

# The LaGrange Link

A monthly publication of  
The LaGrange District of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Susan Landry  
District Superintendent

May 2018

---

As we step into May, 2018, our Bishops are gathering in Chicago to discuss the path for the Way Forward. Our own Bishop, Sue Hauptert-Johnson, has invited us to pray with and for them.

We know that this gathering of committed and wise leaders will be full of prayer, and thereby we can be assured that God will be present and speaking. Let us pray that our leaders have ears to hear God's still, small voice, and that they share hearts of love and courage.

Indeed, may the whole of the United Methodist Church receive these great and godly gifts. And above all, my friends, may God's grace be reflected in our own Christian walk—today and always.

Yours in Christ,  
Susan



*The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. Learn more [about the Commission](#), catch the [latest news](#) and review [moderator updates](#). Contact us at [wayforward@umcom.org](mailto:wayforward@umcom.org).*



May 3, 2018



## 2018 Annual Conference

June 12-14, 2018

Athens, GA

**Registration** – Online registration is now open for all delegates, both clergy and lay. All delegates (except retirees and youth) should be prepared to pay the \$30 registration fee. Go to the conference website, [www.ngumc.org](http://www.ngumc.org) and click on “Registrations” at the top of the page, then find, “Annual Conference”.

**Pre-Conference Briefing** – Delegates will receive handbooks and other important information at this meeting being held on Sunday, June 3 at 3pm at the Korean Church of Newnan, 1237 Lora Smith Road, just off Highway 34. In addition to annual conference information, this will also be a Laity Celebration (see details in another article in this newsletter or on the district website.)

**Special Offering** - Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has named the Ministerial Education Fund as the 2018 Annual Conference Special Offering. Your giving makes it possible for leaders who’ve been called and gifted by God to faithfully serve The United Methodist Church. The Ministerial Education Fund has helped thousands of men and women become pastoral leaders in The United Methodist Church. Chances are seminary students from your congregation or the pastor of your church was a recipient of MEF. It is nurtured and funded by United Methodists to provide scholarships to seminary and undergraduate students, course-of-study for local pastors, and license to preach school. Churches are invited to collect the offering any time before Annual Conference 2018, but many choose the first Sunday in June. One person per church will present a check during the Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, June 13, at 2 p.m. or the Ordination Service on Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m.

**Mission Donations** – Churches are being asked to bring UMCOR Hygiene Kits to Annual Conference. There are very specific instructions on how to put together these kits. They can be found at [www.UMCOR.org](http://www.UMCOR.org) or from the district office. Kits will be collected Monday afternoon and Tuesday until 1:30.

For more information about Annual Conference, please go to [www.ngumc.org/AC2018](http://www.ngumc.org/AC2018).

**District Church Development Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 10**

Churches needing to appear before this committee must notify the District Office by Friday, May 4. Approval is required for purchase or sale of property, all new construction or major renovation/remodel.

**Pre-Conference Briefing/Laity Celebration**

Sunday, June 3 is the date for the District Pre-Conference Briefing where Annual Conference delegates will receive handbooks and information regarding the upcoming conference. This year we will also be adding some special recognitions at this meeting. All persons who have been approved as Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers for 2018 will be recognized and receive a certificate. In addition, all churches that paid 100% of their 2017 Conference Apportionments will be recognized as well as those who have been serving and will be serving on the various district committees and boards. All laity are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting that will be held at 3pm at the Korean Church of Newnan, located at 1237 Lora Smith Road, just off Highway 34. Please plan to join us for this exciting event!

*Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering*

*Sunday, May 13*

For more information, contact Kelly Harris at

Kelly.harris@wesleywoods.org



The **United Methodist Connectional Credit Union** will be happy to meet everyone attending the North Georgia Annual Conference in June at the display tables in the Foundry building. We want to say hi to our current members and bring awareness those not yet familiar with the UMC FCU's connection with the United Methodist Church. Be sure to stop by and meet our courteous staff. Please visit us online [www.umcfcu.com](http://www.umcfcu.com)

## **Local Pastor's Course of Study Program**

Congratulations to Revs. Debbie Linnell, Carl Von Epps and Michael Jackson who recently completed their Course of Study program! Many of the local pastors in the LaGrange District are participating in this program at Emory or through the Alabama Conference. For information on the COS program, contact the District Office. Below are some photos from the recent Spring classes.



Michael Jackson, Debbie Linnell, BJ Bowers, and Carl Von Epps



Bob Tobias, BJ Bowers, Debbie Linnell

### **Part Time Moving Pastor Meeting**

Thursday, May 31, 7pm at  
Trinity on the Hill UMC (101 N. Davis Rd, LaGrange)

PPR Chairs and Finance Chairs/Treasurers of churches with moves are also invited to attend this meeting.

Part Time moves will be announced on Sunday, May 13

## **Clergy Family Day with Bishop Sue**

Clergy families in the North Georgia Conference with children ages infant to seniors in High School are invited to spend time together with other clergy families and Bishop Sue. This is a day to forge relationships and friendships that can be cultivated and counted on throughout the years, through school moves, and new appointments, through thick and thin! More information on the conference website.

