

Monthly Update

June 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We thank you for your continuing support during what is arguably a unique time in the history of our country. As we have said in past issues of our Monthly Updates “this will contain information relating to our environment beyond our United Methodist Church”; a reason is that we know that the spiritual health of our country and by extension the world will affect how our denomination moves forward into the future. Just as if you put a healthy goldfish into an aquarium, if the water in the tank contains pollutants, the fish’s health will be affected. These are reasons that we urge you to pray for our country.

June 7th is a special date in our country’s history. It marks D-Day, the Normandy invasion in 1944. Long before “political correctness” made its way into our public discourse, President Franklin Roosevelt led the nation in prayer over the radio. 40 years later President Ronald Reagan paid a special tribute to what happened in one specific part of that battlefield – the heroic actions of the Rangers. This is a very brief summary:

“Over 160,000 troops from America, Britain, Canada, free France, Poland, and other nations landed along a 50-mile stretch of the Normandy coast of France. It was the largest amphibious invasion force in world history, supported by 5,000 ships with 195,700 navy personnel and 13,000 aircraft....On that day, the sea along the heavily fortified beaches of Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, Sword and Pointe du Hoc ran red with the blood of almost 9,000 killed or wounded....It was a major turning point in World War II.” (William J. Lederer)

Commenting on that specific assault by the Rangers, we have:

“Where do we get such men,” General Dwight D. Eisenhower asked in amazement when he saw Army Rangers scaling the heights of Pointe du Hoc in Normandy on D-Day. The truth is, we get them from the same places we’ve always gotten them--from the farms and factories, from villages, suburbs, and big cities, and from America’s churches. That’s why the Word of God is there, in that cornerstone [of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, placed there along with copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, & an American Flag.]. And that’s why it is the cornerstone of our national life. (Chuck Colson)

Mother’s Day. Memorial Day. D-Day. Father’s Day. It is no mistake that all of them are close together on our calendar; they are intertwined. Good parenting makes good families which in turn produce good citizens. This is the “stuff” that we Americans have been made of in the past”; let us hope and pray that this “stuff” is permeated still in each citizen of our nation. I pray that the circumstances surrounding this Covid-19 “pandemic” will galvanize each of us to reclaim our individual Constitutional Rights.

We thank you so much for your continued prayers and financial support as we are “pulling out all of the stops” to contend for the faith in our United Methodist Church now and in preparation for General Conference 2021.

In His service,

Allen O. Morris
Executive Director

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June 2020 Update

Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

“The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training – sacrifice. In battle and in the face of danger and death, he discloses those Divine attributes which his Maker gave when He created man in His own image...No physical courage and no brute instinct can take the place of Divine help which alone can sustain him. However horrible the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind.”
– Douglas MacArthur told West Point cadets, May 1962.

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The Good Stuff

+ ***Church shows the art of reaching out.*** Behind the brand names of Disney World, Sea World and Universal Studios are people who are now out of work. With theme parks and theater groups closed, St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Orlando, Florida is stepping up to ensure the artists who create so much fun can stay fed.

– Joe Henderson, Florida Conference, as reported in the United Methodist News Service Weekly Digest May 22, 2020

+ ***President Franklin Roosevelt stated JUNE 6, 1944:***

“My fellow Americans: Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation ...

“I ask you to join with me in prayer:

“Almighty God, Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our republic, our religion, and our civilization...Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith. They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces ... We know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph ...Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom ...”

“Help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice ...I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts. Give us strength ... and, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee ... With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy ...And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil. Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.”

– William J. Federer. Permission is granted to reprint.

+ ***President Reagan stated:***

“40 years ago at this moment [from the time he had said this], the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, and the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the roar of cannon. At dawn, on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 225 Rangers jumped off the British landing craft and ran to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. The Allies had been told that some of the mightiest of these guns were here and they would be trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance....The Rangers looked up and saw the enemy soldiers -- the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them with machineguns and throwing grenades. And the American Rangers began to climb. They shot rope ladders over the face of these cliffs and began to pull themselves up. When one Ranger fell, another would take his place. When one rope was cut, a Ranger would grab another and begin his climb again. They climbed, shot back, and held their footing.

