving, our local church gives beyond our walls and beyond our local community.

5. Itineracy of Pastors: In the United Methodist Church pastors are not called by local congregations, they are appointed (sent) by the Bishop to the charge they are to serve. Some discussion may be given to explain a 2- and 3-point charge.

- Review pp. 115-116 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

6. Review: Chapter 6 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

7. Reading for Next Week: Encourage class members to read Chapters 4, and 8-11 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers for next week.

WEEK #7 – FACILITATOR NOTES:

Recommended Supplies:

- Handout for Week #6: District and Conference Level Committees
- Handout: Local Church List of teams (committees), Team Leaders (Chairs), and Team (Committee) Members for current year.
- Handout: “Opportunities to Serve Survey” – *(If you do not already have one for your local church you might take this opportunity to prepare one.)*
- Handout: Copies of District Committees
- Handout: Copies of Annual Conference Committees (found at back of previous Annual Conference Delegate Workbook)
- The United Methodist Book of Discipline
- The United Methodist Book of Resolutions
- Brochures / Newsletters about United Methodist Ministries in Oklahoma Conference and World-wide.
- Apportionment DVD (from Conference Office)
- Joyner, Jr., F. Belton. United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

1. What is Membership?

Discuss meaning of membership vows:

- Prayers
- Presence
- Gifts
- Service
- Witness

2. Local Church Structure

- Hand out: the list of your local church teams, team leaders, and team members. Explain the basic responsibilities and involvement with the mission of the church that each team has.
- Hand out: “Opportunities to Serve” Survey. Invite Class members to complete it and turn it in before leaving class at end of session.
- Discuss: Chapters 4, 8 & 9 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

3. Opportunities to Serve: District and Conference

- Handout: Handout: Copies of District Committees. Give brief overview.
- Handout: Copies of Annual Conference Committees (found at back of previous Annual Conference Delegate Workbook). Give brief overview.

Page 2 of 2
Week #7 – Facilitator’s Notes

- If a class member has interest in serving at the district or conference level, they should inform the pastor, lay leader, or someone on the Lay Leadership Team so that their name may be submitted to the appropriate person.

4. Other Topics of Interest:

Discuss Chapters 10 & 11 of United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers.

5. Questions & Discussion:

Invite class members to ask any questions they may have, or topics that they would like to discuss.

LOCAL CHURCHES

EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE DISTRICT COMMITTEES

Distr. Missions Committee	Distr. Committee of Ministry	Distr. Finance Committee	Distr. Parsonage Committee	District Summer Camps	Dist. Committee on Church Loctn & Bldg.
Distr. Superintendency Committee	District Trustees Committee	District Youth Council	District Nominations Team	District Committee on Lay Speaking	District Scholarships

EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE CONFERENCE BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Oklahoma Conference: Bishop + 12 District Superintendents
District Lay Leaders

Oklahoma Annual Conference Website: www.okumg.org

CJAMM (Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries)	Conf. Board of Ministry	Conf. V.I.M. (Vol. in Mission)	Conf. Board of Youth Ministries
Conf. Pension & Benefits Office	Conf. Communications Division	Circle of Care	Conf. Commission on the Status & Role of Women (COSROW)
Oklahoma City University	Camp Ministries <i>(Egan, Canyon, Cross Point)</i>	Campus Ministries	Conf. Committee on Investigation
Conf. Equitable Compensation Committee	Episcopacy Committee	Conf. Board of Dependencies	

GENERAL CONFERENCE

(Meets once every four years)

Website: www.umc.org

In between General Conferences:

General Board Committees are accountable to the "Connectional Table" (the Bishops).

General Commission
on Archives & History

General Commission
on United Methodist Men

General Commission
on Communication

General Commission
on Christian Unity &
Interreligious Concerns

General Commission
on Religion & Race

General Commission
on the Status & Role
of Women

General Board
of Church & Society

General Board
of Discipleship

General Board of
Global Ministries

General Board
of Higher Educ. & Ministry

General Council
on Finance & Admin.

Cokesbury
Publishing

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

SESSION I: OUTLINE

BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH--DOCTRINE & THE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE

1. Introductions & Overview
 - identifying our objectives

2. God-belief and terminology
 - monotheists vs. poly-theists

 - theology

 - doctrine / paradox / heresy

 - trinity (Trinitarian vs. Unitarian)

3. Creeds
 - Apostles'

 - Nicene

 - Others

4. Inspired Scriptures
 - authorship of books

 - dates of writings

 - original languages

 - canon (list) of books in the bible

 - translations

RESOURCES

1. Church History in Plain Language, Bruce Shelly
2. A History of Christian Theology, William Placher
3. A Short History of Christianity, Martin Marty
4. Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, Richard Wilkie

SESSION I: NOTES

(numbers correspond with outline)

1. A class roster will be available next session for learning names.
-thanks for using name tags
2. Mono (one) -theist (god) -- (Gk. Term) thought is from Hebrew tradition

Poly (many) -theist (god) - (Gk. Term) thought from Greek tradition

Theology (Gk. Term): god-thoughts

Trinity (three expressions of one God)
3. The Apostles' Creed is believed to be an early baptismal ritual. Exact origin unknown. The Nicene Creed resulted in the Council of Nicaea, 325 A.D. (*anno domini*: the year of our Lord).
(In some modern biblical commentaries, the letters "A.D." are exchanged for C.E. (the Common Era). It is the same time period being referred to by different names.)
-there were two issues at hand in the development of the Nicene Creed:
 - 1- that Jesus Christ is "begotten," not made; thus he is Creator, not the 'created'
 - 2- Jesus Christ and God are of 'one' essence, not 'two'
Chalcedon Creed resulted from the Council of Chalcedon, 451 A.D. (*pronounced KAL-see-don*)
-at issue here was the nature Jesus Christ; the conclusion was that he has two natures, both human and divine ("... of one substance with the Father as touching the Godhead, of one substance with us as touching the manhood . . . , born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God . . . , to be acknowledged in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation" (Placher, p. 84)
4. The Bible (a collection of books) as we know it, was put together in the 4th Century by Athanasius (*ath-an-A-shus*)
-Old Testament was written in Hebrew; New Testament written in *koine* (*coin-A*, or common) Greek

-Roman Catholic church had the scriptures in Latin (the Vulgate translation) for many centuries.

-the bible was not available to the masses in the people's language until Martin Luther translated it into German in the 16th century.

-also in the 16th century, came the invention of movable type, i.e. the printing press, allowing mass production of bibles for the first time.

-English translations followed with William Tyndale and John Wycliffe, who suffered persecution for doing the translations.

-the Catholic Bible has an extra section called the Apocrypha (means 'hidden,' *a-POCK-crif-fa*). Protestants generally follow Luther's belief that the Apocrypha has value for reading and learning, but is not authoritative (not inspired of God), thus is not equal in value to the rest of the scriptures.

SESSION II: OUTLINE

BASIC CHRISTIAN BELIEFS-HOW THE CHURCH WAS FORMED

2. Review Session I (plus subjects not covered in Session I)

-apocrypha

-Septuagint

-early translations

-Luther's contribution

-early English translations

-modern translations

2. The Formation of the Church

-Roman Empire

-Eastern & Western Church

3. Sacraments

-originally two

-Roman church increased to seven

-Protestants (beginning with Luther) reduced again to two

Other Resources

2. Church History in Plain Language, Bruce Shelly
3. A History of Christian Theology, William Placher
4. A Short History of Christianity, Martin Marty
5. Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, Richard Wilkie

NOTES FOR SESSION II (numbers correspond with Session II Outline)

1. Review of Session I

OLD TESTAMENT

-**Torah**: law, also Pentateuch (PEN-ta-TOOK), refers to the first 5 books of Old Testament

-**Major Prophets** (Josh., Jdgs., 1-2 Sam., Isaiah, Jer., Ezek.)

-**Minor Prophets** (The Twelve)

-**The Writings** (remainder of our O.T., plus other books later rejected by Jews)

-by the time of Christ, the “**Law and the Prophets**” were considered scripture

-final Canon (list) of O.T. scripture set around the end of the 1st Century at Council of Jamnia

-**Septuagint** (sept-TOO-a-gent): a.k.a. LXX (the seventy translators), a Greek translation of the Old Testament, probably completed around 132 B.C. It contains some books later rejected by Jews at Council of Jamnia. These rejected books are now called the

apocrypha

(hidden).

-**Vulgate** (meaning common): a translation by St. Jerome, late 4th century A.D., by order of Pope Damasus. It was the earliest translation into Latin, translating from both the Septuagint (Greek) for the N.T. and the original Hebrew for the O.T. It also standardized some discrepancies in text between the Hebrew O. T. and the Septuagint.

NEW TESTAMENT

-canon was first suggested by Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt in 4th century, later formally fixed at Rome in 382 A.D. (*anno domini*: year of our Lord) (also C.E.: Christ Era)

-**King James Version** (Authorized Version): authorized, 1611 by King James I of England

-unauthorized versions were illegal, a crime punishable by death

-Tyndale (1525) & Wycliffe (1300s) suffered persecution for their English translations

-it was simply unthinkable that lay persons should be entrusted with Holy Scriptures

2. The Formation of “the Church”

One organized “church” first came to be when the Roman Emperor Constantine (325 A.D.) was converted to Christianity, making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

The Western church (Rome) and Eastern (Orthodox) split in the 11th century.

There was but one western church (Roman Catholic) until Luther’s protestant reformation of the 16th century.

The Church of England also formed in the 16th century, as King Henry VIII severed ties with the Roman papacy, making himself the head of the Church of England.

3. Sacraments (sacred moments)

For the first 12 or 13 centuries, two sacraments were observed: communion and baptism.

At the Council of Trent (1545-63) Roman Catholics added 5 others: Confirmation, Ordination, Marriage, Penance, and Extreme Unction (last rites).

Luther reduced the list back to two: baptism and holy communion. Most protestant churches follow Luther’s lead.

A Chronological Development of the Holy Bible

Hebrew Scriptures

- Old Testament Scrolls Written Over Period of Several Cent.
- Septuagint (LXX) Translated 2nd Cent. B.C.
-Hebrew script. trans. into Greek
- Apocrypha (hidden) Scrolls written mostly 3rd Centuries B.C.
- Hebrew Canon (official list) Established 1st Cent. A.D.
-Council of Jamnia, 90 A.D.
-some books rejected-became the Apocrypha

Christian Scriptures

- Gospels, Letters, etc. written 1st Cent. A.D.
- Gnostic Gospels written 2nd & 3rd Cent. A.D.
- New Testament canon suggested by Athanasius 4th Cent.
-Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt
- Vulgate Translation (Latin version of O.T. and N.T.) 4th Cent. A.D.
-trans. By Jerome, by order of Pope Damacus
- Early English Trans. by John Wycliff 14th Cent.
-illegal, was persecuted
- Roman Church established scriptures canon 16th Cent.
-Septuagint (including apocrypha) for O.T.
-Athanasius' list for the N.T.
- Luther's German Translation 16th Cent.
-was unauthorized, was defrocked
-declared the apocrypha "okay to read, but not authoritative"
- Invention of movable type (Guetenberg) 16th Cent.
-hence the printing press (the first books)
-printed first Guetenberg Bibles
- Tyndale English Version 16th Cent.
-unauthorized, was persecuted.
- King James Version (Authorized Version) 17th Cent.
- Revised Standard Version 1940s
- Multiple modern translations 1960s to present

What evidence remains today?

