

**THE NORTH GEORGIA  
UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE  
BOARD OF LAITY**



**SERVANTHOOD  
LEADERSHIP**

**TRAINING RESOURCE FOR LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS  
FOR 2000-2004 QUADRENNIUM**

*by Betty Ellison, Associate Lay Leader  
North Georgia Board of Laity*

## Training Resource for Local Church Leaders For 2000 - 2004 Quadrennium

Table of Contents.....	page 1
Congratulations Letter.....	page 1
Letter from Lay Leader.....	page 2
Examples - Discipline Page & Checklist.....	page 3
Jesus - Model as Servant Leader.....	page 4
God Calls - Gus Gustafson.....	page 5
Servant Leaders Sow the Word.....	page 5
Congregations Mission.....	page 6
Servant Leaders and Spiritual Gifts.....	page 7
Does the Thought of Service Make You Nervous?.....	page 8
Servant Leaders Understand the Connection.....	page 11
Servant Leaders Know their Heritage.....	page 15
Servant Leaders - Knowing God's Will.....	page 17
Notes.....	page 18

# *Congratulations!*

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU - for accepting the call to be a servant leader of your congregation. YES – You are right! It is a great honor and an awesome responsibility to celebrate God’s call on your life. We want to help you, to use your time and energies well, in a significantly new relationship in the Body of Christ, the church and your congregation.

Servant leaders should be persons with a broad understanding of the total work of The United Methodist Church that enables them to communicate and counsel with the pastor. This is very important, because one of the problems faced by the pastor is that almost all lay persons in the official family of the church have a special interest; they are concerned with a specific area of the church’s life in which they carry responsibility, and quite naturally so. But this may make it difficult for the lay person to see the importance of other areas of church life for which

the pastor is equally responsible. A servant leader who makes it his or her business to acquire a good understanding of the total work of the church can be of tremendous help to the pastor and a very effective interpreter of the total mission of the church to the members. A warm rapport between servant leader and pastor, based upon mutual respect and loyalty, is essential to the effective functioning of a local church.

Retired Bishop Emerson Colaw states, “ when both pastor and people of the church are deeply dedicated and work together in the building of Christ’s kingdom, fantastic things happen. Committed lay people lead more people to Jesus Christ than preacher, evangelist, books or any other method. If our present decline is to be reversed, it will happen as the laity discover and fulfill their calling.”

---

## Letter from Lay Leader

**CONGRATULATIONS** on being chosen by your local church to be a **SERVANT LEADER**. And thanks for sharing your talents with the Church.

As we move into the 2001-2004 quadrennium, one of the first items the Conference Board Of Laity would like to accomplish is to assist servant leaders in understanding their very important role in local church activities.

The Book of Discipline is the authoritative source for defining the responsibilities of various laity leaders. We have prepared this booklet as an additional source of information to assist you in bringing together the various avenues of service in your role as **SERVANT LEADER**. You will be in our prayers as you lead and guide laity activities of your church in partnership with your pastor.

As we distribute this new booklet we will also be conducting a concurrent Listening Session. The Conference Board Of Laity wants to know how you feel we can assist in your ministry as **SERVANT LEADER**. We are interested in your thoughts and ideas of what we should be doing. If you receive this booklet at a time other than the Training/Listening Sessions, please write or call me any thoughts you may have along these lines.

We are indebted to Betty Ellison, one of our four Associate Conference Lay Leaders, for her time and effort in compiling this booklet. We hope it will be of value as you embark upon what can be the **GREATEST OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE** you may ever have as a United Methodist.

May God guide and bless your ministry and service.

Sincerely,  
Joe M. Whittemore  
P. O. Box 770  
Hartwell, Georgia 30643  
706-376-3168  
wscpas@hart com.net

## Discipline Page and Checklist

The Discipline is the book of law of The United Methodist Church. It is the product of 200 years of the General Conferences of the denominations that now form The United Methodist Church. You can find the rules set down for leadership in each area of service in the Discipline to guide you. Find the rules that apply and prepare a checklist to be used as a quick reference. The Lay Leader rules and checklist are listed in this manual as a sample to help you prepare as a Servant Leader.

