

Priorities established during wrap-up discussions at conclusion of 2014 Friends of Latvia meeting. [Recorded on Ustream](#)

2014-15 Officers

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Focus on a few priorities rather than too wide a scope From brainstorm. See underlines and add your own

Communications and Prayer

- For protection from outside forces
- People to people – matching – exchange letter? Match a person to a person
 - Discussion on snail mail logistics difficulties – thought excellent
 - Bulletin board with letters to motivate
- Pen Pals are excellent especially with photo
- Elderly pen pals 85 yo might work – powerful experience – interpreter load
- Possibly translate with Google and include both languages

Connecting youth

English classes

Latvian classes

US kids should pray for Latvian kids

Candles during worship

Connecting leaders

Leadership classes on-line

Record music and share.

Streaming videos between congregations

Clergy development

Pastor retreat

Leadership development

Every live update from the pastors in Latvia stressed the importance of prayer for each other. Requested names on those needing specific prayers in our congregations.

Might the interpreter load be made part of English classes?

Streaming video conferences now tested. Viable for leadership classes, Bible study, worship. Mel M suggests tight agendas for interactions no more than 20 minutes.

Ongoing communications critical
 Between meetings
 Website possible
 Video template - on the ground – 2-3 minutes
 Usage in Worship – teams shoot per template
 Warning about not posting children’s location due to predators
 Consider releases
 Departments section of Newsletter?
 - Videos
 - Stories
 - New Friends
 - How to Help
 - Hope Center
 - Wesley Camp
 - Youth

Thanks to Dana Nance for serving as Secretary for several years. Your faithful service has made FOL real with the exceptional newsletters and communications.

Newsletter articles come from FOL members. What’s the topic of your article?

Communications	GARBER	MARY	MGARBER1989@AOL.COM	2034 SWALLOW HILL RD PITTSBURGH, PA	412-276-2574		MT LEBANON, PA
Communications	MASON	Melissia	MXMELI@YAHOO.COM	1104 CRANE DR EULESS, TX 76039	817-685-6456	817-798-3443	FUMC GRAPEVINE, TX
Resource	RICHARDS	REV WAYNE C	WCR4040@GMAIL.COM	MEDFORD, NJ	609-654-6285	908-675-1876	FUMC FARMINGDALE, NJ
Resource	Sowell	JESSE & ANNETTE	ANNETTE.SOWELL@SBCGLOBAL.NET	215 MINT LN EULESS, TX 76039	817-283-8512	817-996-2373	FUMC GRAPEVINE, TX
Resource	TOLLESON	RANDY	RSTOLLESON@ATT.NET	8637 NICHOLS WAY, NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TX 76180	817-605-1849	214-729-1436	SMITHFIELD UMC, TX

Sarkani – Cannot lose focus of UMC and support in this village

Sarkani UMC
<http://youtu.be/l5K-aze04Xw>

Video Updates from LAMB Congregations – Youtube
[Paplaka UMC](#)
Liepa Russian UMC
 1) <http://youtu.be/e31I18SzVLY>
 2) <http://youtu.be/nsVd4wWu8il>
 3) <http://youtu.be/0n9nqXFsojl>
Liepaja UMC
<http://youtu.be/rXXaiJNNKHo>
Liepa Latvian UMC
<http://youtu.be/Dtcy1V8tZE8>
Riga 1st UMC
<http://youtu.be/QncDkUn2wb0>

Matras UMC
<http://youtu.be/s74daVBtppM>
 Matras powerpoint here:
[Matras UMC 2013 - 2014.ppt](#)
Tashi UMC
 1) <http://youtu.be/rSuFWAQhQec>
 2) <http://youtu.be/DMU-2p9Qyi4>
Jelgava UMC
<http://youtu.be/CSkMqfyhTVk>
Kuldiga UMC
<http://youtu.be/EiFiucV978>

