

IV. Daily Proceedings

DRAWN DEEPER

FIRST DAY
Thursday, June 5, 2014

CLERGY SESSION

ORDER – Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton called the Clergy Session to order at 9:52 AM.

CALL TO WORSHIP – Bishop Bickerton invited the assembly to enter our time together as a time of worship.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Received on motion of Janet Lord, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶322. Robert L. Martin and Terence A. Teluch.

PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING – Received on motion of Janet Lord, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶324.4 a,b or 324.6, 322.4: Provisional Deacons: (none); Provisional Elders: Amy L. Chesla, Larry G. Dunn, Doug A. Dyson, Melissa I. Geisler, Dianne D. Glave, Randolph K. Landman, Scott D. Lawrence, James R. Sands, Kathleen A. McCoy-Schoeneck, and Brittany L. Wooten.

FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ELDER'S ORDERS – Received on motion of Janet Lord, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, according to ¶335: Dawn Lynn Check, David L. Ewing, William T. Gilligan, Timothy J. Goodman, Leslie A. Hutchins Jr., Thomas A. Phillips, and Nancy K. Shute.

Received on motion of Richard J. Helsel, according to ¶335: Heidi M. Helsel.

CERTIFICATION IN SPECIALIZED MINISTRY – Received on motion of Janet Lord, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the following candidates were approved for specialized ministries: Melissa I. Geisler, PE (*Christian Education*), Debra Dennick Ream, FD (*Christian Education*), Janet F. Lord, FD (*Christian Music*), Gary W. Jones, FD (*Christian Education/Youth*), Patricia M. Nelson, FE (*Older Adult Ministry*), and Leah R. E. Bergstrom, FE (*Christian Education*).

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*), Jerome F. Kennedy (*FE, from Liberia AC*), and Joe K. Samalenge (*FE, from S. Katanga D.R.Congo*).

CLERGY FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS – Terry G. Shaffer, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reported, according to ¶331.8 & ¶346.2: name (*credentialing denomination*): Denise R. Mason (*United Church of Christ*).

AFFILIATE MEMBERS IN ANOTHER UM ANNUAL CONFERENCE – Terry G. Shaffer, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reported, according to ¶586.4, With vote: (none); according to ¶334.5 & ¶344.4, Without vote: Jane Ellen Nickell (*West Virginia AC*).

APPOINTMENT OF DIACONAL MINISTERS – Terry G. Shaffer, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, reported, according to ¶310: Nancy T. Foltz (*Pittsburgh Theological Seminary & Consultant*).

SCRIPTURE – Bishop Bickerton shared First Corinthians 2:9-10 with the session and led in the hymn “Come, Let Us Dream”: “... *No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him’-- but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*”

COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES – Sara J. Wrona introduced the 2012–2013 Course of Study graduates: Earl Dykes, Edward R. Nagy, and Greg M. Stiver.

LICENSING SCHOOL GRADUATES – Sara J. Wrona introduced the 2013 – 2014 Licensing School graduates: Sarah E. Adkins, Floyd H. Barnhart, R. Jeffrey Canter, Ralph Davis Jr, Travis DeArmey, Joshua P. Demi, Shirley Deemer, Adam T. Dotts, Andrew M. Flower, Joel T. Fugate, Nathanael J. Fugate, Rob D. Gillgrist, Donald R. Hullenbaugh, Jacob G. Judy, Randy Knupp, Gene A. Lenk, Matthew McCarrier, Eric M. Oliver, Kenton R. O’Neil, Daryl R. Penrod, Jeri A. Penrod, Clint T. Phillips, Derek R. Platt, Daniel A. Reigel, Nathan W. Saccol, John L. Shuttleworth, Paul R. Soltesz, Valerie D. Stark, Edward F. Sutton, Monte Turner, Ruth Ann Varrato, Vann Walchock, and Harry S. Zurasky.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, VOLUNTARY – Granted on motion of Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶354.2.a, 354.3: S. Bruce Mould (*FE*) 3rd year, D. Lynn Yeso (*FE*) 3rd year, Stephen A. Tiffany (*FE*) 4th year, Chul S. Park (*FE*) 5th year, Ronald E. Thomas (*FE*) 14th year, David R. Lewis (*FE*) 16th year, Gordon Barry Davis (*FE*) 20th year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, FAMILY – Granted on motion of Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶354.2.b, 354.3: Patricia A. Fuller (*FD*) 1st year (effective 7/1/2014), Laura

