

IV. Daily Proceedings

DREAMING GOD-SIZED DREAMS

FIRST DAY
Thursday, June 7, 2012

CLERGY SESSION

ORDER – Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton called the Clergy Session to order at 9:30 AM.

PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING – Received on motion of Janet Lord, Registrar for the Board of the Ordained Ministry, according to ¶324.41: Timothy James Goodman, Gary Lee Hilton, Julie Sparks Kolacz, Scott Alan Shaffer, and Erica Beth Wellner.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND DEACON'S ORDERS – Received on motion of Janet Lord according to ¶330: Donna Byrd Gabler.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of Janet Lord according to ¶335: Pamela Sue Armstrong, Wade Reitz Berkey, Susan Lyn Moudry, Joseph Benton Short, Kelly Jean Smith, and Beverly Ann Spore. On motion of Jim Parkinson according to ¶335: Thomas John Parkinson.

RECEIVED FROM OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS – On motion of Patricia Nelson, Secretary of the Board of the Ordained Ministry, according to ¶347.3a: Kathleen McCoy-Schoeneck (Presbyterian Church USA) and John L. Miller (National Association of Christian Churches).

COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES – Patricia Nelson introduced the 2011 – 2012 Course of Study graduates: Robert Kifer, Robert Martin, Matthew D.A. Blake, Sr., Wade Barto, Kimberly King, Wayne Schar, and Stephanie Thompson.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY – Granted on motion of Patricia Nelson according to ¶354.2a: Gary C. Bailey (FE) 1st year, Andrew P. Spore (FE) 1st year, Lynn Yeso (FE) 1st year, Stephen A. Tiffany (FE) 2nd year, Chul S. Park (FE) 3rd year, and Ernest L. Perry (FE) 4th year. According to ¶354.2a Ronald E. Thomas (FE) 12th year, David R. Lewis (FE) 14th year, and Gordon Barry Davis (FE) 18th year. According to ¶354.2b: Vicki L. Oliver (PE) 3rd year and William M. Pieringer (FE) 1st year. According to ¶354.2b: Barbara A. Turpish (FE) 9th year and Deborah A. Ackley-Killian (FE) 15th year. According to ¶354.2c: Personal: Shawn L. Goodwin (FE) 1st year Austin P. Hornyak (FE) 1st year, S. Bruce Mould (FE) 1st year; Family: Robert Moffat (FE) 1st year and Arnold T. McFarland (FE) 1st year; Transitional: Lynn Yeso (FE) 1st year and In Ki Lee (FE) 1st year.

LESS THAN FULL TIME SERVICE – Approved on motion of Patricia Nelson according to ¶¶338.2, 342.2, 1506.4b: Willard C. Adkins AM ¼ time year 10, Clara W. Belloit FE ½ time year 13, Jerry D. Belloit FE ¼ time year 17, Kenneth Bossart FE ¾ time year 3, Emily A. Byrd FE ½ time year 2, Harold J. Dangel AM ¾ time year 2, Todd M. Davis FE ½ time year 5, Allen O. Grimm, III FE ½ time year 5, Sharon M. Hamley FE ½ time year 4, Patricia S. Harbison FE ½ time year 2, J. Mark Hurst FE ¾ time year 8, Tina G. Keller PE ½ time year 4, Katrina M. Laude FE ¾ time year 2, Alice M. McClymonds AM ½ time year 7, Seth A. McClymonds FE ½ time year 7, Darlene Ryniec AM ½ time year 7, Bruce E. Stollings FE ¾ time year 18, Jay P. Tennies FE ¾ time year 2, and John R. Wilson FE ¾ time year 19.

APPOINTED TO SERVE IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – On motion of Patricia Nelson according to ¶331.8 and 346.1: David M. Biondi FE West Virginia, Jackie Condon PL Susquehanna, Allen O. Grimm, III FE New England, Tracey L. Henderson FD West Ohio, and Gary W. Jones FD East Ohio.

