



Charlotte District

Annual Spring Seminars

Visionary Objectives of the Western North Carolina Conference

*Nurturing throughout the conference a unity in Christ that values diversity.
Initiate efforts, supported by the laity, to "shepherd the shepherds."*



Dr. Richard Blackburn, Facilitator

March 9-10, 2008

Myers Park United Methodist Church
1501 Queens Road
Charlotte, NC 28207

Charlotte District School of Christian Discipleship
George E. Thompson, Charlotte District Superintendent

Charlotte District Churches

Small Less than 100

Agua De Vida Mission
Aldersgate
Big Springs
Brevard's Chapel
Burge Memorial
Calvary
Cambodian Mission
Commonwealth
Ebenezer
Fairfield
First Hmong
Ghana Mission
Grace
Homestead
Hunter's Chapel
Kilgo
Lebanon
Moore's Chapel
Morningstar
New Hope
Oak Grove
Purcell
Rock Hill
St. James
St. John's
St. Luke's
St. Paul
Thrift
Victory
Wesley
Zoar

Medium-Size 100-250

Asbury
Bethel
Central
Christ
Cokesbury
Cole Memorial
Covenant
Fair View
First
Greater Vision Mission
Hawthorne Lane
Hill's Chapel
Light of Christ
Mouzon
New Covenant
Pineville
Pleasant Grove
Sanctuary
Simpson-Gillespie
South Tryon Comm. Mission
Spencer Memorial
St. Mark's
Trinity
Tucker's Grove
Webb's Chapel

Large 250+

Assurance
Blair Rd
Davidson
Denver
Dilworth
Good Shepherd
Harrison
Hickory Grove
Huntersville
Matthews
Memorial
Mt Zion
Myers Park
Plaza
Providence
Salem
Sharon
St. Andrew's
St. Francis
St. Stephen
University City



Charlotte District

4108 Park Road, Suite 101

Western North Carolina Conference Charlotte, NC 28209-2259

The United Methodist Church

Web Site: www.chardist.org

February 6, 2008

Colleagues and Friends:

The central role of the office of superintendency is to equip the local church for effective ministry in response to our central mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The Charlotte District School of Christian Discipleship was established to the end that we may bring into this district resources (speakers, facilitators, workshop leaders, as well as printed and visual aides) that will enhance the quality of our discipleship as Christian leaders.

Sometimes our churches are less than effective, not because we have an absence of adequate leadership, lay or clergy. Occasionally congregations become conflicted as a result of our inability to communicate our differences in a civil, loving manner. We fail to value our diversity of thought and, thereby, sacrifice the unity that Christ wills for the common good. We break our Wesleyan Covenant through which we have pledged to say and do no harm to one another. An atmosphere of disharmony and mistrust develops and the mission of our congregations is thwarted. In this context, it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to make new disciples, for no one wants to be a part of a dysfunctional faith community.

The facilitator for this year's Spring Seminar on March 9-10 will be Richard Blackburn who is globally recognized for his mediation skills and experiences with conflict transformation. Dr. Blackburn is the Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Lombard, Illinois. He is ordained through the Mennonite denomination and has lectured all across the United States and many parts of Europe.

Is this a seminar only for conflictual churches? Of course not! Sunday's theme will be entitled, "Healthy Congregations: An Introduction to Emotional Process in the Church." Dr. Blackburn will primarily focus upon a church's strengths.

You will observe that this year's format for the Spring Seminar is far less demanding in time, with concentration upon two days. Every church will want to recruit a full team of laity for the Sunday session. At least one clergy from each church should accompany these laity for the three presentations on Sunday, March 9th, 2:30 pm to 8:30 p.m.

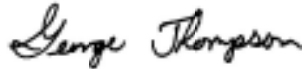
All clergy are required to attend the session on Monday. Clergy are encouraged to bring program staff personnel and persons that relate to program personnel for this Monday session. Lay teams need only attend on Sunday. Notify the district office if emergency circumstances prevent your participation. This event has been publicized for over a year. Clergy will be grateful for each lecture and time allotted for discussion. Dr. Blackburn will address the subject, "The Church and Change in an Age of Anxiety," "The Scapegoat Mechanism and Church Conflict," and "Leadership in the Midst of Anxiety." Several of our colleagues, when informed about these topics, have responded by saying "Can you get Dr. Blackburn to come now?"

