

Greetings Salina and Hays District Clergy!

May 3, 2019

Blessings to you all! As Promised! A lengthy email...I hope the information below is thoughtfully reviewed and received!

Important Dates & District Information

Great Plains Annual Conference May 29 – June 1, 2019 in Topeka, Kansas.

Annual conference is here! Have you registered and booked a hotel? Time is short! Conference Workbook will be available soon for your printing. Be sure to check for information in the GP Connect online newsletter or check the website at www.greatplainsumc.org for further information.

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Church Stories and Photos for Bishop Saenz

Bishop Saenz wants to share your church/ministry stories and pictures at Annual Conference – Please send a short story (2 paragraphs or less) accompanied with a couple of photos to salinads@greatplainsumc.org Your stories and photos will be sent by the Salina DS to Bishop Saenz who may include parts of your shared stories in his episcopal address at annual conference. **Deadline to email to the DS is May 8th**

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Absence from Annual Conference

Process to request an Excused Absence:

1. Email directly the Salina District Superintendent at salinads@greatplainsumc.org.
2. Describe in the email the nature and dates of the absence.
3. DS, will consider the request and respond by email if request was approved or/disapproved.
4. DS will send to the GP Conference Secretary the list of names approved for absence for appropriate listing in the 2019 conference journal.

We all understand that *'life happens'*, however, all clergy under appointment and or lay pastors/ministers assigned including District Superintendent Assignments (DSA) are expected to attend annual conference yearly.

Persons working in full-time secular employment or school and serving in part-time appointments/assignments are to notify the Salina District Superintendent at salinads@greatplainsumc.org of your availability for annual conference. We understand your availability is contingent on your ability to take leave from your secular employer or school schedule.

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Clergy Assessments

May 15, 2019 Due Date for All Clergy Assessments!

Reminder: Clergy Assessments are due to the Salina District Office by end of the day on May 15th 2019. You can scan your Self-Assessment and the S/PPRC Assessment and email to the salinadistrict@greatplainsumc.org or salinads@greatplainsumc.org or you can send by US Postal mail, or you can drop-off at the Salina district office. If we are absent from the District

Office, place your assessments in an envelope and slide under the district door for our safe retrieval.

Remember both self-assessment and S/PPRC assessments need the pastor's signature. The S/PPRC assessment needs signatures from the committee members and the pastor. Signatures confirm that pastor and committee has met and all are aware of the contents. *If you are moving from an appointment or taking a leave status your assessment is still required.*

All unsigned assessments will be sent back directly for signature!

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Network Leaders News!

Network Leaders serving the Salina and Hays District!

The District Superintendent will contact all those serving in the role of 'network leader' to touch base on resourcing, upcoming changes in the network, and to set a meeting with the network and network pastors only. Network leaders will receive a phone call or email by May 15, 2019 from the DS.

In addition, network leaders, network pastors and the district superintendent will schedule a time to meet in networks. Upcoming dates, times and locations set in consultation with the network leader and district superintendent. More information forthcoming.

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Annual Church Audits – Fund Balance Reports District Date May 31, 2019!

Annually each local church is to complete their annual church audit/Fund Balance Reports and send to the district office. The Salina District and DS has encouraged churches and pastors to submit those reports by May 31 each year to help us manage the conference expected due date at the end of June.

We graciously request that if your church is unable to complete the report by May 31st that you send us a note, email or contact us by phone and let us know when to expect the report for the district records. Thank you!

Clergy Consultations June 1, – August 31, 2019

Clergy consultation scheduling will happen in the following months: June, July and August. We will use a flexible scheduling format for the selections of dates and times. Clergy can choose from 2 options to meet:

(1. Salina District Office or 2. Video Meeting by ZOOM)

More information on dates and time options will be sent NLT May 10th, 2019.

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Network Happenings – SAVE THE DATES

Smith Center Network Invites Clergy & Laity to:

Mental Health First Aid Workshop **8-hour training** equipping the public to help persons with mental illness connect to care. (Flyer Attached)

Cost: Free

Dates & Location:

June 8, 2019 – Osborne UMC, 105 N. 3rd St. Osborne, KS 67473

August 10, 2019—Smith Center UMC, 301 E. Kansas, Smith Center, KS

Time: 9am—5pm; Lunch will be provided.

RSVP in Osborne by June 1, 2019 & in Smith Center by August 3, 2019.

Contact:

Pastor Laura Cherry @ Rose Valley UMC 785-454-3418 or lcherry@greatplainsumc.org

Pastor Anna Borders @ Downs UMC 785-454-3327 or aborders@greatplainsumc.org

Pastor Dorothy Ellsworth @ Osborne UMC 785-346-2333 or dellsworth@greatplainsumc.org

Pastor Michael Ricci-Roberts @ Smith Center UMC 785-282-3728 or

mroberts@greatplainsumc.org

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SAVE THE DATE: September 25-27, 2019

Leadership Event – Church of the Resurrection September 25-27, 2019. For more information got to the COR website.

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SALINA DISTRICT CLERGY - SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday October 8th, 2019

Save the Date: –Bishop Saenz will gather with us at our Salina District Clergy Gathering to fellowship with us! Location: TBD

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HAYS DISTRICT CLERGY SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday October 22nd, 2019

Save the Date: –Bishop Saenz will gather with the Hays District Clergy Gathering to fellowship with us! Location: HAYS District - TBD

November 1-30, 2019 Church/Charge Conferences

All Church Conferences are being planned to be held in the month of November 1-30, 2019. Church/charge conferences will retain the Network configurations, with times and locations determined in consultation with the ‘network leaders and the district superintendent. Single church conferences will be determined by the District Superintendent. More information to forthcoming with **dates and locations determined by June 15, 2019.**

Note: The Salina district is working on ‘streamlining’ the processes and paperwork requirements for church conferences. More information forthcoming NLT August 31, 2019.e church conferences is due to the district office.

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SAVE THE DATE: General Conference 2020 May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis MN.

Great Plains Conference Congregational Excellence RESOURCES

If you are looking for more resources or have questions about the opportunities listed below, contact the Great Plains Congregational Excellence team by email at info@greatplainsumc.org or call 785-414-4242

- Fresh Expression – Congregational Excellence
- Revitalization 360 aka R360 – Congregational Excellence
- Vital Signs Input on Dashboard
- VBS Resource – Meet Melissa Gepford – [VBS Tips video](#)

