

GNJ Digest

Greater NJ Conference Newsletter

Friday, October 17, 2008



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conference Call to Abolish Torture

New

The General Board of Church and Society is hoping to influence the new administration (whoever it is) against the use of torture. Consequently they are joining with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) to co-host a conference call for all United Methodists who are committed to abolishing torture. The call will be on **Tuesday, October 21st** at **8 pm** EST.

The call-in number is 800-868-1837 and the conference code is 229337881. Each participant is required to [register](#) for the call, and Board of Church & Society encourages everyone to use this terrific opportunity to invite friends, families, and fellow church members together to join in on this important call.

Church Planter Characteristics

New

The GNJAC Congregational Development Team's report on *Meeting Our Missional Responsibilities* was presented and accepted at Annual Conference last May. Part

of the recommendations to be implemented is the planting of new churches. That leads to the question: "What does it take to be a new church planter?" A United Methodist "Think Tank" has come up with a profile. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Bishop's Clergy Convocation

Registration Available

The Bishop's Clergy Convocation will be held January 21-23, 2009 at Willow Valley. Mark the dates now! All clergy are invited to attend. This is a "family friendly" event and a new spouse's program has been added. Workshop leaders include Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems, the Rev. Dr. Patricia (Tricia) D. Brown and Rev. Wendy Rhodehamel.

More detailed information and registration forms will be available on the web site next week.

Lay Speaking Classes

The Lay Speaking Ministries of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference are ready to welcome new Basic Lay Speakers to the opportunity of becoming Certified Lay Speakers and all current Certified Lay Speakers with this Fall's re-certification classes. We hope you will find a class time that will meet your needs. There have been a couple of schedule changes since the mailing that went out. For updated information please go to [Certified Lay Speaker Class](#)

For more information about becoming a Lay Speaker, please go to [Lay Speaking](#)

LIFETIME OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Resource Days

Gateway North District Resource Day

October 22
Clergy 9 am - 1 pm Laity 7:30-9:30 pm
Green Village, NJ

Rev. Dr. Virginia Samuel-Cetuk - "Clergy Health & Wellness"

Skylands District Resource Day

November 3
Hackettstown: Trinity

Dr. Esther Chung-Kim - "Evangelism"

Gateway South District Resource Day

*November 6
9:30 am - 3 pm or 7 - 9 pm
St. John's: Turnersville*

Rev. Denise Van Eck - "Developing Leadership Among Your Youth"

Northern Shore District Resource Day

*November 8
9 am - 2 pm Clergy & Laity
Whiting UMC*

Cheryl Hemmerle - "Web Ministry 101"

Raritan Valley District Resource Day

*November 8
Bridgewater*

Dr. Ruth Duck - "All Things New: Liturgies of Healing & Reconciliation"

Gateway North District Resource Day

*November 12
Clergy 9 am - 1 pm Laity 7:30-9:30 pm*

Rev. Larry Homitsky - "Igniting Ministries"

Delaware Bay District Resource Day

*November 19
9 am - 3 pm Clergy 7 - 9 pm Laity
Richwood UMC*

Rev. Gayle Turner Watson - "Covenant Discipleship Groups"

Cape Atlantic District Resource Day

*November 19
Laity Session 7 - 9 pm
Emmaus UMC, Smithville
November 20*

*Clergy Session 8:30 am - 2 pm (Laity are welcome to attend)
Emmaus UMC, Smithville*

Dr. Diana Butler Bass - "Christianity for the Rest of Us"

Palisades District Resource Day

*November 20
8:30 am - 3:00 pm for clergy and 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm for laity*

Ridgewood UMC

Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr - "Leadership! Leadership! Leadership!"

Bishop's Days on the District

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar will be meeting with clergy and laity throughout the Greater NJ Annual Conference again this year in his Bishop's Day on the District. **Please note that pictures of the Bishop's Days already completed are on our web site at [Bishop's Days on the District](#)** Bishop Devadhar is discussing, and hopes clergy and laity will take time to read:

- Robert Schnase, **Cultivating Fruitfulness: Five Weeks of Prayer and Practice for Congregations** (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008)
- Michael W. Foss, **From Members to Disciples: Leadership Lessons from the Book of Acts** (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007)

Bishop Devadhar would also encourage people to read Rueben P. Job, **Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living** (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007) if they have not already done so.

Palisades District

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

***8:30 am clergy - Appenzeller Memorial Nairi KUMC in West Paterson
7:00 pm evening session for laity - Galilee UMC in Englewood, NJ.***

Skylands District

Thursday, October 23, 2008 at the

***9:00 am - 2:00 pm - Clergy Session 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Laity Session
Parsippany UMC, located at 903 S. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ***

Cape Atlantic District

Monday, October 27, 2008

***Clergy: 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Laity: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
St. Peter's UMC, Ocean City, NJ***

Gateway South District

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

***Clergy: 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Laity: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's UMC, Cherry Hill, NJ***

Upcoming Conferences

GNJAC United Methodist Women Annual Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 25, 2008

9 a.m - 3 p.m.

