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Wabash New South Connection

1 message

Superintendent John Lane

Thu, Jul 1, 2021 at 12:41 PM

Wabash & New South Connection



Superintendent's Notes

Greetings Wabash and New South Conferences.

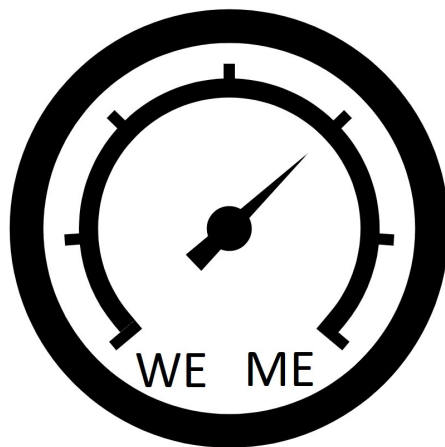
Welcome to the first edition of our weekly newsletter. I am so excited about the connection that we are forging between our two Conferences.

My name is John Lane and as of July 1st I serve as the Superintendent of both the New South and the Wabash Conferences.



As Free Methodist, we pride ourselves in being a "connectional system". Our Book of Discipline references our "Connectional Commitments", our "Connectional Relationships" and our "Connectional Ties".

Yet as is true with any relationship in life, these connectional ties wear thin over time.



With each passing year, with each passing disappointment, with each passing injury, we are tempted to give less of ourselves to others.

Yet the Lord calls us to be people of connection.

Jesus told us in John 13:35 that we would be recognized by our love for one another.

Ephesians 2:21 says that we are "joined together" as in one spiritual building.

Romans 12:5 says that we actually "belong to one another".

Peter lets us know in 2 Peter 1:7 that "mutual affection" is to be added to "godliness". You cannot separate the two.

Paul has the audacity in Ephesians 4:4-6 to remind us that there is only ONE... not MANY:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

It begins with us - the leaders!

You are receiving this email because you are a leader in either the New South or Wabash Conference.

And we set the tone.

We establish the culture.

We promote the attitude.

We raise or lower the connectional temperature.

I am confident that God has great things in store for the New South and Wabash Conferences.

And I am confident that each of us will play our part as we seek to forge new connections so that those around us may know that

God is with us and that He longs to be with them!

**In Christ
Superintendent John R. Lane**



Pastors - we have a private Facebook Group for prayer and discussion if you want to join.

Here is the link to request to join: [Pastors Group](#)

Contacts

Wabash/New South Superintendent: John Lane
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New South

New South Assistant Superintendent - [Daryl Diddle](#)
New South Administrator - [Charlie Fiskeaux](#)
New South Financial Consultant - [Patti McPeake](#)
Eagle Ridge Retreat Center Admin Manager- [Scott Clark](#)

Wabash

Wabash Office Manager/MEG Coordinator - [Judy Kinnick](#)
Wabash Business Manager - [Jody Belton](#)
African Immigrant Ministries Director- [Isaac Bujambi](#)
Wabash Park Camp & Retreat Center Director- [John Lancaster](#)
Wabash Park Camp & Retreat Center Reservations- [Renita Joles](#)





Andrea Tinsley

Those of you in the New South Conference know Andrea Tinsley well. For those of you in the Wabash Conference, Andrea will soon be leaving for Medellin Columbia.

Once there, she will be working with Dr. Ricardo Gomez, the Latin American Area Director. With a background in youth ministry, she will also be bringing support to the area missionary families.

Andrea will be at the Wabash Family Camp in just a few weeks.

<https://fmwm.org/andrea-tinsley/>

Calendar

[Eagle Ridge Retreat Center New South](#)
June 28-July 2nd New South Kids Camp

[Wabash Park Camp and Retreat Center](#)
July 5-10 / Explorer Camp II (4th, 5th, 6th Grade)
July 12-14 / Base Camp (1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade)
July 19th-25th Wabash Family Camp:

[Wabash Family Camp Brochure](#)

September 22-24- [New Room Conference](#)

March 10-12, 2022- [Wesleyan Holiness Women's Clergy Conference](#)

Preaching on July 4th



This weekend, July 4th falls on Sunday.

If there were ever a holiday more fraught with potential for conflict than July 4th I am not sure what it would be.

I imagine that many pastors wished they were preaching from the lectionary on Sundays where holidays fall.

If you say too much about July 4th on Sunday, you run the risk of the further syncretism of Biblical Christianity and cultural nationalism. We might as well wrap the cross in the flag.

If you say too little about July 4th, you run the risk of ignoring our current reality and becoming irrelevant to the people in our pews/seats.

My advice would be this:

- 1. Be Thankful*
- 2. Be Wise*
- 3. Be Honest*
- 4. Be Hopeful*
- 5. Be Local*

I imagine that the first four pieces of advice make sense so let me explain the 5th piece of advice- Be Local.

At any given moment in the history of any country, there are God honoring things and there are God dishonoring things.

One of the most difficult (and nearly impossible) tasks is to speak with any kind of confidence about what is going on at any given moment in a country of our size.

Therefore, it is better to focus locally. Remember the people who actually fill the pews/seats of your church. Imagine them sitting around the table as you prepare your sermon. Allow the

lives of "actual people" to focus the application part of your message/lesson. This will keep you from making too broad of claims about what you think is going on in America at this point.

And focus locally on scripture too! Allow the text to which God has guided you this Sunday through planning, series or lectionary to speak.

Remember - people want to hear from God.



STAY CONNECTED



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