

## Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

June 6, 2014

This year COSROW entered monitoring with several questions.

1. We wanted to get a clearer picture of how we interact
2. We wanted to know more about how we interact at plenary
3. We wanted to continue to watch the trend in female clergy participation

What we have seen so far is compelling. Some insights from legislative sections,

1. The sections were about 56% female and 41% male
2. The more impassioned the topic the higher the rate of participation
3. Males contributed to discussions at a rate of 69%, the highest since we started monitoring
4. Usually lay females and males level of participation is close, but this year lay females contributed 23% of the discussion and lay males 9%, a large fall off from previous years
5. Clergy were 55% of the contributors to discussion. Male clergy were 50% of the contributors and female were 5% of the contributors, once again the most silent group
6. Within clergy, contributors were 90% male and 10% female. The gap that appeared to be closing widened more than ever. Male clergy spoke 10 times more than female clergy in sections
7. Average Overall participation rate for discussions is 22%. Average Male participation rate is 14.9%, with a range of 9% between the lowest and highest rates. The average female participation rate is 6.9%, with a range between the lowest and the highest of 12.8%. The highest rates for females are not even 2% higher than the lowest rate for males. In fact, outside of the liveliest sections, female's participation rates range from .8 to 4.57%

This year we looked at the type of participation in sections- asking questions, making statements for or against, and other. An early look at the data suggests that females ask more questions in the discussions than males, except when it comes to the budget. Beyond that it is very clear how females and males use their voice. Females speak for or against in legislative section 66% of the time compared to males 31%. While males engage in other types of participation 66% of the time. Males make amendments, points of order, corrections and call for the question.

1 Racial Ethnic Male spoke in the combined monitored sections, and .96% of those in attendance were racial Ethnic Persons. There were several youth pages visiting many of the sections. 2 male youth delegates spoke in sections, 1 repeatedly with very high participation in the other category.

So, now we know more but it also raises several questions. Tomorrow I will spend more time on the plenary aspect and pose some of those questions.

We continue to struggle with an inclusive feel to our overall proceedings, but worship has been a positive model of inclusiveness.

Peggy Ward, Co-Chair

## Laity Delegate Nominations for 2016 General Conference

Last Name, First Name

Bennett, Jack  
Blystone, Donald  
Bridge, Larry  
Burkhart, Donna  
Denardo, Nancy  
Duda, Eric  
Emigh, Joseph  
Geer, Faith  
Greenawalt, Julie  
Gregory, Sharon  
Hoffman, Richard  
Krieger, Luella  
Larson, Jane  
Markley, Jann  
McKee, Corona  
Merrick, Tracy  
Michaels, Charles Ellis  
Miller, Dianne  
Pattrick, William  
Penrose, Robert  
Reid, David  
Schall, Richard  
Shaughnessy, Candice  
Smith, Bradford  
Smith, Roseann  
Speer, Jessica  
Stahlman, Vicki  
Thomas, Richard M  
Ward, Lynda  
Ward, Peggy  
Whitehead, Tina  
Wrona, Kathrine

**DAY TWO**  
**Friday, June 6, 2014**

**MORNING SESSION**

**BIBLE STUDY** -- Dr. Joy Moore, Associate Dean for Africa American Church Studies and Assistant Professor of Preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary, presented the morning Bible Study. Her thesis was “Working with Words in a Visual Age.” She spoke about how our love of words sometimes gets in the way of our narrative.

**ORDER** – Bishop Bickerton called the morning session to order at 9:06 AM.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Floor Manager Linda Chambers welcomed the conference to another day of sessions and then shared timely announcements.

**STOP HUNGER NOW** – Chambers invited the members to participate in the Stop Hunger Now ministry. Members are asked to take 15 to 20 minutes today and help package meals at the group’s exhibit in the hallway behind the display area. The goal is for WPA members to pack 50,000 meals during the two remaining days of this conference session. (Last year, our conference packed 25,000 meals).

