

IV. Daily Proceedings

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

FIRST DAY

Thursday, June 13, 2013

CLERGY SESSION

ORDER – Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton called the Clergy Session to order at 9:35 AM.

OPENING PRAYER – Bishop Bickerton introduced Bishop Nhiwatiwa, resident bishop of Zimbabwe. Bishop Nhiwatiwa led the session in prayer.

PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING – Received on motion of Janet Lord, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Provisional Elders according to ¶324.4 a,b or 324.6[v], 322.4[3/4]: Chad J. Bogdewic, Alison M. Fisher, Anthony R.C. Hita, and Jean A. Smith.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of Janet Lord, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Elizabeth S. Cooper, Anthony S Fallisi, D. Renee Mikell, and Ross T. Pryor.

Received on motion of LaMar Carlson, as recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Nathan W. Carlson.

Received on motion of Brian Keller, as recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Tina M. Keller.

Received on motion of Edward Patterson, as recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Rebecca W. Patterson.

PASTORS FROM OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES APPROVED FOR APPOINTMENT IN OUR CONFERENCE WHILE RETAINING THEIR CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP – Terry G. Shaffer, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reported, according to ¶331.8 & ¶346.1: name (*credentials, annual conference membership*): David S. Dempsey (*RE, from Upper New York AC*), Arnold G. Husk (*RE, from West Virginia AC*), Jay C. Sowers III (*FD, from Missouri AC*), Carole J. Bergman (*RE, from California/Nevada AC*), Matthew F. Price (*PE, from West Virginia AC*), and Jerome F. Kennedy (*FE, from Liberia AC*).

COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES – Sara J. Wrona and Amy R. Wagner introduced the 2012–2013 Course of Study graduates: John L. Donner, W. John Hickman, Marjorie L. Kiefer, Kathryn A. Reitz, Donald E. Rudge, and Sara J. Wrona.

LICENSING SCHOOL GRADUATES – Sara J. Wrona introduced the 2012 – 2013 Licensing School graduates: Andrew Blystone, Patricia Boring, Monica L. Calvert, Larry Condron, Sandra K. Conti, Doreen Griffith, Jonathan Hartland, Penny Helmbold, Anthony R. C. Hita, Randy K. Landman, Leona Logan, Deborah D. Marshall, Keith Martin, Debra L. Mason, Allan T. McKeown, John D. Mize, Theresa A. Robinson, Diane L. Swingle, Bryon Switala, Donald Watkins, and Benjamin T. Zimmerman.

READMITTED AS MEMBER IN FULL CONNECTION – On motion of Terry Shaffer, according to ¶367: name (*credentials*): Ronald J. Geisler (*FE*).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY – Granted on motion of Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶354.2a, .3: S. Bruce Mould, 2nd year, D. Lynn Yeso (*FE*) 2nd year, Stephen A. Tiffany (*FE*) 3rd year, Chul S. Park (*FE*) 4th year, Jeff M. Conn (*FE*) 2nd year, Ernest L. Perry (*FE*) 5th year, Ronald E. Thomas (*FE*) 13th year, David R. Lewis (*FE*) 15th year, Gordon Barry Davis (*FE*) 19th year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, FAMILY – Granted on motion of Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶354.2B, 3: Vicki L. Oliver (*PE*) 4th year, William M. Pieringer (*FE*) 2nd year, Barbara A. Turpish (*FE*) 10th year, Deborah A. Ackley-Killian (*FE*) 16th year

RETURN TO ACTIVE STATUS FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE – Terry G. Shaffer reported, according to ¶354.11: name *credentials, date of return* : In Ki Lee (*FE, May 18, 2012*) and Andrew Spore (*FE, January 4, 2013*).