- The oldest surviving scripture is a fragment of the Gospel of John, dated 125 A.D. (*papyri)
- Next oldest fragments of Matt., Mark, John date about 200 A.D.
- First complete copy of Greek New Testament (Codex Sinaiticus) is dated 4th cent.
-No two copies are exactly alike (hand written)
- There are 5,000 Greek manuscripts (copies) containing all or part of the N.T.

- There is more manuscript evidence for the bible than for all classical literature combined!

*Parchment was made from animal skins

Papyrus is the predecessor to modern paper, made from Egyptian reeds, hammered together in crisscross pattern

Session IV Outline:

“How Do Things Work In This Church?”

3. Mission Statement
2. Ministry Structure at FUMC (see attached sheet)
 - Ministry Purposes
 - Team vs. Committee
 - New for 2010
3. Three types of church polity (government)
4. Philosophy of leadership vs. authority
5. Role of the pastor
6. Accountability
7. Church Property
8. The Connection
 - a. How pastors and churches are put together (appointments)
 - b. The Charge Conference (Grove)
 - c. The District Conference (B^hville)
 - d. The Annual Conference (Oklahoma City in late May)
 - e. The Jurisdictional Conference (met summer '08)
 - f. General Conference (met summer '08)
 - g. *The Book of Discipline 2008*
 - h. *The Book of Social Principles 2008*
 - i. Pastor's Membership & Connectional Responsibilities
9. Local Church History
10. Pastor's Personal History (also addressed at Lunch w/ Pastor)
11. Church Staff

Resources:

[The Book of Discipline of the UMC, 2008, 2004](#)

[The Book of Resolutions of the UMC](#)

[The Book of Social Principles](#)

[The United Methodist Book of Worship](#)

[The United Methodist Hymnal](#)

[Journal of the Oklahoma Conference, 2008](#)

GROVE FUMC STAFF

Beginning

Date

Rev. Randall R. Hamill, senior pastor	full time	06-2000
Rev. Barbara Plank, pastor partner church Jay		01-2010
Dr. Richard Dayringer, care minister	part time	01-2004
Randy Mathews, dir. of youth ministries	full time	10-2002
Steve Carroll, comtemp. music & Bldg. Supt.	full time	04-2002
Teddi Herr, dir. of communications	part time	2006
Shirley Talley, assistant to the pastor	part time	2007
Judy Kimmel, dir. of children's ministries	part time	02-2004
Nancy Lungren, dir. of music	part time	1987
Nancy Flowers, pianist	¼	Fall, 2002
Terrie Wimer, office mgr.	¾	07-2009
Lavinda Holcomb, Treas./Financial Sec.	¾	06-2001

Evelyn Porter, nursery supt. 1998 **hourly**

Erin Thomas, nursery assist.	hourly	2008
Angie Whitmer, nursery assist.	hourly	2009
Paula Honeyman, dir. Heritage	full time	09-2002
Aura Rodriguez, assistant custodian	part time	2009
Israel Rodriquez, custodial	hourly	2008
Numerous Heritage staff	some full time, some not	

Senior pastor is the only person "appointed" by the bishop of the Oklahoma Conferenc
 -all others are employed directly by the SPRC

Staff needs/concerns are guided by the SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee).
 -staff policy, compensation, and job descriptions are set by the SPRC
 -staff work at the direction of the senior pastor

Financial needs/concerns are handled by the Finance Committee.
 Property care and issues are administered by the Board of Trustees.
 The Endowment Fund is administered by the Endowment Committee.
 Nursery Policy is designed by the Nursery Committee.
 General financial management is accomplished through discussions by the ExecAdvisory Group with the pastor, who makes recommendation for approval to administrative committees and the Church Council.

Notes for Session IV

1. The Mission of GFUMC is *"Making Disciples for Jesus Christ by **Building Christian community where the love of God is freely shared, the gospel of Jesus Christ is clearly encountered, and the power of the Holy Spirit transforms life.***

2. Ministry Structure

Ministry Work Areas are designated "Teams." (these carry out the main purposes of the church)

Administrative Work Areas are designated "committees." (these exist to support the teams in ministry purposes)

Ministry Teams

Pearl Walters	Evangelism Team leader
Bonnie Courtney	Worship Team leader
Sherry Tate	Youth Ministry Team leader
Debra Facio	Children's Ministry Team leader
Sandra Miller	Adult Ministry Team
Milton & Ellen Schmidt.....	Missions Team leaders
Kathy Baker_	Family Life Team leader
Bill Price	Lay Leader & Lay Speaker Team
Karon Wheat	United Methodist Women pres.
Warren Brumley	United Methodist Men pres.
John Swartz	Scouting Representative
Dr. Richard Dayringer	Lay Care Ministry

Administration

Bev Bradley	Church Council chair
Coleman Darby	Board of Trustees chair
Mekala Smith	Nursery Committee chair
Barry Denney	Lay Member of OK Conference (our voting delegate)
John Miller	Finance Committee chair
_____	Memorial Committee, chair

Terrie Wimer **Recording Secretary/Church Council Secretary**

Gerry Ransbottom	Endowment Committee chair
Charlie Shaw	Staff-Parish Relations Committee chair
Geneva Listen I	Membership Secretary/Office Mgr.
Lavinda Holcomb (staff)	Treasurer

3. Church Polity Types for matching pastors and churches

5. Congregational (the most democratic, where everyone has vote)
6. Presbyterian (a representative group makes decision for the whole)

7. Episcopal (a bishop or episcopal leader appoints pastors)
 - the UMC has this polity

4. Leadership vs. Authority
 - true authority to lead is given by the people, that is, those who choose to follow

5. Role of the Pastor
 - ordained for preaching/teaching the **word**, administering the **sacraments** (communion and baptism), and **order** (ordering the ministry and administrative life of the church).

6. Everyone in leadership roles have accountability, including the pastor.

7. Church Property
 - in the UMC, all real property is held in trust by the local church for the Annual Conference of which they are a part. For us, that is Oklahoma Conference (the whole geographical state of OK).

8. Connection
 6. Pastors and churches (appointments, explained above)
 7. The **Charge Conference** (a local church(es) under one pastor's appointment is considered a pastoral 'charge.' Each 'charge' will meet at least once per year with the Dist. Supt. for reporting (accountability), setting the salary of the appointed clergy, and electing officers and leaders for the coming year. A Charge Conference is also required for real estate transactions or large building projects.
 8. There are twelve districts in Oklahoma, each with a Dist. Supt., an extended arm of the bishop. The **Dist. Conf.** must meet at least once per year to approve a budget, elect officers, give accountability.
 9. The **Annual Conference** is the whole state of OK, made up of the twelve districts. The Annual Conference must meet a least once per year, to give accountability, set a budget, elect leaders, ordain new clergy, distribute the pastoral appointments for the new conference year.
 10. The **Jurisdictional Conference** meets every four years to elect bishops and make episcopal assignments.
 - delegates are elected at the various annual conferences, both lay and clergy
 2. **General Conference** is the official governing body of the denomination. It meets every four years to consider petitions from local churches, establish legislation, establish a budget, elect certain leaders, establish 'Social Principles.'
 3. The **Book of Discipline** is the official rule book of the denomination and is re-published following each General Conference.
 4. **Book of Social Principles** derives from General Conference and is also re-published following each General Conference.

5. Ordained pastors are Members of the Oklahoma Annual Conference, not members of the local church (although their family members are). The aggregate of the ordained clergy of the OK Annual Conference serve as a covenant family for clergy and have regular Meetings of the Orders for building relationships and shared learning. They also share various conference and district responsibilities beyond the local church. My responsibilities include: Chair of the Board of Directors at NEO A&M campus ministry in Miami; serve on the District Visioning Team; serving as Mentor for three aspiring ministerial candidates.

9. Church History: Grove FUMC was once located downtown in the current Grace Presbyterian Church building. The FUMC relocated in 1983, building the main part of the present building. It was added to in the early 1990s. The new parsonage was built in about 1994-5. West Wing was completed in 2005. The north acreage was purchased in about 2007.

10. Pastor's Personal History

Pastor is 'second career,' having spent the first twenty years post college (B.S., OSU, '74) in farming & ranching. He and Debra lived on their farm near Big Cabin, OK until 1995. He was appointed as a lay pastor (part-time local pastor) in 1983 while still farming full time, and also began seminary at Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa campus, in the fall of 1988, graduating with Masters of Divinity, magna cum laude in 1994. He received his first full-time, itinerant appointment in June, 1995 at FUMC, Locust Grove, OK and was ordained Elder in 1996, then was appointed to Grove FUMC in June, 2000. The Hamills are very happy in Grove and would be pleased to invest all of their ministry years here. Ordained clergy are required to retire at age 72. The pastor is age 58.

11. Church Staff (listed on back of outline)

Session V Outline:

How Can I Get Involved In This Church?

(questions/discussion are encouraged throughout the session)

1. Partnering Around the World---We're a "Connectional" Church
 - through shared giving (apportionments)
 - through joint efforts of education (colleges and universities book)
 - through jointly owned property (four institutions owned by our South Central Jurisdiction):

- Oklahoma City University (OKC)
- Southern Methodist University (Dallas)
- St. Paul's School of Theology (KC, MO.)
- Mt. Sequoyah Retreat Center (Fayetteville, AR)

2. Partnering with Our Local Church Family -- 2010 New Plans

Ministry Development -- Programming

- completion of the Long-Range Plan for Ministry (5-10 yr. ministry development plan)
- re-evaluate the configuration of worship services (implement any changes)
- develop a Child Share—a coordinated ministry of support to foster families in Delaware Co.
- develop a system of leadership training church-wide
- develop plans for a Mission Trip to Honduras in Spring, 2011
- develop plans to implement a church-wide stewardship development/personal financial mgt. training

Property/Facility Development -- Administration

- upgrading sanctuary décor (paint, acoustical treatment, other)
- design/develop a sand volleyball court and fire pit (for rec. and fellowship)
- retiring the last debt on the West Wing (less than \$13K)
- develop an Emergency Response Plan for all property and people
- develop a Master Site plan for total property

3. Serving with Your Abilities and Interests ---"Joy Through Humble Service"
 - includes ministry tasks-- serving the needs within the church
 - includes mission tasks—serving the needs of those outside the church (local and beyond)

4. Sharing Your Financial Gifts

- philosophy of Christian stewardship (cultivate joy in giving; not just fund-raising)
- what is expected of you as a member: proportional giving
- what you will receive as communication: statements of giving

5. Shared Commitment with the Pastor

- pastor & parish (church family) are in covenant relation of mutual support & care, ministry & mission
- pastor and family are committed to this church and community, short term, long term (per the appointive process)

NEW COMERS CLASS: SESSION VI

(questions/discussion are encouraged throughout the session)

1. Plans for continuation of this group into an on-going class?
2. Do you wish to become members of the church? As a group?
 - the Baptism & Membership Form
 - appointment with pastor?
3. Will you attend the Lunch w/ Pastor today at noon?
4. Class Evaluation
5. Other feedback

Thank you for your participation in this class. You are a blessing and an encouragement to us. If you wish to become a member of the church, please let us know your desire. We can visit personally to address any particular concerns/needs you may have. We want to make this a special time for you.

