

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 7, 2007

CLERGY SESSION - Bishop Peter D. Weaver called the clergy session to order at 6:30 P.M. Wesley Palmer, and Ernest Belisle Co-Chairs of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM), opened with worship then introduced their report, contained in answers to Disciplinary of the Business of Annual Conference.

Bishop Weaver asked Sue Evans as the Registrar of BOOM to read the names of those who have moved on to sainthood this year, followed by a moment of silence, led by Bishop Weaver.

Sue Evans recommended that Brian Souza be elected, commissioned and ordained a Deacon and Associate member, under the provisions of the 1992 Discipline. He was so elected.

Sue Evans recommended that Chong Wook Choi, Janet Deranian, Deborah (Desi) Larson, Sharon Lovejoy, Linda Stetter, Jennifer Styers be elected and commissioned as probationary members, and that they be licensed for pastoral ministry in preparation for ordination in the Order of Elder. They were asked to leave the room, after which they were elected and greeted with applause!

Sue Evans recommended that Hattie Stoltzfus be elected a full member in the Order of Deacon and ordained as a Deacon. She was asked to leave the room, after which she was elected and greeted with applause!

Sue Evans recommended that Krista Beth Attwood, Leigh Dry, Sara Ewing Merrill, Kyung-hee Sa, Melissa Tustin, Brian Wood (Brian Wood under 1992 Discipline) each be elected as a full member and be ordained as Elder. They were asked to leave the room, after which they were elected and greeted with applause!

During the question and answer period with Bishop Weaver, Gary Shaw, as the Dean of the Cabinet answered Question 17 (See the Business of the Annual Conference.)

Other questions were answered and voted respectively, including those requiring 2/3 and ¾ majority votes. The entire report was then adopted. (See the Business of the Annual Conference.)

Wesley Palmer asked to be relieved of his role as co-chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Bishop Weaver expressed thanks to both Wesley & Ernest, but asked that as Wesley moves on that we especially give thanks to him for his work. Lynn McCracken was elected to be the next co-chair of the Board for the rest of the quadrennium.

The first clergy ballot for General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates was taken following instructions given by the Conference Secretary, Ralph Oduor.

Bishop Weaver declared the Clergy Executive Session recessed at 9:20 P.M.

FRIDAY MORNING JUNE 8, 2007

CALL TO ORDER – A processional preceded the call to order by Bishop Weaver at 9:00 A.M. The opening worship service included music led by Mitch Thomas and the Conference musicians. Larry Peacock, Director of Rolling Ridge Conference Center, offered Breathing God into our Presence, “I am God’s child - We are Spirit led.” The scripture in song, composed by Eric Behr, was Mark 7: 24-30. A responsive singing of The Lord’s Prayer preceded the sermon.

Bishop Weaver showed “Lost in Woonsocket”, a video clip of a homeless man who because nobody cared was later stabbed to death on a public bench he frequented. In his sermon titled “Look Out,” based a reading of Revelation 21 (a new heaven and a new earth – behold I am making everything new), God’s kids – those for whom Christ died – are everywhere around us. Do we know who lives behind our church? God has moved into the neighborhood – God lives with God’s children in our neighborhoods. “Do you know who is living near your church?” He related a story told by Harry Denham. Harry saw an old man, to whom he said “God loves you.” Harry was the first person from the nearby church (Harry’s church) to speak to the old man! We look through a peephole like the one he saw in the front door of a local church – we can’t see much through it because we can’t use our peripheral vision. We need to bend the frame and open it into a panorama, so the vision God has given us can be engaged. At night, peripheral vision is the strongest. In our churches, we need to broaden and engage a wider vision. Let our neighborhood in – listen to the needs of the neighborhood – because God is

already out there. Our neighborhoods are growing, and they're becoming younger and more diverse.

Bishop Weaver stated he had preached at Northside U.M.C., Brewster. At coffee hour afterwards, he met a new member and she discussed what it was like having Christ in her life. An older woman had invited her despite being from another denomination. The older woman told the bishop that her hobby was Noah's ark. She said she has an ark. Her hobby is carving God's creatures and putting each on the ark's deck. She carves all of them smiling! Why are they smiling? Because God loves them!

About 40 or 50 percent of the people in our neighborhoods have never been invited into the church. Bishop Weaver invited everyone to turn to someone beside them and share who is in our neighborhoods, who could we be reaching out to? Look out I am making all things new! Christ is alive and goes before us, so look out! Reach out! God has moved into the neighborhood! Really look at your community.

Another section from the above video clip was shown "Lost in Woonsocket, RI" (John Chester) - with a segment about Woonsocket UMC and Rev. Brian Souza. Woonsocket UMC – a growing congregation transformed and unjust systems challenged – the church will become a part of the transformation of the world. The Woonsocket church has grown from 5 to 70-80 on Sunday! Look out world, there are disciples ready to follow Jesus! They are United Methodists! Bishop Weaver ended the sermon by asking each to turn to her or his neighbor and say, "God is making all things new, Look out!"

Following a short recess, Bishop Weaver welcomed and offered thanks to Bonnie Marden, Conference Choreographer.

Bonnie Marden offered thanks to all who have helped at Annual Conference and offered an explanation of props in the pews and other tools and items for conferencing. She explained about a sheet of paper with a small hole the size of a dime, for "frame-bending." She challenged us to try passing a Quarter through the hole. Bishop Weaver hoped some would slip through to the offerings, \$100 bills!

She welcomed these special guests: Black College Fund representative Julianna Maria DaSilva, General Board of Pensions Representative Dan O'Neill and representing the Foundation for Evangelism Jack Ewing, General Board of Religion and Race representative Rebecca Barbara Isaacs. She thanked everyone present.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Conference Lay Leader Oscar Harrell to the head table. He would be the first of many Laity to assist Bishop Weaver. Bishop Weaver welcomed Conference Secretary Ralph Oduor.

ORGANIZATIONAL MOTIONS - Ralph Oduor, Conference Secretary, announced that the roll call would be taken from the registrations at the registration desk, and that votes would be taken using the voting cards included in the registration packets.

Ralph Oduor moved that the bar of the Conference include the entire chapel floor with the balcony considered as outside the bar of the Conference. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor moved that the agenda printed in the Pre-Conference booklet be adopted as the working agenda for this session. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor moved that Kristine Anderson, David Calhoun, Josephine Sierra and Kristin White, be elected as the Committee on Journal and Assistant Secretaries, and Natalie Blake as adjunct Assistant Secretary as a timekeeper. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor moved that George Button, Fran Camacho, June Carter, Paul Doucette, Melanie Fengler, Bob Jackson, Sue Lacy, John Loker, Fred Merk, Linda Mitchell, John Morse, Ellie Reed, Brian Rooney, James Stephen, Lyle Seeger, Shallon Sullivan, be elected as Usher/Tellers with Sue Lacy as Head Usher. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor moved that those who have appropriately filed excuses with the Conference Secretary be excused from the sessions as requested. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor moved that all reports printed in the Pre-Conference booklet, be adopted and printed in the Conference Journal. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor reminded the Conference of its rules of procedure. Any motion that is made must be in writing to the Secretary and Presiding Officer before it can be acted upon. Motion forms are available from any of the usher/tellers. If you wish to be recognized, please raise and wave your voting card from your seat, before moving to a microphone. This helps visibility in the front of the Chapel.

CONSENT CALENDAR - Ralph Oduor noted that the Consent Calendar is on the inside front cover of the Pre-Conference booklet. He informed the conference that the following have been removed from the Consent Calendar: RS-101, RS-113, RS-115 and RS-204. He indicated

that the vote on the Consent Calendar would be on Saturday at 2:25 P.M. as an order of the day. No debate or amendments will be allowed. To remove any additional item from the Consent Calendar, simply provide the Conference Secretary with a written request for such, signed by 10 members of the Conference, before the close of the session this afternoon.

CORPORATE RESOLUTIONS BY THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY - Ralph Oduor made the following motions:

That we convene as the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. Motion was adopted.

That we elect the following slate of officers of the corporation:

1. Amy Alletzhauser, President
2. Ralph Oduor, Secretary
3. Charles Carnahan, Treasurer, and
4. That the Trustees of the Annual Conference be elected as directors.

Motion was adopted.

That we adjourn the corporate meeting of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. Motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor gave instructions about voting. Balloting for candidates for delegate to the General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference: We will elect five (5) Lay and five (5) Clergy delegates to the General Conference; five (5) Lay and five (5) Clergy delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdiction. Finally, we will elect five (5) Lay reserve and five (5) Clergy reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference. Each General Conference delegate will also be a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference. Each Jurisdictional Conference delegate will also be a General Conference alternate delegate.

