

May 21, 2007

Dear Pastor:

From across Central Pennsylvania, hundreds of us will gather for the 2007 session of Annual Conference at Messiah College in order to acknowledge that God is calling all of us to take a leap of faith. June 6-9 will be a time of rejoicing in Jesus Christ, celebrating the evidence of His renewing activity in our midst and responding to Christ's challenge to us to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." God is calling us to become more faithful and more passionate about our faith and our commitment to Claim God's Frontiers – Leap of Faith.

There is increasing evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst. This time of Holy conferencing provides an opportunity to celebrate our oneness in Christ. We will be inspired by our guest speakers, Rev. Dr. Charles Yrigion, Rev. Dr. Tex Sample and by the Rev. Anthony C. Alexander as well as by affirmation of all that God is are doing in our conference. We are truly at a turning point. Again this year, when you leave on Saturday, you will be provided with a DVD of the Keynote address and other highlights, as well as a study guide for using this material.

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:

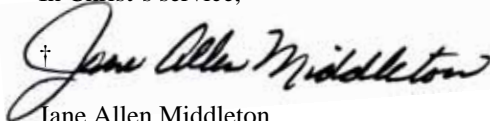
**The Cup of Water Fund** is used by the Cabinet in support of Lay families who are facing financial hardship. In 2006 19 grants were issued ranging from \$250 to \$2000.

**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.

**Mission Central** In 2006, Mission Central continued its significant ministry to people in need - 65,000 UMCOR Kits for world wide distribution, 5,000 Flood Buckets for areas in Northeaster US, medical/educational supplies, clothing, computers and daily use items sent around the world; 5 trailer loads to support Gulf Coast recovery efforts, and 28,000 Christmas and Easter "Candy Kits" that shared the good news of Jesus birth and resurrection through 98 Conference area ministries! As Mission Central celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, it is expanding its outreach by establishing HUBs in our Districts – with Altoona, State College, and Williamsport Districts serving as the test sites for this exciting means of making it possible for more people to become the hands and feet of God in service!

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Allen Middleton". To the left of the first few letters of the name is a small cross symbol.

Jane Allen Middleton