...Soon, one by one, the Rangers pulled themselves over the top, and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs, they began to seize back the continent of Europe. Two hundred and twenty-five came here. After 2 days of fighting, only 90 could still bear arms.”

“The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next.

It was the deep knowledge -- and pray God we have not lost it -- that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest.” – William J. Federer. Permission is granted to reprint.

+ ***Collins UMC serves community in a big way.*** *Collins United Methodist Church may be small, but it is mighty.*

In tiny Collins, the congregation, which has about 12 members, is a big force for good. The members feed nearly 200 people at each of two large community meals every year, one at Thanksgiving and typically one at Easter; pack and donate dozens of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes every Christmas; and give generously to ministries that serve those who are homeless. Even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the congregation, which calls itself The 12 Disciples, continues to serve the community through its new blessing box, a small pantry filled with donated food, baby wipes and diapers, and other necessities. Linda Bacon is one of The 12 Disciples who checks the church’s blessing box a

few times a week and stocks it with food and necessities. “We just figure, especially now, people who aren’t working need some extra food,” she said. The box looks like a little white church, Bacon said, with a roof and two doors. It sits next to Collins UMC and is emptied and refilled regularly. The church members’ generosity and love for their community is how they want to make an impact, Bacon said. “We’ve got to show people love,” she said. “You’ve got to show the gospel in action. That’s our thing. We want people to say, ‘That must be God.’ I pray they will see a difference in us.”

Rev. Thomas Kennison says that what the church lacks in size they make up for in enthusiasm and willingness to serve. He estimates that nearly 90 percent of the congregation participates in mission, outreach, and giving opportunities and that all give to the blessing box. He also said they have a clear understanding that they are called to follow in Jesus’ footsteps and serve others. “That’s the best way we can carry the gospel forward, by being servants,” Rev. Kennison said. “That’s what Jesus was; he was a humble servant. We try to mimic him and be like Jesus so that we can live the lives we’re called to live. We’re really living out the gospel when we do that.”

– By Kara Witherow, Editor, April 20, 2020, as reported in UM News Daily Digest; Apr 24, 2020.

Of Interest. *General Conference 2021.* The date for General Conference 2021 (GC2021) has been confirmed. It will be conducted from August 29 – September 7, 2021 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. “Nearly seven years of pre-planning and preparations by the host team have gone into this event,” stated Kim Simpson, chair of the Commission on the General Conference. – Diane Degnan, Press Center, UMNS, Nashville; May 26, 2020.

The Covid-19 Situation.

+ ***The Covid-19 Shutdown.*** The data shows that there is no evidence that the massive shutdown (and putting 40,000,000 people out of work) had an effect on reducing the chances of Covid-19 spreading. The only thing that shows the increased risk leading to higher infection rates are closed spaces such as in mass transit (like the subway system in New York) and those in “assisted living” facilities (where the elderly who are at higher risk, reside). Of the people who are likely to come down with this disease, 1.8% live in nursing facilities and assisted-living facilities (and most of these are in New York, New Jersey, and Minnesota), yet they account for 42% of Covid-19 deaths. On the contrary, studies are showing that the shutdown has cost far more lives than it has “saved” with many due to suicide (which is in itself tragic). I have known of some cases such as a man in Oklahoma whose business was devastated by the forced shutdown; this was something that he had spent his lifetime building. Tragically, he took his own life. Recently, I had of doctors in California saying that in the last month alone, they have seen the number of suicides that they normally see in a year. – AOM, May 26th.

+ ***Arkansas Conference. Foundation grant aims to help churches reopen.***

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas is awarding a grant of nearly \$60,000 to help all 635 churches in the Arkansas Conference reopen safely. The grant will fund personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies. – The Arkansas Conference, as reported in UM News Weekly Digest; May 22, 2020.