LESS THAN FULL TIME SERVICE – Approved on motion of Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶338.2, ¶342.2, ¶1506.4b: name (*credential, fraction of full time service, year # of less than full time service*): Willard C. Adkins (*AM, ¼ time, year 11*), Clara W. Belloit (*FE, ½ time, year 14*), Jerry D. Belloit (*FE, ¼ time, year 18*), Kenneth L. Bossart (*FE, ¾ time, year 4*), Emily A. Byrd (*FE, ½ time, year 4*), Ralph P. Cotten (*FE, ¾ time, year 3*), Harold J. Dangel (*AM, ¾ time, year 3*), Todd M. Davis (*FE, ½ time, year 6*), Allen O. Grimm, III (*FE, ½ time, year 6*), Sharon M. Hamley (*FE, ¾ time, year 5*), Patricia S. Harbison (*FE, ½ time, year 3*), J. Mark Hurst (*FE, ¾ time, year 9*), Tina G. Keller (*FE, ½ time, year 5*), In Ki Lee (*FE, ½ time, year 2*), Alice M. McClymonds (*AM, ½ time, year 8*), Darlene K. Ryniec (*AM, ½ time, year 8*), Jay P. Tennies (*FE, ½ time, year 3*), John R. Wilson (*FE, ¾ time, year 20*).

APPOINTED TO SERVE IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – Terry G. Shaffer reported, according to ¶331.8 and ¶346: name (*credentials, conference where appointed*): David M. Biondi (*FE, West Virginia*), Jackie L. Condon (*PL, Susquehanna*), Allen O. Grimm, III (*FE, New England*), Tracey L. Henderson (*FD, West Ohio*), Gary W. Jones (*FD, East Ohio*), In Ki Lee (*FE, WJ Guam Korean Mission*), Ralph P. Cotten (*FE, Florida*), Richard O. Feagin (*FE, Pacific Northwest*), Michael B. Airgood (*FL, Eurasia*), Jeffrey T. St. Clair (*FE, Florida*), and Jason E. Schweinberg (*FE, North Carolina*).

MEDICAL LEAVE – Terry G. Shaffer reported, according to ¶357: name (*credentials, date of medical leave*): Bruce K. Northey (*FE, 01/31/2013*), 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*), Shawn L. Goodwin (*FE, 05/01/2012*), Debra Anne Groeger (*FE, 02/01/1997*), Floyd A. Hall (*FE, 07/01/2007*), Connie B. Hoeke (without benefit) (*FE, 07/01/2000*), Austin P. Hornyak (*FE, 05/01/2012*), Earl C. Killian II (*PE, 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*), David K. Means (*FE, 12/01/2012*). (NOTE: The 2012 *Discipline* renamed “Incapacity Leave” as “Medical Leave.”)

GRANTED HONORABLE LOCATION – On motion of Jeffrey D. Sterling, according to ¶359.1, name (*credentials, effective date, charge conference membership*): Gary C. Bailey (*FE, 10/20/2012, Ashes to Life*).

WITHDRAWAL TO UNITE WITH ANOTHER DENOMINATION – On motion of Jeffrey D. Sterling, according to ¶361.1, .4: name (*credentials, denomination, effective date*): Peter Dongjoo Ko (*FE, Korean Methodist Church, 1/1/2013*).

FAITHFUL, EFFECTIVE, and FRUITFUL 2.0 – Ron Hoellein reported on the continuing efforts of the Board of Ordained Ministry to update the F.E.F. clergy evaluation process. Their goals are: (1) Simplify the evaluation process, (2) Intentionally link evaluation with continuing education, (3) Clarify the role of the SPRC, (4) Clarify that fruitfulness is a shared responsibility, and (5) Close the loop with the District Superintendents. Training modules, tutorials, and forms will be available at the fall charge conferences.

RETIREMENTS: DEACONS – On motion of James N. Pond, according to ¶358: name (*years of service*) *effective date*: Kathleen A. Mikesell (*18*) *Nov. 9, 2013*.

RETIREMENTS: ELDERS – On motion of James N. Pond, according to ¶358: name (*years of service*) *effective date*: William M. Chittester (*29*) *July 1, 2013*, Ralph C. Ciampa (*51*) *Sept 1, 2013*, Elizabeth S. Cooper (*6*) *July 1, 2013*, Ronald Fleming (*25*) *Dec. 1, 2013*, Paul C. Friedhof (*23*) *July 1, 2013*, Edwin J. Herald (*15*) *July 1, 2013*, John P. Hoffman (*21*) *June 30, 2013*, William E. Hufford (*43¼*) *Oct. 12, 2012*, Roger A. Johnson (*36*) *July 1, 2013*, Marjorie E. Lindahl (*15*) *July 1, 2013*, Ron C. Lindahl (*28*) *July 1, 2013*, Scott R. McCormick (*37½*) *August 1, 2013*, Dennis L. Miller (*40*) *July 1, 2013*, Edd H. Myers (*33½*) *July 1, 2013*, Cathy Newport Poff (*17*) *July 1, 2013*, David L. Parker (*44*) *May 1, 2012*, William L. Parker (*25*) *July 1, 2013*, Edward C. Patterson (*32¼*) *July 1, 2013*, Lee A. Pomeroy (*40*) *July 1, 2013*, Ellen M. Rezek (*39*) *July 1, 2013*, Wayne D. Sedi (*28*) *July 1, 2013*, Terry L. Shaughnessy (*29*) *Nov 30, 2012*, Aimee W. Twigg (*40*) *July 1, 2013*, August B. Twigg (*40*) *July 1 2013*, and Dean D. Ziegler (*40*) *July 1, 2013*.

