

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

In less than two months, the Annual Conference session will convene in Greenville. This year, Annual Conference will begin on Friday morning at 10 a.m. with a service of Holy Communion. The Annual Conference will then unfold over the course of the weekend and we will conclude with the Ordering of Ministry Service on Sunday morning.

We realize that this is Fathers' Day weekend. Clergy were polled over a year ago relative to the best weekend in June for the Annual Conference and we agreed that the third weekend in June was the best time. We will dismiss in time for lay and clergy members to return home and to celebrate with fathers, grandfathers, and other father figures in our lives.

At home, in local churches, worship will be focused upon the connection that we share in ministry. This is a very good time to have a lay speaker invited. A template will be offered for your use. You can begin with that template and use your own creativity. This Sunday will be a time to tell again the story of the United Methodist way, to explain the way that we work in connection, and to celebrate our shared ministry. This Sunday will be an opportunity for us all across the annual conference in every place to reaffirm our commitment to grace upon grace, the Wesleyan witness in the world. We will offer helps to you to be used as you desire. I will be videoing the sermon I anticipate offering on Sunday morning. Use it as it is helpful. Together, we delight in being a family of United Methodist people.

Thank you for all that you do to make the connection strong and sure. We look forward together to a weekend of expansive celebration of our life June 16-18.