

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
2008 CHARGE/CHURCH CONFERENCE FORMATS**

"Nostalgia is the enemy of hope"
...Diana Butler Bass

*"Acting on a vision that exceeds our resources is a test of our vision, faith,
and integrity."*

...Robert E. Quinn

*"That's right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new
covenant with Israel and Judah. It won't be a repeat of the covenant
I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out
of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my
part as their master. This is the brand-new covenant that I will make
with Israel when the time comes."*

...Jeremiah 31:31-34, The Message

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your
welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

...Jeremiah 29:11, Revised Standard Version

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! Once again it's the time of year when we plan for our 2008 church conferences.

Theme: "A Future With Hope"

This was the theme of the 2008 General Conference and we'd like to bring "a future with hope" to each local church. We invite you to use your yearly church conference as a time of holy conversation, holy conferencing around this theme. Therefore, we are not providing you with a specific format, but invite you to discern what your congregation needs from your yearly conference.

In order to discern your needs, please reflect on the scriptures and quotes listed above, using these questions:

- What does a future with hope look like in your local setting?
- What prevents your congregation from moving into a future with hope?
- Where are you discerning the Holy Spirit in the life of your congregation?
- What do you hope for from this year's church conference?

Take plenty of time with this process; listen to how God is leading you into and through these scriptures before developing your church conference format.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION related to charge/church conference including those required business items and scheduling of conferences:

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church requires each congregation to hold a yearly charge/church conference. (Remember, a **charge conference** includes the elected leadership of the church only; a **church conference** includes all the members of the church. We gather as a church conference!) In that yearly charge/church conference, there are a few items of business that we are required to conduct:

- Approve the compensation package for the pastor/s.
- Elect leadership for the next year.
- Vote on moving members from the active to the historic membership roles.
- Recommend candidates for ministry, lay speakers, and certified lay ministers.
- Receive various reports.

Website Access for Forms:

The items that need to be included, as required by the Book of Discipline, as well as all forms necessary will be on the RMCUMC web site by September 1.

Forms are listed:

<http://www.rmcumc.org/CHI/DistrictSites/Forms/index.htm>

<http://www.rmcumc.org/CR/Finance/index.htm#forms>

OR: Go to <http://www.rmcumc.org>

- Find "[Forms for Church and Charge Conferences](#)" box
- Forms for District Reports and Charge Conferences

OR: Move the computer mouse over the "Resources" menu item at the top (under the site title) then choose Forms, then choose the forms you wish.

Please let your District office know if you are unable to access these forms. Also, please gather all of the reports from the pastor and various leadership areas for distribution at the conference.

May God's blessings be with you and your church as you prepare for a time of conferencing this year.