

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 12, 2008

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

Bishop Weaver asked Sue Evans as the Registrar of BOOM to read the names of those who had moved on to sainthood this year. He then led the body in Thanksgiving for those who fanned the flame of God.

Sue Evans recommended that Jacquelyn Brannen, Justin Hildebrandt, Byungmoo Lee, Katherine Mitchell, David Nicol, and John Park 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!

We Chang noted that Byungmoo Lee had surgery for a retinal detachment, and was unable to attend. He would be commissioned in absentia. It was also noted that he had no medical insurance to cover his surgery, after which a request for an offering was allowed by Bishop Weaver, to help defray the expenses for the surgery. The offering was made at the end of the session.

Sue Evans recommended that Rachel Fisher, Marion Grant, Richard McKinley, Rebecca Mincieli, Jan Parke (Duane Clinker, Dorothy Matson, Patricia Miller Fernandes under 1992 Discipline), and Santos Escobar, each be elected as full member in the Order of Elder, and all but Santos Escobar (because he was ordained in another denomination), be ordained as Elders. 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 3/4 majority votes. The entire report was then adopted. (See the Business of the Annual Conference.)

A motion was made and seconded to reconsider the Board of Ordained Ministry's recommendations on Question #28. The motion was not adopted.

A motion was made and seconded to postpone action on Question #28. The motion was adopted; hence, Bishop Weaver announced the continuation of the Clergy Executive Session to sometime before the Ordination Ceremony, during this 2008 Annual Conference Session

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

FRIDAY MORNING JUNE 13, 2008

CALL TO ORDER – At 9:00 A.M Conference musicians presented Bishop Weaver with a DVD of their music. Bishop Weaver thanked and praised God for their ministries around the world. A Dagnet skit preceded the worship Service.

Oscar Harrell read Matthew 13:47 as all the District Superintendents were dragged in a net by Bonnie Marden. This was followed by Bishop Weaver's opening remarks. The Net is the connection. A picture of a Net Maker in West Angola, our covenant partner, was displayed on the screen, as the bishop recalled his trip to West Angola ten years ago. He noted the poverty in time of war then. In the midst of pressures in this world Jesus calls us

(like he did with the disciples), to push out into the deep. Where there once was fishing, the boats, the nets were gone! Many had abandoned their nets to follow Jesus.

Bishop Weaver showed a picture of the New England Conference delegation that he led to Angola in January of 2008. He read Luke 5:1-11, from "The Message" by Eugene Peterson. From his trip to Angola ten years ago, he recalled a prayer group in Kabala, Angola. They had prayed for peace. A pastor who had not been paid for a long time said "If you have Christ, you have everything." Natural Church Development shows we need passionate spirituality. We can learn from Angolans! He deplored empty spirituality.

He urged us to go deep into the one who went deep into the bows of hell! "Dare to push out a little deeper." We need to push out deep. In Kabala and Baradande, they prayed for a boat and they got a boat. Tony Blair, the former British Prime Minister started the "Faith Foundation." Bishop Weaver was recalling an article in Time Magazine. Blair's Foundation is to bring together people regardless of their religion. Blair believes that faith can make a difference. Bishop Weaver put on a Hair Net. Every strand in the net represents a Malaria Net. Tony Blair is working on "Nothing but Nets." Malaria is beginning to recede as result of the "Nothing but Nets" campaign.

An Offering was taken for the "Nothing But Nets" campaign and paper fish with written commitment offerings were placed in baskets by each district.

At 10:30 Bishop Weaver welcomed and offered thanks to Bonnie Marden, Conference Choreographer. Bonnie Marden offered thanks to all who have helped at Annual Conference She introduced and welcomed special guests: Jasmine Johnson, Black College Student, BU Hospitality crew, Barb Lemmel, the 2008 Keynote Speaker, Jack Ewing, Director of the Foundation for Evangelism, Becca Clark and Bob Lowenthal from Troy Conference, Elmer Zavala, Pablo Tellez and Jairo Lezama of Nicaragua.

Bonnie announced that the Emergency number for Gordon College was 978-927-2300. Cokesbury would be in the display only on Friday and Saturday. There were signage locations for hearing impaired. She also stated that the Icon in recognition of Civil Rights leaders was upstairs in the Cokesbury display room.

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 then welcomed Conference Secretary, Ralph Oduor.

Cheryl Gates of Spiritual Formation Initiative played music on a Bell. She stated that prayer and reflection are the foundation of their work. She said the bowl was a gift to the Visioning Table, a sign of spiritual foundation, as a reminder to gently call themselves into prayer in the midst of their ministry.

Bishop Weaver asked for a moment of silence, followed by a prayer. He invited the body to call for prayer when needed or desired and also to make use of the prayer chapel upstairs. He invited those who were attending Annual Conference for the first time to stand and be welcomed.

Bonnie Marden stated that a monitoring process would be in place by the Commission on Religion and Race persons who are seated in front and would offer a report each morning with reflections.

ORGANIZATIONAL MOTIONS - Ralph Oduor, Conference Secretary, announced that the roll call would be taken from the registrations at the registration desk. When voting, vote with the blue (Lay) or gold (clergy) voting card included in the registration packet. He informed the body that RS-209 had been replaced with a substitute RS-209A; Resolution asking for the reinstatement of Gordon College as an approved School of Theology by the United Methodist Church, RS-211 has been withdrawn.

Bishop Weaver explained that there were ongoing conversations by the University Senate of the General Conference concerning Gordon College, among others; hence, he had asked the makers of RS-211 to withdraw it.

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.

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, Ruth Oduor, Josephine Sierra and Kristin White, be elected as the Committee on Journal and Assistant Secretaries. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor moved that Fran Camacho, June Carter, Delphine Clough, Johanne Dame, Paul Doucette, Melanie Fengler, Bob Jackson, Ted Locke, John Loker, Fred Merk, John Morse, Stuart Price, Ellie Reed, James Stephen, Shallon Sullivan, with Fran Camacho 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, and the amendments of the reports of the Trustees and the Disabilities Committee, and RS-207 be accepted as a report from CFA and be adopted and printed in the Conference Journal. Bishop Weaver explained that RS-207 was a report rather than a resolution and although it was longer than 700 words, as prescribed in the Rules, he urged the body to accept it as a report. The motion was adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR - Ralph Oduor said 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-118 and RS-120. He stated that the vote on the Consent Calendar would be on Saturday at 3:05 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 Friday afternoon.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP - Leeda Marsh, Secretary of the Conference Committee on Leadership stated that the slate of nominations is published in a handout to members. Leeda pointed out a number of changes to the report. The amended report will be before the body for action on Sunday. We Chang noted that Church & Society was missing in the report. Leeda assured him it would be included in the final report.

Leeda Marsh nominated Margaret Bickford as Conference Biographer for the quadrennium. The motion was adopted.

Leeda Marsh nominated Oscar Harrell as Conference Lay Leader for the quadrennium. The motion was adopted.

Leeda Marsh nominated William Hewig as Conference Chancellor for the quadrennium. The motion was adopted.

DISTRICT 8 APPOINTMENTS - Gary Shaw, District Superintendent (DS), approached the stage to read the RIM District Appointments.

Bishop Weaver read a message about the appointment process:

The Bishop and Cabinet affirm as their first priority providing an appointment, in consultation with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, to every charge in the New England Conference.

At the annual session of the New England Conference, the DS will read the changes in appointments being made, as well as any charge without an appointment at that time.

After the annual session, the Conference website will carry an ongoing list of the change of appointments, charges without appointment, and an invitation to pray for all of these charges.