God bless your continued learning and growth in Christ,

Pastor Randy & Bill Price

Available Handouts

1. Pic. Directory ('07)
2. Church Brochure
3. Sunday School booklet "At A Glance"
4. Ministry Interest Survey
5. Baptism & Membership Form
6. Other

NEW MEMBER CLASS: HALF DAY FORMAT

*By James Lambert
For Use At: Willow View UMC*

James has made this material available with the proviso that he does not actually use this format any more. Willow View UMC has 210 for average worship attendance. The half-day format worked great for some people, but now James feels that it tried to accomplish too much at one time. He plans to separate those elements into different events. This year he plans to have “Willow View Welcome,” which will likely use Lessons 1 and 3, along with a physical tour of the church building. Lesson 2 will be taught in a separate, more-in-dept study of Methodism later in the year. Lesson 4 will just wait for a “Talk with the Pastor” session when individuals are ready. Current plans are to start with an experience that is “lighter” and more focused on getting people comfortable with the church, rather than eliciting a commitment.

The Lessons are found in the pages that follow.

Willow View 101 (James 1-day version)
Session 1

THEME: Jesus

TITLE: What Does It Mean To Claim The Name Christian?

Preparation:

For all classes:

Have flip chart or marker board available

Have a supply of pens available

Welcome:
(1 minute)

Leader greets the group and opens with light prayer.

Attendance:
(3 minutes)

Have class fill out registration forms and turn them in.

Introduction:
(6 minutes)

Leader begins with opening comments:

- Who I am (1 min.)
- About this class:

When we come to a new church things are always different from our old church or from having no church at all. We often don't realize the expectations we carry with us from previous church experiences, and how that affects how we perceive our new church and how we live out our Christian life there.

Willow View, like every church, is unique and we want you to embrace our uniqueness, always striving to change and to be better tomorrow than we are today, but to appreciate who we are.

The purpose of our Membership Class is to give you an understanding of the basic beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church and of Willow View United Methodist Church.

*Session 1 – What Does It Mean To Claim
The Name Christian?*

Session 2 – About Being United Methodist

Session 3 – The Ministries of Willow View

Session 4 – Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service & Witness

- Duration – explain that we will take some time for food and fellowship (12 to 12:30) and continue till around 3:30 p.m., with a break or two.

Table talk:

12:30 (10 minutes) Leader says, “Turn to your table group and take a few minutes to meet each other. Please share with each other:

- Your name
- Where you live
- About your family
- What brought you to WVUMC
- What brought you to this class

You have 10 minutes. Go ahead.”

Lesson:

12:40

(10 minutes)

We claim the name Christian because of Jesus Christ. But what if someone had never heard of him? What would you tell that person about the One whose name we claim?

What did you see last time you watched the news? What types of behavior do you see in your place of work? Does humanity need a savior? Do we personally need a savior?

Read Romans 6:23. Ask the group what they think the Scripture means.

Most people use the words sin and sins interchangeably to refer to harmful actions and results. That's OK, but sin comes from a deeper problem. One way to think about the differences between sin and sins is like being sick. If you have a fever, it is a symptom of the illness. The sins we experience are the symptoms of sin – being out of right relationship with God.

The good news is that God doesn't give up on us. God gave humanity the power to choose. But even when we chose something other than God to be our center, God still continues to work in our lives to help us be in right relationship with God. God sent our Savior, Jesus Christ, to make that possible.

Optional Extra

Read I Peter 2:22-25. What do these verses mean?

Testimony:

(A guest testimony may be substituted here.)

12:50

(5 minutes)

By His wounds I am healed. Every Christian has a unique testimony. Some of us can point to a clear place and time when we accepted Christ and were born again, crossing over from death into life. Others of us remember always believing, but growing slowly in understanding. My own testimony is more like the latter. I grew up going to church, with my dad teaching Sunday school and my mom always encouraging me to pray. I knew God was real and I did not doubt the things I heard about Jesus. But for most of my young life I really didn't get what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. I read the Bible out of curiosity but not really out of spiritual hunger. I thought my friends who were really into God were kinda strange. It took watching one friend of mine have his life completely transformed for me to realize what Jesus was really all about, and that I too needed transformation. Just being relatively good wasn't enough, and even believing certain things about God wasn't enough. God wanted to be at the center of my life, to be in personal relationship with me. In confirmation class as a middle school kid, I affirmed the basic Christian truths about Jesus, and claimed his name for myself, but my understanding was very limited. Through high school it slowly grew, especially when some friends of mine organized a weekly Bible study with youth from various churches. When I attended church camp for the first time the summer before my senior year in high school, God spoke to me very clearly, and I saw in the lives of the counselors there and the message of the preaching and the music that being a Christian was a full time calling, and that God wanted all of me. I can't say for sure if there was a time before which I wasn't a Christian and after which I was, but I do know that since that summer I have been walking with God and my whole perspective on the world has been different. Here at Willow View, and in the Methodist church in general, we know there are many kinds of testimonies, some being dramatic, and others gradual. But we hope that at the center of all our stories will be the same God, revealed in his Son Jesus Christ, making us new each day.

I pray that as you are involved at Willow View, God will use us to strengthen each other, and transform us all more fully into who He wants us to be.

Here in a moment we will be moving on to discuss some things that are distinctive about Methodism. Please know that both me and Pastor Lesly are available to you to talk whenever you want about your own faith journey or anything else you may be curious about.

Move to session 2 @ 1:00

Willow View 101
REGISTRATION

Today's date ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Cell phone _____ Email _____

Occupation _____

Birth day ____/____/____ Marital Status: _____ Single
_____ Married
_____ Divorced
_____ Widowed

Name of Spouse, if married _____

Children	Gender	Birth day
_____	M / F	____/____/____
_____	M / F	____/____/____
_____	M / F	____/____/____
_____	M / F	____/____/____

What brought you to WVUMC? _____

What brought you to the Membership Class? _____

If you have been involved with other churches before please list them: _____

Membership Class

Session 2

THEME: United Methodist Basics

TITLE: About Being United Methodist

Preparation:

Have "About Being United Methodist" booklets available

For all classes:
Have flip chart or marker board available
Have a supply of pens available

Welcome:
(1 minute)

Leader greets the group and opens with light prayer.

Attendance:
(3 minutes)

Take Attendance

Welcome and Recap
(1 minute)

Last week we looked at the importance of Jesus and what it means to claim the name of Christian. Last week you heard my story and about the need for us and all of humanity of a Savior.

Introduction:
(2 minutes)

Some beliefs are unique to Christians. They are things that make us Christian – rather than Jewish, Muslim, or Buddhist. In order to be Christian we need to believe these things. As Christians, United Methodists share these beliefs.

Some other emphases are unique to United Methodists. In these areas our beliefs may be somewhat different from those of other Christians (Catholics, Presbyterians, Baptists, etc.)

Table talk:

1:02 (7 minutes) Leader says, "If you are coming from a different denomination during your time at Willow View what have you noticed is different than the denomination from which you are coming?"

Lesson:
1:10 (25 minutes)

And there are some areas where we honestly disagree – even within the Christian faith and within the UMC. As United Methodists we encourage people to be respectful of one another in our differences but also open to continuing to learn.

John Wesley gave us a particular way to approach belief, which can help us discern God’s will and direction for our lives. That way is referred to as the “Wesleyan Quadrilateral.”

Scripture: the Bible, our starting point -- the most important

Tradition: what Christians have agreed on for the last 2000 years – our heritage of faith.

Experience: what we know to be true from our own lives and faith, especially our experience with God.

Reason: our God-given ability to think.

So what are some unique aspects of our theology and practice?

I want us to quickly look at four.

- 1. Primacy of grace**
- 2. Faith and Good Works**
- 3. One baptism**
- 4. Itinerant Ministers and Connectionalism**

Primacy of Grace:

Grace is simply this: God’s undeserved love for you and for me.

Methodists lead with grace, not with judgment. Now it’s not that we don’t believe there will be a judgment, but it’s that we don’t lead with judgment. We believe that’s what Jesus did throughout his ministry. This offering of grace is best seen in the story of the woman caught in adultery found in John 8. This idea of free grace doesn’t lead us to ask, “Who is my neighbor?” Rather we ask, “Who isn’t my neighbor?”

John Wesley had an understanding of grace that included different types of grace. Prevenient Grace – the grace that comes before; Justifying Grace – the grace that justifies us; Sanctifying Grace – the grace that changes us.

Faith and Good Works:

We hold both faith and good works hand in hand. This comes from our dual heritage of the free church and Catholic traditions. Although John Wesley was an Anglican Priest, basically an English Catholic, he was heavily influenced by a group of German pietists called the Moravians. They believed that Christianity is more than just doing good and acknowledging the facts of the life of Jesus. Christianity is a matter of the heart. Christianity relies upon faith and faith is a matter of the heart. So you will see us emphasize the necessity of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Likewise from the Catholic tradition we take very seriously the need to live out our faith in good works. We believe it is imperative that we do good works, not so we can be saved, but so we can share the love of God in concrete ways. Good works is the way we show our faith. Faith and good works are held with equal esteem.

One Baptism:

In the United Methodist Church we believe that baptism is primarily something God does. We believe in the baptism of Jesus it was God who was the primary actor. God spoke from heaven, descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and empowered Jesus for his ministry. We believe in our baptisms it is God who is the primary actor as well. And if we believe that God came for all the world, no matter a person's age or intellectual ability, and if we believe that God mysteriously acts in baptism then we believe there is only one baptism. We do not rebaptize someone, because when we rebaptize someone its as if we are saying to God, "Okay, you didn't do that one good enough. You need to try again." We don't condemn others who rebaptize, but with our beliefs we do not rebaptize. But we do baptize infants. Again, we believe God's grace is available to all, no matter the age, sex, income level, social status, intellectual ability, or anything. So if that's the case then surely God's grace is available to children as well.

Itinerant Ministers and Connectionalism:

UM ministers are what is called itinerant, which literally means "travelling from place to place with no fixed home." Practically it means the local church does not hire us. We are sent by our leadership to the places we will serve as long as God calls us to serve in that church through the leadership of our conference. Certainly there are some drawbacks to this type of system, but I have found that it is the healthier option than the church hiring the minister.

Itinerant ministers is also deeply linked with the idea of connectionalism. Because UMCs share their pastors with one another they are connected with one another in ministry. Through our apportionments, about 12% of our budget sent to UM ministries around the world, to our conferences, leaders, church property ownership, and ways we perform ministry together we are deeply connected with other UMCs.

Closing
1:35

Encourage participants to take home and read “About Being United Methodist.”