<p>Building-related Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People first – and fellowship rather than buildings Renovations, funding of renovations Foundation for funding? Real estate guidance – property value understanding Clarence Harms 3 weeks evaluation very important for clear picture on facilities <p>Men involved in Bible Study and visible discipleship</p> <p>Building discipleship</p> <p>Tilling and planting on hard ground</p> <p>Celebration of leaders</p> <p>Serving alongside the people in Latvia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Books recommended by Mel Munchinski to ensure healthy relationships Toxic Mission When Helping Hurts Asset Mapping 	<p>Men make note</p> <p>__ Modifying Treasurer duties to include Project logging to ensure good stewardship of effort and monies spent on projects</p> <p>Fund-raising effort for Relief vs Rebuild vs Programs</p>
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Pastor Salary Standing Committee – propose rename to “Pastor Income”

R. Tolleson scheduling initial call with standing committee members

Pastors Income	Croft	Julie	juliecroft@hotmail.com		817-421-0647		FUMC Grapevine
Pastors Income	Croft	Mark	markcroft@hotmail.com		817-421-0647		FUMC Grapevine
Pastors Income	HAYES	JIM	JRHAYES46@BELLSOUTH.NET	79 DAIRY POND RD PO BOX 1089 NORRIS, TN 37828	865-494-7502	865-250-9536	NORRIS UMC, NORRIS, TN
Pastors Income	Mednis	Gita	gitamednis@gmail.com				-
Pastors Income	Munchinsky	Mel	veldarosepastor@gmail.com				-
Pastors Income	Pullins	Steve	tpullins@aol.com				-
Pastors Income	RICHARDS	REV WAYNE C	WCR4040@GMAIL.COM	MEDFORD, NJ	609-654-6285	908-675-1876	FUMC FARMINGDALE, NJ
Pastors Income	TOLLESON	RANDY	RSTOLLESON@ATT.NET	8637 NICHOLS WAY, NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TX 76180	817-605-1849	214-729-1436	SMITHFIELD UMC, TX

<p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the 12-year olds creating Liepa Camp. Suggest need to help with materials for youth to run camps “Camp” newsletter? Music and leadership training DS emphasis for camp to allow gathering of Methodists 	
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DS emphasis is to use for unchurched Parents of unchurched hesitant to send kids open to							
<p><u>Wesley Camp</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work toward master plan – develop facilities - Expand # to participate and winterizing - Conferences - AV equipment, training, and storage - Increase communication network - Communications emphasis – newsletter dept - Thank you letters from kids on “What Camp means to me” 							
Notify Richard Payne if you would like to serve on the Wesley Camp Standing Committee							
Wesley Camp	PAYNE	RICHARD	PAYNERR@LIVE.COM	900 E WORTH, GRAPEVINE, TX 76051	817-442-0698	817-235-8000	FUMC GRAPEVINE, TX
<p><u>Hope Center</u></p> <p>Facilities need focus – Holt C taking a team Insulation and downstairs bathroom Youth involvement Possible facilities grant Newsletter request for \$5k for funding Director? Administrative – Communication Support Ongoing funding of Director Scholarship for “graduate” financial support possible? Social media use for fund raising – “Text \$10 to” DS request wait until certification granted</p>							
Hope Center	CASON	HOLT & LYNN	LYNO67@HOTMAIL.COM	112 BLANTONWOOD DR TULLAHOMA, TN 37388	931-455-3139	931-841-1175	FUMC TULLAHOMA, TN
Hope Center	NANCE	JIM	NANCEJL@SBCGLOBAL.NET	1608 WARWICKSHIRE CT WEST, BEDFORD, TX 76021		817-832-3631	MEADOWBROOK UMC, TX
Hope Center	RICHARDS	REV WAYNE C	WCR4040@GMAIL.COM	MEDFORD, NJ	609-654-6285	908-675-1876	FUMC FARMINGDALE, NJ
Hope Center	VANN	RICHARD L (BUD)	BUDVANN@BELLSOUTH.NET	235 INVERNESS CENTER DR APT 214 HOOVER, AL 35242-5606	205-502-7160	205-305-4392	MOUNTAIN CHAPEL UMC, AL
<p>Methodist Hymnal publication likely in 2014 publishing cost \$1200 \$5,000 - \$7000 plus unit price for each Bible. Methodist history books in print and pending publication. Consider selling to raise funds and awareness for Latvia.</p>							