After the annual session, the DS will, at least monthly, communicate with the chairperson of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee of each charge without an appointment concerning the status of the appointment process.

The Bishop, Cabinet, District Committees on Ministry and Boards of Ordained Ministry will continue to plan for the recruitment, education, and deployment of persons for serving both full time and part time charges. The Bishop and Cabinet, in consultation with the Pastor Parish Relations Committees, will continue to explore cooperative parish and multiple point charge opportunities for enhancing the effective making of appointments for the sake of Christ's work in communities.

Bishop Weaver stated that there were 99 appointments made this year. The dean for the past year has been Gary Shaw, Marcelle Dotson was the cabinet secretary, and Ron Wilson was the spiritual guide. Bishop Weaver asked them to raise their hands or stand and be recognized. He introduced the cabinet and officers for next year: Ron Wilson – dean of cabinet, John Blackadar – secretary, Heidi Chamberland – spiritual guide. He asked them to stand and be greeted.

Phil Viall, the District Lay Leader joined Gary Shaw for the announcement of RIM District appointments. Gary asked the new appointees to come to the stage as each name was read. They were each greeted by Bishop Weaver, and given their assignments.

Gary Shaw read the new appointments with clergy and laity accepting missional epistles, for each appointment. Bishop Weaver asked all persons from RIM district to stand. He led the body in prayer. This process for district appointments, recognition and prayer was later repeated whenever other districts announced appointments.

HISTORY VIGNETTE, a moment of conference mission history -- the Deaconess movement, especially its connection in the RIM district was recognized. The Deaconess movement was approved in 1888. The first Deaconess home opened in 1889 in Boston. The movement soon spread south into Fall River and Providence. The girls' industrial home was established in Fall River in 1910. All Deaconesses were invited to stand and were thanked.

GLOBAL AIDS FUND – Donna Costa of Methodist Global AIDS Fund moved adoption of RS-204. She stated that no other illness currently results in as much devastation. Victims are invisible. Those in the Third World should not be invisible! Various voices gave testimonies of the loss due to AIDS. Marion Grant, Leigh Dry, John Mueller, Jon Almond and several others using the floor microphones recalled the stories of several AIDS victims including an African Bishop who lost a child to AIDS and a pastor from South Africa who is HIV positive.

Donna Costa was disappointed that there was no funding and that AIDS was not placed on Advance Specials. Only \$27,000 had been raised so far. Donna is disappointed that while we can raise so much for "Nothing But Nets," we have not been equal to the task on AIDS. The commitment is to raise \$1 per member over 4 years. There were pledge sheets to raise money in each church in the Display area during the Dialogue Session. RS-204 was adopted. Following the vote, Bishop Weaver asked ushers to distribute the pledge cards.

CRISIS OF ORPHANS - David Arruda moved adoption of RS-210 on the crisis of world orphans. He showed a video made by Stephen Curtis Chapman, "Heartbeat for Children Without Families." Although the number of orphans is estimated at 143 million, it is more likely above 170 million. David's objective is to bring the plight of orphans front center. There are 16,547 new orphans created during the 2008 Annual Conference Session. RS-210 was adopted.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES - Fay Flanary, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries introduced Rachel Barnett from the General Conference on the Advance. We are

celebrating 60 years of the Advance. Rachel stated that 100 percent of each gift goes for the target. She showed a short VIDEO on the Advance.

IRAQ WAR - We Chung of the Conference Board of Church and Society announced there would be no resolution on the Iraq War this year. Instead he reminded the body that the War has claimed 4096 American dead, and another estimated 200,000 to 1.2 million civilians and other Iraqis dead. There will be Operation Iraqi Awareness; a dowel each representing 20,000 lives lost, will be placed in the ground in front of the chapel. He reminded us that only 2 of those will represent dead Americans. We Chang urged each member present to call her or his Representative, and other elected government officials.

Jack Johnson, (a United Methodist) the new Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, brought greetings. Before offering Grace, he asked that we call Governor Patrick and ask him to act on Global Warming.

Ralph Oduor concluded the morning session with announcements

LUNCH RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess for lunch at 12:14 P.M.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 1:25 PM.

ORGANIZATIONAL –Bishop Weaver welcomed JoAnn Carlotto, Tri-State District Lay Leader, to the table to help preside over the Annual Conference.

Bishop Weaver read Psalm 136 – with response “God’s Love Never Quits.” He spoke about “Net Results” of the quadrennium, suggesting that NET stands for New England Transformation, including:

The threads of NET strength:

(1) Alive vision and mission; he displayed and read Conference mission and vision statements. The new mission of the UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have New structures such as the Visioning Table, District Ministry Teams

(2) Transformational leadership; among the laity and clergy; Certified Lay Minister, program etc. Regional Youth Councils

(3) Dynamic Congregational Development; 6 new churches, 3 new charters

(4) Creative Resourcing such as “Faith in Money”, “Holy Spirit Initiative” Fund.

Growing NET edges (2008 – 2012):

(1)Passionate Spirituality

(2) New Connections for Ministry

(3) Fresh NET Facilities – Facilities are falling apart, we are spending more time and effort on them. We need to make sure we go out to make Disciples of Christ in many ways. Remember the church is the people. A Brochure is to be handed out: “Help! Our Buildings Cost Too Much.”

(4) Expanding the Nets – expanding our reach, reaching more people, more diverse people to reach out to spread out, using our gifts together to make disciples of Jesus Christ; welcoming our sisters and brothers of Troy, VT.

What will the NET results be? The NE Conference has all the gifts needed. Best of all God is with us!

LAITY ADDRESS – Oscar Harrell II, Conference Lay Leader in his Laity Address urged each to use what one has to the best of one’s ability and praise God. He invited Dot Hollenbeck to stand and asked the body to thank her. Thanks for warmth when visiting the many churches of the Conference with Bishop Weaver and receiving welcome, wisdom and knowledge. Our goal is to bring the New England Academy to all 8 districts. “Claity” is the spirit of clergy and laity working together. We are a global church. We are no longer just a member of one church. “I like to be a global lay person.” What can we do to help you? We

should try to set good examples; prayer, mind, body and spirit. Oscar invited everyone to take a moment and give a special prayer to the people around them.

THE VISIONING TABLE – Veta Daley, the Chair, informed the body that there will be a Feedback Wall. Outside there was a board for members to write on it what vision, passionate spirituality, etc. meant to them; to share what God is doing in their hearts. The Visioning Table is exploring strategies to connect and support our churches. “We are a team, gathered to share and reflect in an open and diverse process.” Members of the team spoke and shared about their work and relationship within the Conference. All members of Annual Conference are included. The Table is involved in creative visioning toward mission and ministry of the local church. It is looking at the big picture, rather than management, in order to provide vision and resources. It is a voluntary connecting point for everyone in the Conference. It is not called to plan, but to reflect. Don’t get caught up in busy work, but listen to God. Guiding principles: passionate spirituality, making disciples, and community building. Their report is in the Journal.

DISTRICT 7 APPOINTMENTS - Aida Fernandez, DS, read the Metro Boston Hope (MBH) District Appointments, following the process established earlier. She was joined on the stage by Ralph Oduor the DLL and Josephine Sierra, the Administrative Assistant. Additionally, Aida was joined on the podium by the incoming DS, Martin McLee. Highlights of the district included appointment of the first Certified Lay Minister in the district, Doreen Powell, and two newly chartered churches: Saugus Brazilian Ministry UMC, Massachusetts, and Grace Vision UMC of Cambridge, also in Massachusetts.

George Walters thanked everyone for the prayers to get him home and offered up a song, “Jesus.”

