

**North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Bishop Appointed to the North Georgia Conference**

Bishop B. Michael Watson has been assigned as the next episcopal leader of the North Georgia Area of the United Methodist Church. This announcement came Friday evening, July 18, during the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church in Lake Junaluska, NC. His assignment becomes effective September 1, 2008.

Watson, 59, has served the South Georgia Conference for the past eight years and currently resides in Macon. He was elected to the episcopacy in 2000 from the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

After 12 years of service to the North Georgia Conference, Bishop Lindsey Davis has been appointed to the Louisville Area where he will serve the Kentucky and Red Bird Missionary Conferences.

A United Methodist bishop serves as a general superintendent of the entire church. Bishops also have the responsibility to see that the rules and regulations developed by the General Conference, the top law making body of the denomination, are carried out.

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*The North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church consists of 12 districts and more than 900 churches with approximately 350,000 members. The Conference offices are located in Norcross.*