

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 7, 2006

CLERGY SESSION – Bishop Peter D. Weaver called the clergy session to order at 2:05 P.M. Ernest Belisle and Wesley Palmer, Co-Chairs of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM), introduced their report.

Bishop Weaver led us in worship. The entire session was a Holy Conferencing worshipful work.

Bishop Weaver congratulated Sue Evans, as the Registrar of BOOM, who then proceeded to answer the Questions as appropriate during the service. She read the names of our honored dead, followed by a moment of silence, led by Bishop Weaver.

Sue Evans recommended that Kerry Greenhill, Judith Hutton, Elizabeth Kubota be elected and commissioned as probationary Deacons under the provisions of the 2004 Discipline. They were so elected.

Sue Evans recommended that Lynne Campbell, Han Sung Kim, Lehlohonolo Montjane, Catherine Nicol be elected and commissioned as probationary members and be licensed for pastoral ministry in preparation for ordination in the Order of Elder under the provisions of the 2004 Discipline. They were so elected.

Sue Evans recommended that: Rebecca Hamann be elected as a full member in the Order of Deacon and ordained as a Deacon; Rebecca E. Baumann, Nizzi Santos Digan, Laurel Scott, Tiffany Steinwert, and Abraham Waya be elected as full members and be ordained as Elder. They were respectively elected.

During the question and answer period with Bishop Weaver, Maria Coleman, as the Dean of the Cabinet answered Question 17 (see Business of the Annual Conference.)

Other questions were answered and voted respectively, including those requiring $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ majority votes. The entire report was then adopted. (See Business of the Annual Conference.)

Bishop Weaver declared us recessed at 4:40 P.M.

MEMORIAL SERVICE – Our Service of Celebration with Remembrance opened at 6:30 PM. We remembered these saints:

CLERGY: Eva Cutler, George A. “Fred” Hess, Jr., Fitz Allen John, Tomila Joanna C. “Nan” Louise, Lewis H. Moulton, Charlotte S. Nachbar, John W. Ward, Jr., Seaton M. Woodley, Jr.

LAITY: David Sparrow, Nelson D. “Skip” Wood.

SPOUSES: Georgie L. Aschenbach, Kathryn “Kay” Barclay, Virginia Bradley, Elizabeth E. Chase, Gwendolyn M. Fenderson, Veryl Howland, Margaret B. Jernigan, M. Louise Love, Margaret B. McConnell, Robert Nachbar, George Strout, Margaret A. Olson Strout, Margaret Tennis-Hughey, Nathalie F. “Nat” Wiswell,

Retired Bishop S. Clifton Ives brought reflections and summarized the evening’s significance with these words from the United Methodist Book of Worship: “Never think lightly of the great good that God has done through you.”

These deaths were symbolized during the service by tearing cloth remnants, which were then tied together as a reminder that those who live on remain tied to the departed through faith and remembrance.

RETIREEES’ REFLECTIONS – Immediately following the Memorial Service, those retiring were honored, with an opportunity for those present, to give personal reflections. These were the retirees: Laurel U. Brown, Alta Chase, Albert Bunnell, Barbara Drisko, Sharon Dunbar-Link, Joyce L. Gray, Mary Weber Hall, Sally Havens, Betty L. Higgins, Jeffrey B. Kress, James D. Lundin, Leonard Mach, Thelma M. Nauth, David Kermit Norris, Richard J. Pagano, Donald J. Rudalevige, Tom Shanklin, Ruth E. Stallsmith, Carol Szulc, Joan-Anne Westfall, and Linda Wood-Boyle.

THURSDAY MORNING JUNE 8, 2006

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 10:00 A.M. with an inspiring worship service which included music led by Mitch Thomas and the Conference musicians. Readings from Revelation 7:9–17 and Joshua 4 preceded a Parade in which District Superintendents and the respective District Lay Leaders were later joined by members in the Conference from their districts. The leaders marched in circles throughout the Conference main floor, waving the banners and flyers of their respective districts, that later formed a circle backdrop for the chapel and a call to Holy Conferencing led by Bishop Weaver. Bishop Weaver read from Ephesians and preached a soul stirring prophetic sermon, “Holy Wholeness,” sharing his experiences at the United Methodist Annual Conference in Nigeria, who reconciled holy conferencing after civil unrest that had included attacks within churches. He then condemned gloating over the killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Iraq. He asked, “How have we come to delight in the killing of another child of God?” Thinking there would be no resolution against the war

in Iraq, he wondered if he was not “culpable”, as such. Wars in many countries show how much the world needs the witness of God’s love that we can provide. He urged us to debate in love; love for the military families, love for Iraqi families and children murdered out of the complicity we have in the Iraq war. He prayed for the Oneness of the Holy One. He led the Conference in singing “Lord, I Want to be a Christian in My Heart.”