RETIREMENTS: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – James N. Pond reported, according to ¶358.1, name (*years of service*) *effective date*: C. James Kutz (11) *Sept. 30, 2012*.

On motion of James N. Pond, according to ¶358.2, name (*years of service*) *effective date*: Paul L. Thompson (25) *Dec. 1, 2013*, and Alice Jean Parker (20) *July 1, 2013*.

RETIREMENTS: LOCAL PASTORS – James N. Pond reported, according to ¶358.1, name (*years of service*) *effective date*: Ralph K. Culp (17) *Dec. 1, 2013*, Betty Lee Hollabaugh (16½) *Jan. 31, 2013*, D. Ronald Libengood (11¾) *Feb. 28, 2013*, Ruth A. Moore (12) *July 1, 2013*, and Janet R. Wensel (4) *July 1, 2013*.

RETIREMENTS FROM ALL CATEGORIES, according to James N. Pond, represent the accumulated service of 917 years of pastoral ministry.

DECEASED MEMBERS – Terry G. Shaffer highlighted those clergy who have died since Annual Conference 2012. A full listing is included in the Memorial Service liturgy.

PENSION CHANGES STARTING JANUARY 1, 2014 – The Bishop introduced Pat Morris, Conference Treasurer, who presented an overview of General Conference's changes to the clergy pension program.

COMPREHENSIVE MOTION – On motion of Jeffrey D. Sterling, members of the Clergy Session approved a comprehensive motion to receive and approve the report of the Board of the Ordained Ministry.

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

EPISCOPAL COMMENTS – Bishop Bickerton discussed appointment and itinerancy concerns, especially in light of this year's record numbers of retirements. He reminded the pastors that while they are appointed to specific churches and communities, they are first of all appointed to the area of the annual conference: Western Pennsylvania.

RECESS – After prayer and a hymn the Clergy Session adjourned at 11:35 AM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

OPENING WORSHIP - At 1:00 p.m., Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton led the opening worship service. The Central Highlands Community Praise Band (Washington District) led music, with Evan Marshall Snyder, on the organ. Bishop Bickerton spoke on "Getting a Grip on Hope!" Based on Eugene Peterson's *The Message* version of Lamentations 1 and 3, Bishop Bickerton challenged the conference to live into the Old

Testament sense of lament and then, instead of just voicing the sorrow and heartbreak, take it to the One who can do something about the situation! He extended the challenge to the local congregations that when discontent and lament occur, don't just let the complaining and lamenting go on forever. Take it to God and make it a matter of prayer!

CALL TO ORDER - Following worship and the celebration of Holy Communion, Bishop Bickerton called the conference to order at 3:10 p.m. The Bishop reviewed Colossians 3:12-16a, 17 and the "Guidelines for Holy Conferencing" found in the pre-conference booklet (p. 6). Dr. Richard Jewell, president of Grove City College, welcomed the conference.

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

FLOOR MANAGERS & SECRETARY STAFF – The Bishop introduced this year's new floor managers, Linda Chambers and Bill Patrick, as well as Conference Secretary John Wilson, and his staff members on stage, Dayton Mix and Mark Goswick.

BAR OF THE CONFERENCE - John R. Wilson, Conference Secretary, moved that the "bar of the conference" be set to include "all voting members who are seated at the tables within the security area." The motion to set the bar was APPROVED.

ROLL CALL - Conference Secretary John Wilson then explained the roll call of members. Members were guided through the completion of the attendance card and the seating designation card. Laity 672 in attendance, Clergy 581 in attendance plus 73 excused Clergy, Total 1,326.