No church is immune to conflict. Moreover, healthy churches are accustomed to having conflict; but they practice the skills of Christ-like mediation, respect for the other person, and appreciation for diversity.

Each lecture will apply to needs of any church's size. Churches with an average attendance of less than 100 persons should recruit a team of four; attendance of 100-250, a team of six; and attendance of over 250, teams of at least seven for the Sunday portion of the event.

Our objective in the Spring Seminar is not merely to have a well-attended event led by a nationally recognized instructor/authority. Our purpose is to transform the life of our congregations in order that we may more faithfully follow Jesus. I am eager to join you in this year's transformational experience.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Thompson".

George E. Thompson
Charlotte District Superintendent

GET:dr

Schedule for Spring Seminar, March 9-10, 2008

Myers Park United Methodist Church, Jubilee Hall

March 9, 2008 • Sunday

- 2:30—4:00 p.m. *Healthy Congregations: An Introduction to Emotional Process in the Church*
- 4:00—4:30 p.m. BREAK
- 4:30—5:30 p.m. *Healthy Congregations Manage Conflict*
- 5:30—7:00 p.m. Dinner. Laity and clergy are to make advance reservations.
- 7:00—8:30 p.m. *Healthy Congregations Focus on Strength*

March 10, 2008 • Monday

- 9:00—10:30 a.m. *The Church and Change in an Age of Anxiety*
- 10:30—11:00 a.m. BREAK
- 11:00—12:30 p.m. *“For They Know Not What They Do”: The Scapegoat Mechanism and Church Conflict*
- 12:30—2:00 p.m. Lunch. Make advance reservations.
- 2:00—3:30 p.m. *The Importance of Not Being Earnest: Playfulness and Nonanxious Presence*
Conclusion: Leadership in the Midst of Anxiety

REGISTRATION FOR SUNDAY, March 9, 2008

Each lecture will apply to needs of any church's size. Churches with an average attendance of less than 100 persons should recruit a team of four; attendance of 100-250, a team of six; and attendance of over 250, teams of at least seven for the Sunday portion of the event.

**Managing Conflict/Leadership in the Midst of Anxiety
(Registration Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008)**

Church Name: _____

List the members of your ministry team:

Pastor: _____ Tel./E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Laity (1): _____ Tel./E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Laity (2): _____ Tel./E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Laity (3): _____ Tel./E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Laity (4): _____ Tel./E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Laity (5): _____ Tel./E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Laity (6): _____ Tel./E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Laity (7): _____ Tel./E-mail: _____

Address: _____

(Write any additional team members on back side)

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**MEAL RESERVATIONS \$7 Per Person for Dinner**

Meal Reservations (indicate number): \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Dinner

Total Number of Dinner Meals: \_\_\_\_\_ x Price \$7 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Charlotte District UMC, 4108 Park Road, Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28209**

# REGISTRATION FOR Monday, March 10, 2008 Clergy and Program Staff Personnel

(includes persons that relate to program personnel)

**March 10, 2008 Charlotte District Spring Seminar  
Managing Conflict/Leadership in the Midst of Anxiety  
Registration Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008**

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

List the members of your program staff:

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel./E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Laity /Staff(1): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel./E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Laity /Staff(2): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel./E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Laity/Staff (3): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel./E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Laity/Staff (4): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel./E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Laity/Staff (5): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel./E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Laity/Staff (6): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel./E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Write any additional team members on back side)

## MEAL RESERVATIONS - \$5 Per Person for Lunch

Meal Reservations (indicate number): \_\_\_Monday Lunch

Total Number of Lunch Meals: \_\_\_\_\_ x Price \$ 5 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Charlotte District UMC, 4108 Park Road, Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28209**

Note on check: Total # Lunch \_\_\_\_\_, Total # Dinner \_\_\_ = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

# CHILDCARE RESERVATIONS

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March 9, 2008 Charlotte District Spring Seminar  
"Managing Conflict/Leadership in the Midst of Anxiety"  
*(Registration Deadline: February 27, 2008)*

Childcare will be available at Myers Park UMC for children.

## SUNDAY ONLY

Session I (2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.); Session 2 (6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.)

Please list the name(s) and age(s) of children who will need care.

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_  
Sessions: \_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_  
Sessions: \_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_  
Sessions: \_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_  
Sessions: \_\_\_\_

**Complete and Return with Church Reservation Form  
if childcare is needed.  
*Deadline: February 27, 2008***