

# **Preliminary Agenda for 2015 Midwinter Retreat**

Holiday Inn Oceanfront, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD

## **Tuesday, January 13, 2015**

- Opening Worship followed by Keynote: 2 pm
- Dinner: 6 pm

(please note --- official hotel check-in is 3 pm but they will try and accommodate you)

## **Wednesday, January 14, 2015**

- Breakfast: 7:30 am – 8:30 am
- Morning Praise: 9 am
- Keynote Speaker: 9:15 am
- Lunch: 12 pm (free afternoon, dinner on your own)
- Optional small groups with Garlinda Burton:
  - Singles: 1 pm
  - Spouses: 1:45 pm
  - Clergy couples: 2:30 pm
- Evening time of praise led by Bo and Vicky Gordy-Stith: 7 pm

## **Thursday, January 15, 2015**

- Breakfast: 7:30 am – 8:30 am
- (please check out of your room before 10 am)
- Closing worship and Communion: 10 am

### **Biography of Keynote Speaker: M. Garlinda Burton**

M. Garlinda Burton, a deaconess in The UMC, will be our keynote speaker at the upcoming 2015 Midwinter Retreat in Ocean City, MD. Burton spent the early part of her career as a journalist and editor, working in nonprofit communications. She has explored and written about such broad-reaching topics as: the push for more women faculty members at Boston University; combating sexual and racial harassment in the workplace; the development of micro-businesses among the rural poor in Mozambique; the Iran-Contra crisis in Nicaragua in the mid-1980s, and the evolution of the first private university in Zimbabwe.

During her tenure as the General Secretary of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, she authored a study called Clergy Spouses and Families in the UMC 2009: Local Church Expectations and what Clergy Spouses Most Want the UMC to Know. You may access this study by going to: <http://www.epaumc.org/sites/default/files/clergy-spouse-family.report.pdf>. The Boards of Pension, Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministries collaborated on the study.

In her newest venture, MotherWit, Burton combines her skills as a communicator and an advocate in her ongoing work on justice, equity, and the challenges of innovation.