INCAPACITY LEAVE – On motion of Patricia Nelson according to ¶357.2: Austin P. Hornyak effective (5/01/2012), Shawn L. Goodwin effective (5/01/2012). According to ¶357.1: Jaime P. Alvarez FE 09/01/2003, Raymond H. Beal, Jr. FE 07/01/2007, LaMar E. Carlson FE 12/31/2008, Mark A. DeBaise FE 03/01/1996, Debra Anne Groeger FE 02/01/1997, Floyd A. Hall FE 07/01/2007, Connie B. Hoeke (without benefit) FE 07/01/2000, Earl C. Killian II PM 03/01/1997, Bonnie Tyack Friend King FE 07/01/2006, Thomas J. Michalko FE 03/16/2007, Stanley D. Nixon AM 02/01/2005, Kenneth J. Peters FE 01/31/2007, Randall R. Roda FE 03/01/2005, Thomas F. St. Clair FE 11/01/2009, Susan E. Sphar-Calhoun FE 11/23/2009.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MINISTERIAL OFFICE – On motion of David Morse, Chairperson of the Board of the Ordained Ministry, according to ¶360.2, 4: Donald O. Hornsby effective 07/01/2012, Lee A. Moore RE effective 05/01/2012, and Elizabeth Agnew Cochrane PD effective 7/01/2012.

REPORT FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON INCAPACITY – At the 2011 Clergy Session the following action was taken: “On motion of Robert Zilhaver, the Clergy Session approved: “The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference Clergy Session set Andrew Spore’s status as Incapacity Leave Resulting from Health Matters and Disabling Conditions ¶357, and that this matter be immediately referred to the Joint Committee on Incapacity for review to insure that the exclusions of ¶3.11 of the UM Life Options Plan of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church have been honored.”

David Morse reported on behalf of the Joint Committee on Incapacity the matter has been reviewed and the actions taken are in order.

RETIREMENTS – On motion of Jim Pond according to ¶¶358.2a,b,c: Deacons: Patricia E. Ciampa. Elders: Ellen L. Bullock, James P. Fogg, Margaret J. Foreman, Charles R. Fowler, Kathy K. Higgins, David S. Jack, David F. Keller, J. H. Langley, Robert K. Moffat 1/1/2012, M. Patricia Mollick 8/25/2012, David L. Parker

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5/1/2012, Charles G. Prince (HL) 1/1/2012, John K. Smith, G. H. Trumbo, Richard D. Updegraff, Ronald A. Wanless. Associate Members: Julie L. Applegate, Joan L. Rousseaux. Probationary Members: F. Jayne Verner. Local Pastors: David L. Acker, Sherry L. Cook 3/1/2012, Bryce D. King, William H. Weppelman 1/1/2012, Robert S. White, Jr. 12/31/2011, and Lorraine E. Williams.

PENSION CREDIT – On motion of Gary Grau, pension credit was granted to Richard D. Updegraff from 7/1/1975 to 6/30/1976.

APPROVAL OF CHARACTER – Each of the District Superintendents approved the character of the pastors serving on their respective districts.

EPISCOPAL COMMENTS – Bishop Bickerton read a letter of appreciation to David Morse for his service as Chairperson of the Board of the Ordained Ministry. The Bishop also presented him with an etched crystal memento. The Bishop thanked the Board of the Ordained Ministry for their tireless and often difficult service to the Annual Conference. The Bishop complimented the Cabinet for their high character and integrity and their exceptionally professional manner in supervision. Finally, the Bishop thanked God for each of the clergy and encouraged them in continued faithfulness and joy in ministry and disciple making.

COMPREHENSIVE MOTION – On motion of David Morse members of the Clergy Session approved a comprehensive motion to receive and approve the report of the Board of the Ordained Ministry.

RECESS – After prayer and a hymn the Clergy Session adjourned at 11:00 AM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

OPENING WORSHIP - At 1:00 p.m., Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton led the opening worship service. The Otterbein UMC (Kane District) praise band led music and Pam Gardner, Slippery Rock UMC, shared the message.

CALL TO ORDER - Following worship and the celebration of Holy Communion, Bishop Bickerton called the conference to order at 2:45 p.m. After the introduction of floor managers Joan Reasinger and Louise Patterson, the Bishop reviewed Colossians 3:12-16a, 17 and the “Guidelines for Holy Conferencing” found in the pre-conference Journal (p. 5). Dr. Richard Jewell, president of Grove City College, welcomed the conference and noted that 2012 marks the 45th consecutive year that Grove City College has hosted The United Methodist Conference.

SESSIONS COMMITTEE - Barb Moore, chair of the Conference Sessions Committee, highlighted logistical information to make this week a more pleasant experience for everyone.

BAR OF THE CONFERENCE -John R. Wilson, Conference Secretary, moved that the “bar of the conference” be set to include “all who are seated at the tables.” Wayne Cleary offered an amendment by adding: “that the barrier be removed that currently separates the tables (with members) from the visitor section.” After discussion, J. LaVon Kincaid called for the question. The call was approved and the conference voted on the Cleary Amendment. It was NOT APPROVED. The Wilson motion to set the bar was then APPROVED.