A. Puleo (FE) 1st year (effective 7/1/2014), William M. Pieringer (FE) 3rd year, Vicki L. Oliver (PE) 5th year, Barbara A. Turpish (FE) 11th year, Deborah A. Ackley-Killian (FE) 17th year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, TRANSITIONAL – Granted on motion of Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶354.2.c: Penelope F. Lyon (FE) 1st year and Debra L. Pisor (FD) 1st year.

RETURN TO ACTIVE STATUS FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE – Granted on motion of Terry G. Shaffer, according to ¶354.11: name (*credentials, date of return*): Jeff M. Conn (FE, 7/1/2014) and Ernest L. Perry (FE, 7/1/2014).

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 12), Kenneth L. Bossart (FE, ¾ time, year 5), Emily A. Byrd (FE, ½ time, year 5), Ralph P. Cotten (FE, ¾ time, year 4), Harold J. Dangel (AM, ¾ time, year 4), Todd M. Davis (FE, ½ time, year 7), Sharon M. Hamley (FE, ¾ time, year 5), Patricia S. Harbison (FE, ½ time, year 4), J. Mark Hurst (FE, ¾ time, year 10), Tina G. Keller (FE, ½ time, year 6), In Ki Lee (FE, ½ time, year 3), Alice M. McClymonds (AM, ½ time, year 9), Darlene K. Ryniec (AM, ½ time, year 9), John R. Wilson (FE, ¾ time, year 21), John V. King (FE, ½ time, year 1), and Joe K. Samalenge (FE, ¾ time, year 1).

APPOINTED TO SERVE IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – Terry G. Shaffer reported, according to ¶331.8 and ¶346: name (*credentials, conference where appointed*): Tracey L. Henderson (FD, West Ohio), Gary W. Jones (FD, East Ohio), Ralph P. Cotten (FE, Florida), Richard O. Feagin (FE, Pacific Northwest), Jeffrey T. St.Clair (FE, Florida), Jason E. Schweinberg (FE, North Carolina), Brittany L. Wooten (PE, East Ohio AC), James P. Walker (FE, Cal/Nev), and Brenda K. Walker (FE, Cal/Nev).

CLERGY TRANSFERRED TO OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – Terry G. Shaffer reported, according to ¶416.5: name (*credentials, conference where transferred*): David M. Biondi (FE, West Virginia).

MEDICAL LEAVE – Terry G. Shaffer reported, according to ¶357: name (*credentials, date of medical leave*): 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), Bruce K. Northey (*FE, 01/31/2013*), and Michelle L. Wobrack (*FE, 7/1/2014*).

WITHDRAWAL TO UNITE WITH ANOTHER DENOMINATION – On motion of Jeffrey D. Sterling, according to ¶361.1, .4: name (*credentials, denomination, effective date*): Ellen L. Bullock (*FE, 9/5/2013*) and Kevin G. Gardner (*FE, 9/18/2013*).

RETIREMENTS: DEACONS – None.

RETIREMENTS: ELDERS – On motion of David D. Janz, according to ¶358: name (*years of service*) *effective date*: Jaime Potter Alvarez (*42*) *July 1, 2014*; Clara W. Belloit (*14*) *July 9, 2014*; Jerry B. Belloit (*20*) *July 1, 2014*; David W. Bunnell (*38*) *July 1, 2014*; Dongsam Cho (*28*) *Oct. 10, 2013*; James M. Eaton (*35*) *July 1, 2014*; Ronald E. Fleming (*25*) *Dec. 1, 2013*; Allen O. Grimm III (*35*) *Mar. 1, 2014*; Ronald R. Hoellein (*43*) *July 1, 2014*;

Deryl K. Larsen (*41*) *July 1, 2014*; Frederick H. Leasure (*42*) *Sept. 1, 2014*; Allyn L. Ricketts (*40*) *July 1, 2014*; Donald G. Scandrol (*42*) *July 1, 2014*; Ruth Ellen L. Simmons (*28*) *July 1, 2014*; Oden R. Warman (*40*) *July 1, 2014*; Ida D. Williams (*24*) *July 1, 2014*; Jerry D. Williams (*40*) *July 1, 2014*; and David D. Wilson Jr. (*36*) *July 1, 2014*.

