

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 17, 2009

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), led us in worship then introduced their report, contained in answers to questions of the Business of Annual Conference. The entire session was within the context of worship.

Bishop Weaver asked Sue Evans as the Registrar of BOOM to read the names of those who had moved on to sainthood this year. Bishop Weaver then led the body in a prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance.

Sue Evans moved that Ronald Adcock, Anna Beach, Meredith Jo Beach, Linda Campbell-Marshall, James W. Cox, Virginia Jones-Newton be approved as retired elders. The motion was approved.

During the session, Ron Wilson, as the Dean of the Cabinet, answered Question 17 (See the Business of the Annual Conference.)

During floor action concerning those on "Honorable Location", BOOM moved that the Clergy Session of the 2009 NEAC act in accordance with the 2008 Discipline paragraphs 359.1 and 359.2 to terminate clergy orders of persons on Honorable Location who have not, in the last 2 years, completed the disciplinary reporting requirements. The motion was adopted with this proviso: pending verification by BOOM, as to whom the exemption would apply pursuant to Disciplinary prohibition of removing those placed on involuntary location prior to the 1976 General Conference.

Sue Evans moved that Federico Carmona, Jinyong Choi, David Dyrenforth, Preston Fuller, Glenn Mortimer, and John Nash be elected probationary elders. They were asked to leave the room after which they were each elected and greeted back with applause and a standing ovation!

Sue Evans introduced Kerry Greenhill and Elizabeth Kubota. She moved that they be elected as Deacons in Full Connection. They were asked to leave the room after which they were each elected and greeted back with applause and a standing ovation!

Cheryl Gates, on a personal privilege, raised the name of Judith Hutton as one approved, but her daughter has had cancer and three operations this year, hence, needs additional time. Cheryl asked us to keep her in prayer. Cheryl offered a prayer for Judith.

Sue Evans introduced Gwyneth Arrison, Meredith Brown, Lynne Campbell, Jinwoo Chun, Lehlohonolo Henrietta Montjane, and Paul O'Neil. She moved that they be elected as Elders in Full Connection. They were asked to leave the room after which they were each elected and greeted back with applause and a standing ovation!

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.)

Charles Stewart of the NEC Board of Pensions presented updated information on Health Insurance and Pensions matters affecting clergy.

Bishop Weaver declared the Clergy Executive Session adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON JUNE 18, 2009

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Our Service of Celebration with Remembrance opened at 2:30 PM. We remembered these saints:

CLERGY: James Mase Ault, Benjamin B. Conley, Walter G. Hartley, James Allen Nash, Donald E. Paige, John H. Pressey, Lawrence Snow, Gilbert Y. Taverner.

LOCAL PASTORS: Courtney Dale Hupp

LAIITY: Robert Parsons

SPOUSES: James H. Abbott, Jr., Sanford Berlin, William E. Bickford, Marjorie Chamberlain, Marilyn Clark, Mary S. Dartnell, Helen Laraba, Josephine M. Lavelly, Muriel R. Musk, Crystle Paige, Warren Rehe, Mary Sabine, Barbara C. Shirley, Sherleene Sissell, Kathryn C. Smith, Phyllis Snook, B. Val Jean Soper, Gladys Uhlinger, Dorothy Warfield, M. Pauline Watson, Marion J. Wells.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES – Ernest Belisle and Lynn McCracken, co-Chairs of BOOM handed a certificate to each retiree. We recognized and honored those retiring and some of them honored our saints above with stories of Love, Memory, Sorrow, Hope, Peace, and Strength: Ronald Adcock, Anna C.

Beach, Linda Campbell-Marshall, James W. Cox, Virginia Jones-Newton, Mary E. Miller, Leslie Pettit, Carol A. Stine, and Meredith Jo Bennett.

After honoring the saints, some of our 2009 retirees, shared reflections of their services.

THURSDAY EVENING

CALL TO ORDER – The Opening Worship at 6:30 P.M, included Districts marching in to the respective tunes of the district song. Bishop Weaver led us in prayer. An offering was taken for the Global Aids Fund. Bishop Weaver introduced the Rev. Adam Hamilton at 7:00 PM.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – The Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas, conducted the first of three 1 hour 20 minutes workshops on Leadership. The Church of the Resurrection is the largest UM church in the denomination!

He began by citing these statistics:

Bad news - statistics of 2001-2007: Membership declined by 4.4% -Attendance down 8.5% - Average age 58 - Many no longer able to attend - UMW down 17% - At current rate of decline UMW has 14 years left - Professions of faith, 18 % decline - Confirmation down 21% - Aging clergy, 800 under age 35 - Pastors best reach people within 20 years of own age - 2007 worship attendance declined by 23,000 - 44 years left in US for UMC if current rate of decline continues.

He stated that we need to change because with change comes hope. He went on to talk about qualities of leadership, bad and good. We may grow, with good leadership.

He distinguished between the “worst leaders you ever knew” - 4 attributes:

Too afraid to encourage troops to do their mission - Too much information led to fear and distrust - Back biting - Lack of trust for others; and extraordinary leader - 4 attributes:

Trusted people to do as they were asked - Encouraged mission accomplishment - Out with the troops - Encouraged honesty.

Rev. Hamilton summarized the qualities of a good leader: Authentic - people that know him the best respect him the most; Encourager, people like to be encouraged; Humble, understands it isn't all about them; Passionate; Courageous risk takers, put their neck on the line even if they get shot down - care for people; Dale-Carnegie still the best - "How to Win Friends and Influence People"; Don't take yourself too seriously - just keep going. He urged each leader to pick one good quality to work on in the next year, and to be more intentional about it.

Rev. Hamilton next talked about leaders and managers, highlighting the contrast in their qualities. What leaders do: Set tone of organization; Lay leaders and Clergy both set tone for the congregation because people are constantly watching. He related the story of where he parks at his church's parking lot. He parks the farthest from the church and leaders now follow his lead. Leaders:

- Represent the organization in the community,
- Hold the organization accountable to accomplish the mission
- Hold ultimate responsibility for success, and
- Are responsible for preparing the organization for the future.

Referring to John Kotter's book, "Leading Change"; It is important that leaders prepare people for the future and prepare for change; stupidity may be defined as doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. If you don't move into the present you won't move into the future. Young adults need to help make decisions; older adults bring wisdom and history; young adults lead change. Further contrasts between leaders and managers:

Managers	Leaders
Plan and budget	Establish direction and cast vision
Develop policies and processes	Align people and resources to accomplish a vision
Control and problem solve	Motivate and inspire
Create predictability and order	Produce change and chaos
Clarify and champion the mission	
Discern and cast the vision	
Motivate and inspire people to accomplish the vision	
Celebrate victories	
Evaluate shortcomings	

Note that leaders don't give up. In a leadership role, people will criticize what you are doing; get a thick skin and keep going. (Psalm 41)

Rev. Hamilton next talked about the 5 leadership principles, emphasizing that it's all about people; people skills; love people; be positive, not grumpy; brush your teeth - lay people want to be proud of you. He said that healthy organizations have a clear **MVP** – mission, vision, and plan:

Mission: why we exist; what we do; should fit on a T-shirt, such as "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world." Another example is Hallmark whose mission statement is "Enriching Lives".

Vision: where are we going? short-term and long-term visions. Have a discernable goal. Without a vision people perish (Proverbs); when you do something and people look forward to it, it gathers strength and vitality; what can you talk about that is a vision for next year? How can we take the people in the congregation and change the world? We need to talk of things of the world and cast a vision to help people think of a new vision.

Plan; help people develop the steps to accomplish the vision. Remember, change, innovate, improve or die.

