



Connections

Highlighting the shared ministry of the people of
The Wyoming Annual Conference

Changes Are Coming Soon

Plans underway for final Wyoming Session and birthing conferences

Clergy and Lay Members of the Wyoming Annual Conference will gather for the last time on June 4-5 in Scranton, PA. The 159th Session will have as its theme: "So Great a Cloud of Witnesses." While there will be time for remembering and connecting with old friends, Director of Connectional Ministries Mark Marino says, "These two closing days will be a time of business, fellowship and worship. They will prepare us to conclude one chapter in our journey as United Methodists in New York and Pennsylvania and open two new ones."

Registration begins at 8 Friday morning, with clergy preparing for the Clergy Session at Elm Park beginning at 9 and laity checking in at the Byron Gymnasium. The Laity Session starts at 10, next door at the John Long Center. The two day conference is slated to end around 5 on Saturday with the reading of appointments.

Local churches are invited to submit digital photos of their past and present buildings to be projected during conference sessions. Conference members and friends are invited to submit stories, memories and thoughts regarding the life of our Annual Conference to be used during worship services. Information about these projects has been mailed to pastors and lay members.

Churches are also asked to gather and bring Health Kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for use at disaster sites around the world.

Material to help those representing their local churches make informed decisions about matters to come before the session will be posted on the conference website on April 14.

One week after our closing session, June 12, Clergy and Lay Members of our Pennsylvania churches will gather with members of the Central Pennsylvania Conference for the birth of the Susquehanna Conference. This initial session will be held at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport. Bishop Jane Allen Middleton will preside. During that time, the business necessary to establish the new conference will take place and pastors will be commissioned and ordained.

The following week, June 19, those representing churches in the New York portions of the Wyoming and Troy Conferences and the North Central and Western New York Conferences will meet at the On Center in Syracuse for the opening session of the Upper New York Conference. Bishop Marcus Matthews will oversee that gathering. It will also include the business necessary for the conference to begin work on July 1 and the ordination and commissioning of pastors.

Each of the new conferences will hold a session on September 11 to care for business unable to be acted upon in June and to celebrate the coming together of the new bodies. The Upper New York session will be at the Empire Plaza in Albany. Susquehanna will return to Williamsport's Community Arts Center.

Haiti Relief Updates and Thank You

Thank you to the outpouring of prayers and financial support from United Methodists in Wyoming Conference. According to our treasurer, as of Tuesday, February 16, 2010, \$114,874.58 has been donated for UMCOR Haiti Relief and Haiti Partnership Earthquake Relief. More than \$11 million has been donated through the General Board of Global Ministry. We are grateful for such a faithful response to the hurts and needs of our brothers and sisters in need in Haiti. The relief effort in Haiti will be ongoing over the next several years.

Your continued support will be very important in helping to fund this work. We also anticipate sending VIM (Volunteer in Mission) teams in the future as requested by UMCOR and the Methodist Church of Haiti. They are currently planning for such teams so that they will be most effective. For the latest information about the Partnership's plans, go to: www.haitipartnership.com.

Roger Richards