
**DAILY PROCEEDINGS OF THE WISCONSIN ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
34TH SESSION
HELD AT THE MADISON MARRIOTT WEST HOTEL
AND CONFERENCE CENTER
MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN**

Sunday Afternoon, June 15, 2003

Members of the Conference and guests gathered at 4:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary of Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison for the Service of Ordination and Commissioning. The clergy members of the Conference, Bishops, and Ordinands processed into the worship area as the congregation sang "The Church's One Foundation." Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader called the Annual Conference to Order and offered the opening prayer. Sheri Graeber, Conference Lay Leader, Andy Oren, Associate Conference Lay Leader, and Rev. Paul Johnsen, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the candidates for commissioning and ordination. They were found worthy by those present. The names of the candidates are included in The Business of the Annual Conference report, which follows these daily proceedings in the *Journal*. A free-will offering was taken for the "Clergy in Transition" fund. The scripture lessons for the service were taken from Psalm 78:1-7, 2 Timothy 1:8-14; and Mark 1:9-12, and were read by Andy Oren, Rev. David Wilkinson, and Bishop Oh-Suh Kwon of the East Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. Bishop Rader delivered the sermon, entitled "Your Only Task." Five persons were Commissioned as Probationary Members. Twelve persons were Ordained as Elders in Full Connection. Daniel Flores was Ordained as a Deacon under the provisions of the 1992 Discipline as a courtesy to the Rio Grade Annual Conference. Hyo-Won Park was received into full membership in the Annual Conference and his Elder's Orders from the Korean Methodist Church were recognized. Following the singing of "It Is Well With My Soul," the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated, with the newly Commissioned and Ordained Ministers, assisted by others, serving the congregation. The service concluded with an Invitation to Christian Discipleship, and the singing of "Here I Am, Lord." After the service, the newly commissioned and ordained ministers were greeted at a reception held in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Sunday Evening, June 15, 2003

Members and guests of the conference gathered in the Superior, Michigan and Wisconsin rooms of the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center at 8:00 P.M. The conference viewed a video entitled "Hope for the Children of Africa: Hopeful Eyes, Giving Hearts."

Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader called the 34th Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to order at 8:12 p.m. She invited those gathered to greet each other and share where they live, and one thing that their congregation has done this year that is about ministry with children or poor people.

She shared with the conference some of the ministries that the Annual Conference has been involved in with those on the margins of society. She invited us to remember who we are as God's people, the Body of Christ, and that we are about the task of sharing the Good News with all who need to hear it.

The Bishop offered prayer.

She shared that each United Methodist Bishop has been given an exact replica of the gavel that

Bishop Asbury used and carried in his journeys on horseback through America. She struck the gavel once to symbolically call the conference to order.

Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary, led the conference in the necessary organizational items. He noted that the roll call for this session of the Annual Conference is being taken at the time of registration, and shared greetings from other Annual Conference and from a number of clergy persons who have asked to be excused from attendance at this session of the Annual Conference.

He moved that the Bar of this Conference now be established to include the platform at the front of the Superior and Michigan and Wisconsin Rooms of the Madison Marriott West Conference Center, all of the round tables on the floor of the Superior and Michigan Rooms which are covered with white tablecloths, and the Conference Secretary's tables to the right of the platform. The motion was **approved**.

He moved that the following persons be given permission to be seated within the Bar of the Conference with voice:

- Conference Speaker: Daniel Flores, Rio Grande Annual Conference, & his wife Thelma
- Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Doug Anderson, Director of Ruben Job Center for Leadership Development
- Loretta Thomson-Martin from Wiley College
- Hal Wilde, President of North Central College
- Mike Ford, Professional Consultant from Kaleidoscope, who will be presenting findings and information from the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries Consultant Assessment
- Barbara Boigegrain and Woody Bedell, representatives from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits
- Gary Peluso-Verdend, Director of Church Relations and Associate Professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- Llewon Felder, who is the Lina McCord Summer Intern for the Black College Fund
- Martha Blumer, Cokesbury Representative
- Various guests who will be making presentations throughout the conference.
- All pastors from other Annual Conferences or Denominations who are serving United Methodist Churches in the Wisconsin Conference.
- Vice-Chairs of Conference Boards and Agencies who are not members of the Annual Conference.