Rev. Hamilton concluded the evening with the following illustration of the Discipleship pyramid (of those who attend church):

- 10% are nearing sanctification
- 20% are there every Sunday - give of their time and service - concerned for justice
- 30% are followers who are there many Sundays
- 40% go to church when the weather is just right. They put \$5 in the pot, if they think they are in the top 10% (not likely); the closer you get to Christ the more you think you are not there - if they think they are deeply committed, then they are probably in the bottom 40%

We tend to preach to and teach the top 30% - Jesus went to those below the bottom 40% to bring them in.

Sermons should take people on a journey over two years. Take "Discernment by Nausea": at a fork in the road, if the 1st choice is easy, comfortable and you sleep well at night but 2nd choice causes you to be sick to your stomach and stay awake at night, then the 2nd is the one you should travel. When faced with a fork, help people be willing to travel the road less traveled. Example: Old church building versus a school gymnasium that must be set up each Sunday and use hallways for classrooms and nursery.

Bishop Weaver opened the plenary session at 8:42 PM, and introduced Martin McLee, Metro Boston Hope (MBH) District Superintendent.

Martin McLee stated that there would be many guests during this year's Annual Conference. He welcomed: Eboni Lemon, Black College Student; Lydia Pierce, Mission Interpreter In Residence; Bill Neuert, General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBOPHB); Pastor Francisco Guzman, Otoniel Cortes, and Jairo Lezama of Nicaragua Covenant; as well as all the Vermont guests. He asked the Vermont guests to stand and wave, to a thunderous applause!

Martin McLee stated that we are one of most diverse conferences in the connection. To illustrate he invited us to say "welcome" in the variety of cultural persuasions reflecting the various areas of diversity - Welcome in English - Old English/Celtic dialect - Polish - Spanish - Hadau/ Philippines – Korean, etc.

COKEsbURY – Chet Pritchard of Cokesbury stated that Cokesbury cares - offers start-up program for new congregations; after fire; helped in developing nations this past year - Low-cost/free downloads available.

Cokesbury has in the past given to the pension fund. This year, due to economic downturn it has had to retrench and cut operational costs, trying to be fully self-supporting, hence, unable to assist with pension fund. He expressed gratitude for our support of Central Conference Pension initiative in past.

He announced the hours Cokesbury would be open during Annual Conference:

Wednesday: 1pm-7pm, Thursday: 9am-1:15pm; 2:30-7pm,

Friday: 9am-1:15pm; 2:30pm-7pm.

Bishop Weaver on the Central Conference Pension Initiative: Central Conference retirees receive no pension at all; those able are trying to create an endowment for the Initiative. Usually Cokesbury gave a check of about \$13,000. Since we will not receive a check, the Ordination Worship Service offering will go to the Central Conference Pension Initiative rather than the Bishop's Discretionary fund. He challenged us to give at least \$13,000.

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 during this year's Annual Conference. Bishop Weaver then welcomed Conference Secretary, Ralph Oduor. He stated that Ralph is a Lay person who serves Christ in many ways. He has a team of assistant secretaries, ushers and tellers, to help him with this function.

Bishop Weaver introduced Lisa Fagerstrom of the Commission on Religion and Race. Lisa talked about her role in monitoring the Annual Conference session. She said she would hold us accountable and that the impact of monitoring and reporting feels as if Big Brother/Sister is watching. As an example, she would monitor leaders and those speaking at the mikes, etc. She invited anyone wanting to be part of Monitoring team process to see her. In looking at reports, it might make us feel uncomfortable. The body should be seeing that the letter of the law or the spirit of the law is an invitation to Christian fellowship, and for all of God's children to be involved. She urged us to look at the Spirit, not just the letter of the law.

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 yellow (Lay) or green (clergy) voting card included in the registration packet.

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 stated the following concerning lost and found: A box for deposit of lost items will be located in the lobby. You may speak with Debbie Cannella there to retrieve or deposit a lost or found item. There would be no announcements from the stage concerning any lost items.

Ralph Oduor stated concerning miscellaneous announcements and messages: If you wish to deliver a message or make an announcement, please obtain a form to complete from Debbie Cannella in the lobby. Announcements would be placed on the bulletin board in the lobby, or if urgent, they may be displayed on the bottom of the screen. Further, material may not be distributed within the chapel without the approval of the Choreographer or the Conference Secretary. Only ushers/tellers or pages may distribute material inside 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. Joseph Chamberland moved an amendment that the bar include the balcony. The motion was seconded and the amended 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, Ami Sawtelle, 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, Donna Costa, Johanne Dame, Melanie Fengler, Yvonne and Richard Gross, Bob Jackson, Ted Locke, Fred Merk, Linda Peabody, Stuart Price, James Stephen, and 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, be adopted and printed in the Conference Journal. The motion was adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR - Ralph Oduor stated that RS-201 had been removed from the Consent Calendar, on page 2 of the Pre-Conference booklet. He stated that the vote on the Consent Calendar would be on Saturday at 9:21 A.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.

Bishop Weaver urged the body to conference with a sense of grace; people come here with a sense of the Spirit moving in their lives, which we must respect as we operate by parliamentary procedure. If one is not sure, come to the microphone anyway and we will try to help find the right procedure to make things happen. "Praylimentary" procedure: anyone may call a point of "prayerlimentary" procedure at any time; it is God's work, not ours. We should use it in church as well as at conference; and be open to the leading of God's Spirit.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CFA) - Barbara Cann, co-Chair moved adoption of RS-114, election of William V. Burnside II (Bill) as Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, to serve for the rest of the quadrennium. It was adopted.

BOARD OF PENSIONS - Charles Stewart, Chair of the Conference Board of Pensions, moved adoption of RS-115, election of the William (Bill) V. Burnside II as Treasurer of the Board of Pensions. It was adopted.

CFA - After Bill was introduced by Barbara, Charles and the bishop, Barbara Cann and Bruce Young, presented the 2010 Conference Budget. They especially noted:

- Proposed 2% rather than 4% increase for Conference staff
- No pay increase to cabinet (only for support staff as stated above)
- Budget doesn't include impact (expense or income) of joining of Vermont churches for next year.
- Mission share will stay the same
- Health care premiums will increase
- Pastor's monthly co-pay and church's blended rate will both increase
- ACH rate will incur a significant savings (\$1000)
- Property insurance will stay the same.

Bill Burnside addressed Conference, stating that the vote on the budget will be on Saturday morning.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - Ralph Oduor presented the 32 Proposed Constitutional Amendments that were brought by action of the 2008 General Conference. He gave these instructions:

- We will vote by ballot on all the proposed amendments on Friday afternoon. They are printed in the Pre-Conference booklet on page 13. We will vote on the amendments "as is", that is, they are not amendable.
- If you are eligible to vote you should have received a white ballot when you registered. If you are eligible to vote and do not yet have a ballot, you may secure one by giving your name to the ballot clerk in the lobby. There will be no replacement ballots.
- If your name is not on the list of those to receive ballots, and you believe you are entitled to one, you must see the Conference Secretary. Each eligible member's vote will count.
- Only Members in Full Connection (Elders and Deacons) as well as Lay and Equalization Members present at the time of voting, are eligible to vote on the proposed amendments.

Ralph Oduor announced that a dialogue session on the proposed Constitutional Amendments would be held Friday at 12:30 PM.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP - Richard Gross, co-Chair of the Committee on Leadership (Nominations) presented the nominating slate. He stated that the co-Chair, Linda Reiber, was unable to be present until Saturday. Ruby Blake would leave the committee. She has served since 2005. The committee is welcoming people from Vermont.

