

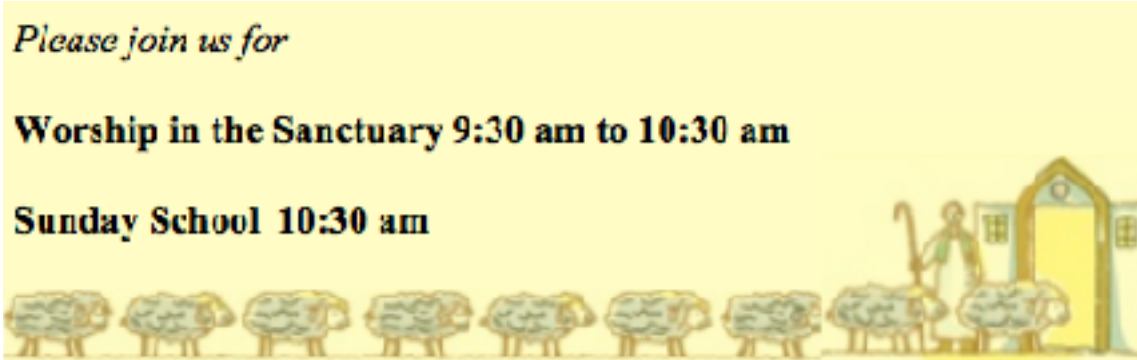
Church Staff

Arkansas Area Bishop, Rev. Gary Mueller
Central District Superintendent, Rev. Richard Lancaster

Rev David Hoffman

Phone: (501) 475-6397

Email: PastorDavid@GeyerSpringsUMC.org
geyersprings.umc@comcast.net



The Informer

Geyer Springs United Methodist Church
501-565-3175 ▪ geyersprings.umc@comcast.net ▪ www.geyerspringsumc.org

Why This? Why Now?

I thought I would take this month’s article to explain why I advocate the change in the administrative structure of the church from multiple committees to one committee. This is only my observed opinion and it is offered for the purposes of explanation, and education.

When we set our committees each year we attempt to staff administrative committee with 9 to 12 members each. Staff-Parish, Finance and Trustees alone would require 36 people. But that isn’t the complete story. The chair of trustees and staff-parish, are automatically members of finance by virtue of their offices. This redundancy makes sense in that they are necessary to provide specific knowledge of the needs for those areas.

They also become members of the church council. Someone who agrees to one of these posts must therefore give time to at least three administrative committees to do their job. As each team meets on a Tuesday each month, an entire month is eaten up quickly.

Here are some advantages:

1. These servant/officers will devote their time to one meeting per month (if that is the pattern retained by the council). While each meeting may be longer than historic patterns, it is less in accumulated time than before.
2. The faces are usually the same in small churches. While the Discipline requires that several servant/officer be members of multiple committees, there is always some difficulty in staffing the needed positions from those willing and able to serve causing more duplication. These persons usually experience some “burn out” before they wear out.
3. It will not be necessary to present the same item to three different committees before approval. For example, if trustees desire to change something that requires the expenditure of money, they must debate the item in their own committee to determine a course of action. **continued.....**

Rev. Hoffman continued...

They must then bring the same item to finance to make certain money is available for the project.

Finally, the church council will consider the item. This process may take as little as 2-3 months or much more. The alternative would be to have called meetings in addition to the regular ones.

4. This will offer us more time to do ministry. We spend the bulk of our time just doing the administrative tasks of the church and little time is left for ministry work. I would hope the church could offer more meaningful things such as small groups, educational programs and hands-on mission work. We can be free to be the church.

5. There will continue to be a church treasurer whose duties will not change; the function of that office will be more like that seen in a business setting. The council would review financial reports each month.

6. The council will only handle business items. Each committee/team will provide their minutes to be placed in the record, but there would be no requirement to present oral reports as well.

For purposes of discussion, we should also consider things that might be seen as disadvantages:

1. There are fewer people in the decision-making process. While this is true, please remember that many of these are duplicates between the committees.

2. There will be too much power in so few people.

a. In addition to the previous argument, term limits will also require there

be a change of committee members each year. People will be appointed to staggered three-year terms, so one-third of the committee may change each year.

b. Whether the council members may serve two consecutive terms must be decided when the structure is established by the charge conference. No one would serve more than 2 terms without a break in service.

3. Who will be the trustees of the church? While the structure may vary some depending on what the charge conference adopts, the council will become the trustees and staff-parish committees and administer those duties.

4. What happens to the rest of the duties in the church? The structure of the ministry teams of the church, such as Christian Education, Mission and Outreach and Nurture, will not change. While each of these teams will continue to report by providing their meeting minutes to the council, they will coordinate their work through the pastor, who is then ultimately responsible to the council. As the pastor is responsible for the spiritual direction of the church, this is an additional benefit.

I hope this helps you to understand what this plan seeks to do. If you have other comments or concerns, please let me know.