The session continued following the opening worship, with a welcome by Bonnie Marden, Conference Choreographer. She thanked preparation teams, musicians, and welcomed special guests to the Conference, including: Bishop Felton May and his wife Phyllis; Bishop Clifton Ives and his wife, Jane; Randy Day, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries; Phil Newick; Ernest Mensah, the Black College Fund representative; and several members of the Iglesia Christo de Nicaragua.

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 Late Breaking Conference Material be adopted as the working agenda for this session. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor moved that Kristine Anderson, Elizabeth Bailey Roberts, David Calhoun, and Ann Beach, be elected as the Committee on Journal and assistant secretaries. The motion was adopted.

Ralph Oduor moved that Jean Ainsworth, George Button, June Carter, Paul Doucette, Julia Doutaz, Carole Fish, Calvin Fish, Paula Fletcher, Bob Jackson, Bob Johnson, Sue Lacy, John Loker, Brian Rooney, and Shallen 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 Late Breaking Conference Material booklet, which was

distributed here at the Registration table. He indicated that the vote on the Consent Calendar would be on Friday at 2 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.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE – Linda Rieber-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. There are still some openings. Nomination forms are on the Registration table to be completed, or see a member of the Committee. There will be some changes with the new Conference structure to be voted on at this session.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND – We-Lee Tan, President, brought greetings from the Foundation and gave a presentation on its work

CREDIT UNION – Shelley Page, CEO of the NEUM Federal Credit Union, brought greetings and highlighted the services of the Credit Union, which celebrated their 50th birthday this year.

Bishop Weaver welcomed first-time members of the Annual Conference.

Ha-Kyung Cho-Kim gave the noontime grace.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 11:58 A.M.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 1:35 P.M, and welcomed the first District Superintendent to present the appointments.

DISTRICT 1 APPOINTMENTS – Marcelle Dotson, District Superintendent (DS) of the Northern Maine District, read the new appointments and invited the new appointees to gather on the stage, accompanied by the District Lay Leader (DLL). Bishop Weaver and the DLL presented the respective appointments.

Bishop Weaver offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the pastors, laity, and churches of the district. This process would be repeated for each subsequent new appointee presentation by other districts.

CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FULL CLERGY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN – Edith Porter, deaconess from NME several decades ago was celebrated as an actor told her story of perseverance and ordination as one of the early women pastors. After each subsequent District presentation, a select pioneer clergy woman's story would be reenacted as above.

VISION WALKERS 2 – Bishop Weaver presented “Vision Walkers 2” – The text of this presentation is available on a CD on request. These are the highlights:

- In 27 years, there will be no one attending any United Methodist Church in New England, if the current trends continue unabated:
- 44% (236) churches had no Professions of Faith

- In 2004 68% (373) churches had no net gain in Membership
- In 2005, 22 churches moved from full to part time pastoral ministry
- This year, at least 25 more will join them
- Still, too many churches are struggling to maintain a full time pastor
- Using 120 in attendance, only about 66 (12%) churches should be full time

The Plot Thickens:

It's about: Names not numbers; Strength not statistics; Transformation not information; World not church

The Drama Unfolds:

Our Mission as the New England Conference is to equip, connect & support local, regional & global ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to serve all in his name.

Every staff person is a part of a comprehensive team to work closer with the local churches; District Superintendents serving local churches; Strengthening regional, district and cluster ministries; Enhancing communication connections – with focus on the Goal: Vision Walker Oscars!

ORGANIZATIONAL – Bishop Weaver welcomed Wendy Brousseau of the Board of Laity to the table, to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

CONFERENCE TRANSFORMATION TEAM – Rebecca Mincieli, Steve Notis, and Joan Humphrey reported for the Team. The report is in the Pre-Conference Booklet. The resolution is RS-202.

BISHOP'S FINANCIAL SUMMIT TASKFORCE – Bud Tracy, Erica Robinson-Johnson, presented an overview of RS 207, on page 18 of the Late Breaking Conference Material.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Tom Davidson, the Chair, gave an update on the current financial situation of the Conference. A special session of the Conference will be held on September 30, 2006 to present and vote on the budget.

