



The United Methodist Church

of Greater New Jersey

Raritan Valley District

Rev. Dr. Drew A. Dyson, District Superintendent
Arthur Harrell, District Lay Leader **Kirsten Luedecker**, Administrative Assistant

2015 Church Conference Season

The 2015 Church Conference season for the Raritan Valley District is designed to achieve the following goals:

- Effectively resource congregations by holding conferences in regional groups in order to foster collaboration among churches in the district, provide high quality resourcing for all churches, and to efficiently complete essential corporate/church business requirements.
- Foster innovation and an outward-focus among all congregations in the district to push us beyond our own congregations and into the new mission field to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Increase congregational vitality – particularly in the areas of worship, evangelism, and youth/young adult ministry (our regional priorities for the 2015-2016 appointment year)
- Review the previous year's goals and affirm each congregation's goals for the coming year.
- Free time and energy (DS, circuit elder, connectional ministries team) to focus on resourcing and supporting local congregations and clusters/circuits for mission and ministry.

The 2015 church conference season will run six weeks, beginning the last week in September and running through the first weekend in November. There will be two Saturdays and one Sunday afternoon designated for group/cluster conferences. These conferences will be presided over by circuit elders and other designated elders, and will incorporate shared worship and workshop sessions. Thirteen additional church conferences will be held independently with the DS presiding, assisted in some cases by one of the circuit elders.

Saturday October 10, 2015 Christ UMC: Piscataway

Time		Time	
9 – 9:15am	Gathering & Refreshments/ Chat with DS	1:45 – 2pm	Gathering & Refreshments/ Chat with DS
9:15 – 9:45am	Church Conferences	2 – 2:30 pm	Church Conferences
	Diamond Hill: B. Heights		Trinity: Highland Park
	East Millstone		Sayreville
	Mt. Horeb: Warren		Trinity: South Amboy
	Union Village: Warren		Conklin: South River
	Bernardsville		Trinity: Spotswood
10 – 10:25am	Worship	2:45 – 3:10pm	Worship
10:30 – 11:45am	Workshops	3:15 – 4:30pm	Workshops
	<i>Evangelism</i>		<i>Evangelism</i>
	<i>Worship</i>		<i>Worship</i>
	<i>Missional Innovation</i>		<i>Missional Innovation</i>
12 – 12:30pm	Church Conferences	4:45 – 5:15pm	Church Conferences
	Springdale: Warren		Scotch Plains
	Dunellen		Cranford
	Martinsville		Centenary: Metuchen
	New Providence		Califon
	Bountiful Korean: B. Heights		Wesley: Edison
12:30 – 12:45pm	Refreshments & Chat with DS	5:30 – 6:30pm	Team De-Brief with DS
12:45 – 1:45pm	Staff Lunch/Break		

Saturday, October 24, 2015 Clinton UMC

Time		Time	
9 – 9:15am	Gathering & Refreshments/ Chat with DS	1:45 – 2pm	Gathering & Refreshments/ Chat with DS
9:15 – 9:45am	Church Conferences	2 – 2:30 pm	Church Conferences
	Fairmount		Colonial: Oxford
	Frenchtown		Anderson: Mansfield
	Everittstown: Alexandria		McCrea: Port Murray
	Allerton: Annandale		Port Colden
	Round Valley, Changewater, High Bridge (together)		Wesley: Phillipsburg
10 – 10:25am	Worship	2:45 – 3:10pm	Worship
10:30 – 11:45am	Workshops	3:15 – 4:30pm	Workshops
	<i>Evangelism</i>		<i>Evangelism</i>
	<i>Worship</i>		<i>Worship</i>
	<i>Missional Innovation</i>		<i>Missional Innovation</i>
12 – 12:30pm	Church Conferences	4:45 – 5:15pm	Church Conferences
	Cokesbury		Summerfield: Belvidere
	Quakertown		Montana: Harmony
	Kingwood		Broadway
	Pattenburg		Washington
	North Hunterdon		Asbury
12:30 – 12:45pm	Refreshments & Chat with DS	5:30 – 6:30pm	Team De-Brief with DS
12:45 – 1:45pm	Staff Lunch/Break		

