



Rev. Norwood N. "Woody" Hingle III, Ph. D; Sunday School: 9:15 AM; Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
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A Word from Woody...

The WCA Vote Aftermath

The result of the vote on Sunday, August 27th by the church members was 31-19 in favor of joining the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA). So what does this mean for the ministry at Lake Vista UMC?

First, we should note that a significant percentage of the church members' votes (I did not vote) went the way of joining the WCA—62%. This percentage is even more significant when one considers, as I have been told, that many of the 19 who voted against it have not been active participants in Lake Vista UMC's ministry since at least the time of Hurricane Katrina. This is not to deny that a large portion of the 19 were active participants in the ministry. Some of them, however, voted that way not out of disagreement with the WCA's embracing of The UMC's Book of Discipline's doctrinal standards or stance on marriage being only between one man and one woman. As I understand the situation, their vote was in part an expression of an uneasiness with a new organization like the WCA. It is my hope and prayer that any uneasiness with the WCA will disappear over time. It is also my hope and prayer that those who have unfortunately left the church over this vote will know our continuing love for them and will reconsider their decision before the Lord and Scripture.

Second, joining the WCA means that the ministry of Lake Vista UMC has unashamedly embraced the official positions of The United Methodist Church. These positions include its doctrinal standards, the view of the Bible as the primary, final authority for faith and practice, and that marriage is between one man and one woman. In an age where all three of these positions are up for debate in many churches or when views contrary to the clear teachings of the Bible are seen as equally legitimate, it is a great blessing to have these issues settled. Now we can go on to fruitful ministry unified in our understanding of the official purpose of The UMC—to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. May the Lord use us as we lead Bible studies, worship Him at Sunday worship and Wednesday SONrise services, serve those in need, and reach out to seekers and skeptics with the Good News. We will especially



need to be unified as a church as we go forward since we have lost significant financial support of many who have left Lake Vista UMC over this vote outcome. Please keep this in prayer as we come to the last third of this year and plan ahead for 2018.

Finally, the blessing of joining the WCA means we have a voice in what is happening in our denomination. By our membership we have formally stated our disagreement with the doctrinal and procedural chaos and anarchy that has entered The UMC. We are no longer silently, passively waiting for whatever happens in the special called session of General Conference (GC) in February, 2019.

Some may say that a church our size will have little effect on what is decided at that GC, but don't believe it! As a general rule of thumb from my personal experience, for every church that joins the WCA at least 10 are either wanting or planning to do so. And that is probably a conservative rule of thumb.

We also now have a voice with the Bishops' Commission on a Way Forward which will present a recommendation for how the Church should address homosexuality at the GC in 2019. Rev. Tom Lambrecht, who is on this Commission, has told me that the more churches that join the WCA the more impact it has on members of the Commission as they make decisions—i.e., the WCA's voice will be harder to ignore. Many on the progressive/liberal side of The UMC want conservatives either to compromise on biblical authority or be completely silent. We have chosen the path of faith-filled courage. We have chosen to keep our eyes on Jesus and not become overwhelmed by our fears as Peter was when he started sinking as he walked toward Jesus on the water in Matthew 14:30. Beloved, if we continue to keep our eyes on Jesus we will do even greater things in the ministry here than walking on water!

I am convinced that the Lord has much more for Lake Vista UMC for the Kingdom of God. For this to happen each of us must be intentionally active about our involvement in the ministry here. As we do so we will shine even brighter as a lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lake-front, and beyond!

Yours in Christ,

Woody

Youth Corner

Putt-Putting Around

We had a great time last month at Gulf Islands Waterpark. We got wet not just from the slides, but also from the huge thunderstorm which came through the area! Sunday, September 24th we'll try to hone our putting skills at City Park's putt-putt course. Kaylor Grimm will have to defend her putt-putt title from last year! We'll meet at the church at 3:15 PM and return by 5:15 PM. Please invite friends!

Promotion Sunday Celebration!

On Sunday, September 10th we'll celebrate Promotion Sunday as our children and youth of the church advance to different classes. We'll start with a pancake breakfast from 9:00-10:00 AM. We'll have a devotional at 10:00 AM and the children will have a scavenger hunt from 9:45-10:15 AM. The breakfast is free, but donations are appreciated and go to help support the Christian Education at the church.



Gulf Islands Water Park

Church Family Night Returns!

On Wednesday, September 6th we'll have our first Church Family Night of the new ministry year. Our speaker will be Emily Hingle who will share about her summer mission project in Tampa, Florida with the college Christian group Campus Outreach.

The church will supply red beans and rice, and would appreciate attendees bringing a side dishes, salad, or dessert. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, no more than \$15 per family.

New Website Full of Info You Need!

If you haven't seen our new website, launched on Sunday, April 2nd, you should check it out! The new address is lakevistaumc.org. Please take a moment to browse the site and enjoy the new features—like a calendar of events, new pics, some manuscripts of Pastor Woody's sermons, and archives of newsletters dating back to April.