LAY MINISTRY TRAINING – Ralph Oduor reported on the new lay ministry training, focusing on caring ministries, outreach, and leadership training, in addition to Lay Speaking. The main goal is to make disciples of Christ, develop geographically close opportunities for people to worship God and grow spiritually, nurture and equip persons to be spiritual leaders; help individuals to transform the world for Jesus Christ; and develop a strong partnership between clergy and laity emphasizing “claity.” Clergy and Laity alike are welcome to attend any and all training.

YOUTH MINISTRIES – Norm Thombs gave an update on the Conference regional youth ministries, with the assistance of Justin Wanamaker. There are 4 regional youth councils and a Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

Justin reported: that the Youth Council met in April, 2006. In 2000, youth went to Washington, D.C. In 2002 and 2003 they collected teddy bears. In 2003 they went to Youth event in Knoxville, TN and in 2006, they attended the Universal Studios Rock concert. Justin went to Ghana in February of 2006 for the Youth Annual Conference. They announced that the Penny Challenge is going on now at Annual Conference in the dining hall.

CONFERENCE CAMPS – James McPhee introduced the Site Directors of the Conference camps; Larry Peacock (Rolling Ridge), Jean and Michael Moore (Wanakee), Norm Thombs (Mechuwana) and Jeffrey Thomas (Aldersgate). Norm Thombs presented a special tribute to Jeffrey Thomas, who is retiring from Camp Aldersgate after 28 years, 23 as Director. He received a standing ovation!

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Ed Deyton, as the Chair of the committee and Curtis Brown, Director of Congregational Development, gave the report. They announced that the School of Congregational Development would be held October 26-28, 2006, at a location yet to be determined. Curtis stated that many coaches have now trained on Natural Church Development, and invited those interested to come to the Dialogue Session on Natural Church Development.

THE HENRY DENMAN AWARD for Evangelism – Debbie Canella received the laity award. She is a member of First UMC, North Andover, MA. Allen Ewing-Merrill, pastor of the First UMC, Hudson, MA, received the Clergy award.

Joy Mueller, Conference Statistician, gave her report. The report is available online on the New England Conference web site.

DISTRICT 2 APPOINTMENTS – David Svensen, DS, read the Mid-Maine District Appointments, following the process established with District 1. He was joined by Elizabeth Bailey Roberts as the Administrative Assistant and Ruth Cannon, as the District Lay Leader.

Mabelle H. Whitney, the first woman ordained elder in the Maine Annual Conference, was celebrated via an enactment of her struggle! She was recruited in 1921, ordained a deacon in 1925, and an elder in 1927!

Bishop Weaver asked everyone to pray for Bill Hewig, the Conference Chancellor whose mother, Ruby, passed away the day before.

Bishop Weaver made these announcements: The Dialogue session would be held 3:45–5 PM; at 7:00 PM, there would be a Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women.

Phil Susag stated that Zion Herald will publish daily Annual Conference briefs, titled “The Daily Christian Advocate.” He also stated that Zion Herald will be renamed the “Progressive Christian.” Phil then gave the grace.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 3:57 P.M.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF FULL CLERGY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN – At 7:00 P.M., a clergy women’s choir made a joyful noise to the historic contributions of women in ministry. The celebration was a pageant, “Courageous Past, Bold Future,” written by Rev. Pat Thompson, with a COSROW script from

1981. The gathering honored women as evangelists, deaconesses, local preachers, and ordained elders in full connection. Our conference has the highest percentage of women who are Elders in full connection, more that 30 percent!

FRIDAY MORNING JUNE 9, 2006

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 8:30 A.M, following a time of music and gathering prayer.

COMMITTEE ON JOURNAL – Ann Beach 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 – Ann Partner Nelson and Yong Ja Kim of Religion and Race, reported their monitoring evaluations. The previous meeting presenters were balanced and even showed improvement from last year.

ORGANIZATIONAL – Bishop Weaver welcomed Phil Viall of the Board of Laity to the table, to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

DISTRICT 3 APPOINTMENTS – John Blackadar, DS, read the New Hampshire District Appointments, following the process established with District 1.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) – Ginny Wright, Vice President, and Cindy Edgerly, the newly elected President of the Conference UMW, presented the report. The presentation included a parade of balloons by members of the UMW. Ginny explained the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION – Laurel Scott, Chair, presented the report. She moved adoption of the amended RS-114, 2007 Minimum Cash Salary resolution. The amended motion was adopted.

BOARD OF PENSIONS – Caroline Edge moved the adoption of RS -109, Retiree Health Benefit Continuation. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Caroline Edge moved that the amount from the United Methodist Publishing House be donated to the Central Conference pension program. The motion was seconded and adopted.

