

News From the Griffin District

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The Griffin District of The United Methodist Church

Rev. Richard Winn
District Superintendent

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What's Next?

“What’s Next?” is a question that probably been asked since the beginning of time. Can you imagine the Trinity during the creation? “Ok, We have light, day, and night. What’s next?” I’m sure the Disciples asked that question after Jesus’ crucifixion. I’m sure that they asked it again after the Ascension (Acts 1:9). And it is a question that should be asked in our churches today.

In 1978, Nina Simone recorded “Everything Must Change.” The world has changed over the last 50 years but, unfortunately, many of our churches continue to do “business as usual.” What’s next, is a great question for all our committees. What if Worship asked the question? Would different songs be sung? Would worship be more attractive to millennials? What if Evangelism asked the question? Would people develop ways to venture outside the church and make their churches look more like their communities? If Outreach asked the question, would we find new ways to be the hands and feet of Christ?

“What’s next” is a good place to start when planning for 2020 and beyond. If churches are not forward looking in their attempts to make disciples of Jesus Christ, the downward trend in church attendance will only get worse. As it has been said, “Failing to plan is planning to fail.” Let’s get out of our comfort zones and dare to ask the question. “What’s next?”

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ATTENTION FULL TIME ELDERS:

Clergy Evaluation forms have been mailed to SPR Chairs and are available on the District Website. You are asked to bring the completed form with you when you meet with the DS for your evaluation the first week of November. Schedules have been emailed to all Full Time Elders.

(Part Time Local Pastors will have evaluations in the Spring with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. Look for more details after the first of the year.)

2019 Charge Conferences

The Griffin District will celebrate Charge Conferences with ALL churches on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at the Wesley Chapel UMC (397 Racetrack Road, McDonough) at 3:00pm. This will be a time of worship and celebration. Rev. Richard Winn will preach, and we will recognize several groups. As is always done at Charge Conference, Lay Servants and Candidates for Ministry will be recognized and approved. We also want to acknowledge churches that have had baptisms during the year and welcomed new members through confirmation classes. Churches are asked to submit pictures of these two events for a slide show. Please send photos to griffinchargeconference@gmail.com.

In light of the large group Charge Conference, all required paperwork will be due in the District Office by **October 23**. It can be emailed, mailed, or delivered. There is a Charge Conference Checklist that was given to every pastor at the recent Set Up meeting that details the paperwork requirements. This information is also posted on the district website, www.ngumc.org/grfn.

Special music will be provided at the Charge Conference by a District-Wide Choir. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to attend rehearsals at Wesley Chapel on October 21 at 7pm and on November 3 at 1:30 (just prior to the Conference). The 2 anthems will be "How Great is Our God" and "Total Praise". There are links to these 2 songs on the district website.

We look forward to the opportunity for all churches to gather together on November 3 as we celebrate the great ministry of the Griffin District! Everyone is invited to attend.

Aldersgate Home Offering

Sunday, October 27, 2019

All Churches are encouraged to take a special offering for this important ministry for adults with developmental disabilities.



Leadership

UMC

The deadline has been extended to receive applications for Leadership UMC until October 15. This is a program of the North Georgia Conference Board of Laity for emerging leaders, beginning its 18th consecutive year of successful training and development. It is recognized throughout the country as a premier program for equipping laity to serve in partnership with clergy for mission and ministry within the community and around the globe. The program includes 4 weekend workshops that are facilitated by professional staff. These workshops will be held at Sugar Hill UMC (4600 Nelson Brogdon Blvd., Buford, GA). Lodging is provided at a nearby hotel. All expenses, including workshop material, four nights lodging, meals and snacks are included in the tuition, which is paid by the participant (\$100 for double occupancy or \$320 for single occupancy), their local church (\$175) and the district (\$175). Any laity interested in this program or the Advanced Leadership UMC (for graduates of Leadership UMC), please contact the District Office.

Conference Apportionments & District Work Fund

As of the First of October, all churches should have paid at least 75% of your apportionments and district work fund. To check payment amounts, visit the Apportionment Payments page of the conference website. Look under the Local Church Report section and enter your church number to access reports. If your church is behind, please begin to work on getting payments current.

Attention Local Pastors

Those local pastors who have not completed Course of Study are reminded that if you are not making progress in completing this program, you are at risk of being discontinued.

Pastors who are participating in the COS program should have received information recently regarding the new process for paying tuition. For information on this new process, please visit this link to the conference website:



Jones Memorial UMC has a 1990 Ford Diesel 29 passenger bus with only 70,000 miles for sale. The asking price is \$8,000. For more information, call the church at 404-366-4039 or email the pastor, at drricklong@gmail.com.



Exploring a Call to Ministry? Exploration 2019 is Coming to Orlando November 1-3, 2019

Registration is now open for Exploration, a three-day event for young adults ages 18-26. Exploration is designed to help attendees listen, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry as they explore their gifts for service as a deacon or elder in The United Methodist Church. For more information, visit www.explorecalling.org.

October is Call Month in North Georgia. Persons who feel they may be experiencing a call to ministry are encouraged to visit myUMcall.org for information and resources. Pastors are encouraged to work with these potential candidates and help them identify their call.

All Lay Servants are reminded to complete the

Lay Servant Annual Report

In Data Services prior to Charge Conference. These reports must be submitted to the District Office by October 23 with the other Charge Conference reports from your church.



Happy Birthday to the following ministers in the Griffin District celebrating birthdays in October:

15 - Sid Chapman

27 – Rex Smith

21 – Stanley Harrell

28 – Chuck Stutsman

25 – Irma Lewis

31 – Joe Perry

26 – Michelle Strall

District Calendar

October 17 - District Leadership Team meeting, District Office, 10am

October 21 – District-Wide Choir Rehearsal for Charge Conference, Wesley Chapel UMC, 7pm

October 23 – All Charge Conference paperwork due to District Office

November 4-6 – Full Time Elder Evaluations with DS (check district website for downloadable copy of the schedule)