Jerry Eckert **moved to amend** the motion to add the name of Deana Hamel to the list of those given permission to be seated within the Bar of the Conference with voice. The **motion to amend** was **defeated**.

The Secretary's motion was **approved as presented**.

The Secretary noted that, by our Conference Rules, lay directors and coordinators on the Conference staff who fall within the guidelines of The Book of Discipline are voting members of the Annual Conference. He recognized those conference staff members, both lay and clergy, who are voting members of the Annual Conference:

- Director of Ministry and Outreach: Jane Follmer Zekoff
- Director of Finance and Administration: Lisa King
- Conference Benefits Officer: Mark Smith
- Camping Coordinator: Nancy Deaner

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- Communications Coordinator: Tom D'Alessio
 - Congregation & Parish Development Coordinator: Don Mendenhall
 - Missions Coordinator: Billie LaBumbard
 - Youth Ministries Coordinator: Amy Valdez Barker
 - Administrative Assistant/Registrar: Sue Setterlund

The Secretary moved that the following persons be given the privilege of sitting within the Bar of the Conference without voice or vote:

- Guests from the Dong-Bu (East) Conference of the Korean Methodist Church, including Bishop Oh-Suh Kwon
- Episcopal Administrative Assistant: Cindy Churan
- Conference Administrative Assistants: Dana Derber, Linda Firestone
- Service Department Manager: Katie Hoepfner
- Conference Archivist: Mary Schroeder
- Conference Musicians:
- Program and Arrangements Committee Members who are not Conference Members
- Video Technicians from Janesville: Cargill UMC:
- Seminary students related to the Wisconsin Conference who are not yet probationary members of the Conference.
- Supply pastors who are serving churches in the Wisconsin Conference.

The motion was **approved**.

He moved that the following persons be elected as Tellers for the 2003 Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Mary Ann Conklin
- Ron Kral
- Phil Airhart
- John Hazen
- Laverne Ulrichsen
- Nancy Allen
- Cathy Hamblin
- Larry Olsen
- William Busch
- Don Drollinger
- Cherhoua Yang
- Ken Lyerly
- Gloria Miranda
- Meg Erickson
- Skip Robertson
- Steve Miller
- Mark Peacock
- Gail Mitchel
- Gary Swanson
- Kathleen Nuzzo
- Julie Reinke
- John Huenink

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- Mike Christensen
 - Mary Ann Floerke
 - Anita Genrich
 - Paul Foulke
 - Mike Herdt
 - Tim O'Brien
 - Don Olm
 - Harriett Rowland
 - Pat Nolet
 - Michael Ascher
 - Andy Husband
 - Cindy Glocke
 - Andrea Smithback
 - Dennis Govier
 - Wendell Williams
 - Irv Case
 - Dixie Marklund
 - Jan Meyers

They were **elected**.

He moved that the following persons be elected as Assistant Secretaries:

- Joyce Alford
- Jean Ehnert Nicholas
- Phil Airhart
- Cindy Churan
- Ron Kral
- Mel Henrichs
- Stacey Murdock
- Carolyn Saunders
- Marjorie Rice Myers

They were **elected**.

The secretary then shared information about the Conference Workbook, and about speaking on the floor of the conference and making motions. He then invited the conference to recognize Jane Follmer Zekoff, Director of Ministry and Outreach, who is celebrating her birthday today. The conference sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

Mark Geisthart presented the agenda for this annual conference session, with the notation that adjustments may be made in the schedule as time and conference business require.

At this point in the conference, representatives of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries 'stole' Bishop Rader's shoes, and replaced them with "Dalmatian Slippers."

Elise Kruger, President of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, asked persons from each congregation present to fill out and turn in cards with the name and address of a youth contact person from each congregation. She announced that the Bishop's shoes will be held hostage until cards have been returned from at least 90% of the congregations.

Bishop Rader noted that it is important for us to start all of our sessions on time due to the heavy agenda that the conference must consider this year.

Sue Setterlund presented the initial report of the Nominations Committee

Doug Stallsmith presented the initial report of the Council on Finance and Administration. He shared that there may be a Capital Funds Campaign in 2004. He thanked the East Wisconsin Pension Trust for its generous support of the conference pension and insurance programs.

Stallsmith then placed the 2004 Proposed Budget before the conference for its consideration during the conference session.

Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary, moved the adoption of *Action Item 16: Procedures for Election of Delegates to the 2004 General and/or Jurisdictional Conferences*. The motion was **approved**.