RETIREMENTS: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – David D. Janz, reported, according to ¶358.1, name (*years of service*) *effective date*: James S. Markley (*15*) *July 1, 2014*.

RETIREMENTS: LOCAL PASTORS – On motion of David D. Janz, according to ¶358.1, name (*years of service*) *effective date*: John L. Miller (*11*) *Dec. 1, 2013*; Karen L. Prescott (?) *July 1, 2014*; and Georgia J. Scarff (*10*) *July 1, 2014*.

DECEASED MEMBERS – Terry G. Shaffer highlighted those clergy who have died since Annual Conference 2013. A full listing is included in the Memorial Service liturgy.

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.

CLM DEATH – Sharon Schwab, incoming director of Certified Lay Minister (CLM) Ministries, reported that F. ALICE SHUTTERS, endorsed CLM from Kane District, passed away this past Sunday, June 1, 2014. The clergy session paused for a moment of silence.

EPISCOPAL COMMENTS – Bishop Bickerton discussed the hopeful and joy-filled spirit of our COVENANT together as pastors. “We are in covenant with one another.” He then stressed that our covenant with each other includes making ourselves available for itinerancy, moving when called upon by the Bishop. In our ordination vows, the Bishop reiterated, we vowed before God that we would move where needed and when needed. This has become especially important in this year when even now there are still appointments to be made.

The Bishop also shared his concern over how many congregations don’t understand our United Methodist doctrine, polity, and heritage. He challenged the pastors present to look for ways to share our story and our beliefs with the people called United Methodist.

Before closing the clergy session Bishop Bickerton invited all the clergy to reaffirm their vows from their candidacy and ordination, beginning with John Wesley’s historic questions for those who feel the call of God and ending with the Covenant Prayer.

“Remember your call. Remember your ordination and the vows you made. Remember the covenant you entered into with your sisters and brothers.”

RECESS – After prayer and a hymn, the Clergy Session adjourned at 11:37 AM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

OPENING WORSHIP - At 1:00 p.m., Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton led the opening worship service centered on the theme “Draw Deep.” Using the account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well from John 4, he emphasized how Jesus reached out in love across traditional boundaries and then challenged the annual conference to love regardless of the unwritten rules. Bishop’s Discretionary Fund Offering \$6,837.

LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS – Following worship, the Annual Conference divided into legislative sections.

EVENING SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - Following legislative sections and dinner, Bishop Bickerton called the conference to order at 7:00 p.m. He then recognized Louise Patterson, Chair of Conference Connectional Leadership Table who led us in prayer.

The Bishop reviewed Colossians 3:12-16a, 17 and the “Guidelines for Holy Conferencing” found in the pre-conference booklet (p. 6).

SESSIONS COMMITTEE - Barb Moore, chair of the Conference Sessions Committee, highlighted logistical information to make this week a more pleasant experience for everyone. She also explained that this is her last year as chair of the sessions team.

BAR OF THE CONFERENCE - John R. Wilson, Conference Secretary, moved that the bar of the conference be set to include “members who are seated at the tables within the plenary hall.” 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 596 in attendance, Clergy 558 in attendance plus 53 excused Clergy. Total 1,207.

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). The Conference Secretary nominated Daryl Mains as Head Teller. The tellers were ELECTED.

AGENDA - Jude Urso, Agenda Coordinator, moved for the setting of our published agenda (in *Daily Journal* p. 15). APPROVED.

CONFERENCE RULES – Amy Bentz, Conference Chancellor, reported that this year we had no late legislation, therefore there is no need to suspend rules.

In a moment of personal privilege, she thanked the members for their ongoing prayers and support during her time of injury, surgery, and recovery.

CONFERENCE TREASURER – Paul Ritchie, chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, as per ¶612.5.2, nominated Larry Bridge as the new Conference Treasurer, replacing Patricia Morris who retired this past spring. He was ELECTED.

2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE NOMINATIONS – John Wilson, Conference Secretary, explained the procedure to nominate lay delegates. Laity were then given an opportunity to nominate lay delegates.