Bishop Weaver offered special thanks to Aida who is moving on after eight years as DS, and for her witness, enthusiasm and spirituality. He awarded her a framed copy of John Wesley’s Covenant Prayer.

HISTORY VIGNETTE, a moment of New England history. Rick McKinley portrayed Rev. Edwin Parker of Vermont.

NOTHING BUT NETS - Sandra Bonnette-Kim and Jeff Hunt presented information on the campaign. At General Conference, each Annual Conference that donated enough received a ball signed by every bishop. The New England Annual Conference raised \$2,500. During 10 days of General Conference, \$500,000 was raised.

At this Annual Conference Session, the district that gave the most in this morning’s offering for “Nothing But Nets” gets to keep the ball; it was Tri-State District with \$14,873.73. There will be bags in the foyer with each district’s name on them – whichever district has the most donated by Sunday will get to keep the ball. Also play the basketball game out front; each point = \$1 for your district. Total received this morning was \$30,574.

There was also a signed picture of Big Baby Glen Davis in the foyer. There will be a silent auction to win the picture, with proceeds going to “Nothing But Nets.”

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW (TFT) – Marion Grant gave an update for the period ending May 31, 2008. She stated that we met and exceeded the goal even though it initially seemed like a daunting task! 395 churches were participating. The total pledge is \$15,350,927; and the total paid is \$6,303,354, from which local churches have been paid \$2,234,460. For our tithe to the International covenants, payments received to date:

Nicaragua Covenant \$100,950

West Angola Covenant \$101,794

Marion Grant presented many individuals to share stories of the use to which the funds are being put. Examples include, Carter Memorial, Needham, Massachusetts, New mattresses at Rolling Ridge Retreat Center, a new community center involving among others, training in communications in West Angola.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CFA) - Tom Davidson made the first presentation of CFA. He presented RS-118, concerning the budget

resolutions. The vote on the budget would be held on Sunday. Barbara Cann, the incoming co-Chair of CFA joined David for the presentation. Bruce Young will be the other co-Chair. Charles Carnahan the Conference Treasurer pointed out the budget highlights using a PowerPoint slide show. The highlights were:

For 2007:

Amount of Mission Shares (MS) received was \$5.5 million vs \$5.1 million in '06*.

Expenses amounted to \$5.4 million vs \$4.8 million in '06*

*'06 adjusted for direct billing of pension in '07

2008 Update:

MS receipts to date

- \$1.64 million vs. \$2.04 million
- -\$394,647 or 19% behind last year
- 4.04% reduction in MS payment rate

MS Expenses to date

- Running within overall budget
- Consistent with expenses to date '07

CFA is monitoring the shortfall and has deferred \$25,000 in Mission Share expenses.

. 245 churches use ACH, a savings of over \$600,000 annually.

The Mission Share Review Committee continues to provide support for local churches working toward 100% MS payment. He stated that more than \$290,000 MS relief has been granted over past three years.

Concerning the 2009 budget, Tom stated that \$58,814 less is to be apportioned, than in 2008, possibly through: Cooperation of ministries requesting funding and use of Subsidy Pool funds, as well as building future budgets on most recent past performance.

The highlights in the 2009 budget include:

Fund 1- World Missions

Fund 2 – New England Missions

- Anti-Racism +\$10,000
- New church starts -\$20,000
- Parish Consultants +\$20,000
- Resource Team Staff +\$32,395

Fund 3 - Ministry Support

Tom paid tribute to Charles who was to be reelected Treasurer for the quadrennium.

DISTRICT 1 APPOINTMENTS - Marcelle Dotson, DS of the Northern Maine District (NME), read a motion for discontinuance of the Smyrna Mills UMC. The motion was adopted. Marcelle was joined on the podium by the incoming DS, Pat McHugh. Marcelle read the appointments following the process used for the previous districts. Bishop Weaver offered special thanks to Marcelle who is moving on after six years as DS. He also thanked her for her gifts of spirit, mind, and body. He awarded her a framed copy of John Wesley's Covenant Prayer.

HISTORY VIGNETTE, a moment of conference mission history; Rev John Pengree who spent two years in Northern Maine also went to Liberia as a missionary.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Director of Congregational Development Curtis Brown, accompanied by the team, thanked Ed Deyton and Hailani Chan the past chair and very active leader. He introduced LaTrelle Easterling who is the incoming chair of the committee. LaTrelle recalled the passion of fishermen. A video titled "WOW", acronym for Walk on Water, introduced the New England School of Congregational Development coming to Bloomfield, CT in November 2008.

Curtis informed the body that Town & Country will train any District Ministry Team and Certified Lay Minister.

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). Camp Mechuwana is celebrating 60 years of ministry at the site. Norm mentioned his work with CCYM. Larry Peacock spoke on behalf of all the directors. He thanked the body for Together for Tomorrow funds, for prayer and support of the four sites. There is still space at all sites for youth summer camps. Larry said that Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center will also be celebrating 60 years at the site.

CLIMATE CHANGE - We Chang, Chair of the Team, began with a video show. Marla Marcum is new Chair. She celebrated our first (in theory) green Annual Conference. Handouts of next steps were distributed by the ushers, including a "Green Living" challenge. Members were asked to fill out the challenge, take it home and keep themselves accountable. There is also a checklist for churches to go green: Do an Energy Audit; call somebody in Washington; Let in the Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) bulbs; Be on the Team; Create a Team. Hopefully all handouts and papers for 2009 Annual Conference will be on recycled paper. She recognized the District with the most carpools this year, Mid-Maine with 62 carpools, NH was 2nd with 61. A gift of light bulbs and \$500 matching grant to change lights for a church in the district was awarded to the Mid-Maine district.

POINT OF ORDER – Dorothy Matson stated that there is no safe place to dispose of the CFLs, which contain small amounts of mercury.

Marla replied that a website ran through EPA shows the nearest drop-off points to collect bulbs. Alternatively, save them and bring them to Annual Conference next year to be recycled.

Stephanie Anderson, a representative of Sylvania said that CFL's contain a small fraction of mercury compared to the amount of mercury that enters the environment through the burning of regular incandescent bulbs. Also, see Sylvania.com, which offers recycling kits online.

COKESBURY AND UM PUBLISHING HOUSE - Bishop Weaver accepted a check from the United Methodist Publishing House, in the amount of \$11,121.51. Charles Stewart made a motion that the check go towards Central Conference Pension Initiative. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Bishop Weaver welcomed Thom Gallen, Executive Director of the Preacher's Aid Society (PAS), to offer Grace. He thanked Thom for distributing to the NEC clergy and laity Reuben Job's book titled "Three Simple Rules." He also thanked PAS for all they do. Thom offered Grace following announcements by Ralph Oduor.

Bishop Weaver reminded the body that Clergy Executive Session would continue after the afternoon regular conferencing session.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 4:52 P.M.

EXTENDED CLERGY SESSION

FRIDAY EVENING

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the session to order at 5:06 PM. He asked Lynn McCracken and Earnest Belisle, the co-Chairs of BOOM to lead. They informed the body that met in the morning to consider the items referred to it by the Clergy Session. The items concerned Leave of Absence (LOA) and the process leading to a decision to commission a clergy candidate for ordination.

BOOM recommended reconsideration on the previous vote on LOA. Bishop Weaver asked the body agree to reconsider. The motion to reconsider was adopted.

BOOM recommended that the body reaffirm its slate of those to be commissioned without amendment. After a lengthy conversation and some votes, the recommendation was adopted.

Marcelle Dotson gave the benediction.

