

Daily Report

Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Cleveland, Ohio

Saturday, May 6, 2000

Vol. 4, No. 5

An Act
of Repentance . . .

‘to climb a higher mountain than
we’ve ever climbed before.’

—Bishop James S. Thomas

United Methodists Repent for Racism

CLEVELAND (UMNS) — In a May 4 service that included the symbolic wearing of sackcloth and ashes, United Methodists confessed the sin of racism within the denomination.

The act of repentance, together with a call for reconciliation, was an attempt to recapture the spirit of Methodism lost when some African Americans in the 18th and 19th centuries felt compelled to leave the church's predecessor bodies and formed their own congregations.

*It's high time to say
we're sorry,
and only
the General Conference
can do it.*

Representatives of the three historically Black Methodist denominations were present when a silver triangular plumbline, as symbolized in the book of Amos, was lowered before General Conference delegates and other participants "as a constant reminder that we must pass God's test for righteousness."

Bishop William Boyd Grove compared lingering racism to "a malignancy in the bone marrow of the church" and called for an official apology.

"It's high time to say we're sorry, and only the General Conference can do it," he said. "Only the General Conference speaks for the church."

In words and dramatic imagery, the Rev. Anthony Alexander, a Central Pennsylvania delegate, and the Rev. William B. McClain, a professor at Wesley Theological Seminary, told the stories of the discriminatory acts that led to the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion and Christian Methodist Episcopal churches.

But racism remained for African Americans who stayed. When the Methodist Episcopal Church North, Methodist Episcopal Church South and Methodist Protestant Church united in 1939, a separate jurisdiction — the Central Jurisdiction — was created for Black members. Retired Bishop James S. Thomas, who remembered the sorrow of that period, noted that God has now given the church the opportunity "to climb a higher mountain than we've ever climbed before."

To drive home a point about racism today, Bishop Woodie White "performed a miracle" and pronounced that all White people in the audience had become persons of color. He predicted that some of them might lose pastoral appointments or

church leadership positions as a result of the change in their skin tone.

Responding to the call for confession, participants received a strip of sackcloth to pin onto their clothes and a rubbing of ashes on the wrist as signs of penance.

Bishop McKinley Young of the African Methodist Episcopal Church responded that he couldn't speak for his grandparents but added, "I wish they could hear your confession tonight. I believe that there is a balcony in heaven, and that there are clouds of witnesses who bend their ears to hear."

Bishop Clarence Carr, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, said he hoped United Methodists would move from the symbolism of the service to substance. Redemption demands restitution and reparation, he noted, and "a new sense of freedom both for the victim and the victimizer."

"It is my hope that we will be deeply committed to making this symbolic act a reality," added Bishop Nathaniel Lindsey, of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

The service was sponsored jointly by the United Methodist General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and the denomination's Council of Bishops. A study guide has been developed to explore the historical roots of racism in the division of the church and to prepare United Methodists for acts of repentance.

—Linda Bloom

Agenda for Saturday, May 6, 2000

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. | Choral Music |
| 8:15 a.m. | Worship Service |
| 9:00 a.m. | Committee on Agenda & Calendar Report |
| 9:10 a.m. | General Council on Ministries Report #2 |
| *9:40 a.m. | Advancing Korean Ministry Plan |
| *10:00 a.m. | Korean-English Hymnal Report |
| 10:10 a.m. | Calendar Item 156 (DCA page 1847) |
| 12:10 p.m. | Conference Announcements and Committee on Presiding Officers |
| 12:15 p.m. | Lunch Recess |
| 2:30 p.m. | Legislative Committees |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner Recess |
| 7:30 p.m. | Legislative Committees |
| | <i>*order of the day</i> |

Delegates Refer Connectional Process Team Report to Standing Legislative Committee for Action

Reviewing the results of four years of work by the Connectional Process Team (CPT), General Conference delegates Friday referred the entire report to the standing legislative committee on General and Judicial Administration.

The action was the first discussion of CPT by the 992 delegates in a plenary session after extensive review in small groups. A tabulation of both strengths and weaknesses was reported to delegates Thursday night.

Friday the Rev. Minerva G. Carcano, Rio Grande Conference delegate and CPT member, asked the conference to create a temporary Covenant Council that would initiate gradual change toward a “transformational direction” for the denomination. The entire report proposes sweeping changes in both national and international activities and organizational structure.

On behalf of the CPT, Carcano proposed that the temporary covenant council would replace the existing General Council on Ministries and would be accountable to the 2004 General Conference. The temporary body would continue the work done by the CPT and report regularly to annual conferences and the Council of Bishops.

After extensive debate and parliamentary motions, more than 63 percent of the delegates voted to refer the entire report to the legislative committee. That panel will review further the CPT report and proposals and bring recommendations back to the entire General Conference before adjournment May 12.

In another action Friday, the conference voted to call for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina capitol building. The South Carolina Conference, Columbia Area Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, and other church officials and bodies in the state have supported removal of the flag.

Also during the Friday session, the gavel symbolizing the presidency of the United Methodist Council of Bishops passed from Louisville Area Bishop Robert C. Morgan to Dallas Area Bishop William B. Oden. Seattle Area Bishop Elias G. Galvan has been named president-elect to take office a year from now.

In a news conference Friday afternoon, Bishop Oden said the major issue before United Methodism is the global nature of the church. “We have basically been a U.S. church with global outposts . . . (and) are having to recreate our structure” to make the global nature visible.

Other major issues cited by Bishop Oden were racism, world poverty, and theological education.

In the spirit of the Service of Repentance Thursday night, the conference adopted by a near-unanimous vote a resolution extending greetings to Pope John Paul II and recognizing “the profound statements of sorrow and regret that you have made in this year of Jubilee regarding certain past practices of the Roman Catholic Church, Catholics and other Christians.

“We accept your apology for the use of force in the search for truth practiced against our Protestant forebears in the Christian faith. In the instances of misunderstandings, insensitivities and harm brought about by The United Methodist Church and its predecessors in the faith to the Roman Catholic Church and Catholics, we in turn ask forgiveness for our deeds of commission and omission.

“We rejoice in the growth of mutual understanding of each other that has developed in the past decades between the Roman Catholic and United Methodist churches and among Roman Catholics and United Methodists. We look forward to increased understanding that is brought about by prayer, dialogue and reflection.”

United Methodists also rejoiced in the development of Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. A report on growth in both student body and teaching staff was underscored with music by choirs from Africa University and United Methodist-related Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.

In a sermon at the morning worship hour, Arkansas Area Bishop Janice Riggle Huie said the church has done “far too much hanging on and surviving in the last part of the 20th century. Too long we’ve tried to love God and love our

Cookies for All

During the ten days of General Conference, approximately 250,000 cookies will be served to delegates, conference staff, press and others lucky enough to be within arm’s reach. The plastic bags of cookies include Scripture verses.

Not all are eaten every day. The surplus is sent to hunger programs that serve more than 5,000 persons each month.

neighbor and still hang on in fear,” she said.

—*Robert Lear*

***Book of Discipline* Tells the Story of General Conference**

A burgundy-covered book sits on the shelves of United Methodists around the world. Whether the text is printed in English, Korean, Spanish, or another language, the volume tells the story of the 2000 General Conference and General Conferences before it.

Every four years, *The Book of Discipline* is updated and reprinted to reflect the will of the church's official voice, the General Conference. Each petition and resolution approved, each jot and tittle changed, is closely tracked by the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision to ensure the integrity of the *Discipline*.

Judy Smith, who serves as one of the staff persons for the committee, says committee members look for conflicts in legislation and make sure all changes are recorded correctly. Committee members track legislative action during plenary sessions and then review and approve disciplinary paragraphs processed through the Petition Entry and Tracking System (PETS).