**PRAYER** – The Bishop made the conference aware of prayer concerns and District Superintendent Thomas Q. Strandburg led the body in prayer.

**GROVE CITY COLLEGE** – Dr. Richard Jewell, president of Grove City College, appeared via video, to welcome the conference to GCC once again.

**EAST GERMAN PARTNERSHIP** – Joseph R. Stains, chair of our WPA-East German Partnership, introduced Werner Philipp, an ordained elder from Schwarzenberg, Germany. He brought greetings from the East German Conference and shared stories and pictures of our Methodist sisters and brothers there.

**RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT** – Bishop Bickerton recognized William and Jeannette Meekins. William is completing eight years as the Superintendent for the Greensburg District. Effective July 1, 2014, he will become the Bishop’s Assistant.

**AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE GREENSBURG DISTRICT** – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Patricia M. Nelson, incoming District Superintendent for Greensburg District and then read the names of pastors being newly 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.

**CONSENT CALENDAR** – John Wilson, conference secretary, presented the Legislation and Corporation Consent Calendar (*Daily Journal* pp. 689-694). Items on the consent calendar are legislative resolutions which had at least a 75% agreement in its legislative section. Therefore, these items will be voted on as a group on Saturday. Wilson gave instructions for removing items from the consent calendar for the purpose of discussion and further action. (Submit a petition to move a legislative item off of the consent calendar accompanied with 25 signatures of conference members.)

John Wilson also presented the non-consent calendar (*Daily Journal* p. 695). Items on the non-consent calendar are items that did not have at least a 75% majority of agreement. These will individually be considered by the members of the conference in plenary session.

**CALL STORY** – The Bishop introduced Angela “Angel” Stahlman, who shared the story of her call to a pastoral ministry and her recent certification as a candidate through her district Committee on Ministry.

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CFA)** – Paul Ritchie, CFA chair, presented the proposed 2015 conference budget and highlighted some of the changes and clarifications in this year’s budget narrative. He also congratulated the conference for our financial faithfulness. “Our finances are in the best condition that they’ve ever been.”

**CONFERENCE AUDITORS** – Paul Ritchie, CFA chair, nominated the firm of McCall, Scanlon, and Tice LLC as our conference auditors. APPROVED.

**CREDIT UNION** – The Bishop introduced Patty Columbe, Director of the Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union (KUMFCU). She and Deryl Larsen, secretary of the KUMFCU board, presented a check in the amount of \$4,000 to Bishop Bickerton to assist in the conference’s ongoing ministry. That brings the total amount given by KUMFCU to assist with new church starts to \$63,000.

**UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION (UMF)** – Bishop Bickerton introduced Ed Bailey, new director of Western Pennsylvania’s UMF. In turn, Ed introduced Kathryn Gorman, the Foundation’s first ever Chief Operating Officer. Bailey explained the Gratitude Jar idea he learned from Bishop Ives. Members are invited to stop by the UMF display in the display room and submit their own gratitude.

**COKESBURY** – The Bishop introduced Cheryl Cotten, Cokesbury’s Community Resource Consultant for the Pittsburgh area. In turn, she introduced Greg Davis, the Director of Cokesbury’s Community Resource Consultants, who shared programs and opportunities available throughout the year.

**CAMPING** – Jessica Gomenché, conference director of camping, introduced campers from Wesley Woods’ Exceptional Campers event which is happening this week.

The campers shared what they liked about camp by live Skype video. Jessica also led the conference in a construction paper cross craft.

**LABYRINTH** – Bishop Bickerton asked Jessica Gomenche to share information about a project that she and Chris Kindle are working on. Jessica told the conference that they are working on the development of a prayer labyrinth at our conference center.

**VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (VIM)** – Stephanie Gottschalk, VIM coordinator, introduced Katie Wrona and Annabeth Tucker who will be serving as Global Mission Fellows through The United Methodist Church. The conference paused to pray for Katie and Annabeth as they enter this phase of ministry.

