

Plan to join Bishop Charlene Kammerer and the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy as we explore and demonstrate a faith-based response to the issues surrounding immigration.

Jesus opened his ministry with these words from the prophet Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to
the captives and recovery of sight
to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's
favor."

As we follow Christ today, we are called to that same ministry.

"Regardless of our political beliefs about immigration, the consistent message of Old and New Testament Scripture invites us to embrace the sojourner and stranger in our midst. This is the time when we in the Church of Jesus Christ must live out our faith by welcoming and advocating for immigrants in our society – and in our congregations."

-Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer

Please Note:

Child Care

Child care is available for those who pre-register, but space is limited. Please register early: first come, first served until spaces are filled. Additional fees of \$6/child will be required to cover lunch.

Scholarships

Scholarship funds are available. Please mark the appropriate space on the registration form if assistance is needed.

Translation

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be present. Translation into Spanish and Korean will be available if requested in advance. Please make note of this need on the registration form.

Registration Deadline: September 16

Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA)

Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

Office of Leadership and Inclusivity

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**A Faith-Based
Response to the
Issues Surrounding
Immigration**

THE BISHOP'S CONVOCATION

Saturday,
October 1, 2011
Grace United Methodist
Church
Manassas, VA

God has given the Church a message of hope and love for all people in need. By the power of the Spirit, we can build bridges of hope and remove barriers of hatred.

The Bishop's Convocation

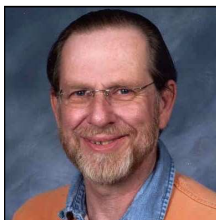
Saturday, October 1, 2011

10:00 AM—4:00 PM

Grace UMC

9750 Wellington Road
Manassas, VA

Global migration, and therefore for us U.S. immigration, will be a shifting but central issue throughout most of the twenty-first century. In recent years, U.S. society has become polarized over many political issues, including questions surrounding the current undocumented immigrant community, most of whom are Christian brothers and sisters. But global migratory pattern shifts on the horizon require the church to rethink its current position now. Slowly, the church is trying to extract itself from the political rhetoric and explore ways to “rethink church” in the midst of the ongoing cultural battle. In the keynote address, Jim Perdue Burke will explore some approaches and programs that offer hope to the church, including its present and future immigrant members.



Jim Perdue Burke is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. In 1994, he was consecrated as a missionary by the General Board of Global

Ministries, and in 2001 he was consecrated as a missionary by the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. He is currently assigned to a partnership between the National Plan and the Desert Southwest Conference as Missionary for Immigration and Border Issues.

Schedule

9:00 AM Registration Begins

The \$15 cost will cover lunch and materials for the day. Lunch cannot be provided for late registrations.

10:00 AM Opening Worship

Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Preacher
Rev. Laurice Jones-Wilks, Worship Leader

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Keynote Presentation

Immigrants, the Border, and the Role of the Church Today by Jim Perdue Burke

12:30 – 1:15 PM Lunch

1:15 – 2:15 PM Workshops

(Teams from churches are encouraged to separate to attend as many workshops as possible. Use the # to note your choices on the registration form.)

1. Immigration as a Mission Field: Holy Conferencing and Extravagant Hospitality as Ways to Rethink Church
2. Dreaming the Dream: The Struggle for an Education
3. Navigating the Legal Maze: The Complex Nature of Immigration Rules and Regulations
4. A New Citizen's View: A First-Hand Look at the Refugee Experience Today
5. Undocumented! The Struggle to Stay on the Right Side of the Law
6. Immigrant Labor Issues: Modern Slavery?

2:30 – 3:30 PM Round Table Discussion

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Closing Service of Holy Communion

Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Celebrant
Rev. Laurice Jones-Wilks, Liturgist

To Register

You may register on-line by going to www.vaumc.org, selecting “Events,” and choosing the Oct. 1st event. Payment must be made by credit card if you register on-line.

You may also register by mailing this registration form to: Office of Leadership and Inclusivity, Virginia Conference UMC, PO Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058. Make your check for \$15 payable to **Virginia Conference UMC** with “Oct 1, 2011 event” in the memo line. **Registration Deadline: September 16**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

District: _____

Church: _____

Workshop Choices: 1st : ____ 2nd: ____
3rd: ____

Special Diet Requirements: _____

Translation Needed: Yes No

If yes, list language: _____

Child Care Needed: Yes No

of Children and Ages: _____

Additional Payment for Lunches: \$ _____

Scholarship Requested: Yes No