

# BIG TENT

## INFORMATION FOR ATTENDEES

Registration confirmation reminders are being mailed on Wednesday, June 3, with the following information to help attendees with last minute arrangements.

### CONTACT NUMBERS:

G.A. Meeting Service 888-728-7228, ext. 2417 Voice mail at this number will be monitored throughout the conference; leave a detailed message with call back information. Or contact [gameetingservice@pcusa.org](mailto:gameetingservice@pcusa.org)

Hyatt Regency Atlanta 404-577-1234

### ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND ASSISTANCE:

Conference registration opens at noon on Thursday, June 11, at the Grand Hall Foyer in the Exhibit Level of the Hyatt Regency. The Big Tent Information Center will be located there throughout the conference, so check there first with any questions or concerns.

### LOCATIONS:

Unless otherwise noted, all Big Tent activities will take place at the Hyatt Regency hotel in downtown Atlanta, located at 265 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA, 30303, adjacent to the Peachtree Center. See [hyattregencyatlanta.com](http://hyattregencyatlanta.com) for information about the hotel.

### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Most conference attendees\* are responsible for arranging and paying for their own accommodations in Atlanta. To inquire about availability at the Hyatt (or to change a reservation you have already made), call 800-233-1234 and specify the conference dates, and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

*\*The G.A. Meeting Service handled reservations at the Hyatt for G.A. staff, conference planning team members, speakers, and others whose Big Tent travel expenses are covered by PC(USA) budget. These participants will receive confirmation of their reservation at the Hyatt with their mailing.*

### TRAVEL TO ATLANTA:

Please make your own travel arrangements as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Atlanta is easily accessible by road, air, and rail. Most major airlines serve the Atlanta Hartsfield International airport (ATL), and the Amtrak station is located about three miles north of the Hyatt.

See below for ground transportation information and driving directions.

### MEALS AND DINING:

The registration confirmations show the Big Tent and conference meals for which each attendee is registered – and for which they will receive tickets when they register on-site. *Tickets are required for admission to all conference meals, including the Thursday Big Tent dinner, the Friday Big Tent lunch, and other luncheons, dinners and receptions sponsored by the partner conferences.*

Some meal sponsors will offer a limited number of additional tickets for sale on-site. Check at Big Tent Registration in the Grand Hall foyer about availability.

There are numerous restaurants in and near the Hyatt for breakfast and other times when you are not taking part in a planned group meal. These range from inexpensive fast-food outlets in the adjacent Peachtree Center to fine dining establishments; there are options for all budgets and tastes. Information about restaurants in the area will be available from the Big Tent Registration/Information Center, and from the hotel concierge.

At the Big Tent Celebration on Saturday evening, vendors will offer food for purchase – cash only, so please come prepared. (See below for more information.)

#### **CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS:**

The *Big Tent Program* that attendees will receive at registration at the Hyatt will include the full conference schedule, including the updated listing of workshops and other events offered during each session. You are encouraged to review that schedule carefully to plan your time at the Big Tent. You are *not* limited to attending the workshops that you originally listed as your preferences.

#### **ACCESSIBILITY:**

The Hyatt Regency Atlanta is fully accessible, and offers a number of facilities and services for guests who have a disability; see [hyattregencyatlanta.com](http://hyattregencyatlanta.com) for more information. Hotel guests should advise the Hyatt of any special needs regarding their lodging.

Persons with vision, hearing, mobility impairment or other special needs will find information about various kinds of assistance and accessibility at the Big Tent Information Center in the Grand Hall foyer. Contact the G.A Meeting Service now (at 888-728-7228, ext. 2417) with questions or concerns.

#### **PLANNING AHEAD:**

- **Plan your free time in Atlanta** - visit [www.Atlanta.net](http://www.Atlanta.net) for information on attractions and special events that will be going on that week.
- **Packing** - though outdoor temperatures are likely to be in the 80s that week, it can be difficult to regulate the air conditioning in meeting rooms, and it may feel very cool indoors. Please bring a sweater or jacket.
- **Twelve Step Meetings** - Big Tent attendees may take advantage of numerous meetings offered in the area. Visit [Atlantaaa.org](http://Atlantaaa.org) for the schedule and other information. Many are within walking distance of the Hyatt, or accessible by MARTA, Atlanta's mass transit system.
- **Staying in Touch** – the Hyatt has a business center; there are fees for using the computers, Internet access, and other services. Guest room Internet charges start at \$9.95/day.

#### **Plan to Celebrate at the Celebration! (Happy Birthday, PC(USA)!)!**

Twenty-six years ago, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was formed in Atlanta. As the Big Tent comes to a close on **Saturday evening, June 13**, we will move to **Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park\*** to celebrate God's work through the witness and ministry of the PC(USA) over the last quarter-century.

