

Gulf Central District
Annual Charge/Church Conference 2008

This year we will conduct our Conferences in the following way:

- Every congregation will have their own Charge or Church Conference in their local setting conducted by an Elder in our Annual Conference, other than their own pastor. In short, pastors will conduct Conferences for one another.
- It will be the responsibility of each pastor to contact an Elder and arrange for them to conduct their Conference. As soon as you have selected a date and a presiding Elder call the district office with that information (727-585-1207 or email flumc-gc@flumc.org).
- I will preside at all churches where there has been a change of pastoral leadership this year.
- 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 is Sunday, November 16. All files are to be delivered to the district office by Wednesday, November 26. 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. If you have any questions about the forms do not hesitate to call Maggie Corrigan in the district office.
- Please have your completed [2009 Appointed Pastor's Compensation and Benefits- RUAH Data Entry for the Graduated Salary Scale](#) faxed to the District office (727-585-2038) **one week prior to your Church Conference.**
- Although you may hold a Charge Conference, it is my preference that you hold a Church Conference. 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.
- A Church Conference 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 26. 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 time for celebrating the congregation's accomplishments and sharing next year's ministry goals. The Conference can be an occasion when persons share what God has been doing in their lives recently and for different music groups to share their musical offerings. I have no expectations in this regard. Do whatever works for you and your people.
- Charge Conference forms and information are available for downloading from the Conference website, www.flumc.org. Read the instructions carefully.
- Please fill out and use the Agenda found below 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 giving the Pastor's Report and 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 can be presented by the Lay Leader.
- A verbal report entitled "How is our church living the five practices of the Methodist Way" should be presented by the Lay Leader, Church Council Chairperson or another active lay person of your choosing. This report is basically a response to the progress, goals and strategies in the areas of worship, evangelism and outreach
- All those attending your Conference should each be given copies of:
 1. A completed "Gulf Central District 2008 Church Conference Agenda" (include a copy in the Conference file.)
 2. A list of names to be read for removal from church membership (if any) and,
 3. A report of the Lay Leadership Committee.

**Gulf Central District
2008 Church Conference Agenda**

Congregation: _____

Date: _____

Presiding Elder: _____

Pastor(s): _____

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer/Devotion Presiding Elder

II. Pass the Attendance Sheet

III. State of the Church

A. Pastor's Verbal Report: "Where I see God at Work in and Through Our Church: Our Challenges and Opportunities."

(No more than 10 minutes; please include a written copy in the file.)

B. Membership (Figures taken from Official "Report of Pastor")

1. Average Worship Attendance:
January – September 2007 _____
January – September 2008 _____

2. Members to be removed by Charge Conference Action (List the names of those who have been presented to be removed and the number of years those names have been presented to the Charge/Church Conference)

IV. "How is Our Church Living the Five Practices of the Methodist Way". (Presented by Church Council Chair, Lay Leader, or other designated Lay Person). This report should include the ideas, goals and strategies your church is working on in the areas of Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Intentional Discipleship, Salty Service and Extravagant Generosity.

V. The Finances of the Church

A. 2009 Clergy Compensation
(Taken from "2009 Appointed Pastor's Compensation and Benefits")

Presented by _____

Pastor 1 _____

Salary 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____

Accountable Reimbursement 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____

Check one: ___ Parsonage or ___ Housing Allowance \$ _____

If there is a Housing Exclusion, how much annually \$ _____

Pastor 2 _____

Salary 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____

Accountable Reimbursement 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____

Check one: ___ Parsonage or ___ Housing Allowance \$ _____

If there is a Housing Exclusion, how much annually \$ _____

Pastor 3 _____

Salary 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____

Accountable Reimbursement 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____

Check one: ___ Parsonage or ___ Housing Allowance \$ _____

If there is a Housing Exclusion, how much annually \$ _____

Pastor 4 _____
Salary 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____
Accountable Reimbursement 2008 \$ _____ 2009 \$ _____
Check one: ___ Parsonage or ___ Housing Allowance \$ _____
If there is a Housing Exclusion, how much annually \$ _____

B. Connectional Giving

Presented by: _____

1. Total Amount apportioned for 2008 \$ _____
2. Total Amount given as of last month \$ _____
(If less than 50% of the total 2008 apportionments have been paid, how will this shortfall be addressed in the final months of the year?)
3. Total Amount Apportioned for 2009 \$ _____
Will 100% of the 2009 Apportionment be included in the 2009 budget?
___ Yes ___ No

VI. Additional Business as Needed (Be sure to inform the DS at least 3 weeks prior to your scheduled Charge/Church Conference for any items that need to be added).

VII. The Ministers of the Church

A. Election of Lay Leadership for 2009 Senior Pastor
(Have copies for each participant)

B. Name of Interpreter of Connectional Giving _____

C. Ministry Recommendations

1. New Candidates for Ordained Ministry:

2. Continuation of Candidacy for Ordained Ministry:

3. Certification of Lay Speakers:

4. Continuation of Lay Speaker Certification:

VI. Closing Comments, Prayer & Benediction

Presiding Elder