

## United Methodist Church Leadership Summit Description for Bishops and Local Leaders

### Description

The Council of Bishops in cooperation with the Connectional Table is sponsoring a series of conversations about adaptive challenges facing our church and how we will embrace and sustain needed change. One key component will be a three-hour webcast conversation held April 6, 2011.

Each active bishop is invited to organize one or more conversation points in each annual conference in her/his area. It is the goal of the planning team to work with each bishop about how this can best occur.

### Date and Time

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time.

This is calculated to be 9:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time, 10:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time, 12:00 noon Eastern Daylight Time, 6:00 p. m. Germany, 6:00 p.m. Zimbabwe, 8:00 p.m. Moscow, 12:00 midnight Manila. Times outside the United States should be checked in case they are different due to daylight or summer time.

The event will last 3 hours, roughly conceived as 1 hour presentation, 1 hour local conversations and 1 hour feedback. The presentation will be archived and available for viewing on the internet for fifteen months after the initial webcast.

### Purpose

The Summit's purpose is to call together for prayer, discernment and holy conversation a cross-section of leaders invited by the resident bishop and including lay leadership, cabinets, and representative pastors. The Summit will provide shared experience for engaging information and ideas about key initiatives to foster compelling alignment and generate forward momentum for the regeneration of The United Methodist Church.

The Leadership Summit is a venue for leaders to hear first-hand how the Council of Bishops is helping the church clarify and affirm God's leading through the vision, values and culture of the United Methodist Church. The Council of Bishops and Connectional Table will share how they are blending the findings and constructive work of multiple groups involved in strategic review and planning in behalf of the mission of the UMC, and urging participants to take part in shaping and leading a comprehensive plan of action.

Those taking part in the Summit **will pray and worship together** as the foundation for our endeavors. They **will hear succinct updates** about what has been learned about the UMC's most critical adaptive challenges along with promises and proposals for launching and sustaining faithful work in achieving meaningful organizational change. They **will discuss implications and questions** with their

conference peers. Participants **will provide feedback and queries to the Council of Bishops** leadership. They **will share suggestions and make commitments for proactively aligning work in their own settings** in light of shared objectives. They **will receive resources to help them interpret the information** and implications from the Summit to others in their annual conferences.

### **Preparation Materials**

Preparatory materials will be available online two weeks before the event, that is, on or before March 23, 2010. They will include draft reports from study committees that will be discussed during the conversation. Reading the material ahead of time will enhance one's participation but is not a pre-requisite for effective participation in the conversation. They will include a glossary of terms to help persons participate fully.

### **Preferred Settings**

The event will be designed so that most participants will gather in groups within their annual conferences in rooms with round tables and a projector or screen connected to the internet. Attention to appropriate bandwidth and sound system is crucial for each setting. The agenda will provide for conversation in small groups. Hence such group participation is the preferred setting.

During the event questions and feedback can be sent to the presenters by email and telephone.

Each bishop can determine how many group settings will be arranged in each conference. There is no limit to the number of settings each conference can have. Each setting, however, should have a facilitator who is trained by the planning team.

### **Possible Settings**

The web address will be widely advertised so that individuals may view the webcast from their homes, offices or mobile phones if they have a broadband connection. They may view the archived version at any time between April 8, 2011 and July 8, 2012.

### **Languages**

The webcast will be in English with simultaneous translation into French and Portuguese.

### **Organizational Considerations**

Each bishop is asked to designate two persons for local leadership:

1. One contact person for each episcopal area to coordinate local planning. In case no one is designated, the Director of Connectional Ministries will be contacted

directly. Contact persons will receive advance notice about technological standards by November 18, 2010.

2. One conversation facilitator for each group site. This person provide on-site leadership for the persons gathered there. Conversation facilitators will receive training and instructions by February 15, 2011.

**Contact Person**

For information, questions or concerns, please contact Mary Brooke Casad, [casad@umc.org](mailto:casad@umc.org), (866) 648-9584.