Bishop Bickerton then explained the procedure to nominate clergy delegates is unnecessary because all ordained clergy are already nominated as potential delegates by virtue of their ordination.

RECOGNITION & AFFIRMATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS – Bishop Bickerton presented the ten District Superintendents.

STATE OF THE CHURCH – Bishop Bickerton presented his “State of the Church Address.” He then called the members to a time of prayer.

RECESS – Following prayer, the Bishop adjourned for the day at 9:04 PM.

DAY TWO
Friday, June 6, 2014

MORNING SESSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE GREENSBURG DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Patricia M. Nelson, incoming District Superintendent for Greensburg District and then read the names of pastors being newly appointed to the Greensburg District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAMPING – Jessica Gamaché, conference camping coordinator, introduced campers from Wesley Woods’ Exceptional Campers event which is happening this week. The campers shared what they liked about camp by live Skype video. Jessica also led the conference in a construction paper cross craft.

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

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

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

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDIANA DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed James N. Pond, District Superintendent for Indiana District and then read the names of pastors being newly appointed to the Indiana District for the coming year. As names were read, the pastors came to the front of the room and greeted each other.

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

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

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

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

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

CELEBRATING THE RETIRING CLASS OF 2014 – Bishop Bickerton and David D. Janz led the conference in celebrating the ministries of the clergy who are retiring this year. Honorees were: Jaime Potter Alvarez, Clara W. Belloit, Jerry B. Belloit, David W. Bunnell, James M. Eaton, Allen O. Grimm III, Ronald R. Hoellein, Deryl K. Larsen, Frederick H. Leasure, James S. Markley, John L. Miller, Karen L. Prescott, Allyn L. Ricketts, Donald G. Scandrol, Georgia J. Scarff, Ruth Ellen L. Simmons, Oden R. Warman, Ida D. Williams, Jerry D. Williams, and David D. Wilson Jr.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS – Thomas J. Parkinson, secretary of the Conference Board of Pensions, reported on the work of the board and its impact on individual pastors and congregations with their pensions and health care benefits. He also introduced Kathleen Laskey, who serves as our conference's pensions/medical benefits officer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“**F**” represents Fellowship,

“**L**” represents Love,

“**O**” represents Outreach, and

“**W**” represents Worship.

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

Glenna Wilson, Chair of Poverty Team led the conference in prayer for the offering taken to benefit “Stop Hunger Now.” Offering \$7,544 and the conference packed 44,670 meals..

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

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

Following worship, Bishop Bickerton introduced Sandra Matoushaya, coordinator for the Zimbabwe Partnership. She explained the partnership was built on the concept of “chabadza” meaning the community spirit of coming along side with those already at work and joining them. She introduced the Zimbabwe Immersion Program and the youth going for the Ebenezer Revival led by Bishop Bickerton in Zimbabwe this summer to come forward. Bishop King led the conference in prayer consecrating these representatives of Western Pennsylvania.

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

DAY THREE
Saturday, June 7, 2014

MORNING SESSION

COMMISSIONING SERVICE – At 8:00 AM the members gathered in the plenary room for the commissioning of this year’s provisional members. Bishop James R. King, Jr. preached a message “Keep Moving” based on John 4:20-24. Bishop King related the story of a young woman who had physical limitations yet successfully ran, entirely on crutches, the Boston Marathon. Bishop King stated, “her handicapped limited her speed but not her determination.” He also proclaimed, “Life is movement and movement is life.” Meadowbrook Heights New Church Start Offering \$4,287.

Provisional elders that were commissioned were: Amy Chesla, Larry Dunn, Doug Dyson, Melissa Geisler, Dianne Glave, Randolph Landman, Scott Lawrence, James Sands, Kathleen Schoeneck, and Brittany Wooten.

ORDER – Bishop Bickerton called the body to order at 10:10 AM.

EAST GERMAN PARTNERSHIP – Bishop Bickerton recognized Werner Philipp, ordained elder from the East German Annual Conference and presented him with gifts from Western Pennsylvania. Werner then offered a prayer... in German.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Floor manager Bill Patrick reported that the used shoes project has resulted (so far) in an estimated 30,500 pairs of shoes!