¶ 253. 1. Out of the general ministry of each local church (¶ 105), there shall be elected by the charge conference a LAY LEADER who shall function as the primary lay representative of the laity in that local church and shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) fostering awareness of the role of laity both within the congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world, and finding ways within the community of faith to recognize all these ministries;
- b) meeting regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and the needs for ministry;
- c) membership in the charge conference and the church council, the committee on finance, and the committee on nominations and personnel, where, along with the pastor, the lay leader shall serve as an interpreter of the actions and programs of the annual conference and the general church (to be better equipped to comply with this responsibility, it is recommended that a lay leader also serve as a lay member of annual conference);
- d) continuing involvement in study and training opportunities to develop a growing understanding of the church's reason for existence and the types of ministry that will most effectively fulfill the church's mission;
- e) assisting in advising the church council of opportunities available and the needs expressed for a more effective ministry of the church through its laity in the community;
- f) informing the laity of training opportunities provided by the annual conference. Where possible, the lay leader shall attend training opportunities in order to strengthen his or her work. The lay leader is urged to become a certified lay speaker.

### Checklist for Lay Leaders

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Primary representative of laity</li> <li>➤ Fostering awareness of the role of laity</li> <li>➤ Meet regularly with the pastor</li> <li>➤ Attend charge conference</li> <li>➤ Member of the church council</li> <li>➤ Member of the finance committee</li> <li>➤ Member of committee on nominations</li> <li>➤ Interpreter of actions and programs of Annual Conference (helps if the lay leader is also lay member of conference)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Be involved in Bible Studies</li> <li>➤ Stay abreast of needs of church - make church council more effective</li> <li>➤ Keep laity informed of training opportunities - attend training events for leaders</li> <li>➤ Urged to be a Certified Lay Speaker</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## Jesus as Servant Leader

Jesus was a trailblazer. He opened a new and living way to God. He made access to God possible through His death on the cross. He stands for all time as “the way, the truth, and the life” – John 14:6



Throughout His life, Jesus focused on the path He was to follow all the way to His death. Jesus truly models the importance of being obedient to the will of God, even unto death.

The servant leader learns many valuable lessons from Christ.

- First, God calls each leader to walk a specific leadership path.
- Second, each leader must set as his/her goal finishing what God called him or her to do.
- Third, leaders become lifelong learners and continue to grow while on the leadership path.

The Son of God became the servant of God in order to do the mission of God. That image provides the pattern for churches and individual believers to fulfill their God-given mission.

The servant leader can lead others only as far along the road as we ourselves have traveled. Merely pointing the way is not enough. If we are not walking, then no one can be following, and we are not leading anyone. Like Jesus, we must become servant leaders.

‘Because we children of Adam want to become great,  
He became small.  
Because we will not stoop,  
He humbled Himself,  
Because we want to rule,  
He came to serve’

# Called to Excellence

## GOD CALLS

When we commit our lives to Jesus Christ, many radical changes take place, many new opportunities come our way. One of the most exciting is His call to purposeful living.

Often, we take this call for granted, even ignore it, going on with life as usual. But to do so is to miss out on the riches of kingdom living.

In contrast to life as usual, Christ's urgent call is to a special assignment in kingdom building for each one of us. We are the elect for that unique place in life. More than any other group, lay people are needed by God to advance His interests in fashioning the future of the world. For those of us who are ready to hear and are quick to respond, rewards are great and assured.

**SERVANT LEADERS**



**SOW THE WORD**

MATTHEW 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The world is where people live out their lives – in their homes, at their places of work, in their schools, and at their leisure. In the world, those that are lonely or hungry or hurt, the powerful and the powerless, the rich and the poor – all await the transforming and empowering grace of God. The church is surrounded by that world and called to service within its setting.

