

South East District Charge Conference Instructions 2008

1. **Cluster Team Leaders** will work with the clergy of the cluster to schedule and plan the cluster charge conference event. Clusters may select the date of their choice (between Aug 15 and November 27).
2. **Bishop Whitaker has selected the theme for the Cluster Charge Conferences for 2008: Five Practices of the Methodist Way.** Each church is asked to share a report on how you see God at work in your church in the Five Practices, your goals for 2009 in these practices, and what challenges you face in these five practices for which you want the other churches of your cluster to pray.
 - a. Passionate Worship
 - b. Salty Service
 - c. Extravagant Generosity
 - d. Intentional Discipleship
 - e. Radical Hospitality
3. **The sharing on the Five Practices of the Methodist Way need to be done (in part or in total) with the whole cluster.** Then churches can split up and go to separate rooms to briefly address the issues of election of leaders, clergy compensation, candidates for ministry, removals of members. I am suggesting the following program for your cluster charge conference gathering/worship:
 - a. **Singing**
 - b. **Opening prayer**
 - c. **Testimonies from each church (by a layperson) on the Five Practices of the Methodist Way (you could pray for each church after their sharing, if you choose**
 - d. **Communion**
 - e. **Sending forth/dismissal to charge conference**
4. **All churches are asked to participate in the cluster charge conference this year.** There will be no individual charge conferences. The cluster team leader is responsible for asking the elders to preside at the charge conferences. Only elders under appointment in the SE District may preside (local church or extension ministries). If the Cluster Leader would like a retired elder from another conference or an elder who is a member of another conference and not under appointment by Bishop Whitaker, please get permission from me, Debbie McLeod. After you have organized the cluster charge conference, please notify the District Office of the date, time, and the presiding elders.
5. **Cluster Team Leaders, please call or email the District Office no later than September 15 to let us know the date of your cluster charge conference.**
6. You do **not** need to send your charge conference forms to the District Office **one week before** your charge conference, no matter what the conference instructions are. Your DS will read all your charge conference forms **after** your charge conference. Just get ready for charge conference.

7. I, Debbie McLeod, am happy to attend your cluster charge conference or help preside, depending on my calendar. (Obviously I cannot be at 10 different clusters on the third Sunday in October). Call and ask, if you would like me to help.
8. When your Charge Conference is over, each pastor needs to take responsibility to send her/his own pastoral charge forms to the District Office. **We must have all charge conference forms no later than November 28.** Nora Madan and Charline Pierre need to input a lot of data to the conference system after your charge conference, so please let's not all wait until November 28 for their December 1 conference deadline.