

TO: Persons serving or who have served as pastors who are Clergy from other Conferences or Denominations; Retired Local Pastors; Lay Supply Pastors

**A WORD OF CLARIFICATION ABOUT YOUR ROLE
AT THE 2007 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVENT**

First, let me thank you for your faithful service to our Florida Conference churches. I appreciate your commitment to Christ and your willingness to serve his people! Your position, however, does not entitle you, under the United Methodist Book of Discipline, to serve as voting members of the Florida Conference. The following paragraphs will help to clarify this.

CLERGY SESSION (Wednesday at 9 a.m.): You are not voting members of the closed clergy session. However, it is Bishop Whitaker's intention to ask the session to admit you as honored guests. We ask that you gather in the lobby of Youkey Theater and wait to be welcomed by the clergy of the Conference. It will be helpful if you have your **GREEN** name badge with you.

CLERGY FROM OTHER CONFERENCES OR DENOMINATIONS: Since you are related to another conference or denomination, you are not eligible to vote in the clergy or plenary sessions. Your attendance at the Conference Event is much appreciated, because you are a vital link between the Florida Conference and your local church.

RETIRED LOCAL PASTORS: You are neither a voting member of the clergy session nor a voting member of the plenary session. Your attendance at Conference is much appreciated because you have been a vital link between the Florida Conference and the local church(es) you have served.

LAY SUPPLY PASTORS: You are not a voting member of the clergy session. You are not a voting member of the plenary session unless you are representing your local church as a lay member or serving as a district-at-large lay member. The eligibility of lay supply pastors to serve as lay members is variously interpreted. Some district leaders emphasize your LAY status and feel it is especially appropriate for lay pastors to serve as lay members. Others emphasize your PASTORAL role and feel it is inappropriate for pastors (of any type) to serve as lay members.

GREEN and YELLOW NAME BADGES: Most of you will receive green name badges, which will identify you as non-voting guests of the Conference. Some lay supply pastors who are serving as lay members will receive yellow name badges, which will identify you as voting lay members in the plenary session. If you receive both colors, you are on both lists. **Bring both colors with you to Conference.** Your green name badge will get you into the clergy session; the yellow badge allows you to vote in the plenary sessions.

Whether voting or not voting, your attendance is important to us and to your local church. You are a vital link between the Florida Conference and the local church. Your involvement in the life, worship, and vision of the Conference is crucial.

Grace and peace,
Charles E. Weaver
Assistant to the Bishop
Your colleague in Christ