The committee has met throughout the year - 2-3 times in person but mostly by conference calls. He referred to the handout and welcomed concerns/errors/omissions/deletions, adding that the list was updated May 31. Anyone has corrections or anything not according what someone thinks is situation, let someone on committee know. The slate will be before the body for action on Saturday.

CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN - Joy Mueller, the Statistician, explored some stories and quizzed members. At the end of last year, there were 522 churches, 88,789 members and an average worship attendance of 31,356. See the details of her quiz and answers in the Statistician's report in this Journal.

Oscar Harrell announced that JoAnn Carlotto, Tri-State District Lay Leader had broken her wrist on the way to conference and would undergo surgery the following day.

Oscar Harrell led us in the closing prayer.

RECESS - Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 9:47 PM

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 19, 2009

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 9:00 A.M, following opening worship that began at 8:30.

ORGANIZATIONAL –Bishop Weaver welcomed Tom Davidson, former Chair of CFA and most recently the interim Conference Treasurer, to the table to help preside over the Annual Conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – The Rev. Adam Hamilton conducted the second workshop on Leadership. He was introduced by Kelly Sisney, a comedienne. Kelly shared some humor with us and made fun of the Church of the Resurrection. Adam mentioned that Kelly would be with him at the book signing, during the lunch break.

The subject was “Improving the Quality” of worship & preaching. He defined Worship as the Soul Food Café. He asked these queries: What quality meal do the folks get? Is it welcoming, rewarding? What about the ambiance? The food should be good just as in a good restaurant.

If one is connecting with a post Christian world, one would ask, Is this value-adding to my life? Would they get anything out of it, and would they be coming back to it? If we can improve the quality of worship, they can be more committed.

A survey asked, “Do you expect lives to be changed by attending worship?” and 75% said “No,” 72% said they did not expect to have an encounter with the living God. They expected to be told what to do. Our faith became between the head and the heart, like a forest that hasn’t had rain. Methodism was a Pentecostal movement. They were hungry for the heart, and we are interested in both the head and the heart. Hamilton went on to say, rather than pastors planning worship on a Friday afternoon, pulling up the old bulletin, changing the songs, and prayers, pastors should ask:

- How can I help people praise God with their hearts? (that is, experience God)
- How can I help people experience the presence of God in worship?
- How do I help them to pray, confess their sins, offer thanksgiving to and have God in their lives?
- How do I help them hear God speak?
- How do I help them offer themselves to God?
- How do I help them leave inspired and encouraged?

Rev. Hamilton offered some insight in how he does it at his church, leading by modeling on Sunday mornings. He said that a pastor needs a minimum of 10 hrs per week, in sermon preparation. Lay people should be doing visiting, taking calls, etc. The pastor needs to know what the issues are, what’s going on in their life. He also revealed his success with Christmas Eve worship. His church holds several a day beginning a few days before Christmas.

He listed five Basic Sermon Types: Fishing Expeditions - What sermons are compelling to non-church people? Best time to announce is Easter and Christmas. Example: Why are there so many religions? Discipleship, Pastoral Care, Equipping and Sending, as well as Institutional. Record a news story and start a sermon with it. Adam led us in prayer before the break.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – After a short break, Kelly Sisney opened with comedy, and then Adam Hamilton led the third and last workshop. The topic this time was Evangelism and the Case for Methodism. He urged pastors to get to know their superintendent and let her/him “know your thoughts”.

Here are some questions a congregation needs to answer, in order to reach beyond the walls:

- Why do people need Jesus Christ?
- Why do people need the church? I’m spiritual but not religious. (Ezekiel 34). The laity and pastors of NE Conference are the shepherds.
- How do we look at the people that are the lost sheep? (Matthew 9:36) “Like sheep without a shepherd” Luke 19:10
- Why do people need this particular church? Help your people find what is special for them, by inviting them to church. They need to experience what’s at our church. We’re brand new, come dream with us. How do we look at the people that are the lost sheep? (Matthew 9:36) Like sheep without a shepherd” Luke 19:10.

Tips for Preparing for Visitors:

- Door Signage
- Best Parking place for New Visitor
- Greeters are trained to be especially friendly to new people.
- Introduce yourself as you being your worship.
- Good upkeep of nursery, bathrooms, sanctuary.
- Up-To-Date rather than “This church feels like an antique store.”

Outreach:

Hamilton was not sure Rick Warren’s “Purpose Driven Life” study worked in his church. In this the 21st century, he starts by inviting participants to be part of mission work, invite to church, equip them, go out into the world and spread what they learned.

First Time Visitor-Follow-up:

Pass attendance cards or forms at a specific time during the worship. The ushers hand them to visitors. Call on first-time visitors after church, by showing up at their door, bringing them a coffee mug to keep, and thank them for visiting. On their second visit, welcome them back, calling them by their first name.

Miscellaneous:

Give postcards of service to hand out to friends for special events such as Christmas Eve, etc. Revival starts with prayer. Rev. Hamilton had handed out cards to his congregation to pray for our congregations in the New England Conference.

Bishop Weaver led us in prayer for Adam Hamilton. Bishop Weaver challenged us to think of one or two things we've heard in these past two days that we could go and work on back home.

Ralph Oduor announced that the afternoon session would begin at 2 pm.

Camp Directors, David Murphy of Covenant Hills, VT; Jennifer Carpenter of Aldersgate; Norm Thombs of Mechuwana; Larry Peacock of Rolling Ridge; Jean & Michael Moore of Wanakee (Jean and Michael could not be attend, but we kept them in prayer); led us in singing Grace before lunch.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared a recess at 12:33 P.M.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

CALL TO ORDER - Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 2:00 PM.

ORGANIZATIONAL – Bishop Weaver welcomed Cindy Edgerly, President of UMW, to the table to help preside over the Annual Conference. Bishop Weaver read from Proverb 18:19.

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 made a motion to adopt them. The motion was adopted.

MONITORING REPORTS – Lisa Fagerstrom, Chair of the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) brought the day's report. Lisa referred to the video clips by Adam Hamilton during last night's session and noted that only white people were in them. She said, "It is not about being 'bad people', it is about challenging us to notice. White sisters and brothers had not noticed. Black, Hispanic Asian and those of color... brothers and sisters just grinned, in a tired, 'I've seen this before' kind of grin and shook their heads and walked away" What did you notice? Musicians had diversity. Ushers and those who talked about money, were mostly white. She invited all to be God's body and notice more. What will happen when you go back to your community?

THE VISIONING TABLE – Veta Daley, the Chair, saying this was the 2nd year of operation. They are continuing to build spiritual relationship as foundation of their work, meeting three times per year. The team is still trying to understand and articulate their purpose in the midst of membership decline in New England Conference. Following Jesus' command is not easy! Visioning Team is focused on making disciples, as the Visioning Table focuses on Expanding the UM Community by sharing stories of how God has assisted us in our lives; our life- line to rebuilding the membership in the churches. As United Methodists, we are conquerors and we take spiritual risk.

If we are going to improve membership and attendance, we must accept the responsibility to be John Wesley of the day. Can we? Yes, we can, through invitation to worship; bring one person each in, take responsibility to nourish that individual. Make a covenant, a challenge; invite one member over next year. If each one invites one, we could double in one year.

Veta Daley stated that we are at a crossroad in the UMC, a people under spiritual pressure. The challenge before each of us believers, and conquerors is to go forth in faith; and know that God is able and he will assist each and every one of us to bring those souls in.

