

Erie-Meadville District Conference  
May 1, 2011  
Wesley Woods

District Superintendent Pat Harbison opened the meeting declaring we are Easter People and the singing of "*He Lives*". Donnie Blystone, District Lay Leader, welcomed those attending and introduced Rick Frederick, new Director at Wesley Woods. Rick invited anyone to assist this coming week with "Work Week" at the camp. Donnie wants to continue to encourage laypeople and clergy to work together in the local church and the District. He offered prayer to open the business meeting. Pat Harbison appointed Sue Travis as the recording secretary for this meeting and asked the body to approve this appointment.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

YOUTH COORDINATORS: Lisa Doult and Bryon Switala discussed their goal to initiate and increase District Youth events and spiritual growth. In the fall they attended the Charge conferences to meet with the local youth leaders and to assist in communicating among the youth. The 30 Hour Famine was April 29 and 30. Eleven churches were represented with 120 youth attending with 23 adults. Christ UMC, Erie hosted the event and service projects were done at various sites including The Refuge, Liberty House, Rainbow Connection, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Lakewood UMC. We viewed a video of the weekend activities. Edd Studevart challenged churches to encourage their youth leaders to participate and asked that we all consider a donation which translates into \$1.00 feeding one child for one day.

SUPERINTENDENCY: Maggie Eimers shared that this is a time of transition and a time of celebration for Pat's service the past seven years. There will be a Farewell Open House on May 22 at Edinboro UMC. July 10 is the Installation Service for the new District Superintendent, Joe Patterson. The new parsonage will be in Edinboro and the District office will be located at Wesbury in Meadville.

LOCATION/BUILDING/PARSONAGE/TRUSTEES: Pat Harbison reported the need to be cautious in approving any new building projects.

ORDAINED MINISTRY: Pat Lenox reported that this committee takes their responsibilities seriously and there are joyful times and painful times as they prayerfully discern a candidate's calling to ministry.

LAY SPEAKING: Lee Richards reported that they are striving to carry out the mission to increase the laity's role in the church. Thank you to those who served as instructors (7) and those who attended the classes (52) during Lent as well as the host churches. Currently there are 178 certified lay speakers in the District. Lee offered a prayer for all the lay speakers.

ORDER OF DEACONS: Patty Fuller and Deb Hills are the two deacons in our District. Deb reported on her area of emphasis which is "Disability Ministry". All churches need to be more inclusive, welcoming, and intentional about ministries within the church focusing on those who have a disability. A Training Seminar was scheduled for May 11 at Wesbury.

DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR: Rick Gilson needs to know who is trained in our District and what resources we have available.

Pat reported that the Erie-Meadville District is in the process of incorporating and this has required a few changes. The Committee on Church Location and Building will become the District Trustees and be the officers of the corporation. We must elect a District Treasurer (Wanda Jewell) and a Finance Committee (composed of District Treasurer, District Superintendent, Chair of District Trustees, Chair of Committee on Superintendency and District Lay Leader). Officers who had been serving were asked to continue during this transition year.

The Nominating Committee recommended the election of the slate of officers as presented. This was approved by those in attendance. The Nominating committee also recommended that the District Committee on Superintendency be empowered to fill any vacancies as the need arises. This was approved by those in attendance.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Imagine No Malaria: Pat acknowledged and thanked participating churches and desires to see 100% of churches in our district participating by the end of June.

Mission Share Certificates were distributed.

Appreciation was extended to the churches participating in the Prison Outreach Ministry.

Pat distributed the list of Lay Equalization Delegates and the reserve list. These individuals were nominated at the Charge Conferences and are to be elected at the District Conference. Also nominated to the reserve list is Dale Davison from Kingsley UMC. These individuals were affirmed and elected as Annual Conference Delegates.

The next portion of the meeting was the "Spring Meeting for the Alliance". Cheryl Davis reported on the ministries and offered her appreciation for all the support. She encourages us to participate in the following fundraisers and activities: Change the World Day, Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, Refuge Golf Tournament, Ride for The Refuge, and Fall Extravaganza.

Pat Lenox, Alliance Vice President, distributed a list of Board Members and Officers for 2011-2012. There were no nominations from the floor. The Executive Committee recommended the election of this slate of officers. These individuals were elected by those in attendance. Gail Fees will be the new President.

Jim Garlick, Treasurer, mentioned that we continue to need donations from individuals and churches to meet our budget. The Executive Committee recommends approving the proposed budget for 2011-2012. This was approved by those in attendance.

We expressed our appreciation for Darrell Greenawalt's three years as President.

The Alliance Spring Meeting was adjourned.

The District Conference was adjourned with the singing of "*Bind Us Together, Lord*".

We moved to the dining hall and following grace by Rick Frederick, we enjoyed a spaghetti dinner.

Sue Travis  
Acting Secretary