

One Bread, One Body
Seeking to Live as One Body of the One Loaf
Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2005 REVIEW
June 12-15, 2005
Madison Marriott West Conference Center

The WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE of The United Methodist Church met June 12-15, 2005, in Madison, Wisconsin. **Bishop Linda Lee**, who began as Episcopal leader in the Wisconsin Area on September 1, 2004, presided over this conference's thirty-sixth session, which was graced with the theme "One Bread, One Body."

On Sunday afternoon, clergy of the conference gathered for the annual Clergy Session, where the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry was presented. At the same time, lay members of the conference gathered together to become acquainted with one another and to hear **Doug Anderson of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development** who helped to interpret an understanding of circuit ministry.

At 7:00 PM, Sunday, June 12, the conference gathered for the **Service of Ordination**. Guest preacher for this service was **Bishop Ricardo Pereira of the Methodist Church of Cuba**. (The Wisconsin Conference shares a mission partnership with the Methodist Church of Cuba.) Also participating in worship throughout the conference was guest musician, **Cynthia A. Wilson and her accompanist, Monya Jutuan Davis Logan**. Worship participants witnessed the ordination of five persons as elders, the ordination of one person as deacon; and the reception of one person into full membership.

At 3:30 PM, Monday, June 13, the conference gathered for the **Service of Commissioning**. Guest preacher for this service was **The Reverend Doctor Mark Fowler, Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of Church Leadership at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary**. This service celebrated the presentation of licenses to ten local pastors and the commissioning of six probationary members.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP OBSERVANCES

- The Monday morning Opening Celebration started with a welcoming procession for Bishop Lee and featured The Call for Peace Drum and Dance Company. As worship participants observed the Sacrament of Holy Communion (throughout the conference session) loaves of bread coming from each of the fifty five circuits continued to symbolize the theme of "One Bread, One Body."
- On Tuesday morning, a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving gave time to give thanks for the lives of clergy and laity of the Wisconsin Conference who have died since the last conference session.
- On Tuesday afternoon, a Retirement Recognition and Passing of the Mantle honored nine elders, one deacon, and three local pastors who transitioned into retirement.
- Tuesday evening concluded with a worship service led by youth members of the conference. A praise band, youth testimonies, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, a time of leadership transition, and the singing of many favorite praise songs brought to a close a very full day.
- The 2005 conference concluded with worship at 3:00 PM on Wednesday afternoon, June 15, once again with the breaking of bread and sharing the sacrament. Conference was adjourned at the end of this service.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

In a Monday morning address to the conference, Doug Anderson of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development reminded those present that circuit ministry was an opportunity for the church to look "out" and be in ministry with others rather than only ourselves. On Wednesday morning, Regional Summits were held, allowing a time for each of the fifty-five circuits to gather for introductions, discussion on mission possibilities, and future planning.

GUESTS WHO BROUGHT GREETINGS

- Scott Anderson, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, brought greetings and introduced new staff member, Peter Bakken, Public Policy Coordinator for the WCC, who gave a presentation on TIP (Treatment Instead of Prison).
- Dr. Ted Campbell, president of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, greeted the conference and recognized Rev. Stanford Strosahl, conference clergy member, for initiating and coordinating the Town and Country Intern program.
- In the absence of Llewon Felder (due to air flight problems), the Lina McCord Black College Fund representative, the conference was addressed by her mother, Cynthia Wilson (the conference's guest musician), who is a graduate of Dillard University and is presently teaching at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. Both these schools are historically black colleges.
- Dr. Hal Wilde, president of North Central College, Naperville, IL, greeted the conference, as did Melody Patterson, Director of Church Relations, Wiley College, Marshall, TX. Both of these colleges are United Methodist and in relationship with the Wisconsin Conference.
- Martha Blumer, on behalf of the United Methodist Publishing House (Cokesbury), presented to the conference a check for \$11,900.48, which represents the Wisconsin Conference's portion of the proceeds of the publishing house to be used to support the pension programs of the conferences. Following a DVD presentation of clergy in Africa, a motion was made that these monies be sent to the Central Conference Pension Initiative Benefit Funds for clergy who receive minimal salaries or do not have pension benefits.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CONFERENCE STAFF

Christina (Tina) Itson was introduced to the conference as she begins in the role of Coordinator of Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Tina was commissioned as a probationary deacon in the West Ohio Conference on June 13, 2005.

Allen Kahl will begin July 1 as the new Information Technology Manager for the Conference.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- On behalf of the General Council on Finance and Administration, Lisa King, (who is the Director of Finance and Administration for the Wisconsin Conference and serves on GCFA) presented a certificate recognizing the sixteenth year that Wisconsin United Methodists have paid 100% of their General Conference Apportionments. Of the 63 conferences, Wisconsin is the only one that pays these apportionments at a rate of 1/12 per month.
- Marge Miller, who has served as an administrative assistant for eight district superintendents over the past thirty years (presently in the Nicolet/Winnebago Regional Office) was introduced and offered the conference's good wishes upon her retirement.
- Tom D'Alessio, who will conclude in the role of Coordinator for Communications and Technical Services on July 1, was thanked for his ministry, leadership and technical development for conference communications.
- Receiving annual awards:
 - Thelma W. Gregg Award for missionary outreach: Dorothy Birrenbach, Prairie du Chien UMC
 - Francis Asbury Award for leadership in higher education: Jim Hook, Crossroads UMC, Waunakee
 - Denman Evangelism Awards: Laity, Marie Barbo, Hammond UMC
 - Clergy, Kent Ingram, First UMC, Appleton
 - Love in Action Award for disaster response: John Bennin, First UMC, Baraboo