+ ***Ohio River Valley Contact Tracers Serve From Home During Pandemic.***

[Note: This illustrates how at times we United Methodists can confuse secular work with authentic Christianity. Meredith was quoted as saying, “and we can get those 15 persons through contact tracing to quarantine, that is an exponential good. And for us as United Methodists, choosing life in this practical way joins spiritual with public good. It is our core and is essential DNA for us as Wesleyans.” First of all, persons exposed to Covid-19 may or may not need to quarantine; comparisons are made that exposure may produce “herd immunity” as with Chicken Pox/Smallpox by getting Chicken Pox made one immune to Smallpox. Secondly, the “science” in all of this has been woefully wrong and not to be trusted. Third, there is the idea of spying on others and coercion people into quarantines which may not be best for that person or others, that could be a subtle way of introducing the “Big Brother” aspect into reducing our Constitutional Rights; we need to be careful. Finally, and most importantly, for us as United Methodists, our DNA as Wesleyans is to bring people into an authentic, vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ by confessing our sins, and accepting Him as our savior. – AOM]

In public health, contact tracing is a key strategy to contain a virus. Until we have a vaccine, contact tracing is a way to fight the COVID-19 virus. The Ohio Department of Health needs more contact tracers to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In the Ohio River Valley District, clergy and laity have partnered with the Hamilton County Health Department to be trained for this role. Interim health commissioner Greg Kesterman and the Rev. David Meredith discussed the need for contact tracers as businesses begin to open and more people interact. Meredith noted that Kesterman “was quite energized by the idea we could expand the pool of contact tracers in Hamilton County by being able to provide some volunteers from United Methodist circles. If one person had 15 social contacts,” Meredith said, “and we can get those 15 persons through contact tracing to quarantine, that is an exponential good. And for us as United Methodists, choosing life in this practical way joins spiritual with public good. It is our core and is essential DNA for us as Wesleyans.”

Nancy Newton, district office administrator, said she learned how one person can help in so many ways. “It could be a beneficial thing for a contactee to have a person ... checking in with them daily,” she said, “just to feel loved. We don’t know what their home situation is. They could be all alone, and you can be one of the only people they talk to.”

– By Amy Graham, Communications Specialist, as reported in UM News Weekly Digest; May 22, 2020.

(UM) General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). Health board grants assist with COVID-19 training.

ATLANTA – Solidarity grants through the GBGM have assisted health boards in Africa with training related to COVID-19 prevention and control in their regions. Other grants assisted Native American communities and United Methodist partners in Asia.
– Christie R. House, as reported in the UM News Weekly Digest; May 22, 2020

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Reaching Syrian refugees in scattered communities.

ATLANTA – After nine years, the situation in Syria has created one of the largest humanitarian and displacement crises in the world. The United Methodist Committee on Relief has coordinated work with four partners – three in Lebanon and one in Jordan – to support Syrian refugees, other refugees and host communities. [Note: While helping people is so very important, this may involve political activism. It is an issue of “the people on which side” who were supported. – AOM]

– Christie R. House, as reported in the UM News Weekly Digest; May 22, 2020.

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“Aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest sport the world affords.” – Theodore Roosevelt

Global Outlook

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

– Harvard Professor George Santayana, as he wrote in “Reason in Common Sense” (Vol. I of *The Life of Reason*, 1905).

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Angola. Church university aids in COVID-19 fight.

LUANDA, Angola (UM News) – The United Methodist Church has turned over a campus of its Methodist University of Angola for use as a COVID-19 testing and treatment center. The church also is developing a campaign to deliver food baskets to communities facing food shortages amid the country’s lockdown. “We praise God for this important step and the church for always being ready to work with the government.”

– Minister of Health Silvia Lutucuta, on allowing the Methodist University of Angola to be used as a COVID-19 testing and treatment center, as reported in the UM News Daily Digest; Apr 24, 2020.

Zimbabwe. Church hospitals race to prepare for the coronavirus.

HARARE, Zimbabwe – United Methodist hospitals in the central conferences are racing to prepare facilities to identify and treat patients with COVID-19, even though most lack ventilators and other crucial equipment.

