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DAY THREE Saturday, June, 9, 2013

MORNING SESSION

COMMISSIONING SERVICE – At 8:30 AM the members gathered in the plenary room for the commissioning of this year’s new provisional members. This is, the last step prior to ordination for pastors who are seeking elder’s orders. Provisional elders that were commissioned this morning were: Chad Jeremy Bogdewic, Alison Michelle Fisher, Anthony Richard Carlos Hita, and Jean Ann Smith. Guest preacher was Rev. Rudy Rasmus, who shared the message “It’s Time To Go.”

COMMUNITY EVANGELISM – At 10:00 AM the Bishop read Romans 8:18-30 and shared stories of evangelism from members going out into the Grove City community.

WORD OF THE DAY – Bill Patrick shared: “Your past is important but it is not nearly as important to your present as the way you see your future.”

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

ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST IN LATIN AMERICA – David Stains reported on the progress of the conference’s ongoing Encounter ministry. \$6,000 is still needed to complete our commitment.

CONFERENCE RULE 3.4.6 – Bishop Bickerton shared the gist of this conference rule designed to guarantee that the Conference would always have a “reserve fund” in case of emergency. The bishop explained that the language of the rule leaves what is defined as an emergency rather ambiguous. Bickerton referred to the Conference Rules Team the task of defining an emergency.

RS 1103 COORDINATOR OF MINISTERIAL SERVICES - (*preconference booklet* p. 485) Bev Roscoe and Robert Miller, section eleven leaders, presented RS 1103 and moved for concurrence (69-2-0). Paul Ritchie, representing CFA, reported that CFA had reviewed this resolution and believes it to be consistent with Conference rules 3.4.1.e. Following prayer, RS 1103 was APPROVED.

P 1206 RESPONSE TO THE FORMER PITTSBURGH EAST DISTRICT AND UGANDA – (*preconference booklet* p. 498) Mark Stewart and Barbara Gather, section twelve leaders, presented P 1206 and moved for concurrence (54-10-3). Paul Ritchie, representing CFA, reported that CFA had reviewed this resolution and believes it to NOT be in compliance with Conference rules such as 3.4.11 and 3.4.12. CFA encouraged the body to refer this petition to the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

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Nancy Denardo moved “to refer P 1206 to the Conference Board of Global Ministries for study and recommendation of action to be reported to the 2014 Annual Conference, with appropriate legislation in accordance with conference rules.” Following prayer, the motion to refer was APPROVED .

RS 506 HEALTH CARE PARTICIPATION COST AND CHURCH COST SHARING – (*preconference booklet* p. 463 & *Daily Journal* p. 626) Rob Wilson and Ruby Wilkosz, representing section five, moved for concurrence (44-8-0). Paul Ritchie, representing CFA, reported that CFA had reviewed this resolution and believes it to be in compliance with Conference rules 3.3.7, 3.4.1e, and *Discipline* ¶637.9 & ¶614.

Pat Morris moved to “refer RS 506 to the Connectional Leadership Table, and the Administrative Ministries Team (including, but not limited to, CFA, Equitable Compensation, Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Board of Pensions) to report to the Conference Board of Pensions for further review and study of this matter no later than January 1, 2014.” After a time of discussion, Tom St. Clair moved the previous question on all that was before us, which was approved. Rob Wilson prayed and the vote on referral was APPROVED.

RECESS - At 11:29 AM the bishop declared a recess until 1:00 PM

AFTERNOON SESSION

MEMORIAL SERVICE – At 1:00 PM the members gathered in the plenary hall for the annual memorial service. Rev. Jeffrey T. St. Clair shared the message “The Power in Connection” with reference to Psalm 139:1-14, 23. The honored dead were: Rosemary Basinger, Jacob Henry Breakiron, Molly O’mega Brown, Jean Clover Cable, Thelma “Turk” Carns, Michael Condon, Geraldine Anna Copeland, Raymond Dixon Copeland, Josephine Cowder, John Culley, James Earl Davis, Shawn Drummond, Betty Du Bois, James Fogg, Robert Scott Foltz, Robert Spencer Fulton, Esther Garner, Betty Gordon, Dorothy Gray, Betty Jane Green, William E. Green, Rita Groters, Robert Clyde Gumbert, Amelia C. Haine, Nancy Hill, Lois Hollenbeck, Ruth Jeanette Marsden Idecker, Erin Jedlowski, Ivan Dewayne Johnson, Randall Paul Luther, Conway Edward Keibler, George Lee, Mearle Chelmer Leventry, Charles Straver Loney, Helen Mabel Lyman, Sarah Maher, Mildred McEntire, Paul John Meuschke, Lucille Meuschke, Helen D. Miller, Luella Moffat, Charles D. Moore, Margery Winkie Morey, Geraldine Nunemaker, Johnnie David Panther, John Dobbs “Jack” Patterson, Bernadeane Picht, Raymond A. Piper, Fred Arthur Preuss Jr., Donald T. Rainey, Edith Rickard, Constance Rowles, Lois Jean Scott, Betty Shaffer, Ednah Shultz, Lucy Stewart, Richard Trimble, Wilma Parrish Trimble, Kelly Stranford-Wasser, and Spurgeon D. Witherow