Results of each balloting will be announced by the Bishop. They will also be shown on screen and posted in the Foyer. If you are eligible to vote for the candidates, you should have a ballot book. The book may be secured by giving your name to the ballot clerk in the foyer. If your name is not on the list of those to receive a ballot book, and you believe you are entitled to one, you must see the Conference Secretary. Balloting will be tallied on these ballots only and you cannot receive a replacement book. The books are not transferable (except from a Lay Member who departs the Conference, to the Alternate from the same church). If you have to leave before the entire slate of candidates is elected, please hand over the balance of your ballot book to one of the ushers/tellers.

Ralph Oduor explained rules for eligibility to vote and the actual voting procedure. Each lay voter has been given a ballot book of 18 ballots, and each clergy voter has been given a ballot book of 20 ballots. Additionally, each voter has been given a ballot information booklet of candidate names, biography, and the number that corresponds to the candidate's name on the ballot. Lay voters received the Lay ballot information booklet. Clergy voters received the Clergy ballot information booklet. Only those within the bar of the Annual Conference may vote (i.e. the entire chapel floor - the balcony would be outside the bar).

Bishop Weaver encouraged the body to prayerfully consider the gifts of the candidates and especially the diversity of gifts and candidates.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #1. There were 280 ballots cast, and 141 needed for election. There was an election. **Martin McLee** was elected with 142 votes.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver elaborated on eligibility to vote and be elected, and explained that Clergy would now vote for not more than **4**, and Laity will vote for not more than **5**, being the 2nd and 1st ballots, respectively. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Clergy and Lay ballots were collected by the tellers, respectively. Since some laity were just receiving their ballots, Bishop Weaver asked the Conference Chancellor, Bill Hewig to monitor the ballot distribution and balloting, and for him to certify to the bishop when all have received ballots and voted in the 1st Laity ballot. Bishop Weaver declared the 1st Laity ballot closed. The 2nd Clergy ballot was closed.

COMMITTEE ON RULES - Sam Johnson Chair of the Committee on Rules moved RS-201, amendment to the Policies and Procedures on endorsing Episcopal candidates. The motion was seconded and adopted. He said that forms would be available from him or Linda-Campbell-Marshall for nominating candidates, who will be running next year.

Sam Johnson moved RS-204 another amendment to Policies and Procedures, on electing the Conference Director of Lay Speaking. Linda Reiber-Pike, Chair of the Conference Leadership Committee, clarified the need for this resolution. Joseph Chamberland queried the wording of the resolution. The motion was adopted.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE - Linda Reiber-Pike, Chair of the Conference Leadership Committee stated that the slate of nominations is published in the Late Breaking Conference Material booklet, with new nominations in italics. She moved election of Ralph Oduor as Conference Secretary for the quadrennium beginning 2008. The motion was adopted.

Linda Reiber-Pike moved election of Joy Mueller as Conference Statistician for the quadrennium beginning 2008. The motion was adopted.

Linda Reiber-Pike reminded the body that nomination forms are available. She asked members of the Committee to stand and be recognized. The slate will be before the body for a vote on Saturday.

Linda Reiber-Pike placed in nomination the name of Veta Dailey, for the Chair of the Visioning Table. Hers and others on the Visioning Table will be voted on along with the entire report on Saturday.

Bishop Weaver asked members of the new District Ministry Teams present to stand and be recognized.

DISTRICT 6 APPOINTMENTS - CMA District appointments by Ron Wilson.

Ron Wilson moved that the United Methodist Society of the Federated Church of Warrren, in Worcester County, Massachusetts be discontinued effective June 8, 2007 (RS-221). The motion was adopted. The District Lay Leader (DLL) Barbara Ingrassia and Associate DLL Becke Drake accompanied him on the stage, as he read the list of new appointments to the district and asked the pastor and respective Lay Member to come to the stage.

Wanda Stahl presented a gift to Ron Wilson and CMA District, from the Spiritual Formation Initiative and Passionate Spirituality, called a "Retreat in a Box." It is a "Do it yourself" retreat kit.

A historical moment representing Deaconess Betsy Scarty in the form of a skit was presented to the body.

Bishop Weaver asked Deaconesses present to stand and be recognized. He then invited Bonnie Marden to instruct the body on the Dialogue Sessions.

Bonnie Marden gave information Learning Centers and their locations.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Ethel Franks, the Conference Director of Lay Speaking, to the table to help preside over the Annual Conference. Ethel would continue in the role after lunch.

Michael McShane moved RS-214 then RS-213 on helping the Disabled. He made the point that the disabled constitute 10% of the population. RS-214 seeks the formation of a standing committee to help meet the needs of the disabled who would constitute 50% of the committee. He displayed on the screen, the definition of Disability from the 2004 Book of Discipline, paragraph 162, section G. RS-214 was adopted first. RS-213 was adopted after amendment (changed "these people" to "persons with disabilities", as a friendly amendment). It was noted that there are very few handicapped parking spaces in the Parking Lots. Bishop Weaver offered to give up his parking space so it could be used by a handicapped person.

Ralph Oduor concluded the morning session with announcements.

Rev. Dr. Diane Kessler, retiring after 32 years as Executive Director of Massachusetts Council of Churches, offered Grace before lunch.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess for lunch at 11:50 A.M.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 2:35 P.M. He announced the balloting results.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #2. There were 236 ballots cast, and 119 needed for election. There was an election. **Scott Campbell** was elected with 121 votes. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #1. There were 374 ballots cast, and 188 needed for election. There were three elections! **Bonnie Marden** was elected with 261, **Ralph R. R. Oduor** was elected with 206 and **Will Green** was elected with 192 votes.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the body. Melissa Yosua would be assigned #15 on the Lay Ballot since she received 13 votes on the previous ballot. The Laity will cast Ballot #2 and each voter would cast no more than 2 votes; Clergy will cast Ballot #3 and each voter would cast no more than 3 votes. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Lay Ballot #2 and Clergy Ballot #3.

Bishop Weaver inspired the conference with "Outlook Express", a takeoff on MS Windows software lingo and culture. The main title was "Windows XP." He noted that he is not a computer "geek." His Windows 98 crashed in March of 2007 as he reported then in his email "Partners in Ministry." He related his trials and with getting help "online" after his Windows 98 crashed. In short, he decided to use Windows XP in this year's Annual Conference report. We look through the window of Christ. We are one in Christ. The password in the Vision statement! Our router is the Mission statement or the route we will take to accomplish the vision. He went through the five Critical Issues (Spiritual Life, Evangelism and Church Growth, Diversity, Equipping Leadership, and Stewardship).

Bishop Weaver then "clicked" on Outlook Express, as he clicked his "church mouse." New England is growing younger, and more diverse. A higher percentage has no spiritual home.

United Methodist Congregations in NE saw only a 2.4% decline in membership, smaller than the year before. The worship attendance decline was the smallest in five years, while 37% of churches reported increase in worship attendance. We are thankful for increases in these areas: Attendance at ongoing classes, VIM participation by 28%, receipts of mission shares by 13%. There were 32,000 in worship, 4,000 youth were in our camps. Thanks for works of evangelism, justice and mercy, here and in places like Louisiana and Mississippi. Full-time appointments only decreased 14% contrasted to 20-25% each of the previous three years! The report of the Conference Statistician is available on request.

Bishop Weaver quoted from the book, "I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church," by Paul Nixon. He said he refuses to lead a dying conference. He urged the body not to give up on New England Conference. Wesley's World Web, or our WWW leads to these highlights:

1. Spiritual Life - passionate spirituality – Number of churches conducting Natural Church Development, has gone up significantly. He noted that Rolling Ridge is growing as a Retreat center. Each church should have one small group. Next year he plans to share best worship practices on Bishop's Day in each district.
2. Concerning Evangelism and Church Growth, Natural Church Development has helped more than 100 churches. Many more could use the help. We are on track to meeting our goal of ten new churches by 2008. "e3" (Ephesians 3, Verse 3), New England School of Congregational Development will be held on November 1-3, 2007. Allen and Sara Ewing Merrill, will start a new church in Portland, ME.
3. On Area Diversity, we have the Hispanic/Latino plans, multiethnic congregations, ongoing anti-racism training, and new chapters in our covenants with Nicaragua and West Angola, welcome of some Troy Conference churches from Vermont into New England Conference.
4. On Transformational Leadership, we have held the first NE (laity) Leadership Academy, Regional Youth Ministries, District Ministry Teams are being formed, and Clergy Effectiveness Evaluation is a partnership between Clergy and Laity, collaborative extended cabinet, including the Conference Lay Leader, collaborative Conference and Ecumenical Justice efforts.
5. Bishop's Day on Stewardship - Faith and Money workshops are in progress.

Direct billing in the budget process has led to increase in payment of Mission shares. 74% of churches have participated in Together for Tomorrow. So far, 15.5 million has been committed, 4 million contributed and 1.2 million dollars already sent to local churches. He concluded his remarks by asking the body to hit "Enter" for Christ into the new future.

DISTRICT 1 APPOINTMENTS - Marcelle Dotson, District Superintendent (DS) of the Northern Maine District, first read a motion for discontinuance of the Dexter UMC. The motion was adopted.

Bishop Weaver asked anyone affected by the abandonment of the Dexter UMC to stand and be recognized.