Saints Sunday This Month!

On Sunday, September 17th we'll celebrate the New Orleans Saints' 2017 and their first home game by wearing our Saints gear. Please feel free to express your joy for the Saints as they begin their run for the Super Bowl!

Meetings This Month

On Monday, September 18th our Finance Committee will meet at 6:45-7:30 PM and our Church Council will meet at 7:30-8:15 PM, both in the Parlor. If you are on these committees please make plans to attend.



Come Sing in the Choir

Choir practice continues to meet at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings with our Music Director Leonardo Santos and Worship Leader Randy Roberts. For more information please contact the Church Office.

Wednesday SONrise Continues!

We will continue to offer a mid-week time of worship and fellowship from 6:30-7:30 AM called Wednesday SONrise in the church chapel. This service is hoped to make a time of congregational prayer for individuals, our church, and The UMC. During this service we will have not only a time of discussion of prayer needs and prayer, but also a devotional and communion. What a wonderful way to be refreshed in the middle of the week!

Church Clean-up Day

On Saturday, September 9th we will hold a church clean-up day from 10:00-12:00 noon! This is a great time for us to focus on tidying up some things after a busy summer of ministry. There will be opportunities to work inside (in the a/c!) and outside. For outside work please remember to bring gloves and any gardening tools you may need. And of course you can count on there being coffee and donuts to help keep us energized and happy while we work!

Prayer Focus

- ✝ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✝ Megan and Jonathan Walker, expecting a child in October
- ✝ The UMC, unity and faithfulness to the Bible and its doctrines
- ✝ Thankfulness on our joining the Wesleyan Covenant Association and the leadership of this organization
- ✝ Lee Ann Grimm, health
- ✝ All the victims from Hurricane Harvey—especially Houston, Beaumont, and Lake Charles
- ✝ Ann and Karl Tornyo, Karla and Travis Crabtree, and Veronica whose homes were flooded in Houston
- ✝ Kaylor Grimm for her Black Belt Test on Friday, September 8.

Parents' Night Out

On Friday, September 22nd we will offer a Parents' Night Out from 6:30-9:30 PM in the Education Building for children ages 3 (potty-trained) to 12.. The cost is \$15 per child, and snacks will be offered during this time— but not supper, though parents can bring their **children's supper to eat here.** **Pastor Woody and Elena Hingle** will be some of the volunteers helping with this, and more volunteers are welcome. Please note that up to 10 children will offered spaces for this event. To register your child please call the Church Office at 288-2242 or send an email to nnhiii@bellsouth.net.

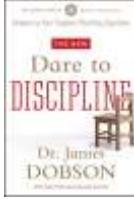
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Read your newsletter online at <http://www.LakeVistaUMC.org>

Join *Dare to Discipline!*

Pastor Hingle will lead a parenting class for at least four Tuesdays beginning September 12th from 6:30-7:30 PM. The class will be based on child psychologist **Dr. James Dobson's** book *Dare to Discipline*. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall. Free childcare will be provided. Please contact the Church Office at 288-2242 or email Pastor Hingle at nnhiii@bellsouth.net to register. Please invite friends who would be interested in some very wise parenting guidance.



Addressing the Skeptics

Our next meeting will be Friday, September 8th at 12:00 noon in the Parlor. We will discuss the appendix to **Dr. Francis Collins' *The Language of God*** called, "The Moral Practice of Science and Medicine: Bioethics". We'll nourish ourselves with a bag lunch and church-provided soft drinks/bottled water and enjoy friendship as we discuss the relationship between science and the Christian faith.

Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

This month's prayer walk will be **Saturday, September 2nd**, 10:30-11:30 AM. Please join us for this wonderful ministry!

Small Group Offerings

Newcomers are welcome at all the gatherings below!
Wednesday SONrise from 6:30-7:30 AM, chapel, with a time of fellowship following for all those who can stay, in the Parlor. A time for congregational prayer for individuals, our church, and The UMC, as well as a devotional and communion.

The Wonderful Wednesday book and Bible study is studying Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount. We will meet every Wednesday this month from 7:00-8:00 PM except for September 6, Church Family Night.

S.P.A. Ladies' Summer Reading Tuesday, September 5, 7:00-8:30 PM to finish *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. **All ladies are invited to attend, even if you haven't read the book!**

S.P.A. Ladies Fall Study begins Tuesday, September 12 from 9:00-10:00 AM on Warbler St. Book to be determined.

Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. The adult class meets in the Parlor. Youth and children meet in the Education Building. Come and get to know the Lord with us! *Both are cancelled on Sept. 10 for Promotion Pancake Breakfast and Scavenger Hunt for the kids.*

Please call Susan in the office (504-288-2242) if you have any questions, and please be in prayer about coming to some of these offerings.

A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.

Lake Vista United Methodist Church

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