

The Charlotte District E-Pistle

September 20, 2004

On Sunday, October 10, 4 p.m., a Service of Celebration will be observed at Myers Park UMC as our Western North Carolina Conference installs Lawrence McCleskey as our new bishop. I encourage each church within the Charlotte District to promote attendance at this special event. In his sermon, Bishop McCleskey will outline his vision for the corporate ministries of our Conference. Last week he projected some of his initial thoughts to the Cabinet. His profound vision is indeed consistent with some of the emphases we have undertaken in this district, but he will lead us to a new comprehensive depth. Last fall I encouraged our District Program Council to read and discuss Claude Payne's *Reclaiming the Great Commission*. Our new bishop is committed to implementing in our conference a movement **from maintenance to mission** and **from stagnation to growth**. Bishop McCleskey will challenge us with several audacious missional goals and will suggest just how we shall achieve them. He will challenge us to a new level of connectional cooperation so that we shall truly pursue a Christ-centered vision of the Kingdom of God.

Please publicize this unique opportunity in the various forms of communication in your church this week.

Grace and peace,

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