

**2018 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS – [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

**First United Methodist Church**

**72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland, FL 33801**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER 5/28/2018**

<p><b>SESSION 1</b> 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. <a href="#">Click here to register</a></p>	<p><b>The ZOE Project:</b> Mission Training and Volunteer Coordinator, Molly McEntire; ZOE Ministries Chief Executive Officer, Gaston Warner; Board Member of ZOE Ministries, Ann Eppinger-Davidson <b>Stewardship and Faith:</b> Author, Historian and Theologian, Rev. Dr. Justo Gonzalez <b>Lay Members for the Now in Church:</b> Conference Lay Leader, Paulette Monroe <b>First Time Local Pastor Session:</b> Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, Rev. Will Clark</p>
<p><b>SESSION 2</b> 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. <a href="#">Click here to register</a></p>	<p><b>The ZOE Project:</b> Mission Training and Volunteer Coordinator, Molly McEntire; ZOE Ministries Chief Executive Officer, Gaston Warner; Board Member of ZOE Ministries, Ann Eppinger-Davidson <b>Stewardship and Faith:</b> Author, Historian and Theologian, Rev. Dr. Justo Gonzalez – <i>Presented in Spanish</i> <b>Lay Members for the Now in Church:</b> Conference Lay Leader, Paulette Monroe <b>Licensed Local Pastor Information Session:</b> Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, Rev. Will Clark</p>
<p><b>FULL SESSION</b> 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. <a href="#">Click here to register</a> Break times may vary</p>	<p><b>Our Kids Training:</b> Executive Director of Missions, St. Luke’s UMC, Orlando: Lynette Fields; Senior Pastor, Trinity UMC, Sarasota: Lisa Degrenia; Associate Pastor, First UMC Kissimmee: José Nieves; Member St. Andrew UMC, Titusville: Rachel Sumner <b>What if Disaster Response is a Way to Transform the World for Jesus Christ:</b> Disaster Response Coordinator, Pam Garrison; Recovery Coordinator, Laura Ice <b>Fresh Expressions / Vitality:</b> Members of the Florida Annual Conference Fresh Expressions Steering Committee <b>Justice Conversations:</b> <b>Hearing the Female Story</b> 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.: Lead Pastor, St. Luke’s UMC, Orlando: Rev. Jenn Stiles-Williams <b>It’s Our Duty (Racial Reconciliation)</b> 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Senior Pastor, Wellspring (UM) Church, Ferguson, Missouri: Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson <b>Board of Ordained Ministry Preparation:</b> Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, Rev. Brett Opalinski; Chairs of Theology, Leadership, Proclamation and Personal Growth, Rev. Steve Price; Rev. Debbie McLeod, Rev. Jeremy Rebman and Rev. Sidney Tompkins, respectively; Director of Clergy Excellence, Rev. Sara McKinley</p>

To register for a pre-conference workshop, [click here](#).

**Course Descriptions for Pre-Conference Workshops**  
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**Board of Ordained Ministry Preparation:** Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, Rev. Brett Opalinski; Chairs of Theology, Leadership, Proclamation and Personal Growth, Rev. Steve Price; Rev. Debbie McLeod, Rev. Jeremy Rebman and Rev. Sidney Tompkins, respectively; Director of Clergy Excellence, Rev. Sara McKinley

**Course Description:** The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) Prep workshop is designed to make you familiar with the process and content of Board paperwork and interviews. It is an opportunity for you to hear from BOOM leaders on the specific areas of the application (Theology, Proclamation, Personal Growth, and Leadership) and how the process will work when you come for an interview. We will discuss tips for preparation and answer questions that you may have regarding the process. As an interested applicant, Provisional or Full Connection, you will leave feeling more confident in writing your application responses and be better prepared for your Board interviews.

**The ZOE Project:** Mission Training and Volunteer Coordinator, Molly McEntire; ZOE Ministries Chief Executive Officer, Gaston Warner; Board Member of ZOE Ministries, Ann Eppinger-Davidson

**Course Description:** How do you design a mission with sustainable results? A ministry that empowers recipients to move beyond charity? Is it possible to have strong fiscal controls while working with international partners? Gaston Warner and Molly McEntire outline ZOE's ([www.WeAreZOE.org](http://www.WeAreZOE.org)) journey in working with some of the most vulnerable children in the world. ZOE moved from a relief model controlled by the U.S. staff, to coming behind an indigenous model for mission in ways that is yielding healthy, sustainable, fiscally sound results with measurable results in partnership with local communities and non-profits. This session presents one robust model of sustainable empowerment ministry, with the hope of seeding ideas applicable for people wanting to move missions in non-emergency situations toward empowerment.

**Stewardship and Faith:** Author, Historian and Theologian, Rev. Dr. Justo Gonzalez

**Course Description:** The Florida United Methodist Foundation is honored to present "Stewardship and Faith," led by the Rev. Dr. Justo Gonzalez. One of his books, "Faith and Wealth: A History of Early Christian Ideas on the Origin, Significance and Use of Money," is a highly renowned study on the theology of money and stewardship. Individuals who attend his workshop will have the opportunity to hear and learn from one of the great modern theologians about the importance of stewardship as a spiritual discipline and its impact on the ministry of the church. *Note: the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop will be presented in Spanish.*

**Bio:** Rev. Dr. Justo Gonzalez, a Cuban-American church historian and Methodist theologian who has written prolifically about the development of Latin American theology.

**Lay Members for the Now in Church:** Conference Lay Leader, Paulette Monroe.

**Course Description:** God calls all Christians to faithful discipleship. God blesses you with gifts, skills and experience. You are a blessing when you allow God to work through you to make disciples and transform the world. You are connected, come “. . . *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth that so easily beset us . . .*” (*Hebrews 12:1*), come and hear a fresh call to evaluate how God has wired you for a life of ministry right where you are.