ELECTION OF TELLERS - The conference then voted for tellers to serve during this year's annual conference, as listed in the pre-conference booklet (page 11). He nominated Daryl Mains as Head Teller and replaced Carla Teluch with Richard Means. With those additions, the tellers were ELECTED.

AGENDA - Jude Urso, Agenda Coordinator, moved for the setting of our published agenda (in *Daily Journal* p. 523). APPROVED.

CONFERENCE RULES – John Wilson, representing Amy Bentz, Conference Chancellor, recommended the conference suspend conference rule 2.3.8.1.1 (2012 *Journal*, p. 370) in order to allow late legislation to be considered by the body. APPROVED.

SUBSTITUTIONARY RS 401 & RS 402 - Paul Ritchey moved to suspend conference rule 3.4.6 in order to temporarily reduce the amount needed in the Conference Reserve Fund in order to be faithful to the ministry needs of the conference by funding each one without undue hardship to the local congregations of the conference. He said: "It is our hope that this will continue to allow us to work together in ministry without

causing hardship to the local church.” The Bishop asked what the difference between the original version of the budget total and the total in the substitutionary budget. Paul reported that the original amount was close to \$10.6 million, while the total of the substitutionary budget amount is about \$9.5 million. APPROVED.

EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE – Matt Judd and Lois Swestyn, 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 of the Bishop’s reappointment to Western PA for four more years. They presented a video produced to highlight the impact of the Bishop over the past eight years.

STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT – Bishop Bickerton presented his “State of the Church” report. The Bishop spoke of the importance of Disciples Making Disciples. The Bishop’s summary & challenge to the conference in order to advance that disciple making goal:

- (1) – Clergy Have to Lead
 - (2) – Laity Have to Witness
 - (3) – Develop a Sense of High Expectation
 - (4) – Tell Life-Changing Stories
 - (5) – Invite People into the Heart of God
- √ Observe ministry Sunday.
- √ Sponsor a seminary student (even if she isn’t from your local church).
- √ Pray that God might reveal to you someone that needs to be invited into full-time Christian service.
- √ Invite them. Then invite them again.
- (6) – Discern a vision & then work the plan developed in that process
 - (7) – Do not underestimate yourself or God
 - (8) – Put people in leadership that are Emmaus Road Walkers

The Finance Committee needs DISCIPLES of Jesus Christ, not bankers. The Board of Trustees needs DISCIPLES of Jesus Christ, not builders. The Annual Conference needs DISCIPLES of Jesus Christ, not just someone who is willing to go.

The Bishop then led the conference in a time of “lamenting” in groups of 3-4. Each group then prayed over those laments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Linda Chambers, Floor Manager, shared announcements including a word of the day: “When the stakes are high, bow down low.”

PRAYER BEFORE RECESS & DINNER – Rev. Joseph Bonga, District Superintendent from Zimbabwe, led the conference in prayer.

RECESS – The conference was in recess at 5:35 PM.

LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS – Following dinner, the Annual Conference gathered in individual legislative sections.

DAY TWO
Friday, June 14, 2013

MORNING SESSION

ORDER – The morning session came to order at 8:30 AM. Bishop Bickerton read Acts 9:1-9 (Saul’s Damascus Road encounter with Christ). He pointed out how many would claim that this passage is the account of Saul’s “conversion.” The Bishop challenged that assessment and suggested that it was simply the beginning of his conversion. Christ continued to work on him, and in him, throughout the rest of his life. The same happens when we come to the Lord. Christ begins to “save” us, but doesn’t treat it as just a one day event. He continues to lead us, call us, remold us, and remake us as we daily come to the Lord and yield our lives to him.

STOP HUNGER NOW – Floor manager Bill Patrick introduced Andrew Sullivan of the Stop Hunger Now ministry. Sullivan invited the members to take 15 to 20 minutes today and help package meals at the group’s exhibit in the hallway behind the display area. Yesterday, WPA members packaged 5,000 meals. The goal is for WPA members to pack 25,000 meals during the three days of this conference session.

Sullivan then challenged the members to exceed the number of meals packed by the Susquehanna conference, which is also meeting this week. (Yesterday the Susquehanna Conference packaged 20,000 meals!).

