

GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) 2008

Fort Worth, Texas - April 23 - May 2

MFSA, RMN, AFFIRMATION VOLUNTEER INTEREST INDICATOR

Volunteer opportunities abound for progressive United Methodists who are committed to justice and are willing/able to attend General Conference in Fort Worth. Once again the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA), the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) and Affirmation will be coordinating housing and volunteer activities. Many plans are still being worked out. This form represents a **preliminary indicator** of your interests. **Check as many boxes as apply.** More information will be sent as it becomes available.

ADVOCACY

Prior to GC:

- writing and editing petitions
- developing position papers
- analyzing legislation in DCA (early 2008)

During week one at GC:

- monitor legislative committees
- participate in evening debriefings

During week two of GC:

- monitor progress of legislation as it comes to the plenary session and be available to help with minority reports and/or talking points for progressive delegates.

ISSUES

I am particularly interested in the following issues related to MFSA/RMN/Affirmation ministries:

CELEBRATION/WORSHIP and WITNESS

GC has been shortened by two days and delegates will be working through the weekend, a time when our groups traditionally provide opportunities for special worship and celebration. We are in the process of making adjustments. Please indicate below if this is an area in which you are willing to provide volunteer help and more information will be sent when available.

- participating in witness activities such as the Prayer Witness outside the Convention Center at GC 2004
- helping with worship/celebration activities.

INFORMATION

Interested in:

- gathering information for publications
- writing articles and press releases

- editing
- doing layout
- getting newsletters and other information printed
- blogging
- website

HOSPITALITY AND OFFICE COVERAGE

Helping to prepare and serve meals:

- Breakfast
- Lunches
- Helping to provide office coverage
- Staffing Hospitality Center (including sale of materials)

CARE

- Providing pastoral care for volunteers and delegates
- Serving as "go-fers" for delegates including doing laundry, picking up prescriptions

NEW VOLUNTEERS

- Check here if you've never been to General Conference, would like to volunteer, but need more information. Indicate below the best method to reach you (i.e. by phone, email, etc.)

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Conference: _____

Primary Affiliation: MFSA RMN Affirmation Other _____

Also Affiliated with: MFSA RMN Affirmation Other _____

Dates I Plan to Attend:

- Week One on the following dates _____
- Week Two on the following dates _____

Mail to: MFSA, 212 East Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20003 or **Fax to:** MFSA at 202-546-6811
Email: mfsa@mfsaweb.org. **Forms will be forwarded by MFSA to all three groups.**

HOUSING FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

A block of rooms in a hotel directly across the street from the Fort Worth Convention Center has been reserved for volunteers working with MFSA, RMN and Affirmation. Because of the close proximity, the hotel will be in great demand. We have come up with a set of criteria for those we will be able to include in our room block to ensure that our space will be available for those working with one of our organizations. The criteria include the following:

- Persons who are affiliated with MFSA, RMN or Affirmation either through membership in these networks or by having supported the organizations financially or through participation.
- Persons who will be volunteering and/or participating in MFSA/RMN/Affirmation activities during General Conference.
- Volunteers will be given preference over GC delegates given the fact that delegates have space reserved and available to them in other Fort Worth hotels and volunteers do not. Please note, that the General Conference Commission anticipates using ALL of the hotel space available in Fort Worth (and then some) during General Conference.

*****Delegates see note below**

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve space please, fill out and email to Judy Gould revjudygould@yahoo.com with the following information:

Primary Group Affiliation:

MFSA _____ RMN _____ Affirmation _____

Planned Days in Fort Worth for which you will need housing (note-GC formally begins on Wednesday the 23rd in the evening and ends late in the day on May 2nd):

First week:

Mon 4/21____ Tues 4/22____ Wed 4/23____ Thu 4/24____ Fri 4/25____ Sat 4/26____

Second week:

Sun 4/27____ Mon 4/28____ Tues 4/29____ Wed 4/30____ Thu 5/1____ Fri 5/2____

Room Preference:

Single (\$100/night)____ **Double** (\$50/night)____ **Triple** (\$33.50/night)____ **Quadruple** (\$25/night)____ (Please note: triples and quads will be **very** cozy)

I would like to room with: _____, _____, _____

Please note that the hotel is **very modest**. Our experience has been that the rooms are clean and comfortable, but both rooms and bathrooms are very small and have very limited space for luggage, hanging clothes, etc. The rooms have two queen-size beds and cost \$100 per night no matter how many people occupy the room.

Contact Information:

Name _____ Email _____

Day phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Fax: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Annual Conference _____

Reserve your housing SOON. We anticipate that our 90 rooms will fill up quickly. Once these rooms are full, there will likely be very few other hotel rooms free in the city.

Process:

1. Once you have sent your room request to Judy Gould, she will clear your name with the three offices involved (using the criteria listed above).

2. Judy will then send you a confirmation and information about payment. One-third of your payment will be due at this point. The remainder will be due by March 15, 2008. Cancellations can be made up until March 15th and all but \$25 of your money will be returned. Refunds made for cancellations after that date will be subject to our ability to fill the room.

***** Note to delegates:** MFSA/RMN/Affirmation-related delegates who anticipate participating in our activities and would like to stay at the hotel should send in this form indicating your interest. We will contact you when we have a sense whether rooms will in fact be available for RMN/MFSA/Affirmation delegates. Once the General Conference Commission lets you know what hotels are available to you, feel free to contact Judy Gould via email revjudygould@yahoo.com to see if it looks like we will have space available.