ABOUT PRAYER – Alan Grill moved the adoption of RS – 203 on prayer. He accepted as a friendly amendment the following: "Recognizing that people with health issues should consult with their health care providers before engaging in a fast." The amended motion was adopted.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS – Ralph Oduor gave further instructions about balloting on the 32 issues. He noted that they were not amendable. Those qualified for vote were lay members and equalization members, Deacons and Elders in full Connection. In order to vote, one must be within the bar of the Conference (not out in lobby).

Scott Campbell explained the bases of the 32 proposed amendments in groups as follows:

Group 1: Amendments 3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 - changing central to regional. Central conferences refers to those outside US, amendments would change from Central to Regional Conferences - using separate title sets US as normative and others secondary – "Central Conference" is too similar to "Central Jurisdiction" which existed from 1939 to 1968 would allow the General Conference to proceed with changes in worldwide church in 2012.

The first group of amendments deals with a change in terminology. Currently the Constitution uses the term "Central Conferences" to refer to the structures of the church outside of the United States.

There are three primary reasons the General Conference proposed this change. Referring to the churches outside of the United States by a separate title perpetuates the idea that the United States is normative and other parts of the church secondary. The term "Central Conferences" is too similar to the title "Central Jurisdiction," reminiscent of the institutionalized racial segregation that existed in the Methodist Church from 1939-1968. Passing this language change would allow the 2012 General Conference to proceed with structural changes in the worldwide church without having to amend the Constitution first.

Group 2: Amendments 4, 10, 23, and 26. This group of amendments deals with structural changes that would take place within the church by establishing regional conferences.

*The Judicial Council has recently ruled that if proposed amendments to create regional conferences are passed, the General Conference would be mandated to create one or more regional conferences in the United States (JC 1100), although the specific responsibilities and powers of the proposed regional conferences have not yet been determined.

Group 3: Amendment I - Paragraph 4. Amendment 1 deals with Paragraph 4 of the Constitution. The current wording of that paragraph includes a list of conditions which shall not be used to exclude people from the ministry of or membership in the church. These include race, color, national origin, status and economic condition.

The proposed change would eliminate this list and simply state that all persons are eligible to attend worship, participate in programs, receive the sacraments, and become members of the church. It further specifies that no organization of the church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or constituent body from participation in those organizations.

Group 4: Amendment 19 about ¶ 35 - who votes for General Conference delegation? Amendment 19 would allow an expansion of those currently entitled to vote for clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences to include associate members, provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed the course of study or an MDiv degree and served at least two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

Group 5 - Miscellaneous - 2, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17, and 22. Amendment 2 would require all official bodies of the church to adopt ethics and conflict of interest policies. Presumably this requirement would not apply to local church bodies, but is addressed to the wider church.

Amendment 6 provides the General Conference with the option to delay full representation for certain conferences admitted to the church when there are special circumstances. One example of such an action was the vote of the 2004 General Conference to delay full representation for The Ivory Coast until accurate membership data could be established. The Judicial Council upheld that decision by a 4-4 vote. The purpose of this amendment is both to enable and to limit such actions. Delays cannot extend beyond eight years.

Amendment 8 insures that gender will not be used to exclude anyone from church membership or participation in agencies, programs or institutions of the church.

Amendment 9 requires that no Jurisdictional Conference shall have less than 100 delegates, requiring an adaptation of the formula by which delegates are chosen if the regular formula would result in less than 100 delegates. A rationale is that there ought to be a minimum number of delegates involved in the election of bishops.

Amendment 15 would give the General Conference the right to determine the definition of lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference simply by passing legislation. Currently any changes to the definition require a constitutional amendment which must be ratified by Annual Conferences.

Amendment 17 would give lay members on the Committee on Investigation the right to vote on matters related to the character, conference relations, and ordination of clergy. This amendment is an attempt to harmonize the current Disciplinary paragraphs with Memorandum 1006 of the Judicial Council. The Discipline puts lay members on the committee while the memorandum says they cannot serve as full members, only as observers. It is not clear whether these members would be eligible to participate in the clergy session of Annual Conferences.

Amendment 22 would list Bermuda as a part of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, acknowledging a reality that has been in place for many years.

Scott Campbell answered a number of questions, after which Bishop Weaver entertained debate on the substance of the proposed amendments.

There was no debate on Group 1!

Debate on Group 2:

Allan Grill of Franklin UMC noted that the Discipline has different wording. The Discipline indicates powers and responsibilities of the regional and central conference. Scott Campbell responded that some of these issues will have to be dealt with.

Ken Kreutziger of Lexington UMC was concerned that it would leave the UMC wide open to establish another level of conference as a whole.

Sue Davenport of Oakland/Sidney UMC: If GC established one or more regional conferences in US, does this mean New England may become a regional conference? Bishop Weaver responded the current understanding is that the US would be one regional conference.

Tom Kyle of Exeter UMC NH, recommended voting against at this time in order to allow task force to study further and with discussion with Bishops to come back and give us better idea of ramifications.

Katherine Johnson of the national MFSA and on extension ministry, Washington DC spoke in favor. She said that structure changes have been under discussion for years, particularly in light of decreasing in US and growth outside US, with changing demographics. There is need to work out structure with more equity - central conferences are able to amend the Discipline but the US cannot - There has been creative discussion around the meeting of US regional conference in opening days of General Conference.

We Chang spoke in favor of the amendments.

Bishop Weaver closed debate on Group 2.

Debate on Group 3:

Dan Weaver of Greenland, NH, felt that since all are becoming eligible under certain conditions, would that be taking away the vows etc?

Tiffany Steinwert of Cambridge Welcoming Ministries stated that women and many other categories are excluded. When we make lists, someone is left out.

Bishop Weaver closed debate on Group 3.

There was no debate on Group 4!

Bishop Weaver closed debate on Group 5.

The body was informed that Jan Row, DS of Embery District (some churches are in Vermont) of Troy Conference, was taken to the hospital.

Bishop Weaver closed the debate, led the body in prayer and then announced that the balloting would begin. Those who completed their balloting were asked to stand until their ballots had been collected by the ushers. When everyone had voted, all the ballots handed to the ushers, Bishop announced that the ballot was closed.

Ralph Oduor responding to a query, said the results would be announced Saturday morning, but reminded the body that only the Council of Bishops may declare a proposed amendment passed, after canvassing all the ballots from all the Annual Conferences.

LAITY ADDRESS – Oscar Harrell II, Conference Lay Leader in his Laity Address “I am increasingly impressed with laity of New England Conference.” He stated that on behalf of the Laity he had the honor of presenting Rebecca Hewett, Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries. Rebecca is also the coordinator of Clergy Family Service South, for Preachers’ Aid Society in charge of 60 families in RIM. Rebecca asked: “Are we not here to Make Disciples for Jesus Christ?”

Rebecca Hewett spoke about new ways of serving Christ and encouraging lay speaking ministries in the conference. Report of lay speaking ministries: Equipping laity to witness to and participate in ministry; Gifts utilized to further the work of Jesus Christ. The history of lay speaking goes back to the beginning of Methodism.

She recognized these leaders of lay speaking in the respective districts:

- Charles Fraser - CMA
- Laurie Stacy - CWM
- Ruby Blake and Wendy Millar-Page - MBH
- Aaron Cox - NHD
- James Boughman – NME
- Susan McDonald - TRI
- Kim Whynacht - RIM
- Ruth Canon - MME
- Debbie Henry - Youth coordinator

Rebecca asked all the Local Lay Speakers to stand and then add Certified Lay Speakers. She said there are over 1000 lay speakers in the conference, and soon to add over 150 with Vermont!