– Eveline Chikwanah + communicators across Africa and the Philippines, as reported in UMNews Digest; Apr 24, 2020

Annual Conference Reports

“Plans vary to get annual conference business done”: a special report

Even with COVID-19, United Methodist annual conferences around the world need to get business done by the end of the year. The regional bodies of the denomination will get that done in a wide variety of ways: in-person meetings, virtual get-togethers and combinations of the two. In-person annual conference meetings are the ideal for almost everyone.

In the U.S., annual conferences typically take place in May and June. The California-Nevada Conference has been rescheduled from June to Sept. 18-21 at the Doubletree Hotel in Modesto, California. Social distancing will be practiced during the meetings, if government officials still recommend it at that point. A digital annual conference would be difficult because of sparse population in parts of northern California and Nevada.

Conversely, in the Iowa Conference, a one-day virtual annual conference is planned for late summer or early fall. A virtual clergy session will take place June 5. Typically, the annual conference – which includes lay and clergy members – conducts business such as approving a budget and considering resolutions. The conference includes a clergy session that considers the qualifications of candidates for ordained ministry. “Venues for a group our size (1,400 people), there really is only one in the state that can handle it,” said the Rev. Harlan Gillespie, assistant to Bishop Laurie Haller. That’s the Iowa Events Center, which is mostly booked with other events that were postponed because of COVID-19. “So we figure the best thing for us to do is just simply plan for a virtual annual conference this legislative session,” Gillespie said. “We think we can get that done in a day, maybe about six hours of legislative time.” He’s confident that remote voting is doable. It could be that more people will participate in this online annual conference than in-person. “We’ve got one small church in northeast Iowa, the Volga United Methodist Church, that has been livestreaming their worship for a couple of

years, and they have regular attenders from all across the world that are very much part of their community,” Gillespie said. “It’s been a really good way for many of our congregations to expand.” Retired clergy who are homebound but connected through the internet are also a potential audience, he said. “There are some trade-offs, but I also think there are some things that will help us expand our connection, too.” Saving money during a time when COVID-19 is taking a toll on church giving is another reason virtual annual conference meetings are attractive right now. Annual conference meetings cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000, Gillespie said.

In Africa, Europe and the Philippines, annual conferences are held throughout the year. All annual conferences in the Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area are being rescheduled in August, September, October and November, said Bishop Christian Alsted, who leads that area. “We have decided that the church needs to gather physically for annual conference once the current restrictions are lifted,” the bishop said. “Coming together as annual conferences in worship and prayer to discern Jesus’ direction in ministry is particularly important in a time of crisis,” he said. “The postponed annual conferences will emphasize the power of the connection and the value of union in Christ in mission and ministry, and I believe they will build cohesion in the church.” Bishop Eduard Khegay of the Eurasia Area in the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference, said meeting in person this year became less important when the 2020 General Conference, scheduled this May, was pushed back to 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. “Instead, we will have all five annual conferences meetings separately on Zoom,” Khegay said. Those are likely to be held this summer, he said.

The 17 annual conference meetings in the Philippines have been postponed indefinitely because of COVID-19.

Some annual conferences in Africa were held before the pandemic began, including Sierra Leone and Liberia, while others – like Zimbabwe’s December conferences – are scheduled later in the year. Bishop Gabriel Yemba Unda said all annual conferences in the Eastern Congo Episcopal Area, originally scheduled for June and July, will be postponed until further notice. “It will be impossible to hold the annual conferences on dates scheduled before this COVID-19 pandemic, where the DRC is still in a state of emergency and the cases continue to increase,” he said. “We will wait until the situation stabilizes, because we do not have efficient technology that can help us bring several people online for a conference,” Unda said. The Rev. Ezechiel Mathe, Bukavu District superintendent, said the Kivu Conference has been seriously affected by the coronavirus, with all three districts (Goma, Bukavu and Beni) reporting cases of COVID-19. “(New annual conference) dates will be fixed when the authorities of the country lift the measures prohibiting Sunday worship,” he said. The Côte d’Ivoire Conference has been postponed until the government allows group meetings, said Bishop Benjamin Boni. Boni said 400 people attend the annual conference and right now, just 50 to 200 people are allowed to meet, providing they maintain social distancing.