We’re going to take a short break now, and then come back together to discuss some unique aspects of Willow View United Methodist Church and its ministries. Let’s have a brief word of prayer. (Close in light prayer)

BREAK at 1:45
Move on at 1:50

Membership Class Session 3

THEME: Willow View – Who We Are

TITLE: The Ministries of Willow View

Preparation:

Have Sunday School Brochure Available
Have Passion Assessment available
Have Discipleship Pathway Available

For all classes:

Have flip chart or marker board available
Have a supply of pens available

Welcome:
(1 minute)

Leader greets the group and opens with light prayer.

Attendance:
(3 minutes)

Take Attendance

Welcome and Recap
(3 minute)

Last week we looked at the unique aspects of UM beliefs and practice. We looked at how we take Scripture seriously, but understand it through the lenses of tradition, reason, and experience. We also looked at how Methodists lead with grace, hold faith and good works hand in hand, believe in one baptism, and have itinerant ministers and are connected together. This week we are going to talk about the unique aspects of ministry at Willow View. Are there any questions about last weeks' discussion?

Introduction:
(1 minutes)

Well we are going to look at the unique aspects of Willow View UMC. We are going to first look at our ministries and how you can more involved at Willow View, then our purpose statement, then quickly look at how we are organized.

Table talk:

1:58 (10 minutes) *What have you noticed is the biggest difference between Willow View and the congregation you are coming from? What would you say is the primary focus of Willow View? Of our ministry?*

Lesson:
2:08 (20 minutes)

Willow View is the second largest church in the Enid District, which consists of 45 Methodist Churches in our area. With an

average attendance of 210 we are in the top 11% in attendance of Oklahoma UMCs. We are one of the fastest growing churches in the Oklahoma Conference. We are in the top 5% in the number of people of growth in the past three years and in the top 2% of churches over 100 in percentage of growth. Willow View is changing into a larger, different church. With that growth comes growing pains. In the past four years all our support staff is new and we have added an Associate Minister 1 ½ years ago. What often happens in growing churches is that we outgrow our current financial support. We've seen that at Willow View. There is so much we can and need to do, but not enough money to do it.

When it comes to specific ministry at Willow View what have you noticed are areas of emphasis?

Sunday school is important at Willow View. If you want to really be a part of this church you must get involved in a Sunday school class. They are our main way that we meet other people, are involved in ministry, and are cared for. If you do not have a Sunday school class I have a brochure outlining all our Sunday school classes and where they meet.

Worship, of course, is also a big emphasis at Willow View. I would encourage you to go to both services at different times to get more of a feel for all of our church. There are numerous ways to serve in both services by helping during the services, being greeters, or visiting our guests.

The Shepherd's Cupboard at Bethany UMC is another major focus area of ministry at Willow View. That is the second largest food pantry in Oklahoma in a church of 45 people. We currently provide around 80% of the funding and bag over 50% of the groceries they give out twice a month. They give out between 4,000 and 8,000 pounds of food each month. We are actively involved in that ministry and are wanting to expand our hands-on ministry to and with them in order to keep them a viable church and ministry.

What questions do you have about our ministries?

Share We share the message and story of Jesus. We share the message of Jesus: that God loves all people and desires for us to respond to God's love with faith and love. We share the story of Jesus' teachings, life, death, and resurrection. We also share God's blessings with others. We generously share our wealth, possessions, and blessings with those in need. We strive to help to feed the hungry, mend the broken hearted, and strengthen the poor in spirit.

Disciple We make and become more faithful disciples. We make disciples by mentoring and guiding others in their journeys with God. We offer learning, faith-inspiring, and growing opportunities.

We strive to become more faithful disciples by attending worship, Sunday school, Bible studies, and other faith-building opportunities. We commit ourselves to the personal spiritual disciplines of Bible reading, praying, and worshipping.

Serve We serve our church and others in the name of Jesus Christ. We serve our Willow View United Methodist Church by being active in servant ministries and volunteering at Willow View. We take on tasks and duties that others do not want all for the sake of God's Kingdom.

We serve others by being active in local, state, and national civic clubs and organizations and by doing the work of ministry. We understand that we are God's feet, hands, and voice in our world.

Let's look at our organization. There is no one person who is in charge of the church, in fact, there is no one board or committee that is in charge of the church. The Methodist Church in America was started during the Revolutionary War and they modeled the polity of the church after the model of the U.S. government. We are a representative church. The main decision making body of the church is the Administrative Council. Members of that body are the chairpersons of all the committees and ministry teams, the pastors, and a few other at large members. The Administrative Council sets the budget, makes all decisions about spending, sets the goals for the church and is that strategic planning group of the church.

Our committees and teams are really broken into two types of groups: administrative committees and ministry teams. The administrative committees are the Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominating Committee), and the Endowment Committee. The ministry teams are the Worship, Mission, Evangelism, Nurture, Discipleship Teams, and the Children's Council. Our goal is that no individual is in ministry alone. Each person is

supported and guided by a ministry team. Each administrative committee and ministry team is accountable to the other committees and teams part of the Administrative Council. Although each committee and team has their own responsibility they also coordinate with one another so that ministry can take place most effectively. The pastor is a part of every committee and ministry team, but does not chair any of them except the Nominating Committee. I have very little authority except in the areas of the use of the facility and worship. Are there any questions?

Closing
2:28

Next week we will be discussing membership and what membership means. Let's pray. (Close in light prayer)

Move on at 2:30

Passion Assessment

1. What I would most like to do for others is:

2. The people I would like to help most are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infants | <input type="checkbox"/> Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teen moms | <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College students | <input type="checkbox"/> Young marrieds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Empty nesters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career women | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoners | <input type="checkbox"/> Couples |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult men or women |

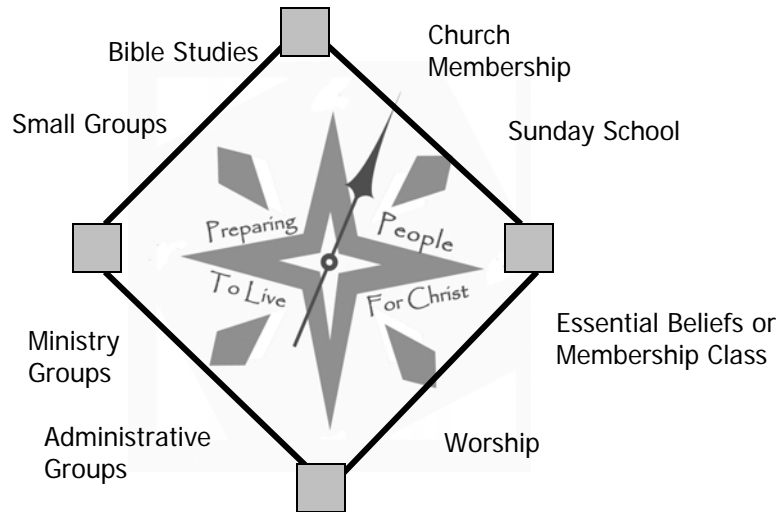
Others: _____

3. The issues or causes I feel strongly about are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homosexuality | <input type="checkbox"/> AIDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship | <input type="checkbox"/> Injustice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addictions | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Reaching the lost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> Racism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International | <input type="checkbox"/> Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic | <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Abortion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care | <input type="checkbox"/> Family |

Others: _____

The Discipleship Pathway



Worship – Experience God’s presence and love as we seek to reach others in our primary worship service and in our special services throughout the year.

Essential Beliefs – Learn the core beliefs essential to the Christian faith in this 5-week study. Winter and summer sessions.

Membership Class – Learn the unique aspects of Christianity, the United Methodist Church, Willow View UMC, and membership at Willow View. Designed for those thinking about membership or those who have recently joined. Fall and spring sessions.

Sunday School – Select one of many Sunday school classes as your core discipleship, nurture, accountability, and mission group.

Church Membership – Becoming a member links you in a more formal, yet more dynamic way to Willow View and its ministries.

Bible Studies – Long-time and short-time Bible studies are offered throughout the year.

Small Groups – Women’s groups, men’s groups, friendship groups, and many others are both informal and formal groups designed to increase our relationships and our discipleship.

Ministry Groups – Various mission and ministry groups and teams meet to lead, plan, and implement ministry. You need not be an official member to be involved.

Administrative Groups – The administration of the church is normally reserved for longer-time members who tend to understand the details of a United Methodist Church.

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS (Willow View 101) Session 5 (Session 4)

- THEME:** **Membership Has It's Disadvantages**
- Preparation: White board or flip chart
Copies of our church history
- Attendance:
- Welcome:
(1 minute) Leader greets the group and opens with light prayer.
- Introduction:
(3 minutes) Leader says, "In our last session we talked about the specifics ministries of Willow View. First today, I want to give you a page that outlines the history of Willow View. I think it's important for you to understand the unique history of this church. I think it will help you understand some of the reasons we do what we do here at Willow View. We are a warm, spiritual church seeking to share the Gospel through offering salvation and performing acts of kindness because of our history. I hope you will take a few moments to read over history some time this week.
- Table Talk:
2:34 (6 minutes) What do you want out of a church? What expectations do you have of your church? Of your pastor? Of your fellow church participants?
- Lesson:
2:40 (20 minutes) Leader calls the group back together and says, "*All of us have expectations of our church, of its leaders, of its members and of its staff, but what expectations should the church have of us? Are we merely consumers in the church or are we to be contributors also? As a guest at Willow View up to this point you have probably not been asked to do much. Just like a guest in a home, guests at church aren't asked to help clean up after the dinner party. You have been invited to simply come and to participate in worship and ministry with us, but when you become a member things change.*
- As we discussed earlier, United Methodist pastors often move around, and so for a church to really grow and remain a strong witness for Christ, the members need to have a strong bond to one another, and not just be there because of the charismatic ministry of one person. In all kinds of churches you will often see many people leave after a change of pastor. The best way to avoid that kind of happening is for church members to be involved with one another in both in discipleship and service. As the old hymn goes, "Blest Be the*

Tie that Binds our Hearts in Christian Love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

When you join a United Methodist Church you pledge to support that local church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Let's look at each of these individually.

Prayers: You covenant to support the church by praying for and with the church. Willow View can't be the church God is calling us to be without the prayers of its members. Likewise, I can't be the kind of pastor God is calling me to be without your prayers.

I learned an important lesson one time while growing up. At my home UMC we had a pastor who was not popular. Not only was a poor preacher, but he was a lousy pastor, rarely making hospital visits and never being seen in the community. We struggled with him, especially on Sunday mornings. My mom was the SPRC Chair, the chairperson of the personnel committee, and she came home from a meeting when they were beginning to decide they were going to ask for a change of pastors. I was excited because I never got anything out of his sermons. But my mom and dad told me maybe the reason we weren't getting anything out of his sermons was because we weren't prepared to hear anything. Maybe we needed to pray before we came to church. What a novel idea. Suddenly his sermons began to have meaning in my life.

Presence: when you become a member of a UMC you covenant to be present in the church. If you are in town on Sundays you should be in church. And in fact, you should plan your weekend around church, not try to fit in church in your weekend. Your presence is important. We are a family and just like when a member of a family is absent at the dinner table it affects the whole family so your absence at church affects the whole church.