VERMONT (TROY CONFERENCE) REPRESENTATIVES – Evie Doyon, Lay Leader and Green Mountain UMW - Trained Spiritual Director - North Field UM Parish - North Field, VT, brought greetings from Bishop Hassinger. She expressed appreciation for the welcome accorded Vermont representatives. She recalled that Adam Hamilton spoke of risk taking and that she, Evie, was willing to take a risk. She invited us to sing "What Does the Lord Require of You" - in several parts (rounds) as follows: Balcony and those below - ask question; Stage Right - Justice....; Stage Left - turn to sermon - to seek justice... What does the Lord require of

us as we seek to become a “new” New England? She reminded us of why she is engaged in current work, worship that helps us to experience God and the need for spiritual work in church. She lifted 3 points:

1. Renew my people
2. Rebuild my church
3. Restore my kingdom.

God speaks not just to one, but to many to create something new; Vermont is looking to create something new out of the renewed New England. Let's become accountable to Vermont as they become accountable to New England.

TROY SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM - Rene Wilbur of the Transition Team brought Greetings from Green Mountain College, the only Liberal Arts College in New England. There are many Patriots faithful in Vermont, and a part of Red Sox nation. This is what you get when you get Vermont and he showed a Video.

Oscar Harrell noted the future does look bright for the “new” New England Conference.

Bishop Weaver mentioned how great it was to be at the Troy Conference last week. Vermont is a gift to go on and on and to keep giving in ministry.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver introduced Bishop Violet Fisher (retired) who would be the Keynote Speaker and the Saturday Ordination Worship Service. Bishop Fisher stayed at the head table for the rest of the day to help Bishop Weaver preside and be involved in the vision to recreate New England.

VERMONT UPDATE - John Blackadar and Oscar Harrell gave the update. They introduced the Transition Team:

- Bishop Weaver
- Ernest Belisle
- John Blackadar
- Bill Burnside
- Cindy Edgerly
- Michelle Grube
- Oscar Harrell
- Joan Humphrey
- Wesley Palmer
- Jim McPhee
- Alexx Wood
- Ginny Wright

Asset Allocation Task Force

- Bill Burnside (Treasurer)
- Johnell Demery (Trustees)
- Bill Hewig (Chancellor)
- John Holt (CFA)
- Jim McPhee (Camping)

The Joint Distributing Committee would be adopted through the Consent Calendar on Saturday, RS-120.

What's Happening Now? Visit www.neumc.org/vermont for:

- General Information
- Nuts and Bolts Info
- Getting Acquainted

New Connections:

- Board of Ministry Foundation
- Camping
- Spiritual Formation
- Church and Society
- Board of Laity
- Schools of Christian Mission
- Parish Consultants
- United Methodist Women
- School of Congregational Development
- Youth...and more!

What's next?

- Detailed information available in the winter/spring of 2010
- “Implementing legislation” - June 2010

- Current news and updates: <http://www.neumc.org/vermont>

Recommendation to make Vermont one District within the greater New England Conference, moving from 8 to 9 districts - Bishop Weaver will make final decision in consultation with others. By Discipline the Annual Conference would decide on the number of districts. Bishop Weaver will bring the recommendation for 9 districts to next year's Annual Conference

David Murphy a board member, and Jerry Piper, Chair of the Board of Directors of Covenant Hill, Vermont Camp stated that they were celebrating its 20th Anniversary. They showed a 3 minute video. "When you get Vermont, you get Covenant Hills." The Celebration is coming up. They gave complimentary booklets to Bishop Weaver and Jim McPhee.

They expressed thanks for the gracious and radical hospitality of the New England Conference.

Jerry Piper said, "As a United Methodist woman, I have had a great experience working with UMW and meeting so many people. Bishop Weaver has been gracious, thanks on behalf of all of us."

Bishop Weaver led us in singing "We Are One".

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND - We-Lee Tan, President, was accompanied by James Stephens and Laurel Scott. The Foundation holds total investments of \$67 million. The Foundation establishes grants and financial assistance ministries in the Conference, promoting strategic initiatives and personal as well as congregational stewardship. Reduce the effect of poverty. "If God is calling your church to start a new thing, talk to us!" Bequests and Memorial gifts are increasing each year. Slides showed percentages and amounts received by district and the importance of a policy for receiving endowments. Honor women philanthropists among us this year. They are bold and strategic donors, as well as powerful agents of social change. The Foundation created a Task Force to work on Women and Philanthropy. Resource material would be available at the Foundation display table.

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW (TFT) – Marion Grant gave an update for the period. For the next five years, Marion will annually share information regarding benefits to each area receiving funds. This year's focus is on Nicaragua Covenant partnerships. We expanded the covenant to include additional ministry partners in Nicaragua (beyond Iglesia Cristo). \$156,000 has been deposited for the Covenant of which \$62,000 has been used so far. She invited those who have been involved in different ways with the covenant to stand and be recognized.

NICARAGUA COVENANT - Bishop Weaver welcomed those representing the Nicaragua Covenant Otonio Cortez – President, Iglesia Cristo; Francisco Guzman – Evangelical Methodist Church of Nicaragua (EMCN); Jaido Lezama – Amanacer Health Clinic; Alicia Perez – Sewing Program.

Rev. Francisco Guzman spoke briefly, bringing greetings to the conference from EMCN, and acknowledge of blessings.

Alicia Perez offered gratitude from the ladies of the sewing schools in Nicaragua for being able to accomplish many dreams.

Jaido Lezama informed us that thousands have benefitted from the mobile health clinic in Amanacer.

BLACK COLLEGE STUDENT - Fay Flanary, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries introduced Eboni Lemon, entering her senior year at Clark Atlanta University. She is a dedicated member of Murray UMC, studying Media Arts with concentrations in Radio, Television and Film. She plans to graduate May 2010. Eboni brought greetings from Dr. Carlton Brown, president and Chair of Black College Fund. She shared her experiences of education and college. She wants to focus on new and innovative ways to find progress. Through the Black College Fund, they renovated the campus (arts/theater center).

Eboni Lemon presented a plaque to Bishop Weaver in recognition of New England Conference paying 100% apportionment for the Black College Fund.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES - Fay Flanary spoke about other missions. Vermont has had active and vibrant board of global ministries; they can spur us in areas we need to be stirred in. In July 2009, Belinda Forbes will be in New England. She asked any Nicaragua covenant churches that would like to be involved in visitation collaboration to contact her. She said we also have opportunity for Cambodia consultation in September 2009, regarding Cambodian ministries and building of alliances.

MISSION INTREPRETATION – by Lydia Pierce, Mission Interpreter in Residence (MIIR). She shared that she learned how to be a missionary from the people in Nicaragua. She went to Nicaragua for 6 months and stayed for 9 years. In the New England Conference, we can reflect together on what mission is. Mission is still happening throughout the world. Through Mission, we get to know one another; we should not stay in one place and not know what God is doing in another part of the world. Special offer: even though it's financially difficult now, we must continue to look outward now. Covenant relationships: sponsor a missionary; create a covenant relationship, individual covenant relationships, and youth groups/young adult groups to develop relationships with other young missionaries. Join with a cluster of churches to develop relationships.

BOARD CHURCH & SOCIETY – We Chang, Chair, listed these Task Forces: Climate Change, Mental Illness, Immigration, Migrant Worker, Prevention, Reconciling, Health Care Justice, Middle East Justice, Global AIDS, all under the Board of Church and Society. He showed a video about the United Methodist Seminar Program (sponsored by the Global Board of Church & Society). The hope is to have two teams each year: one for youth and another for general members. Methodists believe in a better world – holiness is not just an individual thing. He referred to “Living Faith and Seeking Justice” event with Tex Sample, in the handout below:

“A Call to Social Holiness for United Methodists

The founder of United Methodism, John Wesley, was clear that an authentic Christian Faith must combine Social Holiness with Personal Holiness. Practical Christianity, for Wesley, demanded a concern for, and an involvement in, the social issues of his day.