Macelle Dotson, was accompanied on the stage by DLL Karen Staake and Kelly Santiago, the District Administrative Assistant.

Marcelle read the new appointments and invited the new appointees to gather on the stage. Larry Peacock presented another "Retreat in a Box" kit to Marcelle Dotson and the Northern Maine District.

Another historical moment representing Reverend Margaret Henderson in the form of a skit was presented to the body. She served seven churches and wrote a book titled "The Seven Steeples". In 1967 she became DS of the Bangor District, the first woman DS in American Methodism.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - Yong Ja Kim introduced Barbara Isaacs, General Secretary of General Commission on Religion and Race.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CFA) - Tom Davidson made the first presentation of CFA. He presented RS-120, dealing with Mission Share spending limit. The vote on the budget would be held on Sunday. Wesley Lavigne asked about the lack of budget for Christian peacemakers. CFA entertained a Q&A on the budget, with Jim McPhee answering some of the queries.

BOOM - Ernest Belisle, Co-Chair of the Board introduced those to be ordained this year. Bishop Weaver asked them the Historic Questions. Those to be ordained as members in full connection are:

Hattie Stoltzfus – Deacon
Krista Beth Attwood, Leigh Dry, Sara Ewing Merrill, Kyung-hee Sa, and Melissa Tustin – Elders

Brian Wood – Elder under 1992 Discipline
PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Marla Marcum asked Bishop Weaver why last year's statements from these ordinands; Rebecca E. Baumann, Nizzi Santos Digan, Laurel Scott, and Tiffany Steinwert, had not been included in the 2006 Conference Journal. The following is the statement of the four 2006 ordinands:

"In an effort to live out our faith with honesty and integrity, we feel called to answer more deeply the following questions:

11. Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
12. Do you approve of our Church government and polity?
13. Will you support and maintain them?

As commissioned pastors we have faithfully served the Church, tending to the needs of all our parishioners. Through our ministry, we have come to know the pain and alienation our current ecclesial polity inflicts on our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members.

As pastors, we have witnessed faithful long-time members of the United Methodist Church leave as they could bear no longer the unjust prohibitions against their gay and lesbian sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, friends and family. We have witnessed loving, committed couples leave the church for the blessing of the secular state when seeking to confirm their union and love for one another because the Church refused to marry them. We have witnessed persons with the gifts and graces for ministry turn away from the path of ordination either because they could not bear the thought of the ecclesial closet or the thought of belonging to a denomination with unjust social ethics.

While as elders in the United Methodist Church we vow to support and maintain the government and polity of our denomination, we do so in grave disappointment of our denomination's stance on homosexuality.

We affirm with the Book of Discipline, that "sexuality is God's good gift to all persons" and "we believe persons may be fully human only when that gift is acknowledged and affirmed by themselves, the church, and society." We celebrate that "homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth, and recognize that all persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn their lesbian and gay members and friends. And we commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons." ¶ 161

Yet, given these theological affirmations of the sacred worth of our gay and lesbian sisters and brothers, we cannot in good conscience agree with the statement, in that very same paragraph in the Book of Discipline, that declares homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching.

If we believe that sexuality is a good gift from God that ought to be acknowledged and affirmed by all, if we believe that gay and lesbian persons are persons of sacred worth, if we believe all persons need the full ministry and guidance of the church, if we believe God's grace is available to all persons and if we truly commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons, we cannot at the same time condemn members of our congregations as "incompatible with Christian teaching," prohibiting them from marriage, ordination, funding and now, with Judicial Council Ruling 1032, membership in some cases.

It is because of our intentional interpretation of Scripture, our theological wrestling with this issue, our experience of God in the lives of faithful gay and lesbian persons and their families,

our deep commitments to the Wesleyan tradition, and most of all our passion for Jesus, that we cannot answer a simple “yes” to these questions of government and polity.

While we vow to support and maintain the government and polity of the Church, we do so in open disagreement with the unjust prohibitions against gay and lesbian persons and with full intent to work diligently in our ministry as elders to be in full ministry with gay and lesbian members, to affirm the sacred worth of all God’s children and to change our current exclusionary polity that one day we may all fully participate in the ministry of the Church, the Body of Christ.”

CONFERENCE CAMPS - James McPhee introduced the Site Directors of the Conference camps; Jennifer (Jenn) Carpenter (Aldersgate), Norm Thombs (Mechuwana), Michael Moore (Wanakee United Methodist Center), Larry Peacock (Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center). Jim especially welcomed Jennifer Carpenter, the newest of the directors. Jean Moore of Wanakee was not present.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY AWARDS – David White, Chair - Honorable Mentions:

Milan United Methodist Church, Milan, Maine, for publishing “United In Service, 1856-2006,” Rev. Margaret Bickford, Editor.

East Bucksport, Maine United Methodist Church for its publication of the 150th Celebration, 1856-2006.

Recognition Awards:

Our church Heritage by Robert W. Oliphant, for the United Methodist church of Westford, Massachusetts.

The History of Methodism in Northeastern Connecticut, a group effort representing fourteen United Methodist churches in the northeastern portion of Connecticut, by Candy Smith.

DISTRICT 8 APPOINTMENTS - Gary Shaw, DS, read the RIM District Appointments, following the process established with District 6 above. He moved the discontinuance of a church, Marian UMC. Motion was adopted. Mary Jane O’Connor- Ropp presented Gary with a “Retreat in a Box” kit.

Another historical moment representing Bishop Francis Asbury in the form of a skit was presented to the body. In 1806 he rode his horse to a brand new Meeting House in Newport, RI.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Ruth Cannon, District Lay Leader of the Mid-Maine District to sit at the table with him, and help preside.

BOOM - Ernest Belisle, Co-Chair of the Board introduced RS-215. He noted Page 17, Lines 33 and 34, and changed “you” to “we”. He moved the adoption of RS-215. The motion was seconded and adopted.

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE - Yong Ja Kim, the Chair and Martin McLee, made a joint report with the theme of “Building Bridges through Cross-Cultural and Cross-Racial Ministries.” They continued, “The Rev. Ernest S. Lyght, Bishop of the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church defines Cross-Cultural and Cross-Racial Ministry as follows:

Ministry is both religious and cultural. The person in ministry answers the call to ministry out of her or his own cultural context and religious experiences. Every person’s understanding of God is influenced by one’s cultural experiences, or the lack of such experiences beyond one’s own cultural context.” Christian community is global and beyond cultural and racial boundaries, hence, the affirmation and foundation of cross-cultural and cross-racial ministry. The Challenges of cross-cultural & cross-racial ministries include Racism and White privilege, Unwillingness to be open and include others who may bring new things – we call this exclusivity, Culture’s tendency to maintain status quo. Therefore we need: preparation and training for ethnic pastors and local congregations, cultural sensitivity, resources, support, and advocacy for Cross-Cultural & Cross-Racial Ministries. The Goals of the Commission on Religion and Race include a Luncheon for ethnic pastors, Annual conference award for dismantling racism and racial justice.

Bishop Weaver thanked the Commission, Yong Ja Kim and Martin McLee and remarked on the many gifts in the Conference. He reminded whites to continue to confess their own sins of White Privilege.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #3. There were 203 ballots cast, and 102 needed for election. There was no election. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #2. There were 409 ballots cast, and 205 needed for election. There was no election.

MOTION – Vicki Wood moved that clergy votes need not be read unless the candidate receives 10 or more votes. Motion was seconded and adopted.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the body. Clergy will cast Ballot #4 and each voter would cast no more than 3 votes, the Laity will cast Ballot #3 and each voter would cast no

more than 2 votes. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #4 and Lay Ballot #3.

GLOBAL AIDS FUND – Bishop Weaver called attention to and showed the video on Aids titled “Generation of Hope.”

Donna Costa, Co-Convener of the Global Aids Task Force, and Lester Bennington, a member of the Task Force reported.

Donna Costa moved RS-115 on Global Aids Fund. Motion was adopted.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES - Ann Whiting moved to suspend the rules. Motion was adopted by the necessary 2/3 majority.

Ann Whiting asked for an offering to be taken for Aids. Bishop Weaver called for offering baskets, and an offering was taken.

Ralph Oduor gave further instructions on balloting. Numbers 1-15 on the Lay Ballot and 1-20 on the Clergy ballots were already assigned to candidates and voters should not write names in the corresponding space. Write-In names may only be written in the bottom right corner in the spaces so designated. Voters need not vote for those previously elected. Ballots with erased marks will be discarded.

Shelly Page, CEO of the NEUMC Federal Credit Union, offered grace before Dinner.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 5:10 P.M.

FRIDAY EVENING

ORDINATION SERVICE – Bishop Weaver commissioned probationary elders and ordained full elders and deacons.

Chong Wook Choi, Janet Deranian, Deborah (Desi) Larson, Sharon Lovejoy, Linda Stetter, Jennifer Styers, were commissioned as probationary elders.

