



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOUISVILLE AREA

7400 FLOYDSBURG ROAD
CRESTWOOD, KENTUCKY 40014

February 15, 2011

LINDSEY DAVIS
RESIDENT BISHOP

Dear Clergy and Lay Members of the Kentucky Annual Conference,

Plans are rapidly developing for our upcoming 2011 Annual Conference Session and I look forward to seeing all of you there. We will gather to celebrate the ministries of our church and conference under the theme "Called by Christ, Sent to Sow." Our focus will be on planting new churches to reach new people for Christ, and I want to share two important pieces of information with you.

1) Once again we will participate in an afternoon of service. This year the afternoon of service will be on Friday, June 10. You are invited to wear your work clothes and conference tee shirt that day and impact the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati community for Christ. There will be a variety of opportunities from packing health kits at the Convention Center, to home repair, to prayer walks. I look forward to everyone participating again this year and I hope to personally visit many of the sites that day. Our presence in the area last year had an extraordinarily positive impact on the community and was a great encouragement to those who work on a daily basis to improve the plight of the poor.

2) Our mission offering this year will go to plant a new church in Thailand and to support the education and development of new church planters in the country of Venezuela. Both of these nations have young, emerging Methodist churches. Our efforts in Thailand are through Kentucky Conference leaders, Mike and Sherri Morrissey. The work in Venezuela is in cooperation with the United Methodist Church of Venezuela and their Bishop, Juvenal Perez. In Thailand we will be actually providing support for the development of a specific congregation, helping to fund the pastor's salary.

In Venezuela we will be cooperating with the Seminary of the Methodist Church in Venezuela in helping to prepare their young clergy to be church planters. Over the past five years over fifty new churches have been planted in Venezuela. As you may know from reading about this nation, the Christian witness is strong even in the midst of some difficulty and persecution.

Our cabinet has set a goal of raising \$120,000 for our mission offering this year. It will be divided equally between the efforts in Thailand and Venezuela. I am confident in your generous spirit. Last year we gave a record breaking \$240,000 to support the ministry of Red Bird. I am confident that we can have another wonderful response from our people with your help. Please plan for a special offering at your church on the Sunday prior to Annual Conference or at another time that would be convenient for you. Then bring your church's check with you to conference to give during the Mission and Ministry Celebration on the evening of Friday, June 10. This year we begin a new journey with our brothers and sisters in Thailand and Venezuela.

May God bless us, not only as we work together for the sake of God's Kingdom, but also as we give so others may know Christ as Lord and Savior.

In Christ,

Bishop Lindsey Davis

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