

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF LAITY**

The Conference Board of Laity (CBOL) is the elected lay leadership of the Annual Conference. It therefore represents the laity, is accountable to the Annual Conference and works in consultation with the Conference Council on Ministries. Its greatest contribution is through interaction with all facets of church life and work. The CBOL will live within the system of budget appropriation and accountability set by the administrative function of the Conference.

The Conference Board of Laity has set out to determine its full range of responsibility based on (1) an understanding of the Book of Discipline, (2) a certain amount of self-determination, and (3) an understanding and agreement with the Bishop and the Cabinet. This is increasingly important as we are moving into new areas of responsibility and pursue different initiatives to achieve our mission.

The 2000 Discipline (§629.2) is clear that the CBOL shall have responsibility for the following:

1. fostering an awareness of the role of the laity,
2. developing the advocacy role for laity,
3. increasing the participation of laity in the life of the church,
4. encouraging laypersons in the general ministry of the church
5. developing and promoting programs to cultivate an adequate understanding of the theological and biblical basis for lay life and work,
6. developing and promoting stewardship of time, talent, and possessions,
7. providing for the training of lay members
8. providing support and direction for such lay programs as lay speaking, the observance of Laity Sunday, and the work of lay leaders on the local and district levels,
9. organizing a conference committee on lay speaking ministries

These are all action verbs that would suggest that the CBOL should be "doing something", rather than just "meeting" from time to time. It will take quite some effort for the CBOL to get itself in position to suggest it is accomplishing these responsibilities. We seek to start by confirming the support of the Bishop and Cabinet on our objectives for the quadrennium. These initial objectives are outlined in the following pages.

The executives of the CBOL are the conference lay leader and the four associate conference lay leaders. We will begin to exert leadership by focusing on § 629.2 and our objectives. Most of these functions should also be taken seriously at the District Board of Laity level.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER**

Associate Conference Lay Leaders are elected by the Annual Conference to assist in the carrying out of the duties and responsibilities of the Conference Lay Leader as outlined in The Book of Discipline 603.9(a). Associate Conference Lay Leaders may be elected by the Annual Conference to work with the Conference Lay Leader as the conference may determine, 603.9(c). Some of the specific duties of the Associate Conference Lay Leader are as follows:

- 1 Providing support and consultation to the Conference Lay Leader and the Conference Board of Laity
- 2 Assisting the Conference Lay Leader with the administrative duties of the Lay Leader and Conference Board of Laity
- 3 Being available to represent the conference as requested by the Conference Lay Leader
- 4 Accepting specific assignments regarding laity activities at Annual Conference Sessions
- 5 Assisting in the training of Local Church Lay Leaders as requested by the District Lay Leader.
- 6 Assisting District Lay Leaders in specified Districts :
  - a. Answering questions and inquiries
  - b. Assisting in information gathering
  - c. Facilitating communication between the District Lay Leaders

d. Being available as requested by the District Lay Leader and/or District Superintendent

To accomplish these responsibilities the Associates and Conference Lay Leaders will work closely with the following Districts:

Area I - Chuck Lanier

Augusta & Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford

Area II - Hiram Bobo

Atlanta-Roswell, Atlanta-Emory & LaGrange

Area III - Betty Ellison

Atlanta-Marietta, Atlanta-College Park & Griffin

Area IV - Claudette Bryson

Rome-Carrollton & Dalton

Area V - Joe Whittemore

Athens-Elberton & Gainesville

### **2001 – 2004 Quadrennium Objectives**

1. Focus on "Being" (spirituality) first, then, go on to the "doing" part.
2. Work to clarify and document the role of the Board of Laity in the North Georgia Conference.
3. Be proactive in supporting new evangelism efforts, and specifically, in supporting the Cabinet in new Confession of Faith initiatives.
4. Emphasize the training of local church lay leaders.
5. Work to improve and enhance lay leadership communication.
6. Encourage teamwork within every facet of laity relationships with clergy.
7. Reorganize conference lay speaking and ministries.
8. Birth one major BOL mission project within the Annual Conference and one International mission project.
9. Explore ways laity can be supportive of new church development.
10. Enhance and encourage the use of emerging technologies in the life and work of laity in the church.
11. Identify, train and motivate new and emerging conference leadership with special emphasis on diversity.
12. Promote Christian stewardship for laity leadership.
13. Explore with laity leadership what it means to be a healthy church.

### **2002 Year Objectives**

1. Continue to seek consensus with Bishop and Cabinet regarding Board of Laity activities and advocacy for laity concerns working in consultation with CCOM.
2. Follow up on Listening Sessions report findings with appropriate groups.
3. Continue the international mission project and identify phase two.
4. Work with CCOM to enhance laity training and laity leadership concerns.
5. Continue to refine the CBOL meeting format and board meeting locations.
6. Plan all activities designated for CBOL at Annual Conference.
7. Communicate and encourage cooperation among laity organizations.
8. Work specifically to model teamwork activities with the Bishop and Cabinet.
9. Develop a Laity Report on web page and keep information current.
10. Set up task force to explore how the CBOL can better support church development.
11. Implement several pilot projects for new Lay Revitalization Team program.
12. Explore how CBOL might assist with language translations at annual conference and district orientation meetings.