

DAY THREE
Saturday, June, 9, 2012

MORNING SESSION

BIBLE STUDY – Dr. John C. Holbert led the morning Bible study on the subject, “Ruth: God Is A Moabite Widow.” Rehearsing the events of the Book of Ruth, Dr. Holbert said the reason Ruth did what she did for Naomi was because of her sacrificial for Naomi. Ruth’s love becomes for us an image of God’s sacrificial love for humanity. Thanks be to God.

ORDER – Bishop Bickerton called the conference to order 9:05 AM

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE ERIE-MEADVILLE DISTRICT – Joseph Patterson spoke about medical concerns experienced by Ellen Rezek and led in prayer for her. Joseph spoke to the conference about exciting ministry taking place in the Erie-Meadville District. Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors appointed to the Erie-Meadville District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other and Erie-Meadville District Superintendent Joseph Patterson.

GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS – Moses Kumar, the General Secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration, accompanied by Conference Treasurer Patricia Morris and Paul Ritchey, congratulated and thanked Western Pennsylvania for our faithfulness in meeting 100% of our General Church Apportionments for the first time in seventeen years. A plaque of recognition was presented.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND – Barbara Hesse, President of Western Pennsylvania United Methodist Women introduced Steevie Patricia Scott who spoke about the benefits of the Black College Fund. To God be the glory.

EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE – Patricia Morris and Joel Garret, representing the Conference Episcopacy Committee presented gifts of appreciation to Jim and Marlene Bickerton and thanked them for their faithful attendance at conference for the past eight years. Gifts were presented to Bishop and Sally Bickerton in recognition for their eight years of service in Western Pennsylvania. Bishop Bickerton expressed with a sense of humility and awesome love his gratefulness to be in our midst. The Bishop asked for prayer as he and Sally pray for us as the journey continues.

COURTESIES – Jim Bickerton, father of Bishop Bickerton, spoke to the conference offering continued thanks for our hospitality and care for the Bishop, Sally and all of the Bickerton family.

CONSENT CALENDARS – Kellie Wild moved approval of the corrected Legislation and Corporation Consent Calendars making note of items that have been removed for debate. They were approved as corrected.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On motion of Dayton Mix the minutes of the Thursday and Friday sessions of Annual Conference were approved. On motion of Dayton Mix the Conference Secretary is authorized to correct and approve the minutes for the Saturday and Sunday sessions of the Annual Conference.

RS 207 SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY – After prayer, Jeffrey Sterling representing Section Two moved concurrence as amended by the section 143-0-0. It was approved.

RS 205 INCREASING CONSENT CALENDAR PETITION SIGNATURES – After prayer, Mary Ruth Yarrison, representing Section Two moved concurrence by action of the section 95-36-1. On a sustained call for the previous question by J-LaVon Kincaid RS 205 was approved on a count vote 475 yea – 345 nay.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER RS 207 – A motion by Rob Hernan to reconsider RS 207 was not approved.

DENMAN AWARD – Ken Duffee introduced Paul Morelli, the new Chairperson of the Conference Evangelism Team. Conference Evangelists Roy Gearhart and Christine Rogan were also introduced. Michael Pratt received the Denman Award for Laity. Debbie Hills received the Denman Award for Clergy.

YOUTH PRESENTATION – Caleb Fugate, Chairperson of the Youth Ministry Team discussed the work of the YMT including Youth for Missions in the Greater Johnstown Area and SPARK scheduled for January 11-13, 2013. YMT is offering RECESS, and extended child-care activity program for children attending Annual Conference. Drew Barnhart, Spiritual Discipleship Chairperson shared the team theme from Romans 12:1-2. Courtney Kunzelman introduced Rita Platt who presented the Volunteer Youth Worker of the Year Award to Pam Kitner; and Ronald Hoellein who presented the Professional Youth Worker of the Year Award to Tammy Weizner. Polly Zilhaver and Sierra Noel presented the Pineapple Award to Bishop Bickerton in recognition for his tremendous display of hospitality to youth during the past eight years. Bishop Bickerton thanked the youth for their joy in the Lord that blesses his heart and how they display the love of Jesus in all they say and do. Luke Fugate asked members of the conference to support the Youth Service Fund through Tray Day and the annual YSF offering on the first Sunday of November.