BISHOP'S FINANCIAL SUMMIT TASKFORCE – Bud Tracy called attention to the report printed in the Pre-Conference Journal and presented a PowerPoint slide show. He turned next to RS-207 in the Late Breaking Conference Material.

Bud Tracy without objection divided RS-207 in four (4) parts, as follows:

Part 1 (207A): Referrals and task force establishment, containing four recommendations, page 18, lines 8–34

Part 2 (207B): Recommended Action Items 1–3, page 18–19, lines 38–42 and 1–12

Part 3 (207C): Recommended Action Items 4 and 5, page 19, lines 14–38.

Part 4 (207D): Recommended Action Items 6–9, pages 19–20, lines 40–42 and 1–26

The motion RS-207A was adopted without change.

A motion to amend by deleting the phrase “and in reviewing the camps and conference centers” in line 5, page 19, was defeated on a vote count, 304 to 307.

A motion to amend by deleting the phrase “site committee members” from line 7, page 19 was defeated on a voice vote.

A motion to amend lines 10–12, on page 19, from RS-207B was made and accepted as a friendly amendment by the movers of RS-207B. The substitute lines 10–12 would read: “That a task force be established to implement RS 225 (2004). The Bishop will be responsible for appointing this taskforce. The Task Force will give serious consideration to honoring and implementing Resolution 225.” The amended motion RS-207B was The motion was seconded and adopted.

A motion to remove the sentence “Establishment of such an account will become a requirement in 2009” from lines 4, 12 and 24 on page 20 from RS-207C and RS-207D, was made and seconded. The motion was seconded and adopted.

DISTRICT 4 APPOINTMENTS – Mike and Jan Davis, Co-Superintendents, DS, read the Tri-State District Appointments, following the process established with District 1.

ORDER OF THE DAY – At 10:30 A.M, We-Lee Tan introduced Dr. James Salee, head of Development Office for Africa University and Vice Chair of the Africa University Board of Directors, who introduced the members of the Africa University Choir, who sang two gospel renditions The Choir was given a standing ovation.

Bishop Weaver spoke of his appreciation of our ministry in Africa, and then welcomed Bishop Felton May with his wife, Phyllis.

Bishop May gave the keynote address, in which he challenged the audience to “Act on what you believe.” If we truly believe in Jesus Christ, we must be “born anew” in spirit and start acting on our beliefs in the world. “Folks are hurting all over this country ...and people are too chicken to tell the truth that we are not dealing with the real issues of humankind. How else can we explain the fact that 44 million are without health insurance? “Why am I asking for the Lord’s work to be done?” He continued, “in Katrina, the browns and the blacks and the poor whites won’t be able to get out of town.” After leading the audience in the “Apostles Creed,” he told the story of Jack McConnell, a Presbyterian layman and inventor of Tylenol, who has helped found 48 free clinics in South Carolina. “It’s time for Christians who really love the Lord, to reclaim the language and moral commitment to live our religion unashamedly.” He again challenged New England United Methodists to act on their belief in the Apostles’ Creed.

It was announced that the Africa University Choir would present a concert during the lunch hour.

Herb Taylor gave grace for lunch. He also brought greetings from the United Methodist Homes in New England and offered thanks for the Golden Cross offering.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at t 11:55 A.M.

LAITY SESSION – The laity of the Annual Conference met at 1:00 PM for a

time of celebration and recognition of Lay Speaking Ministries. 100 additional Lay Speakers were trained in 2005, for a total number of Lay Speakers in New England Conference of 851.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 2:00 P.M.

Bishop Weaver introduced Heidi Chamberlain, new DS of the Connecticut-Western Mass District.

Maria Coleman, current DS, moved the motion of discontinuance of the New London Korean United Methodist Church, RS-210. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Maria Coleman read a statement regarding the merger of the Burnside and Hockanum United Methodist Churches in East Hartford, CT. The church will now be named “New Covenant.”

DISTRICT 5 APPOINTMENTS – Maria Coleman, DS, read the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts (CWM) District Appointments, following the process established with District 1.

Bishop Weaver recognized the years of service of Maria Coleman as District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet, as she returns to serve as pastor of a local church. She received a standing ovation!

ORGANIZATIONAL – Bishop Weaver welcomed Ruth Cannon of the Board of Laity to the table, to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Ralph Oduor moved the adoption of the Consent Calendar published in the Late Breaking Conference Material. The motion was seconded and adopted.