**CALL STORY** – The Bishop introduced Katie Wrona, who shared the story of her call to a missionary position through the UM Global Mission Fellow program.

**AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDIANA DISTRICT** – Bishop Bickerton welcomed James N. Pond, 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.

**LAITY ADDRESS** – The Bishop introduced Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, who invited Wanda Ross and Donald Blystone to join her. They then shared their experience in discovering and using their spiritual gifts.

Sharon charged the laity with these words: “God wants more of us. And in order to do that, we need to draw deeper.”

**CONNECTIONAL MOMENT** – The Bishop also highlighted his recognition of how little knowledge some of our local churches and parishioners have of our United Methodist doctrine, polity, and heritage. He challenged the pastors and laity present to look for ways to share our story and our beliefs with the people called United Methodist.

**RECESS** – The Bishop declared a recess for lunch until 1:00.

**ORDER** – The members were called to order for the start of the Retirees Celebration at 1:00 PM.

**CELEBRATING THE RETIRING CLASS OF 2014** – Bishop Bickerton and David D. Janz led the conference in celebrating the ministries of the clergy who are retiring this year. Honorees were: Jaime Potter Alvarez, Clara W. Belloit, Jerry B. Belloit, David W. Bunnell, James M. Eaton, Allen O. Grimm III, Ronald R. Hoellein, Deryl K. Larsen, Frederick H. Leasure, James S. Markley, John L. Miller, Karen L.

Prescott, Allyn L. Ricketts, Donald G. Scandrol, Georgia J. Scarff, Ruth Ellen L. Simmons, Oden R. Warman, Ida D. Williams, Jerry D. Williams, and David D. Wilson Jr.

**IMAGINE NO MALARIA** – A video highlighting the continuing work and ministry of the Imagine No Malaria campaign was shown, followed by Bishop Bickerton providing specific data and stories of the program's impact.

**RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT** – Bishop Bickerton recognized Donald and Barbara Scandrol. Don is completing eight years as Superintendent for the Pittsburgh District. Don shared that he is looking forward to July 1, 2014, when he enters into retirement.

**AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT** – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Paul Taylor, incoming District Superintendent for Pittsburgh District and then read the names of pastors being newly appointed to the Pittsburgh District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other.

**CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA** – The Bishop welcomed Liddy Barlow, new executive director of Christian Associates. She spoke of the mission of Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania in supporting larger ministry projects that no one church or denomination can do in our area. She also spoke of their efforts to facilitate the work of unity in the body of Christ.

**LEGISLATION: P106 HUMAN SEXUALITY** – (*pre-conference journal page 407, non-consent calendar Daily Journal page 695*) Jeff Sterling, representing Section One, presented P106 and moved for non-concurrence (36-87-14). Following prayer, the motion for non-concurrence on P106 was APPROVED.

**LEGISLATION: P308 LET US BE CLEAR ON CREATION** – (*pre-conference journal page 419, non-consent calendar Daily Journal page 695*) Bev Roscoe, representing Section Three, presented P308 and moved for concurrence (79-30-4). Following prayer, the motion for concurrence on P308 was APPROVED as amended by the section (*Daily Journal page 695*).

**LEGISLATION: RS203 SITE SELECTION TAKS TEAM RECOMMENDATION** – (*Report of task team in pre-conference journal page 245, resolution on page 410 of pre-conference journal. Item was included on consent calendar Daily Journal page 690*) Steve Morse, representing Section Two, presented RS203 and moved for non-concurrence (25-88-5). Following prayer, the motion for non-concurrence on RS203 was APPROVED.

**CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS** – Thomas J. Parkinson, secretary of the Conference Board of Pensions, reported on the work of the board and its impact on

individual pastors and congregations with their pensions and health care benefits. He also introduced Kathleen Laskey, who serves as our conference's pensions/medical benefits officer.

