

## EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT CHARGE CONFERENCES 2008

As your District Superintendent, one of my goals is to continue to conduct Charge or Church Conferences over the coming years for all 80 of our Churches and Missions. Because of the expanded size of the East Central District, I will conduct approximately 1/3 of the Conferences this year and ask the remaining 2/3 of our churches to seek the assistance of another Elder to preside over their Conference. If your Churches' name does not appear on the Charge Conference Schedule, then submit your own choice of a Presiding Elder and Conference date to the District office by September 15. Charge Conference forms will be online on August 25<sup>th</sup>. You may schedule your Charge Conference any time after that. Please have all paperwork into the District Office one week prior to your Conference and turn in all final forms and reports no later than November 15.

Below is helpful information in putting together your Charge Conference. Please call Janet Kelley, our District Business Administrator, at 407-896-2230 if you have any questions, need to change an assigned date, or are having trouble with any of the Charge Conference Forms.

- If you anticipate any conflicts or issues beyond the bounds of a normal yearly Conference, please contact me and I can arrange to conduct your Conference.
- The deadline for holding all Conferences and for files being delivered to the District Office is Friday, November 14. The appointed pastor is responsible for making sure that all requisite forms are included in the file, filled out appropriately and signed, and that the file is delivered by this deadline.
- You may hold either a Charge Conference or a Church Conference. At a Charge Conference only the elected members of the Administrative Council can vote. At a Church Conference any member of the congregation can vote. Your Conference must be announced from the pulpit and in the bulletin for two weeks before it is held.
- If you are one of the churches that are selecting an Elder to conduct your Conference, it can be held whenever it is convenient in your church's schedule and allows time to have the completed file delivered to the District Office by November 15. Some congregations may elect to have a no-frills Conference immediately after a Sunday worship service. Others may have their conference in the evening during the week, perhaps connected with a meal and a time of celebrating how they are continuing to address the Bishop's Goals through the Methodist Way: 2009 Congregational Goals and Strategies. (This form must also be included in the material turned into the District Office)
- Charge Conference forms will be available for downloading from the Conference Website: [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org) on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- Please fill out and use the following Agenda so that participants have in writing essential information. Involve different leaders in the business section of your Conference. For example, in addition to the pastor presenting the Lay Leadership Report, the Clergy Compensation can be presented by the SPRC chairperson, Connectional Giving can be presented by the Finance chairperson, and Ministry Recommendations could be presented by the Lay Leader.
- Participants in your Conference should each be given copies of:
  - A completed "East Central District 2008 Church Conference Agenda" (include a copy in the Conference file),
  - A list of names to be read for removal from church membership (if any), and
  - A report of the Lay Leadership Committee.