

EVENING SESSION

EVENING WORSHIP – The conference gathered at 6:30 PM for Friday Night Worship. Participating in the service were: Larry Beatty, Tina Whitehead, Donna Burkhart, Jim Walker, The Conference Choir, Tracy Merrick, Sharon Gregory, Beverly Peterson, Kevin Danielson, Kevin Haley, and the Otterbein UM Church: Pittsfield (Kane District) Worship Team. Justin Muchoney, Entertainment Manager, Walt Disney Resort was the speaker on the subject of leadership. The conference recessed to a Fellowship Reception at the conclusion of the service.

COSROW Monitoring Report Thursday, June 7, 2012

40 years ago, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women's (GCSRW) status changed from a study group, which was started at the behest of United Methodist Women, to a Commission. When they began in 1972, the ordination of female clergy was relatively new and many overt barriers were placed in the way of female clergy. Women were 54% of membership and less than 1% of clergy. In 2004 women were 58% of membership and 19% of active clergy. Today, women make up 57% of the denomination, they are still only 19% of the elders. This is consistent in our conference where women are 14% of elders. The Western Pennsylvania Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is celebrating this anniversary, including cake which was served throughout the day at our display table. We also sponsored the Dr. Hriho Park, GBHEM, as speaker at the clergy women's luncheon. Dr. Park addressed the Annual Conference and the United Methodist Women at their dinner.

Speakers at Legislative sections were again mainly male clergy, 40%, which is up 5% from last year. However, female clergy participation rose slightly this year, reaching 10%, up from 6% last year. Section leaders, presenters and contributors to discussion tend to be male. Most leadership teams are balanced with males and females, some teams shared leadership but others did not. In at least one section that left the perception of the female as secretary and the male as leadership, very traditional roles. Racial/ethnic diversity was not accessible and had to be lifted by others in order to participate. Speakers identifying themselves as clergy or lay would be very helpful to the observers.

The Bible study, lead by Rev. John C. Holbert, was lively, challenging and well received, no male language was reported.

There was inconsistent mention that we should 'stand if able', and it is suggested that liturgy writers critically evaluate the need to stand.

The youth seem to have a good balance of females and males. There are Youth of Color, and goes beyond Black and White. A Person with Disabilities was at the early morning worship service. However, more Youth of Color are needed.

The officers of the conference are largely clergy and balanced male and female.

Today was largely reports and appointments. There were 2 People of Color that presented. We endorsed, on one ballot, 2 Episcopal nominees, 1 a Person of Color.

“We are not lost, though wandering
For by your Light we come
And we are still God's people,
The journey is our home”

Global Ministries Report to Annual Conference

The Western PA Conference has long been a faithful leader in mission work. The Global Ministries team of WPAUMC is proud to be a conduit for supporting, advocating, and resourcing this work of the annual conference, the local churches, and individuals in our connection. In 2011, we helped to provide funding and support to passionate people, creative new ministries and on-going ministries of mercy, justice, evangelism, and outreach that witness to God's presence and grace. We do that through our Global Ministries budget, especially Mission Support funds, Special Sunday offerings, and Advance special designations.

Hands-on mission remains a staple of what our disciples do within our local mission fields. From Erie to Connellsville, and from Linesville to Ligonier, people were part of ramp-building work, clean-up days, disaster response work, hunger and nutrition programs, and vital outreach efforts. We also sent United Methodists from Western Pennsylvania to annual conferences near and far to help with recovery and cleanup from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. Eastbrook Mission Barn expanded its scope and ministries as a certified UMCOR distribution center, providing crucial resources to areas of the MidWest, Northeast, and South in distress and serving as a staging area for local ramp-building ministries. We continue to be part of the Appalachian Ministry Network and other ventures that help us in addressing the particular needs of those in our area.

