

February 2011

Dear Member of Annual Conference,

This year the Central and Southeast Districts have graciously offered to host the 2011 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. On **May 19-22, 2011, our 225th Annual Conference convenes back at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center** at Oaks, PA. The theme for our Conference – Journeying with the Poor - is one of the four foci of The United Methodist Church and is particularly relevant to these difficult times through which we as a world-wide church are journeying.



We are fortunate to have Rudy Rasmus, an emergent messenger and co-pastor with his wife Juanita at the St. John's United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, as our keynote speaker. He is the author of the newly released book, *Touch, Pressing Against the Wounds of a Broken World*. He began the church in 1992 with only nine members and St. John's has grown to more than 9,000 members—3,000 of the members are currently or were formerly homeless. The church is one of the most culturally diverse congregations in the country. Pastor Rudy will focus our thoughts on journeying with the poor.

Please know that we must ask that you honor the deadlines set in order to allow the staff to provide quality materials and ensure your comfort and satisfaction. We offer you the following ways to register for Annual Conference:

1. We prefer you to **register on-line by April 30, 2010**, by logging in to our website at www.epaumc.org. Registering on-line allows you to use a charge card – and saves you time and postage. You will receive a confirmation of your registration.
2. Complete and **mail your registration form by April 8, 2010** to: Annual Conference Registrar, PO Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

If you have any questions regarding this booklet, please contact the registrar at 1-800-828-9093, ext. 215 or registrar@epaumc.org.

This is the year before General Conference and therefore we will be voting for five clergy and five lay delegates to both General and Jurisdictional Conferences during the sessions of Conference. The first stage of this process is the nomination of persons whose names will appear on the ballot. Please go to www.epaumc.org, where instructions and nomination forms may be found and exercise your right of nomination. The completed nomination forms need to reach me by March 10, 2011. Following the nominating process, persons who receive 10 or more nominations will have their names placed on a ballot. The second stage of the process is the election of our delegates which will take place during conference.

**Eastern
Pennsylvania
Conference**

**The
United
Methodist
Church**

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Please attend the scheduled **pre-conference District Sessions on May 1, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.** where the process will be further explained. These sessions are also important as an orientation to new procedures and material for Annual Conference. You will have an opportunity for clarification on any questions you might have about budget, resolutions, and specifics concerning Annual Conference.

May God continue to bless our preparation for this time of Holy Conferencing and fill our hearts with a growing eagerness to participate in this experience of worship, learning, fellowship, and visioning as churches living connected as God's people, journeying with the poor, as we follow our Savior in ministry to the world.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney E. Miller
Conference Secretary