"This committee signs off on the *Discipline*," Smith says. "The objective is to finish as much of the editorial work as possible while we're here [at the General Conference]."

What isn't completed by noon Saturday, May 13, will be taken back to the publishing house in Nashville. UMPH editors will use the *DCA* proceedings and PETS to finish the preliminary *Discipline* manuscript, which will be reviewed by committee members. "In July the committee members come to the publishing house for three or four days to go through everything," Smith says.

Once changes are recorded, copies of the manuscript are sent to the general agencies for review. The Committee on Correlation reviews agency notes before the final copy is submitted to the publishing house's production department. The *Discipline* is then typeset, printed, and bound for delivery to United Methodists.

Non-English editions of the *Discipline* are translated and printed following the finalization of the English-language version. Approximately 112,000 English, 800 Korean, and 800 Spanish copies are printed.

—Kurt Gwartney

Church Must 'Get Out in Front,' Denver Pastor Tells AMAR Gathering

Amar, Spanish for "to love," has become the acronym AMAR for the coalition of "United Methodist-related groups

working to assist The United Methodist Church to become welcoming—in policy and practice—of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families." AMAR consists of:

- Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Concerns;
- Methodist Federation for Social Action; and
- Reconciling Congregation Program.

Addressing oppression related to sexual orientation, AMAR was recently joined in its efforts by members of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church. At a press luncheon May 3, speakers addressed the coalition's concerns and apprised reporters of upcoming events. The Rev. Gilbert H. Caldwell, a convener of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church and pastor of Park Hill UMC, Denver, spoke passionately from his experience working for human rights for African-Americans. He quoted Martin Luther King Jr., who asked: "Why is the church a taillight rather than a headlight?" He expressed hope that the church will respond to the issue of inclusiveness so that we do not have to return some day in the future to apologize for our actions.

—Patty Meyers

Author Signings at the Cokesbury Store

Monday - May 8

11:00 a.m. to noon

Marilyn Brown Oden, *Through the East Window*
Gus Nelson, *Service Is the Point*

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Patricia Brown, *Heart to Heart / From the Heart*
Lydia Istomina, *Bringing Hidden Things to Light*
Sally Geis, *The Befuddled Stork*
H. Eddie Fox, *Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So*

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mary Ebinger, *Do-It-Yourself Marriage Enrichment*
Warren Ebinger, *Do-It-Yourself Marriage Enrichment*
J. Ellsworth Kalas, *New Testament Stories*
from the Back Side

Wednesday - May 10

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Rodney Wilmoth, *How United Methodists*
Share Their Faith
Donald Messer, *The Befuddled Stork*
Marie White Webb, *The Power of the Dream*
ST Kimbrough, Jr., *Methodism in Russia*
and the Baltic States

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Robert Martin Walker, *Encounters with the Living God*
James W. Moore, *Some Folks Feel the Rain*

All in the Family

The delegate who received a hug from a bishop during the opening worship procession was lay delegate Mary Brooke Casad. The bishop was her father, Bishop Benjamin R. Oliphint. Casad chairs the North Texas delegation, a position Bishop Oliphint occupied 20 years ago at the 1980 General Conference.

The Rev. Don W. Underwood, North Texas clergy delegate, continues a family tradition. The Underwoods have had a family member serving as a delegate in every decade since the 1930s. Don's grandfather was a delegate to the Uniting Conference of 1939, and his father served as a delegate to the Uniting Conference of 1968.

Philip H. Carver and the Rev. Rebecca C. Carver—both Iowa Conference delegates—are spouses. Their families have attended General Conference since 1968: the Rev. Don Carver, 1968-92 delegate and 2000 observer; the Rev. Art Campney, 1976-84 delegate; Jo Campney, 1988; Phil Carver, 1984-92 and 2000 delegate, and Rebecca Carver, 1996-2000 delegate. Phil and Rebecca began dating at the 1984 General Conference, and their son Joel was born during the 1992 General Conference.

The Rev. Lee B. Sheaffer, Virginia Conference delegate, and Ruth A. Daugherty, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference delegate, are siblings.

Walk on Water in Your Free Time

If you have some free time at lunch or on the weekend, you may want to venture near the lake and step out on the water. The Steamship William G. Mather is located next to the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame and, after months of being closed, opens this weekend. The 1925 Great Lakes Freighter is a floating museum. Visitors can explore historic cargo holds, the four-story engine room, elegant dining rooms, the galley, and the brass and oak pilot house. The 618-foot steamer includes exhibits and videos that share the evolution of the shipping industry. Wear comfortable, flat, rubber-soled shoes and enjoy some time on the lake.

Correction

In the Independent Commissions Legislative Committee report printed in the May 5 DCA on p. 1804, the tenth bullet item should read: "Calling the general church, annual conferences, districts, local churches and individuals to oppose the increase in hate crimes in church and society."

The Short family has had a representative at General Conference since 1934! Pictured here at General Conference 2000 are Louise Short, widow of Bishop Roy Short; her grandson the Rev. Phillip Short, Lake Wales, Fla.; and her son the Rev. Riley Short, Lakeland, Fla. Mrs. Short lives in Nashville, Tenn.
--Dewayne and Ginnie Lowther photo

NOMINATION CHANGES

May 5, 2000

General Council on Finance and Administration

Northeastern: Patricia Bryant Harris
(Replaces Noah Reid)

Southeastern: Connie Mitchell
(Replaces Al Guinn)

United Methodist Men

Southeastern: Cornelius Henderson

Church & Society

Southeastern: New Bishop

Where in the Convention Center Is . . . Brad Motta?????

It is a place that receives "goodie bags" everyday. It has a computer set up with Internet access, a television with VCR, and a small area with couches and chairs. Each person in the room has a personal "wipe-off board" for people to leave them messages. Hosts and hostesses make everyone feel at home. The room is filled with the energy of today's church, and the hope for its future.

See photo on page 1868 for the location.

COSROW

Tons of Potatoes, Bishops to Help Cleveland's Hungry

Saturday morning United Methodist bishops and others will help unload 45,000 pounds of potatoes donated by a Maine farmer to the Potato Project as part of the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty.

The nationwide produce salvage program began in 1983 as a way to provide direct relief to the hungry by transporting unmarketable, yet perfectly good produce to hunger relief agencies.

A tractor-trailer filled with more than 22 tons of potatoes will be unloaded at Cleveland's municipal parking lot, section D beginning at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to help in the project.

The Society of St. Andrew, a United Methodist-related ministry, will transport and package the spuds. Cleveland's Second Harvest food bank will distribute the potatoes.

The municipal parking lot is within walking distance of the Convention Center. To get to section D, exit the Convention Center onto Lakeside Ave. Walk east (right) to East 9th St. Then turn north (left) onto East 9th St.

Cross over the railroad tracks, but turn right before crossing Memorial Shoreway. Enter the walkway, just past the parking garage on the right that turns down Memorial Shoreway, and follow it to the east (right) to the parking lots. Lot D is the fourth section.



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Africa University Report Received on 99.2 Vote

Bishop Roger W. Ireson, General Secretary of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and presenters of the United Methodist-related Africa University in Zimbabwe, had one of the most spirited reports to come before the 2000 General Conference. Enthusiastic reports and testimonials from young alumni were punctuated with stirring music from the Chamber Choir of Africa University, under the direction of Dr. Patrick Matsikenyiri. Ireson reported that the university now has 871 students from 18 African countries with faculty coming from 12 countries. "The bringing together of the many cultures is now a reality, he said.

Dr. James Salley, associate vice chancellor for advancement of the university and a delegate to General Conference from South Carolina, thanked the delegates and visitors and Dr. Ireson, his board, and United Methodist churches everywhere for the financial and on-site support.