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 secretarial staff is authorized to correct and approve the minutes for the Saturday and Sunday sessions of the Annual Conference.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT – Bishop Bickerton recognized Tom and Kathy Strandburg. Tom is completing six years as Superintendent for Kane District. Effective July 1, 2014, he will return to pastoring a local church.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE KANE DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Pat Lenox, incoming District Superintendent for Kane District, and then read the names of pastors being newly 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.

DISASTER RELIEF: RIDGWAY – Roger Peterson updated the conference on the disaster relief efforts within our own conference following the flooding in the Ridgway area just two weeks ago. United Methodists have been in the forefront, ministering to 81 families. Help is still needed.

CONSENT CALENDARS – John Wilson moved approval of the corrected Legislation and Corporation Consent Calendars making note of items that had been removed for debate. The Consent Calendars were approved as corrected.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Brad Lauster, District Superintendent for Washington District and then read the names of pastors being newly 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.

CALL STORY –Alyce Weaver-Dunn introduced Jillian Schweigert, who shared the story of her call to pastoral ministry.

LEGISLATION: RS612 PROTECTING THE CHILDREN – (*Resolution on pages 484-485 of pre-conference journal. Item was included on consent calendar Daily Journal page 693, but was subsequently pulled*). Larry Dunn, representing Section Six, presented RS612 and moved that the resolution be referred back to its author. Following prayer and a division of the house, the motion for referral was NOT APPROVED (874 votes cast: 405 for and 469 against).

Therefore RS612 was before the body as amended by the section.

Chris Cherry offered by amendment to “change the title of RS612 to PROTECTING THE CHILDREN AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE” After discussion, the amendment was APPROVED.

After discussion, and another division of the house, RS612 was NOT APPROVED (784 votes cast: 391 for, 393 against).

YOUTH PRESENTATION – Luke Fugate, Chairperson of the Youth Ministry Team (YMT) discussed the work of the YMT including SPARK which is scheduled each January. YMT is again offering RECESS, an extended child-care activity program for children attending Annual Conference.

Recently the Upper Room published a devotional from one of our youth, Trent Somes. Trent encouraged the members to subscribe to the Upper Room email devotionals at: www.devotional.upperroom.org/email.devotional.

Courtney Kunselman shared Matthew 5:3, the theme for this week’s youth Bible study.

Sydney Widdersheim presented the Pineapple Award to Sandra Matoushaya.

Laura Killby announced the Timothy Award, a new youth award presented for a student who models the characteristics of 1 Timothy 4:11-12 to their peers and others. The first Timothy award was presented to Kevin Jenkins, from Chippewa UMC. Accepting for Kevin was Eric Hoeke, his pastor.

Grant Shoffstall shared his involvement in the Zimbabwe trip this summer.

Youth Service Fund (YSF) chair Jonathan Beranek encouraged members to support the YSF through Tray Day and the annual YSF offering on the first Sunday of November.

PRAYER & RECESS – After prayer by Luke Fugate, the bishop declared a recess for lunch until 1:30 PM.

AFTERNOON

ORDER & WORSHIP – The members were called to order for the start of the Memorial Service at 1:30 PM. Amy Wagner preached on the theme “We Had Hoped”, using Luke 24:13-35 as her text. Pamela Gardner read the role of the honored dead: Harry Applegate, Elva Beatty, Sylvan Berman, Barbara Blackstone, Dorothy Blank, John Boor, Dorothy Boyd, Donald Brown, Thomas Carr, Sr. George Cook, Dora Cox, Roger Cramer, Sr., Dolores Croyle, Lucille Dunkle, John Duvall, Richard Eddinger, Karen Enos, James Fogg, Jr., John Garvin, Myron Gramling, Lois Heiser, Margaret Hodges, Robert Higginbotham, Carol Kalp, Jean Lash, Daniel Long, Charlie “Smoky” Martin, Elsie McCollough, Kenneth McGowan, Jr., Irene Meuschke, Henry Morris, Homer Nevel, David Peary, Evelyn Perry, Jack Plowman, Harriet Porter, Barbara Reed, Grace Roberts, Doris Romine, Sarah Rummel, Marcia Smith, Mary Smith, Eileen Stoupe, Loretta Taylor, James Trusel, Samuel Weible, Faye Wion, and Marietta Woormer.