Wesley believed, and we affirm, that engagement in Social Holiness is an essential element of living the Christian life and that both the Scriptures and the writings of the Fathers (sic) demanded that Disciples live out this aspect of the Christian journey.

From time to time, in an effort to build an institution or in the sheer exuberance of evangelizing new Christians, the Church has neglected or downplayed this integral aspect of Christian living. We have done so to our peril, building on a sand foundation and leaving our members subject to the whims of culture or national allegiance, rather than strengthening them to Witness to the full Gospel message of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Epistles.

It is imperative, especially in this era of emphasis on Church Growth and a personalized system of belief, reliant more on what “makes me feel good” than “what orients me/us to God”, that we as United Methodists reclaim our understanding of social holiness and involvement in the life of the community.

The Church is meant to be a leader in the struggle for Social Justice, for equity in the economic sphere, for the inclusion of all people, and a critic of self-righteousness and self-justification on both a personal and national level.

Thus, we are bound by our commitment to Jesus Christ to look outward to the world, using the Church as a place of restoration, healing, teaching and re-energizing, not as a haven to hide from the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Guided by our Savior and Brother, Jesus Christ, we, as members of The United Methodist Church, declare our renewed dedication to the work of Christ, through the Church, in the world. We offer ourselves humbly, but with confidence in the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to declare the yearning of God for the well-being and wholeness of all God’s Creation. We call all United Methodists to reignite the movement of Social Holiness in the life of our church and community as we act and speak for inclusiveness, for economic justice, for peace between nations and reconciliation between persons, and for responsible stewardship of God’s creation.

Lent 2009

From Living Faith, Seeking Justice Event 2009”

We Chang asked each to bring it back to their congregations, copy for newsletters, or use it for discussions. “Bring the statement into the life of the church,” he urged!

We Chang referred to a second handout, “Report on Human Sexuality” statement to General Conference. This was continuing a discussion from last year’s Annual Conference. The full text will be available online at www.neumc.org. He said that this issue is always divisive with no room for discussion. Dan Weaver and Scott Campbell were mentioned as representing two opposite perspectives on the issue. We should acknowledge that we only know in part on the issue of human sexuality; we are a people on the way to wholeness. We read the statement that was drafted. We need a new statement on human sexuality especially one that encourages us to respect one another while disagreeing. The goal is to bring a statement to the General Conference in 2012, but first also please bring the statement to your churches for discussion and conversation.

Bishop Weaver expressed thanks to those who have modeled the conversation as they live out of love. It is an example of holy conferencing and holy conversation.

SCHOOL OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT –The Congregational Development Committee showed a Commercial for the School for Congregational Development to be held November 5-7, 2009, Grace Chapel, Lexington, Massachusetts.

CLIMATE CONTROL – Marla Marcum referred to the report of the Task Force in the Pre-Conference booklet. She welcomed churches from Vermont; called the body to work for the protection of the environment, and to steward the resources that God has given us. We should address the problems that people are already experiencing because of climate change. This December, world leaders will meet, trying to decide what to do to prevent climate change through 2050. It is time to let them know we want action. She invited us to join the

International Day of Climate Action, on October 24, 2009. We were urged to Ring bells 350 (represents safe limit for carbon dioxide) times in one day; thereby taking a symbolic action for Climate Control. There was a sign-up sheet for those who would like to learn more and join in.

Bishop Weaver announced that yesterday's Global Aids offering amounted to \$9,432.03; close to our goal.

Jack Johnson, (a United Methodist) the new Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, led us in Grace before dinner.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 5:00 P.M.

FRIDAY EVENING

CALL TO ORDER - The Opening Worship at 6:45 P.M was led by “Chromatics”, a Latino/African-American musical group from the Lawrence, MA area. Bishop Weaver called the session to order at 7:00 PM. The prayer scroll was brought on the stage, for the session.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Nadia Fella, Grace UMC, Lynn, MA and member of Conference Council on Youth Ministries to join him and Bishop Fisher at the head table.

We were informed that Jan of Troy Conference had been released from hospital and was on her way back home.

Bishop Weaver welcomed, celebrated and thanked Bonnie Marden, Conference Choreographer. Bonnie explained the evening's theme of celebrating leadership.

INTRODUCING THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE (NEC) STAFF & FAIR TRADE – Sharon Jones and Linda Weaver Introduced “Spirit Wind”, the Fair Trade Agent for the New England Annual Conference and spoke about being able to make a difference by shopping in ethical ways. Several conference staff members demonstrated a variety of Fair Trade products available for sale and online at www.neumc.org/spiritwind.

Alicia Perez from the Nicaragua Sewing Project shared her comments and offered thanks to all who made dreams possible. It demonstrates the beauty that the women can make. “It's wonderful to be here to see how you appreciate all that we make.”

Linda Weaver and Sharon Jones introduced the NEC staff, from the Lawrence, MA office. Each staff member plus Linda Weaver and Sharon Jones carried a product representing a demo of the fair trade practice products from Nicaragua:

- Jim McPhee, Director of Connectional Ministries and Bishop's Assistant-Orange Marmalade
- Dot Hollenbeck, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop-Denim Bag designed by Birtha
- Rosemary McNulty, Administrative Assistant-handbag
- Wanda Stahl, Director of Christian Formation-handbag designed by Alicia
- Debbie Cannella, Administrative Assistant -skirt
- Bill Burnside, Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services-sesame seed
- Marion Grant, Financial Administrative Assistant -beach bag
- Merry Hoyt, Remittance Specialist-Fair Trade Pottery
- Ralph Oduor, Conference Secretary and Curtis Brown, Director of Congregational Development-nuts
- Josephine Sierra, Administrative Assistant, MBH District-skirt
- Bishop Weaver was presented with honey
- Linda Weaver wore an outfit.

Alicia Perez, Director and founder of sewing school is part of Eagles Wings and sewing schools; creators, designers of clothing and bags.

Alicia Perez said that every woman in sewing school, every woman that has a sign has a story behind stories. Many come from single mothers but God is powerful. “I want to express gratitude to all who have made possible many women whose dreams become possible and see the beauty they can make, and also to all the women in New England that have become united with Nicaragua, the women of Nicaragua Coop called eagles Wings the women in New England called Spirit Wings - you can become part of the ministry. It has been a dream for me to be here and see what we have made with our simple hard working hands a little girl like me at 8 years old selling tortillas in different parts the world! God has Great purposes for his children through the children that have gone through. I have seen the hand of God sustaining me. If you continue supporting us, you will make the dreams of many women come true.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity, for a lot of people from New England have been praying for us especially last year when my husband died, to thank you for your support and prayer for the school and sewing, Spirit Wind and Eagles Wings”

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS – Bishop Weaver acknowledged young clergy and laity (aged under 30) present. He asked them to stand and be recognized. They are a blessing, a gift from God!

ZIEGLER AWARD AND PREACHING – We Chang, Chair of the Board of Church and Society, introduced the recipient of the Ziegler Preaching Award, Rev. John Mueller of Trinity UMC, Springfield, Massachusetts. Rev. Mueller's sermon followed scripture readings from Joshua 3:9-17 and Ephesians 4:1-6, read by the Lay Leader Diane Mackie and the Lay Member Jane Schneeloch. He preached a "WOW" sermon, recalling that this was his 20th anniversary in the ordained ministry. The subject of his sermon was Leadership, and the accompanying hymn was "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" #2153 TFWS.