Bishop Weaver declared the Clergy Executive Session recessed at 5:50 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 7:30 PM.

ZIEGLER AWARD AND PREACHING SERVICE – Bishop Weaver called. We Chung introduced the recipient of the Ziegler Preaching award. Rev. Eric Dupee, the recipient, delivered a sermon.

RETIREES' REFLECTIONS – Those retiring were honored, with an opportunity for those present, to give personal reflections during the evening. These were the retirees: Jonathan R. Almond, Raymond B. Anderson, Arlene L. Bodge, Vadia C. Boudreau, Norman Boulay, Louise E. Cole, Michael E. Davis, Thomas J. Gallen, Bayard P. Herndon, Lenora Sue Job, William B. McClain, Elizabeth M. McClintock, Gary F. Nettleton, Henry S. Nickerson, Linda M. Peabody, Robert E. Price, Lucille J. Richard, Marilyn Robb, Junille W. Shepardson (gave her reflection in an operatic musical rendition), Nancy R. Smith, Stephen C. Stolle, David E. Svenson, Richard R. Swan, Patricia J. Thompson, Joyce M. Whetstone, and Steven A. Zarecki.

SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 14, 2008

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 8:08 A.M, following a time of music and gathering prayer and reflections on Psalm 5, from Eugene Peterson's "The Message."

YOUTH OPEN SESSION - Youth led the body in celebration. Alecia Bridge talked about her trip to Migori, Kenya. The worship service included a 4-hour hymn sing, and church is an all-day event. The folks in Kenya taught her not to be concerned because God was always there. Kenyans have an abundance of faith. They praise God for every breath they take. Alecia emphasized true faith and must action as she learned in Kenya. The Kenyans she met worked hard and were grateful and faithful. In the midst of suffering they told her they survived because "Hakuna Matata," meaning "No worries. God has got my back." In doing or going on such an STVIM one is much more blessed by the experience rather than the opposite. "I received 10 times more than I gave."

PENNY CHALLENGE RESULTS – New Hampshire District won:

	Points	Amt. Raised
NHD	106,393	\$2,755.52
MBH	95,333	\$ 953.33
CMA	92,945	\$1,479.35
RIM	65,925	\$ 659.25
NME	55,626	\$ 562.16
CWM	43,047	\$ 479.97
MME	23,650	\$ 256.50
TRI	23,527	\$ 268.87

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Ginny Wright, UMW Vice-President to sit at the table with him, and help preside

ORDER OF THE DAY: Jim McPhee introduced Barbara (Barb) Lemmel as the keynote speaker. She is an evangelist and Spiritual Director from Troy Annual Conference and has served as Conference Minister. She is Co-Leader of "Tending the Fire" program.

Evangelism is one beggar showing another where to find bread. Rev. Lemmel shared a few concepts of family systems and how it can be helpful to us as individuals and the church, titled, "Basic Concepts of Systems Thinking." The theory of family systems is

that when we gather people together, we don't act as a machine, we act as a system, and the results are much more complicated than a cause and effect. A net of relationships binds us together. There are three interlocking families, namely, Pastor's family/family of origin, Family that is the congregation, Families that make up the congregation. A disturbance in any one of those affects all three.

Concepts included:

"Homeostasis – no system wants to change, even for the better. We begin to make changes, and they last for awhile, but when we stop paying attention, we slide back into the same ways of doing things. For us, the family of origin creates our homeostasis.

Anxiety – we're parts of anxious systems. Two types of anxiety: (1) acute – about a specific situation, about something that actually happens. (2) chronic – about an anticipated situation that is not yet a reality, not something that has actually happened. Chronic anxiety makes smart people do dumb things. People who are anxious won't act in the healthiest ways."

Barbara showed a video, "For the Birds", about anxious birds.

"Triangles – spread out anxiety, so that no one has to deal with all of it, but it's spread out among several people. Laws of Triangles: (1) You can only change a relationship you are part of; (2) Trying to change a relationship you are not part of will, in fact, make it less likely to change; (3) To the extent that you pick up responsibility for that relationship you are not part of, you'll also pick up its anxiety.

Why do some people in anxious situations get stuck and other people in them seem to thrive? What is it that makes the difference? Leadership is one key. Moving toward a goal – not just achieving the goal, but focusing on how we get there.

Quadrilateral of Leadership in Systems Thinking

Self-differentiation – know who you are; know whose you are – be clear about your guiding principles and stand firm on them – don't necessarily need others to be where you are – be willing to adjust those guiding principles based on solid information

Connection – stay in touch with those in the system – work towards health and wholeness of others and you – connection with other churches

Non-anxious presence – calmness can be as catching as someone who is anxious – gives others space to get to a place where they can think again – taking responsibility for what we've done wrong and not taking responsibility for what we haven't done.

Vision – be able to see the big picture – communicate vision as much as possible, without being anxious, so people can hear it." Barbara used Isaiah 49:1-7 to illustrate God's role in visioning.

"Adventure gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to work in new, and sometimes unexpected, ways – helps us to get unstuck. The church is in the midst of an enormous change. Some of the things we dearly love about the church will not survive – and that's a good thing. I'm not sure the United Methodist Church will survive, but I'm sure Wesley's guiding principles will remain. To the extent that we can stay faithful and live as people of grace, we'll continue to be a place where God works in the world. During change it is so easy to look inward – the adventure that will bring us to the other side is remembering we are called to be a light to the world."

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 adopted.

MONITORING REPORTS – Yong Ja Kim, Ann Partner-Nelson and Alex Lee from the Commission of Religion and Race (CORR) made the day's report. They reminded us that we are members of one body – the body of Christ and of the Annual Conference – every part of body is important. If any part has been neglected, it should receive extra attention. We should care for all members of body. Persons of color were invited to stand to be recognized and to be visible.

Monitoring reports help us stay on track and be more sensitive to our diversity of age, gender, and race.

The New England Annual Conference has a sensitivity and awareness to racial and cultural differences. Cultural competence takes a step toward deeper awareness by living in the midst of diversity, and intentionally learning about people of other cultures and other needs. True inclusiveness occurs when everyone knows and believes that everyone regardless of color, age, gender, ability belongs. The Monitoring Committee invites the conference to go deeper, to next level, which is cultural competence.

CORR monitored 10 presentations and sessions yesterday. Opening Dagnet presentation, Laity address, Report of the Visioning Table, "Nothing But Nets", Together for Tomorrow, Council on Finance and Administration, Mission Announcement, Global Climate Change Task Force, Camps and Conferences, and New Church Development

38 participants – Asian – 2, Black – 8, Hispanic – 1, White – 27, Laity – 22, Clergy – 16, Male – 21, Female – 17, Youth – 1, Young Adult – 3, Adult – 31, Older Adult – 3

"Please let us know if our reporting was not accurate.

We celebrate the participation of the youth and young adults, but also note that our body membership is aging gracefully. We want to pay more attention to parts of the body as they make themselves known. In this way, we will become a more vital body of Christ."

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Kaitlyn Johnson, from Gardiner, ME President of CCYM and member of the Board of Laity, to sit at the table with him, and help preside.

Larry Peacock gave the 2nd singing bowl (bell) to BOOM in thanks for all of the work that they do. Ernest Belisle co-Chair, received the gift with thanks.