The secretary gave instructions regarding the procedures for taking and collecting ballots.

Bishop Rader invited people to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they vote for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference.

Following the singing of "Gathered Here," *General Conference Ballot 1* was taken.

Bishop Rader announced that a worship service in the style of the Community of Taizé will be held in the Mendota Room following the conclusion of the evening's plenary session for all who wish to attend.

The Conference recessed for the evening at 9:20 P.M.

Monday Morning, June 16, 2003

The morning session began at 8:30 with a hymn sing of Charles Wesley Hymns led by Grace Ca-juat. The hymn sing closed with a reading of the "Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition."

Bishop Rader called the conference to order at 8:45 a.m.

She shared announcements and prayer concerns.

She recognized Charles and Mary Helen Cederholm, who are moving to Arizona for health reasons. The conference affirmed their ministry with applause.

Bishop Rader named the members of the Implications Committee: Hee-Soo Jung, Doug Stallsmith, Sheri Graeber, Kaitlyn Aliota, Jorge Mayorga, Tim Van Schyndel, Marty Chandler.

She read the report of *General Conference Ballot 1*, and asked that the Conference affirm elections with an "Amen" rather than with applause

There was *no election* on *Clergy General Conference Ballot 1*.

Don Mendenhall was **elected** on *Laity General Conference Ballot 1*.

The Secretary offered further instructions regarding the balloting process.

General Conference Ballot 2 was taken at this time.

Roger Clapp, Chair of the Episcopacy Committee, presented a report about the work of the Episcopacy Committee as it prepares for a transition of Episcopal leadership next year when Bishop Rader retires.

Janet Ellinger presented the report of the *Petitions Committee*. Teller Team 1 distributed Ballot Forms.

General Conference Petitions 1 through 5 were considered and voted on.

Tom Lambrecht moved to amend *Petition 6* by adding after the phrase “related educational institution” the following sentence:

“Care should be taken that women, racial and ethnic persons, and representatives from the United Methodist related Black colleges and graduate theological seminaries shall be members of the senate”

The *amendment to Petition 6* was **approved**.

Petition 6 was voted upon as amended.

Petition 7 was considered and voted upon.

Doris Clark *moved to table Petitions 8 and 9* until results of *Petition 7* are known. The *motion to table* was **defeated**.

Petition 8 was considered and voted upon.

Steve Zekoff *moved to amend Petition 9* by removing the underlining from “and from” in *Petition #9*, line four, so it reads: “...shall be elected by and from the clergy members.....”. The motion to amend was approved.

Petition 9 was voted upon as amended.

Teller Team 2 collected the ballots on *Petitions 1 through 9*.

Rebecca Niese, representative of the Board of Ordained Ministry, introduced Gary Peluso-Verdend, Director of Church Relations and Associate Professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, who presented information about the “Culture of the Call.”

Following announcements, the conference recessed for a short break prior to the morning worship and Bible Study.

Members of the conference gathered at 10:50 for Worship, led by Grace Cajjuat, Jerry Cho, Howard Hintzman and Deb Kuehl. Justin Lowe was the pianist. Rev. Daniel Flores then led the conference in “A Quadrilateral Group Study with John Wesley,” focusing upon Wesley’s tract “Thoughts Upon Slavery.”

The Conference recessed for lunch at 12:03 p.m.

Monday Afternoon, June 16, 2003

Bishop Rader called the Conference to order at 1:34 p.m.

She reported that the offering taken at the Sunday Afternoon Ordination Service for the Clergy in Transition Fund was \$2072.97.

She read several letters of thanks from inmates at correctional institutions whose children participated in the “Rising Sun Camps” sponsored by the Wisconsin Annual Conference last year, and noted that “Origami doves” are being sold at this session of the conference to help raise funds for the Rising Sun Camps that will be held this summer.

The Bishop read the results of General Conference Ballot 2. There were 3 elections on the Laity Ballot: Billie LaBumbard, Sheri Graeber, Amy Valdez-Barker. There were 2 elections on the Clergy ballot: Hee-Soo Jung, Janet R. Ellinger.

General Conference Ballot 3 was taken at this time.

Llewon Felder of Clark Atlanta University, representing the Lina H. McCord internship of the Black College Fund, spoke to the Conference about the important ministry that is provided through through the Black College Fund which supports the United Methodist-related historically black colleges. Llewon is a Piano Performance major. At Bishop Rader’s request she shared a

delightful selection of music with the Conference.