There will be **music, dancing, food, fellowship, reflections, and fun!** The many highlights include::

- “Winds of Hope, Winds of Healing” – a musical group that formed in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina. The group works to raise awareness about the importance of disaster preparedness, and assists where they can when disaster strikes. They are raising funds to reestablish mental health services along the Gulf Coast.
- The Contemporary Choir - First Presbyterian Church, Douglasville, GA
- “Moving in the Spirit”— a children's/youth dance troupe from the Atlanta area

- A **BIG** PC(USA) birthday cake and piñatas
- Activity centers – fun and educational, for adults and children, demonstrating the breadth of Presbyterian witness and ministry
- Food vendors selling a variety of foods (note: cash only – be prepared!)
- Special souvenirs for sale – again, cash only!

Among the activities will be an opportunity to create hygiene kits that will be distributed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to people in need due to disasters. If you'd like to join in, please bring some or all of the following with you to Atlanta (or purchase there, and bring it to the Celebration):

- 1 hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 wide-tooth comb
- 1 nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging) - *please do not add or bring toothpaste*
- 6 Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

**We hope you will plan to join other Big Tent attendees and many other Presbyterians from the Atlanta area and enjoy this special “family reunion.”**

\*Centennial Olympic Park is located about 5 blocks from the Hyatt; there will be a procession from the Hyatt to the park after the closing Big Tent worship service on Saturday. Transportation is also available between the hotel and Centennial Park, departing from the front entrance of the hotel.

**Be aware of two new opportunities in the Big Tent schedule as you make your plans:**

- ***Faith Stories - Share Yours!***  
Many are familiar with National Public Radio's "Story Corps" project. *Faith Stories*, a similar project with a Presbyterian slant, will be launched at Big Tent, to record short, personal stories about how faith has changed lives and what it means to be a Presbyterian. Please consider taking part in this. Think about the pivotal moments in your faith journey. Was a mission trip or camp experience especially meaningful? Perhaps your church has done local projects that have truly impacted the lives of others and your own life. Maybe your faith saved you at a dark time in your life, or amplified the joy of special moments. Visit the Faith Stories studio, located in Breakout Room 4 in the Grand Hall (the Big Tent Exhibit Hall) for more information and to sign up. The final program will be shared with the greater church in a variety of ways so we can continue in the way of Jesus by sharing our faith through the power of stories.
- ***PDA Documentary Film Preview - Kepulihan: Stories from the Tsunami***  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is honored to have its documentary film selected by the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site as part of its D.R.E.A.M. Film Series screenings. This documentary project follows 4 Tsunami survivors over 4 years and enables them to tell their stories of recovery. For more information about the documentary visit [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda).

There will be a special premier for Big Tent attendees, at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday evening at the Martin Luther King Jr. Historical Site. Tickets are free, and available on a first come/first serve basis, and transportation will be provided. Get more information, pick up tickets, and sign up for transportation in the Grand Hall Foyer at the Hyatt, from Thursday.

**QUESTIONS, CONCERNS?**

Contact the G.A. Meeting Service

888-728-7228, ext. 2417, or [gameetingservice@pcusa.org](mailto:gameetingservice@pcusa.org)

# GROUND TRANSPORTATION IN ATLANTA

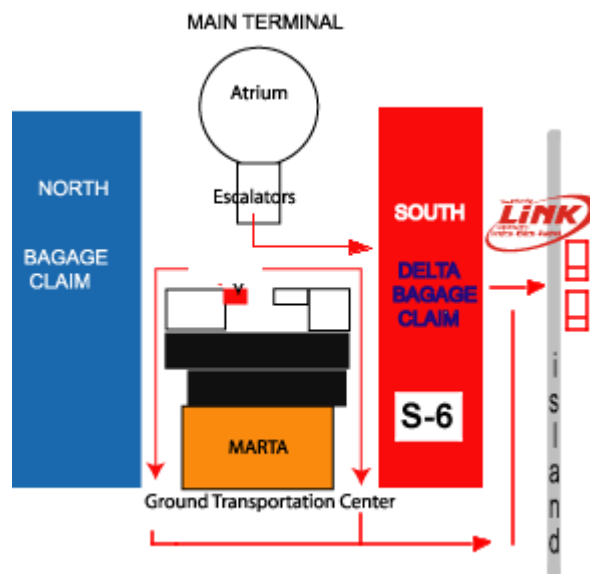
## MARTA ([www.itsmarta.com](http://www.itsmarta.com))

Atlanta's mass transit system, MARTA, provides easy and inexpensive transportation from the airport to the Peachtree Center adjacent to the Hyatt Regency. The fare is \$1.75 each way (plus 50 cents for a Breeze ticket); trains run approximately every ten minutes, and the trip takes about 20 minutes.

MARTA is wheelchair accessible.