BOOM – Wesley Palmer, 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:

- Rebecca Hamann – Deacon
- Rebecca E. Baumann, Nizzi Santos Digan, Laurel Scott, Tiffany Steinwert, and Abraham Waya – Elders
- John Morgans, and Peter Remick – Deacons under 1992 Discipline, as Associate members.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGES–Rebecca E. Baumann, Nizzi Santos Digan, Laurel Scott, and Tiffany Steinwert, each read a statement with regards to the unfair treatment of women, especially on the issue of homosexuality.

Bishop Weaver stated we should keep praying to follow Jesus where he leads us by the grace of God’s Spirit. He led us in prayer.

LAITY ADDRESS – This year it was given first by the Associate Conference

Lay Leaders Ethel Franks who read 1 Timothy 3 in the Message, and John Robbins who read Ephesians 4:11–14, concluded by Oscar Harrell, the Conference Lay Leader who read Ephesians 4:4–12

Oscar shared his Christology, stressing that one does not need a bachelor's degree, let alone a doctorate, to have a revelation with the Lord. Christ was born; Christ died and returned from the dead "to save persons like me."

Oscar's faith was recently tested during the Bishop's visit to the islands in Maine. He was rescued on his transit from the boat to the dock, by the Bishop, the Co-District Superintendents Rev. Mike Davis and Rev. Janice Davis. He had faith that the Lord would take care of them. Above and beyond the praises and celebrations we give to the Lord, Oscar believes we need to share our gifts. God gave us those gifts to use; and indeed so many in the Conference are sharing their gifts. He said that words would be inadequate to express his thanks!

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES – Ellen Bridge introduced the Black College representative, Ernest Mensah of Ghana, a member of Trinity UMC, S. Carolina. He talked about his background of poverty, and how his mother was key in his early life.

He praised New England Conference as a pioneer for the Black College Fund. Our Conference gave 100% of our apportionment for the Black College Fund!

He is a living testament the Conference's generosity.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES – Fay Flannery, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, celebrated our covenants with Nicaragua and West Angola. She stated that many missionaries are from our conference e.g. Belinda Forbes. She recognized present or retired missionaries and asked those in audience to stand, as well as any Deaconesses. She also asked anyone or church who have participated in VIM, flood bags, etc. in the last 12 months, to stand. Many in the audience stood.

Fay announced that a Haystack Event – 200 anniversary in Western MA this fall.

NICARAGUA COVENANT – Sandy Melius introduced Philip Munios and other guests from Nicaragua, who spoke and shared a couple of hymns with the Conference. Sandy stated that we are celebrating 20 years of the Covenant with Iglesia Christo de Nicaragua. 23 churches currently participate in covenant relationships with GBGM missionaries.

Philip Munios thanked us for opening our hearts for 20 years of covenants, a covenant of two different denominations, but one in Christ! Philip presented Bishop Weaver with a plaque and certificate of recognition. He invited Bishop Weaver to visit Nicaragua next year.

AFRICA TASK FORCE – Ed Grant, Chair of Africa Task Force spoke of the Covenant with West Angola, and urged churches to adopt a West Angolan pastor (\$500 per year per church.) Many of the pastors have not been paid for many months!

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE – Allen Merrill accompanied by Karen Peters, Evelyn Johnson Moore, We Hyun Chang and others from the Task Force, gave the

Health Care Justice Task Force presentation. Using a PowerPoint slide show, he spoke of the broken Health Care system in the US. He referred to the 2004 Annual Conference Resolution of Health Care Justice.

Highlights:

- The United States Health Care System is broken
- Although more than 46 million Americans are uninsured, the United States spends more on health care than other industrialized nations, and those countries provide health insurance to all their citizens.
- Employer-based health insurance has eroded: Fewer than 60% of employers now offer health insurance.
- Since 2000, the number of Americans with employer-sponsored coverage has fallen by more than 3.6 million.
- 50 percent of all bankruptcies are due in large part to unpaid medical expenses.
- Every 30 seconds in the United States someone files for bankruptcy in the aftermath of a serious health problem.

What We're Doing:

- Free Medical Programs in our churches;
- Open Door Free Medical Program at First UMC, Hudson MA; Worcester Evening Free Medical Program at Epworth & Wesley UMC's, Worcester MA

Our Conference Resolution in 2004 calls for:

- Support for universal health care
- Health Care Justice Sabbath
- Health Care Justice & Advocacy Training events in each district
- Postcard & Letter writing campaigns.

The Task Force urged the support of House Resolution 676. Petition signatures are needed in support of Universal Healthcare.