At the end of the year a few years ago I sent out a report to everyone in the church about his or her church attendance. I sent each member of Willow View a statement that contained the percentage of Sundays he or she had attended church. I was amazed at how many members of Willow View who thought they were good at attending church who only attend church 30 or 40% of the time. When you become a member of Willow View you are pledging to be at church as much as you can.

Gifts: when you become a member of the UMC you are expected to share your gifts. All of us have gifts to share. Certainly we all have different gifts, but there are some gifts that everyone is encouraged to offer to the church.

First, all are expected to offer their talents to be used in the church. God has given us all different talents and God expects us to use them in the church. Musical gifts, speaking, teaching, serving behind the scenes are just a few examples of using our God-given abilities in the life of the church.

Second, all are expected to offer their financial gifts to the church. When you become a member of Willow View you are expected to give financial contributions to the church. The Biblical standard of giving to the church is 10% of your income. I know for many that seems beyond your abilities, but that is the Biblical standard. I want you to know that you will never be treated differently because of how much you give or you do not give, but every member is expected to be generous. Members are expected to use the money in which God has entrusted to them in a worthy manner.

Service:

Witness:

Wrap-up: Take a minute to fill in the “Next
3:00 (15 minutes) Step” form and turn it in before you leave. I encourage you to make the decision to become a member of Willow View. I also encourage you to begin attending a Sunday school class as your next step.

“Thank you so much for being a part of our membership class. It’s been great sharing with you this afternoon. Let’s form a circle and hold hands, and we’ll pray around the room. I’ll start and I’ll close us when it comes back to me. When you’re done praying and are ready for the person next to you to begin, just squeeze his or her hand.”

Getting Connected to the Life of the Church

Today's date _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Options:

_____ I want to get started in Sunday school.

_____ I want to join the Church.

_____ I want to be baptized and make a profession of faith.

_____ I want to join by transferring my membership from another church.

_____ I want to join a Bible study.

_____ I want to find a small group.

_____ I want to join a ministry group.

I could use some help:

_____ I would like to talk to someone about my next step.

Other questions or comments:

Willow View UMC

Servant Opportunities Catalogue

* Denotes that the Unpaid Staff Application and Screening Form or Background Check is required.

Ministries

Bethany Food Pantry

Time Commitment Required: As Desired

Contact: Mission Team Chairperson

Description: Bethany UMC Food Pantry is the primary way Willow View is in ministry to those in need in Enid. The Bethany Food Pantry is a ministry of Bethany UMC, a church of 45 people on the east side of Enid. This ministry is the second largest food pantry in Oklahoma giving over 7,000 pounds of food per month to needy families in the Enid community. They need assistance with bagging groceries, unloading food shipments, and handing out groceries.

*** Homebound Communion**

Time Commitment Required: 3 hours once every two months

Contact: Nurture Team Chairperson

Description: Provide communion on communion Sundays to homebound or nursing home residents. Annual training is available.

*** Hospital Visitation**

Time Commitment Required: 2 hours a week every 5 weeks

Contact: Nurture Team Chairperson

Description: Hospital Visitation is important, as those in the hospital need extra support and love from their church family. Hospital visitors should be empathetic, caring, and nurturing as they minister to those in physical, emotional, and spiritual need. Training by the Pastor is available upon request.

Help Provide Funeral Dinners

Time Commitment Required: 3 hours as needed

Contact: Nurture Team Chairperson

Description: Providing funeral dinners is an important ministry at Willow View. You may request to either provide food or to be available to set-up and serve the meal.

*** Van Driver**

Time Commitment Required: 2 hours once every two months

Contact: Nurture Team Chairperson

Description: Van drivers pick up elderly adults and children before Sunday school and before church. You will be required to be at church at least 30 minutes before Sunday school or before church. Annual training is available.

Lawn Maintenance Crew

Time Commitment Required: 3 hours once a month in the summer

Contact: Trustees Chairperson

Description: The Lawn Maintenance Crew mows and edges the church lawns. Training and approval is required to run the large lawn mower. Edging and weed eating is always needed.

Sound Room Technician

Time Commitment Required: 2 hours once a month

Contact: Director of Music Ministry

Description: There are three positions in the Sound Room: Lighting Coordinator, Screen Controller, and Sound technician. Different skill levels are required for each position. Hands-on training is available as needed.

*** Children's Sunday School Teacher**

Time Commitment Required: 2 hours a week for three months

Contact: Children's Council Chairperson

Description: Teaching a children's Sunday school class is a big commitment, but one that is very rewarding. One hour of preparation and one hour of teaching is required for every Sunday for a three-month commitment period. Annual training is available.

*** Children's Ministries (Wednesday Night)**

Time Commitment Required: 2 hours each week during school year

Contact: Children's Council Chairperson

Description: The children's Adventure Club meets each Wednesday night from 6-7:00. 15-35 children from ages 4-12 have a snack, a lesson, and games. Assistance is needed with each age group. A shorter time commitment is available. Annual Training is available.

*** Vacation Bible School**

Time Commitment Required: Each morning for one week in the summer

Contact: VBS Director

Description: VBS is typically held in the early summer for one week. Potential jobs include providing and serving snacks, story telling, leading music, overseeing crafts, or supervising games.

*** Assist with Youth Group**

Time Commitment Required: 2 hours two times each month during school year

Contact: Pastor Lesly

Description: Assisting with our two youth groups includes different opportunities for service including leading lessons, organizing fun events, organizing mission opportunities, or bringing food.

Worship Greeter

Time Commitment Required: 3 hours once every 2 months

Contact: Evangelism Team Chairperson

Description: Worship Greeters are required to be at church 20 minutes before the beginning of worship and 10 minutes before the beginning of Sunday school.

Greeters also act as ushers during the worship services and help coordinate the worship registration lists. Annual Training is available.

Worship Guest Visitation Team

Time Commitment Required: 1 hour once a month

Contact: Evangelism Team Chairperson

Description: The Visitation Team visits each first-time guest of our worship services taking a visitor's packet and a small gift. The Visitation Team members should be outgoing, positive, and friendly. Annual training is available. Contact the Evangelism Team Chairperson for more details.

Music Ministry

Time Commitment Required: 1 hour each week

Contact: Director of Music Ministry

Description: There are four music groups available to be involved with: Joyful Noise, Praise Band, Praise Team, and the Willow View Choir. Practice times and days vary. No previous musical instruction or experience is required for any of the choirs. Previous musical experience is necessary for Praise Band and Praise Team.

Offering Counter

Time Commitment Required: 3 hours once every 2 months

Contact: Finance Committee Chairperson

Description: The Sunday offering is counted by two counters each Monday morning from 9:00-12:00. The ability to follow procedures and keep basic records is necessary.

Willow View UMC

Job Descriptions of Church Leaders, Directors, and Committees

Most committee members are elected to three-year terms. Three years is commonly long enough for an individual to not only understand the ministry, but to participate fully in the ministry, but it is not too long to become “burned out” on a ministry.

Each chairperson is assumed to be in that position for a two-year term. This, once again, allows for an understanding of and participation in the ministry, but keeps the ministry from being “boring” and keeps the chairperson from allowing the ministry to become “mine.” These are general guidelines and there may be exceptions to them.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: This individual is responsible for leading the administrative council in fulfilling its duties, preparing and communicating the agenda of the ad. council meetings, assigning responsibilities for the implementation of ad. council actions, coordinating activities of the council, and is encouraged to attend meetings of various boards and committees of the church. All directors and chairpersons of all committees are members of the ad. council and should be present at all ad. council meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL VICE CHAIRPERSON: This individual is responsible for assisting the Ad. Council Chairperson and filling in when the Ad. Council Chairperson is absent. This position requires a four year commitment: two years as vice chair and two years as chair.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL SECRETARY: This individual is responsible for taking notes at all ad. council meetings, preparing those minutes for reading at the next ad. council meeting, and assisting the ad. council chairperson in preparing the agenda.

LAY LEADER: This individual is the primary lay representative in our local church. This individual is to meet regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church. The lay leader is also responsible for communicating actions of the Annual Conference and the General Conference, and communicating training opportunities for the laity provided by the Oklahoma Annual Conference. This individual is a member of the Finance Committee, Staff Parish Relations Committee, and the Committee on Lay Leadership.

DELEGATE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE: This individual is to be elected each year as a representative of WVUMC at Annual Conference and must be a member of WVUMC for at least 3 years. This individual must attend Annual Conference, but if he/she cannot the **Alternate Delegate** will take his/her place. At Annual Conference the Delegate has full voting privileges, as do all other lay delegates. The Delegate to Annual Conference should report to WVUMC the actions of the Annual Conference.

TREASURER: This individual is responsible for all outgoing church monies. The treasurer oversees the writing of checks and the church financial records.

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON: This person is responsible for chairing the Finance Committee. The Finance Chairperson is responsible for giving general oversight to the Finance Committee and keeping the pastor updated on general financial matters of the church.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: This individual is responsible for all incoming monies of the church. He/she enters that information in the church computer, sends out quarterly giving reports, and assists with the annual finance campaign by receiving and overseeing “Estimate of Giving” or “Pledge” cards. This is currently a paid staff position.

AUDITOR: The church Auditor is charged with giving oversight to an annual church audit and reporting those results to the Finance Committee and the Charge Conference. The Auditor is to work closely with the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Finance Chairperson, and Finance Committee. The Auditor is an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee if he/she is not an elected member.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: This individual is responsible for keeping accurate records of church membership in the Church Membership Books or Membership Card Files, completing membership certificates, sending membership letters, and assisting in auditing of church membership roles. The Membership Secretary informs the Administrative Assistant of all membership changes so the Administrative Assistant can make the necessary adjustments to the church membership computer files.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC): This committee has 5 to 9 members not including the Lay Leader and the Lay Delegate to Annual Conference. The SPRC is to meet in closed session, due to the discussion of personnel issues, and information shared in the committee shall be confidential. The SPRC is not to meet without the knowledge of the pastor and/or district superintendent. Each member must be a member of WVUMC and is elected to a three-year term. This committee should meet monthly and has the following basic responsibilities: (1) to keep the pastor advised of the conditions inside and the relationship with the congregation and matters pertaining to effectiveness of ministry; (2) to provide evaluation for the use of the pastor and staff; (3) To develop and approve job descriptions of staff; (4) to confer with the pastor if it is in the best interest of the church and pastor for there to be a change of pastor; (5) to hire, contract, evaluate, promote, retire, or dismiss staff personnel who are not under Episcopal appointment; (6) to consult on matters of pulpit supply (when pastor is absent), proposals for pastor's salary, and housing. This committee also functions as the personnel committee of the church, making decisions regarding the employment of the church staff. Most of this committee's work is pro-active by hearing criticisms or praises and directing them to the pastor or staff. The SPRC's job is not supervisory, but that of giving feedback. This committee also works closely with the District Superintendent.

TRUSTEES: This committee consists of 3 to 9 individuals with 2/3 being members of WVUMC. The members are elected for three-year terms. This committee has the oversight, supervision, and care of all property and equipment owned by the local church. The Trustees shall also receive and administer all bequests, memorials, and trust funds not given as endowment funds. The Trustees chairperson, SPRC chairperson, and the pastor are to inspect the parsonage each year to ensure proper maintenance.

