

2008 General Conference Information

Registration

Tuesday, April 22	2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.	Houston Street Concourse of the Fort Worth Convention Center
Wednesday, April 23	8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.	Houston Street Concourse of the Fort Worth Convention Center
Thursday, April 24	8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon	Houston Street Concourse of the Fort Worth Convention Center

Registration after noon on Thursday, April 24 will be in the Business Manager's Office.

Agenda and Program

Following is the overall program of the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The Committee on Agenda will plan in detail each day's business schedule once the Conference convenes. The first week is assumed to be for legislative committee work through Sunday, and the second week is for plenary sessions.

The General Conference will begin with a time of vision casting on Thursday. Each presenter has collaborated beginning with Opening Worship through the Laity Address to create a holistic picture of The United Methodist Church. Delegates will be given a historical context of where the church has been, our current status, and the vision to build a future with hope.

Tuesday, April 22

- 9:00 A.M. (all day)
 - Committee on Reference
 - Commission on Central Conference Affairs
- 11:00 A.M. (all day)
 - Committee on Calendar and Agenda
- 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.
 - Training of Recorders
- 7:30 P.M.
 - Parliamentarian Training

Wednesday, April 23

- 8:30 A.M.
 - Orientation for Heads of Delegations
- 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
 - Orientation for Marshals and Pages
- 9:30 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
 - Orientation for Delegates from outside the United States
- 10:30 A.M. – Organization of Committees
 - Committee on Courtesies and Privileges
 - Committee on Presiding Officers
 - Committee on Credentials
 - Committee on the Journal
- 12:00 – 2:30 P.M.
 - Orientation for Women Delegates
- 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.
 - Orientation for Delegates under the Age of 30
- 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.
 - Orientation for Racial and Ethnic Minority Delegates
- 5:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
 - Choral Music in the Plenary
- 6:00 P.M.
 - Opening Worship & Holy Communion – Preachers:
 - Bishops Janice Riggle Huie & Gregory Vaughn Palmer
 - “Celebrating God's Promise of Hope”
- 8:00 P.M.
 - Organization of the General Conference - Setting the Bar of the Conference, Testing the Voting System, Rules Report & Adoption, Commission on the General Conference Report, Election of Coordinator of the Calendar, Report of the Committee on Agenda, Sensitivity Training, Emergency Procedures, Other Matters, Announcements

Thursday, April 24

- 7:00 A.M.
 - Committee on Calendar and Agenda
 - Committee on Reference
- 7:45 A.M. Choral Music
- 8:00 A.M. Plenary Call to Order
 - Morning Worship
 - Episcopal Address: Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher – “The Future with Hope”
 - What is Working – Vision Pathways
 - Building on What Works – Areas of Focus
- 10:25 A.M. *Morning Break*
- 10:45 A.M. Plenary Call to Order
 - Moving Forward – Connectional Table
 - The Tools for Moving Forward – GCFA
- 11:35 A.M.
 - First ever Young People's Address:
 - Andrew Craig, Becca Farnum, Matt Lockett, Jason Rathrod, Kira Volkova, and the Rev. Anne Rigo – “Many Voices, One Call”
- 12:25 P.M. Mid-day Wrap-up
- 12:30 P.M. *Lunch Recess*
- 2:30 P.M. Plenary Call to Order
 - Laity Address: Lyn Powell
 - “Disciples Transforming the World”
 - Call to Action
 - Conference Announcements
- 3:40 P.M. *Afternoon Break*
- 4:00 – 4:30 P.M.
 - Organization of Legislative Committees
- 4:30 – 7:45 P.M.
 - Training for Legislative Committee chairs, vice chairs, secretaries, assistant secretaries, parliamentarians, and recorders (dinner provided)
 - Dinner Recess for all others*
- 5:00 P.M.
 - Daily Deadline for DCA Printing
- 8:00 – 11:00 P.M.
 - Legislative Committees

Basic Schedule for remainder of General Conference

Conference Announcements will be held prior to the end of each Plenary as necessary

7:00 A.M.

