

CURRENT NEWS



Hear Rev. Dr. Gary Mason Tuesday, March 22, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Instead of our normal church council meeting, Rev. Dr. Gary Mason will be presenting to us on conflict and peace on Tuesday, March 22, at 7p.m. in the sanctuary. **This will be open to all members of the church and community abroad.**

Dr. Mason is a Methodist minister and holds a PhD from the School of Psychology at the University of Ulster. He was also awarded an honorary Doctorate in Divinity for his role in peace building in Ireland from Florida Southern College. He completed his theological studies at Queens University and holds a Bachelor's in Business Studies from the University of Ulster. Dr. Mason is a Senior Research Fellow at the Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University in Ireland. He is also an adjunct Professor at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

Dr. Mason has lectured in political, religious and academic forums throughout Europe, South Africa, the Middle East and the U.S.A. seeking to engage, mentor and share lessons from the Irish peace process. Prior to founding Rethinking Conflict, he spent 28 years as a clergy person in Belfast and was involved in the "Northern Irish Peace Process." He has been and continues to be a close advisor to Protestant ex-combatants on the civilianization efforts of paramilitaries.

For more information about Dr. Mason and links to videos to best prepare you for this opportunity, please visit <https://www.rethinkingconflict.com/>. This event will also be [livestreamed](#). [Click here for link](#).



Brian Tillman speaks at all services and special Sunday School session on March 27

Rev. Brian Tillman is a cabinet-level appointed clergy person on the North Georgia Annual Conference. In his role, he provides consultation, support, and training aimed at strengthening engagement with and advocacy for the communities in which churches serve. Tillman's work is aimed at helping congregations bolster both justice and discipleship ministries. An ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference, Rev. Tillman has served as Chair of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race for five years. His previous appointment was as associate pastor of Ben Hill UMC in Atlanta. He has served at Johns Creek UMC, McEachern Memorial

UMC, and Powers Ferry UMC. Rev. Tillman has traveled internationally to study with peacebuilders in Northern Ireland and Germany. He plans to travel to South Africa in the next year with his clergy continuing education group (ACE2).

As a pastor and advocate for racial healing, he holds Luke 4:18-19 as his charge to share God's love, grace, mercy, justice, and righteousness to all.

Come hear him preach at both services on March 27 and discover why Thomas thinks he might be the best dancing clergy person in the North Georgia Annual Conference. You are also invited to a special forum on Peace and Justice led by Rev. Tillman during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary.

[Read more about Rev. Tillman's background and goals here.](#)