Shalom, David

A SHOUT OUT TO FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

We have the most wonderful volunteers at our pantry. On Wednesdays we have Terri, Ralph, Cope, Becky, Chuck, Dorothy and Lawrence picking up and unloading two trucks and two cars of food! The Wesley students meet us and help unload, pack, recycle and stock! When they are free, we have Leslie, Conrad and Hugh (Anna's family). Lately, Leslie's friend Jeff has been volunteering.

On Thursdays we have Anna checking returning clients in. Kim Jones and Carol Haskins and Chuck sign up new clients and welcome them. Ann Howell and her sister, Myra, have joined us to help pack boxes and give out food. Dorothy and Chuck, now retired, are a blessing. Betty Ross and Carole Keeland are the workhorses in the packing room. They never miss and do fantastic work packing boxes and restocking shelves. Annie Ross, Kristianna and John Pittenger and Dorothy Gantz pack meat, bread, frozen goods,

and miscellaneous stuff. Gwen Hauser, Terri or Ralph man the pick up station or recycle. Chris and Leah and Lisa and Marlee help in the summer. Kathy Kline does all the computer reports to the food bank!! Kathy Rodgers works in the office on Thursday morning and helps wherever needed. Carol Danner and Kim Hoffman come help when they are able. Thanks to Rev David for donating shelves and putting them up in the packing room♥♥♥ We have a village and an army working like crazy and we have FUN!! It is exhausting but rewarding.

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!!!!!



Oct 2 Jeremy Rodgers
 Oct 5 Jeremy Pressgrove
 Oct 5 Leslie Templeton
 Oct 11 Martin Nutt
 Oct 12 Rick Shelton
 Oct 18 Henry Nutt
 Oct 23 Dan Shelton
 Oct 24 Anne-Marie Swafford
 Oct 24 Zoe Watson

Treatment and Concerns:

Please continue to let us know of your prayer, joys, and concerns:
 Rev. David Hoffman, (501) 475-6397
 PastorDavid@GeyerSpringsUMC.org

Grief:

Family of Drucille Gilbert

Rehab & Nursing Centers:

Charles Turley, Briarwood Rehab

Home Bound:

Mildred Chenault
 Carol Haskins
 Loran Page
 Charles Turley
 Betty Stout
 Mary Ridgeway
 Louise Johnson

Treatment and Concerns:

John Bencick	Linda McCown
Marie Brown	Fay O'Donnell
Sherry Cardell	Victoria Ross
Lucile Chambers	Scott Simpson
Mildred Chenault	Lily Smith
Glenda Clay	Janet Swaty
Michelle Copeland	Rodney Swaty
Martha Drennon	Rose Teter
Carol Haskins	Elaine Watson
Rose Kelly	Hazel Wilson
Tom Kelly	Barbara Wood
Hildegard May	Becky Thompson
Mary Sue Henry	

**Wednesday Night Fellowship
 Wednesday Evenings
 at 5:30 pm**

Adults: \$3 Children: \$1 Any of the host groups welcomes your help.

Oct 4	Myers
Oct 11	UMW
Oct 18	Blackwell
Oct 25	UMM
Nov 1	New Beginnings



The Food Pantry continues to feed the hungry in our neighborhood. This would not be possible without the generous support of our congregation. Donations to the Food Pantry may be given directly to Terri Hammond or to the office with a designation "Food Pantry" on your envelope.



Oct 26 Scott & Vernetta
 Grizzelle

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	2 JEREMY RODGERS	3 5:00 PM ESL class	4 5:30 PM WNF 6:00 PM Trustee Meeting	5 Leslie Templeton Jeremy Pressgrove 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9 – NOON 6:00 PM 4-H Meeting	6	7 KATIE CAMPBELL
8 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	9 Columbus Day (regional holiday)	10 5:00 PM ESL class	11 MARTIN NUTT 5:30 PM WNF 5:30 PM UMM Meal Cook 6:00 PM Finance Meeting 6:00 PM Baby Shower for Jana Green	12 RICK SHELTON 5:30 PM Wesley Dinner	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	16	17 JUSTUS GREEN SHEENA HUDSON 5:00 PM ESL class	18 Henry James Nutt 5:30 PM WNF 6:00 PM Administrative Council Meeting	19 9:00 AM Food Pantry 4:00 PM Newsletter Article Deadline	20	21
22 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	23 DAN SHELTON	24 ANNE-MARIE SWAFFORD ZOE WATSON 5:00 PM ESL class	25 5:30 PM WNF	26 SCOTT & VERNETTE GRIZZELLE El Zocalo	27	28
29 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	30 HALEY HOWELL	31 FRANK HART Halloween 5:00 PM ESL class	1 5:30 PM WNF	2 Linda Magby 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9 – NOON 6:00 PM 4-H Meeting	3 ANNA TEMPLETON	4 DAVID ROSS