



BISHOP JANE ALLEN MIDDLETON

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HARRISBURG AREA - CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

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April 1, 2008

Dear Lay Member to Annual Conference,

As we anticipate the 2008 session of Annual Conference at Messiah College I am reminded of the many ways we have indeed lived into our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. This past year as we have encouraged you to take a “Leap of Faith.” When we gather on June 5-7, we will celebrate the many ways that God is working in the lives of our churches and, hopefully, in your life as well.

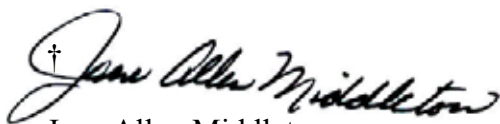
This time of Holy conferencing provides an opportunity to celebrate our oneness in Christ and to be stirred by affirmation of all that God is doing in our conference. Inspirational speakers will be a highlight of the conference. Bishop Sally Dyck from the Minnesota Area will be the preacher for the Ministry Celebration, and the Rev. Dr. S. Ronald Parks will preach for the Memorial Service. When you leave on Saturday, you will be provided with a DVD of opening worship including the Keynote Address. You will receive a second DVD with additional highlights at a later time.

Annual Conference is not complete until the close of the Ordination Service. The service begins at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Ordination is a high and holy moment of Annual Conference when those you have nurtured are ordained to share with us in leading the Church for the rest of their lives. All pastors and lay members are expected to be present for this significant worship experience. Please arrange your schedule so that you may share in this important event.

We will receive **three offerings** as a part of our commitment to worship and service. I know you will come prepared to give generously as you have in the past. The designated offerings this year are on the attached sheet. Please share this information with your congregation well ahead of conference.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters across our conference that we might together experience God’s power to make all things new and that we will truly be renewed by the Spirit of God during our time of Holy Conferencing in June.

In Christ’s service,

  
Jane Allen Middleton

**Conference Offerings**  
**220<sup>th</sup> Session of the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference**  
**June 5 – 7, 2008**

**Memorial Service Offering**

**The Cup of Water Fund** – Used by the Cabinet in support of Lay families who are facing financial hardships. In 2007 twenty-five grants were issued ranging from \$180 to \$2000.

**Ministry Celebration**

**Global Aids** – The 2004 General Conference created the UMC Global AIDS Fund with the goal of raising \$8 million over the next four years. This fund provides United Methodists with a dedicated way to address the AIDS pandemic around the globe. Our share is \$1.00 per member.

**Service of Ordination**

**Mission Central** – God continues to surprise us as Mission Central seeks to expand its ministry to people in need! During 2007, we have seen our HUBs grow from the “pilot” in Altoona, to 6 HUBs within our Conference, plus our newest one in Cortland, NY! These remote volunteer locations have provided UMCOR Kits and other materials that when added to those collected and produced in Mechanicsburg, enabled us to send over 60,000 Kits to people in need! Crayons, paper, and pencils for local VBS programs, 20,000 Christmas and Easter Candy Kits for ministry outreach, clothing for Haiti and Appalachia, specialized medical supplies for Kyrgyzstan, ministry and church materials for Sierra Leone, and blankets and personal hygiene supplies for local ministries seeking to aid people in their backyards – all are examples of things made possible by the materials ministry of Mission Central, as we seek to share the love of God in each and every outreach possibility.