Bishop Emilio de Carvalho, the university's chancellor and president from Angola, spoke of the special place the university has in educating people from at least nine African countries, plus America, in a culturally and academically enriching setting. "We are accomplishing our goals," he said.

Thanks to the support of Bishop Woodie White and others, the school recently dedicated two dormitories made possible with contributions from the North Indiana Conference. Two

more dormitories are in the planning stage thanks to the contributions from the South Indiana Conference.

The University is now developing a Health Sciences major that promises to take expertly trained health professionals into every African country within the next few years. Plans also call for expansion of the University's Distance Education Learning program, taking higher education to other countries. Dr. Salley said they plan to be in Liberia and the Congo.

Two graduates, Sophia Chiremba and Richard Footsin of Cameroon, doing post graduate work at leading American universities, spoke of the unique opportunities Africa University offered them for higher education in the multi-cultural setting.

A video, "Transforming Lives – Transforming Africa" demonstrated the advances the university has made and pointed toward its contributions to the continent that contains a fifth of the world's population.

An appeal was made in the report for funding to be increased to \$20 million per quadrennium or \$5 million per year, instead of the current support of \$2.5 million per year level since 1989.

The Africa University report was received on a 99.2% favorable vote.

—Ron Council

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Judicial Council Decision

This copy subject to final editing and correction.

DECISION NO. 885

IN RE: Request from the General Conference Committee on Correlation and Revision for a Declaratory Decision Relating to Petitions Before the General Conference Which Use the Language “Professing Membership.”

DIGEST

The phrase “professing member” is not inherently unconstitutional. If petitions using the phrase “professing member” can be amended to include a clear definition of the phrase which does not refer to paragraphs or petitions already declared unconstitutional or out of order, such petitions would be constitutional and in order for consideration by the General Conference.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Following the release of Decision 884 on May 4, 2000, the General Conference Committee on Correlation and Revision asked the following question of the Judicial Council:

In response to Judicial Council decision 884, the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision has one further urgent question for clarification. We understand that the language of “baptized member” from the 1996 *Discipline* is unconstitutional. Given decisions 811 and 884, may the language of “professing membership” be used in lieu of the language of “full membership” if the definition of this term does not suffer from the constitutional infirmity of offering membership without taking vows?

As the language of “professing member” appears in several petitions in various committees, the matter is quite urgent to the work of the Conference, we appreciate your earliest possible consideration.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Par. 2616 of the 1996 *Discipline*.

Analysis and Rationale

This question arises because Decisions 811 and 884 state that Par. 4 of the Constitution requires “every individual personally to take the appropriate vows to become a member of a local church.” Decision 884 states: “[a]ll legislation based on the definitions of ‘baptized members’ and ‘professing members’ as set forth in the 1996 *Discipline* is

unconstitutional.” The phrase “professing member” is not inherently unconstitutional. The problem arises when the definition of that term is taken from petitions which have been declared out of order or paragraphs of the 1996 *Discipline* which have been declared unconstitutional. If petitions using the phrase “professing member” can be amended to include a clear definition of the phrase which does not refer to paragraphs or petitions already declared unconstitutional or out of order, they would be constitutional and in order for consideration by the General Conference. Such a definition must state that a “professing member” is an individual who personally has taken the vows of membership as required by Par. 4 of the Constitution.

Decision

The phrase “professing member” is not inherently unconstitutional. If petitions using the phrase “professing member” can be amended to include a clear definition of the phrase which does not refer to paragraphs or petitions already declared unconstitutional or out of order, such petitions would be constitutional and in order for consideration by the General Conference.

May 5, 2000

This copy subject to final editing and correction.

Announcements

- The official bank of the 2000 General Conference is Fifth Third Bank at 1404 E. 9th Street and Rockwell (just 1½ blocks past the Sheraton). Banking hours are 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The bank is closed Saturday and Sunday. Personal checks for amounts less than \$100 may be cashed with prior approval from the treasurer's office, room 222.
- Delegates and visitors from the Dakotas Conference are invited to eat together 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Vico Restaurant, 1852 E. 6th Street.
- The National Plan for Hispanic Ministry will honor conferences engaged in Hispanic ministries at 12:15 p.m. Monday with an invitation only luncheon in the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. Active bishops and a designated representative from each U.S. conference delegation have been invited. For details, contact José Palos or other members of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry team (they are wearing NPHM badges).
- The date for the New Jersey Area luncheon has been changed to Thursday. The luncheon will be held at 12:15 p.m. in the Erie Room of the Marriott Hotel at Key Center.
- Minnesota Conference delegates and visitors are invited to dine together at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Holiday Inn Lakeside City Center. Contact Marge Thompson at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel for details.
- The Peninsula-Delaware Conference challenges all other conferences in the Northeast Jurisdiction to endow a scholarship at Africa University before hosting General Conference in 2004. The jurisdiction is currently half way toward its goal.
- Join the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty as they sponsor the unloading of a tractor-trailer of potatoes. The potatoes will be unloaded 11 a.m. Saturday in municipal parking lot section D. Van transportation is available from the Convention Center beginning at 10:30 a.m.
- Rev. Dr. Edward Carothers, clergy member of the Troy Annual Conference, author and former staff member of the General Board of Global Ministries, died, May 1, in Doylestown, Pa. Delegates and visitors are asked to keep his family and colleagues in their prayers.
- Members of the Louisiana Conference delegation will host a breakfast from 7-9 a.m. Monday in The Club at 127 Public Square. Special guests are Bishop Dan and Joy Solomon. Former conference bishops will also attend. Contact O. Fred Loy for more information.
- "God's Inclusive Grace: A Time of Worship For All People," sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, will be held 9 a.m. Sunday in the Little Theatre (prayer room) at the Convention Center, Marcia McFee, leader.

Where in the Convention Center Is ... Brad Motta?

The youth delegate lounge fills the moment delegates have a little free time. The youth dash to see if anyone has left a note for them, or go to the computer to check their e-mail. Hosts greet them and make sure they have received the "goodie bag" and other items specially left for them. Following a plenary session, these youth gather to relax and catch up on what is happening: Andreas Elfring, Steve Yoost, Jay Williams, Nicole Absher, Tim Black, Carl Gladstone, Josh Elliott, Ana Kelsey-Powell, Matt Johnson, Sarah Warman, Craig Tate, Shawn Hartman, Laura Simmons and Erin Pitney.

Dewayne and Ginnie Lowther photo

World Methodist Council Presents Seat of Honor Awards

The North American Section of the World Methodist Council presented the "Seat of Honor Awards" to four persons at its quadrennial General Conference Luncheon on Friday.

Presented to persons who have given distinguished service and made significant contributions to World Methodism, the council honored Mrs. Bonnie Jones Gehweiler of Lake Junaluska, N.C.; Dr. H. Eddie Fox of Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Alice Lochmiller of Ft. Meyers, Fla.; and Bishop Neil L. Irons of Harrisburg, Pa. Dr. Charles Kinder received the award on behalf of Dr. Lochmiller.

Mrs. Gehweiler was cited for her work with Palestinian Christians and the establishing of the Methodist Nursery and Preschool in Beit Sahour in Bethlehem; Dr. Fox for his work in world Methodist evangelism; Dr. Lochmiller for her philanthropy and interest in the World Methodist Peace Award and Old Rectory restoration in Epworth, England and Bishop Irons for his leadership in the North American section of the Council.

Dr. Joe Hale, general secretary of the council; Dr. Frances M. Alguire, council president; Dr. Maxie Dunnam, president of

Asbury Seminary; and Bishop L. Bevel Jones III, bishop-in-residence at Candler School of Theology were the presenters.

