

Charlotte District E-Pistle

September 30, 2009

Starting with our *Charlotte District Connections* dated September 10th, you have received several versions of the promotion for the teaching of “Class Matters”—a class for the laity on Sunday, October 11th and a class for clergy on the following day, October 12th at Hawthorne Lane UMC.

To date we have received an adequate number of reservations to justify conducting the class designed especially for the laity, and I want you to recruit many additional laity from the leadership of your church for this opportunity. Contact my office at Chardistofc@wnccumc.org or 704-525-3395 for posting additional reservations. Since a light meal is involved, we shall need a specific number for our preparation.

Very few clergy have registered for the session on Monday, October 12th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact my office to let me know if you can work this into your schedule on that date. If many of the clergy cannot come at this time, I shall schedule a subsequent training session early in the New Year. I think that the course in “Class Matters” is important enough that every clergy should have this experience. This training is also the prerequisite for participation on a Circles/Hope Team—a unique program of Crisis Assistance Ministries that may be doing more positive things with homeless citizens than any other singular ministry in this city. How can Methodism lead the Christian community in bringing the gospel of hope to the homeless poor if the clergy are not providing servant leadership in this vital program ministry?

Let my office know about your response to this opportunity on October 12th. If this day is already taken in your schedule, what day of the week in the New Year will be preferable for you? I shall work with Paul Hanneman of the Urban Ministry Center so that all our clergy will have an opportunity in the near future to be trained in “Class Matters.” Let’s make sure that we avail ourselves of this opportunity to do something truly significant and transformational in the city of Charlotte and neighboring communities within this district.

Grace and peace,

George