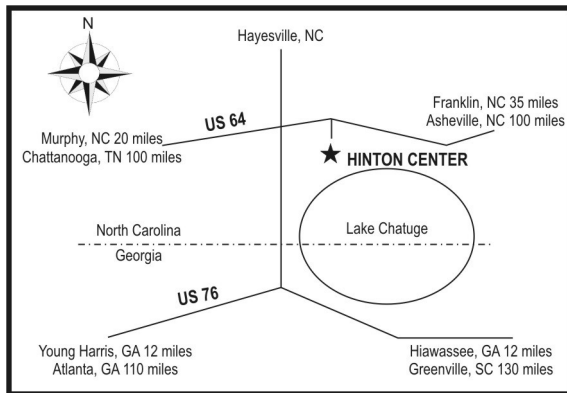


### Who we are...

*Hinton Rural Life Center is a mission agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Hinton was formed in 1960 as a resource and advocate for rural and smaller membership churches in the Southeast. It is located in the Appalachian mountains of southwestern North Carolina, 100 miles west of Asheville, 100 miles east of Chattanooga, and 100 miles north of Atlanta.*

### Our Mission Statement

*Inspired by Jesus Christ, the Hinton Rural Life Center seeks to be a creative catalyst for building healthy and effective communities of faith by advocating for churches of small membership, providing resources and consultation for all congregations, offering opportunities for service-based mission and reflection, addressing issues that affect human well being and quality of life, and furnishing sacred space for hospitality, spiritual growth, and renewal.*



**Hinton Rural Life Center**  
P.O.Box 27  
Hayesville NC 28904  
Phone: 828-389-8336  
Toll Free: 1-866-389-8336  
Fax: 828-389-3279  
Email: [info@hintoncenter.org](mailto:info@hintoncenter.org)  
Website: [www.hintoncenter.org](http://www.hintoncenter.org)

An agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction  
of the United Methodist Church

# Hinton Rural Life Center



*...helping  
Smaller Membership  
and Rural  
Congregations  
toward  
expanded vision,  
enhanced health, and more  
effective ministry  
for nearly 50 years.*

## Hinton Rural Life Center

is your resource for  
smaller membership and rural churches.

We offer assistance  
- for your congregation -  
- for your district -  
- for you! -

that will make a difference in your ministry.

- ◆ Training and resources that are size- and setting-appropriate for congregations, cooperative ministries, districts, and annual conferences
- ◆ Workshops at your location tailored to your specific needs and schedule
- ◆ Consultations with local congregations and cooperative ministries
- ◆ Printed Models of Ministry resources
- ◆ Training and networking events for pastors and for laity
- ◆ Guided programs in spiritual formation
- ◆ Mission work team opportunities for all ages, year-round
- ◆ A beautiful and unique retreat setting for individuals and groups
- ◆ International gift shop featuring SERRV and Ten Thousand Villages gifts and crafts

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**Please support Hinton Rural Life Center through Advance Special Giving.**

Hinton Rural Life Center is an Advance Special of the United Methodist Church.  
Advance Special gifts are always appreciated.  
Specify Advance #731372

## *At your location...*

Hinton program staff can travel to your location to lead workshops tailored to your needs, size, and schedule, including:

### **For Local Congregations:**

- Visioning and Planning Leadership
- Cooperative Ministries Development
- NOW (Nurture, Outreach, Witness) Model of Program Ministry
- Stewardship and Financial Development
- Evangelism and Growth

### **For District and Conference Workshops**

- Visioning and Planning Training
- NOW Model of organizing for ministry
- Youth Ministry Training
- Home Repair Ministry
- Stewardship and Financial Development in the Smaller Membership Church
- Pastoring the Smaller Membership Church
- Spiritual Formation for Clergy and Laity

If you have a special interest, talk with us about how we can be a resource for you.

Hinton staff work by invitation from local churches, cooperative ministries, districts, or conferences. Work done directly with local congregations requires an invitation from the District Superintendent.

The Hinton program team is available for the cost of travel (mileage, housing, and meals) and a honorarium of \$200 per church or \$500 for a district event.

To discuss how Hinton might help your group or to schedule a visit from Hinton staff, contact Lyle Shipley, (828) 389-8336, toll free (866) 389-8336, or by email at [lyle@hintoncenter.org](mailto:lyle@hintoncenter.org).

## *At Hinton Rural Life Center...*

### **Training and Networking**

Hinton offers a variety of opportunities for both clergy and laity to learn new skills, to network and fellowship with others, and to experience the renewal of a time apart.

Led by Hinton staff and by faculty from across the country, these events cover a wide range of resources for smaller membership and rural church ministry, including:

- Cooperative ministry training
- Pastoring the smaller membership church
- Hispanic Ministries Gathering/Reunido
- Mission Volunteer Program
- Local Pastors' training
- Rural Community Drug Prevention
- Affordable Housing Ministry
- Christian Education and Sunday School ...and much more.

### **Spiritual Formation**

**Personal meditation and study retreats** are available at Hinton for pastors and laypersons. We have cottages available for small groups and hermitage houses for individuals.

**The First Parish Project** is a program of ministry education and peer support for first time pastors under the age of 35 and serving a small membership church. The participants will meet for six weeks over 2 years for learning, worship and colleague support

Contact Clarissa Youngblood Fuentes at (828) 389-8336, toll free (866) 389-8336 or by email at [clarissa@hintoncenter.org](mailto:clarissa@hintoncenter.org).

### **Mission Volunteer Ministries**

**Hands-on mission work** is a large part of Hinton's ministry. Work opportunities are available all year both on site at the Hinton facility and/or in our community. Whatever your skills, you can serve your neighbor and give substantial help where it is needed most.

**Summer Missions** for all ages offer life-changing experiences and relationships for work teams from all over the US. Rebuilding unsafe or substandard housing or building new homes for low-income, elderly, or disabled neighbors here in Appalachia makes a tangible difference in everyone's lives.

Contact Julia Buckner at (828) 389-8336, toll free (866) 389-8336 or by email at [julia@hintoncenter.org](mailto:julia@hintoncenter.org).

### **Retreat Facilities**

**Individual, Family, or Group Retreats** are popular at the Hinton facility, which is surrounded by the natural beauty of God's creation. You are welcome to bring your own programming or Hinton staff can provide leadership. We can feed and house over 140 people comfortably.

For more information on Hinton's facilities and for current rates, contact Jennifer Bennett at (828) 389-8336 or [jennfer@hintoncenter.org](mailto:jennfer@hintoncenter.org), or visit our website, [www.hintoncenter.org](http://www.hintoncenter.org).

*At our location in the Appalachian mountains of southwestern North Carolina, we offer training, networking, and spiritual formation events for pastors and laity, volunteer mission opportunities, and retreat facilities for all ages.*

