The purpose of this document is to help clergy and lay delegates communicate the business of the 2008 Annual Conference session to their local church membership. Please note that this is not a comprehensive report of all that occurred during the conference.

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Opening Communion and Memorial Service

- Remembered 16 spouses of clergy who passed away between May 1, 2007 and May 1, 2008: John Biles, Janice Cavin, Charlotte Cook, Betty Sanders Duffey, Joyce Eubanks, Cornelia Shell Gunnells, Violet Jackson Kemp, Mary Louise Fleming, Bertha P. Long, Jenola W. Page, Ann Parrish, Ethel Mae Robb, Kay Baxley Robinson, Mildred Viola Ragsdale, Elizabeth Myers Williams, and Hattie Wynn.

Opening of Conference

- Bill Britt, Johnny Fowler, Robin Lindsey, Tom Jackson, and Athens Mayor Heidi Davidson welcomed the conference to Athens.
- The Consent Agenda was presented.

Nothing But Nets

- Annual Conference delegates raised $10,000 in cash and $114,000 in pledges for Nothing But Nets anti-malaria campaign after the General Conference delegation presented Bishop Davis with a basketball signed by all the United Methodist bishops. A friendly challenge to the bishop to shoot a basket (which he made on his second shot) led to the outpouring of cash and pledges from delegates.

United Methodist Publishing House

- Presented Bishop Davis with a check for more than $14,000. The funds will be sent to the General Board of Pension for the Central Conference Pension Initiative.
Committee on Episcopacy/Episcopal Residence/Residence Task Force

- A new Episcopal residence has been purchased in the Horseshoe Bend subdivision near the United Methodist Center at Simpsonwood. Next the committee will sell the current Episcopal residence. Profits from that sale will be used to pay off the short-term loan used to purchase the new residence.

Monitoring

- Nancy Johnson, Chair of the Committee on the Status and Role of Women, explained that COSROW would observe and report statistical data on gender, race, and status as lay or clergy of those speaking and participating in each session. Monitoring results will be made available to the conference and to delegates.

Service of Ordination and Commissioning

- Ordained two Full Connection Deacons: Michele Rosanne May and Jenna Elizabeth Mobley.
- Recognized orders from another denomination: Jason Daniel Danuser.
  * Transitioning orders from another denomination: Jason Daniel Danuser.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2008

Wesleyan Christian Advocate

- Editor Jim Nelson reported that the newspaper finished the year "in the black" with a slight increase in subscriptions and advertising revenue.
- The Advocate will begin a capital campaign for new software and hardware.

Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union

- Presented a $1000 scholarship to Gabe Peacock of Oak Grove UMC in Atlanta.
Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits

- Six recommendations were presented and approved.
- The Benefits Office invited HealthFlex members to take a Health Risk Quotient and all of annual conference to have a ProCheck Health Screening.

Higher Education and Campus Ministry

- Leigh Martin, Vice President of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, presented retiring director Bill Griffin with the Francis Asbury Award for 13 years of service and devotion to college students and Wesley Foundations.
- Cindy Autry was introduced as the new Director of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. She is a member of the South Georgia Conference.

Recognition of Retiring Clergy


Conference Staffing Task Force

- Approved recommendations including changing the name of the Office of Church Development to the "Office of New Church Development" and moving existing church development to Connectional Ministries.

Young Adult Task Force

- Passed two resolutions to increase participation of young adults as voting members of Annual Conference. One will request the bishop to set the days of Annual Conference to Wednesday through Saturday in 2010. The other will require each district to send two young adult at-large delegates to Annual Conference.

Nominations

- Officers of Conference boards, committees, and commissions were elected.
Council on Finance and Administration Part I

- Total apportionments paid were $22,423,831.
- For the sixth consecutive year, North Georgia was the top payer of General Church apportionments.
- For the eight consecutive year the Gainesville District achieved a 100 percent apportionment rate. The Northwest District was second highest with 98.5 percent.
- Conference adopted 16 recommendations presented by CF&A.

Consent Agenda

- Adopted consent agenda.

Greetings

- Walter H. McKelvey brought greetings from the Association of UM Theological Schools and Gammon Theological Seminary. Vance Ross brought greetings from the General Board of Discipleship. Courtneida Adrill Hudson, a member of Capital View UMC, spoke on behalf of the Black College Fund. Jim Hanna brought greetings on behalf of the SEJ Connectional Table.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008

Office of Church Development

- Church Development is working toward a goal of starting 200 new churches by 2020.
- Chartered three new churches and started nine new missions in 2007.
- The Committee on Black Church Development partnered with the Fund for Theological Education using their Equipping Congregations program of leadership development and developed coaching resources.
- Committee on Hispanic Church Development reports that the Conference has 1,725 Hispanic/Latino members and about 1,275 Hispanics/Latinos attending 24 congregations that offer or will offer worship services in Spanish or Portuguese.
- In 2008 the Conference will sponsor the first Boot Camp for Hispanic Church Planters and in August North Georgia and Candler School of Theology will offer License to Preach School in Spanish.
- The Committee on Korean Church Development planted a new church, Korean Church of LaGrange, this year. The Korean Church of Dacula has been restarted, and the Korean Church of Newnan is growing and looking forward to being constituted soon.
Child Rescue Center/UM Children's Home, Bo, Sierra Leone

- Tom Berlin of Herndon, VA, and Ibrahim Dandaji, a resident of the Child Rescue Center, thanked the Conference for raising the money for the center to build a new facility.
- Their testimony sparked delegates to collect a spontaneous offering of more than $13,000 for the Child Rescue Center.

