Conference Highlights to Note

Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson was assigned as Episcopal Leader of the North Georgia Conference in 2016. She served several large churches in the Florida Conference and was the North Central District Superintendent of the Florida Conference from 2013-2016. She was the Florida Conference's clergy delegation leader for GC 2016. She will preach at the communion service.

Dr. Paul W. Chilcote is Professor of Theology at the Dunnam Campus of Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. He has been involved in theological education on three Continents and helped launch two new institutions: Africa University (Zimbabwe) and Asbury Theological Seminary (Florida). More recently he served as Academic Dean and Professor of Historical Theology & Wesleyan Studies at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. He will speak Friday morning.

Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer was assigned as Episcopal Leader of the Ohio West Area of The United Methodist Church on September 1, 2012. Palmer was ordained an elder in full connection in the East Ohio Conference in 1981. Bishop Palmer served as president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from 2004 to 2008 and president of the Council of Bishops from April 2008 to May 2010. He will speak Friday evening.

Bishop Carter’s Offering
The Bishop’s Offering for Annual Conference 2018 will be divided evenly between ZOE Ministries and funding for training laity and clergy in missional, innovative forms of evangelism.

About ZOE Ministries
According to global research, 385 million children are living in extreme poverty throughout the world. The debilitating results are disease, hunger, exploitation, abuse, illiteracy, and hopelessness. However, ZOE’s approach has proven that children living in poverty also hold the greatest capacity to create lasting solutions for themselves, their families, and their communities.

By investing in local, indigenous leaders in seven countries on three continents, ZOE’s distinctive, holistic international development model provides the vital relationships, training, and resources to empower young participants to overcome the isolation and stigmatization associated with extreme poverty.

Greetings,
2018 Annual Conference Members!
The 176th session of the Florida Annual Conference will be held at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida, on June 7-9. The enclosed information previews planned activities and highlights.

—Registration opens Wednesday, June 6, at 9 a.m. in the Honeyman Pavilion.
—A ‘Love Feast’ will celebrate highlights from our history Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception. Both will be held at First UMC Lakeland.
—The Expo opens Thursday, June 7, at Florida Southern.
—Pre-conference workshops will be held on Wednesday afternoon, June 6, at First UMC Lakeland.

The clergy and laity sessions begin Thursday, June 8, at 10 a.m., with the opening plenary session at 1:30 p.m. in Branscomb Auditorium.
2018 Florida Annual Conference Agenda

*Remembering Who We Are*

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

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

9:00 am  
Registration open, Honeyman Pavilion

1:30 pm  
Youth Delegate Orientation, Reynolds Hall  
Session 1: Pre-Conference Workshops, First UMC Lakeland

3:15 pm  
Session 2: Pre-Conference Workshops, First UMC Lakeland

7:00 pm  
Love Feast and Florida Conference Stories, First UMC Lakeland

**Thursday, June 7, 2018**

7:30 am  
Clergywomen Breakfast, First UMC

7:30 am  
Expo opens, Music Building 208 & 210; Morning Communion, B201; Prayer Garden opens, B203; Spiritual Direction, B204

8:00 am  
Laisy Registration opens, Honeyman Pavilion; Clergy Registration opens, First UMC

10:00 am  
Clergy Session meets, First UMC; Laisy Orientation meets, Branscomb Auditorium

12:00 pm  
Clergy Registration re-opens, Honeyman Pavilion

1:30 pm  
Opening Plenary Session with Worship, Branscomb Auditorium

**Friday, June 8, 2018**

6:30 am  
5K Run/Walk, Lake Hollingsworth

7:30 am  
Expo opens, Music Building 208 & 210; Morning Communion, B201; Prayer Garden opens, B203; Spiritual Direction, B204

8:00 am  
Registration opens, Honeyman Pavilion

8:30 am  
Morning Plenary Session, Branscomb Auditorium  
Dr. Paul Chilcote, Professor, Asbury Theological Seminary, Orlando — Special Speaker

10:30 am  
Memorial Service  
Rev. Dr. Geraldine Williams McClellan — Special Speaker

11:30 am  
Lunch Break  
Memorial Luncheon, Eleanor Searle Drawing Room  
Retiree Luncheon, Lucius Pond Ordway Building

1:30 pm  
Anniversary Celebrations  
Plenary Session, Branscomb Auditorium  
Retirement Service

3:00 pm  
Way Forward Discussion

5:00 pm  
Dinner Break

7:00 pm  
Evening Plenary Session  
Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, West Ohio Conference – Special Speaker

**Saturday, June 9, 2018**

7:30 am  
Expo opens, Music Building 208 & 210

8:30 am  
Plenary Session, Branscomb Auditorium

10:30 am  
Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination and Fixing of Appointments

12:30 pm  
Conference concludes

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**Hotel Information**

We have contracts with several area hotels for discounted rates during Annual Conference. Discounted room blocks can sell out quickly, so reserve now. *Note: All are responsible for booking and room expenditures.* Visit [www.flumc.org/ac](http://www.flumc.org/ac) for the hotel list and contact information.

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**Florida Southern Housing**

The Chaplain’s Office at Florida Southern College will coordinate campus housing. Visit [www.flumc.org/ac](http://www.flumc.org/ac) for more information and to make reservations. Complimentary housing is available for retired Clergy of the Florida Conference receiving pension and for pastors applying for provisional membership.

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**Fifth Annual 5K Run**

The fifth Annual Conference 5K run/walk will be held on Friday morning, June 8. Check back soon at [www.flumc.org/ac](http://www.flumc.org/ac) 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/ac](http://www.flumc.org/ac) to sign up to help!

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**Youth Housing and Schedule Information**

Youth are encouraged to participate and experience Annual Conference. Housing will be at Florida Southern College. More detailed information is posted on [www.flumc.org/ac](http://www.flumc.org/ac).

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**Childcare Information**

Childcare will be available at First UMC Lakeland, 72 Lake Morton Dr., Lakeland, 33801, and information is available at [www.flumc.org/ac](http://www.flumc.org/ac).

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**Group Meal Information**

Many groups are hosting breakfast, lunch and dinner events. To see scheduled meals, visit the website. Email questions to ACQuestions@flumc.org or call (800) 282-8011 ext.132.