

Charlotte District E-Pistle

The Spring Seminar: Evangelism, Nurture, Outreach Seminar
Transforming Congregational Culture
With Dr. Ed White
March 3-5, 2005 - Myers Park UMC

Thursday, 9 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. (A Day with the Pastors of the District)

Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Pastors, Large and Middle Sized Church Teams)

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon (Pastors and Small Church Teams)

The schedule and registration packets will be mailed this week to senior pastors.

Dear Colleagues in Christ:

When we completed the Churches by Size Seminars last year and evaluated the impact of our time with Doug Anderson, we announced to the district our plans for a similar experience in 2005. I am, therefore, very excited about our projected seminar for March 3-5. These dates have been communicated to you since last summer, and we can anticipate an annual opportunity to be challenged by a noted consultant who will expand our vision and stimulate our incentive to grow our churches.

I am extremely pleased to announce that our consultant and leader for these three days will be Dr. Ed White, Senior Field Consultant with the Alban Institute. Alban is an ecumenical, interfaith organization founded in 1974. It supports congregations through consulting services, research, book publishing, and education seminars like this one. The theme for the March 2005 seminar is “Transforming Congregational Culture.”

I first learned about Ed White when I asked the Senior Pastor of Myers Park Presbyterian, “Who is the most exciting and effective consultant you have used in strategic planning?” He replied, “Ed White. I would look no further.” Ed was particularly helpful to the congregation of Providence UMC where he guided us toward developing a clear vision statement, provided impetus to new missional initiatives, directed us toward a more spiritual atmosphere in all aspects of our ministry, and gave us reliable means for measuring our progress. Ed lives with his family in the Washington, D.C. area and will be our inspirational guide during these three dynamic days of learning and spiritual formation.

Again this year I want you to recruit a leadership team of 5 persons (7 servant leaders for large churches) who will attend the attached designated sessions.

Clergy participation is not optional. Your leadership is essential for making the seminar a success! I encourage each pastor to start now recruiting

your seminar team. Pick those persons who are servant leaders and can make a difference in our calling “to transform congregational culture.” Team members need not be limited to those who are key elected officials. The general sessions on Thursday and Friday nights are open to all members, so please advertise these events through your newsletter, bulletin, and pulpit announcements.

Next fall we shall link various aspects of our practical learning, that are generated by the presentations of Dr. White, to our Charge Conference celebrations of ministry. The purpose of each of our March seminars will be to strengthen the faithful performance of each local church.

I am grateful for your contribution to this noble endeavor.

Grace and peace,

George

George Thompson
District Superintendent