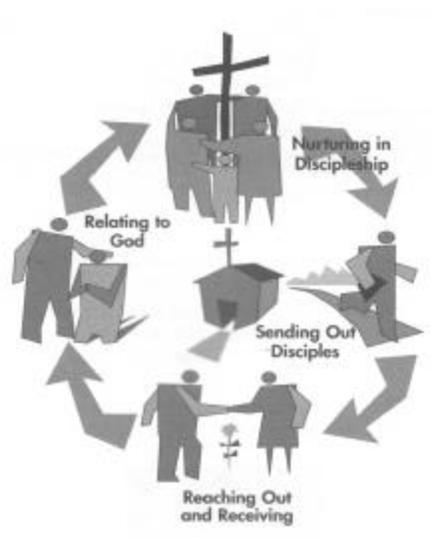
## THE CONGREGATION'S MISSION

Each congregation is a community of Christian people organized to carry out God's mission for the church as defined in Matthew 28:19-20. This mission, the development of disciples to minister to the world, requires:

- reaching out into the world surrounding the congregation and joyfully receiving into the family of faith all who would respond;
- encouraging people in their relationship with God and inviting them into a commitment to God's love in Jesus Christ;
- providing opportunities for people to be nurtured and to practice the disciplines of faith; and
- supporting people to live and act as faithful disciples in ministry to the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Discipline suggests that the local church be organized to pursue its primary task and mission in the context of its own community – reaching out and receiving, with joy, all who will respond; encouraging people in their relationship with God and inviting them to commitment to God's love in Jesus Christ; providing opportunities for them to seek strengthening and spiritual formation; and supporting them to live lovingly and justly in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This statement defines the **PRIMARY TASK** of the congregation. It is the essential process that must be carried out if the congregation is to be faithful to the directive of our Lord Jesus Christ. In a faithful, effective congregation all processes, all activities, all work support the primary task and the congregation vision.



When the PRIMARY TASK is really working in a congregation, there is a sense of flow. People come into the congregation from the community, are transformed, nurtured, sent back to the world to witness and serve, returning to the Christian community in a deeper relationship with God and having grown in discipleship. Individuals being transformed and empowered as disciples will move through the process at their own pace.

The four elements of the PRIMARY TASK are most often carried out simultaneously and continually. Each element flows into the others and no one element of the task is more important than another. **IT IS CRITICAL THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF THE PRIMARY TASK BE WORKING EFFECTIVELY OR WE FAIL AT THE WHOLE PROCESS.**

**SERVANT LEADERS**



**SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

Romans 12:4-6

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.”

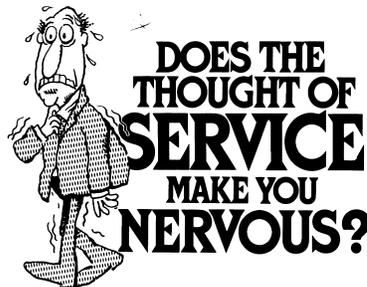
Saint Paul used the theme of the church as the Body of Christ in letters written to early Christians and to us. In addition to Romans 12, the theme is found in Ephesians 5:29-30, 4:25, I Corinthians 10:17 and I Corinthians 12:12-25 further refers to the Body as many parts, yet one in Christ, working together for God. St. Paul reminded the Ephesians (5:1) that the Body of Christ exists to “be imitators of God”. God used each of us as builders of the Body as long as we are grounded in Christ, the foundation, doing the things Jesus did.

While we are many in one Body, we are to build up the Body, to preserve unity in the Body in order to allow the parts to function smoothly for the health of the whole. We are members one of another, fitting together, chosen, and special people. We have been brought by God out of the darkness of sin into His marvelous light of salvation to tell the wonderful things God has done. All members of the Body experience unity through grace, diversity in gifts, and connection by covenant in the United Methodist Church.