FINANCE/FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: This committee consists of the chairperson, pastor, lay delegate to annual conference, administrative council chairperson, representative of the SPRC, representative of Trustees, lay leader, financial secretary, treasurer, and other members elected by the Charge Conference. The auditor is an ex-officio member if he/she is not an elected member of the Finance Committee. This committee produces an annual budget and

administers church funds according to the instructions of the administrative council. This committee is responsible for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the adopted budget. This committee meets once each month and examines the financial report by the treasurer. This committee oversees and must approve all fundraising activities.

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP (NOMINATING COMMITTEE): This is a committee of not more than nine local church members in addition to the pastor and lay leader. The pastor is the chairperson. This committee nominates to the charge conference in its annual session the officers and members of committees and other places of leadership in the church. Each member is elected to a three-year term. This committee is to serve throughout the year to recruit, support, and recognize leaders and to provide training opportunities for them.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: The Endowment Committee administers the endowment funds of Willow View United Methodist Church as set out in the Endowment Committee's Charter. The members of the Endowment Committee include: the pastor, Finance Committee Chairperson, Church Treasurer, Board of Trustees Representative, and three to five persons elected to three year terms nominated by the Committee on Lay Leadership. The Endowment Committee should meet at least two times a year and is responsible for disbursing earnings on non-designated endowment funds and giving general oversight to the endowment program of WVUMC.

WORSHIP TEAM: This group meets regularly and is responsible for assisting the pastor in selecting songs for Sunday morning worship, selecting sermon topics, and planning special worship services. This group should give the pastor feedback regarding Sunday morning worship and other worship services.

MISSION TEAM: This group is responsible for short-term missions, area, state, and international missions, service ministries, and other "social justice" ministries. They conduct their ministry on a project team basis. They formulate task forces to assist them in their ministry endeavors.

EVANGELISM TEAM: This group meets monthly and is responsible for reaching guests, recruiting guests, training the congregation in outreach and evangelism ministries, leading the congregation in its evangelistic efforts, and assimilating new members into the congregation.

NURTURE TEAM: This group assists the pastor in overall congregational care. They assist the pastor with hospital and in-home visitations, care and nurture of existing members, contacting inactive members, and care for families during and after funerals. The prayer ministry, funeral dinner ministry, visitation ministry, homebound communion ministry, van ministry, and fellowship ministry all fall under the supervision of the Nurture Team.

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM: **This group meets periodically and is responsible for the general oversight of all discipleship ministries including adult Christian education activities, adult Sunday school, Bible studies, and all other studies in the church as well as other discipleship ministries. This group is responsible for promoting Sunday school and Bible**

studies, assisting classes and teachers in selecting curriculum, providing training events for Sunday school activities, This group is also given the responsibility of overseeing and implementing the “Policies & Procedures for Safety of Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults” and the “WVUMC Volunteer Application and Screening Form.” The Discipleship Team shall develop, introduce, and implement a plan and/or pathway of discipleship for Willow View United Methodist Church congregants.

CHILDREN’S COUNCIL: The Children’s Council is responsible for the general oversight, supervision, and implementation of the children’s ministries including: Wednesday evening activities, the Fall Festival, special children’s activities and ministries, and assisting the Christian Education Team in supervising Sunday school for children.

YOUTH TASK FORCE: The Youth Task Force is responsible for giving general oversight to the youth ministry of WVUMC. They are to lead in nurturing, supporting, and giving accountability to the youth leader(s) and assisting congregational involvement in the youth ministry.

SENIOR’S COORDINATOR: The Senior’s Coordinator shall oversee the Senior’s Group ministry which meets monthly. The Senior’s Coordinator is elected annually by the Senior’s Group.

UMW PRESIDENT: The UMW President is elected annually by the UMW and is responsible for giving general oversight and supervision to the United Methodist Women’s ministries.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR: This individual is responsible for forming a task force to assist him/her in developing, coordinating, and implementing Vacation Bible School. The VBS Director should work throughout the year in choosing VBS curriculum and material and in recruiting volunteers.

Every person on each committee is expected to fully participate in the committee meetings and the committee functions. If you cannot or will not participate in the committees you may be asked to step down from your position of leadership. Please do not take on a leadership position unless you plan to participate because you may be taking a ministry opportunity away from someone else in the church. If you are currently on a committee, but wish to be taken off the committee please contact a Lay Leadership Committee member.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WILLOW VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Formerly

**First United Brethren Church in Christ
First Evangelical United Brethren Church
Central United Methodist Church**

1902 - 2004

Willow View United Methodist Church has a long and storied history. From the beginning days before statehood, to a devastating fire, through two denominational mergers, and to a relocation Willow View United Methodist Church is a dynamic church, seeking to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

In 1902 the United Brethren Church began its work in Oklahoma centering on Oklahoma City and Enid. C.E. Heisel was the first pastor appointed to Enid and he later became the Conference Superintendent. The first meeting of the Enid United Brethren Church occurred on June 1, 1902 in the Garfield County Court Room with 30 people in attendance.

On September 21, 1902 the cornerstone was laid for the First United Brethren Church located at Maple and Boulevard Streets. After only 3 1/2 years those first 30 people had grown to over 150.

In 1924 the first church building was sold and a new church building, located at the corner of Maple and Jefferson, was dedicated. After the new church was built enormous growth took place. In 1923 the membership stood at 248 but grew to 872 members by 1937.

In 1946 the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church merged. This new denomination was called the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

On February 23, 1951 tragedy struck. The church was almost completely destroyed by fire. Plans soon were underway to repair and rebuild the destroyed structure and in October of 1953 the new church building was dedicated. The former church was converted to an education wing. The church continued to thrive and in fact was the largest and most successful EUB church in Oklahoma.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century First United Brethren and later First Evangelical United Brethren was two times larger than the next largest church in Oklahoma of the same denomination. Annual Conference was held a number of times in this church's facilities. This church was the hallmark church of the conference.

In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church merged creating the United Methodist Church. This placed First EUB, renamed Central UMC in 1968, just one block from Enid



First UMC. This and other factors caused a serious decline in attendance and membership of Central UMC. In 1982 plans were made to relocate to the present location.

On February 24, 1985 just less than 100 people proceeded in caravan to the new church. First United Brethren, First Evangelical United Brethren, and Central UMC had now become Willow View UMC. The church now had a new 14,000 square foot facility that includes a carpeted basketball court, full-size industrial kitchen, restrooms with showers, seven classrooms, a large storage room, an office area with five offices and a children's classroom, a sound system, a large fireplace, and entrance area.

For eighteen years the church met in the gymnasium (FLC) of the church using a portable stage and portable pews. After years of taking down the stage, pews, and other elements used in worship the church decided it was now time to build the sanctuary, which was part of the original plans for the church.

Construction began in March of 2002. The construction was completed on the worship center in August of 2003 and on the children's area and new restrooms on October 8, 2004. The new addition includes almost 13,000 square feet. It also includes a state of the art audio, visual, and lighting control room, a 400-seat worship center, a cry room, a choir room, six new restrooms, a nursery and children's department area, a baptistery, a sacristy, and other numerous amenities. This \$1.5 million addition is just the latest in Willow View's quest for making disciples for Jesus.



In 2008 the church purchased a 5 acre lot west of the church. Future plans for the empty lot include a sign on Oakwood Road, a bus/maintenance barn, or expanded parking. Other future plans for our church facility include an education/children's ministry wing on the south side of the new nursery, a gazebo, and more extensive landscaping.

Throughout the more than 100 years of ministry there have been over 1,500 different members. The lives of thousands have been changed and the Kingdom of God has been strengthened.

Willow View United Methodist Church is certainly more than a building as it has been throughout its history, but the various buildings are a symbol of the various ministries, the importance of this church, and the number of souls saved.

Today we stand on the shoulders of those first 30 people of Enid First United Brethren Church who met in the Garfield County Courtroom in 1902. Today we stand on the shoulders of those over 1,500 former members. Today we stand on the shoulders of those faithful disciples of Jesus as we strive to be and make disciples for Jesus in the next 100 years of ministry at Willow View United Methodist Church. May we be a blessing to future generations as the former generations have been to us.

Visitor and New Member Assimilation

Assimilating Newcomers

Used by permission of James Schellhorn, Director of Outreach, First United Methodist Church of Claremore, Ok. For additional Information, please email:jschellhorn@claremorefumc.org or call 918-344-3743

1. Converting First Time Guests to Regular Attendees

Recognizing the Opportunity

As Nelson Searcy recognized in one of his “Fusion” seminars, the average church of 200 attendees will have four first-time guests visit each week. That’s over 200 every year! Of course this is an estimation. Some churches see a few more and some see a few less, but regardless, the numbers are staggering.

Apply it:

What is your regular attendance? _____

Your estimated First-time guests per week ? _____ (Regular attendance X 2%)

“What an opportunity that God has provided us to Make Disciples for Jesus right in His own house!”

Assimilation? How does it apply to guests?

So what do we mean by “Assimilating” or converting First-Time Guests? It may help to address this question by looking at the definition. Assimilation is the process that a person, foreign to a culture (or in this case: church), goes through in order to conform to the customs, attitudes and beliefs of the host culture (or church). For the church, the assimilation process of a guest might look something like this:



Does assimilation end with regular attendance? Typically not; but regular attendance is a good benchmark for the process of assimilation. Remember, an attendee of your church is not fully assimilated until they are comfortable within your church culture and integrated into the life of a church.

Does this mean they have to be members before they are considered assimilated?

No, but many church leaders, recognize membership as a final benchmark of assimilation. The declaration of a church attendee to commit themselves to a God through service in a congregation can be construed as the end of assimilation, but sometimes continued support and is needed to ensure that they become fully integrated participants within the life and culture of the church.

Understanding Guests

Many experts speculate that a guest visiting a church for the first time, will make a conscious decision as to whether they will return within the first 3 to 10 minutes. The experience of each person will be different, but the fact remains that in 3 minutes time, some guests will never make it past the parking lot. In 10 minutes time, some guests may not make it into the sanctuary. First

impressions are everything in the secular world and we cannot expect that to change for the church.

Guests are not inherently comfortable. In fact, many are downright nervous! They are examining, evaluating, and judging everything and everyone they interact with. To make matters worse, the Enemy is never on their side and fear, doubt and discomfort are his tools to discourage them. This may seem to be a negative take on a typical guest's situation, but we must always be prepared.

"Expect the best. Prepare for the worst. Capitalize on what comes." - Zig Ziglar

2. Pre-service Hospitality - Confronting the First Impression

Remember that your hospitality ministry is fighting a ticking clock. The first 7 minutes of your guest's experience are crucial. And the timer starts as soon as they arrive.

The importance of hospitality

Take a minute and imagine your visiting a fancy hotel... Now recall the experience.

How were you greeted? Were you met at the front door? Were you directed to the concierge's desk? Did they take time to help familiarize you to the building? Did they assist you to your room? Were their items in the room you forgot? Were the furnishings comfortable?

If the purpose of hospitality is to create a comfortable environment, then the purpose of hospitality within church is to create a comfortable environment in which to receive an uncomfortable message.

The Parking Lot

Do you have adequate parking? Do you have too much parking?