RECESS – After prayer by Luke Fugate the conference was in recess at 11:35 AM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

ORDER – Bishop Bickerton called the conference to order at 1:03 PM.

JONATHON BELL – Major Jonathan Bell, a clergy member of the conference serving as a Chaplain with the Air National Guard, was introduced and celebrated for his receiving the Chaplain of the Year Award given by the Air National Guard. Bishop Bickerton thanked Jonathan for his service to the country and led in prayer.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT – Alyce Weaver Dunn spoke to the conference about exciting ministry taking place in the Johnstown District. Alyce led in prayer for Roger Johnson who is currently a patient in the Meadville Hospital. Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors appointed to the Johnstown District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other and Johnstown District Superintendent Alyce Weaver Dunn.

ZIMBABWE PARTNERSHIP – Joel Garrett, Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Partnership Design Team introduced Robert Higginbotham who reported on the joint laity school that took place during the summer of 2011. Partnership Coordinator Sandra Matoushaya reported on the status of District-to-District partnerships that are forming. Kimberly Greway and Robert Higginbotham introduced participants in the 2012 Zimbabwe Immersion Program for whom Bishop Bickerton offered a prayer of consecration and blessing.

RS 401 FUNDING OF MINISTRY FOR 2013 – Rob Wilson, representing Section Four moved concurrence as amended by the section 113-12-10. After prayer RS 401 was approved as amended by Barbara Moore.

Motions:

To amend by Scott Gallagher: to substitute by changing line item 110A to \$37,323, line item 110B to \$42,900, line item 110C to \$63,312, line item 110D to \$36,465. Not approved.

To amend by Scott Gallagher: to substitute by changing line item 120A to \$5,000. After clarification the motion was withdrawn.

To amend by Barbara Moore to change page 445, line 170 by increasing the amount by \$54,000. (This motion reverses the action of Section Four.) Approved.

To amend by Joseph Stains to change page 451, line 520, to the original request of \$128,000. On a sustained call for the question on the motion by Trent Somes the amendment was not approved.

P 38 CELEBRATING THE NURTURING COMMUNITY 2012 – After prayer by Cyndi Bloise, Mark Stewart representing Section Three moved concurrence as amended by the section 107-38-10. After prayer P 38 was approved as amended by the section.

Motions:

By John Parise: To amend by restoring item 7 without the words “and support.” Not approved

By David Keller to amend the Parise amendment by substituting “be in ministry with” in place of “support.” Not approved.

LAITY REPORT – Harry Barbus, retiring Conference Lay Leader spoke of experiences of how God sized dreams replaced his huge dreams and God’s dreams have become a reality in his life. Robert Penrose, Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries gave many examples of how lay people across the conference are living out the gospel in many opportunities throughout the world, “May God’s God sized dreams for the Western Pennsylvania Conference be a laity on fire.” Sharon Gregory new Conference Lay Leader addressed the conference and said that now is the time to dream those God sized dreams. Bishop Bickerton expressed his appreciation to Harry, Robert, and Sharon as well as all laity without whom there will be no revival of the fire of Methodism as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

LUTHERAN SYNOD – Rev. James Sealy from the Northwest Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America brought greetings to the conference. Rev. Sealy shared that in the meeting of the ELCA assembly that had been meeting concurrently with our conference they remembered us in prayer. Rev. Sealy celebrates as we continue to work in full communion and our common mission to which Christ calls us.

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY ON THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT – Washington District Superintendent Eric Park spoke to the conference about exciting ministries taking place in the Washington District.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE GREENSBURG DISTRICT – William B. Meekins, Jr. spoke to the conference about exciting ministry taking place in the Greensburg District. Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors appointed to the Greensburg District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other and Greensburg District Superintendent William B. Meekins, Jr.

COSROW ANNIVERSARY – Lota Jones introduced the team of women working on the fortieth anniversary of the Commission on Status and Role of Women, Forty Years of Championing Justice for Women. Lola Turnbull presented Bishop Bickerton with a cake in recognition of the anniversary. The team gave the Bishop a stack of t-shirts which he distributed randomly among members of the conference. Peggy Ward offered a brief history of COSROW and presented a video. Gwen Gregory gave Bishop Bickerton t-shirts for himself and Sally.

