



Responsible Stewardship News August 2021

In this Month's Edition:

- Upcoming Responsible Stewardship Webinars:
 - August: Property & Liability Insurance
 - September: Stewardship WINS!
 - October: Clergy Health Insurance
- The Ask by Kristi Kinnison - click [here](#) to read article
- Conscientious Objection by Dennis Shaw - click [here](#) to read article
- Upcoming Discipleship Ministries Webinars
 - August: What you Really Need to Know about Housing Allowances
 - September: Cultivating the Craft of Asking
- Safeguard your Mailed-in Offerings
- Launching your Creation Care Ministry
- Risk Alert: Catalytic Converter Theft Continues to Rise
- Generosity by Angela Thomas
- Spiritual Pilgrimage to Heart Mountain WWII Japanese American Confinement Site
- 2021 Annual Conference, October 21-24



Responsible Stewardship Webinars

August Webinar

Topic: Property & Liability Insurance

Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Time: 11:00 a.m. (MT)

Guest: Pamela Keeser, Sr. Account Manager - Church Mutual Insurance Co.



Discussion Topics:

- Sensor Program & Pull for Police
- 2022 Insurance Program - Available Options:
 - Policy review upon request
- Safety Dividend Program - Premium refunds
- Risk Management Tips - [short video](#)
- Q & A: bring your questions!

Discipleship Ministries Webinars

August Webinar

Title: What You Really Need to Know about Housing Allowances

Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m. CDT

Presenters: Rev. Ken Sloane & Bryan Mills



Each year when we do the special clergy tax webinar, we get more questions about the Housing Allowance than any other topic. And the questions come not just from clergy, but from Finance Committee members, Treasurers, and SPRC chairs as well. So for the first time, we are going to offer a webinar for laity and clergy to help churches better understand this special provision and how it can be a blessing to everyone! Join Ken Sloane, Director of Stewardship & Generosity and his guest Bryan Mills, General Counsel for the UMC and head of the legal staff at the General Council on Finance & Administration.

Something New: We will be offering an opportunity to send in questions ahead of time with your registration! To register, [CLICK HERE](#)

September Webinar

Title: Cultivating the Craft of Asking

Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m. CDT

Presenters: Rev. Ken Sloane & Bonnie Marden



For years there has been a perception that people have stayed away from church because “the church is always asking for money.” This has led many churches to feel like money is a taboo subject – reserving that uncomfortable conversation for a Sunday in the fall (if at all) and then put it back on the shelf for another year. In so many ways this fear has worked against our mission to grow faithful, generous disciples.

Join Rev. Ken Sloane, Director, Stewardship & Generosity, as he welcomes his guest, Bonnie Marden, Founder and President of MYTE Ministries, consulting with church leaders on growing generosity in local churches. Bonnie has pioneered a successful teaching curriculum titled “Cultivating the Craft of Asking” which has increased confidence in church leaders to “boldly ask” for financial gifts to empower their churches ministry.

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Safeguard Your Mailed-in Offerings

The FBI issued an Emerging Intelligence Report on June 21, 2021, warning U.S. religious organizations and nonprofits that they are being targeted by Romanian Organized Crime groups to steal mailed donation checks, as reported on the website of the ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability). To read the full article, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Toolkit for Launching Your Creation Care Ministry



This [page](#) offers a biblical and historical foundation for integrating creation care into the life of a United Methodist congregation, including:

- Scriptures by themes
- Quotes by Wesley and others on God’s Creation
- Sermon Suggestions
- Liturgy
- Prayers
- Book & film references

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Risk Alert:

Catalytic Converter Theft Continues to Rise

The frequency of catalytic converter thefts has increased sharply nationwide since the onset of the pandemic. According to the [National Insurance Crime Bureau](#), an average of 282 catalytic converters were stolen every month in 2019; in 2020 the average jumped to 1,203. In December alone, 2,347 catalytic converters were stolen. Church Mutual saw a 350% increase in catalytic converter theft claims in 2020, and we're on pace to see even more in 2021.



To read the full article from Church Mutual, [CLICK HERE](#)

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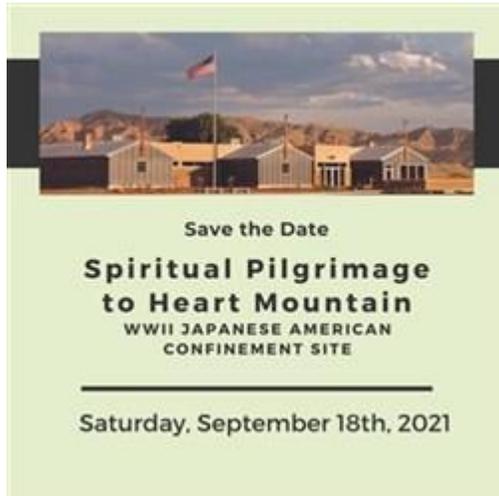
Angela Thomas

Generosity

THANK YOU for Your Support of Global Missions.

The Mountain Sky Conference continues to support mission and ministry throughout the world with designated giving. Through June 2021, local churches have donated \$151,800 for various missions, with \$117 thousand dedicated to various Advance ministries, UMCOR and Native American Ministries. This is an increase of almost \$40 thousand over last year; through June 2020, designated giving totaled \$114,100. Well done! On behalf of the communities and families served by United Methodist ministries, thank you for your generosity.

Spiritual Pilgrimage to Heart Mountain WWII Japanese American Confinement Site



The Racial Justice Movement and Ministries Task Force (RJMM) of the Mountain Sky Conference and community leaders will host a Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Heart Mountain WWII Japanese American Confinement Site on Saturday, September 18th, 2021. The intent of this trip is to learn both the history and what it means for us today; as community members and as disciples of Jesus Christ, practicing how to be anti-racist and together build beloved community. For more information and

to register, [CLICK HERE](#)



Greetings in the Name of the Risen Christ!

This is a call to Annual Conference 2021 for the clergy and lay members of the Mountain Sky Conference. The hymn "**God be with you 'til we meet again**" has been especially poignant for the past 15 months. Our meetings - whether for worship, work, or fellowship - have been reduced to a small square on a computer screen. How good it will be to come together for **Annual Conference 2021 in Ogden, UT, October 21-24.**

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on AC2021!

Our New Mailing Address

Please send all mail to:

Mountain Sky Conference
PO Box 462200
Centennial, CO 80046

Please Note: With our work-at-home model, we are no longer able to accept mailed paper copies of local church newsletters. Please scan and send your newsletters to communications@mtnskyumc.org or to specific conference staff members.

Useful Links

Mountain Sky Conference

<https://www.mtnskyumc.org/responsiblestewardship>

Mountain Sky Conference Ministry Financials

<http://umcdata.net/sky>

UMC General Council on Finance & Administration/group ruling

<https://www.gcfa.org/services/legal-services/group-ruling/>

Church Mutual Insurance

<https://www.churchmutual.com/>

Wespath Benefits / Investments

<http://www.wespath.org/>

Discipleship Ministries

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/equipping-leaders/stewardship?>

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