ORDER OF THE DAY - Fay Flanary, the Secretary of Global Ministry, introduced Jasmine Johnson a student of a Black College. Jasmine is a junior from Dillard College, New Orleans. She is a sports medicine trainer, working toward a degree in physical therapy, and plans to pursue additional degrees in sports therapy. Jasmine brought greetings from Cynthia Green Johnson assistant Director of Black College Fund. She spoke about her childhood diagnosis of scoliosis and the death of her grandmother. Both her church in Texas and Scripture were resources of strength. She recalled the passage from Philippians 4:13. She always wanted to go to Dillard, and now her goal is to graduate with honors. The Black College Fund has been a resource to help her. The New England Annual Conference gave 100% to the Black College Fund in 2007. Jasmine presented a plaque of thanks to Bishop Weaver and encouraged the New England Conference to continue its giving to the Black College Fund. Jasmine also offered a word about the situation in New Orleans and at Dillard.

Bishop Weaver led us in prayer for Dillard.

CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN - Joy Mueller, Conference Statistician, reported on church statistics. A recent Pew study shows there is a lot of movement of adults from one church to another. She asked those who have joined the church since 1994 to stand. There is a consistently declining membership. About ¼ people have left the faith tradition of their childhood. 44% are moving from one Protestant denomination to another. Joy asked those who did not grow up in the United Methodist tradition, to raise their hands. About 65% of the US population (72% of UM) do not have children under 18 living at home. There has been a decrease of the number of youth and children enrolled in Sunday School and youth programs, which is tied to the previous statistic. Only the Tri-State district has an overall worship increase; average worship attendance is decreasing. Yet although it's continuing to decrease, the amount of decrease is getting to be less. More adults are attending Sunday school. Average weekly pledges have increased. There has been increased participation in mission trips, both the number of trips and of people participating on trips, and an increased amount of spending on Mission (over and above material aid, Together for Tomorrow and Mission Shares).

BOOM - Ernest Belisle and Lynn McCracken, Co-Chairs of the Board, introduced those to be commissioned this year: Jacquelyn Brannen, Justin Hildebrandt, Byungmoo Lee (in absentia), Katherine Mitchell, John Park, David Nichol (Justin, John and David were present to answer questions).

Ernest Belisle and Lynn McCracken, Co-Chairs 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: Duane Clinker, Santos Escobar (not ordained since he was already ordained in another denomination), Rachel Fisher, Marion Grant, Dorothy Matson, Richard McKinley, Patricia Miller-Fernandes, Rebecca Mincieli, and Jan Parke.

Bishop Weaver asked them the historic questions to which the candidates responded. The body welcomed them. The Bishop led us in prayer for the candidates.

DISTRICT 6 APPOINTMENTS - CMA District appointments by Ron Wilson, following the process established on Friday. He stated that all charges in the CMA district have clergy!

HISTORY VIGNETTE, a moment of conference mission history, recognized ministry to various ethnic groups in the New England Conference, such as a ministry to the Swedish in Worcester in 1877, eventually becoming the current Epworth UMC in Worcester. In CMA district we now have Hispanic and Korean congregations. At Wesley UMC in Worcester there is a West African ministry.

INCLUSIVENESS ESSAY CONTEST AWARD - Marion Grant, incoming chair of Reconciling Ministries Committee, introduced Susan Morrison, outgoing chair. Susan spoke about the Reconciling Ministries Network of families, individuals, students, and introduced Joy Harrison, the recipient, a recent high school graduate of Leominster UMC, who will be attending Barnard College in the fall. The essay topic was: "What is your vision of a fully inclusive United Methodist Church?" Joy read her essay. Susan awarded her a check for \$500.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND - We-Lee Tan, President, was accompanied by Gary Melville and Bonnie Marden. Wee-Li spoke about the Faith & Money events and shared stories of churches around the Conference. Two upcoming events:

Strengthening congregational connections – assist with stewardship curriculum and tools, facilitate networking, a variety of resources: Living for Giving \$10 DVD and Good \$ense rebate offer for cluster.

Developing Learning Labs for pilot project – inviting churches to participate in customized stewardship resources with coaches and mentors – pick up an application form at their table.

Gary gave a tour of the website: www.umfne.org and many of the resources on the website.

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING - Vicki Woods moved adoption of RS-205. This resolution is for training about Anti-Racism and White Privilege. After a failed attempt to amend it, RS-205 was adopted.

Vicki moved adoption of RS-206, which is about Anti-Racism Resources for Congregations. The motion was adopted.

NICARAGUA COVENANT - Bishop Weaver welcomed three guests from the Nicaragua Covenant, Elmer Zavala, Pablo Tellez and Jairo Lezama. Sandy Melius of NEC Nicaragua Covenant accompanied them on the stage. Elmer brought greetings and offered thanks for partnership with New England Conference. Pablo said it's an honor and opportunity to work together to change this world.

Jim McPhee presented gifts to each of the three men. Sandy gave thanks for 22 years of generosity, loving spirit, reaching out and embracing covenant.

NOTHING BUT NETS - Jeff Hunt announced the new total: \$48,000 plus.

Ralph Oduor made several announcements.

Robert Hill, Dean of Boston University Marsh Chapel, offered grace before lunch.

RECESS - Bishop Weaver declared us in recess for Lunch at 11:48 AM.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - Our Service of Celebration with Remembrance opened at 1:15 PM. We remembered these saints:

CLERGY: Arthur C. Clifford, Billie B. Earnhart, James E. Herrick, Ruth E. S. Robinson, Harry Soper, Jr., Robert L. Treese, Luther E. Tyson, Paul John Uhlinger.

LOCAL PASTORS: Stephanie Sermuksnis, Kingsley L. Strout

LAITY: Malcolm W. Cass

SPOUSES: Jo Ann Adcock, Bertha Locke Bruns, Adelaide (Della) Continelli, Effamay Dahlstrand, Elfrieda Drake, Elsie May Keeffe, Elsie May Knorr, Bessie Montgomery, Elizabeth Moody, Dorothea Overholt, Verina Saunders, Elizabeth Silvis, Robert Marrs Smith, Jessie W. Vorheis, Marjorie Whitteberry, Marion Ziegler.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON JUNE 14, 2008

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 2:40 P.M.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES – Those retiring were recognized. Ernest Belisle and Lynn McCracken, Co-Chairs of BOOM handed a certificate to each retiree. Bishop Weaver awarded pins to all retirees.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Wendy Millar-Page MBH incoming District Lay Leader and member of the Board of Laity, to sit at the table with him, and to help preside.

Fay Flanary moved adoption of RS-120 –Advance Specials, with amendment adding UM Economic Ministry, Salem, ME. It was adopted.

Donna Costa announced that pledge sheets will be distributed per district for the Global Aids Fund.

DISTRICT 2 APPOINTMENTS - David Svensen, DS, read the Mid-Maine District Appointments, following the process established Friday. He was joined by the District Administrative Assistant and Beverley Stenmark, the incoming DS. Ruth Cannon is the new Certified Lay Minister.

Bishop Weaver offered special thanks to David who is moving on after eight years as DS. He awarded him a framed copy of John Wesley's Covenant Prayer

HISTORY VIGNETTE, a moment of conference mission history UM Economic Ministry at Salem, ME, by Kay Webb. It was started by the Evangelical Association. She presented a tie from the thrift store to Bishop Weaver.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Ralph Oduor moved the adoption of the Consent Calendar in the Pre-Conference booklet, noting that RS-118, RS-119 and RS-120 have been removed. It was adopted.

Shelly Page, CEO of the NEUMC Federal Credit Union, shared an update on the services offered through the Credit Union. Their office moved to Maine, with a branch office in Concord, MA. They have established a Visa card program, which helps congregational development in the New England Conference. They provide student loans. She invited those who have used the credit union to stand, and invited everyone else to stop by their table.

