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IMA Video Connect every 3rd Thursday of each month at 10AM Central Time. Contact IMA Home Office for more info.

To post events in the IMA Newsletter, please send info to IMA Home Office two months prior.

Comments, suggestions, or article submissions may be addressed to:

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 IMA PROCLAIM Editor

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## "Methodist Minister Found IMA" Continued from Pg. 1

Beyond that, over the last year since we exited the UMC, God has given our church a new energy and excitement. Every month, new families are worshipping with us and getting connected. God has done so much that we never anticipated. We're excited because we know that He is positioning us for a greater work here.

As for me personally, as our church was preparing to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church, I knew I needed to make a change as well and I realized that wasn't going to be easy. I was raised in the UMC, I'm a Wesleyan at heart, and I've served as an Ordained UM Pastor for over twenty-five years.

However, it felt like the denomination I had served for so many years had broken its cove-

nant with me. I knew God was calling me to break ties with the UMC. Therefore, when our church applied to exit the denomination, I let North Georgia's Bishop know that I would be leaving as well.

This is where the IMA came in. I didn't want to be alone as an independent pastor; I wanted a supportive network of like-minded pastors. After researching various options, I found the IMA, and after a few conversations with Chad Hayes, I knew it was the right fit for me.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our story, what God is doing here, and how He led me to the IMA. May He bless you as you continue to serve Him and share the life-changing good news of the gospel!

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Rev. Karrie Landsverk, who received her Doctorate in Ministry. She serves as pastor of Living Gospel Church in Rio, Wisconsin and is an ordained minister with the IMA. Rev. Philip Thompson (Victory Church; Waupaca, WI) presented her with her diploma at a recent ceremony.



Dr. Karrie Landsverk

Relational

Actional

Missional



# IMA PROCLAIM

SEPT 2023

## How a Methodist Minister Found the IMA

By Rev. Jay Tenney; Tunnel Hill Community Church, Georgia



My name is Jay Tenney and I'm honored to share how God led me to connect with the IMA. Since my ordination back in the late 90's, I've served six United Methodist Churches in Georgia. Eleven years ago, I was appointed to Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church.

For over 174 years, this church has been an integral part of the community, with fifty-seven pastors and three different church buildings on separate sites. We currently have about 175 active members and offer two Sunday worship services as well as a mid-week meal and small group gatherings.

I believe one of the strengths of our church is that we try to stay focused on offering Christ and loving people. We don't have a multi-million dollar facility or a huge campus, but we have the gospel of Jesus Christ and we know that's what people need the most.

Around four or five years ago, I, along with our church's leadership team, became concerned about the direction of the United Methodist Church. We just couldn't support many of the things the denomination was starting to support. This prompted discussions about breaking ties with the UMC

to become an independent church.

By the end of 2019, we had made the decision to take this step. Unfortunately, our plans were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It wasn't until early 2022 that we were able to resume the exit process and successfully leave the UMC in July of the same year. That's when our church underwent a name change and became Tunnel Hill Community Church.

What I want everyone to know is just how good and faithful God has been throughout this whole process. It hasn't been easy, but God has blessed us every step of the way. He helped us to raise the funds we needed to exit, which was over \$70,000, and even as we were raising those funds, God continued to give us exactly what we needed to meet our operating budget.

(Article continued on Pg. 4)

### National Board:

- ▣ Rev. Chad Hayes
- ▣ Rev. Sean Dudley
- ▣ Rev. Dan Hernandez
- ▣ Rev. Kurt Juszczak
- ▣ Rev. Paul Mason
- ▣ Dr. Don Crabtree
- ▣ Dr. Timothy Warner

### District Chairs:

- ▣ Dr. Charles Dewing
- ▣ Dr. Karrie Landsverk
- ▣ Rev. Philip Tolman
- ▣ Rev. Joe Campbell
- ▣ Rev. Romualdo Corpuz
- ▣ Rev. Julie Wells
- ▣ Rev. Klieh Owens
- ▣ Rev. David Spurlock
- ▣ Rev. Robert Garcia

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- ▣ IMA Announcements



# Lutheran Church in the IMA

By Rev. Emory Johnson; New Hope Lutheran Church; Grantsburg, Wisconsin

I have been in the ministry since 1972 and was ordained in the IMA at Shell Lake Full Gospel Church in 1983. I grew up in a Lutheran church and have had a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ ever since I can remember. I graduated from a Lutheran college and attended a Lutheran seminary. In 1973 I left the seminary to live, work and study Hebrew on a Kibbutz in Israel. Upon my return I enrolled in the Assemblies of God Graduate School and earned a Master of Divinity degree.

Upon graduation I was hired as an interim pastor and served for a year in both a Lutheran Church and a United Church of Christ Congregation. I then went back to a Lutheran Seminary and received a Master of Sacred Theology degree in Pastoral Counseling. I moved to Texas and enrolled in two years of Clinical Pastoral Education, CPE, in a state psychiatric hospital and Texas only prison for the mentally ill offender. Upon completion of my CPE I was hired by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and became a chaplain in a state institution for those with mental retardation. While there I was licensed in Texas as a Professional Counselor.

