



Monday Morning in North Georgia

March 10, 2008

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SHARING WEEKLY NEWS WITH NORTH GEORGIA UNITED METHODISTS

This Week's Calendar

Week of

March 10 - 16

(click on item for information)

March 10th

- Board Probationary Interviews

March 11th

- Pre-Retirement Seminar
- LAGR District Board of Laity

March 12th

- Executive Committee Church Development
- Existing Church Development Meeting

March 13th

- AROS District Executive Council
- Youth Ministry Institute
- Disaster Response Committee Meeting
- LAGR dCOM Meeting

March 14th

- Spiritual Life Retreat

March 15th

- Lay Missionary Training

March 16th

- CF&A Meeting

- Entire Calendar

Article Archives

- Monday Morning in North Georgia
- Weekly Conference Update

Links of Interest

- Sign Up to receive the Monday Morning Newsletter, & other North Georgia e-mails.
- Manage e-mail preferences

A Call from God

It is not easy to become a United Methodist minister. Just ask the 45 persons who are meeting with the Board of Ordained Ministry this week.

After a lengthy process including completing an undergraduate degree, a Master's degree in seminary, and recommendation by one's local church and a district committee, candidates for ministry are ready for consideration by the conference board of ordained ministry (BOM). A five year course of study is available as an alternative for persons who do not seek ordination but desire to serve as local pastors with limited clergy privileges.

Extensive written work is submitted to the BOM. Candidates' written answers are reviewed and face-to-face interviews allow verbal responses. Psychological stability, physical health, theological understanding, personal history and finances, communication and relational skills, as well as a clear sense of call are carefully evaluated for each candidate.

Persons whom the BOM declares "fit and ready" for ministry, and for whom the cabinet has an appointment, begin a minimum three year probationary period during which they are involved in a comprehensive program of nurture and guidance. They serve under the supervision of a district superintendent and are evaluated annually by the local church or employing agency. After three years of service under appointment, probationary members may be considered for ordination. Another interview process evaluates each candidate's effectiveness in ministry.

BOM interviews are similar to the bar for attorneys or the exam for CPAs. At each level of interviews one-quarter to one-third of the candidates are deferred in order to address identified deficiencies or



- E-mail Jamie Jenkins
- Employment Openings

Lectionary and Bible Readings

Daily Bible Reading

- Readings that will take you through the entire Bible in a Year

Lectionary Scriptures

Sunday, March 16

Liturgy of the Psalms

- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion

- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Matthew 26:14-27:66

Worship Tools

- Worship Planning Helps
- Preaching Helps
- Lectionary Hymns
- 21st Century Africana

because of the lack of an appointment and some may be discontinued as candidates for ministry. Those who receive approval are ordained and become full clergy members of the Annual Conference.

Thus the minimal requirements for a candidate for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church are a minimum of seven years of higher education, three years of probationary service, two intensive rounds of interviews, and close examination of character and life style. Starting salary for clergy who go through this process in North Georgia is \$31,500.

All baptized Christians are called to be in ministry. Some are set apart for ordained or licensed ministry. This long and strenuous process of credentialing enables individuals to be clear that God has called them to a life of servant leadership in vocational ministry and it allows the Church to affirm that call. Pray for those who are engaged in this journey and for those who assist them along the way. God and the Church deserve the very best we have to offer.

Jamie Jenkins

Annual Conference Reports for Handbook

Reports for the Annual Conference Handbook should be e-mailed by March 14 to the Conference Secretary at donnannw@mindspring.com. Prepare a one-page summary of activities and note connections with the annual conference theme, "The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God." Reports will be edited for space as needed. Do not use any logos or letterhead on report. Use 14-point type, Times New Roman font with single space format for your report. Margins: top 1.25"; bottom 1"; left 1"; right 1.25". Clearly identify any action(s) requested by the Annual Conference. Include name, title, phone number and email of contact person for report.

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