Bishop Weaver gave an update on Byungmoo Lee, who had a serious eye operation. He has had no health insurance. During the Clergy Session, \$2,015 was raised to assist Byungmoo Lee. The Bishop extended the opportunity to all laity and clergy to give. A basket will be in the narthex after the session.

GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES DELEGATION –

Bonnie Marden and delegates made the presentation. A total of 996 delegates were at General Conference from around the world. The New England Conference delegates divided among 3 microphones and read a script, sharing about their experiences of General Conference. Delegates from New England represent an incredibly diverse group. Some of the policies set at General Conference were mentioned. The Africa University Choir was celebrated, as we observe the 40th anniversary of the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction. Many constitutional amendments from GC will come before the Annual Conference in 2009. Martin McLee thanked everyone for the e-mails and voicemails offering prayers; he asked for continued prayers, especially as we the delegates head to the Jurisdictional Conference.

The delegates decided to endorse both Aida Irizarry Fernandez and Linda Campbell Marshall as Episcopal nominees, and invited the body to also endorse them. Every Annual Conference has the opportunity to nominate one or more persons to be put forward at Jurisdictional Conference for bishop.

ENDORSEMENT OF EPISCOPAL NOMINEES – Ralph Oduor outlined the process which is based on Policies and Procedures found in the Pre-Conference Book, as follows: Two nominees, namely, Linda Campbell-Marshall and Aida Irizarry-Fernandez are listed in the Pre-Conference Book, with brief bios. Nominations may also be made from the floor prior to voting. If you are eligible to vote for nominees, you should have one green, one yellow, and one red ballot. The ballots may be secured by giving your name to the ballot clerk in the lobby. If your name is not on the list of those to receive a ballot, and you believe you are entitled to one, you must see the Conference Secretary. Eligibility to be nominated:

Any Elder in full connection may be nominated.

Eligibility to vote: Lay:

1. Each lay member of Annual Conference or the alternate, if the member is unable to be here, as well as each equalization member, and;

Clergy:

2. Any clergy member including Local Pastors under appointment may vote.

3. 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 also explained the Jurisdictional Election of nominees, making it clear that they are nominees rather than candidates.

Bishop Weaver called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

Ralph Oduor continued to detail the Balloting Process:

“You may make your selection for the ballots according to the following:

Decide which two nominees you wish to vote for.

Select your first preferred (number one) nominee and circle the letter to the left of that name on the green ballot, which is worth 5 points.

Stand and hold your card up until an usher has collected your ballot

Be seated then select your second preferred nominee and circle the letter to the left of that name on the yellow ballot which is worth 3 points.

Stand and hold your card up until an usher has collected your ballot.

Since there only two nominees, instructions for the RED ballot were not needed because voting ended with the yellow ballot

Several questions were answered by Bishop Weaver and by Ralph Oduor.

Stephanie Anderson asked that “Episcopal candidacy” be explained

Bishop Weaver said that Episcopal nominees are offerings to the Jurisdictional Conference of persons that an Annual Conference believes have the gifts and graces to serve as bishops.

Randall Sherry asked if only one of the two persons before us may be nominated?

Bishop Weaver answered that the decision comes through a combination of points on the ballot and the percentage of people who vote for a candidate. According to our

procedures, a nominee must have 25% of people vote for them on first or second ballot, plus a ranking according to number of points.

Ralph Oduor said that because we have only two nominees, our rules state we can only send forth up to two nominees.

Dwight asked how it would occur that no nominees were sent forth.

Bishop Weaver stated that if a lot of names were added to first ballot, it would be possible for no one to receive 25% of the vote

Nizzi Digan asked if the two delegates will be given a chance to speak, and what is the advantage or disadvantage of sending one versus two delegates, and if we as a Conference are intentional about diversity, what are the needs we should address in the Council of Bishops?

Ralph Oduor stated that no speeches are permitted by the Rules.

Bonnie Marden said it's difficult to predict what will happen at Jurisdictional Conference and urged we trust the Jurisdictional Conference to discern among the nominees presented.

Bishop Weaver gave some background about the current ethnic and gender make-up of the Council of Bishops.

Ralph stated that Green cards are worth 5 points; Yellow cards are worth 3 points.

Sarah Woodward maker of a motion to suspend the rules withdrew it after some floor discussion. There was no objection from the body, therefore the motion was removed.

Mike Davis asked, "how does a delegate not support either candidate?"

Bishop Weaver said to write in the word "none"

Allen Ewing Merrill asked, "can we circle same name on both cards?"

Ralph answered "yes."

Bishop Weaver led us in prayer before the balloting.

Balloting using the green ballots proceeded as instructed above. Usher/tellers collected the completed ballots.

Balloting using the yellow ballots proceeded as instructed above. Usher/tellers collected the completed ballots.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Phil Viall, RIM District Lay Leader and a member of the Board of Laity, to sit at the table with him, and to help preside.

A WITNESS TO CONSCIENCE - Scott Campbell, Don Rudalevige, We Chang, Susan Morrison representing the Reconciling Ministry Network and the Board of Church and Society, introduced RS-214, a resolution for conversation and dialogue without a formal vote. It sought to address the inequality about human sexuality in the Book of Discipline. They said they are seeking input on a proposal to create a new statement on human sexuality. They asked the body to meet in groups of 4, for about 5 minutes, to talk about what is important to include in this statement, and then write down 1 or 2 sentences. There will be a chance to share these written statements. No vote will be taken, but an opportunity to offer your input. Next year we will have the opportunity to review what comes out of the process. There were many questions following the breakout time.

Bishop Weaver spoke in support of the process. He said there are faithful people who have different perspectives on the issue of homosexuality. "I came out of the process at General Conference believing that parliamentary procedure is not where we are as a church – we need to do some listening. I see this as closer to Holy Conferencing than parliamentary procedure sometimes is."

Dave Abbott said "I support Holy Conferencing, but schedule-wise where will this put us – will this put us at risk of not hearing other issues fully?"

Bishop Weaver answered that it would be hard to determine. All written statements may be given to Wanda Stahl.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS - We Chang for the Board of Church and Society moved adoption of RS-208, concerning undocumented immigrants. He invited Santos Escobar to the podium.

Santos Escobar spoke about many factors that cause people to immigrate to this country. The principles on which this country is founded, mercy and justice, have been changed lately. He spoke also of the recent raids in New Bedford. "It's very difficult to see the situations of people being arrested and suffering. I love this country, but it is difficult to see the changing treatment of immigrants. There is a new law allowing police officers to search for documents of immigrants. Immigrants have been persecuted and exploited. We as a church should play a more open role to help these people. There are thousands of people who are going through this agony. Our UMC Church is a church that always fights for justice. If we openly do justice in other things, I invite you to open yourselves to do justice here. We can pray for this reality, we can be advocates and we can write letters to our lawmakers."

There was a lot of conversation on the issue of undocumented immigrants. There were attempted amendments, and some friendly amendments allowed.

Bishop Weaver led the body in Prayer in hymn "Spirit of the Living God."

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE by Santos Escobar – The principles of which this country was formed have changed; Immigration rights and privileges. "I love this country because there are a lot of benefits for my family." There is a law that grants the police the right to search immigrants for documents. "Our people have been persecuted." The UMC always fights for justice. "Open your ears to hear the cry of our people." There was another riot in Newport, RI and 50 persons were arrested. Some were working, and some just shopping for families. There are 2-5 children in those families. He urged the body to take action and help these people; write to our governments and seek Justice. "It's Time to Take Action"

After a vote on call of the question prevailed by the necessary margin, RS-208 as amended was adopted.