ROLL CALL - Conference secretary John Wilson then explained the roll call of members. Members were guided through the completion of the attendance card, the directory information card, and the survey regarding the usage of the printed and electronic forms of our annual *Journal* and Directory. Laity 498 in attendance, Clergy 585 in attendance plus 75 excused Clergy, Total 1,290.

ELECTION OF TELLERS - The conference then voted for tellers to serve during this year’s annual conference, as listed in the pre-conference *Journal* (p. 505). They were ELECTED.

EPISCOPAL COMMENTS The bishop expressed his personal appreciation for those who serve on our security team by checking credentials. He also thanked Wayne Cleary for highlighting the discomfort many feel when having to show credentials in order to gain access to the plenary area. He also emphasized the need for grace and hospitality amongst all in attendance, especially in this important area.

AGENDA -Jude Urso, Agenda Coordinator, moved for the setting of our published agenda (pre-conference journal, pp. 14-15). Greg Cox, Director of Connectional Ministry, explained the special offerings that will be taken during our conference sessions this week: Thursday worship: offering for the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund. Friday evening: offering for our “New Places for New People” ministry. Saturday evening: offering to help provide scholarships for those serving on Volunteer in Missions (V.I.M.) teams. Sunday morning: offering for the Conference approved missions agencies. APPROVED.

CONFERENCE RULES - Amy Bentz, Conference Chancellor, recommended the conference suspend conference rule 2.3.8.1.1 (2011 *Journal*, p. 386) in order to allow late legislation to be considered by the body. APPROVED.

ELECTION OF QUADRENNIAL OFFICES - The Bishop led the conference in considering, and electing, the required quadrennial leadership for service in 2012-2016. Elected were: Conference Chancellor - Amy Bentz; Conference Secretary & Statistician – John R. Wilson; Conference Treasurer - Patricia Morris; Conference Lay Leader – Sharon Gregory; and Conference Secretary of Global Ministries – Kenneth Haines.

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RECOGNITION OF CONFERENCE LAY LEADER - Bishop Bickerton recognized outgoing conference Lay Leader Harry Barbus for his service over the past six years (2006-2012).

STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT – Bishop Bickerton presented his “State of the Church” report. The Bishop spoke of the importance of “Dreaming God Sized Dreams.” Highlighting Romans 8:11 and a variety of Biblical leaders who found themselves caught up in God Sized dreams, he called for each of us to seek participation in God’s dreams for us, our congregations, and our conference rather than settle for our own smaller, individual dreams for those areas. The Bishop introduced Conference Center staff members: Diane Miller (Volunteers In Mission Coordinator); Pat Morris (Treasurer); Jim Walker (Director of Congregational Development); Renaye Hoffman (Youth Coordinator); Dawn Lynn Check (Communications Officer); Gregory Cox (Director of Connectional Ministries); Sandra Matoushaya (Zimbabwe Partnership Coordinator); Jessica Gamache (Camping Coordinator).

APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET - Bishop Bickerton introduced the members of the extended Cabinet and appointed the District Superintendents to their respective districts for the coming year. The Bishop announced William B. Meekins, Jr. is elected Dean of the Cabinet, Thomas Strandburg is the Secretary, and Alyce Weaver Dunn is the Treasurer.

RECESS – The conference was in recess at 4:45 PM.

COSROW Monitoring Report Thursday, June 7 2012

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW continues its call to encourage and challenge our conference to live out God’s call for the full and equal participation of women in the total life and mission in the church. The 2011 COSROW report is available for request from cosrow@wpaumc.org.

COSROW and the Anti-Racism Team (ART) and other loyal volunteers, have combined for the second year to resume their observations of the legislative proceedings, plenaries, worship and special observances. As we monitor we are able to evaluate how well we are improving in bringing people of diverse gender, races, ages and abilities together to share God-sized Dreams as we follow God’s will for the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

John Wesley’s call to Holy Conferencing was reflected in the warm greetings of old friends and colleagues of all genders, races and ages. There was an underlying mood of let down for some regarding recent challenges at General Conference.

What a difference a year makes as the registration forms included ethnicity and gender which will greatly enhance our ability to determine who we are as a gathered report.

