

# **Ministry Plan**

## **Central District**

### **United Methodist Church**

#### **February 3, 2004**

#### **Vision**

**“A church alive in the grace of God, offering Christ, transforming lives, and changing our world through the power of the Holy Spirit.”**

#### **Mission**

**To fulfill the vision of the Arkansas Conference, the Central District of the United Methodist Church will work in ministry to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping local churches for mission and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the congregation, all to the glory of God. (Par. 601, 2000 Discipline)**

#### **Core Values and Beliefs:**

- We believe the Central District, composed of 42 churches of the United Methodist Church, is a manifestation of one connectional body, with many congregations serving as mission outposts in Pulaski County.
- We believe that as members of one body when one part of the body suffers we all suffer; and when one rejoices, we all rejoice. As the Central District, we share resources both human and financial to build up the body of Christ in the Central District.
- We believe in the development of lay leadership and clergy leadership to maintain connectional relationships, strengthen ethnic ministries, and provide encouragement, coordination, and support for local churches in their ministry of nurture, outreach and witness.
- We believe that our mission and task is to live out the great commission, Matthew 28:18-20, and to reach out to the least, the last, and the lost.
- We believe that the Central District will live out the words where every congregation can be a mission site where people gather with “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors,” and become caring and outreaching congregations to the central Arkansas metropolitan communities.
- We believe that because of our demographic diversity the Central District will so organize to develop, administer, and evaluate the missional life, advocacy needs and ministries of the Church in and through the district.

## **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1. To move congregations from maintenance to mission. To start work immediately with every existing congregation to be in mission in their communities.**
  - We will resource every congregation that wants to be in mission and help them move to the next level of 50+ growth in attendance.
  - We will support Connected In Christ, that by 2013, 75% of the Central District will have participated in Connected In Christ.
  - Utilize the Conference Office on assistance to local congregation development of program ministries for all ages.
  - To resource the African-American churches (11), Korean church (1), and Hispanic church (0), to insure that the Central District more clearly reflects the population of Pulaski County in regard to ethnicity, culture and race.
  - To work with congregations to grow new church starts within the District.
  - To interpret the apportionments of the United Methodist Church and make them available in media format, DVD and print.
  
- 2. To network congregations by building off the Cooperative Parish model. The Central District is composed of the geographic boundaries of Pulaski County. The district encompasses small and large membership churches.**
  - By 2006, every part-time congregation will have an opportunity to be in a Cooperative Parish model with a full-time growing congregation that offers opportunities to participate in Bible Study, Volunteer In Mission teams, and other programs of nurture and outreach.
  - To network smaller membership churches together to share staffing of youth, children, and adult ministry specialists.
  - As the Central District is composed in the geographic bounds of a county, its community mission outreach projects will be accessible to faith-based grants from the county level.
  - To advertise and expand the participation of United Methodists with mission sites and community development: Black Community Development, Arkansas Food Bank, Rice Depot, Aldersgate, KAIROS, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia Initiative, Youth Emergency Shelter, Centers for Youth and Families, Our House, Ozark Mission Project, Delta Mission Project, Second Genesis, Infant Crisis Ministry, etc.
  - By 2006, to enable every congregation of the District to have an operational, functional web page, updated regularly.
  
- 3. To identify, enlist and retain gifted young pastors who are passionate about making disciples for Christ.**
  - Each year encourage local congregations to promote an annual "Ministry Sunday."
  - Encourage local congregations and pastors to identify, encourage, and support young people to respond to a call to ministry from God.
  - In 2005, to hold workshops on staffing models for growing congregations.
  
- 4. To evangelize and disciple children, youth, and young adults.**
  - Annual workshops where older membership congregations can start new ministries to and with younger people.

- To enlist “teaching church” in the district to illustrate its age level ministries.
- To hold “Worship and Music” workshops to educate congregations on methods to attract the younger age groups.

**5. To develop lay leadership within each congregation.**

- In 2005 and each year, workshops for development of small group ministries, covenant study groups, Every Member In Ministry programs.

**6. To assess the physical needs of church buildings in the District to ensure that the congregation is open and accessible for worship and ministry.**

- To work with identified congregations on facilities improvements and needs. To seek funding sources for congregations that need immediate assistance.

Approved and adopted at the Central District Conference, held at Philander-Smith College, on Sunday, September 26, 2004.