The luncheon gathering drew 300 persons, including Dr. Mariela Mihailova of Varna, Bulgaria and His Eminence Sunday Mbang of the Methodist Church in Nigeria.

Dr. John C.A. Barrett of Cambridge, England brought greetings from British Methodism and reported on plans for the 18th World Methodist Conference in Brighton, England. He projected that the Brighton Conference will draw over 4,000 delegates and visitors. Dr. Hal Brady of Columbus, Ga., is chair of the Brighton conference program. The conference theme will be: "Jesus: God's Way of Salvation."

The World Methodist Council founded in London in 1881, is composed of 74 member churches, with Methodist and council-related united church members in 130 nations and a community of over 70 million persons.

—Bill Quick

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Prayer Concerns

As the days at General Conference get longer and we grow more tired, let us remember the importance of taking time to be in prayer. One way in which we can support one another is by praying with and for each other.

You are invited to write your prayer requests on the Prayer List on the Cokesbury checkout counters or bring them to Brad Motta in the DCA office. The requests will be printed in the next day's *Daily Christian Advocate*.

Please pray for the following:

- Mary Beth Anderson: elected delegate from Illinois Great Rivers Conference: had to remain home for chemotherapy
- Marty and Kristi: Marriage
- Joanne Kirkland: Oklahoma reserve delegate: injured in a serious car accident just before she was to leave for General Conference
- The people of Vieques, Puerto Rico
- The family and friends of Preston Price's father who died May 4
- Jim Pitka, spouse of Iowa conference pastor Marjolein Pitka: near death in Iowa City
- Betty Reilly, a conference page: now hospitalized
- Amelia Mostyn: undergoing heart surgery
- Rev. Wally Riches, pastor in the California-Nevada Conference: undergoing treatment for leukemia
- John Shettle, an elected delegate from North Indiana: could not come because of cancer treatment
- Anita Fenstermacher, an alternate delegate from North Indiana: could not come because of cancer treatment
- For the inclusion of all God's children

Episcopal Leader Says Homosexuality Issue Will Bring Church Closer Together

(UMNS)—The new president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops predicts the church “will be drawn closer together” as General Conference addresses the issue of homosexuality.

“I am not a voting delegate, and I can't predict what will happen to every piece of legislation,” said William Oden, bishop of the Dallas Area. “But I believe we will be closer together after this conference as a result of our discussions (on homosexuality).”

Oden's remarks came during a press conference held shortly after he took the helm as president of the Council of Bishops. The president serves a one-year term. President-elect Elias Galvan, bishop of the Seattle Area, will succeed Oden next year.

Besides the issue of homosexuality, Oden commented on several other key issues facing delegates including: the church's global nature; the act of repentance for racism service; global

poverty; theological education around the world; and a proposed television campaign to heighten public awareness of the church and its worldwide mission.

Oden did not endorse or criticize any legislative proposals, but challenged delegates to help the denomination embrace its global nature, particularly in light of rapid church growth outside the United States.

No longer is the denomination “an American church with mission outposts in other countries,” Oden said. “We're waking up to the fact that if we are truly to call ourselves a global church, we must invite our churches in Europe, Africa and Asia to take their rightful place as partners and leaders in ministry.”

Oden also challenged local churches and members to initiate dialogue and acts of repentance in their own congregations and communities, saying the church must find ways to move from ritual to response.

Reports of Legislative Committees

Church and Society—(5/5/00)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Dealing with environmental health and safety in the workplace and community;
- Calling for environmental stewardship;
- Reducing water usage;
- On drug and alcohol concerns;
- Concerning human rights;
- On acts of repentance for racism;
- Participating in National Donor Sabbath;
- Chartering racial justice policies;
- Regarding the US-Mexico border;
- Affirming language diversity in US and against amendment making;
- Concerning capital punishment;
- Concerning Amnesty International proposals ending abuses based on sexual orientation and defending rights;
- Regarding pathways for economic justice;
- Adopting National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report;
- Initiating or joining an economic boycott guidelines;
- Concerning UMC position on gambling;
- On emphasis of concern for workers;
- Continuing the concern for Workers Task Force;
- Eradicating abusive child labor;
- Boycotting Detroit News, Detroit Free Press and USA Today;
- Adopt “living wage” model for UMC;
- Calling for economic justice for a new millennium.

The committee recommend nonconcurrence:

- Commending Dr. L. Schlesinger;
- Commending Rev. Donald L. Wildmon;
- Establishing a national truth commission to examine US support of human rights abuses worldwide.

—*Gretchen Hakola and Paul Widicus*

Conferences—(5/5/00)

The committee recommended concurrence with amendment that the conference director of lay speaking shall become a member of annual conference. This action would not include district directors.

The committee recommended nonoccurrence on a proposal that lobbying by general agency staff be prohibited.

—*Dean Snyder and Wally Athey*

Discipleship—(5/5/00)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Removing a duplicate paragraph about spiritual formation area responsible for families and people of all ages;
- Changing the name of Laity Day to Laity Sunday with amendments;
- Providing organization, direction and support for local church leaders;
- Replacing lay speaking with lay speaking ministries;
- Adding conference lay speaking ministries responsibilities to conference board of laity;
- Referring some paragraphs to a General Conference committee composed of members of the Higher Education and Ministry Committee and the Discipleship Committee to report back later.
- Deciding lay speakers shall be committed to doctrine, Scripture, and history and life of the United Methodist Church.

—*Frank Estrada and Linda Green*

Faith and Order—(5/5/00 5:30 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Recommending strongly that UM colleges and seminaries prohibit the sale of beverage alcohol;
- Calling for local churches and parents to become more active in monitoring their children’s television viewing, and to become active in voicing their concerns;
- Opposing the cloning of humans, adding to para. 66M;
- Being in ministry to those with alcohol and drug dependencies, and their families, para. 66J;
- Calling for preservation of old growth forests;

- Calling for new food safety policies;
- Calling for affirmation of the inherent value of non-human creation in relation to energy resources utilization;
- Adding “sexual comment” to the definition of sexual harassment;
- Changing title from “Death with Dignity” to “Faithful Care of the Dying” and outlining issues related to death, including: terminating advanced medical technology that only prolongs death, church and family support, and adequate pain relief, companionship, spiritual nurture and support for dying persons;
- Dealing with corporate responsibility;
- Adding a new subsection to Para. 67 about family farms/farmers;
- Avoiding purchasing products made in sweatshop conditions;
- Moving sentence opposing capital punishment to Basic Freedoms from Criminal Justice;
- Adding language on restorative justice to Para. 68F;
- Addressing restorative justice from the General Board of Global Ministries, especially “because it gives great attention to the rights of victims and it contrasts retributive and restorative justice;
- Urging the Council of Bishops to uphold and teach the United Methodist position opposing capital punishment.

The committee recommended nonconcurrency:

- Calling for moderation in alcohol consumption for some people;
- Clarifying the UMC position on drugs, the committee saying that the current language was adequate;
- Deleting “We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons”;
- Deleting entire Para. 67 on “Economic Community”;
- Adding language to protect private property in Para. 67;
- Deleting Para. 67B on “Collective Bargaining”;
- Approving capital punishment.

—*Erik Alsgaard and Ann Whiting*

Financial Administration—(5/5/00)

The committee recommended nonconcurrency:

- Allowing congregations to direct apportionments away from certain agencies to other agencies;

- Restoring hymns in prior hymnals left out of the current hymnal;
- Including the second verse of “America the Beautiful” in the next printing of the hymnal;
- Omitting the verse in the hymn “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” which includes the phrase “God as a mother doth speed” in the next version of the hymnal;
- Including the hymn “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” in the next hymnal;
- Reinserting references to “unfermented juice of the grape” in the Services of Word and Table in the hymnal.