Hattie Stoltzfus was ordained a full member in the Order of Deacon

Brian Souza was commissioned and ordained a Deacon and Associate member, under the provisions of the 1992 Discipline.

These persons were ordained as Elders in full connection: Krista Beth Attwood, Leigh Dry, Sara Ewing Merrill, Kyung-hee Sa, Melissa Tustin.

CALL TO FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN MINISTRY – Bishop Weaver invited those who wanted to make a commitment to some form of full-time ordained or pulpit ministry to come forward for a time of prayer and dedication. The following answered that call and came forward: Sean Delmore, Thomas Demers, Will Green, Kari Giguere, Timothy Hickey, Laurie Hezekiah-Cox, Lai Lonnie Kosowski, Susan Lodi, Marla Marcum, Betzaida Nunes, Sandi Petro, Len Pilling, Shallon K Sullivan, Joyce Swett, Doneeca Thurston, and Yvonne Woodcock.

SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 9, 2007

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 8:07 A.M, following a time of music and gathering prayer and reflections on Psalm 5, from Eugene Peterson’s “The Message.”

Charles Carnahan, Conference Treasurer and Director of Administration announced the amounts offered for Global Aids (\$2,785.32) and Bishop’s Discretionary (\$3,350.39) funds.

Bishop Weaver introduced Bishop Roy Sano.

Bishop Sano addressed the conference. He commented on our “see-through” collection bags. He noted one can see right through the basket, and see what others are putting in the offering plate. “I did not know what I was doing,” when he agreed to come. Christians are a kingdom of priests, probably due to King David who was a monarch and priest, the Psalmist. Likewise, the presiding elder, the Bishop, ought to be a “royal priesthood.” Bishop Sano was asked to share experiences of hospitality. Bishop Sano paid tribute to Bishop Weaver. One of the reasons Bishop Weaver was elected bishop was because he led to transform the world. He urged us to ask Bishop Weaver to share his practices of hospitality.

Bishop Sano’s sermon was on “Radical Hospitality for All God’s Children” – the scripture was “Let mutual love continue - show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing.” (Heb 13:1-2). He focused on Experiences and Explorations, Repentance and trusting in God. We lived “under the power of sin.” (Rom 3:9). During WWII, when he was a teenager following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans

were targeted. "A couple who lived on the farm next to ours was murdered, the FBI took his dad away, and vigilantes shot up his church."

Bishop Sano continued, "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." (Rom 5:20). A white man and several women distributed snacks as we left for concentration camp." In the camp they ate Baloney and Rat meat! When he left the camp to go home, his teacher in the camp "hugged me to say, "Goodbye." He said "Give someone one happy memory and you save that soul." Despite his incarceration, he later answered the call to ordained ministry and accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. He came to realize that in war time people can live under the power of sin. "Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" (Rom 2:4). He paraphrased Paul who said "where Sin abounds, Grace does much more abound."

In his explorations, he referred to the Book of Discipline paragraph 122, and Ephesians 4:11. Paul is concerned that we be Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and teachers. The Great Commission requires us to be a people who not only go and make disciples, but cross barriers by speaking another language so others can understand and respond in their way: across barriers, e.g., nationality and race, age and place, cultures and races, gender and class; across taboos to convert stigma into dignity, e.g., talking about AIDS and mental illness in our churches.

Bishop Sano stated that as prophets we should tell three stories, namely, what is happening? What is God saying and doing? And how we can join God. Joseph tells three stories: You sold me here; for "God sent me before you to preserve life;" "Don't be frightened or angry with yourselves." (Gen 45:5, 7; see also 50:20). Joseph did not seek revenge on his brothers for selling him into slavery. David, Daniel and Esther rose to positions of power, they learned the culture, and became prophetic in their respective institutions. "God does not intend evil, but can will good in evil," by Gustav Aulene.

Bishop Sano concluded with remarks on Evangelists and this hymn: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look for his wonderful good ways, and the things of earth will grow strangely clear, in the light of his glory and grace." "Offer them Christ (the most comprehensive and definitive Word and Work of God) and then create a situation where they can make a response." Give them a chance to respond. An evangelist does not just say the good news. We should nurture, and encourage responses. This is what his pastor did for him. It is like a spiral: Asking "How is it going?" and then hearing the Word; Praying & Covenanting with signs (offering); and going into the world of apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist and teacher.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed JoAnn Carlotto, District Lay Leader of the Tri-state District to sit at the table with him, and help preside.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #4. There were 206 ballots cast, and 104 needed for election. There was an election. **Linda Campbell-Marshall** was elected with 104 votes. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #3. There were 408 ballots cast, and 205 needed for election. There was an election. **Oscar W. Harrell II** was elected with 234 votes.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the body. Clergy will cast Ballot #5 and each voter would cast no more than 2 votes, the Laity will cast Ballot #4 and each voter would cast no more than 1 vote. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #5 and Lay Ballot #4.

COMMITTEE ON JOURNAL – Ralph Oduor introduced Kristine Anderson who reported for the Committee on Journal that the proceedings of the previous day had been received and found to be in order. She moved their adoption. The motion was adopted.

MONITORING REPORTS – Yong Ja Kim and Ann Partner Nelson reported for the Commission on Religion and Race. Inclusiveness comes because we are one another in Christ. Inclusiveness counts. They pleaded with the body to consider electing an ethnic person to General Conference. They invited members of the Commission on Religion and Race to stand and be thanked. They also invited those who have participated in anti-racism training in our conference to stand and be thanked

Bishop Weaver referred to two books that he mentioned the previous day: "I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church," by Paul Nixon and "Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery," by Richard Lischer.

DISTRICT 5 APPOINTMENTS – Heidi Chamberland, DS, read the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts (CWM) District Appointments, She was accompanied by the DLL David Bolster, following the process established with District 6. She likewise received a gift "Retreat in a Box" kit from Cathy McGovern.

Another historical moment representing Rev. William Athaz in the form of a skit was presented to the body. He was the first Native American ordained in the Methodist Protestant Church in New England.

Bishop Weaver read from 2 Corinthians 8, when introducing "Together for Tomorrow." He read from "The Message" by Eugene Peterson. It is about generosity of the earlier Christians and of New England United Methodists.

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW (TFT) – Marion Grant and Ed Deyton, stressed the three themes of Conviction, Commitment, and Cash (3 C's). Three P's: Pray, Pray and Pay. Phil Polhemus followed Ed. Phil talked about Wanakee. In summary:

Number of Churches Participating – 392

Total of Pledges Received To Date - \$15,533,006

Total Payments Received to Date - \$3,901,975

International Covenants - We voted to tithe undesignated funds raised in this campaign in support of our International Covenants in Nicaragua and West Angola. Thus far payments received to date:

Nicaragua Covenant \$53,827

West Angola Covenant \$53,827

Thom Gallen on behalf of Preachers' Aid Society presented a check to Bishop Weaver, in the amount of \$2.5 million for TFT.

NICARAGUA COVENANT - Jairo Lezama, Sandra Melius and Pablo Paiz of Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua, shared regarding the covenant. They offered thanks for the support of the Conference.

Bishop Weaver also spoke about his journey to Nicaragua and presented to Pastor Paiz, the President of Iglesia de Cristo, a set of Spanish-language books and commentaries on John Wesley.

Bishop Weaver invited everyone to stand and pray for the Covenant and its pastors.

CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN - Joy Mueller, Conference Statistician reported on Worship statistics. Less than 1/3 of our members attend worship on Sundays. This she believes challenges us to deepen the commitment of our existing worship.

Worship attendance has been declining, but has declined by less this past year than in the previous 5 years. It is good to see a pattern of shrinking bars. Can we picture next year's bar even smaller, perhaps even a change in direction from negative to positive? Envision a positive change. There has been a 37 percent increase in the number of people attending worship. What would it take to change it to 47 percent?

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Phil Vial, District Lay Leader of the RISEM District to sit at the table with him, and help preside.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION - Laurel Scott, Chair, presented the report. She moved adoption of the amended RS-101. This was the 2008 Minimum Cash Salary resolution. The amended motion was seconded and adopted.

BOARD OF PENSIONS - Caroline Edge moved the adoption of RS -113, Pastor's/Participant Health Insurance Co-Pay. The motion was seconded and adopted.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #5. There were 180 ballots cast, and 91 needed for election. There was an election. **Linda We Hyun Chang** was elected with 94 votes. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #4. There were 397 ballots cast, and 184 needed for election. There was an election. **Joann Carlotto** was elected with 211 votes. Laity completed election for General Conference delegates.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the body. Clergy will cast Ballot #6 and each voter would cast no more than 1 vote. Laity will cast Ballot #5 for Jurisdictional delegates, each voter would cast no more than 5 votes. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #6 and Lay Ballot #5

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 10:30 A.M.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - Our Service of Celebration with Remembrance opened at 10:45 AM. Children's Choir from Wesley U.M.C. in Dorchester sang to begin the Memorial Service. We remembered these saints:

CLERGY: Daniel D. Allen, Harry A. Bartlett, Charles W. Benson, Jr., William L. Bradley, Kenneth B. Campbell, Ernest R. Case, Clovis A. Frame, William B. Gould, William O. Grunden, Charles D. Hoyt, Yeager Hudson, Donald E. Jones, Benjamin A Laird, Guy S. Morrison, John O. Parker, Milton L. Smith Sr., Harold D. Smock, Lawrence S. Staples, Edwin A. Trench Jr., Allan F. Wells-Goodwin and James L. White.