MISSION POSSIBLE – We Hyun Chang and Gary Akeley led the Mission Possible presentation. Other team members on stage were, Garvin Warden, Kay Webb and Betty Palmer, Their dream is to add 50 new partners in mission and 2 new homegrown missions during the coming year. Highlights of the PowerPoint slide show:

Mission is Possible because no United Methodist Congregation is too small to join with fellow United Methodist churches to be a mission in connection.

Some examples:

- Hebron Village Outreach Center, Attleboro , Massachusetts – Envisioned and Established by Centenary United Methodist Church – Serves working poor families through its Food Pantry and After School Program.
- Western Maine Regional Ministry, Strong, Maine by United Methodist

Economic Ministry–Has been serving people in one of the most isolated areas in New England for the last 40 years.

- Down East Maine Missions, Machias Maine–Spiritual & Social Support services for Migrant & Seasonal workers, local elderly, disabled and low income residents, At Risk Youth in Washington County.

The conference sang song to the tune of “For a Thousand Tongues to Sing.”

UMCOR – A very brief video from Bishop Morgan Ward on Katrina relief by UMCOR was shown.

BISHOP’S FINANCIAL SUMMIT TASKFORCE – The remainder of RS 207 was continued from the morning session.

Bud Tracey moved adoption of RS 207C, action items 4 and 5 and RS – 207D, action items 6–9 as printed in the Late Breaking Conference Material and divided Friday Morning. The amended motions RS-207C and RS-207D were respectively seconded and adopted.

GLOBAL AIDS FUND – Lester Bennington moved adoption of RS-102 on United Methodist Global Aids Fund with an amendment. He accepted a friendly amendment to add to the end of the resolution asking that a copy of the resolution be sent to the President of the United States. The motion was seconded and adopted.

METHODIST CONFERENCE HOME – James McPhee moved the adoption of RS-205, amendments to the bylaws. The motion was seconded and adopted.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION AWARENESS DAY – James McPhee moved the adoption of RS-206, establishment of such a Day. The motion was seconded and adopted.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Ed Deyton introduced the PowerPoint slide presentation on Congregational Development. Also present on stage with Ed were Gary Richards, Peter Hey, Kay Webb and Sharon Swaz. An overview of the work of each sub-committee was presented, i.e. New church development, Urban Ministries, Local Church Transformation, and Town and Country.

DISSOLUTION OF UMC RELATIONSHIP WITH BRISTOL FEDERATED CHURCH – John Blackadar the New Hampshire District Superintendent, moved the adoption of RS-211. The motion was seconded and adopted.

DISTRICT 6 APPOINTMENTS – Ronald Wilson, DS, read the Central Massachusetts (CMA) District Appointments, following the process established with District 1.

The ministry of Jeanie Redstone, another pioneer woman minister from Vermont and NE Conferences, was celebrated.

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES – Aida Fernandez introduced Dr. Randy Day, General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, who spoke on the ministries of the General Board.

Dr. Randy Day made these points: GBGM is now recruiting 20 more full time missionaries especially those from North America; one of five children dies in

Africa before the age of 5; Join other Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) for community based malaria prevention, e.g. mosquito nets; there is a need for grass roots infrastructure in Africa, and churches can play a key role; Spiritual nourishment can come from children

Bishop Weaver announced that there would be a Conference session at 7 PM. Mary Hill offered the grace for dinner.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 5:14 P.M.

FRIDAY EVENING

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

ORGANIZATIONAL – Bishop Weaver welcomed Ethel Franks of the Board of Laity to the table, to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

MIGRATION AND BORDER ENFORCEMENT – Julie Todd moved the adoption of RS 208. Several amendments were offered, debated and defeated. The motion was seconded and adopted.

THE WAR IN IRAQ – We Hyun Chang noted that a substitute version of RS-209, would be presented.

Don Rudelevige moved the adoption of the substitute RS-209. The following was accepted as a friendly amendment. “Calling on the New England Conference to support those troops returning from Iraq with our prayers, love and gratitude for their service to our country.” The amended substitute RS-209 was seconded and adopted.

Bishop Weaver announced that Saturday session would start at 8:00A.M.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 8:10 P.M.

SARDINES AND BISCUITS – A Musical Miracle program by the youth of Camp Mechwana, followed the Friday Evening business session.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 10, 2006

CALL TO ORDER – Bishop Weaver called the session to order at 8:05 A.M.

ORGANIZATIONAL – Bishop Weaver welcomed Conference Lay Leader, Oscar Harrell to the table, to sit next to him and help Chair the Conference.

ZIEGLER AWARD AND PREACHING SERVICE – Jonathan Almond from Mathewson Street UMC, Providence, RI, explained the background for the presentation of the Ziegler Preaching Award.

