

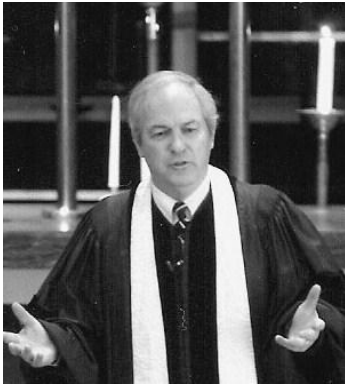


Evangelism  
In The  
Prophetic  
Spirit

The Kimball Boyd Coburn Ministry

FALL 2015

Issue 173



*AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR  
BISHOPS AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS*

Dear Bishops and District Superintendents,

You are talented, intelligent and faithful people with leadership abilities, or you wouldn't have been elected and appointed to serve as you are. You put a lot of time

and effort into what you do. You are loved and respected by us, the clergy and laity of your conferences and districts. I write to you asking your forgiveness on behalf of the churches who call you Bishop or District Superintendent. Forgive us for misusing you.

At a time when we need preachers, teachers, prophets, and evangelists, we are using you to collect reports and be at committee meetings. At a time when we need community organizers, church planters, pastoral models, and innovators, we are using you to make budgets and do perfunctory duties. And because we misuse you, we don't see you as we should. You come to our churches and preach good sermons and sometimes speak prophetic words, but we don't see you as preachers or prophets. We see you as Bishops and District Superintendents making your rounds. We don't see you as fellow workers

in the fields, but as hierarchy from headquarters. We don't see you standing with us, but standing before us. We don't see you as a part of our ministry, but apart from our ministry.

Methodist bishops and superintendents were put in leadership roles to serve the churches. Over time this arrangement has flip-flopped to where churches serve the hierarchy. How we arrived to where we are, I'm not completely sure. I do know that we have lost sight of what our founders and frontier preachers intended. A basic principle of the Protestant Reformation was "*the church reformed, but always being reformed.*"

(Continued on Page 2)

One of the key points of a modern reformation for United Methodism would be changing the roles of our bishops and district superintendents. What we need today, more than ever, are servant leaders. Servant leaders don't lead from high offices, but by walking the talk with people on the road, hunkering down with them in the trenches, and doing the hard work of being the Church.

I'm not saying we need to change your titles or go to a congregational system. I am saying we should be using your talents in more productive and engaging ways. I am bringing to your attention a cry that is out there in your Conferences and Districts. It's a cry for servant leaders who can be:

*talked with unofficially,  
dreamed with daringly,  
decisive with openness,  
tough with kindness,  
encouraging with hopefulness,  
supportive with compassion.*

We, clergy and laity, want so much to feel close to you. The more you live out humble and authentic servant leadership, the more we will walk by your side.

*Agape, Kimball Coburn, SE*

## FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Here it is, the end of summer with fall knocking at our door! We hope you have enjoyed a time of rest and are ready to meet the new schedules, challenges and activities that come with the beginning of Fall.

We have had several letters, emails and phone calls this summer from people new to Kimball's ministry. They want to know more about this servant evangelist in the United Methodist Church. Although many of you have traveled the roads with us through the years, we thought it might be good to refresh his journey over the past 36 years with our new readers.

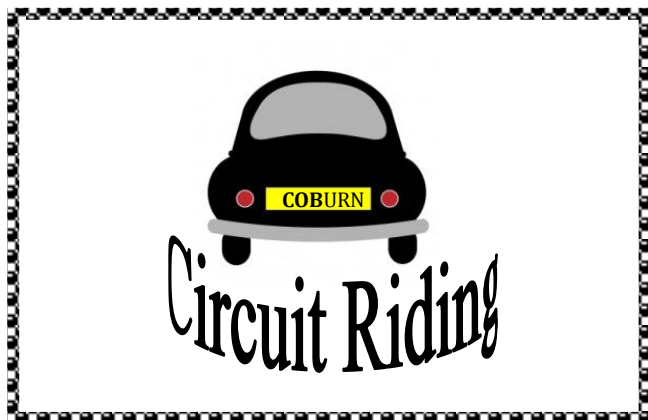
In the late 70's when televangelists were blasting the television with mixed messages so foreign to Kimball's roots in the United Methodist Church, he began to question, "Where are the evangelists who speak for God with a prophetic vision and call? He prayed, he talked with his bishop and district superintendent, his mentors from seminary, his colleagues and his family. Everyone agreed our theology needed to have more of a presence in the media world but there was no appointment for evangelism in our conference...no salary, no parsonage, no pension. But that still small voice, the one he had heard and answered to the ministry, was calling him again... "Use what you have learned as a pastor and speak for me as a different kind of a messenger, a servant evangelist in the prophetic spirit." Humbly, he said, " Lord, I know I am not the best preacher in the Conference, but I will give you my all. Walk with me ~ Use me."