LAITY: Jack Dyer, Beverly Sears, and Ridgway F. Shin, Jr.

LOCAL PASTORS: John E. Geer, Forest Laraba, Richard Stewart, and Thomas E. White.

SPOUSES: Ethel Bass, Virginia V. Bradley, Evelyn S. Burns, Glendys B. Case, Elizabeth Chase, Evelyn Flood, Jennie Guilinello, Helen E. Hamilton, Rita Jean Roettger, Gladys Rosengrant, Mary Lou Saunders, Mary G. Tyson, and Leone P. Whitney,

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES – Immediately following the Memorial Service, those retiring were recognized.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 2:10 P.M. He thanked all who contributed to conference.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #6. There were 213 ballots cast, and 107 needed for election. There was no election. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #5. There were 421 ballots cast, and 211 needed for election. There were elections. **Donna Costa** was elected with 294, and **Samuel Purushotham** was elected with 278 votes.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the body. Clergy will cast Ballot #7 and each voter would cast no more than 1 vote, the Laity will cast Ballot #6 and each voter would cast no more than 3 votes. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #7 and Lay Ballot #6.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed David Bolster, District Lay Leader of the CWMA District to sit at the table with him, and help preside.

DISTRICT 2 APPOINTMENTS - David Svensen, DS, read the Mid-Maine District Appointments, following the process established with District 6. He was joined by Ruth Cannon, as the District Lay Leader. They were presented with a "Retreat in a Box" kit.

In another Historical moment was about Melville Cox, the first Methodist infant baptized in Hallowell, ME, in 1800. In 1832 he was Superintendent of a Liberian Mission, the first one so honored. He died in Africa four months later.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Ralph Oduor moved the adoption of the Consent Calendar in the Pre-Conference booklet, noting that 4 items were removed on Friday, and no additional ones were removed. Motion was adopted.

UMCOR - Doug Spanks, NEC Disaster Relief Coordinator told of his work on Katrina and in Maine. He sated that UMCOR and other United Methodists who help, receive the thanks of those impacted.

David Stackpole, NEC VIM coordinator, said he has seen a major growth in VIM participation since Katrina. We then watched a video on Katrina. Charles Carnahan added his voice on the need to continue responding to Katrina. Bishop Weaver spoke regarding the four facets to response to Katrina:

(1) Offerings through UMCOR and Counseling – both spiritual and material help

(2) VIM Teams

(3) Church Recovery Effort – UMCOR went first to neighborhoods, over 100 churches devastated – reconstruction of churches as places for community to gather, reestablish launching pads for ministry and mission – \$23,000 contributed so far – encouraged churches to contribute to this fund

(4) Preacher's Aid Society -- \$100,000 for pastors who lost their homes.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE - Linda Reiber-Pike, Chair of the Leadership Committee introduced Veta Daley the nominee for Chair of the Conference Visioning Table.

LAITY ADDRESS – Oscar Harrell II, in his Laity Address, paid tribute to Linda and Bishop Weaver and how much Linda has added to the conference. He thanked Bishop Weaver for his leadership. He stated that he is a member of the extended cabinet, and that he looks at "claity" as a partnership between clergy and laity. He stressed the need to have clergy and laity working together. In the past there was a separate laity session, but he wants to see more partnership and working together. Oscar invited Ruth Cannon to talk about the NE Leadership Academy.

Ruth Cannon talked about the fact that the Board of Laity had sought to offer leadership training for laity in addition to the usual Lay Speaking courses. Many laity lead in ways other than lay speaking. She went on to talk about the first session of the New England Leadership

Academy held in Gorham, ME last March. The academy is designed for both Laity and clergy. There were 80 in attendance. UMW provided lunch. UMW Executive Committee also meeting on site joined in lunch. Bishop Weaver was the keynote speaker. The afternoon at the Leadership Academy was of workshops on Our Methodist Heritage. Those who attended the session were invited to stand and be recognized. Special thanks were offered the Conference Lay Leader Oscar Harrell, Bishop's Assistant Jim McPhee, and Conference Secretary Ralph Oduor, Linwood Arnold the pastor of the church, Bishop Weaver, and others who helped to plan and lead the event.

Ethel Franks, Associate Conference Lay Leader and Director of NEC Lay Speaking Ministries, spoke about lay speaking ministries and encouraged churches to think about training young people as lay speakers.

Oscar Harrell talked about the book, "Restoring Methodism, 10 Decisions for United Methodist Churches in America," and that the authors, Drs. Molly Davis and James B. Scott will be keynote speakers in the fall session of the NE Leadership Academy to be held in the greater Boston area.

Oscar Harrell asked by name, including the write-in candidates, for General and Jurisdictional Conferences to stand and be recognized.

Oscar Harrell asked these persons to stand and be recognized: all District Lay Leaders; all Board of Laity members; all Lay Leaders of local churches; all Lay and Equalization members to Annual Conference.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Barbara Ingrassia, District Lay Leader of the CMA District to sit at the table with him, and help preside.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) - Ginny Wright, Vice President of the Conference UMW, showed a video on Cooper Community. They presented Deb Ansourlian, Executive Director of Cooper Community with a special Mission Recognition Pin. Cooper Community is the only mission site in New England supported by GBGM and UMW.

Deb Ansourlian has been Executive Director for five plus years. Deb shared with the body what Cooper does. It's about children who are behind. Cooper wants to give children a foundation for learning. It was started by the Fourth Methodist Episcopal Church in 1916.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - William McClain stated that Union UMC is the predecessor of the Fourth United Methodist Church, and that where Cooper Community Center is now located used to be Union's church building.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - Will Green asked that an offering be taken for Cooper Community Center. He challenged the body to raise \$5,000 for Cooper Community.

SUSPENSION OF RULES - Bishop Weaver suspended the Rules, and the offering for Cooper Community was taken.

THE HENRY DENMAN AWARD - Ed Deyton of the Congregational Development Committee, introduced Gary Shaw who introduced Rev. Santos Escobar of "Vida Abundante" Church, Providence, RI. He started a new ministry in South Providence. The building was in significant disrepair, the congregation had 2 members, and there was a saturation of store front ministries. Within one year, the ministry grew to 60 members, established lay ministry trainings, established a relationship with immigration services, a TV ministry, lay evangelism and ministry, and paid 100 percent of their mission shares. They now share ministry with Open Table Ministry and have 80-100 members. In 4 years, they have almost become a self-sustaining church.

Santos Escobar, Abundant Life Church, accepted the award. The church has reached out to and knows the community. If there are those in trouble or in need, they think first of the church and know they can go there. He also thanked the leadership of the church as well as Brian Wood, Duane Clinker, and Gary Shaw.

Dave Arruda introduced Karen Staake, the lay recipient of the Denham Award. Karen has inspired and guided the community with her leadership and as a lay leader. When God called her, she became Lay Leader for Northern Maine District. She has visited 56 of the 62 churches in the District; she serves on the Board of Laity and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Karen Staake accepted the award. She said, "There have been a number of small touchstones that I now understand as evangelism. God is teaching me to be present to the time I'm in. Thank you NEAC for being a conference that is moving outside the box and for a frame-bending experience.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #7. There were 161 ballots cast, and 81 needed for election. There was no election. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #6. There were 363 ballots cast, and 182 needed for election. There was an election. **J. Ronald Boucher** was elected with 185 votes.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the body. Clergy will cast Ballot #8 and each voter would cast no more than 1 vote, the Laity will cast Ballot #7 and each voter would cast no more than 2 votes. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #8 and Lay Ballot #7.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (CCYM) - Marisa Hezekiah and others reported that they are planning for a conference-wide event in 2008. They will meet in September to elect new members. Check out their new website. They presented interim Penny Challenge results.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND - We-Lee Tan, President, introduced Gary Melville and Bonnie Marden. Bonnie is now the Development Associate. Bonnie, We-Lee and Gary enlightened us on the Foundation's "Faith and Money" program.

DISTRICT 4 APPOINTMENTS - Mike and Jan Davis, Co-Superintendents, read the Tri-State District Appointments, following the process established earlier. Mike made a motion for the discontinuance of Westbrook UMC, Portland, ME. The motion was adopted. Susan Ellery of Spiritual Formation Initiative presented the "Retreat in a Box" kit to Jan with a request that she share it with Mike.

Another historical moment representing Rev John Broadhead who helped start the Wesleyan Academy in 1817 in New Hampshire. It is now in Massachusetts.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Lynn Josselyn recommended that on subsequent Clergy ballot results, only names with 10 or more votes be read. The recommendation was accepted.

