



The Call



Pictured at right: Mt. Olivet UMC in Tazewell District



HIGHER LEARNING

Clergy will meet for annual continuing education event Feb. 2-5 at Lake Junaluska

Every congregation thinks they are friendly and they are – to the people who are already there. But radical hospitality requires looking inward and outward, beyond the comfortable group of people you visit with each Sunday morning, according to a United Methodist bishop from Missouri.



UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Missouri Bishop Robert Schnase, author of "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations," will be keynote speaker at Ministers Convocation 2010.

"Radical hospitality is about taking the second mile, going the extra step, not being pleased to just get along but offering our very best and our very highest," Bishop Robert Schnase said during a 2009 seminar covered by United Methodist News Service.

"Our greatest strength is that we love one another, and our lives are so interweaved that we don't know that this keeps people out and is not hospitably bringing people in."

Schansé, resident bishop of the Missouri Annual Conference, is author of a book and movement, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." Schansé will present his recommendations to yearning church leaders at Ministers Convocation, Feb. 2-5 at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Ministers Convocation, an annual continuing education event for Holston clergy, is organized by the Wesley Leadership Institute.

The remaining four "fruitful practices" are passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. This year's convocation builds its plenary session and workshops on these themes.

On-site registration begins Tuesday, Feb. 2. Bishop

Please see "Higher Learning" on page 7.

BOOK SHOWER! at Ministers Convocation

On Aug. 23, the Rev. Mark Dowell lost his personal library in a fire. He lost a lot of other things, too, including the building where he preached every Sunday and led his congregation into ministry.

But when clergy colleagues read that a fire had consumed the historic St. Elmo United Methodist Church in Chattanooga District, their hearts were touched by the destruction of the pastor's books.

"In seminary we are encouraged to build friendships,

the kind that last a lifetime, because the ministry can be a very lonely profession," said the Rev. Mat Merker, a Cleveland District pastor.

"A professional library is like having a lifelong friend who is always there ... This man, whom I did not know, lost hundreds of friends, guides, and comforters, hidden in the pages of his beloved library," she said.

To replace some of Dowell's collection, Bishop

Please see "Book Shower" on page 7.



Cokesbury of Lake Junaluska is offering a 20 percent discount to replace books lost in a church fire.