

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delegates to the 81st annual meeting of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ open their official business sessions today (Thursday), spend an afternoon on the New College campus and convene for the conference dinner at night.

The delegates, expected to number more than 200, meet at 9 a.m. for the opening business session at the First Congregational Church of Sarasota. At 10 a.m. they hear an address by the Rev. Robbins Ralph, conference superintendent, and a special presentation by the Committee on Evangelism with the Rev. Fred E. Cole giving a talk on "Renewing and Rebuilding the Church."

New College has a special program planned for the delegates beginning at 4 p.m. Following tours of the campus buildings, the group will be welcomed by President George F. Baughman and then break up into workshops on Florida Development Efforts, College's Educational Program, the Woman's Library Association, and the New College Student.

Venice High School students will provide music for an evensong vesper concert at 5:50p.m. on the terrace of College Hall on the bayfront.

Taking part in the musical program will be Miss Patty Johnson, pianist; Miss Frances Webinga, clarinetist; Miss Marcia Baird, soprano and Miss Jinnie Brown, alto. Mrs. Lester Wendt is accompanist.

Also present for the vesper hour will be two New College students from Florida who will give short talks. They are Miss Esther Lynn Barazzone

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of Port Charlotte and Fred Whitelaw, Jr. of Floral City.

The conference dinner will be held at 7 p.m. at Holiday Inn with an address by the Rev. Arthur D. Gray of Chicago, representing the Executive Council of the General Synod, entitled, "Address, United for What."

The Rev. Henry W. Tuttle, the Rev. Karlton Johnson and Mrs. Robert G. Williams will make a presentation for the Committee on Stewardship and Our Christian World Mission.

Representatives of churches from all regions of the state are attending the conference.

Registration began at noon Wednesday followed by a special founder's day celebration at the church-sponsored retirement center site on Coon Key, Plymouth Harbor, at 4 p.m., a fellowship dinner at the Sarasota Terrace Hotel and an evening service of worship at the First Congregational Church.