COURTESIES – Jim Bickerton, Bishop Bickerton’s father, spoke to the conference via telephone sharing his thoughts and appreciation for our hospitality and care for the Bishop, Sally and the family. He shared: “Put your faith in God and he will provide yesterday, today and forever.”

UMCOR KITS – Bill Patrick, floor manager, reported that the conference has gathered 2,277 kits for UMCOR ministries: health kits (1,346), school kits (459), birthing kits (234), cleaning buckets (96), sewing kits (85), layettes (48), and bedding kits (9). He also emphasized that there is still time to donate kits before the conference ends.

DENMAN AWARDS – Paul Morelli, the new chair of the Conference Evangelism Team, recognized this year’s Denman Award recipients. Denman Awards are given to honor a person’s evangelistic efforts. Thomas Verner received the award for youth, Michelle Polohonki received the award for adult laity and Randall Bain received the award for clergy. The Bishop congratulated and thanked these three for their efforts for the Kingdom.

EVANGELISM – Paul Morelli reported on the Conference Evangelism Team’s work and opportunities throughout the year. He also recognized the three conference evangelists: Christine Rogan, John Zimmerman and Luella Krieger. The conference evangelists were approved with the consent calendar (RS301, RS302, RS303).

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE ERIE-MEADVILLE DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Joe Patterson, District Superintendent for Erie-Meadville District and then read the names of pastors being newly 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.

CABINET REPORT – William Meekins, Jr. and Alyce Weaver-Dunn spoke on behalf of the Cabinet and expanded on the Cabinet’s written report found in the Daily Journal (page 676). They announced the new Cabinet officers for the 2014-2015 appointment year: Dean - Alyce Weaver-Dunn; Secretary - George Porter, Treasurer - Joe Patterson.

LEGISLATION: RS401 FUNDING OF MINISTRY FOR 2014 – Rob Wilson, representing Section Four moved concurrence on behalf of Section Four. After prayer RS401 was APPROVED.

CALL STORY – Keith Dunn introduced John Koblosky, who shared the story of his call to pastoral ministry.

DISABILITY CONCERNS – Debbie Hills, chair of the Disabilities Concerns Team, shared a video that focused the members on the question “Who does God see?” Debbie challenged the conference to see people as Jesus sees them.

GOLDEN SNEAKER AWARD – Thomas Strandburg presented the following Golden Sneaker Awards: GOLD - Washington District, SILVER - Erie-Meadville District and BRONZE - Indiana District. Strandburg noted that this is the last year that Golden Sneakers will be awarded.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Alyce Weaver-Dunn, District Superintendent for Johnstown District and then read the names of pastors being newly 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.

GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS – The conference watched a video in which Moses Kumar, the General Secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration, congratulated and thanked Western Pennsylvania for our faithfulness in meeting 100% of our General Church Apportionments.

BIBLE STUDY – At 4:00, the Bishop again welcomed Dr. Joy Moore to lead us in a time of studying the Scriptures. She focused on “a story worth telling. A good story longs to be rehearsed over and over again.” We get to share GOD’s story!

RECESS – At 5:00, the Bishop declared a recess for supper until 7:00 PM.

ORDER – At 7:00, the Bishop called the body to order for our final evening session.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE CONNELLSVILLE DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed Bill Blair, District Superintendent for Connellsville District and then read the names of pastors being newly 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.

CLERGY HEALTH – Scott Gallagher reported about ways to be more physically healthy and, in turn, more spiritually healthy.

FOLLOW-UP TO JUDICIAL COUNCIL DECISIONS 1238 & 1241 – The conference members viewed a video of Isaac Sebit (East Africa Annual Conference). Following the video, Nancy Denardo and Bishop Bickerton updated the conference about the money that had been given to assist Isaac, although he had previously never received the funds. Nancy and the Bishop reported that due to our advocacy, this situation has been resolved

TRAIL OF TEARS – Randy Sweet, a member of the Cherokee Nation, reminded the conference members of a dark chapter in our nation’s history: the 1839 forced removal of Indians in order to free up prime lands for white settlers. During that forced removal to “Indian Territory” (now known as Oklahoma) hundreds of Indians died. Even more died because of the harsh conditions on the reservations once they had arrived in the territory. On this 175th anniversary of that brutal and cruel time, the Bishop and Randy called upon the body to be in prayer for healing and hope.

