

Fan the Flame A Small Membership Church Revitalization Event

A Small Membership Church
Revitalization Event;

A time to worship, study, and pray about
how the Holy Spirit can use and equip
us to ignite God's movement in this world.

Workshop Sessions led by:

Rev. Jonathan Mills

and the Laity of the Bladen Charge
(Bethlehem UMC, Live Oak UMC &
Windsor UMC).



Sponsored by the Bladen Charge,
The Duke Endowment, and the Duke
Divinity School Thriving Rural
Communities Initiative.

Does your church see the big possibilities in small places?
We believe God has big plans for the small membership church..

The Bladen Charge
PO Box 96
White Oak, NC 28399

Fan The Flame

A Small Membership
Church Revitalization
Event



Date: May 16-18, 2014

The Bladen Charge

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In the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church there are about 800 churches. Of those churches, over 600 of them average 100 or fewer people in worship attendance. Some of these churches could be on the verge of closing within the next 20 years if things don't change. Many small membership churches are in places of opportunity, but cannot seem to make any real advancement toward growth or sustainability in ministry. Each church in the Bladen Charge has a unique testimony to how God has moved and increased their faith, ministry, and reach for the Kingdom of God. All three churches are located in rural Bladen County. Windsor UMC has seen their average attendance grow from 10 to 135 people. This growth has not only increased numbers, but mission and ministry. Bethlehem UMC has seen their average attendance grow from 40 to 100 people. They are continuing to find ways to engage their young adults and children with this growth. Live Oak UMC has an average attendance of 40, yet through their community outreach they minister to over a thousand people a year.

No matter where you find yourself thriving in ministry, struggling in ministry, or anywhere in between, the Bladen Charge invites your pastor and two or three lay people from your church to come and engage in a time of renewal and learning that is aimed at helping your church Fan the Flame!

Fan the Flame 2014 will be a weekend retreat with worship services and workshops to equip your church with resources that will help them grow.

Areas of ministry covered during this weekend are:

- The dynamics and culture of rural membership church
- Effective preaching in rural membership church
- Excellence in worship in the rural membership church
- Ministries to youth and children in the rural membership church.
- Local and Global Missional Outreach in the rural membership church.
- Spiritual Formation and Discipleship in the rural membership church - including ideas for Sunday school, Small Groups, and VBS
- Practical Evangelism and Faith Sharing in the rural membership church.
- Healing and Wholeness in the rural membership church.

The retreat will require an entire weekend of your time. Pastors are asked to plan to be away from their churches and have someone fill in for them so they may experience the diversity of worship at Windsor UMC, Bethlehem UMC, and Live Oak UMC. The retreat will begin with dinner on Friday evening and conclude at noon after the morning worship services.

Registration Form
Must be returned by: May 9, 2014

Church Name_____

Participants Name_____

Contact Person_____

Contact Phone Number_____

Contact E-mail address_____

Church Address_____

Number of rooms needed_____

Any Special Need_____

Information about your church

Church Membership_____

Average Worship Attendance_____

Cost:

There is no application fee. The registration cost for each church team (which includes housing, meals, and workshop materials) is \$75 before April 18th, and \$150 thereafter. The balance of the cost will be paid by the Thriving Rural Community, Duke Endowment, and the Bladen Charge.

Return completed form to :

Rev. Jonathan Mills

Bladen Charge UMC

PO Box 96

White Oak, NC 28399

FMI call 910-866-5117