BOARD OF PENSIONS – Bruce Pearson moved the adoption of RS -119, Retiree Health Benefit Continuation. The motion was adopted.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Natalie Blake asked for prayer following the difficult vote. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer.

Bonnie Marden and Linda Campbell-Marshall moved adoption of substitute RS – 216 on Local Church Pension Costs. The motion was seconded and adopted.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #8. There were 176 ballots cast, and 89 needed for election. There was no election. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #7. There were 400 ballots cast, and 201 needed for election. There was an election. **Paul Fleck** was elected to the Jurisdictional Conference with 207 votes.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Gary Shaw withdrew his name from delegate to GC but remained a candidate for the Jurisdictional Conference. He wishes there would be more diversity in the delegation, especially gender diversity.

POINT OF ORDER - Bishop Weaver asked the Laity to accept the reading of names with 10 or more votes only, in subsequent results. Without objection, it was so ordered.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the body. Clergy will cast Ballot #9 and each voter would cast no more than 1 vote, the Laity will cast Ballot #8 and each voter would cast no more than 1 vote. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #9 and Lay Ballot #8.

Bishop Weaver reminded the body we would reconvene at 7:00 PM. Ralph Oduor made announcements including one about illegally parked cars,

Bishop Weaver introduced Dr. Robert Hill from BU School of Theology, to offer Grace before supper. He is the Dean of Marsh Chapel. He mentioned the name of John Demster who founded BU and the School of Theology. He led the body in singing the Doxology, UMH #95.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 5:30 P.M.

SATURDAY EVENING

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the session to order at 7:00 P.M.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #9. There were 168 ballots cast, and 85 needed for election. There was an election. **Aida Irizarry Fernandez** was elected with 91 votes. Clergy finally completed election for General Conference delegates. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #8. There were 349 ballots cast, and 176 needed for election. There was an election. **Fay Flanary** was elected to the Jurisdictional Conference with 187 votes.

ORGANIZATIONAL – Natalie Blake made a motion to elect the next 5 in order on Lay Ballot #9 as reserve delegates to Jurisdiction. The motion was seconded and adopted.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the body. Clergy will cast Ballot #10 and each voter would cast no more than 5 votes for Jurisdictional delegates, the Laity will cast Ballot #9 and each voter would cast no more than 5 votes for reserve Jurisdictional delegates. Bishop

Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #10 and Lay Ballot #9.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Cynthia Ederly of the Board of Laity to the table, to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

INCLUSIVENESS ESSAY CONTEST AWARD - Will Green, Marla Marcum, and Marion Grant of the Essay Committee of the NEC Reconciling Committee reported on the Essay Contest, stating that it is open to members of the Annual Conference ages 16 – 21. They are asked to reflect on what it means to be an inclusive United Methodist Church. Think about who might be interested in participating next year. Youth are leaders in inclusiveness.

The winner was Karen Hash, Holy Trinity UMC, Danvers, MA. She will receive a \$500 check. Her essay was distributed to the body. Please hold Karen in prayer since her mother, Linda, is very ill and Karen is graduating from High School this week.

PUPPETS-1 - Karen Pierson came to the stage. She is the coordinator of Camp Aldersgate's "Kids on the Block Puppeteers," a puppet act. They help children and adults look at the world through different eyes. The puppeteers in tonight's presentation all attend Elementary School.

RETIREES' REFLECTIONS – Those retiring were honored, with an opportunity for those present, to give personal reflections during the evening. These were the retirees: Charles A. Bark, Jr., Joseph L. Beardsley, Richard E. Black, Twila S. Broadway, James W. Daniels, Jr., Julia A. Thomas Doutaz, Edward F. Grant, John M. Grenfell, Young Kim, John E. Loker, Margaret W. Long, James H. Nason, Mary Jane O'Connor Ropp, Sandra L. Smith, G. Kenneth Steigler, Elizabeth A. Vernon, Nancy D. Huntington, Shirley A. Nunes-Thornton, and Roland Stockbridge. Young Kim concluded the reflections with a dance with Tchai Chi signs.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #10. There were 130 ballots cast, and 66 needed for election. There were elections. **Gary Shaw** with 85 and **Julie Todd** with 80 votes, were elected. Bishop Weaver announced the results of Lay Ballot #9. There were 299 ballots cast. These persons were elected in order, as reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference: Melissa Yosua with 192, David A. Jackson with 172, Wesley Lavigne with 162, Dight W. Crain with 157, and Richard F. Gross with 144. The Laity completed their balloting for all the delegates.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the Clergy, to cast Ballot #11 and each voter would cast no more than 3 votes for Jurisdictional delegates. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #11.

RETIREES' REFLECTIONS – John Loker shared his reflections. He left us with one word, "Balance" especially between family and ministry. Margaret Long next reflected. Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp, next shared her reflections. Julia Doutaz who had earlier shared came back to read a statement from Liz Vernon. Julia closed with a prayer.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #11. There were 148 ballots cast, and 75 needed for election. There was an election. **Wee-Li Tan** was elected with 76 votes.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the Clergy, to cast Ballot #12 and each voter would cast no more than 2 votes for Jurisdictional delegates. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #12.

PUPPETS- II -The puppets made a return performance.

PUPPETS- III - The puppets returned for the 3rd performance.

COKESBURY AND UM PUBLISHING HOUSE - Bishop Weaver accepted a check from the United Methodist Publishing House, in the amount of \$11,226.41.

BOARD OF PENSIONS - Caroline Edge moved that the money received from The United Methodist Publishing House be given to the Central Conference Pension Initiative. Motion was seconded and adopted.

GENERAL BOARD OF PENSIONS - Dan O'Neill - Director of General Board of Pensions stated that 9 Million of Retired Clergy do not have security in their retirement. In many conferences outside of the United States, pastors do not have pensions when they retire; they have barely enough for basic livelihood. Our mission is to have funding in place for their retirement and to join with other conferences in order to create a pension fund for pastors. Thank you for sending funds on to Central Conference. He showed a video on retired clergy in the Central Conferences. Bishop Weaver reiterated his support for the pension funds for Central Conferences.

ZIEGLER AWARD AND PREACHING SERVICE - We Chung introduced the recipient of the Ziegler Preaching award. The recipient was Rev. Joyce Whetstone. She preached Ezekiel

37:1-14, and the "Dry Bones." The Secretary was unable to obtain the written text of the sermon by the time the 2007 Conference Journal went to print.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 10:30 P.M.

SUNDAY MORNING JUNE 10, 2007

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 8:30 A.M. He reminded everyone that on Conference Sunday, the Annual Conference body is united with churches across the Conference this morning. Bishop Weaver welcomed Maria Coleman to lead us in opening prayer.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #12. There were 148 ballots cast, and 75 needed for election. There was an election. **Laurel Scott** was elected with 87 votes.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the Clergy, to cast Ballot #13 and each voter would cast no more than 1 vote for Jurisdictional delegates. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #13.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Ginny Wright, NEC Vice President of UMW to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

COMMITTEE ON JOURNAL – Kristine Anderson reported for the Committee on Journal that the proceedings of the previous day had been received and found to be in order. She moved their adoption. The motion was seconded and adopted. She also moved that the minutes of today's session be adopted as printed in the Conference Journal. The motion was seconded and adopted.

MONITORING REPORTS – Ann Partner Nelson and Yong Ja Kim with Vicki Woods of Religion and Race, reported their monitoring evaluations. Diversity is a gift from God. Diversity has been increasing in several ways at Annual Conference this year:

1. Variety of foods offered
2. Celebrate the diversity of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, from a variety of ethnic and racial backgrounds
3. A variety of gifts shared this year, including Tai Chi and puppets
4. Celebrate Joyce Whetstone and her inspiring preaching. She was the first female African American pastor to receive the Ziegler Award.

Vicki Woods added that we still have not dismantled racism and challenged us to go back to our local churches and continue working on diversity; it is the work of white people to dismantle racism.

Bishop Weaver thanked the commission on Religion and Race for their work and report.

"NOTHING BUT NETS" - Bishop Weaver introduced the video "Nothing but Nets". Bishop Weaver said it is about a new coalition movement. The video is about fighting malaria which kills many annually. "The message is simple: send a net, save a life." 3,000 kids a day die in Africa because they do not have a net over their bed. It is an UMCOR advance. Ralph Oduor offered personal testimony that his 5 year old brother died of malaria and the situation is still getting worse. Bishop offered a prayer.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE - Linda Reiber-Pike, Chair, presented the committee's report from the Late Breaking Conference Material, with changes on a PowerPoint slide show.

Bishop Weaver declared us convened as the Board of Directors, for the election of officers, as Linda moved the elections for the Board of the United Methodist Foundation of New England. All nominated were elected.

Bishop Weaver declared us adjourned as the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Foundation of New England.

Bishop Weaver declared us convened as the Board of Directors, for the election of officers, as Linda moved the elections for the Board of the Methodist Home. All nominated were elected.

