



The Connection

The United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators
www.umacba.org • March 2006

Executive Board 05-06

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Season of Lent Holds Message of Retreat and Preparation for All

Originally Lent was a period of preparation for Easter baptism. This was a time of prayer and fasting that culminated with an all-night vigil of Easter, including baptism and confirmation, and the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Later, church members made Lent a penitential season of mourning for sin.

The forty weekdays of Lent represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness during his temptation. It was a time that tested and prepared Jesus for His ministry. The first thing Jesus did when He came out of the wilderness was to draw a community around Himself ... the twelve disciples.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus would sometimes retreat by Himself, but often He would retreat with his community, to teach and be renewed.

As church administrators, we also have an opportunity to retreat with our community. The next annual conference will be in Chicago from July 25-29, 2006. We will have opportunities to build community, to learn and to be spiritually fed through worship. We will be renewed and prepared to return to our ministries in the local church.

Plan now to join your brothers and sisters in Christ in Chicago in July.

Blessings,
Diane Klemann
President

letter from the
President

Send us your e-mail address

If you received this newsletter via snail mail, please help reduce communications costs by obtaining and sending your e-mail address to Membership Chair Marge Fredrickson at mvfredrick@aol.com

UMACBA Membership Handbook Available

Really want to know the nitty-gritty organizational details of UMACBA? You can go online anytime and check out the membership handbook at www.umacba.org

Tool Time with NACBA

Whether you're in a pinch to develop your next SPRC budget, or looking for innovative approaches to operational challenges, NACBA has many useful tools ready and waiting on line at www.nacba.net.

Our Purpose

The purpose of the United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators shall be to support the ministry of Christ and the Christian Church by providing leadership, training and encouragement in the areas of church business administration for individuals and organizations of The United Methodist Church.

Yahoo! Group

Want to share and receive helpful advise from fellow administrators? Join the UMACBA eGroup! Simply email UMACBA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You'll receive an email reply from Yahoo! with instructions. Once you subscribe, you may begin sending out your questions to fellow UM administrators across the country. And as busy as we all are, you'll be impressed by how quick CBAs are to respond. We're a pretty helpful group!

Membership/Renewal Application

A new and improved membership form is available online. Simply go to our website to download the form at www.umacba.org.

UMACBA Website Hacked

This has been a rough year for the UMACBA website: we were hacked! An unfriendly person invaded our website. As a result, we had to rebuild it and make the resulting corrections and updates. We have since added new security in hopes that this will not happen again.

Nominations

In addition to three timely workshops sponsored by UMACBA, we'll have our annual business meetings and social time at the annual conference. One of the annual agenda items is to elect new officers.

Please send suggestions for nominations to Vice Chair Michelle DeFano, michelle.defano@komaxgroup.com by May 1, 2006, as nominations must be in place at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

Send Ideas!

The 2005-06 Executive Committee welcomes your questions, comments and ideas to help enhance the work and mission of UM CBAs. Please feel free to contact us at any time by e-mailing President Diane Klemann at DKlemann@aol.com.

Update: Medicaid and Asset Transfers

Sen. Bonner, AL, clarifies the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, S. 1932 and its impact on giving

In January many of you received emails expressing concern over language in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, S. 1932 regarding Medicaid and proposed reforms that may have impacted church contributions by seniors.

It was feared that the proposed bill would discourage contributions if they would be used to disqualify a senior from applying for Medicaid.

This legislation was eventually passed by both the House and Senate, then signed into law by President Bush in February.

According to a letter published in January by U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, Alabama, 1st District, and a March 13th telephone conversation with Bonner's staff, these concerns were unfounded, and would in no way affect the ability of "faithful givers" from making contributions as they always have in the past. Rather, it is intended to prevent blatant attempts by wealthy taxpayers from making extraordinary gifts in order to qualify for Medicaid.

Here is an excerpt from Rep. Bonner's January 30, 2006 letter:

"I have heard from many of you in the last couple of weeks who have been contacted with allegations that proposed changes to Medicaid will curtail seniors' donations to churches and charities, children and grandchildren and every gift of an item for less than fair market value (FMV).

News You Can Use

by Phil Estes

"As a donor to my own church and various charities, I was alarmed by these allegations and have made every effort to advise the Budget Committee, on which I sit, and the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid, of the outpour of your and my concerns.

"After much research and after several conversations and meetings with the Energy and Commerce Committee, I am confident—and have been assured—that no language in this upcoming bill will prohibit or prevent seniors from giving in the manner that they have in the past.

"The reform provisions addressing Medicaid in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, S. 1932, are designed and intended to close loopholes through which wealthy seniors transfer sometimes enormous wealth and assets to children or grandchildren in an effort to prevent using that wealth to pay for their possible nursing home care.

"Let me be clear ... the manner by which Medicaid may review a senior's transfers for less than FMV will not change with S. 1932. The same intent test will be applied by Medicaid according to S. 1932 in the future as is applied today.

"What will change is the period through which Medicaid is allowed to question certain transfers for less than FMV (the three year look back period will become a five year look back period)."

For additional information, please contact your Senator and/or Representative. You may view Representative Bonner's letter in its entirety by going to <http://bonner.house.gov/HoR/AL01/News/Columns/2006/column+1-30-06.htm>

Join your UMACBA friends for the 50th Annual UMACBA National Conference!

UMACBA Chicago Conference Workshops Include:

- Disaster Plans – How to be Ready to Help. *Presenter: LaForice Neeley, American Red Cross, Managing Director.*
- Prevention and Protection – Sexual Misconduct. *Presenter: Dawn Lemke, Senior Claims Attorney, Church Mutual Insurance*
- Improving Employee Performance – Coaching, Development and Appraisal Process Tools. *Presenter: Kathy Oughton, Senior Instructional Designer, Consultant to Manchester United Methodist Church.*



*Hold on to your hats!
The Windy City hosts the
2006 UMACBA/NACBA Conference
July 25 - 29, 2006.*

**Go to www.nacba.net for the latest information on this historic
50th National Conference event to be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago!**

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