Ralph Oduor made some announcements and said we would convene on Sunday at 8:00 AM.

Grace was sung by a member of Mt. Bellingham UMC, Chelsea, MA.

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

SATURDAY EVENING

ORDINATION SERVICE – Bishop Weaver commissioned probationary elders and ordained full elders:

Jacquelyn Brannen, Justin Hildebrandt, Byungmoo Lee, Katherine Mitchell, David Nicol, and John Park were commissioned as probationary elders.

These persons were ordained Elders in full connection, under the provisions of the 1992 Discipline:

: Duane Clinker, Dorothy Matson, and Patricia Miller Fernandes.

Santos Escobar was received as an Elder in full connection, having previously been ordained in another denomination.

These persons were ordained Elders in full connection:

Rachel Fisher*, Marion Grant, Richard McKinley, Rebecca Mincieli, and Jan Parke

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: Winston Edwards, Nadia Fellah, Bill Gural, Bo Jackson Landsperry Dondi

LaRue, Connie Maginnis, Kevin McGovern, Sandi Petro, Ray St. Pierre, Jennifer Rajala, Barbara Shepard, Shallan Sullivan and Armanda Jean Sweet.

SUNDAY MORNING JUNE 15, 2008

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 8:00 A.M. The Conference opened with music, “Net Song.” Bishop Weaver reminded everyone that this morning on Conference Sunday, the Annual Conference body is united with churches across the Conference. He read scripture from Psalms, and referred to an article in the Sunday Boston Globe, featuring a key question, “Here is the Church but where are the People?” One of the pictures on the cover is that of First UMC, Southbridge, MA.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed David Bolster, CWM District Lay Leader and a member of Board of Laity, 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 – Yong Ja Kim said that when she first came to this country, she thought it was the most blessed country with many diverse people. She didn’t experience racism until she was ordained and appointed to a cross-cultural church. Since then she has dedicated herself to dismantling racism and for inclusiveness in our conference. As she goes off as chair of the Commission on Religion and Race, she prays the new chair will be sensitive and dedicated to the goal of inclusiveness.

She showed a video from GCORR called the “Journey to Inclusiveness.” She reported the Statistics for yesterday, Saturday, June 14, 2008, for 8 presentations: Reconciling Ministries, United Methodist Foundation, Conference Statistician, Black College Fund, Board of Ordained Ministry, United Methodist Foundation, Anti-Racism Steering Committee, and Nicaragua Covenant: Asian – 2, Black – 4, Hispanic – 3 (guests), White – 15, Lay – 7, Clergy – 12, Male – 20, Female – 28, Young Adult – 2, Adult – 10

Sam Johnson of Spiritual Formation presented a gift of bowl bell to the cabinet. It was accepted by John Blackadar.

Ginny Wright, Vice President of UMW, asked all UMW members to stand up and be recognized, then showed a DVD “In Mission Together”.

DISTRICT 4 APPOINTMENTS - Mike and Jan Davis, Co-Superintendents read the Tri-State District Appointments, following the process established earlier. Tri-state won the “Nothing But Nets” basketball.

HISTORY VIGNETTE, a moment of conference mission history - highlighted networking between the Education and Mission enterprises in the Conference, especially starting in the Tri-State District.

EXTENDING HOSPITALITY TO VERMONT CHURCHES - John Blackadar moved adoption of RS-209A the substitute for original Vermont resolution. He noted that the 2008 Troy Annual Conference approved the substance of this resolution. Jurisdictional Conference Boundaries Committee will make recommendation to the Jurisdictional Conference, which has ultimate authority.

Conversation – It will be exciting and wonderful by one from Canaan, VT. A query elicited a reply from John that we should practice radical hospitality, seconded by Sam Johnson. Vicki Woods asked about integration of BOOM and other committees. Sharon Jones warned about statistics and the concern for the small church. Do we have a way of getting small churches to cluster and work better together? John says they are similar to the small church in Maine, etc. Al Bunnell who is pastor in Whitefield, NH stated that there are

no borders between VT and NH. He does funerals in VT. Sandra Bonnette-Kim recalled that we had visitors from VT who left yesterday disappointed and hurt because we did not address this resolution while they were here for two whole days. She suggested we send a letter of apology to them. There was a welcome from a Mainer. Carol Stevens suggests that local churches adopt a VT church. Randall Scheri who lives near Al Bunnell and favors the invitation said there is such a similarity between the churches; they are more alike than not alike. He is open to adopting VT churches. David Beard used to be pastor of Williamstown, VT before they were in the Troy Conference. Most of his ministry was in the Troy Conference. In a time of tragedy in his family, the Troy Conference and people of VT were always there for him and his family. We should be saying "thank you for coming."

Jim Todd made a friendly suggestion for "partnership" instead of "adoption" of churches.

A VT visitor stated that the churches bring diversity. A concern was made about financial ramifications since we are taking on so many small churches. Nancy Collins urged us to go outside the box and not be concerned about small churches. Let's be the body of Christ! Let us let God be at work! Veta Daley from Springfield, MA - Let's embrace this partnership as Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Another pastor expressed more concern for the small church. Melissa Tustin spoke in opposition. She wants a report from BOOM about part time appointments that might increase after VT joins New England Conference.

Bishop Weaver offered prayer prior to voting.

The motion was adopted. John Blackadar on behalf of CCYM issued two invitations for full scholarships to VT youth to attend the November 8 "Be Abstract in Ministry" event.

Pat Thompson who is serving in the Troy Conference said on behalf of VT brothers and sisters, thank you!

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 earlier. She announced that George Button was a Certified Lay Minister. She stated that there are two new churches; one in Putnam, and the other in East Hampton, CT.

HISTORY VIGNETTE, a moment of conference mission history – Margaret Bickford playing Dr. Fisk of the Wesleyan University. Jason Lee was the first to travel to Native Americans in Oregon, and open it up to Methodism.

SUSPENSION OF RULES - Travis Bonnette-Kim made a motion to suspend the rules. Motion was adopted by 2/3 majority vote.

Travis Bonnette-Kim then made a motion that only two speeches each three minutes long, on either side of a motion be allowed before a vote may be taken. Dave Abbott stated he was disappointed and spoke against the motion. It was seconded and adopted.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Sue Davenport asked for moment of prayer for Lisa Svensen because of the death of her father-in-Law. Bishop Weaver led the body in prayer for the family.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP (COL) - Linda Reiber-Pike, Chair, presented the committee's nominating report from COL's handout 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.

Linda Reiber-Pike moved the adoption of RS-215 and RS-216. It was seconded and adopted.

She also showed a PowerPoint presentation of changes to the COL report:

Deletions:

- Rich Hughen from Personnel
- Craig Dawson, CWM, from Church Building and Location
- Phil Susag, CWM, from Church Building and Location
- Allan Wells-Goodwin, MME, from Church Building and Location
- Ricky Aiello, CWM, from Committee on Ministry
- Leslie Hastings, MBH, from Committee on Ministry
- Virginia Jones-Newton, MBH, from Committee on Ministry
- Gary Nettleton, MBH, from Committee on Ministry
- Erica Robinson-Johnson, MBH, from Committee on Ministry
- David Stackpole from the Visioning Table

Board of Church and Society

We Hyun Chang, Chair

Additions:

- Rich Hughen, Episcopacy
- David Stackpole, VIM Coordinator
- Fay Flanary, NEC Secretary of Global Ministries
- Lisa Briget-Cass, Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM)
- Gary Richards, CWM, Church Building and Location
- Roberta Williams, CWM, Church Building and Location
- Paul Jakowski, CWM, Church Building and Location
- Michelle Grube, CWM, Committee on Ministry
- Kelly Turner, CWM, Committee on Ministry
- Shawn Wilson, CWM, Committee on Ministry
- Doreen Powell, MBH, Committee on Ministry
- Richard Capron, MBH, Committee on Ministry

Sandra Bonnette-Kim stated that she was no longer the Chair of the Asian Commission and corrected the name of Yoo-Yun Cho Chang, a member of the Commission on Religion and Race, and now the Chair. Dave Abbott wanted names of Jeff Hunt and Rick McKinley added to the local church Transformation Team. Other corrections were made.