**At the airport**, the MARTA station is located near baggage claim, and there is good signage. Use the automated ticket machines (they accept cash and credit/debit cards) to purchase a Breeze ticket (*not* a Breeze card). It will be \$4 for the \$3.50 round trip fare and the 50 cent Breeze ticket fee. To enter, tap the ticket on the BREEZE symbol and the gate will open. (Keep the ticket handy; you will tap it again to exit.) Take any **northbound** train to the Peachtree Center Station (one stop north of Five Points).

Exit the train at Peachtree Center Station; you will be in a large underground station. Turn to your right – (north - the direction the train was going), and take either escalator (or the elevator between them) up towards Peachtree Center. (Do not take the escalators at the back of the train!) At the top of the escalators, tap your card to exit, turn to your right, and proceed around the corner and go right up a shorter escalator. You will come out on Peachtree Street in the middle of the block. Turn right, and walk to the entrance of the Hyatt in the middle of the next block. The elevator will bring you up to the first level; go left to another elevator that will bring you to street level - Peachtree Street, by the BBT Bank, on the opposite side of the street from the Hyatt. Go left to Harris Street to cross.



## SHUTTLES:

The Atlanta Link provides shuttle service between the airport and the Hyatt at a fare of \$16.50 one way and \$29 round trip. Shuttles operate from 6:00 a.m. to midnight.

Advance reservations are not normally required for shuttles from the airport; to locate the shuttles there, follow airport signage to Baggage Claim. After retrieving your luggage, follow signs to Delta Baggage

Claim South Terminal; exit through doors S-5 or S-6. The Atlanta Link vehicles are located in the middle island, and you may pay the driver for the fare.

The Atlanta Link has vehicles equipped with lifts for wheelchairs and scooters. Advance reservations are required when one of these vehicles is needed; contact 866-545-9633 (or 404-524-3400), or [theatlantalink.com](http://theatlantalink.com) for information and to make advance reservations.

From the Hyatt, Atlanta Link shuttles depart for the airport at 10 and 40 minutes after the hour. Advance reservations are needed for those departing from the Hyatt before 6:10 a.m., or after 5:10 p.m. The Atlanta Link recommends departing the hotel at least 2 hours prior to your scheduled flight time.

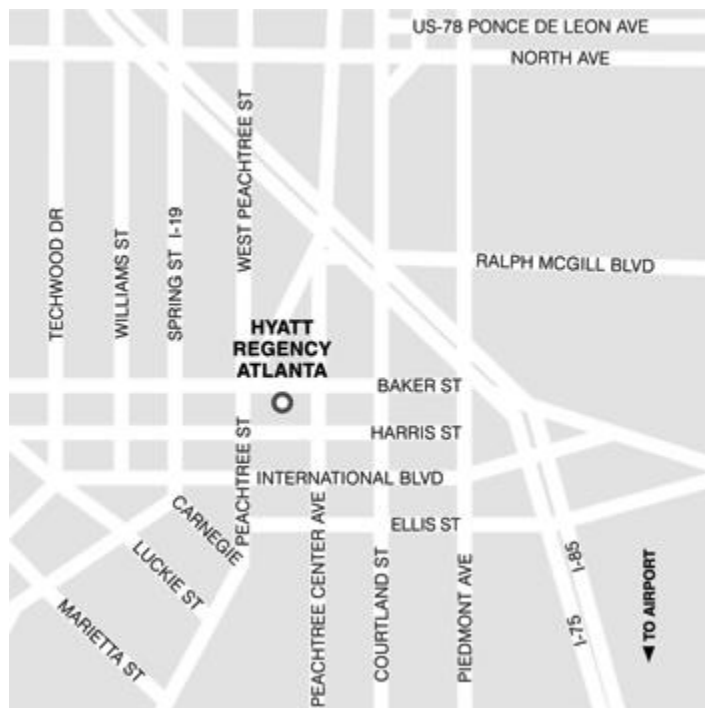
### **TAXIS:**

Taxi fare from the airport is about \$30, plus \$2 for each additional person (one-way). Taxi fare from the Amtrak station is approximately \$11.

### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

Northbound on 75/85, driving from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (12 miles), or on Interstate 20 west and eastbound: From 75/85 North, take exit 248-C (International Blvd.) on your right. Turn left onto International Blvd. Turn right at the third traffic light onto Peachtree Center Avenue. The Hyatt's Motor Lobby entrance is one block on the left.

Southbound on 75/85, and from GA 400: Exit 249-C (Williams Street). Go straight at the end of the exit. At the fourth traffic light, turn left onto Harris Street, then take the third left onto Peachtree Center Avenue. The Hyatt's Motor Lobby entrance is on the left.



**Parking:** Big Tent attendees may park at the hotel for the discounted rate of \$15/day. Those who are not hotel guests may be asked to show their Big Tent badge when they exit. Less expensive parking lots are located in the area.