

## **POLICIES FOR USE OF CONFERENCE LABYRINTH**

A 24' canvas labyrinth was given by the Spiritual Life Committee to the North Carolina Conference in 2013 for the use of congregations, district-led and conference-led events. It is housed in The Media Center at the United Methodist Building and can be reserved by laity and clergy, individuals and groups, by contacting Laura Dallas, media center director. Priority is given first for conference-led, then district-led, then congregation-led events, especially in the holy seasons of Lent and Advent.

### **DESCRIPTION OF LABYRINTH**

The labyrinth is a Modified Medieval 7-Circuit Labyrinth painted on a 24-foot octagonal one-piece canvas. The path is one foot wide and the turns are easy to walk. The center is a full six-petal rosette and the entrance/exit similar to the 11-circuit pattern. Six labryses form the cross and 77 lunations surround the circumference. The modified 7-circuit Chartres-like pattern is useful in working with children and the elderly because the walk is shorter than an 11-foot pattern. The canvas is stored in a wheeled duffel bag for easy portability.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR USAGE**

**RESERVATIONS** - Scheduling for use of the Labyrinth and Resource Kit will be made through The Media Center. Requests can be made up to 6 months prior to needed time, with the understanding that if a priority need arises, they will be contacted (conference-led or district-led request). Length of time for the request is assumed to be no more than 3 days but longer periods of time are allowed with prior permission and especially for multiple uses. Congregations are encouraged to collaborate with near-by churches so that full usage can be made.

**PICKUP** - Arrangements for pick-up are to be made at the time of reservation with Laura Dallas in the Media Center, preferably during hours of operation: Monday - Thursday, 8am to 4pm. In certain cases, with prior arrangements, it can be picked up on Fridays when the Media Center is closed but the building is open.

**RETURN** - Arrangements for the return are also made at the time of reservation, preferably within 3 days of the usage of the labyrinth.

**CARE** - It is the responsibility of the group to return it in the same condition as checked out. Periodic examinations will be made to confirm the condition of care for the labyrinth. Extreme care should be made with the duffel bag in which it is carried. Repairs needed are to be reported. Socks are to be worn at all times on the labyrinth; food or drinks are not allowed. Use of a CLEAN broom or a vacuum cleaner are encouraged before the labyrinth is packed for return.

**CANCELLATION** -If a group will not be picking up the labyrinth at the time scheduled, they must notify Laura Dallas. Rescheduling will depend upon future open dates.

**SPACE** - The labyrinth must be set up in a space appropriate for its size and which is secure at all times. Care must be taken for not only the time during the usage but also throughout the time the labyrinth is on site. It is never to be set up outside.

**FEEDBACK** - A form requesting feedback on how, when and response will be sent after the labyrinth is returned. This will help with future planning. We pray God's grace on your ministry through the use of this labyrinth.

## WORDS FROM BISHOP HOPE WARD

*Journey is a central image in the scripture from the earliest times. Abraham and Sarah were called to leave the place that they knew and go to a new place that God was giving them. And, the entire scriptural witness is a witness of journey, of being called to follow. We follow Christ and we give thanks for the unfolding journey.*

*Our Annual Conference has a wonderful tool for you to use in your local church that will help you explore your journey with God. It's called the labyrinth. It's a 24 foot canvas map, clearly marked, you enter the labyrinth and you follow the path that winds and turns and finally leads you to the center.*

*A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze tries to trick us up. We come to end places and have to turn around and retrace our steps. A labyrinth, however, is a spiritual tool, because we trust the strength and rightness of the path. Even when it loops back and we think we are moving farther from the center, if we follow the path of the labyrinth, it takes us to the center.*

*This image of the spiritual journey has enriched the lives of people across the years, and the labyrinth which we have in the Annual Conference resource center, you can check out and use in your church. You can spread it out and invite people to walk the journey toward the center and then from the center back out into the world. They're books and tools for you to use interpreting this wonderful tool for Christian nurture in your church*