Following the Pensions presentation, the Bishop reported that Tom Parkinson has now been added to the General Church's Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

**BREAK** – The Bishop called for a break at 3:11 PM.

**ORDER** – The Bishop called the body back to order at 3:39 PM

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION** – The Bishop called on Brad Lauster to lead the entire conference in a demonstration of one way to get healthier... an exercise video. The Bishop strongly encouraged all cabinet members join him in helping to demonstrate the exercises as the video played on the screens.

**AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE BUTLER DISTRICT** – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Joel S. Garrett for Butler District and then read the names of pastors being newly appointed to the Butler District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY** – Matthew R. Judd, chair of Episcopacy Committee, invited Bishop Tom and Sally Bickerton to the platform. Other members of the episcopacy committee, Karen Trask, Lois Swestyn, Sharon Gregory, and Ross Pryor, joined them and presented gifts and prayed for the Bickertons.

**OLD RECTORY and WESLEY CHAPEL** – The Bishop presented a short video highlighting some of our Methodist history and heritage in England, including the Old Rectory at Epworth, where the Wesleys grew up, and Wesley's Chapel in London, which became the heart of the Methodist movement during John Wesley's lifetime.

**LEGISLATION: REPORT ON LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATIONS** – (*pre-conference journal pages 500-528. Consent calendar in Daily Journal page 694*) Linda Chambers, representing the Leadership Recruitment and Nominations team, presented the Nominations Report for 2014-2015. After discussion and prayer, Rita Platt, representing Section Seven, moved concurrence. 90-0-0. APPROVED.

**LEGISLATION: RS613 CREATE A DIVESTMENT TASK FORCE** – (*Resolution on page 485 of pre-conference journal. Item was included on consent calendar Daily Journal page 694, but was subsequently pulled to be discussed and decided by the plenary session*). Larry Dunn and Kellie Smith, representing Section Six, presented RS613 and moved that the resolution be referred back to its author. Greg

Spencer called for the question, which was sustained. Following prayer, the motion for referral on RS613 was APPROVED.

**MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE** – Bishop Bickerton asked Alan Morrison to lead the body in a remembrance of the D-Day battle and sacrifices during World War II as the Allied forces infiltrated Normandy and began the liberation of Europe 70 years ago today.

**RECESS** – The Bishop declared a dinner recess at 5:11 PM.

**ORDER AND WORSHIP** – The conference came to order as the evening worship service began at 7:00 PM.

**ACTS 2:37 (NRSV)** – “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

**“FLOW”** – Bishop James R. King, Jr., resident Bishop of the South Georgia Annual Conference, preached a message he entitled “FLOW”. Peter poses a basic question in Acts 2:37 “Brothers, what should we do?” Bishop King offered the word FLOW as an acronym to answer that question.

“**F**” represents Fellowship,

“**L**” represents Love,

“**O**” represents Outreach, and

“**W**” represents Worship.

To find direction in your life, and to know what we should do, let FLOW be your guide.

Glenna Wilson, Chair of Poverty Team led the conference in prayer for the offering taken to benefit “Stop Hunger Now.”

Other leaders in the evening’s worship service were Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, along with various district lay leaders.

Praise and music was facilitated by the this year’s Conference Praise Team, consisting of B.J. Collins, Bo Collins, Emily Summers, Shawn Opfer, Aric Orr, Wayne Rossiter, Michelle Duralia, Larry Beatty, and Bob Stark.

Following worship, Bishop Bickerton introduced Sandra Matoushaya, coordinator for the Zimbabwe Partnership. She explained the partnership was built on the concept of “chapbadza” meaning the community comes together to work beside. She introduced the Zimbabwe Immersion Program and then invited those who will be going to Zimbabwe this summer to come forward. Bishop King led the conference in prayer consecrating these representatives of Western Pennsylvania.

**RECESS** – The Bishop declared a recess until Saturday morning at 8:00 AM for the Commissioning Service.