

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING TASK FORCE

The Annual Conference Meeting Task Force, which was formed at the direction of the 2008 Annual Conference for the purpose of evaluating the content and location of the annual meeting, recommends to the 2010 Annual Conference that next year's meeting on June 9-12, 2011 be held at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. The standing Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting joins the task force in making this recommendation.

Because the Western NC Conference has a long and wonderful association with the Lake Junaluska Assembly, this recommendation comes only after careful study and reflection. For almost 50 years, after local churches no longer could accommodate the size of our meeting, the Western NC Conference has held its annual meeting at the Lake. We have worshiped, ordained, and held holy conferences around these waters. Task force and committee members appreciate the efforts made by the Lake Junaluska staff to increase the comfort and enjoyment of the 2009 and 2010 annual meetings for Western NC Conference delegates. Examples of improvements to the facilities include additional venues for viewing the business sessions and worship services, outside amplification speakers, vendors to bring a variety of lunch options onsite, and clean portable rest rooms.

Task force and committee members hope and expect that the partnership between the Lake Junaluska Assembly and the Western NC Conference will continue and be strengthened in coming years in many Western NC Conference sponsored events. The Assembly grounds and facilities, however, are simply not large enough to accommodate the 3500 delegates to annual conference. Stuart Auditorium, for example, will seat only 2000 people, while parking, housing, and meal options on the grounds are severely limited for our number of delegates. Task force and committee members appreciate, with many others in the Western NC Conference, the beauty of the Assembly's mountain setting and remember with gratitude the long tradition of holy conferencing at Lake Junaluska. But in order to welcome and accommodate all our delegates, the Annual Conference Meeting Task Force and the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting recommend that the annual meeting be moved to a larger setting.

In September 2009, the Annual Conference Meeting Task Force asked the Rev. Kirk McNeill to explore possible meeting sites for the annual meeting. McNeill, an elder in the Western NC Conference and a Certified Meeting Professional, concluded that the Koury Convention Center offered the most viable option for the Western NC Conference. The Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at the convention center has 988 hotel rooms, which will be offered to conference delegates at a reasonable rate. Parking is plentiful and free, while there are multiple meal options in the convention center and at the nearby Four Seasons Mall. In addition, the convention center will offer at no cost to the Western NC Conference its gathering space for the business sessions and worship services of annual conference, as well as break-out rooms for meetings and group meals. Space is also available for children's and youth activities.

The Koury Convention Center hosted 21 members of the Annual Conference Meeting Task Force and the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting in April 2010, for lunch and a tour of its facilities. Task force and committee members are convinced that the facilities can easily accommodate the 3500 Western NC Conference delegates and all related activities. The facilities will be especially helpful in 2011, when a full meeting space is needed for the election of lay and clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional Conferences. Moreover, the large meeting space, which would be used for business sessions and worship services, can be adapted in such a way that the annual conference can experience holy conferencing in the presence of God.

While the Koury Convention Center would welcome the opportunity to be the regular setting for the Western NC Conference's annual meeting, the Annual Conference Task Force and the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting recommend that the Western NC Conference move its annual conference to Greensboro on a one year trial basis. If the 2011 Annual Conference at the Koury Convention Center is well received, then the annual conference can vote to return for additional annual meetings at approved meeting dates to be arranged with the convention center.

The Annual Conference Meeting Task Force thanks the Western NC Conference for the opportunity to address the needs and concerns of the Western NC Conference's annual meeting. But after two years of service, task force members willingly step aside and request that its work be assumed by the standing Committee of the Annual Conference Meeting.

### **Annual Conference Meeting Task Force**

Sally O. Langford, *Chairperson*; *Members*: Wayne Allen, Mark Bailey, Dana Bunn, Dennis Carroll, Ken Carter, Amy Coles, Betty Jo Hardy, Harold Johns, Amy Johnson, Sarah McKinney, Val Rosenquist, Wanda Rouse, Earl Wilson, Philip Wingeier-Raygo; *Ex-officio*: Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Kim Ingram, Jim Trollinger

### **Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting**

Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, *Chairperson*  
Stephen D. James, *Vice-Chairperson*

Kimberly T. Ingram, *Secretary*  
William C. Wyman, Jr., *Treasurer*

### **Members**

*Laité at Large*: J. Zachary Christy, Chris Grimmert, Amy L. Johnson, Monica Smith, Susan L. Yarski.

*Youth*: Philip Howard, Samantha Shuford.

*Resident Bishop*: Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster

*Conference Director of Connectional Ministries*: Stephen D. James.

*Conference Treasurer-DAS*: William C. Wyman, Jr.

*President of United Methodist Women*: Mildred Carter

*Coordinator of Calendar*: James T. Trollinger

*Assistant to the Bishop*: James T. Trollinger

*Conference Secretary*: Kimberly T. Ingram.

*Conference Lay Leader*: Robert D. Upchurch

*Director of Communication*: Mark L. Barden

*District Superintendents:* (AL) Amy L. Coles, (AS) John S. Boggs, (CH) George E. Thompson, (GA) W. Lyn Sorrells, (GR) Frank H. Ison, (HP) C. M. Worthy, Jr., (LN) Lillie M. Jones, (LX) Sylvia D. Wilhelm, (MA) Phillip B. Cole, (NE) Samuel H. Moore, Jr., (NW) N. Fred Jordan, Jr., (SA) Sally O. Langford, (ST) Mary John Dye, (WA) J. Alexander Ward, Jr., (WS) William T. Medlin III.

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Though not a part of the official report printed in the Supplement of Program and Reports, the committee has made available some comparison data used in making their decision. [Click here](#) for more details.