We Hyun Chang presented the Ziegler Preaching Award to Martin D. McLee, Pastor of Union United Methodist Church, Boston, MA. He was introduced by Dave Jackson Lay Leader of Union UMC.

Martin McLee introduced the Union UMC choir who gave a few renditions of their musical talent. He then preached a passionate sermon urging us to kick down open the doors of our churches.

COMMITTEE ON JOURNAL – Ann Beach reported for the Committee on Journal that the proceedings of the previous day had been received and found to be in order. She moved that the today’s minutes be adopted. 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 of Religion and Race, reported their monitoring evaluations. Yong Ja Kim stated that meals should be more diverse. She was concerned that racism has not been adequately addressed.

A request was made that the statement from the female ordinands of yesterday be printed in the Conference Journal.

Ann Partner Nelson said that Pat Parent as well as Peter Parent are Native American, and urged contacting them to give thanks.

PREACHERS’ AID SOCIETY – Cathy McGovern reported that the Society will give a check to the Conference of \$500,000 for retirees’ health benefits.

DISTRICT 7 APPOINTMENTS – Aida Fernandez, DS, read the Metro Boston Hope District Appointments, following the process established with District 1. In addition to the District Lay Leader, she was joined on the stage by Josephine Sierra the Administrative Assistant.

The District Superintendent noted the two projects for the District this year. 1. Church Revitalization for English Speaking Ministries and 2. A New Church Start in the Korean Community in Boston.

A role play of a woman church leader in the early days of New England Methodism was presented, as has been done at the time of each reading of appointments during the Conference.

Erica Robinson-Johnson, played the role as she enacted the struggle of Mary F. Macomber, a woman minister ordained in 1914 at Stoughton, continuing the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of full rights for women clergy.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Gary Richards presented a brief report on the Nehemiah affordable housing project. He moved the adoption of an amended RS-204 resolution on Affordable Housing. The motion was seconded and adopted.

CONFERENCE TRANSFORMATION TEAM – Joan Humphrey presented for the Team with a PowerPoint slide show.

Joan Humphrey moved the adoption of RS-202 – Conference Transformation Team Proposal on page 18 the Pre-Conference booklet, and a small section in the Late Breaking Conference Material. The Team accepted friendly amendments. The amended motion was seconded and adopted.

COKESBURY AND UM PUBLISHING HOUSE – Bishop Weaver accepted a check from the United Methodist Publishing House.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE – Linda Rieber-Pike, Chair of the Conference Leadership committee presented the committee’s report found in the Late Breaking Conference Material, with additional changes on a PowerPoint slide show.

Linda Rieber- Pike, moved the adoption of the entire slate election of all those nominated, RS-212. The motion was seconded and adopted

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.

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 United Methodist Elder Care. All nominated were elected.

Bishop Weaver declared us adjourned as the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Elder Care.

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

TRUSTEES – Bernie Campbell, the president and other Trustees referred to a report handed to Conference members the day before.

Bernie recognized the service of Jim Rose who is retiring from the Board of Trustees this year.

Bernie reported on the New England Grant program. These churches have received grants: Community UMC in Byfield, MA; Grace Church in Lynn, MA; Hillside UMC, Goffstown, NH; Christ UMC, Lawrence, MA; Old West, Boston, MA; First UMC, Chichester, NH. Checks are available to help with recent flood damage.

Bernie answered several queries about NEC properties, such as the District parsonage at Lawrence, MA; former “Church of All Nations” property at Boston, etc.

Bishop Weaver said he hoped the Church of All Nations location will continue as a UM presence in Boston.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Ed Deyton of the Congregational Committee: introduced Ray Brady, who gave an overview of how to use the demographic packets made available at this Conference session. Ray used a PowerPoint slide show to explain Percept.

MISSION SHARE REVIEW COMMITTEE – MaryAnne MacKenzie gave an update on the work of the committee. She stated that 15 churches had received abatement on mission shares.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR – Bishop Weaver introduced Alexx Wood, the new Conference Communications Director. Alexx received a welcoming applause! She addressed the body and stated her objectives for her new job.

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW – Oscar Harrell and Joseph Moser made the report with assisting roles of several others involved in the Capital Fund Campaign, also known as “Together for Tomorrow.” The presentation on a PowerPoint slide show was narrated by various members of the Team and other participants in the campaign. Each participant witnessed to the pleasant surprise of the Campaigns success! These were some of the witnesses: Tracy Reeves, Jim Blair, Alex Wood, Bill Humphrey Pat McQue, Michael West, and Susan Baker.

