

PARISH LIFE NEWS

Connecting Churches with Nurturing Resources

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**RETHINK
CHURCH**

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THE POTTER'S HOUSE CHANGES LIVES

This past weekend approximately 1300 United Methodists from across the nation and beyond gathered in sunny but cool Jacksonville, Florida to learn about turning worlds upside down thru rethinking church.

One of the more impactful moments of the weekend was a non-related excursion to a church that has dissolved the walls of its setting to integrate the community within. The Potter's House multiplex is a 41,000 square foot phenomenon. The center was inspired by Windsor Village out of Houston, Texas. In 2003 this Christian Fellowship congregation purchased a vacant mall facility (*which now houses a bowling center/game room, a Southern cuisine restaurant a state-of-the art fitness center, and stores*), as well as a Sam's wholesale building (*now a 4,000 seat church sanctuary, ministry center and youth facility; equipped with a recording studio and much more*).

The complex "seeks to provide spiritual, social and economic empowerment services to the Jacksonville community as well as nationally and internationally"; in other words, to meet the total needs of a person.

The organization has purchased and renovated other properties in the area, including a Volkswagen Dealership (*now a private high school campus*); and a former BellSouth Call Center (*now a business complex and a private elementary school campus*). Future goals include building a football field and other outreach branches in fulfillment of their vision. Website link:

<http://www.potters-house.org/>

RESOURCE SITES FOR RETHINKING CHURCH

www.rethinkchurch.org

<http://www.mediawarehouse.ignitingministry.org/>

(click on *Rethink Church*)

So how do we rethink church as a Conference and as a team of the Connectional Table?

Some things we discussed as the "Action Jackson" team, was creating a model that churches could rally around that relates to the current civil and social mores of the world!

GO GREEN!

Not because it's trendy to do so, but because we are stewards of the earth and all that is within it. In **Genesis 1:26**, God spoke: "*Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature, so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.*"

What might be some other issues we could provide a model around? Unemployment to Employment . . . Navigating a "Yes We Can" World? Give it some thought, and be prepared to put into action at our March meeting some ideas centered around the various themes that have been birthed over the past few months. We will provide you with some guide pieces prior to the meeting.

PARISH LIFE MEETING

MARCH 26th

CENTRAL UMC

6:30 – 8:30 PM



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

SCRIPTURAL GUIDE:

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16