ZIMBABWEAN PRAISE – The Bishop invited our guests from Zimbabwe to lead us in another time of praise.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT – Bishop Bickerton recognized Sharon Schwab, who is finishing eight years as

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Superintendent of the Indiana District. The Bishop thanked Sharon for her creativity and integrity in her role as District Superintendent.

GCFA - Scott Brewer, representing the General Council of Finance and Administration thanked the WPA Conference for 100% denominational giving in 2012. He shared a video "Meeting Needs" and presented a plaque marking this achievement.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDIANA DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed James N. Pond, incoming District Superintendent for Indiana District, and then read the names of pastors being newly 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.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO 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.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CFA) - Paul Ritchey, Chair of CFA, presented the annual report. CFA does a lot of behind-the-scenes work, caring for the conference's administration and financial concerns. The firm of McCall, Scanlon, and Tice, LLD have completed the annual audit for the Annual Conference and have found no discrepancies or irregularities with the conference financial records. Their report will be printed in the final *Journal*.

Ritchey moved that we utilize this same firm for our 2014 audit. This motion was APPROVED.

RS 401 FUNDING FOR MINISTRY FOR 2014 (BUDGET) – (*Daily Journal* pp. 631-639 replace earlier versions of RS 401). Greg Spencer & Bill Patrick, section four leaders, presented RS 401 and the section moved for concurrence (75-1-0).

Chris Whitehead offered the following amendment to add on line 35: "Be it further resolved, that the budget be reported in the following manner by column: Previous completed year actual expenses (by line item), current budget year (by line item), and proposed budget (by line item)." The amendment was APPROVED.

After prayer by section leader Greg Spencer, the budget (RS 401) was APPROVED.

RS 201 CONFERENCE RULES: ELECTION OF DELEGATES – (*preconference booklet* pp. 407-410 with changes found on *Daily Journal* p. 623) Sue Hutchins introduced RS 201. The section moved concurrence.

Tracy Merrick offered an amendment by adding the word "first" before the word ballot on line 31. The amendment was APPROVED.

Richard Shaw moved an amendment that the wording on lines 16-17 on p 407 and on lines 20-21 on page 408 be restored to the way they were worded in the *preconference booklet*. The vote on the amendment was APPROVED

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Following a time of prayer, the resolution, as amended, was APPROVED.

HARRY DENMAN AWARD – Paul Morelli, chair of the conference Evangelism Team, announced the recipients of this year’s Denman awards. The laity award recipient was Jeff Patton, Harmony-Zelienople (Butler District). The clergy award was presented to Rev. Steve Cordle of Crossroads Church (Washington District).

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO 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 Meekins, Jr..

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO 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.

OLDEST MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Bishop Bickerton honored Eleanor Hendler, a layperson from the Pittsburgh District, who, at 93, is this year’s oldest member of Annual Conference.

RECESS was called at 4:54 PM

EVENING SESSION

ORDER – Bishop Bickerton called the conference to order at 7:00 PM.

IT’S NOT A SKIT (part 2) - Greg Cox, Jim Walker, and Chris Kindle led a skit-like discussion about leadership and evangelism. Various others entered into the conversation as they “discovered” that the fruits of the Spirit spoken of in Galatians 5:22-25, along with the power of the Holy Spirit, provides the ability and effectiveness for making disciples.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors appointed to the Washington District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other and Washington District Superintendent Eric Park.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE KANE DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors appointed to the Kane District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other and Kane District Superintendent Thomas Strandburg.

FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS – At 8:15 PM Bishop Bickerton declared all appointments for the coming year fixed.

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ANTI-RACISM REPORT – Peggy Ward spoke of the ongoing work of dismantling racism in our annual conference’s area. She shared a video that called into question the idea of racism being like tonsils (you either have your tonsils or you had them removed). In that mindset, if another person comes along and speaks of you having a prejudice, you might take exception to the statement and feel offended. Our struggle with racism, even in our own selves, is more like having something in your teeth of which you are unaware.

DISABILITY CONCERNS – Debbie Hills, chair, shared a video emphasizing the importance of seeing the people who have disabilities, rather than just seeing the wheelchair, the walker, the cane, or such.