Sunday, October 25, 2015 Flemington UMC

Time	
1:45 – 2pm	Gathering & Refreshments/Chat with DS
2 – 2:30	Church Conferences
	Somerville
	Bound Brook
	Whitehouse
	Montgomery
2:45 – 3:10pm	Worship
3:15 – 4:30pm	Workshops
	<i>Small Group (CMT)</i>
	<i>Worship (CMT)</i>
	<i>Missional Innovation (DS)</i>
4:45 – 5:15pm	Church Conferences
	Mt. Zion
	Neshanic
	Flemington
	Sergeantsville
5:30 – 6:30pm	Team De-Brief with DS

Individual Church Conferences

*Sunday, September 13 th	11:30 am	New Dover: Edison
*Sunday, September 20 th	11:30am	Aldersgate: East Brunswick
Tuesday, October 6 th	7:00pm	Bloomsbury
Thursday, October 8 th	7:00pm	Bridgewater
Sunday, October 11 th	7:00pm	Clinton
Tuesday, October 13 th	7:00pm	Wesley: South Plainfield
Thursday, October 15 th	7:00pm	Bishop Janes: Basking Ridge
*Sunday, October 18 th	11:45am	Christ: Piscataway:
Sunday, October 18 th	2:30pm	Calvary: East Brunswick
Sunday, October 18 th	7:00pm	Milltown
Tuesday, October 20 th	7:00pm	Covenant: Plainfield
Thursday, November 5 th	7:00 pm	Simpson: Old Bridge
* Sunday, November 8 th	11:30am	First: Westfield
Sunday, November 8 th	2:30pm	UMC at New Brunswick

*Indicates a Sunday morning CC following worship – Please be in conversation with DS about preaching/worship on that Sunday morning.

Church Conference Paperwork

There will be two due dates for ALL church conference paperwork this year based on the date of your church conference.

- **Monday, September 28th** – for all Church Conferences held UP TO & INCLUDING Oct. 15th
- **Monday, October 12th** – for all Church Conferences held AFTER Oct. 15th

It is the pastor's responsibility to ensure all church conference paperwork is completed properly and submitted on time. For those wishing to get a head-start on paperwork, the forms for the 2015 church conference season are available on the conference website: <http://www.gnjumc.org/pages/detail/1050>

There will be a special pre-Church Conference training for any new clergy – or anyone needing assistance with forms – on Tuesday, August 18th at 7pm (Location TBA)

Clergy 1-on-1 Appointments

Clergy 1-on-1 appointments will be “self-scheduled” during the months of July and August. In advance of your 1-on-1 meeting, you will receive an e-mail with a few important questions to think about in preparation for the meeting. You will not need to bring church conference paperwork at that time (due to different submission procedures listed above).

To schedule your 1-on-1 appointment, please follow these instructions:

Clergy 1-on-1 Scheduling Procedure

- 1) Go to <https://drewdyson.acuityscheduling.com>
- 2) Click on “DS 1-on-1 with Clergy”
- 3) Click on available dates to see times available (available days in bold)
- 4) Click on time slot desired
- 5) Click “continue”
- 6) Fill out form
- 7) Click “complete appointment”

It is a very simple process with no “registration” required. Once you schedule an appointment, you will receive an e-mail booking confirmation (with the ability to upload directly to your google calendar). You will also receive a “reminder” e-mail 24 hours prior to the scheduled 1-on-1 appointment.

SPRC Meetings & Parsonage Walk-Throughs

Since most of our church conferences will be held in clusters this year, there will not be “automatic” SPRC meetings prior to any church conferences. Each SPRC chair will receive a letter with an invitation to request a meeting with the DS and/or Circuit Elder. Those meetings will be scheduled as requested. Additionally, if you would like to schedule an SPRC consultation, please inform me during the 1-on-1 meeting. Finally, if there are issues (retirement, etc.) coming and I feel that a meeting is necessary, I will contact you (pastor) and the SPRC chairperson.

Since I walked through all of the district parsonages in 2014, I will not be walking through them again this year. If you are having issues with your parsonage requiring my intervention, please let me know during our 1-on-1 meeting and I will schedule a walk-through.