



**Laurel Heights
United Methodist Church**

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The Messenger

26 January 2020

Volume 44, Issue 3



A bi-weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

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UMC Directions: Beyond the Horizon (part 2)

Katie Myers, Lay Leader

In May of 2020, delegates from around the world will again gather for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, this time in Minneapolis. Many different groups have submitted petitions that aim in varying ways to help the denomination move through a decades-long impasse over LGBTQ+ inclusion. Some of the most prominent proposals include the Indianapolis Plan (multiple contributors), the Next Generation UMC Plan (UMC Next), the N.E.W. Plan (UM Forward), and the U.S. Regional Conference Plan (Connectional Table). In addition, annual conferences can submit legislation until 45 days before General Conference. There are also on-going efforts to broker legislation that delegates from outside the United States and Europe are willing to support.



The proposals are not easily boiled down to a straightforward catch phrase or description as was generally the case for the called General Conference in 2019. They seek to address not only our disagreements about doctrine and theology but also structural and organizational issues within the denomination. The United Methodist News Service has created a table outlining the details of these four proposals which can be viewed here: [tinyurl.com/GC2020Proposals](https://www.tinyurl.com/GC2020Proposals)

There are also on-going efforts to broker legislation that delegates from outside the United States and Europe are willing to support. One such effort, the "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation," recently made national news headlines. This mediated process has brought together influential United Methodist leaders who come from around the world and hold divergent views. While promising, the "Protocol" has no binding authority and depends upon passage of accompanying legislation by the General Conference, the only decision making body for The United Methodist Church.

Continuing the Conversation

Sunday, January 26 at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in room 312.

Updates regarding the United Methodist Church leading up to the General Conference in Minneapolis, MN in May 2020. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Led by Rev. Paul Escamilla, Senior Pastor, and Katie Myers, Lay Leader

NEWSLETTER TIMELINE

Please submit articles and announcements for the volume 44 issue 3 edition of *The Messenger* (Feb. 9-22) by Thursday, January 30th. Submissions can be emailed to editor@mylhumc.org or called into the church office at 210-733-7156 x 211.



Visit us on the web
<https://www.laurelheights.org>



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Like us on Facebook

Help save a tree.
Email Aubrey Reichman, Publications Editor,
at editor@mylhumc.org to subscribe to
read this newsletter online.

Gatherings

Sundays: 8:30 AM & 11 AM in Main Sanctuary
Holy Communion First Sundays
-Fellowship Time 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM
Wednesdays: 6:15 PM in Scott Chapel
- Holy Communion Every Wednesday
- Service preceded by Supper at 5:30 PM
in the Fellowship Hall

Accessibility

Handicap parking spaces are available in both Belknap and Woodlawn parking lots. An elevator in the main (education) building goes to the fellowship hall, gymnasium, and classrooms on second and third floors, as well as to the foyer leading into the sanctuary. If you need assistance or have questions about accessibility, please call the Church Receptionist weekdays at (210) 733-7156.

Our mission is to offer Christ to those we encounter and to nurture, equip, and enable persons to become committed Christians in our community and the world beyond.

A Glimpse Inside

UMC Directions: Beyond the Horizon (Part 2) (p. 1-2)

Continuing the Conversation Sunday, January 26 at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in room 312.

Bishop Schnase Preaching Sunday, February 16 (p. 2)

The Journey to Bethlehem Final Update (p. 2)

We made it!

February Mission of the Month (p. 3)

The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio

Visit the LHUMC Library (p. 4)

Open Sundays from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and other times by request.

Wednesday Supper Menus (p. 4)

Imposition of Ashes Services (p. 4)

Wednesday, Feb. 26 in the Sanctuary | 10 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6:15 p.m.

Our Life Together (p. 5)

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For now, the following generalities seem to me the most important to bear in mind as we approach General Conference 2020: General Conference 2020 will not look like General Conference 2019.

Instead of the entire body voting up or down on large “plans” as happened in 2019, the proposed legislation will be divided up among 14 legislative committees that will review and revise and then vote whether to send those measures to the entire body to be discussed or voted on. What this means is that, much like in the Texas House or U.S. Senate, legislation may look very different after passing through a committee, and that we need to not get too focused on a specific “plan” as it is presently configured.

Reverend Tom Berlin received this advice from an assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking from the experience of the Anglican/Episcopal community, “*Either you walk together more loosely, or you part with a blessing.*” The idea that the future can, will, and should include some loosening of bonds, separating in some way or another, allowing for some to depart with a blessing undergirds all the proposals coming into General Conference 2020.

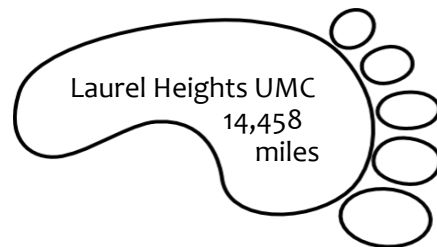
Finally, legislation cannot resolve everything. We should not rest all our hopes on a legislative solution in Minneapolis. Our journey to what is next will most likely be halting and messy and challenging.

Laurel Heights will continue to create space for conversation and exploration of the future of our denomination and what these global decisions mean for us. We will continue to live out our calling to love God and our neighbor. We will continue to welcome friend and the stranger. We will seek to live lives individually and collectively that declare God’s love and grace in every way and in every place and to every one. We will hold hands with each other trusting that, in the words of the affirmation from the United Church of Canada we find in our hymnal, “God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.”

