



BISHOP JANE ALLEN MIDDLETON

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HARRISBURG AREA - CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

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April 1, 2008

Dear Pastor,

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.

Unless you are excused, I know you will participate for the entire session of Annual Conference which will adjourn at the conclusion of the Ordination Service on Saturday afternoon. **Pastors and laity are requested to be present for this service which is clearly an inspirational highlight of Annual Conference. Ordination provides an opportunity to reaffirm your own commitment to serving God.** Elders, Deacons in Full Connection, and Local Pastors will process for this service. We will wear robes. Elders and Deacons will wear red stoles. The procession will begin at **1:40 p.m.** and we will process by district and **attendance will be taken.** Your District Superintendent will provide additional information.

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
220th 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.