Internationally, Western Pennsylvania continues to reach out to various parts of the world in mission relationships. 2011 included mission trips to Nicaragua, Paraguay, East Germany, and Zimbabwe, and missionary work in Palestine, Ukraine, Haiti, and beyond. We also hosted international ministry partners. In March, Rev. Olga Shishkina, pastor of Embassy of Love UMC, our sister church in Russia, visited several churches to share about the Russia Initiative partnership. We also hosted a Nicaragua Consultation to celebrate 25 years of partnership with the poorest country in the western hemisphere. A distinguished delegation of leaders and bishops came to be part of this unique landmark event and strengthen our partnerships with IGLEMEN (Methodist Evangelical Church of Nicaragua) in specific places. Our Conference Mission Ambassador program, whose next focus is the Roma of Europe, is preparing to accept applications this fall for travel in 2013.

WPA Conference Mission Secretary, Kenneth Haines attended a gathering for all Mission Secretaries sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries and designed to clarify the role and scope of the work of the Conference Mission Secretaries and their connection to the General Board of Global Ministries. Several new initiatives to recognize our missional churches and organizations in Western PA are progressing as a result of this gathering and Ken's work as Conference Mission Secretary, including the new Mission Key Awards. Mission Key Awards honor the many ways that a congregation participates in spreading the light and love of Jesus Christ as part of our common witness in The United Methodist Church.

The Global Ministries team is also looking to expand our resourcing and communication functions to strengthen the mission opportunities and work of local churches. We ask that each church would participate in a survey between June and August that would help us know what are the ways that we can help to support, equip, resource, and connect you in your participation in the mission of God's church to the world. The link to the survey can be found online on the Western PA Conference website and completed online or printed and returned via mail. It is a joy to be a part of enabling YOU to fulfill God's missional call to join in the work and witness of Christ as one body in the Spirit.

Stephanie Gottschalk, Global Ministries Chair

Conference Secretary/Statistician

Welcome to the 21st Century. Publishing has always been at the heart of The United Methodist Church. Technology first enabled John Wesley to widely circulate pamphlets among the early societies. Then after the industrial revolution technology enabled entire Annual Conference *Journals* to be printed and widely circulated. Today publishing for the masses is done in electronic form and distributed on the web.

The preliminary results of the Survey we took on Thursday indicate that this annual conference has turned the corner and the majority of the annual conference membership is ready to receive the Annual Conference *Journal* electronically.

To the statement "I believe the Annual Conference should continue to print a *Journal* for every Lay and Clergy Member of the Annual Conference." Of the 939 Survey's we received 51.7% or 486 marked "No" (432 marked "Yes" and 21 did not mark). In the Section Meeting on the budget, again the majority of the sample voted not to restore funding to print the *Journal* as it has been done traditionally.

Though we cannot yet determine all of the ramifications, the implications of this action has two immediate consequences. First, Historians and other experts in the field of archiving tell us that electronic mediums are untested for data storage and retrieval for the long haul. Therefore we will likely use the remaining funds in the Conference Secretary's current budget to publish a commemorative volume in traditional book form to close this chapter of publishing. The 2011 *Journal* will become a collector's item as possibly the last volume in our Periodical Series.

Second, since the Annual Conference *Journal* will be distributed only online for a period of time, anyone around the world will be able to print the chapters they want in hard copy. This will greatly increase availability to the current *Journal* and access to a much wider audience than the *Journal* has previously been available.

After annual conference I will meet with conference staff and strategize the best way to utilize the \$65,000 in the proposed budget. Then we will setup policies for protecting the information and data archives.

John R. Wilson, Conference Secretary

Our Ultimate Goal: *In response to God's Grace, we the people of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church joyfully embrace our identity as an Anti-racist community of faith. A community that is: Obedient to God; Showing love to our neighbors of all races and faiths; We intentionally act according to Anti-racism principles. We model an Anti-racist way of living and seek to live into the truth that "All this is from God who reconciled us to God through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor 5:18 (NRSV)*



Because of our love for Christ and our Wesleyan heritage, The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted and affirmed as a fifth focus, to Dismantle Racism in the Annual Conference.

