

Charlotte District E-Pistle

September 16, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

One of the seven visionary priorities of our WNC Annual Conference is to engage in an audaciously large mission undertaking that will have a major, transformational impact. We have chosen to make a substantial contribution toward the development of Africa University. Several rallies will be held throughout the Conference in order to promote this exciting mission. University City UMC will host the Charlotte District Rally on September 27th at 7 p.m.

Please do all you can to promote this event among your leadership, with a special invitation to your finance chair or representative of that committee, your chairperson of the Church Council or a key representative of that body, the UMW President or representative, your UM Men President or rep., and mission/outreach chair or an active member of that group. **Bishop McCleskey has reminded me that the attendance of the pastors at one of these rallies is not an option. Your presence will register the magnitude of importance we are collectively giving to this visionary priority.**

Mark Barden and Dawn Hand, working with Good News TV in Macon, Georgia, have produced an absolutely wonderful video for these rallies. A copy of this video disc will be made available to our district office and readily accessible to your congregation.

Mark, Dawn, and their staffs have also been putting together excellent materials for distribution at University City. There will be a packet for each church, with the church's name on the front to be sure each congregation receives the essential information and promotional material. Our Charlotte District Africa University Initiative Task Force representative will distribute the packets.

The rally will be timed for one hour in length, max. No refreshments will be served. Our time together will be lean and to-the-point.

If you plan to attend a rally in a different district because you have a conflict with this date, make sure that your laity pick up the packets at University City UMC. We will not try to move packets from one district rally to another. Any packets not distributed at the rallies will be delivered by our district representative on the Conference task force; but we do expect every congregation to be represented at the September 27th rally.

If you have any questions about the promotion of Africa University and this important event, do not hesitate to contact my office.

It is indeed exciting to participate in a major mission project that will truly have a lasting impact upon an entire continent through the efforts of a university that will nurture and train Christian disciples. Many of these young adults will become servant leaders

who will represent the dawn of a new, hope-filled future. The Great Commission of our Lord does not require anything less than our uncompromising support of this audacious goal.

Grace and peace,

George