

INCOMING CALL

Hearing & Responding to God's Call CBFNC 2008



CBFNC General Assembly 2008 Was a Huge Success!

More than 1,175 participants packed **Forest Hills Baptist Church** in **Raleigh April 11-12** for the 14th annual General Assembly. CBFNC offered 68 ministry workshop sessions, two dinner options which included a grill meal outdoors, an excellent exhibit area complete with an arts display and lots of time for fellowship!



In a brief business session, participants approved a 2008-2009 program budget of \$1.1 million, up 19 percent from the previous year's budget of \$915,000. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, CBFNC received \$2.4 million, including funds channeled to CBF national, Baptist colleges and institutions in North Carolina, and other ministry partners.

At the conclusion of the General Assembly, three groups gathered for lunch: ministers working with our new Interim Ministry Network; our CBFNC theological education scholars; and the Hispanic Ministry Network of approximately 30 Angelos and Hispanics. These three groups display just some of the exciting things that are taking place through CBFNC!

During the Friday evening worship service, which included a 130-member choir from area churches, Keynote speaker Julie Pennington-Russell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Decatur, GA, brought two messages on the theme **"Incoming Call: Hearing and Responding to God's Call."**

The Scripture of Mark offers little detail about how Jesus called out the disciples, "but maybe he leaves it out because the process is not the point," she said. "The point is that Jesus comes to us and calls us to follow him. It's about personal commitment to the person of Christ." "Jesus said 'follow me' – not a denomination or program or task or creed," she added. "If our first calling is to follow Jesus, it gives us tremendous freedom to grow and be shaped along the way," Pennington-Russell said: "Jesus doesn't put us in vocational straightjackets."



"To sense the direction Jesus would have us to go," she said, "believers must learn to be still and hear the Spirit speaking."





Join us next year at
the 2009
General Assembly
March 20-21
at Snyder Memorial
Baptist Church in
Fayetteville, NC.
Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Fred Craddock



CBFNC Councils Begin New Year of Work

During the business session of the General Assembly on April 12, CBFNC council members were elected, installed, and charged to begin a new year of leadership and service. A full listing of the 2008-2009 councils may be found on p. 2. Here is a brief description of the four CBFNC Councils:

Faith Development Ministry Council – The purpose of this council is to provide resources and events for spiritual formation, discipleship development and Christian fellowship. Rick Jordan provides primary staff support to this council, with assistance from Wanda Kidd.

Leadership Development Ministry Council – The purpose of this council is to provide resources for discovering, nurturing and sustaining current and future ministerial staff leaders. Rick Jordan provides primary staff support to this council, with assistance

from Jack Causey and Wanda Kidd.

Missions Ministry Council – The purpose of this council is to motivate and equip individuals and churches to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing resources and opportunities to be on mission locally and globally. Linda Jones provides primary staff support to this council.

Coordinating Council – This is the official board of directors of the non-profit corporation known as “CBF of North Carolina.” Their purpose is to strengthen the bonds that tie us together in fellowship and ministry through communications, gatherings, partner relationships, personnel, finances and other resources. Larry Hovis serves as primary staff support to this council, with assistance from Jim Hylton.

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