—*Davie Burgdorf and Tom Burger*

Global Ministries—(5/5/00 5 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Supporting new mission work in Indochina.

The committee recommended nonconcurrency:

- Advancing Korean-American Ministries in the 2001-2004 quadrennium;
- Implementing the Asian American language study;
- Supporting a study on the use of American Indian lands by the church;
- Developing a study on “Caring for Creation from a Native American Perspective.”

—*Linda Bloom and Cheryl Edwards*

Higher Education and Ministry—(5/5/00 5 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Defining ministry as action that brings others to know Christ and become professing members;
- Deleting Para. 328.3 the wording of which is a duplication of Para. 336;
- Amending Petition 30667 by deletion of the words “through organizing” and “through economic development” in the duties of pastors;
- Changing the designation from ordained ministers and ordained elders to “all appointed pastors” in preparing parents and sponsors before baptism and communion.

The committee recommended nonconcurrency:

- Adding new text to Para. 331.3 determining all pastoral responses to be made in the priestly role as outlined in the *Book of Discipline*;

- Removing guaranteed appointment as a component of the ministry of an elder in full connection;
- Adding a subparagraph to Para. 328 stating that no person will be appointed unless he/she affirms that homosexuality is not God's will.

Correction to 5/5/00 DCA, page 1804:

The committee recommended concurrence with adding "failure of persons in honorable location [not extension ministry as previously reported] to report for two consecutive years may result in termination of orders."

—Duane Ewers and Terri Hiers

Independent Commissions—(5/5/00)

The committee considered suspending its work after learning some delegates do not have the *Daily Christian Advocate* in their native language. Anger increased when the committee learned the delegates did not receive the materials in English until they arrived in Cleveland earlier this week.

In speech that moved from anger to sadness, Mujinga Kainda, a delegate from South Congo, told the committee of first being reassigned to another committee where translators were present and then being told to leave that group and return to her original assignment.

Kainda said she left the 1996 General Conference in Denver, Colo., confident that materials would be available to her in either French or Swahili.

"If you don't want us," she said, "tell us to go home."

Ricky James, Mississippi, moved that the committee suspend its work until the problem is resolved. If the General Conference is to act as the Body of Christ, he said, "there is no petition we have to deal with that is more important than resolving this issue."

The committee decided to continue meeting using the available translators. Committee leaders also asked the *DCA* and Commission on General Conference to provide the delegates materials in their own language "as soon as possible."

The Committee also intends to send a strongly worded statement to the General Conference to assure the situation does not occur again.

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Continuing membership in the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.;
- Providing guidelines for interreligious relationships;
- Requiring annual conferences to assign new responsibilities of the Committee on Small Membership Churches;

- Requiring annual conferences to have a commission on archives and history or other structure to carry out the functions;
- Concerning data to be gathered about small membership churches and acknowledging their presence in suburban as well as rural and urban settings;
- Saying laity on the Conference Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall be full members of local churches;
- Requiring annual conferences to have a Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns or other structure to maintain the connections;
- Requiring annual conferences to have a Commission on Communications or other structure to maintain the connections;
- Requiring annual conferences to have a Commission on Religion and Race or other structure to maintain the connections;
- Requiring annual conferences and central conferences to have a Commission on the Status and Role of Women or other structure to maintain the connections;
- Requiring annual conferences to have a Commission on the Small Membership Church or other structure to maintain the connections;
- Requiring the General Commission on Religion and Race to include four young people in its membership, two between 18 and 30 years old and two between 12 and 17 years old;
- Making the conference ecumenical officer an *ex officio* member of the conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns;
- Advocating for appropriate funding and disbursement of funds supporting major ecumenical and interreligious groups;
- Removing redundant language concerning the term of the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops;
- Adding language concerning financial support for ecumenical organizations;
- Clarifying the purpose of the Minority Group Self-Determination Fund and guidelines for its distribution;
- Giving the annual conference commission on religion and race vote in the Annual Conference Council on Ministries or other decision-making structure.

—Andy Ellis and Kathy Noble

Local Church—(5/5/00 12:30 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Requiring sequential numbering of all local church computer records;
- Adding “by trial court” to ways of removing a member from the rolls;
- Utilizing the United Methodist Men “Moving UMs” program to assist members in finding another church.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- To requiring membership renewal for all members yearly.
- To adding a service of dedication to be used when there is a desire to reserve Sacrament of Baptism until the child can make personal commitment to Christ.

– Tom Slack/Charlene Bailey

2000 General Conference Nominations to University Senate

Chief Executive Officer of United Methodist-related Educational Institutions

Wanda Bigham

President, Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama, received a B. A. in music education and higher education from Morehead State University, a doctorate in higher education from the University of Kentucky, a certificate from Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management, and is a Fellow in Academic Administration of the American Council on Education. She serves on the University Senate and the National Association of Schools and Colleges. Listed in *Community Leaders of America* and in four different *Who's Who* volumes, Dr. Bigham received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Murray State University and was named to the Alumni Hall of Fame from Morehead State University in 1988.

Thomas W. Cole, Jr.

No biographical sketch submitted.

Mark Collier

No biographical sketch submitted.

James Evans Douthat

President, Lycoming College, 1989–present. Ed.D., M. Div., Duke University; B.A., The College of William and Mary. Selected Current Appointments: Chair and Director, Pennsylvania Humanities Council; Director, Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Universities; Director, Pennsylvania Education Telecommunication Exchange Network; Director, WVIA (public radio/television); Director, Williamsport Chamber of Commerce; Director, Susquehanna Regional Healthcare Alliance; Director, Susquehanna Physicians Services, Inc.; Director, Council of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania; Director, Keystone Financial Bank, N.A. Selected Other Activities: Executive Committee, National Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities of The United Methodist Church 1991–95; Graduate, Institute for Educational Management, Harvard University, 1984.

Kevin LaGree

President of Simpson College, Indianola, IA. Previously, he was dean and professor of divinity at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University. An ordained elder and a member of the Iowa Annual Conference and the University Senate, he has served appointments in the Kansas East and North Georgia Annual Conferences. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Harvard Law School and Saint Paul School of Theology, he writes and teaches about leadership, focusing on church leadership as a practice of faith for both laity and clergy.

David Maldonado, Jr.

President of Iliff School of Theology as of June 1, 2000. Specializing in the study of aging and Hispanic studies, he is currently Professor of Church and Society at Perkins School of Theology. He has served as Perkin's Dean for Academic Affairs. He is the author of two books and numerous articles, and has served in the University Senate. He chaired the Hispanic Summer Program Governing Board until 1999. He holds degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, Southern Methodist University, and University of Texas at El Paso, and has received several awards.

Trudie Kibbe (Preciphs) Reed

President of Philander Smith College where she developed the nation's first academic minor in Black Family Studies. Her B.A. and M.S.S.W. degrees are from the University of Texas at Austin, and her M.A. and Doctorate Degrees from Columbia University. She is a professor of Education and the founder of an international leadership journal. She served as General Secretary /iat at GCSRW and Associate General Secretary for GCOM, where she coordinated denominational initiatives for older adults, prison and deaf ministries. She was voted one of the 100 most successful women in Arkansas.

Other Positions Relevant to Academic or Financial Affairs or Church Relationships

Willa Bing-Harris

Education: B.A., Bennett College, Greensboro, NC; M.Ed., Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, GA; Ed.D., University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. Current Professional Employment: Professor and Coordinator for Special Education, Department Curriculum and Instruction, Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL. Past Professional Employment: Faculty: Albany State College, Albany, GA; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC; Barber-Scotia College, Concord, NC. United Methodist Church Activities: Member, University Senate, 1996–Present; Administrative Council, Sunday School Teacher, Metropolitan UMC, Montgomery, AL; Lay Member to Annual Conference. Professional Affiliations: Past President, Division on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; Alabama Federation Council for Exceptional Children, Past President, Division of Teacher Education.

