

Charlotte District E-Pistle
February 17, 2005
The Spring Seminar:
Transforming Congregational Culture
Led by Dr. Ed White
March 3-5, 2005 - Myers Park UMC
A Reminder

All pastors of the Charlotte District shall have received by postal mail a packet concerning this year's spring seminar. I hope that you are finding persons who will enthusiastically attend the sessions, for we shall all benefit from the superb insights provided by Dr. White. A copy of *Transforming Congregational Culture* is awaiting you at the receptionist desk of Myers Park UMC or at the district office. Share this with your team members or order additional ones from the Cokesbury store.

Please return to my office by February 24th the registration form with names of participants and requests for meals or child care. We want this to be a valuable use of time for you and all those whom you recruit.

I am attaching here another copy of the letter of invitation, the schedule, and the registration form for your convenience in case you misplaced the earlier mailing.

The officers of the clergy fellowship for the Charlotte District schedule a rotation of gatherings that offer variety and challenge. The emphasis each September is upon corporate worship with Eucharist. Next fall we shall once again offer another opportunity to participate in a district retreat setting at the Catholic Retreat Center near Hickory. In November we provide a stimulating educational experience. Our holiday celebration banquet is planned for early December. Traditionally we gather for worship and fellowship in January at the Bethlehem Center. The March Seminar will bring annually a well-qualified church consultant to challenge us in ways that equip each participating church to become a mission center of vibrant worship and outreach. Throughout the year we shall be invited to participant in certain Servant Days that introduce us to agencies in our district that are extensions of Christ's compassion for the poor or indigent.

The annual Spring Seminar will be designed to focus upon some aspect of the Conference's priorities, as articulated by Bishop McCleskey and the Cabinet. Our purpose is to become more faithful as a district to our Conference's stated mission: follow Jesus, make disciples, and transform the world. The seminar next month acknowledges the fact that we cannot begin transforming the world until we have radically altered our maintenance church culture and become authentic expressions of the mission of our Lord.

I look forward to our time together as we experience the promptings of Christ's spirit in our midst.

Grace and peace,

George