Yong Ja Kim stated that Alexander Lee had asked to go off the Commission on Religion and Race, and that Patricia Parent would go on it.

Linda Reiber-Pike, moved the adoption of the entire amended slate and election of all those nominated, RS--.218. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Oscar Harrell the Conference Lay Leader thanked Ethel Franks for her last 14 years as Director of Lay Speaking Ministries. Linda thanked Ethel then asked her to introduce the new Conference Director, Rebecca Hewett.

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.

Bishop Weaver offered a prayer for all approved as the members of the various agencies, boards and committees.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - Tom Davidson moved adoption of 2009 Budget, RS-118. David Nicol, Buxton, S. Portland, ME, recalled that line item for Maternity and Paternity leave is \$5,000. He made a motion to reduce bottom line by \$5,000, thus removing the line item. After some discussion, David withdrew the motion. The 2009 budget resolution was adopted.

ORGANIZATIONAL – Bishop Weaver welcomed Ruby Blake, incoming MBH Co-District Lay Leader and a member of Board of Laity, to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE NOMINATING POOL - Bonnie Marden and Richard Gross, representing the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation, presented names for the Pool. Bonnie and Richard recommended that names of all General, and Jurisdictional Conference delegates and reserves be listed in the pool. They moved adoption of the slate with additions from the floor. The slate will be brought to the Jurisdictional Conference to vote on persons to fill General Conference agencies, boards and committees. The following persons have expressed interest:

CLERGY:

Justin Hildebrand
Bruce Pearson
James McPhee
Nizzi Santos Digan
Tracy Reeves
Don Rudalevige

LAITY:

Rich Hughen
Natalie Blake
OLDER ADULTS:
Don Rudalevige
Federico Carmona (Hispanic)
Shawn Parker
John Park (Asian American)
Rachel Vogelzang de Lima
Cynthia Edgerly
LaTrelle Miller Easterling
Ruby Blake (African American – lay)
Susan Davenport
Patricia Parent (Native American)
Ken Edgerly
Nadia Fellah (Youth)
Angela Tarbox
Gabriella Garcia (Hispanic)
Zachary Leach
Stephanie Anderson

The motion was adopted and the list above became the Jurisdictional Pool.

Tom Bentum moved adoption of RS-212 - Making Evangelism a high priority. It was seconded, and adopted with amendments.

DISTRICT 3 APPOINTMENTS - John Blackadar, DS, read the New Hampshire (NHD) District Appointments, following the process established earlier.

John Blackadar moved the adoption of RS 213 - Discontinuance and merger of Berlin UMC. The motion was seconded and adopted.

HISTORY VIGNETTE, a moment of conference mission history, this time about women in mission.

THE HENRY DENMAN AWARD – Curtis Brown stated that we now have the privilege of presenting the 2008 Harry Denman Evangelism Award, which is made possible by a grant from The Foundation for Evangelism, an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. Jack Ewing, Executive Director of the Foundation for Evangelism, is here to help present the awards this year. Jack is the father of Sara Ewing Merrill, one of our pastors.

Jack Ewing stated that these awards are named for Dr. Harry Denman, a Methodist layman and leader. Dr. Denman organized The Foundation for Evangelism in 1949 establishing its mission to support the Church by providing resources to fund evangelism efforts. His simple belief was that a person could only see Christ – truly experience God's love – by seeing that love lived out in the lives of Christians. "Today we recognize two persons from the New England Conference who are living Dr. Denman's legacy. These persons, both lay and clergy are making a difference in the lives of the people they touch. The New England Conference in partnership with The Foundation for Evangelism is pleased to announce the 2008 Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipients."

Curtis Brown, Jack Ewing and Marcelle Dotson introduced Clint Brake of Hillsboro, NH, the winner of the Laity award for Evangelism through music, youth rock bands, and outreach through bands.

The clergy award went to Ellen Pierce of Vassalboro in the Northern Maine District, near the Canadian border, for starting the first year of Sunday School, among her accomplishments.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD - We Chang and Sue Rudalevige introduced the award recipient Rosa Capella and her work. In her own words: "the center of my life – came to a different culture – Jesus is the universal God of life and love and compassion. Bringing hope – it is a big word! - Happy today to be an example. . Let's continue to open a path as we go to bring hope and joy to the oppressed."

KIM JEFFERSON URBAN MINISTRY AWARD - Gary Richards explained that the award is given by the Jurisdictional Conference. The recipient is Don Rudalevige, in recognition of his leadership, especially the Urban Ministry Training Project. Don asked anyone who had participated in the project to stand and be thanked.

ENDORSEMENT OF EPISCOPAL NOMINEES – BALLOT RESULTS - Ralph Oduor announced that Linda Campbell-Marshall and Aida Irizarry-Fernandez had received the endorsements of New England Annual Conference, each having been ranked as required, and having received more than the necessary 25% of the votes.

Bishop Weaver asked them both to stand, and then led us in prayer for our nominees.

PENNY CHALLENGE RESULTS

NHD	250,414 (points)
RIM	90,121
CWM	88,112
MBH	66,916
NME	33,856
MME	29,336
TRI	20,749
CMA	19,098
TOTAL:	\$7,338.38

NOTHING BUT NETS CHALLENGE-

Sandra Bonnette-Kim announced the final results. Tri-State won the basket ball. The results:

TRI	\$18,451.50
MBH	\$14,046.59
CWM	\$ 6,871.00
NME	\$ 4,722.19
MME	\$ 4,308.17
NHD	\$ 4,512.60
RIM	\$11,550.01
CMA	\$ 2,431.85
TOTAL	\$66,893.91

The total above will buy 6689 nets!

The auction to win the signed picture of Big Baby Glen Davis stood at an offer of \$18. Sandra Bonnette-Kim wanted a higher bid. Martin McLee bid \$100 and won it!

Bishop Weaver presented Sandra, as thanks for her hard work for "Nothing But Nets" with a Basketball shaped crock-pot

Bishop Weaver thanked these persons for their work in the Annual Conference: Bonnie as choreographer, the organist, musicians, and dancers. He also thanked those who helped with Annual Conference in any way. He went on to thank Ralph and the Conference Staff, Jim and Charles, Dot, Oscar. "Thanks to all of the body for being part of the team!"

ADJOURNMENT – Bishop Weaver declared the 15th Session of the New England Annual Conference meeting at Wenham, Massachusetts, adjourned at 11:00 A.M., to begin the Worship Service honoring the 2008 confirmands. The 2009 Annual Conference will convene at Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts, June 18-20, 2009.

WORSHIP WITH CONFIRMANDS – For the second year this was once more a worship experience with youth and local churches honoring the 2007-08 New England confirmands.

ADDENDUM - Statistics for Sunday, from the Commission on Religion and Race, monitoring results: June 15, 2008 participation in Annual Conference: Asian – 2, Black – 4, Hispanic – 1, White – 37, Lay – 22, Clergy – 22, Male – 16, Female – 28, Youth – 9, Young Adult – 1, Adult – 32, Older Adult – 2