

## Conference Highlights to Note

**Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath**, Dean of the Duke University Divinity School, is speaking Friday morning. Her scholarly work integrates systematic, pastoral, and spiritual theology in ways that bridge the gap between academy, church, and world. She is also the co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, which provides opportunities for clergy and laity to learn how to live in intentional communities and how to develop missional communities and social enterprise in diverse social contexts.

**Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Watson** is Assistant Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at the Candler School of Theology. His research interests focus on Christian formation and discipleship from a Wesleyan perspective, particularly communal formation, Wesleyan/Methodist Christianity, the history of early Methodism, American Methodism, common misunderstandings of the Wesleyan tradition, and current events in The United Methodist Church. He is speaking Friday afternoon.

**Bishop Ricardo Pereira** of the Cuba Methodist Church will preach a “revival” message Friday evening. During his faith journey he served as President of the National Youth and the National Methodist Men. He chaired the Evangelism Area for the Conference. He was elected as a Bishop in March of 1999. At present he is the senior pastor of the Methodist Church in Marianao, Havana, the largest church in the Conference, with more than 3200 members.

### Bishop Carter’s Offering

The offerings celebrate our partnerships with our neighbors in Cuba and Haiti. One-half of the offering will be directed to each initiative.

**Cuban Pastor Pension Initiative**—In collaboration with the leadership of the Methodist Church of Cuba, we will develop a pension fund for Cuban pastors based on their years of service there and related to their economic scale. The UMC’s General Board of Pension and Health Benefits will help us design and administer the plan. A matching gift of \$50,000 is already in place!

**Abundant Health for Haiti**—One of the four areas of focus for The UMC in 2016-2020 is the development of Abundant Health Initiatives across our planet. Meds and Food for Kids ([mfkhaiti.org](http://mfkhaiti.org)) fights malnutrition in Haiti, treating children with life-saving medika mamba (medical peanut butter). A gift to [mfkhaiti.org](http://mfkhaiti.org) feeds desperately hungry children. This will be developed through our Haiti Partnership. More details: [www.flumc.org/ac2017](http://www.flumc.org/ac2017).

Florida United Methodist Conference  
450 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33815



2017 Florida Annual Conference  
Buena Vista Palace Hotel,  
Orlando, Florida



2017 Florida Annual Conference  
Buena Vista Palace Hotel  
Orlando, Florida

## Greetings, 2017 Annual Conference Members!

The 175th session of the Florida Annual Conference will be held at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando on June 8-10, 2017. The enclosed information previews planned activities and highlights.

—Registration opens Wednesday, June 7, at 3 p.m.  
---The Expo opens at 7:30 a.m., Thursday, June 8.  
—Pre-conference workshops will be held on Wednesday afternoon, June 7, at St. Luke’s UMC in Orlando.

The clergy and laity sessions begin Thursday, June 8, at 10 a.m., with the opening session at 1:30 p.m.

On Friday, June 9, there will be a special evening “revival” with Bishop Ricardo Pereira of the Cuba Methodist Church preaching.

# 2017 Florida Annual Conference Agenda

## *Revive Us, Again*

Kenneth H. Carter Jr., Presiding Bishop  
Beth Gardner, Conference Secretary  
Alex Shanks and Sharon Austin, Event Coordinators  
Rob Clifton, Event Coordinator (Consultant)  
Sarah Miller, Worship Coordinator  
Alex Shanks, Agenda

### Wednesday, June 7, 2017

1:30 pm Pre-Conference Workshops, St. Luke's UMC  
3:00 pm Registration open, Citron Registration Booth; Youth Orientation, Meyer  
6:30 pm Children at Risk: A Mission of Bridge Building, Dr. Tammy Pawloski, St. Luke's UMC  
8:00 pm Reception sponsored by Florida UM Foundation, St. Luke's UMC

### Thursday, June 8, 2017

6:30 am 5K Race/Walk  
7:30 am Prayer Garden Opens with Communion, Areca; Expo Opens, Palm Event Center  
8:00 am Laity Registration Opens, Citron Registration Booth  
8:30 am Clergy Registration Opens, St. Luke's UMC  
10:00 am Clergy Session, St. Luke's UMC; Laity Orientation, Citron Ballroom, Buena Vista Palace  
12:00 pm Clergy Registration Opens, Citron Registration Booth  
1:30 pm Opening Plenary Session with Worship, Sabal Ballroom, Buena Vista Palace  
5:00 pm Dinner Break  
7:30 pm Worship Service with Communion, Bishop Ken Carter

### Friday, June 9, 2017

7:30 am Prayer Garden Opens with Communion, Areca; Expo Opens, Palm Event Center  
8:00 am Registration Opens, Citron Registration  
8:30 am Plenary Session, Sabal Ballroom  
Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath, Dean of the Divinity School, Duke University  
10:30 am Memorial Service  
11:30 am Lunch Break  
Memorial Luncheon, Citron Ballroom  
Retiree Luncheon, Citron Ballroom  
1:30 pm Plenary Session with Anniversary Celebrations, Sabal Ballroom  
Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Watson, Assistant Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies,  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University  
4:00 pm Retirement Service  
5:00 pm Dinner Break  
7:00 pm Plenary Session and "Revive Us, Again" Worship and Music with  
Bishop Ricardo Pereira, Cuba Methodist Church

### Saturday, June 10, 2017

7:30 am Expo Opens, Palm Event Center  
8:30 am Plenary Session, Sabal Ballroom  
10:30 am Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination and Fixing of Appointments,  
Sabal Ballroom

## Children at Risk:

### A Mission of Bridge Building

Wednesday evening we welcome Dr. Tammy Pawloski, who is the Director of the Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty at Francis Marion University. Pawloski understands the challenges and opportunities of teaching and has devoted the last ten years to the study of children of poverty—why they struggle and which strategies have the greatest impact.

### Hotel and Disney Information

#### Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa

1900 Buena Vista Drive  
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830  
Central Reservation Line: 1-855-757-4984  
Visit [www.flumc.org/ac2017](http://www.flumc.org/ac2017) for a custom reservation web page.

**Specialty Priced Disney Tickets:** AC 2017 has a custom Disney Microsite that enables our attendees, as well as friends and family members traveling with them, to purchase specially priced tickets. Visit [www.flumc.org/ac2017](http://www.flumc.org/ac2017).

### Third Annual 5K Run

The third Annual Conference **5K run/walk** will be held on Thursday morning, June 8. Check back soon at [www.flumc.org/ac2017](http://www.flumc.org/ac2017) for more details and registration.

### Volunteers Are Needed!

Volunteer opportunities include Greeters, Guest Services, Expo, Registration, Ushers and more. Starting May 1, go to [www.flumc.org/ac2017](http://www.flumc.org/ac2017) to sign up to help!

### Youth Housing and Schedule Information

Youth are encouraged to participate and experience Annual Conference. Housing will be at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel, and \$120 will cover housing (double occupancy) and two meals. Orientation will be at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, and youth should check in to the hotel before orientation. More detailed information will be posted on [www.flumc.org/ac2017](http://www.flumc.org/ac2017) as it becomes available.

### Childcare Information

Childcare will be available and information will be provided soon. When details become available, they will be posted on [www.flumc.org/ac2017](http://www.flumc.org/ac2017).

### Group Meal Information

Many groups are hosting breakfast, lunch and dinner events. To see scheduled meals, visit the website, email questions to [AC-Questions@flumc.org](mailto:AC-Questions@flumc.org) or call (800) 282-8011 ext.132.