

Charlotte District E-Pistle

September 26, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

I am sending you a second E-Pistle today in order to address two significant Charlotte District reminders. My first concern is **the Africa University Rally**. Ten days ago I sent a message to you regarding the promotional rally for Africa University. As you recall from a lively and informative session at the 2005 Annual Conference, one of the seven visionary priorities of our Conference is to engage in an audaciously large mission undertaking that will have a transformational impact. We have chosen to make a substantial contribution toward the development of Africa University. The rally tomorrow night at University City UMC, 7 p.m., is exclusively for leaders of the congregations within the Charlotte District.

A few of you have said to me that this is not the most propitious time for promoting this campaign, due to our recent appeal for hurricane disaster relief in the Gulf region. Well, the timing of your church's fund raising efforts on behalf of Africa University will need to be particularized so that we shall anticipate a favorable response. But this rally is for the benefit of your church leaders who will later promote this vital ministry. We shall all want eventually to participate in this opportunity to make a major impact upon the continent of Africa; so, please do all you can to promote this event among your leadership, with a special invitation to your finance chair or representative of the committee, your chairperson of the Church Council chairs or a key representative of that body, the UMW President or representative, your UM Men President, and mission/outreach chair or a representative of that group. Bishop McCleskey has reminded me that the attendance of the pastors is not an option. Your presence will register the magnitude of importance we are collectively giving to this visionary priority.

A second matter of concern that I want to voice in this E-Pistle is **the Charlotte District Clergy Retreat, October 18-19**, at the Catholic Retreat Center near Hickory. Registration for this event has been slow in coming. I am confident that this will be a great time for all those who participate; so, I encourage you to get your information into DeEtta as soon as possible. Large numbers of clergy are not necessary for us to have a qualitative experience; but we do need a *critical mass* in order to make a positive impact upon the fellowship and supportive spirit of the pastors within the district. I have attached a registration form for those who intend to go but have lost a previously sent registration form.

Thanks for hearing me about these two matters that matter. Redundancy is not my preferred style of communication; but, ever since I was appointed to this office, I keep repeating certain messages until there is an outward and visible sign that somebody out there really listened.

Grace and peace,

George