Bishop Weaver declared us adjourned as the Board of Directors of the Methodist Home.

Sandra Bonnette-Kim corrected the name of Yoo-Yun Cho Chang, a member of the Commission on Religion and Race.

Amy Alletzhauser noted some names missing from the Board of Trustees.

Linda Reiber-Pike, moved the adoption of the entire slate election of all those nominated, RS-228. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Bishop Weaver asked all Leadership committee members to stand and be thanked

Linda asked all who have served on a board or agency, committee, etc. also to stand and be thanked.

Linda drew attention to the talent inventory form on the back of the booklet. She asked those interested to please fill out and submit so that their gifts could be used to serve the Conference.

Bishop Weaver offered a prayer for all approved as the members of the committees.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #13. There were 108 ballots cast, and 55 needed for election. There was an election. **Wesley Palmer** was elected with 61 votes.

ORGANIZATIONAL – Lynn McCracken made a motion to elect the next 5 in order on Clergy Ballot #14 as reserve delegates to Jurisdiction. The motion was seconded and adopted.

BALLOTING - Bishop Weaver instructed the Clergy, to cast Ballot #14 and each voter would cast no more than 1 vote for Jurisdictional delegates. Following some announcements by Ralph Oduor, Bishop Weaver led us in prayer prior to the balloting. Bishop Weaver closed Clergy Ballot #14.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES - Fay Flanary read the written talk of the Black College student Dr. Julianna Maria DaSilva who was unable to come because of personal problems. God calls us to share resurrection with others. Every day we have the opportunity to share with others. Julianna was grateful we gave that opportunity to her. Fay mentioned the school of mission to be held in the various locations. She mentioned our international covenants. She offered thanks to the missionaries among us and those who continue to serve.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD - We Chung explained that the Award for Excellence in Social Action honors a person or group of Christians who challenges us to bend or even break our frame of mind, to stand on the side of peace and justice.

Jim Todd introduced the Award recipient Arthur Brian from Lawrence, MA. Mr. Brian has spent at least 20 years in silent protest against defense industry contractors such as AVCO, Raytheon, etc. He carries a tall sign "Love one another, even your enemies." A request was made to print Arthur Brian's speech in the 2007 Conference Journal. It is printed elsewhere in the Journal.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Karen Staake to the table, to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

SPECIAL OFFERER – Bishop Weaver introduced Emmett Goodrich, a pastor in our conference from the Liberian Conference, and asked him to tell us about retired pastors with little or no salary, and in many instances without retirement benefits. He thanked the conference for their help. We then took an offering for Central Conference Pensions.

SCHOOL OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - David Abbott and Curtis Brown showed a DVD titled "e3" (based on Ephesians 3) David Abbott offered the reading from Ephesians 3:20-21 and announced that the School of Congregational Development – "e3" (based on Ephesians 3) – will be November 1-3, 2007 in Portland, ME. Curtis announced that there will be a "United Methodist Revival" on Saturday, October 6, 2007, Scarborough, ME.

SUSPENSION OF RULES - Curtis Brown made a motion that next AC a new award be added, for the most evangelistic sermon, hence, the need to suspend rules. Vicki Woods moved that we suspend the rules. Motion was adopted by 2/3 majority vote.

The motion was as follows: "That the Committee on Congregational Development be authorized to publicize, solicit, receive and evaluate sermons whose specific purpose is to invite persons into a relationship with Jesus Christ. These sermons may be submitted by clergy and laity from churches in the NEAC.

The sermon most effectively presenting this evangelistic appeal is to be scheduled for presentation at the 2008 Annual Conference and placed as a video file on the conference web site. The second and third selection shall be announced at the Annual Conference and also placed on the conference web site as resources for sermon preparation."

Paul Fleck made an amendment, as follows: "The award for evangelism shall take place at least 6 months after Annual Conference." The motion was seconded. The amendment was not adopted. A Motion was made to refer to Conference Agenda Planning Team. Motion was seconded. Carolyn Edge suggested we refer it to the Congregational Development Committee. This was accepted as a friendly amendment. Motion made by Leda Marsh to table the whole. The motion to table was adopted.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES – Vicki Woods moved that we suspend the rules. Motion adopted by 2/3 majority vote.

Vicki Woods moved that two (2) speeches, two (2) minutes each per side of the debate would be adequate before a call of the question. The motion was seconded and adopted.

DISTRICT 3 APPOINTMENTS - John Blackadar, DS, expressed thanks for the support and love he received from the Annual Conference when his mother died! He was joined on the stage by Wendy Brousseau the DLL. John read the New Hampshire District Appointments, following the process established with District 6. Yoo-Yun Cho Chang presented a gift of "Retreat in a Box" kit to John and the New Hampshire District.

There was another historical moment, this time representing James Robinson from NH at Chesterfield testifying about how Jessie Lee started the first church.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Linda Campbell-Marshall requested that churches with appointments pending also be read. Gary, Heidi, Jan, Marcelle, Ron, and Dave, announced the names of the respective churches yet to receive their appointments. John stated that all New Hampshire District appointments had been made and announced.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Caroline Wigen on "Nothing But Nets". She asked each member to take the information about malaria back to their congregation and challenge them to take action. Richard Gross said he would personally raise \$100, and challenged everyone to do the same at his/her church.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY RALPH ODUOR - Keys need to be left in dormitories or in the Foyer, to avoid additional charges to the NEC by Gordon College.

ORDER OF THE DAY - At 11:00 A.M, we joined in a celebration of worship with confirmands from around the Conference.

WORSHIP WITH CONFIRMANDS - It was a worship experience with youth involved in skits about "Pass on the Peace", and an adult skit about the meaning of "Conferencing." Passing the Peace was done with an unbroken yarn woven from one to another, until the floor of the chapel looked like a web! It was meant to be a symbol of connectionalism. It included a hymn written and sang by a young African American woman. The refrain was "Africa will be saved, Africa must be saved." This was in response to testimonials about Malaria in Africa.

Martin McLee introduced C2C a pair from New Jersey, with connection from Union UMC. The group led the body in rap gospel music. It was a faith sharing testimonial in song and hymn!

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 1:50 P.M. He read Psalm 136, from "The Message" by Eugene Peterson.

BALLOT RESULTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of Clergy Ballot #14, the final Clergy and last ballot. There were 143 ballots cast. These persons were elected in order, as reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference: Sandra J. Bonnette-Kim with 99, Paula Payne with 87, Michael B.W. Davis with 75, Cheryln F. Gates with 62, and Daniel (Dan) Weaver with 52 votes.

PENNY CHALLENGE RESULTS – New Hampshire District won.

	Points	Amt. Raised
New Hampshire	106,393	\$2,755.52
Metro Boston Hope	95,333	\$ 953.33
Central MA	92,945	\$1,479.35
RISEM	65,925	\$ 659.25
Nor. Maine	55,626	\$ 562.16
CT/West. MA	43,047	\$ 479.97
Mid Maine	23,650	\$ 256.50
Tri State	23,527	\$ 268.87

DISTRICT 7 APPOINTMENTS - Aida Fernandez, DS, read the Metro Boston Hope District Appointments, following the process established with District 6. In addition to the District Lay Leader, she was joined on the stage by Ralph Oduor the DLL and Josephine Sierra the Administrative Assistant. Sam Johnson presented Aida with a "Retreat in a Box" kit.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Oscar Harrell, Conference Lay Leader to sit at the table with him, and help preside.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - Tom Davidson moved adoption of 2008 Budget, RS-120. He asked Charles Carnahan to give supporting information.

Charles Carnahan announced the amounts taken during Annual Conference this year of:

Friday morning	
Global AIDS Fund	\$2,785.32
Friday evening	
Ordination Offering	\$3,950.39
Saturday afternoon	
Cooper Community	\$4,570.97
Sunday morning	
Central Conf. Pensions	\$6,302.10
Youth Ministries	\$3,298.29
TOTAL GIVING	\$20,907.07

Tom Davidson updated the body on the work of the Mission Share Review Committee and gave a positive report on this year's income compared to the last year. RS-120 moved by Tom.

Julie Todd moved to add \$1,500 to the budget for Christian Peacemaker Teams to item number 24 on page 2 of the budget Pre-Conference book (blue book). The impact is a total of \$1,700 to the bottom-line. The motion was seconded and adopted. Tom divided the question, into item (a) dealing with the bottom-line as amended, and item (b) the Mission Share budget.

The new Mission Share is \$6,564,624; and spending limit is \$5,833,271. RS-120 was adopted.

Carol Stevens moved adoption of RS-217 on Clergy Health Insurance, page 18 of Pre-Conference Book.

John Blackadar made a motion for referral. He accepted a friendly amendment resulting in this motion "that RS-217 be referred to the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the Conference Commission in Equitable Compensation for a complete review with all possible health insurance configurations and that a report of their work be brought to the floor of conference next year." Motion was adopted.

