

VITALITY RALLY
(Formerly Dist. Leadership Conference)



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**2012
Charlotte District
Leadership
Vitality Rally**

**Sunday, January 22, 2012
2:45—5:30 PM
Myers Park
United Methodist Church
1501 Queens Road
Charlotte, NC 28207**

2012 VITALITY RALLY- REVITALIZING THE LOCAL CHURCH

From the District Superintendent



The theme of this year's District Leadership Conference is "revitalizing the local church." The rich beginnings of our church show a people who would stop at nothing to offer and win people to Jesus Christ. I believe God is once again calling us to "go back" to our roots and heritage in order that we might "go forward" into the future with hope and promise. Yet, the question is asked: "what do we need to do in order to reach people and grow the church?" The theme and the workshops this year are designed to inspire us to this charge and to help equip us with ways and methods to be vital congregations.

Who should attend this event? All elected leaders of the church: members of the Council/Administrative Boards, committee members, clergy, and anyone and everyone who is concerned about, and committed to, the cause of growing the kingdom of God. What can we do? What do we need to change? How can we maximize our effectiveness in the Great Commission given to us by Jesus? Plan to come and we will talk about ways to be vital congregations!

-Dr. Gary C. Royals
Charlotte District Superintendent

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Mark Ralls

Our keynote speaker for this event will be Dr. Mark Ralls, senior pastor of the Centenary UMC in Winston-Salem. He has served four UMC congregations.



Dr. Ralls is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received his MDiv at Duke Divinity School and earned his PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary.

He is a prolific writer, having authored two books, some thirty-three articles and numerous reviews. He is one of the creators of *Beginnings*, a series of courses to introduce Christian beliefs and practices which, since 2003, have been utilized by six thousand congregations.

Mark's message to us is
"Outrunning Weariness,"
Isaiah 40:27-31.

2012 Vitality Rally Schedule	
2:45 p.m.	Gathering/Prelude
3:00 p.m.	Welcome
3:15 p.m.	Music and Worship
3:30 p.m.	Keynote Session
4:15 p.m.	Refreshment Break
4:30 -5:30 p.m.	Workshops

Vitality Rally Workshops (select one workshop to attend)

Worship/Music- *Streams Never Ceasing...*

Presenter: Jimmy Jones

What is “traditional” or “contemporary” worship these days? This class will explore the different ways music can weave (NOT blend) all styles of music together into a beautiful, cohesive, and vibrant worship service that supports the Word and message. Jimmy Jones is Director of Music and Organist at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC.

Evangelism: Components of A Vital Church —*Awakening*

Presenter: Dr. Charles Kyker

When Vision, Talent and the Five Practices are not Enough- Studying the healthiest congregations in America, Europe, Asia and Africa, Dr. Kyker clearly sees one undeniable commonality in prevailing churches. This workshop will expose that commonality and help you and your people build upon it to help you grow a healthy, prevailing church. Dr. Charles Kyker is Lead Pastor at Christ UMC, Hickory, NC.

Missions—*Revitalizing Missions*

Presenter: Rev. Brian Combs

"The homeless in Asheville are the best fed and clothed in the United States. More of the same is not what we need. A church, a welcoming place to gather and worship and fellowship, is what we need." - Middle-aged homeless man. It's in this context that Brian serves as the pastor of the Haywood Street Congregation in Asheville, a casual, laid-back church where all are welcome - and "all" often includes those without a house to live in. Come learn more about this unique congregation and discuss ways to revitalize your church's mission efforts.

Education—*Resources for Revitalizing Our Churches*

Presenter: Sonja Clough

Sonja Clough, Christian Educator and Director of the Western NC Conference *Fishin' Hole* Resource Center, will facilitate a sharing of resources and ideas that have helped to “awaken” our church members to a new depth of discipleship—one that fosters real transformations in the lives of our churches and communities. Come and share what has worked in your class, small group or church, and gather new ideas, as well as a chance to preview resources available in the *Fishin' Hole*.

Spiritual Enrichment—*Revitalization of Prayer Life*

Presenter: Ann Starette

In St. Paul's parting words in his letter of encouragement to the Thessalonians he says: **rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances** (1 Thes 5:16-18). Great finish to a letter, Paul, but in real time are these realistic guidelines? If we choose to embrace St. Paul's encouragement, where do we start? Ann Starrette will guide us through hindrances, helps and simple “how to's” on our journey toward revitalization of our prayer life. Ann Starrette is the Director of Spiritual Formation at Davidson UMC and The Lydia Group, LLC retreat ministry she founded in 1998.

Multi-cultural Ministry-*Energize Outreach with Community Partnerships*

The multicultural diversity of the Charlotte region provides us with the unique opportunity to participate in worldwide missions in our own back yard. Learn how to connect with our new neighbors from the Latin American, African, Asian and Eastern European communities through partnering with

the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system (CMS) and Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC). Phyllis Crouch, from the CMS and Marianne Lyall-Knusel, from CPCC, will show us ways in we can engage and serve in our ever changing, ever growing community through programs such as English as a Second Language (ESL) and Citizenship classes.

Youth Ministry—*Engage in Teenage Ministry*

Presenter: Rev. Teresa Dunn

Whether you need a few tips to keep your youth program vital and engaged or if you are trying to figure out how to create a youth program for the teens of your church, Teresa Dunn has pulled together resources you can use. Teresa is an ordained deacon of the Western North Carolina Conference and is the Minister with Youth and College Students at Providence UMC here in Charlotte.

Children's Ministry-*Connecting Children's Ministry with Mission*

Using the "right" curriculum is not enough to keep your Children's ministry energized. Children's Ministry is always an opportunity to use the boundless energy and creativity of these young disciples. Sandy Devoid and Sara Bame will lead this session on how to engage our children in ministry that takes them beyond the standard Sunday School setting. Sandy is the Director of Christian Education at Charlotte's St. Andrew's UMC. Sara is Director of Christian Educator at Cokesbury UMC.

Finance—*How to be a Terrible Local Church Finance Person: Committee or Treasurer*

Designed for both treasurers and finance chairpersons and committee members, this presentation is designed to provide insight into the world of local church finances, through the perils of what NOT to do. In doing so, we will discuss the right things to do – with internal controls, disbursements and their documentation, payroll reporting including W-2s versus 1099s, employees versus independent contractors, accountable reimbursement plans, the budget setting process, accountability and many others. Bring your questions as we will also provide time for a question and answer session! Jennifer Burton serves as UM WNCC Treasurer. Bill Wyman, former UM WNCC Treasurer, now serving as Exec. Dir. UMF Development Fund & Loan Program at UM Foundation of Western NC.

Trustees—*Trustees Training for the Future*

Presenter: Robin Furr

Using our facilities to reach beyond the bounds of our congregation is a challenge that keeps the ministry of the Trustees engaged and active. This class, while teaching the basics of Trustee ministry, will explore ways our facilities can be used to share God's love to all in our community. Robin Furr, the Business Manager for Providence UMC, has pulled together the resources you need to keep your Trustees ministry on target.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Presenter: Dr. Gary C. Royals

RE-VITALIZING THROUGH SPRC??? (No way – or is there?)

Can the SPRC actually be an agent of re-vitalization? With all of the duties and responsibilities of this committee, what is the key component which makes the difference between accountability and healthy, vital ministry? We will cover the basics everyone needs to know, but also talk about ways to maximize the effectiveness of the committee and ensure a healthy pastor – congregation relationship. Dr. Gary Royals, Charlotte District Superintendent will be the facilitator.

Please be sure to contact 704-525-3395 no later than January 13th to register for childcare. Note: The number of childcare providers will be determined by advance reservations.