

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2010

HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL?

CHARGE _____ Meeting held at _____

Date _____

_____, DS, Presiding

_____, Pastor

_____, Associate Pastor

_____, Deacon and/or other appointed person

_____, Recording Secretary

Mr. Wesley used to greet members of each Methodist society by asking, "How is it with your soul?" That question wasn't meant to be censorious or judging, but truly intended to be helpful as he followed it with questions and advice about how to grow in grace. For several years we in the North Carolina Annual Conference have been talking about the health of our churches. Many of them have moved to greater health and effectiveness in winning others to Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, but many more have not moved substantially toward that mission and some congregations are suffering from a lack of focus on missional objectives. So this year each charge conference is designed to be a holy conversation about the state of each church. What is being done to help it move forward with The United Methodist Church's stated mission of making disciples of Jesus? What enhances growth? What hinders it? Each charge conference will open with the following questions being asked by the district superintendent. Hopefully each pastor and lay leader will have already led a discussion of the questions in the charge so that there can be awareness that the questions are going to be asked.

These are the same questions being used by The Conference Connectional Table, The Bishop and The Cabinet to talk about our common life and our faithfulness and effectiveness.

- 1. Who is this church? Does the church reflect the community and the local schools? (Racially, economically, age, etc.)*
- 2. How many professions of faith have occurred this year? How many of those were from confirmation classes and how many were by adults?*
- 3. Is the worship attendance increasing?*
- 4. Is per person giving increasing?*

5. *How many people participate in some form of Christian spiritual formation?*
6. *How many persons have participated in some form of mission outreach?*

The intent of the conference is for holy conferencing: an honest self-appraisal and plan to emerge about some preliminary next steps to encourage greater fruitfulness and greater satisfaction in our ministries. The district superintendent may ask these questions in a random order or in their own words but each area will be addressed. Then, following this holy discussion, the administrative business of the conference begins:

A. Report of Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations) Pastor

B. Lay Speakers' Reports DS
(Available from NC Conference online data system.)

Lay Speakers recommended first time _____

Lay Speakers continued _____

C. S/PPRC report on candidates

Candidates recommended first time _____

Candidates continued _____

D. Pastor's Report (In written form as the pastor(s) will have participated in the preceding discussion. If local custom calls for it, the pastor can here read aloud the names of the congregations' saints and offer a prayer of thanks. The written report must include all membership changes.)

E. Mission Giving/Appportionments DS

2011 World Service and Connectional Ministry _____

2011 Past Service Liability _____

2011 Episcopal Fund _____

2011 Africa University _____

2011 Black College Fund _____

2011 Interdenominational Cooperation _____

G. Pastor(s)' salary recommendations

S/PPRC Chair

Pastor's Salary _____
Pastor's Utilities _____ Paid by Church
Pastor's Travel _____ Paid by Voucher _____ Yes _____ No
Housing Allowance _____ (if no parsonage)
Pension _____
Health and Life Insurance _____

Associate Pastor's Salary _____
Associate Pastor's Utilities _____
Associate Pastor's Travel _____ Paid by Voucher _____ Yes _____ No
Housing Allowance _____ (if no parsonage)
Pension _____
Health and Life Insurance _____

Deacon's Salary _____
Deacon's Utilities _____
Deacon's Travel _____ Paid by Voucher _____ Yes _____ No
Housing Allowance _____ (if no parsonage)
Pension _____
Health and Life Insurance _____

Assistant Pastor's Salary _____
Assistant Pastor's Utilities _____
Assistant Pastor's Travel _____ Paid by Voucher _____ Yes _____ No
Housing Allowance _____ (if no parsonage)
Pension _____
Health and Life Insurance _____

District Work Fund _____

H. Other Business

Closing Prayer & Adjournment

DS

_____, DS _____, Rec. Secretary

_____, Date _____, Date