Opening worship featured the conference staff leading liturgy. They were a mixture of younger and older, mainly laity and female, and a Person of Color. The liturgy was uplifting, joyous and challenging. Though we continue to struggle with inclusive language, especially in the traditional songs, hymns, and prayers, there was some balancing liturgy that was more neutral. The Bishop led by example as he used God language over gender specific language in a natural, worshipful way. The sermon, by one of our own female clergy, sent a powerful affirmation of God’s message delivered through all.

This continued later as the Bishop challenged us that, though we live in a racist world we are not a racist church and that we are not a denomination that will not accept female clergy leadership.

We were reminded how we are to treat each other during our time of holy conferencing together.

We are anxious to see if we can surrender ourselves to a time together where the God-sized Dream of all God’s people come together as the people who love.

DAY TWO
Friday, June 8, 2012

MORNING SESSION

BIBLE STUDY – The conference convened at 8:00 AM for morning Bible study. Dr. John C. Holbert was the Bible study leader speaking on the topic, “Moses is Not Charlton Heston.” Moses is no different from those who preceded him. Moses is all about dreaming the dreams of God.

ORDER – The morning session came to order at 9:06 AM. Bishop Bickerton affirmed his love for the delegates and cherishes the opportunity to spend the day together as we work as brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bishop led in prayer with special remembrance offered for Maxine Byers and the family of Barb Evans.

RETIREMENT MOMENT – After a video presentation by retiree Patsy Ciampa, she led in a moment of prayer. Bishop Bickerton presented Patsy with a certificate and retirement pin.

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.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Kellie Wild presented the Legislation and Corporation Consent Calendars and gave instructions for removing items from the calendars for debate.

BALLOTING FOR EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES – Tracy Merrick, representing the delegation to Jurisdictional Conference briefed the conference concerning the process of nominating Episcopal candidates from Western Pennsylvania to the 2012 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Peggy Ward briefly introduced Episcopal nominees Eric Park and William B. Meekins, Jr., Sharon Gregory and Alan Brooks respectively read statements authored by the nominees.

On motion of Tracy Merrick conference rule 2.3.10.7 was amended for this session in order to allow members of the conference to vote for up to two nominees on each ballot.

Bishop Bickerton briefed the conference on the rules regarding the balloting process. After prayer the first ballot for Episcopal candidates was cast. The ballot was closed at 10:01 AM.

KEYSTONE UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION – Patty Columbe, Director of the Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union spoke to the conference about how the credit union can teach the foundations of basic money management. Mark Griffith, President of the Board of Directors presented Bishop Bickerton with a check for

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\$4,000 to be used for new church starts. The check is 10% of the proceeds from the Mission Visa Card offered through the credit union.

GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORT – Eric Park, Chairperson of the General and Jurisdiction Conference delegations led in the report. Eric described the work of preparation for General Conference throughout the previous year. In spite of the cynicism about General Conference accomplishing nothing it did adopt a \$603 million missional budget, reduced the size of general boards and agencies for greater accountability, and entered into full communion with historically Black Methodist denominations. Attention was called to the heart-breaking conversations surrounding human sexuality with the realization these issues will not be legislated away. With the attention of the delegation now directed to Jurisdictional Conference Eric invited the conference to express their appreciation and support for the work performed and the work to come. The report concluded with a video highlighting many of the experiences and decisions of the 2012 General Conference. Bishop Bickerton added words of appreciation and pride in the excellent attendance and work of the delegation.

JURISDICTIONAL POOL – William B. Meekins, Jr. referred delegates to page 525 of the pre-conference Journal inviting delegates to complete the form if they are interested in serving the church on general boards and agencies.

OLD RECTORY PRESENTATION – Bishop Bickerton introduced Clare Potter, British Methodist Minister and Development Manager of Old Rectory in Epworth. Clare spoke of the privilege and experience of working where John Wesley received so much of his inspiration. Clare spoke of plans for restoration and renovation at Old Rectory and explained how those interested can participate.

BUDGET PRESENTATION – Paul Ritchey representing the Conference Council of Finance and Administration offered a report on behalf of the council and presented the proposed budget for 2013. On recommendation of Paul Ritchey, McCall Scanlon & Tice, LLC were accepted as Conference Auditors.

RESULTS OF FIRST BALLOT FOR EPISCOPAL CANDIDATES – Bishop Bickerton reported the results of the first ballot for Episcopal candidates. There were 1,114 ballots cast, 3 invalid, 556 needed for election, (41 Elders received votes), there were two elections: Eric Park and William B. Meekins, Jr. Eric and William each expressed appreciation to the conference.

MOTION TO DISCONTINUE BALLOTING – On motion of Robert W. Higginbotham no additional ballots for Episcopal candidates were cast.