---

## TOGETHER YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

- As servant leader, you are a member of the Body with the special function of feeling the pulse of the congregation and community, sensing the health and wholeness of the Body, and listening to both pastor(s) and the people.
- You are a source of connectional and ecumenical linkages that provide vast networking capabilities.
- You, too, are sent out into the community – returned to the world for witness and ministry.
- You, too, must find renewal for your body, mind, and spirit through worship, study of the Bible and other resources, prayer, and “worshipful work”.
- You are the storyteller and the storykeeper. **TELL THE STORIES!** As a servant leader of Christ, you are a steward of God’s mysteries. The mystery fully known is that Christ is, in you, the hope of glory! This mystery is yours to share. **SHARE!**
- God calls the Body of Christ to be positive, joyful, winsome, and enthusiastic for the gospel. Together, you can realistically look at what is and, through the eyes of faith, at what can be. God does not leave us alone, nor expect any of us, laity or clergy, to be solely responsible for the mission to which we are all called.
- You and your pastor are called to be partners in ministry knowing that where you are assigned (or appointed) is holy ground. God is present with you. God was there before you. God will be with you in your planting, tending and harvesting where you are planted.
- Each person has a call and gift for ministry. Perhaps your biggest challenge is to be a catalyst in releasing each person’s gifts to be used on behalf of the whole Body of Christ. Then, in the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit, all might live and act as faithful disciples in ministry in the world.



## SERVANT LEADERSHIP

As a servant leader in your congregation and a minister of Jesus Christ, you are called to work in support of this flow in your congregation; that is, to live out its mission to make disciples. Guidelines will assist you in planning, promoting, and training for your area of ministry and will offer guidance in how to go about it day-to-day. In carrying out your responsibilities, there are some questions you should keep in mind.

- What are the realities in the world surrounding your congregation? What are the opportunities for ministry they provide? How well is the flow of the PRIMARY TASK working in your congregation? Are all of the elements working well? Are you making disciples?
- How are the people in your congregation witnessing and serving in the world?
- How is God working in and through your congregation?
- Are there activities or programs that ought to be discontinued because they do not support the primary task?

What is servant leadership? IT IS FOCUSED ON OTHERS. It is servant first – before leader. It is leadership without ego, unselfish. It is humble. It does not covet prestige or power. It gives power and control away. Yet it demands stewardship – an accountability not only for our own actions but for those involved in the endeavor we lead. It is not servile or meek. It does not wait to be asked. It is not without convictions. It listens deeply and well for what is in the heart as well as in the head. It is not arrogant. It can change its mind. It heals and mediates. It seeks justice, consensus, and win-win solutions. It leads by example. It has vision, a sense of destiny, and yet seeks shared vision. It is determined and persistent. It is willing to do whatever is needed and right -to attain the objectives of ministry. It is all these things and more.

## PREPARATION

Church business is reformed and transformed by informed and transformed servant leaders. PREPARE YOURSELF by taking part in –

### Lay Speaking Ministry

Lay speaking ministry training opportunities exist in a variety of settings throughout the connection. As servant leader, make it your business to know your district director of lay speaking, course dates, and topics of courses being offered within traveling distance of your church. Inform the congregation and urge attendance. Carpool for fellowship, and to enhance the learning. It's good stewardship, too.

Help your pastor be aware of courses offered – keep track of the courses taken by lay speakers in your congregation. Find ways for them to use their new skills and knowledge in church and community. By listening, you will be able to match persons with ministry opportunities.

Consider selecting a local church coordinator of lay speaking ministries who would assist in this ministry.

## WALK TO EMMAUS

A walk to Emmaus is a refresher course in what it means to be a Christian in daily life. A spiritual, heart-warming, creative exercise of celebration awaits each pilgrim. Three days of talks, singing, eating, praying, laughing, and crying stimulate mind, body and soul. New life is experienced individually and, through each pilgrim, in the congregation. Encourage your pastor and members of your congregation to take a WALK. If you have not taken a walk, consider taking one soon.

### Bible Studies –

There are stories to be told by the whole body.

