

Guidelines for Revival and Renewal Services in the United Methodist Church Endorsed and Encouraged by the North Carolina Conference Commission on Evangelism

A. Purpose: The purpose of Revival and Renewal Services is two-fold. First, these services are to call the people of God in a local church to renew their faith in Christ so that they may be empowered by the Spirit and sent forth to be the church that God had in mind. Second, these services should be ideal opportunities for Christians to bring pre-Christian people in the hopes that they will respond to the Gospel and become believers in Jesus Christ. This keeps with the mission of the United Methodist Church of making disciples of Jesus Christ in that it invites people to believe in the Gospel and Christians to renew their commitments to Christ so that they are continuing to grow in discipleship. Some say that the age of Revival meetings is dead, but there are still areas and churches, in which the movement is very much alive. There are also creative and innovative ways to make them relevant and effective in the areas that are not as conducive to Revival and Renewal services.

B. Preparation: The preparation for Revival and Renewal services is ultimately the responsibility of the pastor. The pastor should use as many lay people to assist and coordinate the preparation efforts. Even though the pastor utilizes the laity here, she or he is ultimately responsible for making sure that adequate preparation gets done. There are three major areas of preparation, which should take place.

1. Prayer: The Revival or Renewal services should be bathed in prayer. It will be God's Spirit that breaths the new life and transformation into the people of God during the services. It is suggested that the church actually holds several prayer services in the weeks leading up to the Revival or Renewal services. The church may want to also have a period of prayer and fasting in the days leading up to the Revival or Renewal services.

2. Music: Music can make or break a Revival or Renewal service. This is a time of Worship and God deserves our excellence in Worship. It is suggested to try and secure choirs or groups from other churches for special music. Also make sure to use the host church's choir and or praise team at some of the services. The more people you have involved in the services, then the more people will attend. The church should make sure that the host church's musicians or accompanists are present at the services, so that the music can be at its best. The services should flow so that there is not a lot of dead time between songs, prayers, and the sermon.

3. Promotion: The entire town should know that your local church is hosting Revival or Renewal services. Use the local newspaper along with flyers and even radio if available. Send a flyer to the other churches in town inviting them to be your guests at the services.

C. The Preacher, Speaker, or Evangelist: The speaker, preacher, or evangelist for the Revival or Renewal services should be scheduled and attained through the direct contact of the pastor or under the direction of the pastor. There are a number of ministers in our conference, who have a heart for preaching in Revival and Renewal services. Some are identified in the Directory of the National Association of United Methodist Evangelist. We have two conference approved general evangelist in the North Carolina Conference, and their names are Dr. Mallie Hinnant and Rev. Yuko Miller. There are many other ministers who make evangelistic preaching a part of their ministry and would also be happy to preach as schedules allow. We hope to have a list of these pastors compiled soon on the conference web site. The church should desire a preacher who will challenge

them and help take them to a deeper spiritual level. Start planning early because the calendars for many preachers and evangelist fill up fast.

D. Compensation: The Bible says the servant is worthy of his or her hire. A church should make sure and compensate its guest evangelist or preacher as generously as possible. The pastor of the host church is responsible for making sure the church follows through with this. For full time evangelist, they are making a living on these meetings and many times have families to feed. You would need to inquire from them what method of compensation they require or need. For those guest preachers who are pastors, they are taking time away from their congregations to minister to the church hosting the Revival or Renewal services. Receiving a love offering each night is one way to compensate. It is amazing what people will give, if they are given the opportunity and know exactly what they are giving toward. If you say the offering is going to the evangelist, then make sure every cent does. The church should not make money as a result of the love offerings. If the church budgets a certain amount every year, then make sure that the budgeted amount takes into account traveling distance, housing and food. Some churches budget an amount and then receives a love offering one night to add to that amount.

E. Final Instructions: Make these services fun. Use themes and promote the Revival and Renewal services from the pulpit so that the host church will have a good turnout. Provide a nursery for each service and have a fellowship meal on at least one of the nights. Our hope on the Commission on Evangelism is that God will stir our churches of the North Carolina Conference with a mighty wave of Revival and Renewal. May God bless the efforts to see this Revival and Renewal come and bless the churches that are willing to be a part of it. Go for it.