**Bio:** Paulette Monroe has been in leadership within her local church as well as on the Conference and Jurisdictional levels. She has held leadership positions in the organization of United Methodist Women. She currently serves as Lay Leader of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

**Our Kids Training:** Executive Director of Missions, St. Luke’s UMC, Orlando: Lynette Fields; Senior Pastor, Trinity UMC, Sarasota: Lisa Degrenia; Associate Pastor, First UMC Kissimmee: José Nieves; Member St. Andrew UMC, Titusville: Rachel Sumner

**Course Description:** You are invited to this hands on training event to help churches consider developing a relationship with a nearby school and congregations that want to enhance their ministry with a school by learning best practices, creative suggestions and practical programmatic ideas.

At the event your team will:

Hear testimonies from small, medium, and large churches who have pioneered school-church relationships.

Attend break-out sessions on simple, practical and effective ideas to implement. Other break-out sessions will be offered in the areas of :

Relief (e.g. nutrition, books, supplies, supporting teachers);  
Betterment (e.g. mentoring, volunteers, reading programs);  
and  
Development (e.g. education policy, collaborating with community partners).

After the event your team will:

Participate in post training follow up peer support calls.  
Work your action plan, making adjustments as needed.

**What if Disaster Response is a Way to Transform the World for Jesus Christ:**

Disaster Response Coordinator, Pam Garrison; Recovery Coordinator, Laura Ice

**Course Description:** Hurricane Irma was the most destructive hurricane ever to make landfall in Florida. Irma broke all records with 2.6 million families registering for FEMA assistance, 48 counties declared and nearly 40% of our churches experiencing some kind of damage. Irma is the first time in history that a Category 4 storm made landfall twice on the continental US in one year – and in one state! It’s going to take the Florida Conference millions of dollars in grants and donations, thousands of volunteers and a minimum of 3-5 years to help our

churches and communities recover. A daunting task or a challenging opportunity? Come learn more about what we're doing and why we need you - wherever you are, whatever you can do, wherever God leads.

**Fresh Expressions / Vitality:** Members of the Florida Annual Conference's Fresh Expressions Steering Committee

**Course Description:** If you're leading a fresh expression; if you'd like to lead a fresh expression; if you've thought about an idea for a fresh expression; if you're just curious about fresh expressions this work shop is for you! Moderated by members of the Florida Annual Conference's Fresh Expression Steering Committee this workshop will be an open conversation where Fresh Expression practitioners will discuss and share their experiences and best practices. If you've ever had questions about how Fresh Expressions like Kayaking with Jeff, Tattoo Parlor Church, Pints and Parables, Yoga Chapel and Dinner Church actually work at "street level," come join us. Bring your best ideas and most vexing questions.

**Justice Conversations:** Lead Pastor, St. Luke's UMC, Orlando: Rev. Jenn Stiles-Williams; Senior Pastor, Wellspring (UM) Church, Ferguson, Missouri: Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson

**Course Description: Hearing the Female Story;** in our culture today, there is a movement of women who are finding their voices and sharing their stories. It has captured the headlines and women have begun to feel empowered, even in sharing experiences of pain. Too often in history, the church has been a source of pain and a silencer of women. How can the Church today be present and intentional in affirming the female story and being a place of safety and healing? Men and women are invited to come and listen, participate and consider new ideas for the context of ministry to value the voice and stories of women.

**Bio:** *Rev. Jennifer Stiles Williams* will facilitate this conversation. She is celebrating 20 years of pastoral ministry and has served in local church ministry for 25 years. She has served various size churches around our conference and is currently serving as Lead Pastor at St. Luke's UMC, Orlando. She is a graduate of Wesleyan College, the first college to confer a degree to a woman in 1836. She serves this United Methodist College as a member of the Board of Trustees working to support Student Affairs.

**Course Description: It's Our Duty (Racial Reconciliation);** Leading Across Fault Lines is an interactive instructional experience designed to inform, inspire and empower faith practitioners across varied contexts and experiences towards engaging in constructive faith-rooted response(s) to racial and social injustice(s). *Dr. Johnson will also serve as the keynote speaker at the Beloved Community dinner on Thursday, 6/7 at 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland. For banquet registration, visit [www.flumc.org/ac](http://www.flumc.org/ac)*

**Bio:** *Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson* is respected for his leadership and strategies around social and racial justice issues. A revered scholar-practitioner, Johnson

authored *Holding Up Your Corner: Talking About Race in Your Community*, and is a sought after thought-leader who empowers individuals and communities towards prophetic response-healing, justice and reconciliation. With more than 15 years of professional ministry experience in Indiana, North Carolina, and Missouri, Johnson's skills extend far beyond the pulpit. Trained in education and nonprofit management, he has served in volunteer and paid leadership positions for multiple nonprofit organizations. He counsels Bishops, General Board agencies, annual conferences, and local churches across the country.

**First Time Local Pastor Session:** Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, Rev. Will Clark

**Course Description:** This workshop is designated for Local Pastors who are serving for the first time with an opportunity for you to hear about our proposed Local Pastor Residents in Ministry/Mentoring program and to share your feedback. We will share information helpful as new pastors navigate first year under appointment in the local church.

**Licensed Local Pastor Information Session:** Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, Rev. Will Clark

**Course Description:** This workshop is designed to familiarize all Local Pastors with the Course of Study requirements and the financial aid options. This is an opportunity for you to hear about our proposed Local Pastor Residents in Ministry/Mentoring program and to share your feedback. It is also an opportunity for Local Pastors to ask questions, share ideas and strengthen our Connection.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS 5/28/2018**

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