Thirty six years ago he had no idea how to begin. He only knew that he was not alone and that there was a need for evangelism with integrity in our world. There were no road maps for him but there were directions: ***be faithful, be authentic, be prophetic, be challenging, be creative, be resourceful, be hopeful, be diligent, be humble, be bold, be daring, be compassionate, be patient, be loving.***

Having witnessed his commitment and challenging call to servant evangelism, we are blessed to be a part of his ministry. In the agape spirit Kimball and Pam live, we thank you for the many ways you, too, walk and talk with them. You are God's still small voice giving them the encouragement and hope that they are being faithful to that decision made long ago.

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**BUDGET FOR 2015:      \$56,150**  
**Amount Needed To Date: \$37,433**  
**Amount Received To Date: \$25,745**



**August 29-30**

**Discipline Order Of Christ**

National Retreat  
Prince of Peace Abbey  
Oceanside, CA



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Springfield, Nebraska

**September 12-13**



At Home in Pilgrim Place ~ 625 Mayflower Rd. Claremont

**PILGRIM PLACE PROGRESSIVE MUSIC AND FOLK FESTIVAL**

"Singing the Just Word ~ Celebrating a Century"

September 18, 5:00 - 9:00 P.M.

September 19, 9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Enjoy concerts, workshops, exhibits, meals, arts and crafts for all ages. This fun event promotes progressive and folk music with messages of peace and justice and values from several traditions... **Live Music** features, Bob Hurd, Jim Manley and the Pickers, Jim and Jean Strathdee, Kimball Coburn and other musicians. Kimball will be in Friendship Court on Saturday afternoon singing songs he has written and recorded that speak of peace with justice. Visit Pilgrim Place's website for times of events and more information of this Century Celebration!

Vicki Battaglia 909 399-5573 or [PilgrimPlace.org/FolkFestival](http://PilgrimPlace.org/FolkFestival)

*Don't Let the FIRE Go Out*

**Evangelism Weekend for the  
Claremont Mission Area**

September 26 and 27

La Verne United Methodist  
Church

3205 D Street, La Verne, CA

**Saturday Workshop Sept. 26  
8:30 AM ~ through Lunch**

**'Keeping the 5<sup>th</sup> Promise'**

Workshops On:  
Witness with Youth & Young Adults  
Music & Worship as Evangelism  
Technology (Use and Misuse) in  
Evangelism  
Community Service/Outreach as  
Evangelism

**Sunday Worship Celebration  
Sept. 27 ~ 4:00 PM**

With Kimball Coburn & the  
Calling Band  
Message through Word and  
Song

*"Don't Let the Fire Go Out"*

Special anthem by Pomona  
First Tongan UMC

Fellowship To Follow With Ethnic Foods From  
Our Churches

Celebrating our Diversity and Connectedness



*Enjoy the Beauty of Fall!*

Kimball Boyd Coburn Ministry  
P.O. Box 633  
Claremont, CA 91711-0633

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*Kimball Coburn is the epitome of the 21<sup>st</sup> century evangelist. He is that ever rarer combination of deep faith, contemporary concern and complete integrity. He has a passion for God, a passion for people and a passion for the world. He is a modern prophet in the best sense of the word. "* Rev. Rob Calderhead, California

*This year bring a Renewed Spirit to your Church*

The Kimball Coburn Ministry Is Now Scheduling For 2015

**"DON'T LET THE *FIRE* GO OUT EVENTS" for  
Local Churches and Mission Areas**

To experience the warmth and leadership of this faithful servant  
Write or call: Kimball Boyd Coburn Ministry ~ PO Box 633 ~ Claremont, CA 91711-0633  
(909) 624-1819 ~ [kbcministry@integrity.com](mailto:kbcministry@integrity.com) ~ [kimballcoburn.org](http://kimballcoburn.org)