

Conference Highlights to Note

Bishop William H. Willimon is Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School. He served eight years as Bishop of the North Alabama Conference. For 20 years prior to the episcopacy, he was Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Christian Ministry at Duke University. He is the author of 60 books, and he has been named one of the 12 most effective preachers in the English speaking world. He will preach at the communion service.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia D. Weems is the SE District Superintendent of the Florida Conference, currently Dean of the Cabinet. Prior to this, Cynthia served as pastor of First UMC Miami, a church with an extensive ministry to the diverse homeless population of downtown. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Millsaps College, she earned an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School and later received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Saint Paul School of Theology. She speaks on Thursday.

Dr. Dana Robert is a leading scholar of mission studies and world Christianity. Author of many books, her latest is *Faithful Friendships: Embracing Diversity in Christian Community* (2019). At the Boston University School of Theology, she directs the Center for Global Christianity and Mission. In 2017, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Society of Missiology. She will speak Friday morning.

Bishop Carter's Offering

The Bishop's Offering for Annual Conference 2019 will be divided evenly between a restart of the FAMU Wesley Foundation and planting a new church in Lowell Women's Prison in Reddick, Florida.

About the Lowell Prison ministry

The Conference is joining a trend in the US by placing a Methodist church inside a state prison. A pastor will be assigned to serve at Lowell Correctional Institution for women in Reddick, Florida. It is hoped the appointment will begin July 1. The idea to partner with Prison Congregations of America, a consulting group that helps denominations establish worshiping congregations in prisons, came after Bishop Carter heard about a church based in a prison in Tennessee. Currently there are 34 prison-based churches in the United States, including two UMC prison churches in Tennessee and Iowa. Conference officials chose Lowell because it houses the most women (3,054) in a correctional institution in the United States, including three on death row.

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



2019 Florida Annual Conference
Florida Southern College
Lakeland, FL

On Mission Together



2019 Florida Annual Conference

Florida Southern College

Lakeland, FL

June 5-8, 2019

Greetings,

2019 Annual Conference Members!

The 177th session of the Florida Annual Conference will be held at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida, on June 5-8. The enclosed information previews planned activities and highlights.

- Registration opens Tuesday, June 4, at 1:30 p.m. in the Honeyman Pavilion.
- This is a voting year, and members will select General and Jurisdictional delegates for 2020.
- A special Tuesday evening worship will be held at 7 p.m. in the Annie Pfeiffer Chapel.
- The Expo opens Wednesday, June 5, at Florida Southern.
- The clergy and laity sessions begin Wednesday, June 5, at 10 a.m., with the opening plenary session at 1:30 p.m. in Branscomb Auditorium.

2019 Florida Annual Conference Agenda

On Mission Together

Kenneth H. Carter Jr., Presiding Bishop

Beth Gardner, Conference Secretary

Alex Shanks and Sharon Austin, Event Coordinators

Dan Wunderlich, Worship Coordinator

Alex Shanks, Agenda

Tuesday, June 4

- 1:30 pm Registration opens, Honeyman Pavilion
Youth Delegate Orientation, Reynolds Hall
- 7:00 pm Worship Service, Annie Pfeiffer Chapel
- 8:00 pm Reception to meet nominees to 2020 General & Jurisdictional Conferences

Wednesday, June 5

- 6:30 am 5K Run/Walk, Hollis Wellness Center; Prayer Garden , Communion at 7:30
- 8:00 am Registration, Honeyman Pavilion
- 8:30 am Meet & Greet nominees to 2020 General & Jurisdictional Conferences
- 10:00 am Laity Session, Branscomb Auditorium; Clergy Session, Jenkins Field House
- 1:30 pm Opening Plenary Session with Worship, Branscomb Auditorium
- 7:30 pm Service of Word and Table, Branscomb Auditorium, Bishop William H. Willimon

Thursday, June 6

- 7:30 am Expo opens, Music Building 208 & 210, Morning Communion, Prayer Garden opens, Spiritual Direction
- 8:00 am Registration opens, Honeyman Pavilion
- 8:30 am Morning Plenary, Branscomb Auditorium
Special Speaker: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Weems, Florida Southeast District Superintendent
- 10:30 am Retirement Service, Branscomb Auditorium
- 11:30 am Retiree Luncheon, Lucius Pond Ordway Building
- 1:30 pm Afternoon Plenary Session, Branscomb Auditorium , Church Anniversary Celebrations
- 4:30 pm Small Groups for Discussion
- 5:30 pm Evening Options in Lakeland

Friday, June 7

- 7:30 am Expo opens, Music Building 208 & 210, Morning Communion, Prayer Garden opens, Spiritual Direction
- 8:00 am Registration opens, Honeyman Pavilion
- 8:30 am Plenary Session, Branscomb Auditorium
Special Speaker: Dr. Dana L. Robert, Boston University School of Theology
- 10:30 am Service of Remembrance, Branscomb Auditorium
- 11:30 am Memorial Luncheon, Eleanor Searle Drawing Room
- 1:30 pm Plenary Session, Branscomb Auditorium
- 7:30 pm Evening Plenary Session and Celebration, Branscomb Auditorium

Saturday, June 8

- 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

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 <https://www.flumc.org/ac2019-hotels> for the hotel list and contact information.

Florida Southern Housing

The Chaplain's Office at Florida Southern College will coordinate campus housing. Visit www.flumc.org/ac-2019 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.

Sixth Annual 5K Run

The sixth Annual Conference **5K run/walk** will be held on Wednesday morning, June 5. Check back soon at www.flumc.org/ac-2019 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-2019 to sign up to help!

Youth Housing and Schedule Information

Housing will be at Florida Southern College. More detailed information is posted on www.flumc.org/ac-2019.

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-2019.

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.