Bruce Birch

Bruce C. Birch, Dean and Professor of Old Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., was educated at Southwestern College (BA), Southern Methodist University (BD), and Yale University (PhD). He has taught at Yale University, Iowa Wesleyan College and Erskine College. An ordained Elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, he

has served as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and on the General Board of Church and Society. The author of fourteen books and numerous articles, Dean Birch teaches and consults widely in the church and is co-editor of the forthcoming curriculum *Steward: Living as Disciples in Everyday Life*.

Charlene R. Black

Educated at Vanderbilt University, has fifteen years experience as Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia, where she chairs the Curriculum Council. A lifelong United Methodist, Dr. Black served eight years on the United Methodist Commission on Higher Education, was President of the Wesley Foundation Board, and Conference President of United Methodist Women. She currently serves as Conference Lay Leader, leader of the South Georgia delegation to General Conference, co-chairs the Conference Leadership Forum with the bishop, and is a trainer for Partners in Ministry.

Ted Brown

Native of Kemble, New Jersey, is a lifelong United Methodist and currently serves as President of Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. His academic degrees include: B.A., West Virginia Wesleyan; M. Div., and Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, with postdoctoral studies at Harvard. Dr. Brown is a Director of the National Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities of The United Methodist Church, and holds membership in the American Association for Higher Education and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He and his wife, Cheryl, with their sons Teddy and Tyler, are active members of Pulaski First United Methodist Church.

Maxie D. Dunnam

President of Asbury Theological Seminary. He holds the following academic degrees: B.S.D., University of Southern Mississippi; M. Th., Candler School of Theology, Emory University; B.D. Asbury Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Mississippi, Georgia, California, and Tennessee. He was one of the presidents of the World Methodist Council and Chair of World Evangelism. The author of 31 books, he is former world editor of *The Upper Room*.

Sheila Flemming

No biographical sketch submitted.

Willie Jones

Dean of Students, Compton College, Compton California, Dr. Jones is active in his local church, district and annual conference. His service includes: President of the Long Beach District Union, Conference Board of Laity, Conference Board of Higher Education; President, Board of Directors of The Salvation Army; South Coast Ecumenical Council (Long Beach); President, Affirmative Action Commission, Compton, California; Los Angeles County Planning Committee; President, Paul Robeson Players Cultural Commission. His commitment, knowledge, and experience make him an excellent candidate. He is a lay delegate to the 2000 General Conference.

Yong S. Lee

A lay delegate to General Conference from the Iowa Annual Conference. From 1988 to 1996, he served on the General Council on Finance and Administration, and from 1996 to 2000, on the Connectional Process Team. Dr. Lee is a Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at Iowa State University. He is the recipient of several awards and grants from the United States Science Foundation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Robin Lovin

Robin W. Lovin is Dean and Professor of Ethics at Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University. From 1991–94, he was Dean at the Theological School of Drew University. His teaching career includes service as an instructor at Candler School of Theology of Emory University and faculty member at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. A member of the North Texas Conference, he has written extensively on religion and law and comparative religious ethics. He was President of the Society of Christian Ethics for 1999–2000 and serves as Vice-President of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools.

Marjorie Suchocki

School of Theology at Claremont. No biographical sketch submitted.

Leslie Wessman

Sonneveldt Professor of Education at Hope College in Holland, Michigan where she has taught for the past ten years. She was the chair of the West Michigan Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for 12 years, and chaired the Campus Ministry Committee of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for two quadrennia, from 1989–96. During her tenure on the General Board she participated in several writing task groups. She is a member of Holland First United Methodist Church.

Judicial Council Nominations

Laypersons

Rodolfo Beltran

Attorney Rodolfo C. Beltran, admitted Philippine Bar 1960; Veteran Central Conference lawyer, with expertise in

church cases; 40 years continuous practice law; Conference Lay Leader, three-time delegate General Conference; Chairperson and member of various Boards of Trustees, UMC universities, hospitals, seminary and schools; 22 years legal counsel annual conference; 40 years delegate Philippine Central Conference; chairperson Philippine Central Conference Committee Episcopacy and Board of Trustees 1996–2000; past member GCOM 1988–1994; assigned to four years study homosexuality; present member Commission on General Conference 1996–2004; master mason. Farmer, tennis player. If elected, most willing to serve the general church. Philippine Central Conference.

Lonnie D. Brooks

Mr. Brooks retired after thirty-two years of lay ministry as a geophysicist working in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and arctic Russia. He has experience in industry, management, resources, resolving conflicts, negotiating contract terms, and dealing with complex technical issues. A lifelong United Methodist, he has spent more than thirty years interpreting *The Book of Discipline* and has been involved in general church judicial processes for five years, submitting briefs and presenting oral arguments. He hold a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech. Alaska Missionary Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

Evelynn "Lynn" Caterson

Lifelong United Methodist, Ms. Caterson's lay ministry has included: Judicial Council member for two quadrennia certified lay speaker-over 20 years; Council on Ministries Chair, 15 years; Program for Children in Violent Homes Coordinator; singing and directing choirs; lay member, Board of Ordained Ministry, conference COSROW Chair for two quadrennia. As an attorney, she has served as county assistant prosecutor, municipal court judge and city council member and president. Currently, has her own law firm specializing in labor and employment law, areas which have been a part of many recent Judicial Council decisions. Northeastern Jurisdiction.

James Lamark Cox, Sr.

James Lamark Cox, Sr. is the Lay Leader of the Liberia Annual Conference and Associate Lay Leader of the Africa Central Conference. He is a senator from Maryland County of the Republic of Liberia and the minority leader of the Liberian Senate. He has served as County Superintendent, Deputy Director General, Labor Affairs, and Assistant Secretary of Labor, Department of Commerce and Industry of the Liberian government. He holds degrees in economics from Howard University and New York University. He is married to a United Methodist clergyperson. Liberia Conference, Central Conference.

Mary A. Daffin

Mary A. Daffin, attorney, is a partner in the firm of Barrett, Burke, Wilson, Castle, Daffin & Frappier, L.L.P., Houston, Texas. She served as Assistant U. S. Attorney in the Southern District of Texas from 1978–1982. She is licensed to practice before: Texas Supreme Court, U. S. Supreme Court, U.S. District Courts/Southern, Northern, Western, Eastern Districts

of Texas. She also serves as Adjunct Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University and member of the Methodist Hospital Board. She has served as chair of the Council on Ministries, Administrative Board, and Staff-Parish Relations Committee; sings in the choir and teaches church school at First United Methodist Church in Houston. Texas Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Paul Ervin

An attorney and Executive Vice-President of the Foundation for Evangelism. He has served the church in the following ways: President of the National Association of Conference Lay Leaders, Conference Chancellor, Delegate to General, Jurisdictional, and British Methodist Conferences; chaired the Discipleship legislative committee at the 1996 General Conference. He served on the Vision 2000 National Advisory Committee, the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, has been a trustee of Gammon Theological Seminary and a former president of the Judicial Council. He and his wife, Katharine, have four children. North Georgia Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Daniel F. Evans, Jr.