Conference Statistician

- The North Georgia Conference gained 3,657 members this year. Our Conference has grown every decade since the 1930s.
- Emerging strengths are: short-term classes, youth ministry and weekday ministry.

Simpsonwood Task Force

- Hotel Equities took over management of Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center in July 2007.
- Bookings are up from this time last year.
- The Conference supplement for Simpsonwood will be less next year due to expense reduction and increased bookings.
- Upgrades and improvements are in process.
- The Task Force recommended deferring implementation of the capital campaign until 2009 because of overall economic conditions, the upcoming change in Episcopal leadership, need to further refine and strengthen Simpsonwood, and to give time to assemble a leadership team.

Aldersgate Homes/Collinswood

- Collinswood, Aldersgate Homes’ full-accessible retreat center, added a multipurpose dining and meeting building, Garnet Wilder Hall, to be consecrated October 4.
- This summer Collinswood will add an open-air pavilion for cookouts.
- Collinswood will have its second Summer Fun Day August 30.

Action Ministries

- President and CEO of Action Ministries Frank Windom retired after 43 years of service through the agency and introduced Jim Dickens as the new President and CEO.
Conference Information Office

- Visit www.ngumc.org to subscribe to e-newsletters, find resources and information, to get Conference news and connect to offices and agencies.

United Methodist Women

- On Wednesday, the UMW collected and packed more than 1,000 school kits for UMCOR.
- UMW presented a pin, bag and scarf to Jennifer Davis in honor of her mission work in Honduras and North Georgia.

United Methodist Men

- UMM celebrates 100 years of Men's Ministry in the Methodist Church.
- The UMM presented Bishop Davis with the John Wesley Award for his service and his ministry in North Georgia.

Housing and Homeless Council

- Churches contributed $217,490.01 to the 2007 Conference Homeless Offering. One hundred percent of funds received from the offering are distributed as grants to ministries serving poor and homeless persons.
- In 2008 the Housing and Homeless Council will be covering most of its administrative expenses from endowment earnings and in 2009 the Council will pay its entire administrative budget from endowment earnings.

Eleanor Richardson Award

- The Methodist Federation of Social Action presented the Eleanor Richardson Award to Elizabeth Corey, a member of Druid Hills UMC.

Connectional Ministries

- Thanked Shari Hickom for five years as Conference Youth Coordinator and Shari Rates for three years as Associate Director and welcomed Phil Schroeder and Renita Thomas to the staff.
- Disaster Response Committee is preparing to respond to the needs following the mid-west floods. There is immediate need for flood buckets.
- In the next quadrennium, Connectional Ministries will guide the Conference in ministering to children in poverty. In 2008, the focus will be legislation, followed by health, family and education.
United Methodist Children's Home

- The United Methodist Men will begin rebuilding the cottage that burned.
- Presented Bishop Davis with a painting by a young resident.

Wesley Community Centers

- Churches are invited to “Give Feet to the Faith of the Church” by participating in the annual Wesley Walk for Others in Stone Mountain October 25 or satellite walks in other districts. The fundraisers benefits Wesley Community Centers ministries: Camp Wesley, Bethlehem Senior Center and Project Extend.

Board of Laity

- Lyn Powell was thanked for four years of service as the Conference Lay Leader and Jane Finley was welcomed as the new Lay Leader. Ron Davis, Mathew Pinson, Dianne Spencer and Dianne Traynham are the new Associate Conference Lay Leaders.
- The Board invites all laity to consider participating in Leadership UMC, Lay Missionary Training, Lay Speaking Ministries, and Lay Revitalization Ministries.

Greetings

- Adrianna Logalbo brought thanks and greetings from the United Nations Foundation, a founding partner of Nothing But Nets along with the United Methodist Church. Jan Love brought greetings from Candler School of Theology.

Future Sites of Annual Conference

- The North Georgia Annual Conference voted to return to Athens through 2011.

Service of Farewell and Celebration of Ministry

- Churches of the North Georgia Conference collected an offering in honor of Bishop and Mrs. Davis. They were presented with two $55,000 checks—one for Hands to Honduras and one to Venezuela Now—at the service.
FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2008

Please note, this information is provided as of printing on Thursday, June 19, 2008. Please visit the conference website at www.ngumc.org for a wrap-up of Friday’s actions.

Proposals and Reports scheduled to come before Annual Conference

- Journal/Handbook Committee
- Monitoring Report
- Council on Finance and Administration
- 60th Anniversary of the Advance
- Moving Day
- Reading of Appointments and Sending Forth