

## Pray for Our GC08

Later this month, 25 United Methodists from Western PA will head to Ft. Worth, TX, for our church's 2008 General Conference. The term refers both to the event and the elected body of 992 delegates from annual (regional) conferences throughout the world. It meets every four years for nearly two weeks. The 2004 gathering was in Pittsburgh.

As the top policy-making body of the UM Church, General Conference is the only body that officially speaks for the 11.5 million members. During the April 23-May 2 sessions, the delegates will revise the Book of Discipline, which regulates how local churches, annual conferences and general church agencies are organized. The book also sets policies on church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures.

Delegates also revise the Book of Resolutions, which contains the church's stance on social justice issues. The more than 300 resolutions are considered instructive, but not binding on members.

Western PA has eight clergy and eight lay delegates who were elected last summer at our 2007 session at Grove City College. Elected alternates sit in if regulars need a break or are unable to fulfill their duties. Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton and other bishops attend and preside at sessions, but have no vote.

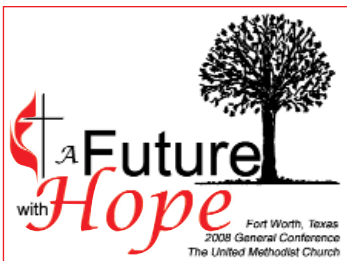
One Western PA clergyman, the Rev. Alan Morrison, is responsible for managing the budget and administrative details

for the event. After helping to administer

GC2004 in Pittsburgh, he was appointed as an executive with the Church's General Council on Finance and Administration. With help from the host committee, the Commission on General Conference and others, he coordinates some 4,000 marshals, pages, legislative assistants and other volunteers who help the delegates wade through approximately 2,000 legislative proposals.

Others who helped make the 2004 Pittsburgh event run smoothly have been recruited to work in Ft. Worth. They include the Rev. Mark Goswick, pastor of **Savannah UMC in New Castle**; the Rev. Barb Moore, pastor of **King's Chapel & Wesley UMCs** near New Castle, and Bill Jacka of **Oakmont UMC**, facilities manager for the Western PA Conference. All three are long-time members of the team that coordinates our annual conference sessions.

Please pray for the General Conference as it sets the direction for our church for the next four years and beyond. Follow the action with streaming video, news and more resources through [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org).



-- By Jackie Campbell, Staff Writer

## Bible Study and Prayer

Join United Methodists throughout Western Pennsylvania in studying these Bible passages from the *Revised Common Lectionary* and praying for these ministries and persons:

### April 6-12

**Read:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19 (*UMH* 837); 1 Pet. 1:17-23; Lk. 24:13-35 *Native American Ministries Sunday & Offering*

Third Sunday of Easter: White or Gold

#### Pray for:

- ✚ New Castle: Epworth & West Pittsburg UMCs, Butler Dist., Rex Wasser, pastor
- ✚ Nixon UMC, Butler Dist., Bruce K. Merritt, pastor
- ✚ Normalville UMC, Connellsville Dist., Mark Sholtis, pastor
- ✚ Walnut Hill UMC, Connellsville Dist., Arnold Husk, pastor
- ✚ Connellsville Area Community Ministries, Terry Guiste, director

### April 13-19

**Read:** Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23 (*UMH* 754 or 137); 1 Pet. 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Fourth Sunday of Easter: White or Gold

#### Pray for:

- ✚ Wattsburg & Phillipsville UMCs, Erie-Meadville Dist., John Gerber, pastor
- ✚ Woodcock UMC, Erie-Meadville Dist., Audrey Lovewell, pastor
- ✚ Charleston & Clark: Trinity UMCs, Franklin Dist., Larry G. Rowe, pastor
- ✚ Heckathorn UMC, Franklin Dist., Pat E. Ellis, pastor
- ✚ Bradenville & Pleasant Unity UMCs, Greensburg Dist., Georgia Joanie Scarff, pastor
- ✚ Jackson Community UM Charge, Washington Dist., Benjamin R. Williamson, pastor

### April 20-26

**Read:** Acts 7:55-60, Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16 (*UMH* 764); 1 Pet. 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Fifth Sunday of Easter: White or Gold

#### Pray for:

- ✚ **UMC General Conference 2008 in Fort Worth, TX**
- ✚ Ligonier: Calvary UMC, Greensburg Dist., William M. Pieringer, pastor
- ✚ Kittanning: First UMC, Indiana Dist., Allyn Ricketts, pastor
- ✚ Putneyville UMC, Indiana Dist., Roger Smith, pastor
- ✚ Ringgold UM Charge, Indiana Dist., Joan Rousseaux, pastor
- ✚ Johnstown: Overbrook UMC, Johnstown Dist., Joseph Crawley, pastor

### April 27-May 3

**Read:** Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20 (*UMH* 790); 1 Pet. 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Sixth Sunday of Easter: White or Gold

#### Pray for:

- ✚ **UMC General Conference 2008 in Fort Worth, TX**
- ✚ Lander UMC, Kane Dist., Wade S. Barto, pastor
- ✚ Whitaker UMC, Pittsburgh Dist., Dylan Potter, pastor
- ✚ South Avenue UMC, Pittsburgh Dist., David Keller, pastor
- ✚ Warren UMC, Pittsburgh Dist., Emma Smith, pastor
- ✚ Eldersville UMC, Washington Dist., Dana Hiles, pastor