- Disciple Bible Studies
- Cokesbury's Bible Study Resources
- Discipleship Resources and Upper Room Catalogs



# JOURNEY OF FAITH

# METHODIST CONNECTION

In the early days of the Methodist movement in England, John Wesley recognized the need for communication and accountability. He developed what he called the “connexion”; an interlocking system of classes, societies and annual conferences. Today, we continue this tradition, but our structure is different.

## **LOCAL CHURCH**

A congregation is not autonomous. It's part of the United Methodist family and, as such, has certain rights and responsibilities. Through its Charge Conference it's linked to the District and the Annual Conference; if other elders are related to the congregation, they too are members of an Annual Conference, as are Deacons. Each year the Charge Conference elects a lay person or a number of lay people as members of the Annual Conference to ensure that the number of lay and clergy persons going to the Annual Conference is the same. All take part in forming policies and programs that affect the congregation.

## **DISTRICT**

The district is a division of the Annual Conference that serves as a link between the congregation and the conference. It's led by a District Superintendent (DS), and elder appointed by the Bishop, usually for a six-year term. The DS oversees the ministry of the district's clergy and churches, provides spiritual and pastoral leadership, works with the Bishop and others in the appointment of ordained ministers to serve the district's churches, presides at meetings of the Charge Conference, and oversees programs within the district.

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

We use the term Annual Conference in three ways; it's an organizational structure, a geographical area, and a periodic meeting of representatives (the 'Annual Conference session'). As an organizational body, it's made up of ordained members, both active and retired, a number of district and conference leaders, and lay members elected by the charge conferences of all the churches.

It meets at least annually, usually in May or June, to worship and fellowship together, receive reports of past work, adopt goals, programs, and budgets for future work, take stands on key issues, receive new men and women as ordained Deacons and Elders, and (every four years) elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences. The Bishop of the episcopal area, which may be one or more annual conferences, presides over the Annual Conference session.

---

## **JURISDICTION**

In the United States, The United Methodist Church is divided into five areas known as jurisdictions: Northeastern, Southeastern, North Central, South Central, and Western. These provide some programs and leadership training events to support the Annual Conferences. Every four years the Jurisdictional Conferences meet to elect new bishops and select members of general boards and agencies.

## **CENTRAL CONFERENCE**

Outside the United States, our denomination is organized according to Central Conferences. These units – in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines have their own Bishops and delegates to General Conference.

## **GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Made up of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by Annual Conferences, the General Conference meets every four years. It's our legislative body, the only organization with authority to speak for The United Methodist Church. It sets our governing procedures (published in The Book of Discipline), establishes program emphases, and sets a four-year budget for the church's general work.

We are thankful for the connectional structure of The United Methodist Church; without our connection with other leaders, churches, and resources, our congregation's mission could hardly extend very far.



## **OUR GENERAL COUNCILS AND AGENCIES**

### **COUNCIL OF BISHOPS**

Periodically, our Bishops gather to consult and to study issues in the life of the church and the world, and to call the church to action.

### **JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

This “Supreme Court” of our church rules on the constitutionality of the actions of various bodies and officers of the church.

### **GENERAL COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES**

The GCOM oversees the total mission of the denomination. It studies needs for ministry, engages in research and planning, helps to coordinate the programs of various general agencies, and reviews the performance of the general program agencies.

### **GENERAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

GCFA has a number of financial, legal, and administrative responsibilities. For example, it receives requests for funding from general agencies and develops four-year budgets to propose to the General Conference.

### **GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

This program agency, headquartered in Washington D.C., guides the church in responding to social issues that affect the quality of human life. It’s voice of Christian conscience on matters of public policy, but it, like other agencies, cannot speak for the whole denomination.

### **GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP**

Headquartered in Nashville Tennessee, this board provides resources and services to help congregations make disciples of Jesus Christ – aids that address the deep yearning in the hearts of people to meet and grow in relationship with God. This includes resources of the Upper Room, Discipleship Resources and the church school curriculum resources.

