

Guidelines for Demonstrations – 2008 General Conference

Public expressions of faith and concern on a broad range of theological and social issues are part of the long, and rich history of the General Conference.

This gathering is more than a meeting: It reflects Christ at work in the life of his church. It reflects God's children – with all of our imperfections – discerning God's direction for our denomination.

The Commission on the General Conference prayerfully asks participants – visitors and delegates – to approach this gathering from the Wesleyan perspective of Holy Conferencing.

For the duration of the General Conference, the convention center is holy space; a place of worship and decision-making guided by prayer. In that spirit, we ask participants to observe these guidelines:

- Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable. Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names, shouting, or disrupting committee meetings or plenary sessions.
- The safety of persons within the Fort Worth Convention Center is paramount. The flow of pedestrian traffic should never be blocked. This includes access to doors leading to or exiting the convention center or any room, stairways, escalators, elevators, or halls.
- Signs are not allowed within committee meeting rooms. Signs in other areas within the Convention Center must be hand-held. Sticks and poles are not allowed within the convention center.
- Loudspeakers and bullhorns are not allowed inside the convention center.
- Use of candles inside the Convention Center requires approval by and a permit issued from the Fort Worth Fire Marshall.
- For purposes of safety, the Commission on the General Conference may designate areas within the convention center for public expressions of concern.
- Daily, periodic, or regular newsletters or any special interest material published by United Methodist boards, agencies, and recognized United Methodist groups may be distributed related to matters that have been before or are coming before the General Conference and not for soliciting membership. Two copies of each publication are to be deposited in the office of the Commission on the General Conference (Room 104) in advance of the distribution. Persons distributing material must be at least 30 feet from any entrance door to the plenary or committee meeting room. Please consult the rules of the General Conference for other rules pertaining to the distribution of materials.

The City of Fort Worth and the Police Department recognize the right to peaceful assembly and strive to provide protection for everyone's personal safety. Please be aware of the following information from the city:

- Depending on the size and location of your events outside of the convention center, you may be required to secure a parade permit through the Transportation and Public Works – Street Engineering Section.
- Even if a permit is not required, to assure that appropriate emergency support is available, the city would appreciate notification of any outdoor events you may plan by contacting Ed Adcock or Jessie Loera at 817-378-1547.

Questions should be directed to:

Rev. Alan J. Morrison, Business Manager of the General Conference

The Business Manager's office is located in Room 104 of the Fort Worth Convention Center

“As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, Kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:12-16a, 17