

Dear PAUMCS 2025 Conference Registrant,

Greetings from the Site Committee for the 2025 National Conference. We look forward to a time of rest and relaxation at the beautiful Wesley Center located in Central Louisiana. We want you to “Be Still and Know that I Am God” in the beautiful midst of the Kisatchie National Forest. Spring in Louisiana is always lovely, and sometimes unpredictable.

Our Campus is contained, and everything is in walking distance. Our lodges consist of two stories. There are no elevators, so if you need to be in a downstairs room, please let me know ASAP, so that can be arranged. Our rooms are hotel style, with in room bathrooms. Just no TVs since we are a retreat center.

All pertinent documents can be found on the PAUMCS.org website. If you are driving, the physical address of the center is 2350 Methodist Parkway, Woodworth, LA 71385, and the phone number is 318-449-4500. Please obey all speed limits, as the Woodworth police department is very much present on the roadways. Also be on the watch for animals: there are many deer around and also a herd of wild horses.

If you are flying into Alexandria International Airport and wish transportation to the center, please send me your flight information. We will arrange for your flight to be met, and transportation to the center.

The first meal to be served by The Wesley Center is Wednesday evening. If you are arriving early, there will be snacks available in the Hospitality Room in the main building.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE: The weather in Louisiana is usually quite pleasant in the spring. High temperature are usually in the 70s-mid 80s. Lows are generally in the 50s-60s. A light jacket might be needed. Also, bring a sweater for the meeting room, in case it gets a little cool. We are hoping for beautiful, sunshiny weather for our conference, as we have several things planned for outdoors. You may want to bring an umbrella, just in case.

TRANSPORTATION: It is essential that you let me know your flight schedules to receive transportation to the center. It is about 8 miles from the airport to the center. Uber is available, but I would recommend advance arrangements if you use this service. There is only one Uber driver in the area.

EARLY ARRIVAL: There are no planned meals before Wednesday dinner at the Wesley Center. There are no restaurants close by (we are located in the middle of Kisatchie National Forest) so a 8-10 mile drive is necessary to get into Alexandria.

MEALS: All meals will be served buffet style. Breakfast will always include a fruit bar, as well as traditional hot foods. Lunch and dinner will include full salad bar, meat, vegetables, bread, starch, and dessert. On Friday evening we will have a fish dinner as well as a crawfish boil under the Pavilion if the weather permits. Plan to enjoy our Louisiana cuisine. If you have food restrictions, please let us know. Our chef is great at accommodating your needs.

DRESS: Since we are a retreat center, our dress code is more relaxed. We do hope that you will dress in a business casual mode. For the Crawfish Boil, you may wear more casual clothing, as it will be outside under the Pavilion if the weather permits. For free time on Saturday, comfortable outdoor clothing is appropriate for either zip-lining or walking the trails, or just lounging on the grounds. For our celebration banquet, we suggest you “dress up” a little bit and be sure to wear your Mardi Gras mask for pictures and dinner.

HOSPITALITY ROOM: The Wesley Center provides coffee in the alcove across from our meeting area. The Hospitality Room will have snacks and water, etc. for between our meals and during our break times. It will be located in the main lobby of the building.

PAPERLESS MEETINGS: Once again, we will conduct a paperless conference. All necessary documents will be on the PAUMCS website so you may download or print what you want in a hard copy.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: There will be an offering taken up for the Memorial Scholarship Fund, formerly the Leslie Bayles Memorial Scholarship Fund. PAUMCS can accept your donation in the form of cash or check; checks may be made payable to PAUMCS. This happens on Saturday, April 5.

MISSION EMPHASIS: We will be highlighting the work of the Louisiana Conference Children’s Homes. This will happen on Saturday, April 5 and we will be collecting monetary donations to help support this wonderful organization. Rev. Beth Tu’utu will have a wonderful presentation about the work being done.

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES: There are many opportunities to explore the diversity of Louisiana culture before or after the conference. We encourage you to plan to arrive early and/or stay late to enjoy our state. There is also the opportunity to sail over the lake on our zip-line. You can register for the zip-line at registration for \$20. We have the second longest zip-line in Louisiana. It does require climbing the tower to the launch site, so be aware that this climb is somewhat strenuous.

CONFERENCE PHOTOS: This year we will be again sharing pictures during the conference through an app called Photo Circle. Join.photocircleapp.com/A4DXQTN61