### **GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

From its New York City headquarters, this program agency oversees the national and worldwide mission of the church, supporting mission programs in hundreds of locations. It’s Women’s Division relates directly to the work of the United Methodist Women at all levels. And it’s United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) helps the whole church respond quickly to emergencies anywhere around the globe.

### **GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY**

---

From its offices in Nashville, this board supports the work of United Methodist schools, colleges, universities, seminaries and the campus ministry of annual conferences. It guides the preparation of clergy and oversees the work of chaplains, both in the armed services and in institutions such as hospitals and homes.

### **OTHER GENERAL AGENCIES**

- General Commission on Archives and History
- General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
- General Commission on Communications (UM Communications)
- General Board of Pension and Health Benefits
- General Commission on Religion and Race
- General Commission on Status and Role of Women
- General Commission on United Methodist Men
- The United Methodist Publishing House

We support the work of many of the above agencies through our congregation's budget, part of which goes to the World Service Fund, as it's called. When we take our vows of church membership we become a part, not only of our congregation, but also of the United Methodist Church as a whole. Together we accomplish for Christ what we could not do alone.

## JOHN WESLEY

For the vast working class, the early 18<sup>th</sup> century was dismal in England. The Industrial Revolution had brought long hours of drudgery at low pay, while relative few lived in increasing luxury. The Church of England provided little comfort. Too often it served the powerful and rich; it was formal and ritualistic, with little attention given to personal piety, discipline, Bible Study, prayer, or serving the needy. Into this environment came a man God would use to work a major change, the founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley.

Wesley was born in 1703, the 15<sup>th</sup> child of 19 children . His father Samuel Wesley was the rector of the

Anglican parish church at Epworth, some 150 miles north of London. Susanna Wesley, his mother, was a strong woman, intelligent and pious, who managed the household with strict discipline and provided the early schooling for each child.

At age 11, John was sent to school in London and at 17 to Oxford University. He studied for the priesthood, was ordained at 25 and later returned to teach at one of the colleges. There his brother, Charles and other students had started a small group for religious study and discipline and soon John became its leader.

Although intensely serious about religion, John did not sense an abiding faith in Christ. Thinking missionary work might help, he and Charles sailed to the coast of Georgia to work with settlers and Native Americans. But the trip turned out to be a disaster. John's rigid ways and a bad romance caused ill feelings; following Charles, he returned to England a discouraged man. One benefit of the experience, however, was his introduction to the quiet assurance of faith shown by the Moravians, a sect based in Germany.

On May 24, 1738, John Wesley's life changed. At a Christian gathering on Aldersgate Street in London, while listening to the reading of Luther's Preface to Paul's Letter to the Romans, he felt a remarkable assurance of faith: "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation." Though John hardly mentioned this "Aldersgate experience" again, it seems to have released him for an incredibly passionate and productive ministry over the next five decades.

John Wesley began preaching the good news of Jesus Christ wherever he could. Because his message was so personal and the response so enthusiastic, the Anglican authorities became alarmed; and one parish church after another was closed to him. But that didn't stop him, for as he

---

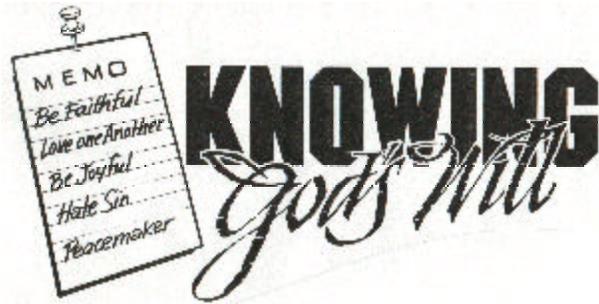
proclaimed, “I consider the world as my parish.” Traveling on horseback, he covered some 250,000 miles in his lifetime.

Wesley was a prolific author of sermons, books, pamphlets – he even edited a magazine for a time. And almost daily he wrote in his journal, a candid account of his own spiritual struggles, the ups and downs of the new Methodist movement, and his adventures on the road. Though he wrote a number of hymns, some of which are in our Hymnal, his brother Charles was the master, composing and publishing perhaps 7500 hymns! It was largely due to Charles that the Methodists became a singing people.