PRACTICAL EVANGELISM – Bishop Bickerton related the story of one of our African bishops who had helped distribute nets in seven heavily Muslim communities. Later, seven Muslim leaders, representing each of those communities, showed up at the bishop’s office and asked him to come and start a United Methodist Church in each of those communities. The bishop was surprised and asked why? The answer was “We trusted you to care for our bodies and you did. Now we want to trust you with the care of our souls.” Bishop Bickerton emphasized how outreach programs for physical needs can lead to future evangelistic efforts.

SOCIAL MEDIA – The Bishop also encouraged the members to use their social media connections as a way of sharing the hope we have in Christ, not as a place to negatively comment and whine and complain about the world around us. Social Media can be an evangelistic opportunity. We have the chance to spread hope and the message of Christ to all those who follow and friend us. The bishop invited the members who are on twitter to tweet about insights and praises from the conference this week: #WPAUMC13

SETTING OF APPOINTMENTS OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS – The bishop introduced the District Superintendents for the 2013-2014 ministry year including new Butler DS Joel Garrett and new Indiana DS James N. Pond.

BISHOP'S CABINET - The Bishop defined his "cabinet" in Western PA as the bishop, all DSs, as well as the Director of Connectional Ministries (Greg Cox), the Bishop's Assistant (Robert Higginbotham), and the Conference Treasurer (Pat Morris). The bishop also announced the Cabinet's officers for 2013-2014: Dean – William Meekins, Jr., Secretary – Thomas Strandburg, Treasurer – Alyce Weaver Dunn.

CABINET REPORT - William Meekins, Tom Strandburg, and Alyce Weaver Dunn shared the Biblical story of Hannah seeking God (1 Samuel 1:9-17). They also read about Samuel learning to hear and respond to God (1 Samuel 3:1-10). Learning to seek, hear and respond to God is key if we want to be disciples who make more disciples.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS FROM ZIMBABWE – Sandra Matoushaya, Western PA's Zimbabwe Partnership Director, introduced the visiting guests from The United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. The members welcomed: Bishop Nhiwatiwa and Greater Nhiwatiwa, his wife (Zimbabwe Episcopal Area), Rev. Joseph Bonga (DS, Chimanmani-Chipinga District), Mrs. Dianah Chideya (Associate Lay leader, Zimbabwe West AC), Rev. Pathias Hlahla (DS, Makoni-Buhera District), Mr. Tinashe Felix Makarau (Youth President), Mrs. Alice Matiza (Episcopacy Chair), Mr. Singiyaphumula Doitwell Mlambo (Men's Chairperson for Zimbabwe West AC), Rev. Zebediah Tendayi Marewangepo (Assistant to the Bishop), Mr. Shadreck Mataruka (Lay Leader, Zimbabwe West AC), Rev. Musafare Mususa (DS, Masvingo District), Mrs. Viola Mutema (Stewardship Taskforce Chair, Harare East District), Rev. Daniel Mutidzawanda (DS, Mutusa Nyanga District), Mrs. Molly Hlekani Mwayera (Associate Lay Leader, Zimbabwe East AC), and Rev. Farirayi Margaret Nyabote (Bulawayo Midlands District).

CONSENT CALENDAR – Kellie Wild presented the Legislation and Corporation Consent Calendar (*Daily Journal* pp. 623-629). Items on the consent calendar are legislative resolutions which had at least 75% agreement in its legislative section. Therefore, these items will be voted on as a group on Friday. She gave instructions for removing items from the consent calendar for debate and action. (Submit a request to move a legislative item off of the consent calendar accompanied with 25 signatures of conference members.)

Kellie Wild also presented the non-consent calendar (*Daily Journal* p. 630). Items on the non-consent calendar are items that did not have at least a 75% majority of agreement. These will each, individually, be considered by the members of the conference in plenary session.

The Bishop noted that our conference rules and the *Book of Discipline* prevents legislative matters with a financial impact from being placed on a consent calendar without first being reviewed by the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA). Thus, P 1206 (*pre-conference booklet* p.498) and RS 506 (*pre-conference booklet* p.463) will be removed from the consent calendar.

The bishop recognized Nancy Denardo who raised a question regarding RS 1103 (*pre-conference booklet* p.485), which also has financial implications. The Bishop agreed, therefore RS 1103 will be removed from the consent calendar as well.