### **WHEN**

Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 9:15 AM – 4:30 PM

### **WHERE**

Glisson Camp and Retreat Center

### **COST**

The cost for the day is \$35 per family

# Educational Opportunities



## **ACE2: Academy of Clergy Excellence Training**

The Academy of Clergy Excellence is a new alternate continuing education initiative designed exclusively for North Georgia UMC clergy. ACE2 is sponsored by the Office of Ministerial Services. Through ACE2, clergy commit to a two-year self-selected peer learning group. Each group will design a custom continuing education plan wherein groups will share best practices, gain new tools and explore adaptive adventures for making new disciples. Groups must consist of any combination of 6-8 clergy in the following categories: full connection elders, full connection deacons, extension ministers and full-time local pastors who have completed course of study. This new approach to continuing education in North Georgia Conference is centered around clergy bonding together, learning together and dreaming together in order to refresh self, church and the communities we serve. Applications for ACE2 will begin this summer 2018. The inaugural class of ACE2 will begin in the fall.

### **Want to learn more about ACE2?**

Come to an informational meeting in May.

### **Information Sessions about ACE2**

- May 7- Madison First UMC
- May 8- Sam Jones UMC
- May 9- Andrews Chapel UMC
- May 10- Buford First UMC

\$10 registration includes lunch

## **Leadership UMC**

LUMC, a program of the North Georgia Conference Board of Laity, is recognized throughout the country as a premier program for equipping laity to serve in partnership with clergy for mission and ministry within the community and around the globe. LUMC is unique in its design to offer Methodist laity an experience that mentors graduates for a life-long journey "in the connection." LUMC begins its 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of successful training on November 9-10, 2018. We are looking for 4 laity from the LaGrange District to participate in this year's program. The district will pay a portion of your cost, your church is responsible for a portion and participants pay a portion. Applications should be submitted to the district office by September 16. For more information or to get an application, contact the district office or visit the district website.

## Young Clergy Academy Offers Internship for Young Adults Exploring a Call to Ordained Ministry



Young adults (age 18-28) exploring a call to ordained ministry have a unique opportunity ahead. The Young Clergy Academy offers a 9-month paid internship whereby participants are immersed in a vocational setting with intentional opportunities to deeply discern their call to clergy as a vocation with their specifically assigned mentor.

Interns will serve in a variety of ministry areas within their assigned host church. Interns are expected to serve 25 hours per week for nine months and will receive \$9,000 over a nine-month period. Every effort will be made to place interns in host churches in their local area; however, housing will be provided by host churches if needed. Applicants must be members of a South or North Georgia United Methodist Church or a Wesley Foundation.

The application deadline is June 1, 2018. Internships will begin August 1, 2018.

The Young Clergy Academy is sponsored by the UM Commission, the campus ministry division of the North and South Georgia Conferences. Learn more about this internship at <http://www.umcommission.org/yca/>

### Would your church like to serve as a host church for a Young Clergy Academy Intern?

Interns will serve 25 hours a week for nine months (August 1, 2018-April 30, 2019). Host churches must have a committed clergy mentor to guide the intern in learning about the various ministry areas involved in ordained ministry. Mentors are expected to attend an orientation retreat August 2-3. Churches are expected to pay \$2,500 to the Young Clergy Academy, plus provide housing to interns if needed. If you would like to find out more about how to become a host church for the Young Clergy Academy, contact Rev. Jonathan Smith to find out more.

## Georgia Pastors' School, July 16-29, 2018

The wonderful staff from the General Board of Global Ministries will be leading us in ways to engage our communities in mission. Join other North and South Georgia clergy at Epworth by the Sea for a time of learning, worship, fellowship, and rest! Deadline for early registration is June 30, 2018. For more information, visit [Georgiapastorsschool.org](http://Georgiapastorsschool.org).



# District Calendar

**May 10** – District Strategic Growth Meeting, Peachtree City UMC, 10am

**May 10** – District Finance Committee Meeting, District Office, 5:30pm

**May 10** – District Church Development Committee Meeting, District Office, 6:30pm

**May 15** – Cabinet Meeting

**May 17** – District Fulltime Moving Pastor meeting, District Office, 11:30am

**May 17** – Youth Worker Lunch Gathering, Newnan Taco Mac, 12 noon

**May 31** – Part time moving pastor meeting, Trinity on the Hill UMC, 7pm

**June 3** – Pre-Conference Briefing/Laity Celebration, Korean Church of Newnan, 3:00pm

**June 12-14** – Annual Conference, Athens



Happy Birthday to the following pastors celebrating birthdays in May:

2 - Brandon Fletcher	20 – Tommy Ross
16 – Brenda Rhodes	25 – Dexter Grier
18 – Richard Gilbert	28 – Michael Jackson
20 – Yolanda Jones-Colton	

Please visit our district website at [www.ngumc.org/lagr](http://www.ngumc.org/lagr) where you will find even more information about district and conference activities. And "Like" us on Facebook! (The LaGrange District)

You are welcome to post videos or information about events at your church on our Facebook page.