

Charlotte District E-Pistle

Dear Clergy Colleagues:

In your most recent edition of the *Charlotte District E-Connection*, you received a page of information related to welcoming and meeting with Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster in the Charlotte District.

Specifically, what is the task of each pastor in our district in relationship to these events?

1. This Sunday morning, September 21st, remind those who attend each of the worship services at your church that they are all cordially invited to attend a welcoming event at Providence UMC's sanctuary at 3 p.m. This will likely be the first opportunity for most of our laity and clergy to meet Bishop Goodpaster. Let's demonstrate a strong spirit of Charlotte District hospitality by helping to fill the sanctuary at 2810 Providence Road.

2. Place this announcement in your congregation's newsletter, e-group communication, video streamer, pigeon message carriers, bulletins, or other avenues for getting out the word:

You are cordially invited to a time of laity-focused dialogue with our newly appointed WNC Conference Bishop, Larry M. Goodpaster, on Thursday, October 30th, 7 p.m., at Dilworth UMC's Langford Hall (address: 605 East Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203). This session is open of all laity in the district.

I want each pastor not only to circulate this general invitation, but also to recruit a team of 3-4 persons (from small churches), 5-8 (mid-size churches), and 9-12 (large churches) that will attend this event on October 30th.

3. On the following day, Friday, October 31st, 9:30 a.m. to NOON, the clergy will gather at Dilworth's Langford Hall for an opportunity to have dialogue with Bishop Goodpaster. **I certainly expect every full-time clergy under appointment to a congregation to be present.** (Clergy in appointments beyond the local church are invited, but not required, to attend.) If you are **a full-time pastor** and experience circumstances that

prevent your meeting with Bishop Goodpaster on this day, please contact my office by phone or e-mail, giving the reason for your absence.

There is no theological rationale for scheduling this session with the bishop on All-Hallows Eve rather than All Saints Day. May the saints come together early for such a splendid opportunity.

Grace and peace,

George