



 The North Georgia Conference
of The United Methodist Church

DISTRICT 8 **SouthWest**

*Butts, Coweta, Fayette, Harris, Heard,
Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Pike,
Spalding, Troup and Upson Counties*

A monthly publication of
The SouthWest District of The United Methodist Church

Rev. Susan Landry
District Superintendent

October 2020

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Reflections

One of the quotes I recall best from my dad is “We don’t learn from experience...we learn from reflecting on experience.” It was most likely a quote from the American Philosopher, John Dewey. I believe it, since Jesus invited those who came to ask him questions to reflect on their own experience, whether by giving them a parable, or reminding them of how they feed their own children, or watch for the weather for themselves, etc. Jesus sought to connect their faith and theology to their actions and relationships, which requires reflection.

This month, which is Pastor Appreciation month, I reflect and celebrate that our pastors have sacrificed much in this season of pandemic in order to connect to their beloved people. They have taken this time to bring meaningful reflection to their own experiences, seen and interpreted in light of the Gospel, and have sought continued learning in order to bring you a word. Our pastors always work with joy within the yoke of their calling of God. And in this season, their commitment has brought new challenges and perhaps fatigue. Won’t you join me in thanking our pastors this month? A little bit of encouragement will go a long way.

In gratitude for all of you,

Susan

District Conference Voting results

A big thank you to all of our district delegates who voted through our Conference system on Sept. 11, 2020. The results were as follows: out of 145 respondents, we had 144 in favor of the District Budget for 2021, and 1 against. The budget passed. Likewise, out of 145 responses, we had 144 in favor of the nominated slate of district leaders and officers for 2021, and 1 against. The slate of leaders passed.

2020 Charge Conferences

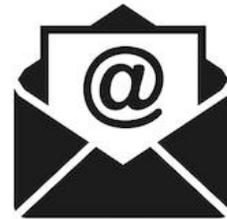
The 2020 Charge Conferences will be conducted in November via Zoom with churches meeting together by Connection Groups. Connection Groups are small groups of 10-12 churches/circuits of similar size. In order for these meetings to be successful, all required forms and paperwork must be completed and submitted at least 15 days prior to your Charge Conference. Pastors have been given detailed information about Charge Conferences, and the information is available on the District Website (www.ngumc.org/southwest) on the Reports Due page, including the Charge Conference schedule.

Newest, New District Email Address

Please take note of our 2nd new email address, which replaces the “new email address” we had announced in previous newsletters. The official email address for the SouthWest District is:

southwest@ngumc.net

Please update your records to reflect this address and delete all previous addresses, including the “lagr” and “grfn” addresses. Those will continue to be monitored for a time, but will eventually be phased out.



Apportionment Information

For those churches who paid 100% of their 2019 Conference Apportionments, we have a certificate for you in the District Office. Normally we would present those to you at Charge Conference, but that will not be possible this year. We hope you will help us save postage cost and make every effort to pick up your certificate from the District Office. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 9am – 4:30pm. It would be helpful if you could call before you come.



Churches are encouraged to stay current on your 2020 Apportionments and District Work Fund payments. You can verify 2020 payments on the Apportionment Payments page of the Conference website, by entering your church number.

The 2021 Apportionment and District Work Fund notices are available on the Conference website. Pastors were emailed information last week on how to access these reports.

PLEASE NOTE:

**THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 FOR VACATION.
IN THE EVENT OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY, CALL THE ON-CALL DS @706-957-9633.
FOR NORMAL BUSINESS, WE WILL RETURN CALLS ON MONDAY, 10/12**

Calling all Men in the SouthWest District

There will be a virtual meeting on Saturday, October 3 at 11:00.

District officers will be elected. Please plan to attend.

