

## JOHNS CREEK UMC POLICY ON THE USE OF CURRICULUM

*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2004*, mandates that each United Methodist church be responsible to use United Methodist resources for its educational and program activities.

- Johns Creek United Methodist Church assumes responsibility for this mandate and thereby requires that all educational and program resources be approved by the Senior Pastor or Pastor of GROW. Pre-approved materials (Resources approved by the United Methodist Publishing House/Cokesbury) include:

All curriculum and resources published in the *Forcast* annual and quarterly listing  
All resources listed in the United Methodist Women's Reading Program  
All materials published by the United Methodist Publishing House, including:

Abingdon Press  
Discipleship Resources  
The Upper Room Press

- Selection and Approval of Special Study Material  
While these resources provide an almost unlimited variety and amount of study material, we recognize that there may be special topics – especially of a timely nature - that individual classes or groups may desire to study. In these instances, a written proposal must be submitted to the Senior Pastor or Pastor of GROW at least four weeks prior to the scheduled use of the proposed material by any group or class. Materials will be assessed by the curriculum committee to insure they are appropriate to the mission of the church and consistent with United Methodist and Wesleyan doctrine and polity.
- Review of Approved Curriculum:  
Periodically scheduled sessions will be hosted at the 8:30 A.M. Sunday hour to present new curriculum options and provide a time for survey and inquiry regarding approved curriculum for Sunday School classes and small group ministries at Johns Creek United Methodist Church.

The use of curriculum affords adult Sunday School Class participants an opportunity to share objective resources and encourages class members to participate in class preparation and home Bible study. Curriculum also allows various perspectives and interpretations of Scripture, doctrines and theological teachings, and of the church to be studied from competent scholars and writers. United Methodists are theologically pluralistic and each individual Christian has the responsibility of working out their own belief-system (theology) based on Holy Scripture, while remaining within the parameters of the Orthodox faith as expressed in the Apostle's Creed. A study class or group has the benefit of *working out their faith* together.

- Teachers are provided training on United Methodist/Wesleyan theological and doctrinal resources, and provided copies of material including: *Major United Methodist Beliefs*, Rev. Ed., by Bishop Mack B. Stokes, and *Who Are We? Doctrine, Ministry, and Mission of the United Methodist Church*. A comprehensive bibliography is also provided with "suggested" readings from resources available in the Johns Creek U.M.C. Library.

## **POLICY ON GUEST SPEAKERS AND TEACHERS**

All class teachers and group leaders must be approved by the Senior Pastor or Pastor of GROW. Only United Methodists are approved teachers and group leaders of classes and groups at United Methodist churches, and any United Methodist that is not a member of Johns Creek United Methodist Church must be invited by special invitation by the pastor of the church. Any guest speaker or leader from outside the congregation must not be invited to teach or lead a group at Johns Creek United Methodist Church until they have been approved by the Senior Pastor or Pastor of GROW.

### **References:**

We (Johns Creek United Methodist Church) entrust most of the selection for approved curriculum and resources to our denominational offices.

1122. There should be a Curriculum Resources Committee, organized and administered by the General Board of Discipleship, which should be responsible for the construction of plans for curriculum and resources to be used in the Christian educational ministry of the Church and other study settings.

*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2004*