Wesley never left the Church of England; he had hoped to reform it from within. He did not intend to launch a new denomination, and late in life he discouraged his followers from doing so. But it has been said that when he died at the age of 87, he left behind “one silver spoon, a worn-out clergyman’s coat, a much-abused reputation, and – the Methodist Church.”

In part, his remarkable legacy was a strong organization of classes, societies and annual conferences, which did indeed become a church after Wesley’s death. In part, his legacy was a passionate faith and a spiritual energy that the Church of England had not seen before. Perhaps most of all, he left a balanced and sensible way of believing, one that incorporated the best from many traditions but avoided the extremes.

The Wesleyan movement brought to the flow of Christian history certain distinctive qualities that have characterized the Methodist family around the world for over 250 years. The freshness, energy, and intensity of John and Charles Wesley, and of the earliest Methodist preachers and their kindred spirits among Evangelicals and United Brethren, have been a deep source of life for the generations that have followed. Today United Methodists strive diligently to maintain the balanced way of believing and practicing the Christian faith that John Wesley has left them. We should all thank God for this legacy.



## THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Our task as congregations is to find our place in the story of God's outreaching love, and to discover by God's grace how we can become a new chapter in the story of Christ's ministry. To meet these challenges requires self-awareness and intentional planning based firmly on our hope in Christ.

Planning, after all, is hope made concrete and visible. We make plans to serve the needs of our communities and our world, because our hope is in the one who served others in all things. We tell our own story, and name our gifts and strengths, so that we can plan how best to use our resources as a sign of God's reign.

Fed by springs of vitality from our heritage, our congregations are empowered by the Holy Spirit for the ministry and mission of tomorrow's church. We drink from deep wells. In the story of Jesus we know the assurance of salvation and hear the call to discipleship. Through the action of the spirit, we receive new vision and determination to be congregations of lively witness and active service. In reviewing the character of the church from its beginnings, we are reminded of our purpose. In the voices of John and Charles Wesley we hear both grace and challenge. And in recalling our own stories, we are refreshed with a sense of our strengths for our mission in the places we are given to serve.

The United Methodist connection holds in covenant community this immense variety of congregations. Through our mutual support as congregations in covenant, we share resources and hold one another up in the joys and sorrows of ministry. Together we undergird the world outreach of the church and support ministries in every walk of life.

**BUT THE CONNECTION IS ONLY AS VITAL AS THE CONGREGATIONS THAT COMPRISE IT.** From congregations alive with a firm sense of identity and mission flow the streams that together make a river of witness. Our prayer is always that God will cause to well up in each congregation a spring to water the tree of faith. **SO MAY WE, AS FAITHFUL DISCIPLES, BEAR FRUIT FOR THE REIGN OF GOD.**

## **NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE LAY LEADER**

### **Joe M. Whittemore**

P. O. Box 770  
Hartwell, GA 30643  
Home Phone – 706-376-7881 Office – 706-376-3168  
Fax – 706-376-5945 E-Mail – wscpas@hartcom.net

### **Associate Lay Leaders**

#### **Betty G. Ellison**

4058 Ayers Drive  
Kennesaw, GA 30144  
Home Phone – 770-424-9940 Office – 770-427-8929  
Fax – 770-426-1560 E-Mail – bettyell@ix.netcom.com

#### **Hiram Bobo**

9711 Spruill Road  
Alpharetta, GA 30022  
Home Phone – 770-667-5488  
Fax – 770-667-2070

#### **Claudette Bryson**

326 Ross Street  
Rome, GA 30161  
Home Phone – 706-295-3010  
E-Mail – cbryson326@aol.com

#### **Chuck Lanier**

519 Pleasant Home Road, Suite A-2  
Augusta, GA 30907  
Home Phone – 706-736-7735 Office 706-854-8877  
Fax – 706-854-1650 E-Mail – hb-sd@msn.com