

## GENERAL CONFERENCE GUIDE

From April 23-May 2 almost one thousand delegates and other observers will gather in Fort Worth, Texas for the 2008 General Conference. The delegates, half lay and half clergy, were elected last year by the Annual Conferences. They will gather to revise the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions, vote on the budget, and vision for The United Methodist Church. The theme of the 2008 GC is “*A Future with Hope.*” “*We’re trying to move General Conference from what it now is—an exercise in the management of petitions—to a genuine Christian conferencing with high quality conversation about the most import issues facing the church and the world*”, said Gail Murphy-Geiss, chairwoman of the Commission on General Conference.

Petitions are submitted by Annual Conferences, Boards and Agencies and individuals. The delegates are assigned to different legislative committees to consider the petitions. This General Conference will consider 1,500 petitions during their time in Ft Worth. The delegates from the Rocky Mountain Conference elected last June are: Janet Forbes, Youngsook Kang , Chuck Schuster, Josh Davies, Judy Hill, Kunle Taiwo. Philip Cardin and Carolyn Waters are alternates Chuck Schuster is on the Faith and Order legislative committee. Judy Hill is on the Global Ministries legislative committee and says: “*As I anticipate General Conference I must admit I am looking forward to exciting theme related worship experiences with coordinators , Marcia Macfee and Mark Miller.*” Josh Davies is on the General Administration Legislative Committee; Kunle Taiwo on Church and Society I; Janet Forbes on Superintendency; Youngsook Kang on Ministry and Higher Education.

The General Board of Church and Society has submitted 80 petitions for consideration. Go to [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org) for a complete list. Here a just a few of the titles of some of the petitions so you will have a sense of the issues the Church is addressing:

- Human cloning
- Welcoming the Migrant
- Socially Responsible Investment Task Force
- The UMC and Peace
- Support for the Land Mine Treaty
- Rights of American Farmers
- Pathways to Economic Justice
- Peace in Iraq
- Organ and Tissue Donation
- Gun Violence
- Global Debt Crisis
- Energy Policy
- Ban on Cluster Bombs
- Abuse of Older Adults
- Abolition of Sex Trafficking

The 2008 General Conference Website, [www.gc2008.umc.org](http://www.gc2008.umc.org) is full of resources for General Conference. Highlights include:

- [General Conference 101: All you ever wanted to know](#)
- [Legislation Tracking](#)
- [General Conference News](#)
- [Download the General Conference 2008 logo](#)

The General Conference is the only body that can speak for The United Methodist Church. Bishops preside over the sessions but are not voting members. Please keep the Conference in your prayers during this time.