S.T. Kimbrough emails of March 2014

Randy,

Thank you for your email regarding the forthcoming meeting related to the United Methodist Church in Latvia. I unfortunately cannot attend due to the health of my wife, who has Parkinson's disease.

However, I would like to give you a report on the forthcoming first United Methodist Hymnal of the UMC in Latvia. Carlton Young and I continue to work with the Latvia UMC committee in preparing the hymnal. We have ca. 60% of the hymns now set in Sibelius musical software. Dr. Young and I had to take time off this fall from the project due to other writing and publishing commitments, however, beginning in January we will go "full steam" ahead. The plan is complete the project in 2013 and be able to go to press early in 2014 and have the dedication of the hymnal at Easter 2014.

There have been initial contributions from the General Board of Discipleship, the Fred Pratt Green Trust (UK), and a few individuals. In addition, the General Board of Global Ministries is processing and paying for any necessary copyright print licenses, the costs of which will eventually be between two and three thousand dollars. Dr. Young and I are, of course, doing the work on the actual setting of the music and texts in the Sibelius software pro bono.

Given the costs of printing in Latvia, I am certain that we will probably need to raise an additional \$5,000 to \$7,000.

Please share this information with those who attend the gathering. This will be a vital step forward in the life and worship of the UMC in Latvia and hopefully those present will be enthusiastic about this new resource for the church and will continue to support and pray for its development.

I'm pleased to learn of Mel Munchinsky's role. If I can be of any assistance or service to him, please tell him to feel free to contact me.

*Over the past few years I have done a couple of books **A PICTORIAL PANORAMA OF EARLY RUSSIAN METHODISM**, and **A PICTORIAL PANORAMA OF EARLY LITHUANIAN METHODISM**. Both volumes were funded by the General Board of Archives and History (GBAH). I have intended doing a third book **A PICTORIAL PANORAMA OF EARLY LATVIAN METHODISM**, as I have collected a large number of photographs of early Latvian Methodism and I know how important this material is for the identity of Methodism today in former Soviet Bloc countries. Unfortunately, no funds are forthcoming from GBAH for the Latvian volume. I don't know if you are acquainted with the above books. If not, I'll send you one of the Russian ones which includes quite a bit of material on early Methodism in the Baltic States. I don't know whether there would be interest among FOL to fund publication of the Latvian volume. The Russian volume was published in the US and is only in English. The Lithuanian volume was published in Lithuania and is bilingual. Unfortunately, I did not get to proof it so it has quite a few language mistakes. In any case, I just raise the question for future reference. Both of the above volumes cost ca. \$1200 to publish. I, of course, did and will do the writing, editing, and design of the material pro bono.*

All the best.

*S T Kimbrough, Jr.
Research Fellow
Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition
The Divinity School
Duke University
Durham, NC*

Next Meeting April 2015 in US.

Gathering In Latvia – Invite Irish and English to attend

DS suggests in 2016

Next Venue – DS suggests Tennessee or Texas

___ Grapevine UMC willing to host - Easter is 4/7/15 – Schedule after

Need Irish/English email addresses to include in FOL distribution

__Pastor Training Development possible (Annette Sowell) 5 days? Do not want to mix Pastor spiritual formation with business. Faithful Men may be able to attend with enough notice	
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Resources

FOL Attendees...

I wanted to let you all know that we are working on getting some new lines of communication available to you all. Before I mail to the entire mailing list, I wanted to show you what I've started and let you give me feedback.