GOLDEN SNEAKER AWARD – Susanna Wesley (portrayed by Luella Krieger) presented the Golden Sneaker awards. Third place (bronze) went to the Indiana District. Second place (silver) was captured by the Kane District. First place (the Golden Sneaker) was won by the Washington District. Of special note was the fact that the Greensburg District had the largest number of churches participating (12).

SUMMER CAMPING – Jessica Gamache, conference camping coordinator, shared about the deeply meaningful moments that children and youth are able to have while at summer camp.

COSROW MONITORING REPORT – Peggy Ward presented the final 2013 Annual Conference monitoring report.

COSROW Monitoring Report

Final

Saturday, June 15, 2013

COSROW has completed its third year of monitoring our Annual Conference Session. Working toward and monitoring the progress of the full inclusion of women, racially ethnic people, and all people, is the responsibility of all those seeking to live into God’s will.

We know there are biblical contexts for managing our money and resources. We plan, or fail to plan. We follow the plan, or not. At the end of the month there are bank statements. It is taking stock time. How have you done this month in implementing your plans which are, actually, God’s plans?

You don’t disparage your bank statement or bank when it shows you failed to meet your goals. Hopefully, you rejoin your efforts, reassess and modify your plan and strive to do better next month.

So it is with the relationship between COSROW and you. We are as vital to this conference’s desire to live into the will of God, by seeing all as God’s children, loving our neighbor and by growing into Discipleship and Making Disciples, as your bank statements are to helping you reach financial goals.

We have heard, if you manage your finances God’s way and trust in God, there is no scarcity. Somehow, through God’s grace, there is enough.

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Some look around and see that we have female and racially ethnic bishops. We have a female treasurer, a racially ethnic female Conference Lay Leader, a female district superintendent, and a racially ethnic dean of cabinet. Isn't that enough? What more do those people want? Are white males supposed to give up everything to them, what about us?

Well, even with these accomplishments, The United Methodist Church falls far short of the numbers in all categories, when compared to the numbers in the pews. (we will not mention how we are doing regarding who is in our pews.) I have seen and heard that many of you are aware of our call and are striving to live into it. And while Western Pennsylvania does better than some, we are generally behind our Northeast Jurisdiction peers. We have fallen short of the Kingdom of God.

If we had this disparity anywhere else, we would wonder why and try to fix it. In my household, I throw away a lot of bread. I buy bread, because we need bread, however I throw away part of the loaf. This bothers me and I seek to find the reasons, and fix the problem so we realize the full potential of the bread in my house. This is bread. We are speaking about people. God's people – and we might bring (some of them) in, but we throw away their gifts and talents, and we wound the souls of these, God's people.

There seems to be a posture of – look how far they've come, they should be satisfied, they've come far enough. We are seeing through our eyes.

But we are called to see with God's eyes, to love with the love of Christ. We are all called to feast at God's bountiful table. It is not our table, and thanks be to God for that. The table is set by God for all of God's people. We are to come, and bring others with us. Together we will share in the feast.

Holy and Bountiful God,

Loosen your people from the limits, the scarcity their eyes see. Equip them with your eyes, that they may see the table you have laid out before them. Cause them to hunger and to thirst for the feast you have prepared. May our mouths water, our stomachs grumble and our nostrils twitch as the delicious smells of your love and your grace wafts throughout the world. May our steps quicken as we move closer to you. Cause us to call out to others the Good News of what is and is to come. Extend our arms, hands reaching out, grabbing on to anyone and everyone as we are all drawing and being drawn to your great table, of boundless proportions. Have us to share together all that you have for us from the platter that never empties and the pitcher that does not run dry.

Oh, Stir-er of our souls, in the name of the one who came to lead and to teach, to love and to save and is with us still, Let it be so! Amen.

SESSIONS TEAM – Bishop Bickerton uplifted the Conference Sessions Team and thanked them for their service and efforts on our behalf.

RECESS – Bishop Bickerton announced the conference was in recess at 9:10 PM.

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DAY FOUR June 10, 2013

ORDINATION – The conference gathered at 9:00 AM for a service of Reaffirmation of Baptism, Ordination, and Holy Communion. Bishop Eben Nhwatiwa of the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church was the morning preacher. Participants in the service were Beverly Peterson, Evan Marshall Snyder, Kevin Danielson, B.J. Collins, Sharon Gregory, Jeffrey D. Sterling, Dennis M. Henley, Kevin R. Haley, Mark Goswick.

Received as Full Members and Ordained as Elders: Nathan Westley Carlson, Elizabeth Stanton Cooper, Anthony Steven Fallisi, Tina Marie Keller, D. Renee Mikell, Rebecca Wynne Patterson, and Ross Todd Pryor.

The conference adjourned at _____ AM (at the conclusion of the service).