GOLDEN SNEAKER AWARD – Dean Ziegler presented the Golden Sneaker Award representing the District with the best record of Laity and Clergy self care practices to Thomas Strandburg and the Kane District.

NOMINATING REPORT – J-LaVon Kincaid presented the Nominating report on behalf of the Leadership Recruitment Team with corrections and moved their election. They were elected. Instructions were given concerning how to make additional nominations. Gwen Gregory concluded the report with prayer.

GENERAL AND JURISTIONAL POOL – William B. Meekins, Jr. presented the names of those nominees for the General and Jurisdictional Pool from which names will be discerned to serve on General Boards and Agencies. They were elected.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE FRANKLIN DISTRICT – George Porter spoke to the conference about exciting ministry taking place in the Franklin District. Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors appointed to the Franklin District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other and Franklin District Superintendent George Porter.

ANTI-RACISM TEAM – Peggy Ward led in the report of the Anti-Racism Team accompanied by Jim Hamilton, Donna Anderson, Ed Rogosky, Lola Turnbull, Mary Stewart, and Debra Rogosky. A video presentation offered a definition of racism as “race prejudice plus power of systems and institutions equals racism.” Peggy Ward concluded the report by saying that we drink of one spirit, the spirit of Christ but how do we drink of that spirit when racism exists. Let us build up the power and body of Christ until racism does not exist.

CAMPING REPORT – With people rappelling from the overhead track, youth delegates and pages paddling canoes without paddles, and a video testimonials about the camping program, members of the conference were reminded of the importance of our camping program as part of our God sized dream of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Kayla Schwanke spoke about how camp is a time to greet old friends, make new friends, and to draw closer to her savior Jesus. Kyle Raha expressed thanks for a church that made it possible for him to go to camp and said the camping program is one of the best places to learn about God. Jessica Gamache, Camping Coordinator, encouraged participation and support of the camping program.

COKESBURY PRESENTATION – Robert Higginbotham speaking on behalf of the United Methodist Publishing House highlighted four new resources available from Cokesbury: Grow, Proclaim, Serve a new children’s curriculum, Common English Bible, Three Simple Questions, and MinistryMatters.com. Cokesbury Store Manager Brenda Naranjo thanked the conference for supporting Cokesbury throughout this session of Annual Conference.

PRIVILEGE – Robert Higginbotham expressed thanks to the conference for all of their support and prayers for he and his wife Ruth as they both have experienced battles with cancer. Robert said that he and Ruth are in a win/win situation. They are going the distance and it is well with their souls.

PRIVILEGE – Bishop Bickerton recognized Episcopal Secretary Tina Wilson and thanked her for everything she does. They conference expressed their thanks to Tina.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDIANA DISTRICT – Sharon Schwab spoke to the conference about exciting ministry taking place in the Indiana District. Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors appointed to the Indiana District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other and Indiana District Superintendent Sharon Schwab.

FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS – At 4:45 PM Bishop Bickerton declared that all appointments for the coming year fixed.

MONITORING REPORT – Peggy Ward presented the monitoring report. We, the Western Pennsylvania Commission on the Status and Role Women, (COSROW) have been gathered here with you fulfilling one of our responsibilities, monitoring our time together. We want to talk to you about God-sized dreams.

Your conference COSROW is the result of a long line of God-Sized Dreams. It began when several women in Boston got together and dared to dream that women in India that were, some quite literally, left festering, because their culture did not allow them to be treated by men, and our church would only send men, could in fact be treated and have opportunities for education. They raised money and sent a doctor as missionary and not only were women treated, but healed and schools they established continue today. I have met some of the women from those institutions.

In 1944 Women’s Division Dreamed God-Sized Dreams that women in our United Methodist Church would participate fully in the life of this church. As a result we have full clergy rights and the

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) and the conference COSROW. When GCSRW was established, women were 57% of the membership and less than 1% of clergy were female. In 2004, 58% of the membership was female and females were 19% of elders. Presently, women are 57% of the membership and still 19% of elders are female.

The *Book of Discipline* in mandating GCSRW states, GCSRW is helping the church to be a more reliable and trustworthy agent of the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, so that we recognize every person as a 'full and equal part of God's Human Family'.