TRUSTEES - Amy Alletzhauser, President, introduced Don Hageman and Dave Svensen of the Board to move adoption of RS-218, page 19 clarifying line 27. Trustees amended certain portions and accepted friendly amendments.

Barbara Cann spoke against the motion stating that it contradicted RS-213 of 2002, which ensured that both persons of a Clergy couple would receive housing compensation. Despite the Discipline, practically in the lives of clergy people, housing is part of clergy compensation;

"1. Housing allowance is used to calculate the denominational average compensation and in figuring pension benefit; when housing is considered part of compensation, most clergy salary could be considered reasonable, but without housing compensation the salaries are out of line and very low, lower than a first year teacher would receive.

2. The legislation allows the local church and Annual Conference to unfairly benefit when a clergy couple is appointed. It allows the local church or the Annual Conference to provide less compensation to clergy couples than it would to other clergy that might be appointed in those situations, and retain the savings at the at the church level or the Annual Conference. We recognize there are times when a clergy person may want to work with a church and not receive the full housing benefit, but I don't think it should be expected of clergy.

3. Finally, I believe it is in conflict with the Judicial Council Ruling #510, decided on October 30, 1982."

That ruling was in reference to a clergy couple appointed to a local church and an Annual Conference position. The Conference in question offered housing allowance to some of the conference staff even though living in local church housing with the spouse. The Judicial Council allowed the practice stating that such a decision was properly that of an Annual Conference. The custom in our Annual Conference is to include housing allowance for every clergy including clergy couples, in addition to at least the minimum salary. The Judicial Council ruled that a member of a clergy couple may not be deprived of housing compensation even though the other member of a clergy couple has access to a parsonage. For these reasons Barbara spoke against RS-218.

Don Hageman of the Trustees cited the book Discipline paragraph 252.4e, which states that housing shall not be considered as part of compensation or remuneration. "We are not denying housing" Don stated.

The amended resolution was seconded and adopted following the hand counting of votes as follows: 198 in favor and 158 against (note that the vote against was originally reported as 188, but subsequently amended after a mathematical correction by the tellers).

POINT OF ORDER - Barbara Cann asked for a clarification of the process for bringing a matter to the Judicial Council.

Bishop Weaver stated that we would note that a request for the Bishop's ruling has been made by Barbara. He then asked the Conference Chancellor Bill Hewig to clarify the process, and he stated that the procedure is to submit a request for a ruling by a member of Annual Conference. The Bishop's reply and/or ruling if adverse would be the subject of Judicial Council action. Bishop Weaver deferred his ruling on Barbara Cann's request until he reviews relevant Judicial Council rulings.

Bishop Weaver led the body in prayer following the difficult vote.

Bernie Campbell who was retiring, was honored for ten years of service on the Board of Trustees.

Bishop Weaver stated that since we were past the announced Adjournment time, and asked the body to decide how to proceed. Frank Falvey stated it would violate the Discipline if the body failed to act on the General Conference Petitions and that he would seek a ruling of the Judicial Council should the Bishop rule against him. Bishop Weaver ruled that the Annual Conference may decide on when it should adjourn regardless.

POINT OF ORDER – Natalie Blake moved that the body act on Church and Society matters and RS-219 dealing with Salem Economic Ministry. After that we can see what the body wishes to do. Motion was seconded and adopted.

We Chung concerning RS-225 - Global Climate Change. He showed a video on Climate Change. We Chung accepted a friendly amendment to delete #3. Question called and adopted. Deletion not adopted. Bernie Campbell moved to refer to Trustees, seconded. Laurel against. One for referral. Another against. Bob Ebersole called the Question on the Referral. Adopted. Motion to refer was not adopted. RS-225 was adopted!

SUSPENSION OF RULES – We Chung moved to suspend the rules concerning 24 hour notice to the body prior to action on a matter. The motion was seconded adopted by 2/3 majority vote.

We Chung moved adoption of RS-226 about the War on Iraq. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Charlotte Gulazin moved adoption of RS-219 about the Salem Economic Ministry. The motion was seconded and adopted.

SUSPENSION OF RULES – In order to vote on Leeda' Marsh's motion that we vote on the Resolutions numbered 300's up and down without debate, a motion was made to suspend the rules. The motion to suspend the rules was not adopted.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - Cheryl Meachen moved the Resolution of Thanks, RS-227. In the process, Bonnie Marden explained how a quarter fits through the paper, "into the offering basket."

Ralph Oduor announced that next year's Annual Conference is tentatively scheduled for June 13-15, 2008.

Bishop Weaver led the body in reciting Psalm 138, "Thank you God, everything in me says thank you".

Cheryl Gates led the prayer prior to Anointing. Everyone was invited to be anointed as they exited the chapel. We concluded with singing of "I'll Fly Away."

ADJOURNMENT – Bishop Weaver declared the 14th Session of the New England Annual Conference meeting at Wenham, Massachusetts, adjourned at 4:08 P.M.

ELECTION RESULTS

Clergy to GC and JC	
1.	Martin D. McLee
2.	William (Scott) Campbell
3.	Linda Campbell-Marshall
4.	We Hyun Chang
5.	Aida Irizarry-Fernandez
Clergy to JC & Alternate to GC	
1.	Gary Shaw
2.	Julie Todd
3.	Wee-Li Tan
4.	Laurel E. Scott
5.	Wesley Palmer
Reserve Clergy to JC	
1.	Sandra J. Bonnette-Kim
2.	Paula Payne
3.	Michael B. W. Davis
4.	Cheryl F. Gates
5.	Daniel (Dan) Weaver

Laity to GC and JC	
1.	Bonnie I. Marden
2.	Ralph R. R. Oduor
3.	Will Green
4.	Oscar W. Harrell, II
5.	JoAnn Carlotto
Laity to JC & Alternate to GC	
1.	Donna M. Costa
2.	Samuel Purushotham
3.	J. Ronald Boucher
4.	Paul A. Fleck
5.	Fay Flanary
Reserve Laity to JC	
1.	Melissa Yosua
2.	David A. Jackson
3.	Wesley Lavigne
4.	Dight W. Crain
5.	Richard F. Gross

SPEECH BY THE RECIPIENT OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD:

Bishop Weaver, Rev. We Chang, Members of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, and Friends of Peace!!

I am overwhelmed, Humbled and Very Privileged to be this year's recipient of your Social Justice Award.

I especially find great joy in the ecumenical Spirit by which your choice of a recipient was made, since I am a Christian of the Roman Catholic Tradition, from Lawrence, MA!

I believe that many in this chapel could have been chosen for this honor, nevertheless...I do accept it, with the thought that it will be a reminder for me to better serve Christ in the future.

One thing for certain is that I could not accept this honor without acknowledging my Wife Marguerite and our family for their STRONG SUPPORT. Thank You Marguerite and Family!!

I have also been very fortunate to have been brought up in a good Christian home and environment. I have lived in an ERA which produced many holy people...such as M.L.K., Gandhi, the Berrigan brothers, Mother Teresa, and Dorothy Day to mention just a few. These saintly people provided great examples for ME to TRY TO EMULATE.

In the final analysis I have done nothing more than what is Required of any follower of Christ.

In HIS non-violent teaching of LOVE, Love of God, Love of Neighbor, LOVE OF Self, and also Love of Enemies (which is not easy to do) I find that there is NO more EFFECTIVE Way to respond to the evils of the world, and to respond to the evils of our Government and its leaders.

These Non-Violent teachings of Christ provide ME with the strength to witness for Christ in my daily life...whether it is by vigiling against the IMMORALITY of the unjust and illegal war in IRAQ...OR TRYING TO do a little to bring it to an end...or to bring the troops home safely as soon as possible. To approve the War makers would be to BETRAY Jesus. The LIGHT OF GOD'S TRUTH AGAINST THE HORRORS OF WAR MUST BE BROUGHT TO Light. If we sow violence it is impossible to reap non-violence. Or to sow War cannot bring about PEACE.

I also must be more Loving and Compassionate towards the rest of Humanity, since we are all Sisters and Brothers CREATED IN GOD'S Image!!

This command to LOVE all people brings on much responsibility. It requires that I, in my small way, work to alleviate hunger, help to eradicate poverty, work for better race relations, more affordable housing, to work to protect our environment among others.

Thus far, history has shown us that violence does NOT bring about Social Justice or true lasting PEACE.

WE really must get the Human family to try something different to solve our ills. I personally think that another REVOLUTION IS CALLED FOR. A revolution of LOVE.

This may sound as FOLLY to many people but if we call ourselves FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST HIS FORMULA OF LOVE TO ACHIEVE TRUE JUSTICE AND PEACE should be given the opportunity to put into practice.

When all is said and done I KNOW that it is in God's Unconditional LOVE OF ALL that we will achieve our goals of Justice and Peace.

I THANK GOD FOR YOU AND ALL YOUR GOOD WORKS TO TRY TO GET THIS BEAUTIFUL FORMULA OF GOD TO SUCCEED. It will in God's own time.

May God bless us all!!!

Thank You.