ALDERSGATE RENEWAL MINISTRIES – Jonathan Dow, Executive Director of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries spoke to the conference concerning opportunities for renewal.

RECESS – After prayer by Jonathan Dow the conference was in recess at 11:28 AM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

ORDER – the conference came to order at 1:00 PM.

RETIREMENT MOMENT - After a video presentation by retiree Chuck Fowler, he led in a moment of prayer. Bishop Bickerton presented Chuck with a certificate and retirement pin.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE KANE DISTRICT – Thomas Strandburg spoke to the conference about exciting ministry taking place in 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.

PRIVILEGE – Terry Shaughnessy and Jim Parkinson, accompanied by Linda Brown Chambers, led in prayer for Ed Sturdevant who is in critical condition. Ed and his wife Sue had previously been given the Youth Worker of the Year Award.

CABINET REPORT – Donald Scandrol, Superintendent of the Pittsburgh District, spoke on behalf of the Cabinet about the supportive role of the superintendents to both laity and clergy. Appreciation was expressed to Bishop Bickerton and wife Sally for their sacrificial love and support of the Cabinet as well as clergy and laity of the conference. Bishop Bickerton affirmed the Cabinet in their leadership.

RS 101 RACIAL JUSTICE ACT – Rita Platt, representing Section One moved concurrence as amended by the section 102-37-2. It was approved.

P 106 – AFRICAN CENTRAL CONFERENCE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS – Rita Platt moved non-concurrence as amended by the section 39-85-19. On a sustained call for the previous question by Lori Slagle, and after prayer, P 106 was approved as amended by Robert Zilhaver.

Substitute motion by Robert Zilhaver: Approved.

I move that the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference petition the Judicial Council to hear and determine the legality of the following actions in regard to Petition 106 in accordance with ¶2609.5 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

1) Were the funds given by the Pittsburgh East District of the Western Pennsylvania Conference to the East African Annual Conference used in accordance with ¶258.4.f?

2) Were the funds given by members of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference in the payment of Isaac Sebit in compliance with ¶ 258.4.f and ¶613.13?

3) Was the complaint filed by one member of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference (Nancy Denardo) properly dealt with in accordance with ¶413 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*?

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA – Donald Green, Executive Director of Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania spoke to the conference about how Christian Associates have spent the last year mediating conversations between the communities of faith around contemporary issues of Religious Freedom and women’s reproductive rights while striving towards God’s big dream of unity for the church.

UM COMMUNICATIONS – Vickie Wallace, representing UM Communications, introduced a video highlighting the work of UM Communications. UMCOM is striving to find ways to assist the church communicate in the most relevant ways possible so the church will be in ministry with the community not to the community.

GLOBAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY – Hi Rho Park brought greetings from the board and from Kim Cape, General Secretary of GBHEM, and spoke briefly about the work of the board.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE BUTLER DISTRICT – Dean Ziegler spoke to the conference about exciting ministry taking place in the Butler District. Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors 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 and Butler District Superintendent Dean Ziegler.

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

DISABILITY CONCERNS – Debbie Hills, thanked COSROW and the Disabilities Concerns Team for providing t-shirts for pages. Debbie challenged the conference concerning how we view outwardly those who have disabilities. People with disabilities lives are just as valuable as people who do not have them. What does God see?

BOARD OF PENSIONS – Frank Kelly offered an update on denominational pension costs. Edward Bailey presented information on changes in the conference health insurance program. Terry Lyon informed the conference on other changes in the clergy health and benefit program.

PRIVELEGE – Stephanie Gottschalk, Chairperson of Conference Board of Global Ministries introduced Rich Mroccka, an individual Volunteer in Mission about to embark on a six month mission to Nicaragua. Bishop Bickerton led in prayer.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

– Donald Scandrol spoke to the conference about exciting ministry taking place in the Pittsburgh District. Bishop Bickerton read the names of pastors 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 and Pittsburgh District Superintendent Donald Scandrol.

FLASH MOB – Dancing to Michael Jackson’s “Black and White” conference youth delegates and pages created a flash mob.

RETIREMENT MOMENT - After a video presentation by retiree David Keller, he led in a moment of prayer. Bishop Bickerton presented David with a certificate and retirement pin.

RECESS – The conference was in recess at 4:16 PM.

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, Luella Krieger, 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.

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 love 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 Hess, 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.