AFFIRMING OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE FRANKLIN DISTRICT – Bishop Bickerton welcomed George Porter, District Superintendent for Franklin District and then read the names of pastors being newly 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.

FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS – At 7:40 PM, Bishop Bickerton declared all appointments for the coming year fixed.

UNSTOPPABLE – Diane Miller and Denise Nicole Stone highlighted Unstoppable, this summer’s event for young women being held at Grove City College from July 10-13.

COSROW MONITORING REPORT – Peggy Ward and Nancy Shute presented the monitoring report.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE – Bishop Bickerton thanked John Wilson and his secretarial staff. He also thanked Barbara Moore and the Conference Sessions Ministry Team for their work at this Annual Conference.

RECESS – Bishop Bickerton announced the conference was in recess at 8:05 PM.

DAY FOUR**June 8, 2014****MORNING SESSION**

ORDINATION – The conference gathered at 9:00 AM for a service of Reaffirmation of Baptism, Ordination and Holy Communion. Bishop Bickerton’s message, “Drawn into Joy”, was based on John 15:9-12. WPA Disaster Response Offering \$5,299.

Recognized as Associate Members were: Robert Lee Martin and Terence Anthony Teluch.

Receiving ordination as Elders were: Dawn Lynn Check, David Lawrence Ewing, William Theodore “B.T.” Gilligan, Timothy James Goodman, Heidi Marie Helsel, Leslie Alexander Hutchins Jr., Thomas Arthur Phillips, and Nancy Kaye Shute.

ADJOURNMENT – Following the ordination service, Bishop Bickerton adjourned the conference.

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 7, 2014 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I Received as Probationary Members and Commissioned as Ministers:

Amy Chesla, Larry Dunn, Doug Dyson, Melissa Geisler, Dianne Glave, Randolph Landman, Scott Lawrence, James Sands, Kathleen Schoeneck, Brittany Wooten

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

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

This is to certify that on Sunday, June 8, 2014 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I Received as Associate Members:

Receiving Associate Membership were:

Robert Lee Martin and Terence Anthony Teluch

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 8, 2014 at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, I ordained as ELDERS:

Receiving Full Membership and Elder's Orders were:

Dawn Lynn Check, David Lawrence Ewing, William Theodore "B.T." Gilligan, Timothy James Goodman, Heidi Marie Helsel, Leslie Alexander Hutchins Jr., Thomas Arthur Phillips, Nancy Kaye Shute

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 2014



Dawn Lynn Check



David L Ewing



William T. Gilligan



Timothy J. Goodman



Heidi M. Helsel



Leslie A. Hutchins, Jr.



Thomas A. Phillips



Nancy K. Shute

2014 COMMISSIONED AND PROVISIONAL MEMBERS



from left, Dianne Glave, Amy Chesla, James Sands, Scott Lawrence, Larry Dunn, Melissa Geisler, Randy Landman, Doug Dyson, Kathleen Schoeneck, Brittany Wooten

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

Associate Members



Robert L. Martin



Terence A. Teluch

Graduates Course of Study

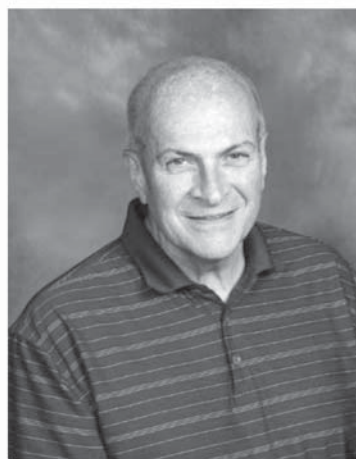


Earl R. Dykes, left, and Gregory M. Stiver.
Missing from photo is Edward R. Nagy.

Incoming Executive Staff



William B. Meekins, Jr.
Assistant to the Bishop



Larry D. Bridge Conference Treasurer
/Director of Administrative Services

Incoming District Superintendents



Bradford Lauster, Washington District



J. Patrick Lenox, Kane District



Patricia M. Nelson, Greensburg District



Paul D. Taylor, Pittsburgh District