In 1989 and 1990 I was selected to serve as editor of the IMA's quarterly publication of the *Herald of Truth*. I spent twenty-four years as a chaplain in Texas working with those with mental retardation, the mentally ill, and emotionally disturbed children and adolescents. While serving in that capacity I enrolled in the Lutheran School of Theology at Chi-

cago and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling. During my last ten years in Texas, while working with adolescents, I was appointed as Head of Chaplaincy Services for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation's twelve psychiatric hospitals and twelve institutions for those with mental retardation. In 2005 my father went home to be with the Lord, so I retired and moved back to Wisconsin to keep an eye on my mother. I then received licensure as a Professional Counselor in Wisconsin.

In 2009 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA, the largest denomination in the Lutheran church, went through a sexual revolution and approved the practice of homosexuality. Many people left the ELCA. In one area of Northwestern Wisconsin 180 people left 8 ELCA churches and gathered together to start their own fellowship. They could have joined any other Bible believing church but they were Lutherans who loved the Lord and believed in God's Word. They called me to come preach for them and we began meeting in a High School Auditorium.



After six months, we rented a carpet warehouse building and began meeting there. The members built the altar, pulpit, baptismal font, choir loft, put up walls

and offices, a Sunday School room, a Fellowship Hall and a parking lot. We have since purchased the building. We now have members from all denominations; Catholic, Baptist, Methodists, and Pentecostals who have joined because they feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Fellowship and love to learn more about God's Word. We do not pass the offering plate, but rather have an offering box and members give as God so leads. We have a Fellowship meal after every service and almost all of our members stay for it. This is a first-generation church of 140 people who are filled with the Holy Spirit and love the Lord. It is a mission church and we help sponsor missionaries around the world. It is a church of prayer and we continuously see miracles and salvations among people who call on us for help. I love preaching and focus many of my sermons on tying the Old Testament and New Testament together.

We have broadcast our services since our beginning and you can see and hear our services on face book or on our website at [www.newhopelutheranchurch.org](http://www.newhopelutheranchurch.org) Praise the Lord! God bless you.

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# God Moves in Mysterious Ways

By Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner; Proclaim Editor



"Truly, O God of Israel, You work in strange, mysterious ways."  
Isaiah 45:15, LB

One of the most respected attributes of our Beloved IMA is that the Lord has worked in mysterious ways. The historical perspective is that God has worked among us in mysterious ways since our inception.

W. E. Kidson, our dear founder, was mysteriously led by the Lord to start the IMA. The story is told of Rev. Kidson attending a Gospel fellowship meeting in the eastern part of the USA. Apparently, he was praying at the altar along with other ministers. As he prayed, a (nine year old) girl came up to him and slipped a piece of paper in his hand with the letters hand written that said, IMA. The girl then said she did not know what it meant, but emphasized that "God had anointed it." A few years later when A.D. Van Hoose, B.C. Nulisch and W.E. Kidson founded our fellowship, they mysteriously used the acronym IMA which stands for International Ministerial Association.



Stories of how the IMA attracted ministers was and is mysterious as well. People from the North, South, East and West have their own stories of how God led them to our beloved fellowship.

One active member, when asked why he belonged to the IMA, said something like this to a

group of us: "It's not because IMA is the best group of ministers or offers the most benefits, but when I prayed, God told me to "join." That proves God is still working in His mysterious ways.

Pastor Chad, our current chairman, and the National Board are working hard to help several districts renew their leadership and re-establish ministerial gatherings across the country. They are doing a terrific job. Their objective is to partner with God to make the IMA strong, healthy and to function well. As a result, many new people are coming into our Fellowship.

Among those finding shelter, credentials and meaningful relationships, are people with various church denominational backgrounds. The IMA has always had wide-reaching arms to embrace those that have left other groups or Christian denominations whose leadership has willfully departed from Scripture.

The articles presented in this publication reflect the mysterious workings of Almighty God. He is bringing ministers out of ecclesiastical systems that have left biblical norms, traditional Christian values, and have embraced immoral sexual worldviews. We both welcome and stand amazed as to how God leads His people (especially minis-

ters in this case) out of unhealthy or unbiblical ministeriums and into fellowship with IMA! We must say that God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform!

As I hear and read of Gospel ministers finding their way into the IMA, it gives hope and a future to God's leading among us. New ministries, fresh missionary outreaches and church planting ventures—all reflect the present, active moving of the Holy Spirit among us. Let's continue to open our hearts and arms to new members coming into our Fellowship. Let's also keep every ministry, district function, and local church endeavor moving forward. Let not fear bind us, but rather keep walking in step with the Holy Spirit and His [new] plans for every ministry.

When our history is written, let it be said of us, "These folks welcomed the Holy Spirit; God moved in mysterious ways among these heroes of faith." **Through faith [they] subdued kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in fighting, turned the armies of foreign enemies to flight... [of whom] the world was not worthy** (Heb. 11:33, 34, 38; MEV).



By the time you receive this newsletter, our National Conference should be underway. We are so grateful that our IMA Fellowship can celebrate gathering this year at Grace Church with its pastors and congregation. September 18-20, 2023 is our God-ordained time to assemble, refresh, and return to our field of ministries; locally and abroad! Send out the Dove...