JONATHAN 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 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

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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 newly elected 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. Guin 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. Guin 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 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 (medically) treated by men, and our church would only send men. The women of India could in fact be treated and have opportunities for education. The women of Boston raised money and sent a doctor (female) as missionary and not only were women treated, but healed and schools the women 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 women 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. (Expressing) 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 our 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.

IV Daily Proceedings

Harry Barbus, Conference Lay Leader, recognized District Lay Leaders, Local Pastors, and Certified Lay Ministers. 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, Henry H. Shissler, James M. Du Bois, Carol Lynn, 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: Richard C. Baker, Charles Dale DuPont, Spencer John Hickman, Merle Potter, J. Stephen Ziegler

Bishop Bickerton recognized the 2012 class of retiring clergy. 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. The conference was in recess at the end of worship.

**DAY FOUR
June 10, 2012**

MORNING SESSION

ORDINATION – The conference gathered at 10:00 AM for a service of Baptism, Reaffirmation of Baptism, Ordination, and Holy Communion. Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton was the preacher. Participants in the service were Kevin Haley, Beverly Peterson, the Otterbein/Pittsfield Praise Team, Sharon Gregory, David Morse, William Starr, and Dennis Henley. Assisting in the Ordination Service was Bishop Ralph E. Jones from the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Receiving the Sacrament of Christian Baptism was Rachel Elle Urso.

Received as a Full Member and Ordained as Deacon: Donna Byrd Gabler

Received as Full members and Ordained as Elders: Pamela Sue Armstrong, Wade Reitz Berkey, Susan Lyn Moudry, Thomas John Parkinson, Joseph Benton Short, Kelly Jean Smith, and Beverly Ann Spore.

On motion of Cyndi Bloise, seconded by Josephine Whitley-Fields the conference adjourned at 11:25 AM (at the conclusion of the service).

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Bickerton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John R. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rev. John R. Wilson
Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING

This is to certify that on Saturday, June 9, 2012 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I Received as Probationary Members and Commissioned as Ministers:

*Timothy James Goodman, Gary Lee Hilton, Julie Sparks Kolacz,
Scott Alan Shaffer, Erica Beth Wellner.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Bickerton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first name.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that on Sunday, June 11, 2012 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I ordained as ELDERS:

Receiving Full Membership and Elder's Orders were:

Pamela Sue Armstrong, Wade Reitz Berkey, Susan Lyn Moudry, Thomas John Parkinson, Joseph Benton Short, Kelly Jean Smith, and Beverly Ann Spore

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Bickerton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that on Sunday, June 11, 2012 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I ordained as DEACON:

Receiving Full Membership and Deacon's Orders were:

Donna Byrd Gabler

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Bickerton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop

MEMBERS ELDER CLASS OF 2012



Pamela Sue Armstrong



Wade Reitz Berkey



Susan Lyn Moudry



Thomas J. Parkinson



Joseph Benton Short



Kelly Jean Smith



Beverly Ann Spore

**MEMBER DEACON
CLASS OF 2012 =>**



Donna Byrd Gabler

COMMISSIONED AND PROVISIONAL MEMBERS



from left: Erica Wellner; Gary Hilton; Julie Kolacz; Scott Shaffer, and Tim Goodman

Permission and praise for photos should be sent to communications@wpaumc.org or 1-800-886-3382 x 227

Retiring Class of 2012



top row from left, Chuck Fowler, Greg Prince, David Keller and Rich Updegraff;
row 3 from left, Joan Rousseaux and David Parker;
row 2 from left, Patsy Ciampa, Patricia Mollick and Kathy Higgins;
bottom row 1 from left, Julie Applegate and John Smith

The extended Cabinet 2011-2013



top row left: Don Scandrol (PB), Greg Cox (DCM); Bill Blair (CV); George Porter (FR);
middle row left: William Meekins (GB); Joe Patterson (EM); Dean Zieger (BU);
Bob Higginbotham (Admin Assistant); Eric Park (WA); Tom Strandburg (KA);
front row left: Alyce Weaver Dunn (JT); Bishop Tom Bickerton; Sharon Schwab (IN)



Our newly elected Conference Lay Leader Sharon Gregory

SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MEMORANDUM 1223

IN RE: Request from the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference for a Ruling on the Legality of Certain Financial Actions and the Complaint Process Regarding the East Africa Annual Conference in Light of ¶¶258.4f, 413, and 613.13

Docket 1012-6 is deferred to the April 2013 session of the Judicial Council.
Beth Capen was absent. Sandra Lutz, first lay alternate, participated in this decision.

October 27, 2012