Typically, a parking lot that is overfilled is a good sign to a first-time guest but can quickly become a nuisance and excuse for missing a Sunday if they have to arrive 30 minutes early just to jockey for a spot. In juxtapose, an empty lot can give the impression that there is no service going on or that the church is in decline and not worth attending. In either case, there are small things that can be done to improve these impressions. A church with a oversized lot might consider encouraging its members to park near the road or ask if some members can bring a second vehicle. Your lot should always appear to be 75% full. For churches battling a small lot size, you might consider asking staff and dedicated laity to park down the street. Also consider negotiating a lot annex of a neighboring business.

Is your lot clean and easy to navigate?

Your church does not have to a big worship center or new shiny sign to present a good appearance. All you guests are looking for is for your church to do the best with what they have. So what should you be looking for? Focus on the big items: Is the lot clean? Are the parking spaces clearly marked? Is the landscaping maintained? Can your guests easily locate the major entrances?

Greeting

The most important first impression to be made in the front of the church is a warm smile, handshake and a welcoming, "Hello! We're glad you here!". It true! You will make more friends and convert more guests with a strong greeting system than virtually any other form of hospitality.

Note It:

Have you ever had a bad Sunday morning? You wake up and the dog has made a mess; the children slept in; you forgot to fill up your gas tank the night before; and now your late! Nothing is going your way. All you really want now is to make it to church and try to forget all the issues of the day and praise the Lord. You get to the entrance and your greeted by a polite, “Hi, how are you doing?”

Wow, if they only knew...

Now imagine if your situation was compounded. What a family member had just past away? What is you had an argument with your husband or wife that morning?

Now image if you were greeted with a confident, “Hi, We’re glad you’re here!”.

Indiscriminately... Regardless of they’re situation; of who they are or what they’ve done... We ARE glad that they are here.

Directing

Once your guest arrive, it’s important for them to know how to get around. The most common areas a new guest will need to find are the Children’s Ministries area, the sanctuary, and the restrooms. The key to properly directing people are, “signs, signs, signs!” Your greeters should also offer direction to your guests. Remember, it’s always better to lead than direct. If a guest asks about the children’s area, they might be content with direction, but they would prefer a personal escort.

Miscellaneous Assimilation Ideas

Rev. Jim Stillwell,
Christ United Methodist Church, Tulsa

New Member (Get Connected to the Church) Class – described under Membership Classes

Dinner with the Pastor – this can include some of the above, but mostly to get acquainted with the Pastor or Pastors.

New Member reception – have a reception after service with the new members, during which you can cover some of the above topics.

New Member packets - which includes the information about the church, small groups and ministries.

Develop a New Member committee

Have New Member mentor- help the new member get assimilated and make new friends

Have icebreakers at some of the functions and activities for the new members to get acquainted with the congregation.

Use name tags

Have a follow up system after their joining the church. Keep cards with the attendance records and contact the new members 30 days after they have joined. If they have not attended the New Members class invite them to do so. It is a good chance to see how they are feeling about the church and if they have gotten connected with a class or ministry.

Contact them again after 6 months and then 12 months from the time they have joined.

Smaller churches you can touch base with them almost on a monthly basis.

Take pictures of the new member and hang them where the church can see them.

Include names in the bulletin or Newsletters-Remember their names small, but powerful

If a new member is not connected in the church within the first 12 months chances are they will not stay.

Guest Card

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE: _____

MEMBER OF _____ CHURCH

HUSBAND'S BUSINESS _____ PHONE _____

WIFE'S BUSINESS _____ PHONE _____

CHILDREN/ OTHER INFO. _____

CELL PHONE/E-MAIL/FAX _____

Sample First Time Visitor Letter

July 6, 2011

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address»
«City», «State» «ZIP»

Dear «FirstName»,

We are so pleased that you visited our church this past week and I hope you experienced the grace and presence of God in our worship service. Our mission is “Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. I pray you were encouraged and strengthened in your own journey of faith.

Enclosed is a copy of our weekly newsletter. As you can see, we offer a wide range of worship and fellowship opportunities as well as Bible study and Christian teaching for children, youth and adults of all ages. I invite you to be part of one of our small groups or to get connected in one of our ministries.

I’ve also enclosed a “First Impressions” card and would be pleased to hear from you. Your honest feedback will help us know how well we are doing and give us awareness of the things we need to improve.

Again, thank you for visiting Christ Church and we invite you to visit us again soon. If I can be of any personal help with any questions you might have, please let me know.

Yours in Christ,

Senior Pastor



2009 Service Commitment
 First United Methodist Church
 1615 N. Hwy 88, Claremore, OK
 (918) 341-4580

Yes, I/we are ready to be involved! I/we want to develop a deeper connection with God and each other through committed service. Therefore, I/we will prayerfully consider serving God, the community, the church and each other in the following areas:

Administrative

- M F**
- 1 () () Serve in the front office
 - 2 () () Serve as a library attendant
 - 3 () () Serve on the archive committee
 - 4 () () Other _____

Hospitality Ministries

- 5 () () Host (greet) Sunday Service
- 6 () () Host (greet) Thursday Service
- 7 () () Serve as a Parking Director
- 8 () () Serve as a Front Desk Attendant
- 9 () () Serve as a Guest Ambassador
- 10 () () Collect and Report Attendance
- 11 () () Other _____

Outreach / Evangelism

- 12 () () Invite a friend to church
- 13 () () Learn to share my faith
- 14 () () Serve with the PIE Ministry
- 15 () () Organize/assist community events
- 16 () () Lead/support ARC shelter team
- 17 () () Serve as a Bus Ministry Driver
- 18 () () Other _____

Children's Ministry

- 19 () () Teach/Assist Sunday School
- 20 () () Serve as a Nursery Attendant
- 21 () () Serve as a Check in Attendant
- 22 () () Assist Children's Worship
- 23 () () Serve as a Hall Monitor
- 24 () () Assist with Bible Time Program
- 25 () () Assist with Wesley Wed Programs
- 26 () () Lead/Assist with Puppet Ministry
- 27 () () Teach/Assist with VBS
- 28 () () Assist with Children's activities
- 29 () () I have a special skill or interest I'd like to share with children _____
- 30 () () Other _____

Youth Ministries

- 31 () () Teach Jr High Sunday school
- 32 () () Teach Senior High Sunday school
- 33 () () Assist with Sunday Night Youth
- 34 () () Chaperone a youth trip
- 35 () () Assist on Wednesday night
- 36 () () Help behind the scenes
- 37 () () I have a special skill or interest I'd like to share with youth: _____

Adult Ministry

- 38 () () Establish/lead a Sunday School class
- 39 () () Establish/lead a small group
- 40 () () Establish/lead a young adult class
- 41 () () Establish/lead a senior adult class
- 42 () () I have a special skill or interest I'd like to share with adults: _____
- 43 () () Other _____

Wednesday Night Programs

- 44 () () Establish/lead an adult class
- 45 () () Assist with dinner preparation
- 46 () () Assist with serving dinner
- 47 () () Assist with cleanup
- 48 () () Assist with dinner collections
- 49 () () Close and lock building
- 50 () () Other _____

Worship Ministries

- 51 () () Serve as a Sunday Usher
- 52 () () Serve as an Altar Coordinator
- 53 () () Prepare sanctuary for Sundays
- 54 () () Restock pew supplies
- 55 () () Communion preparation
- 56 () () Communion server
- 57 () () Special and seasonal decorations
- 58 () () Become a Lay Speaker
- 59 () () Become a Worship Leader
- 60 () () Other _____

Music/Arts Ministries

- 61 () () Perform with Chancel Choir
- 62 () () Perform with Handbell Choir
- 63 () () Perform with Praise Team
- 64 () () Lead/assist youth music ensemble
- 65 () () Lead/assist in Children's Choir
- 66 () () Play a musical instrument (indicate instrument) _____
- 67 () () Serve as accompanist
- 68 () () Special music - instrumental
- 69 () () Special music - vocal
- 70 () () Assist with choral library
- 71 () () Perform with Drama Team
- 72 () () Other _____

Care Ministries

M F

- 73 () () Visit homebound members
- 74 () () Visit hospital patients
- 75 () () Write/send cards
- 76 () () Serve with Flower Power Ministry
- 77 () () Organize meals for families in need
- 78 () () Organize meals for funerals
- 79 () () Provide transportation assistance
- 80 () () Serve seniors with light home maintenance
- 81 () () Serve with Military Support
- 82 () () Assist a Support Group such as _____
- 83 () () Other: _____

Prayer Ministry

- 84 () () Participate in intercessory prayer
- 85 () () Serve as a prayer partner
- 86 () () Participate in prayer vigils
- 87 () () Coordinate prayer requests
- 88 () () Pray with the sick
- 89 () () Participate in prayer walks
- 90 () () Participate in prayer meetings
- 91 () () Participate in organizing prayer events

Fellowship Ministries

- 92 () () Serve on Kitchen Committee
- 93 () () Assist Mission Café in dish pit
- 94 () () Assist Mission Café with prep
- 95 () () Assist Mission Café with cooking
- 96 () () Assist Mission Café with serving
- 97 () () Assist Mission Café with cleanup
- 98 () () Lead/Assist Fellowship activities
- 99 () () Assist with Church-wide picnic
- 100 () () Organize/assist Church-wide retreat
- 101 () () Establish a _____ Fellowship activity
- 102 () () Establish/Assist with Christian sports activities

- 103 () () Organize a _____ sports tournament

- 104 () () Other: _____

Media/Communications Ministries

- 105 () () Assist with sound systems
- 106 () () Assist with video systems
- 107 () () Serve as a camera operator/director
- 108 () () Serve in video/audio recording
- 109 () () Serve as a Video Editor
- 110 () () Design/Assist Website/web media
- 111 () () Design/write for Expressions Magazine
- 112 () () Serve as a PR Writer/Media Liaison
- 113 () () Assist with Photography
- 114 () () Serve as a Print Materials Designer
- 115 () () Other: _____

Church Building /Grounds Care

- 116 () () Un/Lock building Sundays
- 117 () () Adopt a flower bed
- 118 () () Maintain trees/shrubs
- 119 () () Clean building exteriors
- 120 () () Pick up lawn/litter
- 121 () () Water/maintain indoor plants
- 122 () () Dust and clean building interior
- 123 () () Organize/Assist cleaning and/or maintenance work day
- 124 () () Redecorate/paint building interior
- 125 () () Other: _____

VIM/Community Missions

- 126 () () Serve on a VIM Mission Team
- 127 () () Lead/Assist a Laborers of Love work team
- 128 () () Serve the Good Samaritan Food Pantry – Front Desk
- 129 () () Serve the Good Samaritan Food Pantry – Pantry Stocking
- 130 () () Serve as an UMCOR Representative

Service Commitment

Name: _____ Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Cell Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

With God's help, I/we pledge to prayerfully consider serving in these areas indicated above.

Signed _____ Signed _____

We appreciate your prayerful consideration to serving your church. If you have questions concerning a particular ministry or area of service, please contact the Front Office at 341-4530. A church staff member will be able to answer.