The Anti-Racism Team was formed to be trained and deployed within the annual conference to organize our conference around becoming an anti-racist conference.

Racism will not be ended in a day, a year, a quadrennium, but we will endeavor to better understand the sin of racism that will help us dismantle racism once and for all.

This team can train those committed to ending racism as well as walk with those who suffer through the sin of racism. Who suffers in a racist culture? We all suffer.

You can be part of this historic making movement. Get on Board with the Anti-Racism Team. Be an ally in the work or a member of the team, so that ALL of GOD'S Children can be truly WELCOME at the TABLE.

We all can take simple steps to loving God and our neighbors as we love ourselves by:

- ❖ Becoming involved and work with others. Anti-racism is everyone's responsibility.
- ❖ Encouraging work and study environments to be places where diversity is valued.
- ❖ Being aware of how your actions might intentionally or unintentionally affect others.
- ❖ Thinking critically about the language you use.
- ❖ Being sensitive about other's feelings.
- ❖ Questioning the validity of generalized statements.

Get On Board workshops are being scheduled throughout the Annual Conference. Check with your District to see when they are being offered. On July 14, 2012 between 10 AM and 2 PM there will be a Get On Board workshop held at the First United Methodist Church in Punxsutawney, PA. There will be more information forthcoming to the Indiana District and surrounding areas.

Team Members are: Peggy Ward, Debra Rogosky, Otis McAliley, Ed Rogosky, Lola Turnbull, Melanie Hildebrandt, Mary Stewart, Deb Stiokis, Donna Anderson, Bob Wilson, Jim Hamilton and Don Blinn

AntiRacismTeam@wpaumc.org

Nominees for General & Jurisdictional Pool
 General & Jurisdictional Delegates are already included in Pool

Last Name	First Name
Armstrong	Pamela
Atkins	Shirley
Belloit	Jerry
Bloise	Cyndi
Bogdewic	Chad
Bolds	Annette
Bowser	Timothy
Burns	Karen
Caldwell	Sandra
Carlson	Nathan
Cooper	Elizabeth
Cooper	Shirley
Dunn	Larry
Fitzgibbons	Wyatt
Flower	John, Jr.
Fullerton	Mary Jane
Gallagher	Scott
Gardner	Pamela
Geisler	Ronald
Gilligan	William
Greway	Kimberly
Higginbotham	Robert
Hoffman	Richard
Hopewell	Ronald
Jefferis	John
Johnston	Amy
Kennedy	Thomas
Killian	Grace
Kincaid	J Lavon
Kinnear	Donna
Lenox	J. Patrick
Lord	Janet
McClymonds	Seth
McIlwain	Keith
McKee	Saundra
Milliren	Joyce
Mix	Dayton
Morgan	Christopher
Morse	Willard
Moudry	Susan
Nelson	Patricia
Patrick	William
Platt	Rita
Richards	Allen
Russell	Brenda
Schall	Richard
Schanely	Kelley
Shaffer	Scott
Shute	Nancy
Smith	Kelly
Spencer	Gregory
Stains	Joseph
Steinbruegge	Kenneth
Sterling	Jeffrey
Stone	Denise Nicole
Strandburg	Thomas
Thomas	Roger
Trimpey	Betty Jean
Whitely-Fields	Josephine
Wild	Kellie
Winston Thomas	Judith

Amend the Consent Calendar

Please turn in your Daily Journals to page 547 Consent Calendar

1. On page 548 lines 14-27 remove RS 207 Sexual Harassment Policy
2. On page 550 line 46 please write these words: On page 442 line 47 change the word “lending” to “providing” and on page 442 line 21 change the word “chair” to “liaison”
3. Move RS207 to the non-consent calendar on page 551 because it was pulled by petition.