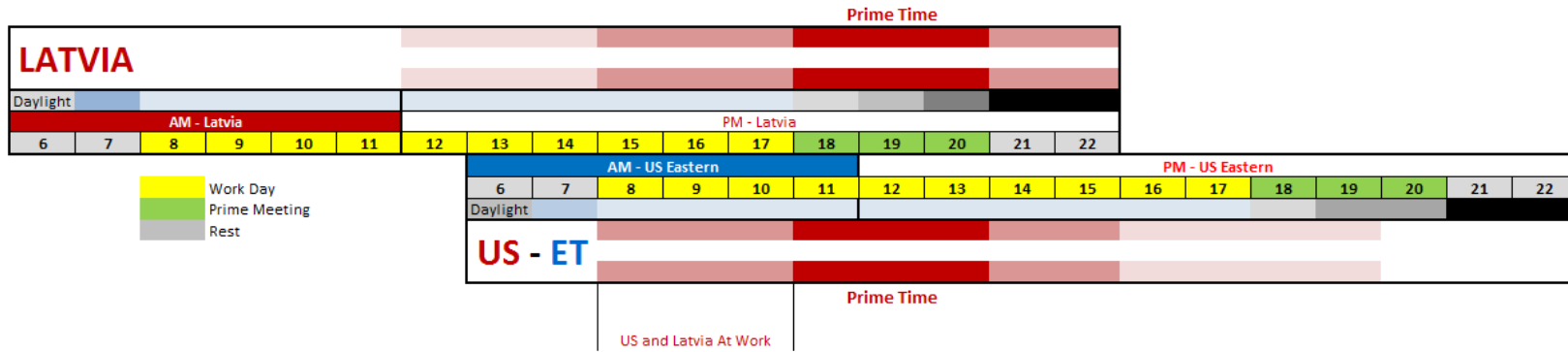
- **E-Mail Address:** I established this e-mail address that can be passed on to future secretaries. You'll see that it is secretary.fol@gmail.com. During this process, I found that friendsoflatvia@gmail.com was already registered. If you know who has that address, please let me know. I have e-mailed it with no response, checked with Randy and Richard and Dana... no one seems to know.
- **Website:** I have established a web presence for us independent of Facebook. It can be found at friendsoflatvia.weebly.com. This is a free service that I think will fit our needs well for the time being. If you have ideas about what should be posted or corrections to what is there, please let me know. Be sure to check out the trip dates on the Events page and verify that the information is correct.
- **Mailings:** I have established a mass e-mailing list via MailChimp, a free tool that allows us to send out emails to everyone at once (previously the list was done in stages through Dana Nance's personal e-mail). I have already subscribed you all... I just wanted to give you a heads-up before I send out the first mailing.
- **Database:** I am in the process of creating a more comprehensive database in the hopes that we can better communicate with each other. I have established a sign-up form through the FUMC Grapevine website (with their permission) in order to make it easy for everyone to complete the information. That can be found here: https://secure.iministries.org/form.aspx?site_id=10664&form_id=404475. Feel free to pass this link on to others who may wish to be included in the database.

I will be sending this information out to the entire FOL list via MailChimp soon, but just wanted to give those of you who were in attendance a heads-up about it all.

If you gave a presentation at the FOL meeting and had hand-outs available, I would appreciate you sending me an electronic copy so that I can post those resources on the website for everyone to have access to.

Blessings,
Melissia

Latvia - US (Eastern) Meeting Hourline



- This hourline chart represents a 7 hour time difference between Latvia and the US Eastern Time zone
- Daylight is approximated by the DAYLIGHT hourline
- The Prime Time for Latvia US meetings is identified by the Latvian flag on the hourline requiring US involvement during work day.
- *US and Latvia At Work* represents a good meeting time if 8-5 if meetings during work hours are acceptable.