



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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February 27, 2009

Dear Lay Speaker:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Prince of Shalom, Healer of our brokenness, and Hope of the world!

I am writing to you and all the Lay Speakers of the New York Annual Conference to invite you to the **Saturday session of our annual conference, beginning at 10:30 a.m., June 13 at Hofstra University, Hempstead, Long Island, New York.** It is my fervent hope that all of our more than 1,500 Lay Speakers will be present to fill the Hofstra arena with witness and praise and promise. Indeed, it is my strong conviction that the next stage of renewal in the United Methodist Church will be led by the laity of our churches. As a Lay Speaker, your commitment and training is needed to help us fulfill our mission working closely with our pastors and the Board of Laity.

Following the 10:30 a.m. session, I invite you to be my guest for lunch. I also hope you will be able to stay for the sacred and beautiful **Service of Ordination** to be held at 2:00 p.m. Your presence at this highest moment in the life of our church will lend the perfect spirit of cooperation and unity we need as we live into our future as a beloved community of hope. To register, please go to [www.nyac.com](http://www.nyac.com) and look for *Guest Lay Speaker Event*. Then follow the instructions. If you are a member of the annual conference, please register as a member of the annual conference.

Guest Lay Speakers (Lay Speakers who are not members of annual conference) are also invited to attend an Advanced Lay Speaking course on Evangelism, sponsored by our annual conference Board of Laity to be led by the Rev. Dr. Kwasi Kena of the General Board of Discipleship on Friday, June 12, at 1:30 p.m. on the Hofstra campus. That evening at 8:00, there will be a special worship service featuring Dr. Kena and the Glorification Singers. Hofstra housing (\$47/single; \$36/double) is available for guest Lay Speakers who would like to stay overnight Friday. In addition, meals Friday and Saturday morning are available for your purchase in the dining hall. As with the Saturday event above, you will need to register for the Friday events and overnight housing, if desired, on the events registration at [www.nyac.com](http://www.nyac.com) (*Guest Lay Speaker Event*).

Please note that Lay Speakers who are also the members of annual conference are required to attend all sessions of annual conference. You will have an opportunity to hear Dr. Kwasi Kena at the Laity Session on Wednesday afternoon.

I look forward with great anticipation to seeing you at Hofstra. May God continue to bless you in your leadership in the United Methodist Church.

In Christ,

Jeremiah J. Park