Bishop Weaver led us in prayer following the sermon.

APPOINTMENTS – Bishop Weaver stated that the point of appointments is the team; to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. He introduced District Superintendent (DS) Ron Wilson, who will serve a second year as Dean of the Cabinet.

Ron Wilson called to the stage all 7 the respective pastor and Lay member of churches with new appointments or changes in the CMA district,. Ron was also accompanied on the stage by the Administrative Assistant and the District Lay Leader. This process was repeated in order for:

- CWM -10 appointments and 1 closing, Heidi Chamberland, DS
- MBH - 9 appointments, Martin McLee, DS
- MME - 11 appointments, 2 extension ministries, 1 closing, Beverly Stenmark, DS
- NHD - 7 appointments, 2 extension ministries, John Blackadar, DS
- NME - 21 appointments, 1 extension ministry, Pat MacHugh, DS
- RIM - 9 appointments, Gary Shaw, DS (two appointments yet to be made)
- TRI - 5 appointments, Jan and Mike Davis, Co-DS's

Bishop Weaver gave a charge to the clergy and to the laity, followed by a sung version of the Wesley Covenant Prayer.

ABANDONMENT OF THE PHILLIPS UMC, ME - Beverly Stenmark moved adoption of RS-202. The motion was seconded and adopted.

ABANDONMENT OF THE NEW HOPE UMC, SPRINGFIELD, MA - Heidi Chamberland moved adoption of RS-207. The motion was seconded and adopted.

THE LIFETIME OF SERVICE AWARDS – Thom Gallen of the Preachers Aid Society stated that the award honors some folks for many years of work as lay disciples, that is, a Lifetime Discipleship Award, hoping it will go for many years. The first recipients were Joyce and Willard Robinson, for decades of service.

Bob Moore stated that Joyce and Willard Robinson have been first responders and gift to New England Conference Reconciling ministries and ministries of Peace and Justice. The plumb line is the symbol for MFSA. Willard and Joyce have been the human plumb lines who stood for justice throughout their lives.

THE ASBURY AWARD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION – Jim McPhee expressed his joy to be part of this process which is under the auspices of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM); giving the key of knowledge to young children; to those who faithfully guide the church on scholarship.

Jim McPhee introduced the winner of the award, David Jackson of Union UMC, Boston. David served as Chair of Union UMC Scholarship committee, granting scholarships for education; Martin Luther King scholarship breakfast to high school and middle scholars; Fundraisers through Tuskegee Alumni as well as supporting, strengthening and promoting the church's work.

THE HENRY DENMAN AWARDS: Clergy Award - David Arruda; Laity Award - Wade Ewing.

Curtis Brown stated that through a Grant from the Foundation for Evangelism, Dr. Denman organized a committee in 1949 to see Christ in lives lived out by others.

We Chang introduced Wade Ewing saying that Wade Ewing follows Jesus in walking with the poor. He brings Good News to those who have been excluded from society. He is the feet of Jesus. He walks through the jungles of the city of Manchester, NH, bringing good news with coffee, homemade muffins, flashlight, batteries, clothes, etc. He brings relationship to people for whom Christ is foreign. Wade Ewing doesn't like being the center of attention. Wade sees Christ in the people he meets each day.

Dave Abbott introduced David Arruda, saying that David began in 2005 to take a dying church, and infuse it with the Holy Spirit; traveling one way 400 miles each weekend in the first year and being paid for mileage alone, no salary! That congregation has been empowered, current and previous mission-shares are paid! It is a Resurrection story of new birth and life. He did a similar thing in 2007 for a new church with same story, this time a shorter commute; another church supporting orphan ministry is alive and is a location where love, grace mercy and care are offered for all.

David Arruda thanked the body for the award. He said that it is the crown to toss at the bottom of the cross, that is, the award for evangelism - two people honored. He believes that each and everyone present should get an award, and we should not talk about dying, but busting at the seams; not about who is excluded but all included, without question. Jesus went out to everyone, and that is what we have to do. He reminded us:

"You are the only Bible someone will see; you are the only word of Christ someone will hear. Be the hands and feet of Christ".

JOHN BRYAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIONS – We Chang explained the award given to the late Jim Harney (1940-2008). Ferderico Carmona told us who Jim Harney was. Ferderico introduced Nancy, Jim Harney's wife to receive the award for Jim. We watched a three-minute video of Jim's work, "I only ask of God".

Bishop Weaver led the singing of "Alleluia, Alleluia..."

Han Kim, pastor of Grace Vision UMC, Cambridge, MA, led us in the closing prayer.

RECESS – Bishop Weaver declared us in recess at 9:30 P.M.

SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 20, 2009

CALL TO ORDER – Following worship led by Mitch Thomas and the Conference Musicians, as well as the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, Bishop Weaver called the Conference to order at 8:30 AM.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRY (CCYM) – Ashley McDougall started by greeting us, and saying, "I am a member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry. This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! We are here this morning to worship God, and thank Him for all that He has done for us and through us. As youth, sometimes we feel a bit left out, like we're not necessarily that important, but God doesn't believe that at all." She read Jeremiah, chapter 1 verses 5-8, in Eugene Petersen's "The Message."

Ashley McDougall led the body in singing "He Has Made Me Glad" TFWS 2270.

"My name is Max Pretzer and I am also a member of CCYM. I want you to know that Youth in this conference are busy ministering everyday. There's youth ministry going on all around, all the time that most people don't even see. Youth are busy counseling at summer camps around the conference every summer." He concluded by showing videos of Camp Mechuwana; videos of a mission trip to Cuba and Africa.

"Good morning! My name is Orre-Anne Alexander. Last year, we supported the youth group from Duxbury, MA on their mission trip; Ashley went to New Orleans to help the cleanup after Hurricane Katrina, and in December, I will be going on the Northeast Jurisdiction trip to India along with two other youth from this conference. We spent over \$5500 of last year's penny challenge money on mission activities.....

"We're here to ask you to continue to support youth ministry in your local churches. Not just with money, but with your time too. Listen to us, spend time with us, and pray for us. Keep in touch by email or snail mail when we graduate and go off to college. I know we're not always easy to get along with, and sometimes it seems like we're not listening, but we are, and we're watching, and learning from you.

There are three of us who have graduated this year. That means there are three less youth on CCYM. Please help kids who want to be part of CCYM get there. Get kids involved, encourage them to stay involved."

After leading us in prayer, Orre-Anne Alexander thanked the body for their time, and most of all, for their continued support.

The youth concluded by announcing the "Penny" Challenge results, noting this year they did not encourage bringing pennies. Most gifts were in the form of paper money or checks.

"PENNY" CHALLENGE RESULTS:

District	No. of churches participating	Amount
CMA	19	\$1383.35
MBH	9	\$810.00
CWM	10	\$821.00
MME	27	\$1226.00
RISEM	13	\$1054.71
NME	14	\$1032.94
TRI	72 - 100% - \$4/church	\$379.22
NH	63- 100% - \$46.87/church	\$2952.58 - John did it again!
Total		\$9,659.80

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Betty Austin of Centenary UMC, Skowhegan, and Joni Gattcom of Round Pond UMC, co-District Lay Leaders of MME District and members 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 – Lisa Fagerstrom, said "Thanks to word and witness of youth." Here is her monitoring report; on stage presentations:

Thursday evening: 61 white, 6 black, 1 Native American, 10 persons of color.