CREDIT UNION – The bishop introduced Patty Columbe, director of the Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union (KUMFCU). Columbe announced that KUMFCU is celebrating its 60th anniversary. To help the members understand how long ago that was, she shared that the cost of a new car back in 1953 was less than \$2,000 and gasoline was 20 cents a gallon! She highlighted the services the credit union is able to offer, with the goal being “to help as many people as we can.” She also presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to Bishop Bickerton to assist in the conference’s ongoing ministry. The total amount given by KUMFCU to assist with new church starts is \$55,000.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS – The bishop introduced the process of voting on proposed constitutional amendments (in *pre-conference booklet*, pp. 501-505) which had been passed at General Conference 2012. In order for an Amendment to be approved, it first needs a 2/3 vote by the General Conference and then ratified by 2/3 aggregated vote at each of the annual conferences. Following instructions and completion of the ballots, tellers collected the ballots. The results will be announced at a later time.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE OF ACTION

At a session of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, held in Grove City, Pennsylvania on June 14, 20 13, with 876 members present, the following votes were recorded on the various Constitutional Amendments voted by the 2012 General Conference.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT	NUMBER	NUMBER
	VOTING YES	VOTING NO
I	<u>871</u>	<u>4</u>
II	<u>833</u>	<u>41</u>
III	<u>838</u>	<u>37</u>
IV	<u>817</u>	<u>58</u>

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Presiding Bishop

Rev. John R. Wilson
Secretary of the Annual Conference

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM – The Bishop recognized the Youth Ministry Team (YMT). Polly Zilhaver & Luke Fugate introduced the basic ministry of our conference’s efforts to work with youth. Courtney Kunselman presented a gift to the bishop! Tyler Killby presented the Youth Worker of the year award to Amy Scott, a youth worker at Bethel: FUMC for the past 18 years. Zilhaver and Kunselman, along with Alex Hoffman, presented the Pineapple Award to Keith & Alice Dunn. Drew Barnhart highlighted the Youth Service Fund (YSF).

RESTORATION GENERATION – Stephanie Gottschalk (young adult representative) emphasized the need for our UM congregations to reach out to our youth even after they stop being youth. There is a movement in our jurisdiction called “Restoration Generation” targeting graduates from youth into adulthood. She encouraged the members to stop by the young adult ministry table in the display area to get more ideas for ministering to these young adults.

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES – Jim Walker, Greg Cox, and Chris Kindle presented a skit explaining the Scriptural and theological background of what it means for Christians to be disciples who then, in turn, make more disciples.

WORD OF THE DAY – Linda Chambers shared a good word: “I used to think that God wouldn’t talk to me... but now I know I just tend to be selective in my hearing.”

PRAYER – Don Scandrol introduced Grace Killian who will begin working with the General Board of Global Ministries. He then led the members in prayer for Grace and for the lunchtime meal.

RECESS – At 11:35 AM the bishop declared a recess until 1:00 PM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

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

RETIRING PASTORS – James N. Pond led the members in honoring this year’s retirees. Bishop Bickerton presented each retiree with a certificate and retirement pin. A booklet was prepared and distributed in which each retiree was given a chance for a “last sermon.” The retirees are: William M. Chittester, Ralph C. Ciampa, Elizabeth S. Cooper, Ralph K. Culp, Ronald Fleming, Paul C. Friedhof, Edwin J. Herald, John P. Hoffman, Betty Lee Hollabaugh, William E. Hufford, Roger A. Johnson, C. James Kutz, D. Ronald Libengood, Marjorie E. Lindahl, Ron C. Lindahl, Scott R. McCormick, Kathleen A. Mikesell, Dennis L. Miller, Ruth A. Moore, Edd H. Myers, Alice Jean Parker, David L. Parker, William L. Parker, Edward C. Patterson, Cathy Newport Poff, Lee A. Pomeroy, Ellen M. Rezek, Wayne D. Sedei, Terry L. Shaughnessy, Paul L. Thompson, Aimee W. Twigg, August B. Twigg, Janet R. Wensel, and Dean D. Ziegler.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE BUTLER DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Joel S. Garrett, incoming District Superintendent 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.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO 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 William Blair.

“HEALTHY YOU” PRESENTATION – Don Inman, Conference Board of Pensions, introduced Dr. Michael D. Parkinson, the Senior Medical Director of Health & Productivity with UPMC discussing a “Road Map” strategy to creating a healthier church by creating healthier people.