- The Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries honored Ray Robinson for his years of commitment to boundary waters camping experience, estimating that he has spent almost three years of his life taking youth and adults on these adventures. Also, the conference showed their gratitude to Byron Pegram, site director at Byron Center, who has served in the camping program for twenty-five years.
- During the report of the Health and Welfare Committee, Mike Basch, Executive Director of Sheboygan Senior Community was presented. This year he was selected as administrator of the year by the United Methodist Association, which brings together the health and welfare agencies of the full United Methodist Church
- Karen Rankin, Dean of the Youth Ministry Institute, an education program for local youth leaders led in conjunction with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, introduced the sixteen graduates of the second institute. Graduates were honored at the Tuesday evening worship service.
- Sandy Kintner, chair of the Commission on Archives and History, recognized the clergy who were marking their twenty-fifth, fiftieth and seventieth anniversaries for years of service to The United Methodist Church. Honored for seventy years are Nathan Bartel and Solomon G. Cramer.
- A congregation litany celebrated the beginning of nine new ministry communities.

GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

UM churches in Wisconsin have worked throughout the year to prepare for the annual in-gathering. In addition, conference participants responded to several conference offerings. Listed below are the totals as of June 23, 2005:

Clergy in Transition Fund	\$ 2,331.45
Health and Welfare Children's Ministries: UM Children's Services, Harbor House Crisis Shelter, Northcott Neighborhood House	4,006.05
Summer Developer's Program	2,330.51
Wiley College, Marshall, TX	1,724.49
Youth Service Fund (Including quilt auction gift of \$525)	1,856.24
Coin toss for Missions	127.59
Donations to Rising Sun Camp (Lifesaver Dolls)	198.00
Senegal Advances	781.58
Donations which will buy 90 bikes	24,504.63
Money for shipping of bikes and other items	5,116.82

299 flood buckets	220 health kits
81 bicycles and repair kits	5 boxes of medical supplies
1,332 pairs of baby booties and socks	135 nursing uniforms
3,658 onesies (infant clothing)	14 nurses tops
3,297 baby caps	15 pairs of nursing shoes
1,308 baby blankets	22 nursing textbooks
38 baby sweaters	4,000 exam gloves

ACTION ITEMS (Check mark indicates motion was passed.)

- ✓ Action Item 1 Local Church Camping Coordinator
- ✓ Action Item 2 Camping Emphasis Sunday
- ✓ Action Item 3 Camper Recruitment by Local Churches
- ✓ Action Item 4 Rio Grande Conference Partnership
- ✓ Action Item 5 United Methodist Women's Sunday
- ✓ Action Item 6 Designation of Earning from the "New Ministries Fund"
- Action Item 7 Resolution on Director of Communications and Technology
 - ✓ *The Communications Committee, which submitted this motion, asked for this motion to be referred to the Personnel Committee for study. (Motion to refer accepted)*

- ✓ Action Item 8 Resolution on the Proposed Marriage Amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution
- ✓ Action Item 9 Resolution on Housing Allowance for Retired and Disabled Clergy
- ✓ Action Item 10 Resolution on Past Service Annuity Rate
- ✓ Action Item 11 Resolution on Minimum Compensation
- ✓ Action Item 12 Resolution on 2005 Formal Funding Plan for Pre-1982 Liability
- ✓ Action Item 13 **Amendments to the Constitution of the United Methodist Church**
YES: Amendments I, II, III, IV, V, VI NO: Amendments VII, VIII
- ✓ Action Item 14 Proposed Rules Changes
- ✓ Action Item 15 Resolution renewing the Covenant Relationship with Cedar Crest, Inc.
- ✓ Action Item 16 Resolution on Global AIDS Initiative
Amended to include "special offering for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund"
- ✓ Action Item 17 Resolution on the Use of Torture by the U. S. Government
Amended to include "The US Court systems cease using evidence acquired by torture in other countries."
- ✓ Action Item 18 Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Kennan United Methodist Church
- ✓ Action Item 19 Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Humbird United Methodist Church
- ✓ Action Item 20 2006 Conference Budget
Amended by \$8,000 to \$7,489,994; this is a 1.8% increase over 2005
- ✓ Action Item 21 Summer Developer's Program
Amended to read \$8,000 instead of \$15,000; approved, and added to Action Item 20
- ✓ Action Item 22 United Methodist Youth Sunday
- Action Item 23 Immigration Rights Resolution (*Defeated*)
- ✓ Action Item 24 Resolution Regarding Health Care *but with deletion of lines 11-26*
- Floor Motion Future health and welfare covenants endeavor to include language from social principles, specifically those relating to labor relations (*Defeated*)
- ✓ Floor Motion Report to 2006 conference session statistics regarding methods and effectiveness of young adult evangelism within and outside our conference as well as outside United Methodist Church; includes no additional costs.
- ✓ Floor Motion To support Senate Bill SB221 "Violence Against Children"
- ✓ Floor Motion Support for those experiencing suffering in Darfur

Membership in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church stands at 94,409, down 3,669 from the previous year. Average worship attendance stands at 43,738, down 1,239 from the previous year. It was also reported that over 50% of our conference clergy are now formally retired.

*Additional information about the 2005 Annual Conference session can be found at www.WisconsinUMC.org
Bishop Lee's sermon, "One" preached on Monday morning,
the cabinet address given by Forrest Wells and the laity address given by Dorothy Radley
will be posted on the web page by June 29.*

*The slides shown during the statistician's report can be found on the above site with the
2005 Annual Conference review.*

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006

The 2006 Annual Conference Session will be held June 11-14, 2006, at the Madison Marriott West.

This review prepared by Jane Follmer Zekoff, Director of Ministry and Outreach
(janefz@WisconsinUMC.org)
with the assistance of Kevin Rice Myers, Annual Conference Secretary; Billie LaBumbard, Missions Coordinator;
Lisa King, Director of Finance and Administration.