October 3, 2020 @ 11:00 am [Registration link](#)



2020 Igniting Faith
Virtual Men's Summit
"Finding Freedom"

Friday, October 16, 2020
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday, October 17, 2020
9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Click to Register Online
Registration deadline: 10/10/2020
Online Credentials Will Be Provided To
Registered Participants
For information, call 404-909-8250 or
email us at ummen@ngcumm.org



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You are invited to join the Southwest District Facebook page – “Southwest District NGUMC”

We also have a District Children's Ministry page –

<https://www.facebook.com/SWNGUMCChildren>

ATTENTION PASTORS & SPR CHAIRS:

Clergy Evaluation Forms are due in the District Office no later than October 26 for all appointed clergy EXCEPT Local Pastors, who will have their evaluations after the first of the year (forms due January 29)

Pastors received the evaluation forms and they are available on the Reports Due page of the district website.

There is also an option this year to complete the forms in Data Services.

Move Input Forms will be due in the District Office no later than November 15.

Forms have been sent to the pastor and they are available on the Reports Due page of the District website. There are 2 forms – one to be completed by the pastor and one to be completed by the SPRC.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

The Conference is now providing a monthly newsletter that will offer resources to provide support for clergy and their wellbeing now and in the future. Be sure to check out the following link and bookmark it for easy reference:

<https://www.ngumc.org/wellbeing>



CHARGE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

A second Zoom workshop is being offered on Tuesday, October 13 at 5pm.

To participate, email the district office for the Zoom invitation.

(We apologize that there have been issues uploading the first workshop, so we are offering a second opportunity and will try again to put that one on the website!)

Clergy CEU Opportunities

Fresh Expression Opportunities:

Virtual Vision Day, October 10

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/changing-church-for-a-changing-world-tickets-120411501041?#new_tab/

Contextual Intelligence by Michael Beck and Len Sweet

Online Book Discussion, October 26-December 7; Mondays at 7pm

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6O6HsH6QYMO3_EiHTt8zpK5UE6vqBiba6H8w07M0a-PZMQQ/viewform

House Church Cohort, October 19-November 9, Mondays at 11-1pm.

<https://www.ngumc.org/eventdetail/14234709?month=10&year=2020&day=1&display=m>

Preaching Webinar

October 26

Clergy are invited to a 1-day webinar, Preaching in a Pandemic of Racism: Strategies for Preparing. Sermons that Offer by Challenge and Hope, on Monday, October 26, from 9 am to 2 pm. Led by professors from The Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence at SMU, participants will explore strategies for intentional self-awareness and preparation of sermons that address issues of systematic racism.

[REGISTER](#)

CLERGYEDUCATION

Continuing Education for Clergy

clergyeducation.com

Upcoming Online Classes for Clergy & Church Leaders

October 6 – Anne Bosarge – Planning for Advent and Christmas During COVID 19

October 13 – Quincy Brown – More than a Sermon: Tips for Becoming a More Effective Pastor

October 15 – Rebekah Simon-Peter – Effectively Encouraging Your Congregation to Become Risk Takers

October 29 – Kay Kotan – What is Your Community Saying About Your Church?

Visit the website above for details and to register. Cost is \$25 per class.

District Calendar

October 3 - District UMM virtual meeting

October 3 – Conference UMW Annual Meeting

October 5-9 – District Office closed for vacation

October 14 – District Program/Ministry Coordinators Zoom meeting, 2:00pm

October 19-20 – Cabinet Meeting

October 24 – Conference Candidacy Summit

October 26 – Clergy Evaluation Forms due in District Office

November 2 – Superintendency Committee Zoom meeting, 6:00pm



Happy Birthday to the following ministers celebrating birthdays in October:

6 - Carson Thaxton

9 - Susan Landry

12 – Hyeong Eun Lee

Renee Clark

14 – Wayne Hester

16 – Carl Epps

17 – Dale Giefing

21 – Brett Mathews

Stan Harrell

25 – Harvey Bane

25 – Irma Lewis

27 – Rex Smith

28 – Chuck Stutsman