First UMC of Passaic

**Keynote Speaker - Harriett Jane Olson,
Chief Executive of Women's Division**

Safe Sanctuary Workshop

Saturday, November 15, 2008

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. First UMC, Newton

Contact: Erica Munoz Conference Youth and Young Adult Coordinator

Domestic Violence Workshop

Saturday, November 22, 2008

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Perth Amboy UMC

with Mayuris Pimentel

Leadership Development Conference Staff Networking Event

April 6-8, 2009.

Scarritt Bennett and GBOD Learning Center, Nashville, TN.

"Developing Christian Leaders for the World." Text is Romans 12:9-21

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Upcoming Conference Committee Meetings

Title: Natural Church Development Coach Training

Date: *Friday, October 17, 2008* and *Saturday, October 18, 2008*

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Contact: A. Castaldo 732-359- 1047

Place: Blue Anchor UMC

Title: Historical Society of GNJAC

Date: *Saturday, October 18, 2008*

Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact: Doreen Dyer (856) 697-3387

Place: Epworth UMC, Palmyra

Title: Communications Committee

Date: *Saturday, October 18, 2008*

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043
Place: St. John's Hazlet

Title: **Ministries Team**
Date: ***Saturday, October 18, 2008***
Time: 1 p.m.
Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043
Place: St. John's Hazlet

Title: **Training Session for BOOM and District Committees on Ministry**
Date: ***Monday, October 20, 2008***
Time: 9 a.m.
Contact: V. Varga 732-359-1085

Title: **Vision Team**
Date: ***Monday, October 20, 2008***
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Contact: A. Castaldo 732-359- 1047

Title: **BOard Of Discipleship Sub Group - Christian Education & Evangelism**
Date: ***Wednesday, October 22, 2008***
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043
Place: Glendora UMC

Title: **BOard Of Discipleship Sub Group -Worship & Spiritual Formation**
Date: ***Friday, October 24, 2008***
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043
Place: Conference office

Title: **COMILA & Hispanic/Latino**
Date: ***Monday, October 27, 2008***
Time: 7 p.m.
Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043
Place: Dover UMC

Title: **Episcopacy Committee**
Date: ***Tuesday, October 28, 2008***
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Contact: N. Mulligan 732-359-1010
Place: Conference office

Title: **Board of Pensions**
Date: ***Wednesday, October 29, 2008***

Time: 6:15 p.m.
Contact: V. Varga 732-359-1085
Place: Cranbury UMC

Title: **Sessions**
Date: ***Thursday, October 30, 2008***
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Contact: A. Castaldo 732-359- 1047
Place: Conference Office

Title: **Clergy Wellness Task Force**
Date: ***Thursday, October 30, 2008***
Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Contact: Donald DeGroat
Place: Cranbury UMC

Title: **Mission Partnership**
Date: ***Monday, November 3, 2008***
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043
Place: Conference office

Title: **Russia Initiative with Bishop Vaxby**
Date: ***Sunday, November 9, 2008***
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Contact: T. Bell 609-538-0048
Place: Capital District office

Title: **Board of Trustees**
Date: ***Monday, November 10, 2008***
Time: 6 p.m.
Contact: V. Varga 732-359-1085
Place: New Brunswick

Title: **Board Of Ordained Ministry - Executive Committee**
Date: ***Thursday, November 13, 2008***
Time: 1 p.m.
Contact: V. Varga 732-359-1085
Place: TBA

Title: **Board Of Ordained Ministry - Full Board**
Date: ***Thursday, November 13, 2008***
Time: 3 p.m.
Contact: V. Varga 732-359-1085
Place: TBA

Title: **Property Insurance Committee**

Date: **Thursday, November 13, 2008**

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Contact: V. Varga 732-359-1085

Place: Conference office

Title: **Multi Ethnic Coordinating Committee**

Date: **Sunday, November 16, 2008**

Time: 4 p.m.

Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043

Place: Moorestown UMC

Title: **Congregational Development**

Date: **Monday, November 17, 2008**

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Contact: A. Castaldo 732-359- 1047

Place: Conference Office

Title: **Leadership Development Team**

Date: **Monday, November 17, 2008**

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Contact: A. Castaldo 732-359- 1047

Place: Conference Office

Title: **Board of Global Ministries**

Date: **Monday, November 17, 2008**

Time: 7 p.m.

Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043

Place: Conference office

Title: **Nominations**

Date: **Tuesday, November 18, 2008**

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Contact: A. Castaldo 732-359- 1047

Place: Conference Office

Title: **Equitable Compensation Committee**

Date: **Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

Time: 10 a.m.

Contact: A. Castaldo 732-359- 1047

Place: Conference Office

Title: **Board of Pensions**

Date: **Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Contact: V. Varga 732-359-1085

Place: Cranbury UMC

Title: **Commission on Camps, Conferences and Retreats, Inc.**

Date: **Saturday, November 22, 2008**

Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043

Place: Conference office

Title: **Board of Discipleship**

Date: **Saturday, November 22, 2008**

Time: 10 a.m.

Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043

Place: Conference office

Title: **Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**

Date: **Sunday, November 23, 2008**

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Contact: G. Kaiser 732-359-1043

Place: Conference office

GNJ DIGEST is an e-mail service from the Communication Office of the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church.- It provides leadership across the conference with information about resources, programs, and news. It is a way to send timely information, and links to more extensive materials.

Contact Information

phone: 1-877-677-2594



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