Friday's total: 100 total - 81 white, No Native American, 8 black, 6 Hispanic, 5 Asian. She noted that if we take away those who sang and the Nicaragua covenant guests, it drops the numbers dramatically. When we actually look around, it is as if the Hispanics are invisible. She encouraged us to look at who is around us in our churches and who is not included.

BOOM - Ernest Belisle and Lynn McCracken, co-Chairs of the Board, introduced persons to be commissioned this year: Federico Carmona, Jinyong Choi, David Dyrenforth, Preston Fuller, Glenn Mortimer, and John Nash.

Ernest Belisle and Lynn McCracken, co-Chairs of the Board, introduced persons to be ordained this year. Bishop Weaver asked them the Historic Questions. Persons to be ordained as Deacons in full connection: Kerry Greenhill, Elizabeth Kubota. Persons to be ordained as elders members in full connection: Gwyneth Arrison, Meredith Brown, Lynne Campbell, Jinwoo Chun, Lehlohonolo Henrietta Montjane, Paul O' Neil (not to be ordained since he was previously ordained in another denomination). The body welcomed them with applause, and then Bishop Weaver led us in prayer for the candidates.

RETHINK CHURCH VIDEO – Bishop Weaver introduced the video, remarking that we should take a moment and not just Rethink Church, but rethink our individual churches. “What does it mean for the body of Christ in your community; how are you going to do church in new ways?”

CONSENT CALENDAR – Ralph Oduor moved the adoption of the Consent Calendar in the Pre-Conference booklet, noting that only RS-201 was removed. The motion was adopted.

CFA - Barbara Cann, William Burnside and Bruce Young offered thanks to Tom Davidson for all his work for the last four years. They spoke first about Mission Share relief. They noted that CFA voted to offer Mission Share Relief for specific churches in each district. 29 churches applied and were granted relief. Less than half of the \$250,000 budgeted for relief in the Conference budget has been used. If your church would like relief, contact the DS, or the District Apportionment Review Committee, or Bruce Young or find information online.

Barbara Cann moved adoption of 2010 Budget resolution, RS-118. The motion was adopted.

Ernest Belisle and Lynn McCracken moved that the salary of the Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry for 2010 remain the same as in the 2009 budget. This was accepted by CFA as a friendly amendment. Several attempts to increase money for youth were not adopted. The budget with the friendly amendment was adopted.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Dave Dunham and Dave Bolster co-District Lay Leaders, CWM district and members of the Board of Laity, to sit next to him and help chair the Conference.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP (COL) - Linda Reiber, co-Chair, presented the committee's nominating report from COL's handout Material, with a few changes.

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.

Ruth Oduor, Chair of MBH District Committee on Ordained Ministry asked if COL had received the names of that Committee's membership. Linda Reiber stated it had been received after the slate was published, and that the list would be included in COL's submission for the 2009 Conference Journal.

Linda Reiber moved the adoption of RS-208. It was seconded and adopted.

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. It was seconded and adopted.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION - Jenny Wright and Barbara Schreier asked anyone to stand if they had participated in School of Christian Mission; they then asked anyone to stand if they didn't know anything about it. They encouraged everyone to learn and teach each other. Barbara introduced the topics and locations for this year's School of Christian Mission; Food and Faith, Sudan and Native American Survival.

Barbara Schreier moved adoption RS 204-Motion for the School of Christian Mission. The motion seconded and adopted.

ORGANIZATIONAL - Bishop Weaver welcomed Wendy Millar-Page, MBH Co-District Lay Leader and a member of the Board of Laity, to sit next to him and help chair the Conference.

LAY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY – James McPhee and Evelyn Johnson Moore presented RS-201 on behalf of the Sexual Misconduct Response and Intervention Team, and then moved its adoption. The Committee accepted the following amendment from Karen Munson of Readfield UMC, Kents Hill, ME, as friendly:

Change “digital” in line 1 to “electronic” (first item below); Page 21 (Pre-Conference booklet) line 1: “allegations may come in a number of ways including verbally, electronically, in a note, or through a phone call...page 21 line 26 and following: (insert after victim) A third party, SPRC member or lay leader, will be present as listener in this initial meeting. Page 21 line 52 to Page 22 line 5, “If the public media learns of the allegations, it is New England Conference policy to have the Conference Communications Director available as a resource to work with the Pastor to respond to all media contacts and requests for information. The Communications Director may be contacted by the District Superintendent in order to consult with the Pastor in preparing a response for the media, even if there is no media coverage or current inquiry. A press statement will be available for the Pastor to distribute in the event of any media inquiries. This press release also will be given to the congregation with clear instructions about where media inquiries are to be directed.”

The Committee also accepted these amendments from Erica Robinson-Johnson as friendly: Page 20, line 53: after PPRC Chair add “and/or the District Superintendent.” Page 21, lines 34, 46, 47; Page 22, line 2: After the word “pastor” add: “and/or the District Superintendent and/or the SPRC Chair.”

Many other unsuccessful attempts were made to amend. The Committee accepted one more friendly amendment as follows: That it be published and placed in a prominent part of the church where it can be read, this amendment to be a new part 7, in the document.

A motion was made to call the question on all matters before the body. It was seconded and adopted by the required 2/3 margin.

Marilyn Robb, stated she was concerned about the victim and also about the perpetrator. “We want some way for the victim, if they’re not comfortable going to the pastor, that there is flexibility in going to the DS.”

Bishop Weaver led the body in prayer before calling for the vote. It was adopted with the above friendly amendments.

Marilyn Robb, case manager for the area Response and Intervention Team for Clergy Sexual Misconduct introduced the team members and gave information on their activities during the past year.

RS-205 WEST TREMONT UMC, ME - Pat MacHugh, DS of NME District moved adoption of RS-205 West Tremont, ME. An amendment by Harbor Mitchell, Peoples UMC, Greenville, ME-was not adopted. The original motion was seconded and adopted.

RS -206 ALLEN STREET UMC, NEW BEDFORD, MA - Gary Shaw, DS of RIM District moved adoption of RS- RS-206 Allen St UMC, New Bedford, MA. It was seconded and adopted.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - Bishop Weaver announced the results of the balloting on the 32 proposed Constitutional amendments. They each received at least 2/3 “yes” votes.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS - Steve Garnass-Holmes gave God thanks by corporate prayers as the “Resolution of Thanks”, since we had accomplished a lot.

ADJOURNMENT – Ralph Oduor moved that the 16th Session of the New England Annual Conference meeting at Wenham, Massachusetts be adjourned following the Ordination Service, and till we meet again June 17-19 June 2010 - Thursday to Saturday, at Gordon College, Wenham, MA. Bishop Weaver declared us so adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean of Boston University School of Theology offered Grace before lunch.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON - 2:00PM

ORDINATION SERVICE – Bishop Weaver commissioned probationary elders and ordained full Deacons and Elders. Local pastors licensed for the year were recognized. Federico Carmona, Jinyong Choi, David Dyrenforth, Preston Fuller, Glenn Mortimer, John Nash were commissioned as probationary elders.

Kerry Greenhill, Elizabeth Kubota, were ordained Deacon in full connection.

These persons were ordained Elders in full connection:Gwyneth Arrison, Meredith Brown, Lynne Campbell, Jinwoo Chun, Lehlohonolo Montjane, Paul O’ Neil (not ordained since he was previously ordained in another denomination)

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: Nancy dos Santos, Charles Early, Roland Field, Gary Gearheart, Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee, Rebecca Lambert, Gerald Leach, William Marco, Jacob Mueller, Michele Naughton, Josephine Oduyingbo, Shallon Sullivan and Cheryl Turner.