In the Susquehanna Conference in central Pennsylvania, Bishop Jeremiah Park has scheduled an abbreviated annual conference on Oct. 3, at the Williamsport Community Arts Center in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Annual conference business in the Western Pennsylvania Conference is being split into several parts this year. Legislation will be handled in-person on Oct. 3 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. The clergy session, recognition of retirees, ordination services and memorial services will be held separately as different events.

“We are not going to do the same thing exactly like we’ve always done them,” is a sentiment as a result of this Covid-19.

– By Jim Patterson, UMNews; May 15, 2020, as reported in the UM News Weekly Digest; May 22, 2020. Patterson is a UM News reporter in Nashville, Tennessee. Communicators Isaac Broune in Côte d’Ivoire, Karl Anders Ellingsen in Norway, Philippe Kituka Lolonga in the Congo, Joao Sambo in Mozambique and the Rev. Pavel Serdukov in Russia contributed to this report.

Annual conference meeting list

North Central Jurisdiction.

Dakotas Conference: Joint Annual Conference with Minnesota Conference canceled; new plans to be determined.

East Ohio Conference: Sept. 26-27 at Lakeside Chautauqua, Ohio.

Illinois Great Rivers Conference: Aug. 14-15 in Peoria, Illinois.

Indiana Conference: Aug. 15 in Marion, Indiana, and Oct. 10 in Indianapolis.

Iowa Conference: Virtual legislative session in summer or fall. Virtual clergy session on June 5 via Zoom.

Michigan Conference: July 26-29, virtual.

Minnesota Conference: Aug. 29, virtual.

Northern Illinois Conference: Postponed, new plans TBD.

West Ohio Conference: Sept. 11-12 in Columbus, Ohio.

Wisconsin Conference: Oct. 23-24 in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Baltimore-Washington Conference: Sept. 12 at a site TBD.

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: Oct. 13-14 in Oaks, Pennsylvania.

Greater New Jersey: Early October, TBD.
New England Conference: Oct. 17, virtual.
New York Conference: Fall 2020, TBD.
Peninsula-Delaware Conference: Oct. 24 in Easton, Maryland; Nov. 13-14 in Dover, Delaware.
Susquehanna Conference: Oct. 3 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.
Upper New York Conference: Oct. 2-3 in Syracuse, New York.
West Virginia Conference: Aug. 1-2 in Buckhannon, West Virginia.
Western Pennsylvania Conference: Oct. 3 in Erie, Pennsylvania.

South Central Jurisdiction.

Arkansas Conference: June 13, virtual.
Central Texas Conference: Aug. 9-11 in Southlake, Texas.
Great Plains Conference: May 30 business meeting by conference call. Oct. 1-4 annual conference meeting location TBD.
Louisiana Conference: Sept. 18-19 in Baton Rouge with an alternate date of Nov. 20-21.
Missouri Conference: August TBD, one-day clergy and lay session, virtual.
New Mexico Conference: Aug. 28-29 in Roswell, New Mexico.
Northwest Texas Conference: Aug. 15 in Lubbock, Texas.
Oklahoma Conference: Nov. 20-21 in Oklahoma City.
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference: No information about annual conference meeting.
Rio Texas Conference: Tentatively June, TBD.
Texas Conference: Aug. 14-15 in multiple locations, TBD; primary broadcast site at The Woodlands, Texas.

Southeast Jurisdiction.

