

PENSACOLA DISTRICT REPORT

In 2010, the Pensacola District CORE team emphasis included:

- **Continued experimentation of offering district training events at times and locations to maximize participation opportunities.**

The initial training event was held in conjunction with the District Conference on Thursday, February 4th, at St. Luke UMC in Pensacola. After sharing in worship, emphasis was placed on sessions regarding ethics and accountability (“We Can’t Keep Blaming the Apple”), developing small groups (“From the Door to the Core”), worship and music/band, and pastor-parish relations/direct billing. Attendance totaled approximately 132 lay and clergy members of the district.

The second event was held on Sunday, April 25th, at Shalimar UMC. Offerings were in the area of resolving conflicts in churches (“They Shall Know us by Our Swords”), healthy ethical relationships within the church family, financial responsibility (including tax helps) for clergy, and SPRC (“The Veil is Torn”). As a consequence of poor attendance (approximately 25), the event for August was postponed.

District Conference was held at Navarre UMC on November 7th. Concurrently, at Gulf Breeze Soundside, was a District “FUSED” Youth Rally with music led by the Dauphin Way UMC youth band and speaker Jeremy Steele. Attendance for the District Conference at Navarre was 150, while 500 attended the FUSED event at Soundside.

- **Maximizing purpose and function under the leadership of our new district superintendent, Rev. Dr. Jeremy Pridgeon.**

In order to determine a starting point for us in leadership and the life of our churches, the CORE team was requested to read Bishop Schnase’s book *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. From there we agreed, as a district, to develop and emphasize radical hospitality in our churches and ministry areas for the next two years. Through the existing strengths within the district and uniting, instead of reinventing the wheel at each church, we planned to focus on turning the church outward. When we do this well, we will talk about other aspects of the Five Practices.

Issues related to our training or LITE day events included possible apathy in leadership, the timing and distribution of publicity information, and local church officers are moving more in the church. Effectiveness vs. geography is also a significant factor. We have churches east-west on the I-10 corridor, rural churches, and churches along the coast - each for which we can tailor training events. Attention will be given to offer quarterly events for CEUs within the district.

- **Transitioning the CORE team from being a gathering of individuals reporting specific information to a group that casts vision for strengthening our churches and building the Kingdom.**

Since this is a new emphasis, previous reports from the specific ministry areas represented on the CORE team will now be maintained through the district CORE team minutes.