LEGISLATION: RS 103 PREVENTION OF GUN VIOLENCE – After prayer, Les Hutchins and Kelly Smith, representing Section One, moved non-concurrence 20-49-2. Non-concurrence was approved.

LEGISLATION: RS 702 CREATING ISREAL-PALESTINE DIVESTMENT TASK TEAM – After prayer, Steve Morse and Rita Platt, representing Section Seven, moved non-concurrence 25-28-0. Non-concurrence was approved.

LAITY REPORT – Sharon Gregory, Conference Lay Leader, spoke of the importance of spark plugs in engines. In our spiritual lives, the Holy Spirit is the spark plug. Without the Holy Spirit guiding and leading a Christian, it is impossible to be a living, functioning disciple. After her message, she introduced the district lay leaders who are committed “to rethink, revive, and rekindle the meaning of discipleship making.” Bishop Bickerton expressed his appreciation to Sharon for her leadership.

BOARD OF PENSIONS – Tom Parkinson, representing our conference Board of Pensions, likened our health and pension plans to a home’s plumbing system. If it’s working well, the family never thinks about the plumbing. With that analogy in mind, he offered ways that pastors and churches can help “keep the plumbing clear” by making healthy choices. He also encouraged future planning by financially investing in the individual pastors’ pension plans. He also informed the conference on other changes in the clergy health and benefit program and pension plans.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND – Barb Hess introduced Noah Moore, who spoke of the positive impact of the Black College Fund which helps to support eleven historic black colleges related to The United Methodist Church.

LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATIONS – J. LaVon Kincaid presented the nominations report (*preconference booklet p. 301-328*). He also drew the conference’s attention to the nominations errata sheet (*preconference booklet p. 329*) and the “willingness to serve” sheet (*preconference booklet p. 330*). They were elected.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT – 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.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO 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 Don Scandrol.

MOMENT OF PRIVILEGE – Linda Chambers introduced Jim Bickerton, the bishop’s father, who shared a story about receiving a Garmin GPS as a gift once. It reminded him that, like the GPS, God is always with us, even when we end up on the wrong road.

COKESBURY – Robert Higginbotham, a member of the United Methodist Publishing House board, introduced Cheryl Cotten, the new Cokesbury regional representative for the Western PA area.

PRAYER- Robert Higginbotham led in prayer for the evening meal.

RECESS – At 4:40 PM the Bishop declared a recess until 7:00 PM for the worship service.

EVENING SESSION

WORSHIP – At 7:00 the members gathered for a time of worship with Rev. Rudy Rasmus from Texas sharing the Word.

FELLOWSHIP RECEPTION – followed worship at 8:30 pm.

DAY THREE

Saturday, June, 15, 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 next 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 CONSENT CALENDAR – On motion of John Wilson, the Consent Calendar was approved.

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. 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 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 2015 budget proposal be reported with the following additional columns: 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 (59-6-0).

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

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.

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.

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.

DAY FOUR **Sunday, June 16, 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 11:45 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 15, 2013 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I Received as Probationary Members and Commissioned as Ministers:

*Chad Jeremy Bogdewic, Alison Michelle Fisher, Anthony
Richard Carlos Hita, Jean Ann Smith*

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 16, 2013 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I ordained as ELDERS:

Receiving Full Membership and Elder's Orders were:

*Nathan Westley Carlson, Elizabeth Stanton Cooper,
Anthony Steven Fallisi, Tina Marie Keller, D. Renee
Mikell, Rebecca Wynne Patterson, Ross Todd Pryor*

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

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop

MEMBERS ELDER CLASS OF 2013



Nathan W. Carlson



Elizabeth S. Cooper



Anthony S. Fallisi



Tina M. Keller



D. Renee Mikell



Rebecca W. Patterson



Ross T. Pryor

2013 COMMISSIONED AND PROVISIONAL MEMBERS



from left, Jean Ann Smith, Chad Bogdewic, Anthony R. C. Hita, and Alison Fisher

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

Graduates Course of Study



Sara Wrona, left, local pastors' registrar, with Course of Study graduates: John Hickman, Donald Rudge, John Donner, Kathryn Reitz. Missing from photo is Marjorie Kiefer.

Incoming District Superintendents



Joel S. Garrett, Butler District



James N. Pond, Indiana District