

## Come One, Come All to Igniting Ministry!

**When:** February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Calvary UMC

**Why:** to learn how to develop our church and poise ourselves for growth

Nearly a decade ago I was one of a few clergy persons from across the nation who was invited to participate in creating our national United Methodist advertising campaign called “Igniting Ministry.” Its theme is Open minds, Open hearts, Open minds. I helped critique and edit portions along with a select group of communications specialists.

Later I helped implement the campaign in one of my churches. Our local exposure sky rocketed. But, this campaign is about so much more than just getting the word out about our churches. It’s about encouraging people with a message of love and hope. Little did I know that one day I would be the one who sorely need that encouragement. Unrepentantly, I came upon the message one day just at the right moment.

I was riding on a train bound to New York, feeling like a little church mouse overwhelmed by the BIG CITY. I breathed a huge sigh as I asked in my heart, “God does anyone care about me?” At just the moment, when a tear was just forming itself to fall, and more than I can ever remember feeling disconnected and far away from home, I looked up and there it was! A United Methodist billboard was staring me in the face right there during our brief stop at the train depot. It said, “The people of the United Methodist Church care about you!” It was God answering me right then and right there. I knew that not just someone cared, God cared, and my church cared.

That is the same message that I want you to know and spread, and this month we will learn how. Our Igniting Ministry session on February 14<sup>th</sup> will begin training us for three important things:

**Reaching Out** – telling the story of Jesus Christ, and spreading the news about Calvary UMC in the community

**Reaching Up** – teaching visitors and new members how to grow as disciples of Christ, helping them connect to our church, and developing opportunities for people to join our church.

**Reaching for the top!** – Moving to another level in our commitment to increase community awareness of Calvary, doing so with excellence from the parking lot to our greeters and ushers, and from the church newsletter to community wide advertising.

PLEASE plan to attend February 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Naomi Garcia is a ministry consultant from Grand Rapids who is graciously (very graciously) volunteering her time to be with us. Let’s all receive her with enthusiasm as we thank the Lord for this wonderful opportunity to start learning how to grow our church!

Rev. Faith E. Green Timmons