Committee on Calendar and Agenda
Committee on Reference

8:00 A.M. Choral Music

8:15 A.M.

Plenary Call to Order
Morning Worship

9:05 A.M. Reports (as necessary)

Committee on Courtesies and Privileges
Committee on Calendar and Agenda
Committee on Presiding Officers

9:20 A.M. – 10:25 A.M.

Plenary – Calendar Items & Conference Business

10:25 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

Morning Break

10:45 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Plenary – Conference Business
Legislative Committee on 4/25 and 4/27

12:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Lunch Recess

12:40 P.M. – 1:10 P.M.

Service of Holy Communion

2:30 P.M. – 3:40 P.M.

Plenary – Conference Business
Legislative Committee on 4/25, 4/26, and 4/27

3:40 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Afternoon Break

4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Plenary – Conference Business
Legislative Committee on 4/25, 4/26, and 4/27

5:00 P.M. Daily Deadline for DCA Printing

5:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Dinner Recess

7:30 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.

Plenary – Conference Business
Legislative Committee on 4/25, 4/26, and 4/27

Friday, April 25 – Orders of the Day

9:20 A.M.

Greetings from the City of Fort Worth
Nominations for the University Senate and Judicial Council
Introduction of Affiliated Autonomous Methodist Church, Affiliated United Church, and Concordat Church Delegates

Saturday, April 26 – Orders of the Day

9:20 A.M.

Rural Life Celebration

10:45 A.M.

Central Conference Pension Initiative (15 Minutes)
Task Force to Study the Episcopacy (30 Minutes)
General Conference Study Commission on the Relationship between the UMC and the Autonomous Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean (30 Minutes)

Sunday, April 27 – Orders of the Day

9:20 A.M.

Recognition of Retiring Bishops
Presentation of new Episcopal Leadership Team
Strengthening the Black Church Initiative (15 minutes)

Celebration: 40th Anniversary of the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction (12 minutes)

2:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Legislative Committees (No Formal Break)

4:30 P.M. Dinner Recess

7:30 P.M. Area Night Program & Reception

No Legislative Committees will meet Sunday evening

Monday, April 28 – Orders of the Day

9:20 A.M.

Katrina Report (12 minutes)
Elections: University Senate, Judicial Council, Commission on the General Conference, Secretary of the General Conference, Trustees of John Street Church, Inter-Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy, General Council on Finance and Administration, other bodies to be elected

12:10 P.M.

Celebration: 60th Anniversary of the Advance (12 minutes)

3:30 P.M.

Celebration Moment (5 minutes)

Tuesday, April 29 – Orders of the Day

9:20 A.M.

Presentation of Ecumenical Guests & Greetings

12:10 P.M.

Celebration: 40th Anniversary of the General Commission on Religion and Race (12 minutes)

2:30 P.M.

Address: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,
President, Republic of Liberia

3:30 P.M.

Celebration Moment (5 minutes)

Wednesday, April 30 – Orders of the Day

9:20 A.M.

Africa University Report (15 minutes)

12:10 P.M.

Celebration: 100th Anniversary of the United Methodist Men (12 minutes)

3:30 P.M.

Celebration Moment (5 minutes)

Thursday, May 1 – Orders of the Day

9:20 A.M.

Recognition of retiring Judicial Council Members
Introduction of new Judicial Council Members

12:10 P.M.

Celebration: 100th Anniversary of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (12 minutes)

3:30 P.M.

Celebration Moment (5 minutes)

Friday, May 2

9:20 A.M.

GCFA Report

12:10 P.M.

Celebration: 100th Anniversary of the Social Principles (12 minutes)

3:15 P.M.

Celebration Moment (20 minutes)

End of Business

Recognitions

Closing Worship

Final Adjournment