

# “Hope for Rural Congregations”

A Conference featuring Rev. Ed Kail

February 3-4, 2012

Norfolk, Nebraska



- Help your congregation grow spiritually
- Discern the plan that God has for your congregation, “to give you a future with hope.” (Jer. 29:11c)
- Face the challenges confronting rural congregations
- Focus on the tremendous strength, resiliency and opportunities for mission found in our small membership churches.
- Return to your congregation with renewed vision, passion and resources to engage in vital ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Ed Kail (pronounced Kyle) is a long-time advocate for rural churches. He was a leader in Iowa’s response to the 1980’s farm crisis. Currently Ed is the Field Outreach Minister for the Southwest District of the Iowa Annual Conference. He is co-author of *Partnersteps: Developing Cooperative Ministries Today*. He is also a gifted musician and storyteller.

## Conference Schedule

Day One—“A Vision for Spiritual Growth”

Friday, February 3 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Especially for Pastors and Advanced Lay Speakers – lay team members welcome.

Wesley Hall in First United Methodist Church, Norfolk

Day Two—“A Vision for the Future of the Rural Church”

Saturday, February 4 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Especially for Congregational/Parish Teams (Individuals also welcome)

Life Long Learning Center at NE Community College, Norfolk

**Special Bonus:** “A Celebration of God’s Grace”

A Concert of Song and Story led by Ed Kail

Friday, February 3 at 7:00 PM

Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, Norfolk

**This is open to the public!**

An offering will be taken for the Elkhorn Valley District Church & Community Project—“Revitalizing Rural Congregations”

Cost: \$75.00 for an individual

\$100.00 per parish/charge [Pastor and up to 4 laity. Additional laity \$15/person]

Advance Registration Required. All fees increase after December 14<sup>th</sup>.

A registration form is now available on the district website [www.evdistrictumc.com](http://www.evdistrictumc.com) or you may request by email at [elkhornvalley@umcneb.org](mailto:elkhornvalley@umcneb.org).

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### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What Is This?**

A time for pastors and laity to learn and grow spiritually as we discern where God is leading us—what is the future for our churches and how we can move into that future.

#### **For Whom Is It Intended?**

Teams consisting of pastors and persons from the congregation(s) they are serving. Members of these teams may currently hold key leadership positions but that is not necessary. Ideally, they would have a love for their church and a desire for renewal for their congregation.

#### **Do Participants Need to Attend both Days?**

Not necessarily. The material presented each day will stand on its own. Friday will be especially beneficial for pastors and Advanced Lay Speakers will need to attend both Friday and Saturday. Pastors and laity from their congregations who are able to attend on Friday will benefit from learning together at no additional cost.

#### **Do We Need to Register in Advance?**

Yes! You will not be able to register at the door. If your paid register is received before Dec. 14th the Conference fee is only \$100 for each Parish or Charge. This covers the pastor and up to four laity for the conference, materials and lunch on Saturday. Each additional member of the team is \$15. The cost for individuals attending without a team is \$75. Those teams that register after December 14 will have to pay \$150.

Additional meals and Friday night accommodations are not included.

#### **What If I'm Not a United Methodist?**

This event is open to persons from all denominations and especially to persons from rural congregations! It is sponsored and hosted by the Elkhorn Valley District of the United Methodist Church.

#### **May I Receive Credit for Participating?**

Yes! Pastors who attend both the Friday and Saturday sessions may receive one CEU. Also this event will be considered as an Advanced Lay Speaking Class for laity who attend both Friday and Saturday sessions.

#### **Where Is Norfolk, Nebraska?**

Norfolk is in northeast Nebraska at the junction of Highways 275 and 81, about two hours northwest of Omaha. First UMC is located in downtown Norfolk at 406 W. Philip. Northeast Community College is on the northeast edge of town at 801 E. Benjamin Ave. Norfolk is a regional center for medical care and shopping and has many fine restaurants and hotels.