

The Wesley Study Retreat



The Wesley Study Retreat was created by Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Simpkins of Cocoa, Florida, so that United Methodist Clergy might recapture the spirit that formed the great Methodist movement.

The 10-day retreat is based at Oxford University in Oxford, England each June or fall. The travel, housing, breakfasts, and most dinners are provided by the retreat. Each traveler is asked to contribute \$300.00 (\$600.00 per couple) toward the cost of the retreat. The Participants will travel from Oxford to visit Wesley sites such as Epworth and Bristol and City Road, hearing presentations by local Wesley scholars. There will also be days in London, where travelers will worship at Wesley Chapel and visit Wesley's home.

Each participant must be serving in local church minister, be in Full Connection, or if Licensed as a Local Pastor, have completed the Basic Course of Study, and have five (5) years of active ministry remaining before retirement. The retreat this year is led by one of the Retreat Trustees, and by local guides. There is space for eight (8) participants and the retreat is available to clergy and their spouse or individual clergy who will room with another clergy of the same gender. Covenant groups of 8 or fewer total participants (clergy and spouse) may apply to travel as a group when the clergy applicants meet the above criteria. Consideration will be given if one of a covenant group's member is in Extension Ministry. Application deadline is October 1.

Air Travel is arranged as group. All retreat participants must travel to and from the United Kingdom together. Arriving early or staying longer than the planned itinerary is **NOT** an option. Retreat dates are available August 1 for the following calendar year.

The application is available on the next page. Complete the application and mail to the Office of Clergy Excellence, 450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33815 or you may email your application to Holly Finley at hfinley@flumc.org. If you have any questions or need further information, please call the Office of Clergy Excellence at (863) 688-5563 x134.

Office of Clergy Excellence
450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue Lakeland, FL 33815
(863) 688-5563

**The Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Simpkins
Wesley Study Retreat
Application**

*IMPORTANT: All applicants **must** be under full-time, pastoral appointment in a local church in the Florida Annual Conference, be in Full Connection, or, as a Local Pastor, have completed Basic Course of Study, and have at least five years of service remaining before retirement. Preference will be given to applicants who have never traveled to the United Kingdom before.*

Are you under full-time, pastoral appointment? ___ Yes ___ No

In what year do you plan to retire? _____

Have you ever been to the United Kingdom before? ___ Yes ___ No

If Yes, please explain: _____

Name: _____ Spouse name if participating _____

Complete mailing address: _____

Email address: _____ Date of Birth _____

Home telephone: _____ Office telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Present Appointment: _____

Education:

College: _____ Degree: _____

Seminary or Course of Study School: _____

Other Degrees: _____

Other continuing education programs/travel seminars: _____

Appointment History:

Church _____ District _____ Years _____

Narrative response to these questions: (1-2 Pages)

1. What relevance does the Wesleyan renewal movement in England centuries ago have to the United Methodist Church in the Florida Conference today?
2. How would this kind of retreat enrich your own life and ministry?
3. How would you apply the things you learn in your current appointment?

Each traveler accepted is asked to contribute \$300.00 (\$600.00 per couple). You may apply for continuing education funds from the Annual Conference or local church. Application deadline is October 1.

Please send completed application to:

Office of Clergy Excellence, 450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33815
or by email to Holly Finley at hfinley@flumc.org.