



North Carolina Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Thursday
June 10, 2010

Living for Jesus: Conference 2010

Welcome to Greenville! Over the next three days, the laity and clergy of the North Carolina Annual Conference will worship and deliberate together in what John Wesley called “holy Christian conferencing.” The theme for the quadrennium has been “A Future With Hope” and the 2010 theme is “Living for Jesus.”

Bishop Al Gwinn will preside over the conference with the assistance of Conference Lay Leader Emily Innes and Conference Secretary the Rev. Dr. Jerry Bryan. Lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference must register in the Convention Center lobby when they arrive.

Members of the Conference and guests will enjoy the preaching of the Rev. Dr. Richard Hays, Professor of New Testament and interim dean of Duke Divinity School. Friday evening’s Laity Celebration will feature Dr. Tom Morris, philosopher and member of Wrightsville Beach UMC. Joining the celebration will be the African Children’s Choir, headquartered in Uganda.

This year’s session of Annual Conference is only three

days long. For more information on the shortened schedule, see the article “Conference Shortened by a Day” below.

In an effort to be good stewards of our resources, the Conference Secretary and Communications offices put the vast majority of reports online for members to print out before coming to Conference. The Rev. Bryan said, “This resulted in a savings of almost \$30,000.”

Service projects are a focus of this year’s gathering with five opportunities in Greenville this week. A food packaging project will occur Thursday at the Hilton. The other four will be elsewhere in Greenville on Saturday

afternoon. The special offerings this year are the Central Conference Pension Initiative, Nothing but Nets, and Laity Ministries.

The Greenville Convention Center will not be available in 2011 during the time that Annual Conference usually meets. Other location options will be presented by the Conference Secretary towards the end of the schedule on Friday.



Conference Shortened by a Day

The Book of Discipline gives the Annual Conference the authority to choose the place of Annual Conference and gives the Bishop the authority to choose the dates. However, in listening to the 2009 Annual Conference, Bishop Al Gwinn agreed to shorten this year’s gathering by one day.

It was hoped that such a change would save the Conference’s money.

However, the actual costs of renting the meeting space and all the many materials needed to accommodate the Conference session were not noticeably reduced because these assets had to be acquired for a whole week. The costs to members and local churches may be reduced by as much as 30% because one less day of food and one less night of lodging are needed.

Members returning from the Conferences of years past will notice some changes that were made to accommodate the shortened schedule. For example, the Lay

Executive Session was cancelled and the Clergy Executive Session was held at First UMC in Rocky Mount on May 14th. The Ordination Service is being combined with the fixing of appointments on Saturday.

The Retiree Recognition Service was also removed from the agenda to become part of the Retiree Luncheon. Videos by the retirees will be played in the Convention Center during breaks in the agenda.

Most reports that do not require a vote are scaled back in this year’s agenda and all award presentations are being grouped together into an evening program. The All Saints Service is being rolled into the Opening Worship Service this year.

To accommodate the shortened schedule, there will be no series of workshops as were tried last year. However, a special presentation on our financial status will be included in the report of the Council on Finance and Administration.

Methodist Building Moving Soon

There will be no rest for the weary for the Conference staff this summer. The week of June 21st to 25th is reserved for packing at the Methodist Building on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh and moving to the new building in Garner.

There will be a 12 to 24 hour outage of conference staff and clergy email accounts, web pages, and the phone

system starting Friday morning, June 25th.

The new phone number of the Conference building will be (919) 779-6115. The toll free number will remain (800) 849-4433. Staff phone extensions and email addresses will remain unchanged. The new address of the building is 700 Waterfield Ridge Place, PO Box 1970, Garner, NC 27529.

Social Networking Brings Conference Together

The Communications and Information Technology Committees invite you to be a part of the Annual Conference 2010 online experience at www.nccumc.org. You will find a large “banner” directing you to a special Annual Conference website. There you will find all the pre-conference documents, an agenda, resolutions coming before the conference and much more.

Online social networking connects you to the events as they happen. You can read and comment on the conference blog and find the Conference Facebook event. New this year, you can contribute to the Twitter feed by using the #nccumc hashtag.

