

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE 2007 CHARGE/CHURCH CONFERENCE FORMATS

This year each congregation is to choose their own theme and format for their Church/Charge Conference. Please begin by entering into a time of holy conversation about the upcoming conference. Explore the following scriptures and prayer using the questions provided. Then, choose a theme and format that will work for you.

SCRIPTURES

Habakkuk 2:1-3; John 6:1-13; Romans 12:1-2

PRAYER by Marianne Williamson

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, “Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?”

Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God....

We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It’s not just in some of us; it’s in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

Prayerfully reflect on at least one of these scriptures and prayer in light of the following questions:

- What is your reason for being the church in your context?
- Where do you find inspiration to propel your congregation into the next year?
- Where are you discerning the Holy Spirit in the life of your congregation?
- What do you hope for from this church conference?

The following formats are offered to stimulate your thinking:

WORSHIP FORMAT: A Charge/Church Conference may be conducted as a worship service. The service would include the elements of your regular worship such as Litanies, Responsive Readings, Hymns, Prayers, Holy Communion, etc., around the theme, “Caring Hands Unite.” In addition you would build in time for the elements necessary to a Charge/Church Conference that are listed below.

SPIRITUAL GATHERING FORMAT: A Spiritual Gathering format would be less formal than worship and would include time for singing, prayer, and sharing in the work of a Church Conference. The format would focus on praise and prayer. It might include special music presentations such as Praise Band, Children’s choir, etc.

BUSINESS FORMAT: The focus of the Business gathering is the work necessary to a Charge/Church Conference. A song and prayer is offered as part of the gathering to remind us in whose name we gather, but the focus is on the work of the Conference. The primary agenda would be the work of the Annual Charge/Church Conference.

VISIONING FORMAT: If your congregation has not taken time to vision the church’s ministry, this format might be helpful for you. In addition to singing, prayer, and the work of a Charge/Church Conference, you could break the congregation into small groups to explore questions that begin to lead toward the vision of the congregation.

WORK OF THE ANNUAL CHARGE/CHURCH CONFERENCE

The following elements are necessary to every Charge/Church Conference regardless of the format you use, so please be sure to incorporate these items into your planned agenda, or discuss with the DS or presiding elder ways to accomplish these reports and decisions:

1. Approval of the Lay Leadership Report (Nominating Committee Report of officers)
2. Report of the Pastor and Leadership (You select which leadership positions will report. The reports can be verbal, written or creative presentations. We strongly prefer a combination of written and creative presentations; please discourage reading of written reports. Leadership presentations might include the Lay Leader, Church Council, Trustees, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Youth and Children's Areas, and other selected team or work areas as you choose.)
3. Approval of the clergy (pastors and other elders or deacons) compensation
4. Affirmation of Covenant Commitment to Tithing Plus for Conference Wider Missions (apportionments)
5. Membership and worship attendance year-to-date, and vote on persons to be removed
6. A time of reflection and sharing by the District Superintendent or Presiding Elder.
7. Collection of an offering. Please contact your District Office for this information.
8. Any other items before the congregation that need Charge/Conference vote, i.e., candidates for ministry or special concerns of your congregation

No matter what format you choose, please identify (ahead of the meeting) and elect (at the meeting) a Charge/Church Conference secretary to take minutes of the Conference.

Please refer to the 2007 Church/Charge Conference Checklist for a complete list of documents to be returned to the District Office. The forms that you will need are located online at "<http://www.rmcmc.org>". (See cover letter for specific instructions on accessing these forms on the website.)

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact your District Office.