



Dearhearts,

As if it were on cue, the first tropical storm of the hurricane season has been stirring the Caribbean. We cannot afford to get complacent, but must carefully prepare once more. The prospect of weathering a storm ourselves, or offering assistance to others facing the fury of the elements is very real.

Confession is good for the soul. Even though I have grown up in Florida and experienced my share of storms, I still need to preach preparedness to myself. Recalling the destruction caused long ago by Andrew as well as that fearsome succession of 2004 storms, named Charlie, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, not to mention helping with the recovery of those who bore the brunt of Hugo and Katrina is my way of guarding against carelessness. So I encourage you to dig into your own memory banks and act accordingly.

In this regard, our own District Disaster Response Coordinator, Will Clark, has been appealing to us to get ready. Now the Conference's Ministry Protection Office is sponsoring a "webinar" on "Hurricane Preparedness and Procedures" at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, June 18. So read what follows. I hope a word to the wise is sufficient.

Grace and peace,

*Rick*

Rick

# Mark Your Calendar !

Next Presentation: June 18, 2008 2:00pm

Log in at: <http://webinar.flumc.org>

## Hurricane Preparedness and Procedures

The 2008 hurricane season is upon us. You can evaluate and prepare your facility for the coming storms. Hear what a national expert from one of the world's largest disaster restoration companies has to say.

Expert Guest Presenter:

Gina Dolezal, Regional Director BelforUSA

Based out of Dallas, Gina is the Regional Director for the South East Region of the United States. A former FEMA and commercial property adjuster, she currently provides disaster recovery, project management and continuing education for commercial entities with a heavy concentration in churches and religious organizations.

BelforUSA is a worldwide leader in disaster recovery services.

[www.us.belfor.com](http://www.us.belfor.com)

The department for

## Ministry Protection

of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church

## 2008 Online Educational Series

**About the Series...** A new initiative of the Ministry Protection Department, this educational series is a monthly webinar style online presentation. It is designed to be approximately 30 minutes in length and provide clear, timely and relevant information to Conference churches, schools and affiliated ministries. Below is the list of our topics and presenters for 2008. Further information will be distributed prior to each monthly session that will note the exact date, time and login/access information for each webinar.

### Facility Usage and Certificates of Insurance July

What is the difference between an "outside facility user" and a ministry of the church? Do you know what a Certificate of Insurance is and why you need it? Doesn't the Conference insurance program just cover everything? Learn how to successfully transfer risk.

Presented by: Mark B. Thomas, Director of Ministry Protection

### Mitigating Damage, Keeping a Small Loss Small August

OK, your church has just sustained a property loss... Maybe a small fire or seemingly minor water damage. Minor incidents can escalate out of control quickly if they are not addressed properly from the beginning. Learn how to handle these issues proactively.

Presented by: Gina Dolezal, Regional Director Belfor USA

### Child/Youth Protection and Sexual Abuse Response September

What do you do if an incident or allegations occurs? Do you notify DCF? What about the parents of the other children and youth? Hear from one of the coauthors of the Conference Child/Youth Protection Policy regarding sexual abuse and molestation issues.

Presented by: Mark A. Hanley, attorney Glenn, Rasmussen, Fogarty and Hooker, PA.

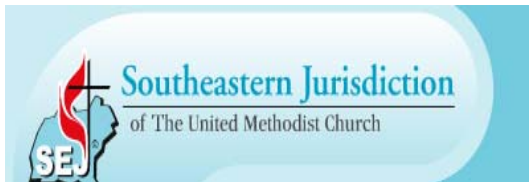
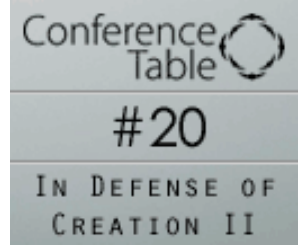
An accomplished trial attorney, active member of Hyde Park UMC and valued friend of the Conference, Mark is an expert in issues of sexual abuse and misconduct as well as employment issues.



The position of Administrative Assistant in the North East District Office will be open effective August 1, 2008. If you are interested in this position, please send your resumes to Mrs. Frances Jennings at 1604 Avondale Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32205 no later than June 30th.

The next Florida Conference Table will be held Saturday, June 14, from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m., (Registration 8:30 to 9 a.m.)** at Trinity United Methodist Church in Gainesville. Participants will have opportunity to learn more about, and offer responses to, the writing of a second "In Defense of Creation" document, authorized by the 2004 General Conference.

For more information, contact Melinda Trotti at [mtrotti@flumc.org](mailto:mtrotti@flumc.org), or call 800-282-8011, Ext. 755.



Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be held at Lake Junaluska on June 16th thru June 19th.

**Clergy Moving Day is July 1st!**



**Happy June!**