Tom Gallen of Preachers’ Aid Society, reported that 330 churches through 3300 donors, have taken part in the campaign. A total of \$15,497,115 has been pledged or paid to the campaign as of June 10, 2006

Oscar concluded the presentation of Together for Tomorrow campaign.

Bishop Weaver offered comments on the success of the campaign. “I salute you United Methodists of New England! With God all things are possible!”

We are over on all the proposed goals, except Conference Camps and Retreat Centers, which were met at 95% (short \$100,000). He gave the opportunity to those present to make or increase their commitment to the campaign. He said “We will allow the Spirit to move us.” The body sang together “Give Thanks,” as commitment papers were distributed, completed and collected.

Bishop Weaver recognized the committee and the consultants, then offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the success of the campaign. He asked the body to give themselves a hand for the faith and courage demonstrated in the Together for Tomorrow Campaign!

JUDICIAL COUNCIL DECISIONS ON HOMOSEXUALITY – Dick Harding moved the adoption of amended motion RS-203, regarding Judicial Council Decision 1032 (and 1035). The amended motion was seconded and adopted.

Bishop Weaver asked if the body were willing to suspend the rules.

SUSPENSION OF RULES – Vicki Woods moved that we suspend the rules. Motion adopted by $\frac{2}{3}$ 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.

Vicki Woods and Bonnie Marden reminded us that next year we will be voting on delegates to General Conference in 2008 and that any member of the church can submit resolutions to the General Conference. Information will be forthcoming next year.

PETITIONS TO THE 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE – Scott Campbell moved that omnibus RS-301 to RS-311 be acted on as a group. He stated that similar petitions have been approved by Minnesota Annual Conference, among others. We want to join with other those Conferences in petitioning the 2008 General Conference.

Amendments to some of the resolutions were offered by adding the phrase “gender identity or expressions,” as follows:

- RS 301, in line 17 add “or expression” before the period
- RS 303 line 26 & 32 Add “or expression” after “gender identity”
- RS 305 line 35 and 37 after “gender” add “gender identity or expression”
- RS 306 Line 19 (remove “homosexual”) and add after “sexual orientation” “or gender identity or expression,” and line 25 after “sexual orientation” add “gender identity or expression” It was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Bishop Weaver called us to a time of prayer before the vote. The amended omnibus motion (RS-301 to RS-311) was seconded and adopted!

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – David Arruda for The Cutler UMC and the people of the Northern Maine District presented Bishop Weaver with a lobster tie and a picture of him wearing a bib.

UPDATE ON TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW – An additional \$78,815 was pledged this morning for the Together for Tomorrow Campaign with \$68,570 going to Conference Camps and Retreat Centers. Members of the Conference will also bring word of the campaign to their congregations.

DISTRICT 8 APPOINTMENTS – Gary Shaw, DS, read the RIM District Appointments, following the process established with District 1.

Gary Shaw announced the formation of a cooperative parish on Martha’s Vineyard, and the merger of Washington Park UMC of Providence and & Hillsgrove UMC of Warwick.

CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FULL CLERGY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN – Kate Morrison Cooper, celebrated. She was the first woman ordained elder in SNE in 1918, local elder in 1927.

The penny challenge was won by the New Hampshire District. Congratulations!

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Linda Campbell Marshall paid tribute and thanked all of the people who helped bring the Conference together. She moved the adoption of the resolution of thanks, RS-213. The motion was seconded and adopted.

ADJOURNMENT – Bishop Weaver declared the 13th Session of the New England Annual Conference meeting at Wenham, Massachusetts, adjourned, following the Ordination Service, and stand adjourned until the next regular session on June 6–9, 2007.

Bishop Weaver announced a special session on September 30, 2006 to act on the 2007 Budget.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 11:58 A.M. Grace for lunch was offered by Patricia Stanley of Heifer International. She also brought greetings and thanks to the Annual Conference.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

ORDINATION SERVICE – The service included: the commissioning of Kerry Greenhill, Judith Hutton and Elizabeth Kubota as probationary members as Deacons.

Commissioning of Lynne Campbell, Han Sung Kim, Lehlohonolo Montjame, and Catherine Nicol, as probationary members under the 2004 Book of Discipline.

Ordination of Rebecca Hamann as a Deacon in full connection.

Ordination of John Morgans and Peter Remick, as Deacons under the 1992 Discipline as Associate members.

Ordination as Elders in full connection of Rebecca E. Baumann, Nizzi Santos Digan, Laurel Scott, Tiffany Steinwert, and Abraham Waya.

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. Those who came forward were contacted by the Board of Ordained Ministry for follow-up.