

North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2008

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North Georgia United Methodists Have New Bishops

The 350,000 United Methodists in the North Georgia Annual (Regional) Conference now have a new leader.

Bishop B. Michael Watson was officially installed at a service September 7 at Dunwoody United Methodist Church.

"We already love you and praise God for you," said Watson, as he greeted the congregants, which included clergy and laity from across the North Georgia area, college presidents and deans, retired bishops and leaders of other denominations.

In his first time preaching as episcopal leader of the North Georgia Conference, Bishop Watson asked those in attendance to claim this fresh opportunity to recognize their mutual calling to Christian ministry.

"What is your ministry?" he asked. "I am being installed to this one. You're being installed to one, too. Will you accept that, as I accept this?"

His assignment to the North Georgia Conference is Watson's second assignment as bishop. For eight years Watson served as the episcopal leader of the South Georgia area. In July of 2008 he was appointed to serve the North Georgia Conference and officially became North Georgia's bishop on September 1, 2008.

Before being elected bishop in 2000, Watson served as a pastor in the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. There he founded Covenant United Methodist Church in his hometown of Dothan, Ala., and served as the pastor of Dauphin Way United Methodist Church in Mobile, Ala.

Bishop Watson follows Bishop Lindsey Davis who served the North Georgia Conference for 12 years before being assigned to the Louisville area this fall.

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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.