Bishop Robert Schnase will be preaching for both services at Laurel Heights UMC on Sunday, February 16



Journey to Bethlehem



Thank you, Laurel Heights, for committing to the journey! We made it to Bethlehem before Christmas and decided to turn around and keep going! With the hard work and dedication of everyone that participated, we completed the journey there and are headed back again, for a total of 14,458 miles!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

- 8:30 & 11:00 *Worship - *Sanctuary*
- 9:30 *Fellowship (Everywoman’s Class) - *Fellowship Hall*
- 10:00 *Sunday School
- 10:00 Continuing the Conversation - *312*
- 4:00 Continuing the Conversation - *312*

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

- 9:00 Moving On exercise class - *305*
- 7:00 AA Big Book Study - *312*
- 7:15 Disciple I Bible Study - *305*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

- 9:00 Moving On exercise class - *305*
- 5:30 Supper - *Fellowship Hall*
- 6:00 Joyful Noise Children’s Choir rehearsal - *313 A*
- 6:15 Worship - *Scott Chapel*
- 6:30 Laurel Choir Children’s Choir rehearsal - *313 A*
- 7:00 Chancel Choir rehearsal - *Choir Room*
- 7:00 AA-Monte Vista - *305*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

- 9:00 Church Mice - *Dining Room*
- 9:00 Super Adults Day - *Gym*
- 12:00 The Enneagram Journey - *305*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

- 9:00 Moving On exercise class - *305*

Birthday Blessings
January 26 - February 8

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1/26 - Laura Healy | 2/1 - Wells Shaw |
| 1/27 - Janice Clayton | Emilia Parker |
| Lee Saucedo | 2/2 - Rachel Goeres |
| 1/28 - May O’Neal | 2/3 - Andrew Edeler |
| 1/29 - Nan Shelden | 2/4 - Susan Holloway |
| Ilda Gennero | Chrys Hecox |
| 1/30 - Ryley Garza | 2/5 - Karen Hogan |
| Peter Bowman | Richard Parrigan |
| 1/31 - Omar Medina | 2/7 - Clyta Coder |
| | 2/8 - Lydia Powell |



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Clergy
Rev. Paul L. Escamilla x 206 Senior Pastor
Rev. Jim Carr x 219 Minister of Pastoral Care
Rev. Tanya Campen Deacon in Residence

Programming
Susan Holloway 733-6482 Super Adult Director
Laurie Miracle 732-6979 Weekday School Director
Geoffrey Waite x 205 Director of Music
Laura Healy x 208 Director of Program Ministries

Office
Receptionist x 201
Elizabeth Jackson x 207 Administrative Secretary
Louise Dudley x 209 Bookkeeper
Aubrey Reichman x 211 Publications Editor

New Year, New Online Giving Platform!

To donate online visit laurelheights.org/donate, things will look different and you will be required to set up a new giving account. To use our text-to-give service, text “LHUMC” to 73256.

You are invited to supper! Wednesdays at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall

RSVP to (210) 733-7156 by 12 noon the Tuesday prior Suggested Donation \$7 adult; \$3.50 child

January 29th Host: Acadiana Cafe

Menu: Fried Catfish, Red Beans and Rice, Coleslaw, Rolls, Peach Cobbler

February 5th Host: Acadiana Cafe

Menu: Pork Tenderloin, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Peas & Carrots, Dinner Rolls, Banana Pudding

Lent 2020

Encounters with Jesus



Imposition of Ashes Services

Wednesday, February 26 LHUMC Sanctuary 10:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6:15 p.m.

thank you!

We grew a library!!

Thank you for the generosity that flows so easily from the LHUMC congregation.

This Christmas we collected over 80 (82 to be exact) books for the Cotton Academy Library.

Healing: Donovan Buck (Barbara Geerdes), Shelley McMullen, Aaron (Greyson Mitchell), Nora Winkler, Dale Clayton-Morrison (Bert and Janice Clayton), Whit Birdsong, Estelle Hogan, Cara and Aruna (Sue Hall), Irene Vaca, Rev. Justin Jones (Leana Turbeville), Jeff Hamlett (Mike McGlone), Mike Burton (Bert and Janice Clayton), George Frame, Doug Semmes, Mal Hierholzer, Teresa Johnson (Shirley Carter and Marvin Huth), Vicki Ferguson. God's Presence: The spirit of great-grandma "Gogi" (Olivia Girdley), homebound members, our church family (Jack Girdley), the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.



The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio

The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio is the Methodist Campus Ministry for San Antonio College (SAC), Trinity University, and The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA main) campuses.



We earnestly seek to create intentional and authentic Christian communities in and around those campuses. We engage with students in order to live out our faith on campus as well as in mission efforts and worship opportunities. We were able to take our students to a retreat at Camp Capers, which was generously offered by the Episcopal Archdioceses. It was a great weekend to connect and find time to reflect with members of Texas State's Wesley and UT Rio Grande Valley. We seek to create a culture of change and growth through empowering and equipping student leaders.

This past year the Campus Ministry hosted Rev. Dr. Darrell Smith (Alamo Heights UMC) as a speaker for our weekly "Hot Potato" discussion, and Rev. Denise Barker (Magdalena House), who spoke about the realities of human trafficking. We also hosted representatives from Habitat for Humanity, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, and Haven for Hope.

Quite simply, we exist to make disciples for Jesus Christ! The struggles are real for our college students and we need your continued support and prayers as we recharge spirits through Bible study, mission, and outreach.

For more information, please contact us at (210) 733-1441 or visit our website www.saumcm.org. The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio ||| 102 Belknap Pl., San Antonio, TX 78212 Rev. Valerie Vogt, Campus Minister ||| Brenda Meneses, Ministry Administrator ||| Alex Ruiz, Program Coordinator



Come visit the LHUMC Library!

If your goal in 2020 is to read more, we invite you to come visit the Library on the 3rd floor, room 315.

It is open from 10-12 on Sundays or you can request a key from the church office at other times.

-The Library Committee