

April 3, 2018

Dear Church Pastor and Lay Leader:

The Niagara Frontier District will host its 14th Annual Laity Banquet, celebrating the significant ministry of the laity in our churches, on **Sunday, May 20, 2018, beginning with registration at 4:30 pm and dinner served promptly at 5:00 pm.** The location of this year's banquet is, once again, Samuel's Grande Manor, 8750 Main Street, Williamsville, NY. (Main Street is also Rt. 5)

There is a change in the dinner reservation process this year! Reservations can be made by following [this link](#). This opens up the opportunity to pay by debit card, credit card or PayPal. If you choose to pay by check, payment must be received by May 10.

We struggled with this decision, but it was necessary to increase the price of the event this year. **The cost per person is \$28.** Each church is responsible for the cost of their honoree's dinner.

Enclosed is the Honoree form and all the information you will need to help make this the great success it has been in previous years. ***Please take note of the deadline dates for submitting your forms, and where to return them.***

Our Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Wayne Butler, along with Banquet Chairperson, Linda Barczykowski, will guide us through an evening of fellowship, great food, music, and worship. As in past years, the highlight of the evening will be the recognition of the individual church honoree(s). We will be reading the biographies as their names are called and each will receive a certificate of appreciation and a small gift to commemorate the evening. *We would like to, again, invite the Pastor or other leader from your church to read the biography. This may also prevent the inevitable mispronunciation of names.*

REMINDER! *Even if you do not wish to honor someone from your church, we are encouraging you to attend the event as a church and celebrate the accomplishments of the Niagara Frontier District Laity as a whole.*

You may nominate a single person, a couple or ministry team, or group. If you choose a group, there will be *one certificate awarded to the group*. Singles, couples, and teams of two will each receive their own certificate. Each person will receive a small gift.

The banquet information packet includes the menu and:

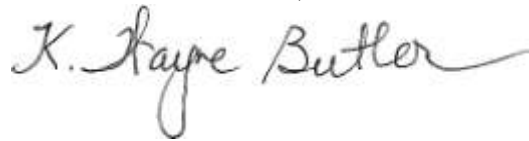
1. **Honoree Form:** In order to be sensitive to all honorees, **biographies must be limited to 50 words or less.** They will be read as the person or group is being recognized that night. **The deadline for all honoree biography forms is May 1.**
2. **The Reservation Link:** Paid reservations are essential in order to have a successful banquet. **Final deadline for all paid reservations is May 7 and will be taken on a first come, first served basis.** **A final count must be given to Samuel's by May 10.**

We know that each church in our district has joys to share and ministries to celebrate. Our hope is that you will want to take advantage of this opportunity to honor someone within your church and come celebrate the marvelous things God is doing in our midst!

Tables will seat up to 12. *Keep in mind, if you have more than 12 people from your church attending, we will split the group between tables.*

We look forward to seeing you in May!

In Grace and Peace,



Rev. Wayne Butler
District Superintendent



Linda Barczykowska
District Board of Laity
Banquet Chairperson

All the information for the banquet is available on the district webpage (<http://www.unyumc.org/district/niagara-frontier>).

If the link doesn't work for dinner reservations, here is the full address for you to copy and paste.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gu7j5juab&oeidk=a07ef8wkypye03eed43>