

PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Introductory Comments

The 2006 session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference was held at the Marriott Madison West Hotel and Convention Center June 11-14. The Program and Arrangements Committee continues to seek feedback from the members of the Annual Conference in order to make the Annual Conference session the most productive and spiritual event that it can be. The purpose of the Program and Arrangements Committee is to plan, organize and present an Annual Conference session where God's Spirit can be experienced, decisions can be made, friendships can be renewed or made anew, and the church of Jesus Christ, as witnessed through United Methodism, can be celebrated. The Program and Arrangements Committee strives to live out our purpose and share the love of God with all that attend the Annual Conference session.

Highlights and Accomplishments of the Past Year

During the 2006 Annual Conference session we marked the 50th anniversary of Full Clergy Rights for women in the Methodist tradition as well as the 150th anniversary of the Evangelical Association in Wisconsin. During this year of celebration we welcomed into our midst Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher who was ordained in and served the Wisconsin Conference prior to her election to the Episcopacy in 1988. The Annual Conference also had the privilege of welcoming Bishop Park, Goe-Chong from the Dongbu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. It was an honor to have guest Bible study leaders and preachers Reverend Abena Safiyah Fosua, Director of Invitational Preaching Ministries of the General Board of Discipleship, and the Reverend Kwasi Kena, Director of Evangelism Ministries also from the General Board of Discipleship.

The wonderful worship services that were held during the 2006 Annual Conference session included guest musicians Grace Cajuat, Justin Lowe and Janet Ellinger. The members of Annual Conference conducted important business and took action on several items that came before them. There were many greetings extended to the Annual Conference members as well as special recognitions and presentations. The 2006 Annual Conference session included opportunities to attend seminars on crucial topics to the local church. As an Annual Conference we experienced God's presence through many different learning, growth and worshipful experiences.

Plans for the Coming Conference Year

The 2007 Wisconsin Annual Conference will meet June 10-13 again at the Marriott Madison West Hotel and Convention Center in Middleton, WI. During this Annual Conference session the 10th anniversary of the ordination of Deacons in full-connection as well as the 30th anniversary of the Diaconal ministry will be celebrated. We will begin our time together with the laity and clergy sessions being held at the Marriott Madison West. This year the Ordination service will be at the Madison Marriott at 7:30 P.M. on Sunday, June 10. The joint Commissioning and retirement service will be held on Tuesday, June 12 at 6:30 P.M. also at the Madison Marriott.

The theme for the 2007 Annual Conference Session is "Wholeness to Holiness: Reaching for Higher Ground." As the Annual Conference seeks to live out this theme we will be inviting persons to speak on our ability as Christians to find wholeness and healing of mind, body and spirit. To that end there will be an opportunity to participate in a wellness screen, which is being offered by the Joint Board of Pensions, Health Benefits and Equitable Compensation Committee.

We are pleased to welcome many special individuals to our Annual Conference this year including Bishop Quipungo from The Methodist Church in Angola. The Program and Arrangements Committee is also looking forward to hearing the Rev. Dr. Josephine Whitely-

Fields, Director of Doctoral Studies and Lecturer in Spiritual Formation from United Theological Seminary, address the Annual Conference on the topic of wholeness of spirit. The Rev. Dr. Whitely-Fields will also preach at the Memorial Service, which will be a service of healing.

In the midst of much worship and celebration there will also be a great deal of business before the Annual Conference as the members will vote for delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences as well as consider petitions to the General Conference. It is the prayer of the Program and Arrangements Committee that the members of Annual Conference may come together June 10-13 and seek God's wholeness in our lives in order that we may live holy lives in our world.

Amy Jameson Yackovich, Chairperson