We dreamed God-Sized Dreams when a newly formed Western Pennsylvania COSROW dared to dream that we could be active, we could have a monitoring ministry based on our loving relationship together as disciples of Jesus Christ and that together this Annual Conference could live more fully into God's Kingdom.

To that end we offer the following celebrations:

That COSROW, the Anti-Racism Team and loyal volunteers pour their time and love into praying for us all, observing the way we structure and conduct ourselves and reflecting back to you what we see, for the second year in a row.

That the registration forms this year reflected ethnicity and gender, that we may more fully understand who we are as a gathered body

That there was a more balanced female clergy and lay participation, especially in Opening Worship, the tone setting phase of our time together

That some of us are using inclusive language

That we endorsed two Episcopal candidates on one ballot, with one being African-American

We also recognize some challenges:

That we more fully embrace gender free language for God and people. That we not limit God to our human-sized roles and limit each other to pre-defined roles.

That we critically think of those little ways all around us to include or be sensitive to others. Stand if you are able, is a start. That we assess our meeting spaces for accessibility

That we seek, welcome and encourage People of Color.

We dream God-Sized Dreams that 57% of the membership could look across this church and see 57% of elders as female in all their diversity.

God-Sized Dreams that God's church, among the United Methodist, would be full of all God's children, of all genders, races, ages, colors and abilities, in full participation

God-Sized Dreams that there would no longer be a COSROW- not because those that wish we would disappear have prevailed, but because we are seeking justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God, all the time. That we are truly living into our call to love the Lord, our God with all hearts, and souls and minds and loving our neighbors as ourselves. We challenge you to dream these dreams with us.

SESSIONS TEAM – Barbara Moore accompanied by the Conference Sessions Team thanked members of the conference for their cooperation in making this session of conference operate in smooth fashion and gave instructions preparation for Ministry Night and the Ordination Service on Sunday.

FLOOR MANAGERS – Bishop Bickerton thanked Joan Reasinger and LuAnn Patterson who are serving in their last year as Floor Managers.

RECESS – Bishop Bickerton announced the conference was in recess at 4:59 PM

EVENING SESSION

MINISTRY NIGHT – The conference gathered at 7:00 PM for The Ministry of the Laity, The Memorial Service, Recognition of Retiring Pastors, and the Commissioning of Provisional Members. Participants in the Service included: Bishop Bickerton, Kevin Haley, Dale Reese, James Pond, Beverly Peterson, Stephen Morse, the Otterbein Praise Team, Sharon Gregory, David Morse, and Dennis Henley. William Starr was the preacher.

Harry Barbus, Conference Lay Leader, recognized district lay leaders. David Morse recognized Local Pastors. Bishop Bickerton led in prayer for the laity.

Dale Reese read the names of the honored dead: Active Clergy: Glea Foster, Pat Ellis

Retired Clergy: Hugh Crocker, James Kane, Gerald Lundeen, Joseph Ziegler, Merle Potter, Henry

H. Shissler , James M. Dubois, Carol Lynn, Richard C. Baker, Cloyd Osborne, Robert Callihan, Winston Trever, Peter Degerlando, Jack D. Fields, Jack Gail Ammon

Clergy Spouses: Goldie Browning, Dorothy Cromer, Margeretta Kutz, Marie Filer, Thelma Cousins, Marilyn Moon, Helena Wineberg, Anne B Swift, Elinor Gates, June Jolley, Eileen F. Bell, Dorothy Reaugh , Marjorie Scruton, Renee Ellis, Betty Loney, H. Eileen Jewell, Virginia Hammett, Gloria Rhodes, Dorie Heckman, Janet Young, Delores Colpetzer, Joy Friesner, Beverly Shaffer, Lois Headley

Laity: Lillian Treece

Other: Charles Dale DuPont, Spencer John Hickman, Merle Potter

The 2012 class of retiring clergy was recognized. Received into membership and commissioned as Provisional Members were: Timothy James Goodman, Gary Lee Hilton, Julie Sparks Kolacz, Scott Alan Shaffer, and Erica Beth Wellner.

After Bishop Bickerton led in prayer for William B Meekins, Jr. and Eric Park, Conference Episcopal Candidates, and words of encouragement and blessing The conference was in recess at the end of worship.