

Shared ministries and clergy compensation sharing sessions continue in March

Information sharing sessions regarding the Upper New York annual conference Shared Ministries, Clergy Benefits (Pension and Health Insurance), and Clergy Minimum compensation levels continue in March.

Sessions were held in Mountain View, Niagara Frontier, and Northern Flow in February.

Active Clergy meet from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Retired Clergy from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Laity (Lay Leader, Lay Member, SPPRC Chair, Finance Chair) from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the following dates and places.



- Central Lakes District - Thursday, March 4, 2010 - Casowasco
- Cornerstone District - Monday, March 15, 2010 - Christ First UMC, 663 Lakeview Ave, Jamestown NY 14701
- Crossroads District - Tuesday, March 2, 2010 - North Syracuse: Andrews UMC
- Finger Lakes District - Thursday, March 11, 2010 - TBA
- Genesee Valley District - Tuesday, March 16, 2010 - Victor UMC, 106 East Main Street, Victor NY 14564. 585-924-2621
- Mohawk District - Wednesday, March 3, 2010 - Rome: First, 400 N. George Street, Rome

Pre-Conference

The new annual conference of the Upper New York Area celebrates its uniting conference June 19, 2010 at the OnCenter in Syracuse, NY. The day will conclude with the Service of Commissioning and Ordination at 4 pm.

In preparation for this significant day in the life of our new annual conference, 5 Upper New York pre-conference briefings are scheduled with Bishop Matthews presiding. The places have been chosen to accommodate our new area and are not designed to be by former annual conference boundaries. Bishop Matthews looks forward to greeting all clergy and lay members to annual conference. Your District Superintendent will be present and will assist in helping this office keep track of your church's participation. Please be sure to attend one of the following sessions:

May 15	9:30 – noon	Oneida St. Paul's UMC
May 15	3:00 – 5:30	Gouverneur UMC
May 16	3:00 – 5:30	Elmira: New Beginnings UMC
May 22	9:30 – noon	Olean: Christ UMC
May 22	3:00 – 5:30	Henrietta: Faith UMC

The closing Annual Conferences are being held June 5 for Western New York at Asbury First UMC in Rochester, NY and June 18 for North Central New York in Liverpool, NY.

'Celebrating Our Wisdom' is theme of Older Adult Ministries Conference

UPPER NEW YORK AREA - An Older Adult Ministries Conference is planned for November 6, 2010 for everyone in the Upper New York Area.

It will be held at the New Hartford United Methodist Church, 105 Genesee St., New Hartford, NY 13413. "Celebrating Our Wisdom and Still Learning" is the theme for this opportunity to learn

and to share how older adult programming can be a vital ministry in your local church.

The keynote speaker will be Barbara Bruce who is the Northeast Jurisdiction Representative to the National Older Adult Ministries Committee. Barbara is an expert on brain fitness and will speak on "Highly Effective Ways to Keep Your Brain Fit."

A variety of workshops and a show and share session will be included. There will be opportunities for feedback from the attendees which should help all in attendance return to your church with an expanded vision of older adult programming.

Save the date. Registration information will be available in April.

Board of Laity listening sessions series continues

WNY CONFERENCE - The Western New York Board of Laity invites all laity in leadership roles to be a part of "Stirring up the Gift."

"As all of our brothers and sisters have a part to play in fulfilling God's mission, we seek to be in conversation with all laity in leadership about how the new conference can help you achieve those goals," Conference Lay Leader Scott Johnson notes. "We look to

celebrate your successes, answer your questions, and assist your ministries in any way we can. Many challenges are before us, but none is greater than the God we serve. Please come and share how the connection can bless you as you fulfill Christ's call."

The remaining dates for listening sessions throughout the WNY Conference are as follows:

March 2, Tues 7 to 9 p.m. at Avon UMC

March 20, Sat 9 to 12 Noon at Sinclairville UMC

March 23 Tues 7 to 9 p.m. at Emmanuel UMC in Rochester

For more information contact Scott Johnson at JOHN-SOSLatBuffaloState.edu

Procedure released regarding ministries seeking Conference Advance Special status

Applications due March 1, 2010

A process and procedure for ministries wanting to become a Conference Advance Special in the New Conference in upper New York was released last week.

People with mission projects are encouraged to apply before the March 1, 2010 deadline.

Agencies and Ministries requesting **Conference Advance Special** status for the new Annual Conference are asked to have a clear understanding of what a Conference Advance Special is before applying. (See Paragraph 655 in the 2008 Book of Discipline.)

Conference Advance Specials, by **Discipline**, are projects located within the bounds of the annual conference or Episcopal area. (Ministry may be done beyond the bounds of the conference, but the project's fiscal agency must reside within these bounds.)

Advance Special giving is "second mile" giving. This means the churches need to be on track to pay all *apportioned* conference benevolences before making contributions to an Advance Special.

Agencies requesting an amount for an Advance Special are not guaranteed that the amount will be raised and available. It is not budgeted by the conference. The amount raised depends on "second mile" giving by churches or individuals. Conference Advance Specials are not part of *Apportionments or the Conference Budget*.

Each Conference Advance Special is assigned a number and churches receive mission credit if they donate by the Conference Advance Special number through the Conference Treasurer. New numbers will be assigned our new Conference Advance Specials. (General Conference grants their own General Advance Special numbers to Advance Specials, which are approved by the General Board of Global Ministries. This is a different application process and the two should not be confused. Agencies and ministries within the new conference can make application and obtain Advance Special status at either or both levels.)

Having Conference Advance Special status permits an Agency or Ministry to solicit donations from all churches in the Conference. Without Conference Advance Special status, this type of fund raising is not allowed.

Agencies/Ministries need to recognize that Conference Advance Special donations are raised only through the effort and hard work of each Agency/Ministry. It is up to the Agency/Ministry to promote its programs in order to obtain financial support from the churches.

Conference Advance Special status is approved by the Annual Conference at the recommendation of the New Area Conference Team. Agencies/Ministries must apply for Conference Advance Special status by completing the Request Form and Covenant.

Approval will be to the end of the Quadrennium (2012). The Conference Secretary of Global Ministries reserves the right to remove an Agency/Ministry that is not supported by churches.

Applications for new Conference Advance Specials will be accepted each year. Applications this year must be received by the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (CSGM) by March 1, 2010 in order to be reviewed and recommended to be sent for approval at the organizing session of the new Annual Conference on June 19, 2010. Applications are to be sent to the current conference CSGM:

NCNY - Rev. Jeffrey B. Childs, PO Box 38, Grand Island, NY 14072. revchilds@hotmail.com

TROY - Mrs. Alice Trost, 2678 NY Highway 43, Averill Park, NY 12018 abtrost24@aol.com

WESTERN NY - Ms. Audrey Smith, POBox 217, Dalton, NY 14836 amelodee@frontiernet.net

WYOMING - Ms. Joyce Miller, 15 Forrest Ave. Oneonta, NY 13820 millerumw@verizon.net



A weekly e-news publication for the New Conference in the Upper New York Area is sent out under this heading.

Be sure to put uppernewyorkarea@gmail.com as an acceptable email from which to receive communications.

Visit www.uppernewyork.org for more information.