Persons unable to attend conference can watch it on the live stream on their computers and anyone can access audio and video of Conference events on the webpage.

Policy Adds Term-Limits, Attendance Requirements

The Nominations Report today will include a proposal for a new Conference Policy for Meetings. The policy includes an expectation of 100% attendance by leaders and members of all meetings. Notification of unavoidable absences must be submitted to the staff liaison for the committee.

After three excused absences in a four-year term, the executive committee of the board, committee or team will determine if the member or leader will continue to serve. There will also be an eight year term-limit for serving on a committee or board.

Each board or committee will meet at least two times per year and sometimes more frequently. The report of the Committee on Nominations will be presented this afternoon.

Minimum Salary Report

The Commission on Equitable Compensation report suggests that the 2011 salary, utilities, and travel for full-time and part-time pastors on minimum salary be unchanged from 2010 levels. Last year, the Commission recommendation was changed from the floor and set to remain at 2009 levels.

Connect to the World from Annual Conference

Wireless access to the internet is easy at Annual Conference 2010. From the meeting room floor, there are two ways to connect. The first option is to use the Greenville Convention Center network. Their networks that end in a cardinal direction (like “north”) require a user name and password. Those that end in a numeral do not. Secondly, the Information Technology Office has created a series of access points called “Wesley.” These do not require a user name or password.

Additionally, internet terminals are available for the free use of Conference attendees. Please limit your time at the terminal to 15 minutes if others are waiting. The shortcut to the Firefox web browser is on the desktop.

Special Offerings Support Our Ministry Together

Three offerings will be received during Annual Conference 2010. Envelopes are included in your registration packet. You are invited to participate and give generously. The offerings are:

Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI): Taken during the Opening Worship Service and All Saints Celebration, this offering will be taken to the front by members as directed by the worship leader. The CCPI is a long-term solution that provides financial security for dedicated church leaders and surviving spouses in the Central Conferences of our denomination (those Conferences located outside the United States). More information can be found at www.ccpi-umc.org.

Stamp Out Malaria/Nothing But Nets: This offering will be received Thursday evening. Nothing But Nets™ is a global, grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. With a donation of just \$10 for the purchase of an anti-malaria bed net, you can save a life. www.nothingbutnets.net

Laity Ministries: The Laity Celebration on Friday evening will include an offering for Laity Ministries. Overseen by the Board of Laity, this fund supports the Laity Celebration event and other programs for laity.

Remember:

- Check in at registration table upon arrival.
- Wear your nametag with lanyard.
- Silence your cell-phone and other devices.
- To be recognized to speak, wave the green card in your registration packet. Clearly state your name and church or Conference affiliation.

Special Meals

- 12:00PM - Retiree Luncheon, Hilton
- 12:00PM - Clergywomen, Hilton
- 12:00PM - Evangelical Fellowship, Covenant UMC
- 5:30PM - Methodist University, Jarvis Mem. UMC
- 5:30PM - UMC Retirement Homes, Cypress Glen
- 8:00PM - Young Clergy, Hilton

Today's Agenda Highlights:

- 10:00AM - Opening Worship/All Saints
- 2:00PM - Financial Overview
- 7:30PM - Evening of Celebration

Resources for the Journey

The Cokesbury Bookstore display will be open in Greenville Hilton Ballrooms E and F for your convenience. The Rev. Dr. John Bergland, the Rev. Dr. Belton Joyner, the Rev. Leonard Fairley, and the Rev. Norman Ramsey will sign books in the Cokesbury Bookstore display during the Friday lunch. Dr. Tom Morris will sign books in the Convention Center lobby after Friday evening's session. Members will find a Cokesbury coupon in their registration packet, good for use during the Annual Conference 2010 event.

Cokesbury.com
Resources for the Christian Journey



Cokesbury Hours:

- Wednesday 5:00PM to 8:00PM
- Thursday 8:00AM to 7:30PM
- Friday 8:00AM to 7:30PM
- Saturday 8:00AM to 10:00AM