CUMC Assimilation & follow-up Process (Christ, Tulsa)

1st visit

Given a visitor packet and gift
Card made for visitor
Letter sent to 1st visitor signed by Senior Pastor
Senior Pastor calls 1st visitors as soon as possible
They are entered into ACS as a prospect
Information is inputted on a special demographic spreadsheet

Returning visitors/prospects

Cards are given to a designated Associate Pastor or person for follow-up periodically

Discover CUMC class

Once a month on Sunday morning for visitors and new members to find out more information about CUMC

Get Connected class

Once a month on Sunday morning for visitors and new members to find out how to get connected at CUMC

New Members

On the Sunday they join, they are given a cross, the book "In His Steps," a new member packet, a church directory, and their picture taken for the new member board.

They are encouraged to take the two classes above, at their convenience.

They will receive a call from a member of the assimilation committee at 30 days, 6 months and 12 months. The purpose of the call is to visit with them about how things are going at CUMC and personally. If they are not connected, talk with them about getting connected and also encourage them to take the above classes on Sunday morning.

A list will be provided to the Assimilation committee of the new members that are not connected.

The committee during the first 12 months will try to talk with those not connected, either in person or on the phone about getting connected in a small group or ministry.

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Faith Formation and Assimilation Through the Sunday School

1. Making Christian education and disciple making a priority for all, including key laity and pastor
2. Set goals for growth in all Sunday School Classes
3. Provide training for all teachers
4. Provide review of curriculum resources for the leadership team in each church
5. Encourage the establishment of new classes
6. Develop "rotation curriculum" or other new multi-sensory methodologies to reach children and youth.
7. Begin a program of follow-up and care in all church schools, including weekly follow-up of absentees, weekly follow-up of visitors, regular programs of emphases on bringing visitors, and a reward and affirmation system for this.
8. Distribute communications throughout the church and community of information concerning children, youth and adult education programs of the church.
9. Participation by each church in at least one Disciple Bible Study program each year.
10. Develop clear sequenced goals for your curriculum

From Sunday School It's for Life

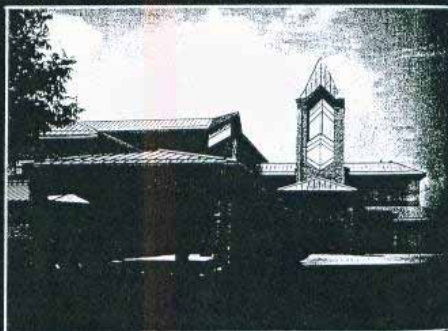
A REVEAL CASE STUDY: FOX RIVER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Fox River Christian Church in Waukesha, Wisconsin, grew from just a few hundred to over two thousand congregants in ten years. But senior pastor Guy Conn and his leadership team knew that numerical growth doesn't necessarily equate to spiritual growth.

That's why when he saw the results of their first REVEAL survey, Guy was "disappointed, but not surprised." They began tackling what REVEAL showed was the church's biggest spiritual challenge—*personal spiritual practices*—specifically, Bible engagement. They introduced beginner Bible classes (which Guy taught) and connected small groups to weekend services dedicated to walking people through the New Testament.

One year later the congregation took the survey again and saw these *statistically meaningful changes*:

- Small Group Participation increased from one-third to over 50 percent
- Daily Bible Reading increased significantly for everyone!
- Satisfaction with the Church's Role in Spiritual Growth increased significantly overall
- The Close to Christ Segment grew to almost one-quarter of the church

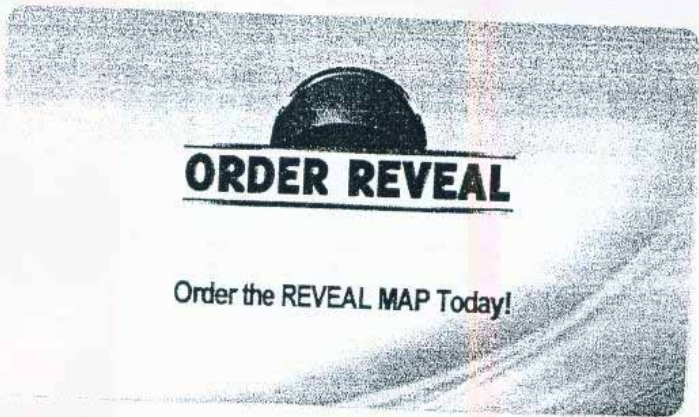


The spiritual growth results speak for themselves.

Plus—attendance grew 12 percent.

REVEAL did not cause spiritual growth at Fox River Christian. REVEAL shed light on the highest-impact actions the church could take to open their people up to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Learn more about REVEAL at willowcreek.com/reveal or revealnow.com



Order REVEAL

After a number of years developing and refining the REVEAL MAP in North America, we are pleased to announce the expansion of the survey internationally.

We are on plan this fall to formally launch REVEAL in seven countries: Australia, Germany, South Africa, Switzerland, The Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Purchase REVEAL's MAP in one of two ways

Product Option #1: Three-Wave Bundle

We highly recommend investing in a bundle of three waves (one benchmark survey and two follow-up surveys). The true power of the REVEAL MAP is in its ability to help you not only capture a snapshot of the spiritual life of your congregation but also provide you with a proven tool to monitor over time the effectiveness of changes your church makes to enhance their spiritual growth (i.e., the Progress component of the REVEAL MAP). The best way for you to keep tabs on the spiritual growth of your people is to take a series of periodic snapshots (we recommend surveying entire church once every 18 to 24 months).

We feel so strongly about applying REVEAL as a tracking tool that we have bundled three waves together at a discounted price. The waves can be activated at any time at your discretion.

Product Option #2: Single Wave

If you prefer, you may also purchase REVEAL on a one-time basis. The price for a one-time wave is

approximately 50% higher than the price for individual waves in the three-wave bundle. Whether you purchase the REVEAL experience as a three-wave bundle or a single wave, the price varies depending on the size of your weekend adult attendance.

ORDER NOW

Note: If you are a multi-site church and want to survey each site individually, you will need to purchase a separate wave for each site (based on the individual site's attendance). One unique link is provided per wave purchased.

Church Size*	Single Wave	Three Waves
Less than 250	\$375	\$750
250-999	\$750	\$1,500
1,000-2,499	\$1,875	\$3,750
2,500 or more	\$2,250	\$4,500

* Numbers based on weekend adult attendance.

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Hope. Leadership. Transformation. Together. 

ENGAGE

INTEGRATING INSIGHTS FROM REVEAL
FOR INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH
IN A LOCAL CHURCH

ENGAGE is a web-based system for churches to help individuals take personalized next steps in their spiritual journey. Seven partner churches have joined with the WCA to develop this whole new WAY to "engage" a congregation—all for the sake of authentic spiritual transformation.

ENGAGE strengthens the connection between an individual and God through three key areas:

- The church community
- Deeper relationships within that community
- Individualized next steps in spiritual growth

ENGAGE's individual assessment, derived from the ongoing work of REVEAL, provides a ground-breaking filter for each ENGAGE church to create personalized recommendations based on known catalytic themes for growth. In addition to these very individual recommendations, the system fosters deepened relationships focused on spiritual growth, personalized church communications, and significant serving opportunities. ENGAGE integrates with a church's website, management system (ChMS), and external social networks including Facebook.

ENGAGE: The place your congregation will go to discover and take real, personalized next steps in increasing their connection with God—and your church and local church community.

Hope. Leadership. Transformation. Together



WILLOWCREEK: REVEAL MAP

REVEAL MAP answers the questions:

- Are my people really growing spiritually?
- What actions should I take to help them grow?

A five-year study of 280,000 in-depth responses from people in 1,200 churches across denominations shows:

- Church activity is NOT a blueprint for spiritual growth.
- A person's love of God and love for others increases along a SPIRITUAL CONTINUUM defined by his or her relationship with God.
- KEY CATALYSTS trigger movement along the continuum.
- Churches that know how their people are doing have a CLEAR ROADMAP to guide their growth – and to fulfill Matthew 28's mandate to "go and make disciples of all nations."

REVEAL MAP PROCESS:

MEASURE: The REVEAL Survey provides a spiritual "snapshot" of your people. It assesses peoples' spiritual attitudes and behaviors. It is web-based and easy to administer. The report is sent to the pastor. The report benchmarks your people against a growing and diverse database of churches across the country.

ACT: Revealworks is a self-facilitated, four-step planning tool to help your ministry team understand and respond to your REVEAL survey results. You will get everything you need – including facilitator guides, templates for breakout group discussions, video support, and devotions.

PROGRESS: The church is provided a personalized tracking report highlighting statistically meaningful changes over time based on the effectiveness of new programs and initiatives.

Learn more about REVEAL at: <http://www.willowcreek.com/reveal> or <http://www.revealnow.com>.

Suggested Resources

Membership Classes

Membership Matters by Lawless used by Christ, Tulsa & Claremore First, UMC

UMC 101 (online resource) UM Communications

Basic United Methodist Beliefs

- *Basic Belief Series for United Methodist* (Sr. High/Adult Confirmation) published by Bristol House
- *Basic United Methodist Beliefs: The Evangelical View* published by Bristol House
- *United Methodist Beliefs: A Brief Introduction* by William H. Willimon

Belief Matters: United Methodist's Doctrinal Standards by Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.

Channing Bete Resources for use with New Comer Class and for general use with New Members used by First UMC, Claremore

Doctrinal Standards in the Wesleyan Tradition by Thomas C. Oden

The United Methodist Church: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World (order this free booklet through United Methodist Communications)

This is Christianity by Maxie Dunam

This We Believe: The Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith of the UMC by Norman P. Madsen

United Methodist Beliefs by William H. Willimon

We are United Methodists by Ewart G. Watts

What's Different About the United Methodist Church? by Bruce Blake

Spiritual Gifts & God Given Talents Resources

http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355371/k.9501/Spiritual_Gifts.htm

Finding Your Spiritual Gifts: Wagner Modified Houts Questionnaire

Living Your Strengths by Albert Winseman (has a talents survey)

Ministry Tools Resource Center Online Spiritual Gifts Tests Inventory

Network Revised by Bruce Bugbee

Place Ministry.org/com (online assessments, coach training DVDs, customized online service opportunity catalog, servant involvement tracking, servant type search engine)

StengthFinder 2:0 by Tom Rath

Serving from the Heart and Leadership for the Heart by Adam Hamilton

Team Ministry, Spiritual Gifts Inventory

The Body Life Journey

Miscellaneous Resources for New Member and Member Assimilation

For General Use

Catch: Attracting and Connecting Visitors (Planning Kit) by Debi Williams Nixon with Adam Hamilton

Deepening Your Effectiveness by Glover and Lavey used by Christ UMC, Tulsa & Collinsville

Fusion and Activate by Searcy and Thomas used by Christ UMC, Tulsa & Claremore FUMC

Natural Church Development (need to obtain list of coaches and churches)

Apostolic Congregation by George Hunter (need list of individuals who attended Hunter workshop)

Tipping Point (James Schellhorn recommended, as used by FUMC, Claremore follows a business plan for congregational growth)

Those Who Have Participated in Sub Committee:

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Janelle Brammer jbrammer@claremorefumc.org First, Claremore
Cindy Robertson rev_cindy@earthlink.net Foyil

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