



Western North Carolina Association

P.O. Box 4265 • 204 Lantz Avenue
Salisbury, NC 28145-4265

Ph. 704-633-3191 • Fax 704-633-3346
E-mail: office@wnca-soc.org

July 30, 2015

Dear Church Members and Ministers of the Western North Carolina Association,

Many of you are leading and participating in worship and learning experiences this summer, and I hope that your experiences help renew your faith and encourage your work to build God's kingdom.

This is the official call letter for the 48th Annual Gathering of the Western North Carolina Association (WNCA) of the Southern Conference. Our Annual Gathering will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at Abernethy Laurels Retirement Community, 102 Leonard Avenue, Newton, NC. Registration starts at 9 a.m. with a cost of \$20 per person. Enclosed you will find a registration form for your use. Please make copies if you need additional forms for others to register.

Also, at the August 2, 2014 board meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to recommend to the Annual Meeting that we raise the dues to \$2.00 per member. At last year's meeting in October this was overlooked causing confusion; as it stands the dues are currently \$1.50 per member.

In addition, the WNCA Bylaws Article I - "Membership", Section 3 - "Voting Delegates", states the following:

"The voting delegates of the Association shall consist of: the ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association, and two lay delegates selected by and representing each local church within the Association. (Number of members for determination of lay delegates for a church is based upon the church membership reported in the National UCC Yearbook.)"

The WNCA Bylaws Article I - "Membership" Section 2 - "Voting Membership", B: "Members of the Board of Directors shall be voting members of the Association." Visitors are welcome to attend our Annual Meeting.

**"Therefore: Churches with up to 300 members shall be entitled to have 2 lay delegates.
Churches with 301 to 500 members shall be entitled to have 3 lay delegates.
Churches with 501 to 700 members shall be entitled to have 4 lay delegates.
Churches with 701 to 900 members shall be entitled to have 5 lay delegates.
Churches over 900 members shall be entitled to one additional lay delegate per each additional 200 members or fraction thereof."**

This year we will offer worship throughout the meeting together, with Rev. Tamara Franks from High Country UCC offering the reflection. We will also offer a large group workshop and discussion groups focusing on the *Belonging Project*. Additionally, the board and a working group have discussed proposing changes to the WNCA Constitution and Bylaws. Changes recommended by the board will be on the WNCA website by Monday, August 3 and a hard copy will be mailed and emailed to each church (with email) as soon as possible.

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Please read and discuss these changes with your local church, so that we can have a fruitful discussion in October.

Information about the Annual Gathering will be posted on the WNCA website (wnca-soc.org) by Monday, September 14. ***Please download your materials and discuss with your local church before you come!***

I hope this information helps you prepare to join us in the fall and I trust that each of you will come equipped to help us discern a productive path forward as an association. Thank you for your commitment to our ministry in western North Carolina, and I look forward to seeing you in October!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Schiemann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Elizabeth A. Schiemann

President

Western North Carolina Association

Southern Conference

United Church of Christ

enclosure