Alabama-West Florida Conference: June 28-29, virtual.
Florida Conference: Sept. 19, location TBD.
Holston Conference: June 27, virtual.
Kentucky Conference: Dec. 8-9 in Covington, Kentucky.
Memphis Conference: Sept. 25-26 in Germantown, Tennessee.
Mississippi Conference: July 26-27 in Jackson, Mississippi.
North Alabama Conference: Aug. 16-17 in Huntsville, Alabama.
North Carolina Conference: June 18, virtual.
North Georgia Conference: Aug. 28-29 in Atlanta.
Red Bird Missionary Conference: Sept. 12 in Frakes, Kentucky.
South Carolina Conference: TBD.
South Georgia Conference: Aug. 14-15 in Tifton, Georgia.
Tennessee Conference: Sept. 18-19 in Brentwood, Tennessee.
Virginia Conference: Sept. 18-19, TBD.
Western North Carolina Conference: Aug. 8 in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

Western Jurisdiction.

Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest joint conference: September, locations TBD: three separate meetings.
California-Nevada Conference: Sept. 18-21 in Modesto, California.
Cal-Pac Conference: June 18-20, virtual
Desert Southwest Conference: June 12-13, virtual.
Mountain Sky: June 19-20, virtual.

Central Conferences.

Philippines Central Conference
Bicol Philippines Provisional, postponed, TBD.
Central Luzon, postponed TBD.
Hundred Islands, postponed TBD.
Middle Philippines, postponed TBD.
Mindanao Philippines, postponed TBD.
Northern, postponed TBD.
Northeast, postponed TBD.
Northeast Luzon, postponed TBD.
North Central, postponed TBD.

Northwest, postponed TBD.
Palawan, postponed TBD.
Pangasinan, postponed TBD.
Philippines, postponed TBD.
South Nueva Ecija, postponed TBD.
South West Philippines, postponed TBD.
Tarlac Philippines, postponed TBD.
Visayas Philippines, postponed TBD.

Central and Southern Europe.

Austria Conference: Postponed, Salzburg, plans TBD.
Bulgaria and Romania Conference. Postponed, TBD.
Czechia and Slovak Conference: Postponed, Prague-Czechia, TBD.
Hungary Conference: Postponed, Budapest, TBD.
Poland Conference: June 26-28 in Katowice.
Serbia, North Macedonia, and Albania Conference: Oct. 22-25, TBD.
Switzerland, France, and North Africa Conference: Nov. 13-14 in Switzerland.

Germany Central Conference: East Germany Conference: Postponed, TBD.
North Germany Conference: Postponed, TBD. South Germany Conference: Postponed, TBD.

Northern Europe and Eurasia. Central Russia Conference: August, virtual. Denmark Conference: Postponed, TBD.
Eastern Russia- Kazakhstan Provisional: August, virtual. Estonia Conference: Postponed, TBD.
Finland-Finish Provisional: Postponed, TBD. Finland-Swedish Provisional: Postponed, TBD. Latvia: Postponed, TBD.
Lithuania: Postponed, TBD. Norway Conference: Postponed, TBD. North West Russia Provisional: August, virtual.
Southern Russia Provisional: August, virtual. Ukraine, Moldova Provisional: August, virtual.

Africa Central Conference.

Burundi Conference: TBD.
East Zimbabwe Conference: December, TBD.
Mozambique North Conference: Oct. 22-25 in Beira, Mozambique.
Mozambique South Conference: Dec. 10-13 in Xai-Xai, Mozambique.
Mozambique Southeast Conference: Dec. 3-6 in Chicuque, Mozambique.
West Zimbabwe Conference: December, TBD.
Congo Central Conference
East Congo Conference: Postponed, TBD.
Kivu Conference: Postponed, TBD.
Oriental and Equator Conference: Postponed, TBD.

West Africa Central Conference. Côte d’Ivoire Conference: Postponed, TBD. Liberia Conference: Held in February.
Sierra Leone Conference: Held in March.

– UM News Weekly Digest; May 22, 2020

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“It was the Lord who put it into my mind... I could feel His hand upon me... There is no question the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit because He comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scriptures...No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. The gospel must still be preached to so many lands in such a short time. This is what convinces me.”

[Note: This is included to rebut the false narrative the Columbus was evil, and wanted to enslave native Indians. – AOM]
– Christopher Columbus from his diary in reference to his discovery of the “New World”; *The Evidence Bible*, page 844.