Dan Evans, a member of Meridian Street UMC, Indianapolis, has served multiple terms on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Board of Trustees, Administrative Board and Long-Range Planning Committee. He is Chairman of Methodist Hospital of Indiana. Dan serves as Chancellor of the South Indiana Conference and Chairperson of the Large Gift Fund Raising Campaign to build two dormitories at Africa University. He has advised the Indiana Area Bishop on numerous church trial proceedings. Dan is a partner in the Indianapolis office of Baker & Daniels with a primary practice in general corporate, not-for-profit organizations and administrative law. South Indiana Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Oscar R. Ferrer

Oscar R. Ferrer is a member of the Central United Methodist Church of Manila, Philippines. Elected as a lay delegate to the 2000 General Conference and the Philippines Central Conference, Mr. Ferrer has served the church in a variety of capacities. He chaired his local church council, has been the president of United Methodist Men in his local church, his district, and the annual conference. A son of a bishop, he holds degrees in journalism and law. He practices law in Manila and is also a columnist for a church newspaper. Philippines Central Conference.

Theophilous Gambe

Attorney and senior partner in Gambe and Chinyenze Associates Law Firm. Conference Chancellor for the Zimbabwe Annual Conference. Chairperson of the Education Committee of the Law Society of Zimbabwe. In this capacity, his committee is the watchdog for maintenance of high training standards for lawyers. He is also a committee member of the Ethics Committee of the Law Society of Zimbabwe. A member of the Chisipiti United Methodist Church in Harare,

Theophilous Gambe volunteers a lot of his time to train local churches in reference to *The Book of Discipline*. Zimbabwe Annual Conference, Central Conference.

Sally Geis

Sally B. Geis, three-time delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, served on three general agencies: Council on Finance and Administration, Higher Education and Ministry, Church and Society. She participated in consultations in Harare, Zimbabwe and Nairobi, Kenya that led to the founding of Africa University. She helped found the Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary and served as executive coordinator of the United Methodist Theological Initiative in Russia. She authored and co-edited four books written to help Christians debate, in a spirit of understanding and love, controversial issues. Views of evangelical and liberal church leaders are presented. Rocky Mountain Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

Jon Gray

Jon R. Gray, Missouri West Conference, delegate General and Jurisdictional Conferences, 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000. Board of Trustees Southern Methodist University. Graduate, Grinnell College, 1973; University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law, 1976; GBGM Crusade Scholar, 1974–76. Circuit Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri since 1987. Director of the Missouri United Methodist Foundation 1986–1997. Chair Missouri West Conference Committee on Episcopacy, 1996–2000; SCJ Committee on Episcopacy, 1996–2000. Elected first alternate lay member of The Judicial Council in 1996. Member Centennial UMC and Community of Hope UMC, a newly formed congregation in the Kansas City Area. Missouri West Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Edward H. Hill

Edward H. Hill, attorney, member of Polk Street United Methodist Church, Amarillo, Texas, and graduate of Texas A&M University and University of Texas Law School, has been a lay alternate to the Judicial Council the past two quadrennia. First elected lay delegate to General Conference, he has been a World Methodist Conference delegate. His local church service includes serving as a trustee, chair of the administrative board and staff-parish relations committee, and teaching Bible study. He was conference lay leader for eight years, a General Board of Global Ministries director, and a trustee of McMurry University and of Texas Methodist Foundation. Northwest Texas Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

James Holsinger

A physician who now serves as Chancellor of Chandler Medical Center, University of Kentucky and Commonwealth Professor of Health Sciences, University of Kentucky. He was the Undersecretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 1990–93, and a member of numerous medical associations. He has served local churches in various capacities in seven states. He has been a lay member of Annual Conference in FL, NE, GA, VA, KY, and the VA Conference Lay Leader.

Other service includes Treasurer of the World Methodist Council Executive Committee, the Episcopacy Committees of VA, KY, the SE Jurisdiction; Chair, Interjurisdictional Episcopacy Committee and General Conference delegate four times. Kentucky Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Daniel A. Ivey-Soto

A member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mr. Ivey-Soto is active at the general church level since elected reserve delegate to the 1984 General Conference at age 16, the trial attorney 's background is in appeals. He is an adjunct professor in Law and Business at New Mexico Highlands University, and a former high school Spanish and history teacher. He holds J. D., M.B.A., and M. A. degrees. He is endorsed by the Hispanic Caucus at General Conference and the New Mexico Conference Delegation. New Mexico Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Steven T. Lett

An attorney who has been elected lay delegate to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference since 1992 and was a 1996 General Conference delegate. A lifelong United Methodist serving in leadership of his local congregation, Christ United Methodist Church, Mr. Lett has served as District Lay Leader. West Michigan Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Marc D. Loud

A partner in Loud & Loud, a Washington, D.C. litigation firm. He attends Emory UMC and serves on the PPRC, Administrative Council, Men's Bible Study and Outreach Ministries. Chairman of the United Methodist Lawyers Guild/Washington since 1997, and Co-Chairman of the BWC/UMC Non-Violence Coalition, Marc is a founder of the "Justice Harry Blackmun Summer Law College for Teens" program. Prior to private practice, Marc served as Deputy Chief of Staff/Deputy Legal Counsel to former D.C. Mayor, Sharon Kelly. He also served as law clerk to the Honorable Paul R. Webber III. Baltimore-Washington Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Ann Alberty Saunkeah

The Executive Director of the Native American Comprehensive Plan and a member of Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church, Ms. Saunkeah was previously employed by Tulsa Public Schools. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in elementary education (curriculum and instruction development). She has served in the following capacities: Secretary for the South Central Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee, the General Board of Discipleship, 1992–2000, The Tulsa Indian Health Center Board of Directors, and Secretary for the Ahalaya AIDS Advocacy and Support Board of Directors. Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

William L. (Ted) Todd, Jr.

Retired Associate Justice, Fourth District Court of Appeal, San Diego County, he helped develop the Three Party Settlement Conference System used while on the Superior

Court. A founding partner of his law firm, his service includes: Supervising Judge, Appellate Department, Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Court, Presiding Judge, Appellate Department and Judge of Family Law, Criminal and Civil Divisions, Special Appellate Settlement Conference Judge while on the Court of Appeal. Mr. Todd retired as Adjunct Professor of Law at California Western School of Law, San Diego, and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. California-Pacific Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

William White

Bill White and his family are members of First UMC, Madison, WI, where he is Stewardship Chair. Bill has been Wisconsin Conference Chancellor since 1992. He has been a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration since 1991 and chaired its Legal Responsibilities Committee. He is counsel to the North Central Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals and a 1996 and 2000 Jurisdictional Conference Delegate. Bill is a senior partner in a 250 attorney law firm. A son and grandson of United Methodist pastors, he became active after taking, then teaching, the Disciple Bible Study course. Wisconsin Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

W. Clark Williams, Jr.

W. Clark Williams, Jr. serves as Chancellor for the Virginia Annual Conference. A recent Chair of the Church Council and Staff-Parish Relations Committee in his local church, he has taught Senior High Church School class for 18 years, has taken the Disciple Bible Study class at all three courses, and has taught the Disciple Bible class for Senior Highs. He has also served as District Lay Leader and lay member of the Committee on Ordained Ministry for the Richmond, Virginia District. Associate Dean of a School of Law and Professor of Law for more than twenty years. Virginia Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Clergypersons

Keith D. Boyette

A native Virginian and lifelong United Methodist, Keith D. Boyette is an ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference. He is pastor of Wilderness Community United Methodist Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Licensed to practice law in Virginia since 1978 and in Kentucky since 1991, Mr. Boyette was a trial attorney with a large Richmond, Virginia, law firm from 1978–1991. He has been the senior attorney in many cases at the state, federal trial, and appellate levels. He has submitted numerous briefs to and presented oral arguments before the Judicial Council. Virginia Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Elsie J. Crickard

The Rev. Ms. Elsie J. Crickard, 53, is an elder in the Kansas West Annual Conference. A five-time delegate to General Conference, she chaired the 1992 conference delegation. She has served on the General Board of Church and Society and the General Council on Finance and Administration. A graduate of Saint Paul School of Theology,

she has served small rural and large urban churches. She has served as a district superintendent and has chaired the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. She and her husband, the Rev. Mr. Burr Crickard, have three children. Kansas West Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Frank B. Davies

The Rev. Dr. Davies is a medical doctor and senior pastor, born and educated in Sierra Leone. He did his medical training in Germany and received his theological education at the Theological Hall and Church Training College in Freetown, Sierra Leone. His service record includes: Chair of the Medical Board, Member of the Council on Finance and Administration, and member of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He and his wife have three children. Sierra Leone Conference, Central Conference.

Ralph Laurence Dill III

Ralph Laurence Dill, a Doctor of Ministry graduate of Candler, served rural, suburban, new church and urban appointments prior to appointment in 1994 to Trinity UMC, Huntsville, AL. He was District Superintendent, Birmingham-East District. In the North Alabama Conference, he has served as: Trustee, Huntingdon College; Chair, Board of Pensions; President, Council on Finance and Administration; Vice-Chair, Structure Committee, Denman Evangelism Award. Dr. Dill has served twice as Council for the Conference in Church Trials. At the 2000 General Conference, he completes eight years as a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration. North Alabama Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Philip Fenn

Phil Fenn is senior minister of McFarlin UMC, a “town-and-gown” church near Oklahoma University, which he has served for twenty years. He has involved himself in a career-long pursuit of Biblical and theological studies, especially Wesleyan studies. Phil has served as chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Administrative Council, Insurance Committee; elected to multiple General and Jurisdictional Conferences; currently serves as chair of the Order of Elder and as a member of GCOSROW. Phil is committed to a close adherence to the Constitution and *Discipline* with a reliance on listening, thinking, praying and researching church records and legislation. Oklahoma Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Thomas H. (Tom) Griffith

Pastor under appointment for 29 years, with both M. Div., M.B.A., Tom has served as both Counsel for the Church and Counsel for the Defense in church trials. He has served as defense advocate in almost 30 other disciplinary cases in three annual conferences. Knowledgeable about *The Book of Discipline*, known and respected by members of the Judicial Council, he has served on the Annual Conference Board of Pensions, Commission on Equitable Compensation, Conference Nominating Committee, and District Committee on Ordained Ministry. He is committed to full inclusiveness of all

in the church, regardless of theological differences. California-Pacific Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

Susan Henry-Crowe

Ordained Elder, South Carolina, 1977. Appointments: Emory University, Dean of the Chapel and Religious Life, 1997–Present, Chaplain, 1991–97; South Carolina Council on Ministries Director, 1989–91, Associate, 1985–89; Pastoral Appointment (3), 1976–85. General Church: Judicial Council, 1992–2000; General Conference Delegate, 1980/84/88 (Reserve); General Commission on Communication, General Council Missional Priority. Annual Conference Preacher: South Carolina, East Michigan, North Alabama Ordination Service. Adjunct Faculty, Candler School of Theology, 1992–2000. Awards: Foundation for Christian Higher Education, Chaplain of the Year, 2000; Candler School of Theology, Alumni/ae Service Award, 1995. South Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Belton F. Joyner, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Joyner currently serves as Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Ministerial Relations. He is an instructor of United Methodist Ministry, Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit for Duke University's Course of study. Educated at Duke and Drew Universities, he has served as CCOM Director, district superintendent, trustee for three colleges, and a local church pastor for eighteen years. His connectional experience includes: delegate to six General and Jurisdictional Conferences, 12 years with the United Methodist Publishing House Board, the Conference Sexual Ethics Task Force and its Structure Task Force. North Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Larry Pickens

Pastor of Maple Park United Methodist Church. Larry and his wife, Debra, have one child – Jessica – age six. Larry holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, a Doctorate of Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary and a Juris Doctorate degree from DePaul University College of Law. Larry is also a graduate of Bossey, a graduate school of the World Council of Churches. He practices law in Illinois and South Carolina. Larry is an alternate to the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church. He has served as a director of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Northern Illinois Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Thomas Shanklin

Rev. Thomas Shanklin, author of several articles on the Judicial Council, has served as Secretary of the Troy Annual Conference for twelve years. He earned the M.Div. and S.T.M. degrees from Drew University Theological School, and did post-graduate work in Methodist History, Bible and Theology. Rev. Shanklin has pastored churches in Kansas, New Jersey, Vermont, and New Hampshire. With keen interest in our denomination, he wrote an essay entitled, "Arbitrations and Trials of Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1776–1860." His ability to think clearly about ministry,

theology and administration has earned him respect from clergy and laity. Troy Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Robert K. Sweet, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Robert K. Sweet, Jr., of the New England Conference, has served as first and second alternate to the Judicial Council. For twelve years he served on the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Appeals, eight as chairperson. All appeals to the Judicial Council were upheld. During a time of major transition on GCCUIC, he chaired the Personnel Committee. Bob has pastored four local churches and one District. He has chaired the Conference Council on Ministries and the Conference Relations Committee. He holds S.T.M. and D. Min. degrees from Hartford Seminary. Bob is known as a bridge builder. New England Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Francine Taylor-Thirus

The Rev. Dr. Taylor-Thirus is pastor of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in the fast-growing western suburbs of Chicago. An African-American woman, she is a graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and holds a Juris Doctorate from Creighton University in Nebraska. The mother of three grown children, the Rev. Dr. Taylor brings a rich background to her work. A former public school teacher and Chicago state's attorney, she embodies a deep love for the church and a thorough knowledge and respect for its order and discipline. She would be "grace-under-fire" as a jurist for United Methodists. Northern Illinois Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Jane Tews

Jane Tews, ordained Elder in 1980, is a member of Desert Southwest Conference and currently serves as the Central East District Superintendent. After graduating from the School of Theology at Claremont, Jane served churches in Phoenix and was the Director of Wesley Foundation at Arizona State University. While serving at ASU, she received her Juris. D. from the College of Law at ASU. Jane has been a member of the Arizona State Bar since 1985 and was appointed a Municipal Court Judge in 1991. Jane was elected First Alternate to the Judicial Council in 1996. Desert Southwest Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

Linda Thomas

Throughout her academic studies and ministry, Linda Thomas has focused on the ability of the church to heal societal wounds. In addition to serving local churches, she has had appointment to three UMC seminaries: Wesley Theological Seminary, Iliff School of Theology and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. COSROW past president. Research as a scholar has focused on the church in South Africa, specifically ways black South African Christians used rituals of healing to fight against oppression in an apartheid era. Currently Associate Professor of Theology and Anthropology and Director of the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL. Northern Illinois Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Theodore "Ted" Walter

Member Judicial Council; Delegate General and Jurisdictional Conferences and Chair Legislative Committee, 1984; GBHEM Chair Global Higher Education, 1980-88; Africa University Site Committee, 1987; World Methodist Council, 1981-2001. Wofford College, AB; Emory University, M Div.; Honorary Doctorates: Columbia College 1988, Wofford College 1996; Ordained deacon 1957, elder 1961; Married Pegilie Price, four sons; Appointments: five local churches, two districts; currently Coordinator Clergy Services. Born May 15, 1934. Conference: Wesley Foundation, Parliamentarian 1984-92. Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Council on Ministries, Epworth Board, Chair Trustees Columbia College, 1986-88; Cabinet UMW Representative, 1977-83; Chair Board of Ordained Ministry. South Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Author Book Signings at the Cokesbury Exhibit

Friday, May 5

11 a.m. to noon

Bishop James K. Mathews, *A Global Odyssey*

Noon to 1 p.m.

Tom Frank, *Soul of the Congregation*

Marjorie Kimbrough, *Stories Between the Testaments*

Keith Beasley-Topliffe, *The Upper Room Spiritual Classics*

An Act of Repentance . . .
'to climb a higher mountain than we've ever climbed before.'