Doug Anderson, representative of the Bishop Reuben Job Center for Leadership Development, spoke to the conference and encouraged those present to participate in the “Church by Size” seminars.

Barbara Boigegrain, General Secretary, and Woody Bedell, Chief Strategic Officer of the General Board of Pensions, shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining many of the issues facing the church related to Health Insurance.

Sarah Johnsen, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the current conference organizational structure. She identified staff positions, noting that the leadership position was not filled at this time but money remains in the budget to provide for leadership training.

Bruce Bartel presented the report on “A New Way of Superintending”. Bishop Rader introduced members of the committee who prepared the report, and the consultants who assisted the committee.

Tom Lindahl **moved to suspend the rules** so that a 2/3 vote be required in order to approve the Task Force Report or other alternate plans.

The question was divided into two parts. The **motion to suspend the rules was approved**. The **motion to require a 2/3 majority was approved**.

The report was placed before the conference for consideration. It will be debated and voted upon on Wednesday, June 18th.

Bishop Rader noted that *Action Items 10, 11 and 12* were incorrectly listed as having been submitted by First United Methodist Church in Whitewater. They were actually submitted by Everett Refior, a lay member of that congregation.

She placed *Action Item 10* before the conference. It was **defeated**.

Bishop Rader placed *Action Item 11* before the conference.

Steve Foster **moved the previous question**. The **motion to cease debate was approved**.

Action Item 11 was **approved**.

Bishop Rader announced the results of *General Conference Ballot 3*. There was *no election*.

General Conference Ballot 4 was taken at this time.

The secretary and Bishop read announcements. The conference then recessed for supper at 5:05 p.m.

Monday Evening, June 16, 2003

Members of the conference gathered at 7:00 p.m. for the Youth Led Worship Service

Bishop Rader called the conference to order at 8:04 p.m.

She read the results of *General Conference Clergy Ballot 4*. *Susanne Burwell, Wesley J. White, and Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis* were **elected**.

She read the results of *General Conference Laity Ballot 4*. *Becky Foster* was **elected**.

General Conference Ballot 5 was taken at this time.

Amy Valdez Barker shared a PowerPoint presentation about the Youth Ministry Institute.

Elyse Krueger, president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, presented *Action Item 9, Resolution on United Methodist Youth Ministry Sunday*. *Action Item 9* was **approved**.

Diane Quade, President of the Conference United Methodist Women, presented *Action Item 4, United Methodist Women Sunday*. *Action Item 4* was **approved**.

Steve Zekoff, Chairperson of the Conference Rules Committee, presented the report of the *Rules Committee*. He reported an editorial correction in Proposed Rule Change #6, changing the date “2005” to “2004,” and withdrew ‘Proposed Rules Change #7’ from consideration at this year’s Conference Session.

He moved *Proposed Rules Change #1*. It was **adopted**.

He moved *Proposed Rules Change #2*. It was **adopted**.

He moved *Proposed Rules Change #3*. It was **adopted**.

He moved *Proposed Rules Change #4*. It was **adopted**.

He moved *Proposed Rules Change #5*. It was **adopted**.

He moved *Proposed Rules Change #6*.

Cliff George **moved to amend** the proposal by changing the word “Sunday” to “weekend” wherever it occurs in the proposed rule change. The **motion to amend** was **defeated**.

Becca George **moved the previous question**. The **motion to close debate** was **approved**.

Proposed Rules Change #6 was **approved as originally presented**.

Zekoff moved *Proposed Rules Change # 8*.

After considerable discussion, Bishop Rader noted that it was past the scheduled 9:00 p.m. recess time.

Tom Lambrecht **moved to table** the matter until tomorrow. The **motion to table** was **defeated**.

John McBeth **moved to extend the time** for 15 minutes. The *motion to extend the time* was **approved**.

Jessica Frederick **moved the previous question**. The **motion to close debate** was **approved**.

Proposed Rules Change #8 was **adopted**.

Rebecca Niese **moved to amend** Conference Rule 120.1.5 by substituting “years of service in any Methodist denomination” for “years of participation in any conference or Methodist denomination group health insurance plan”. The motion was **approved**.

Mark Smith noted that the action just adopted may have financial implications of more than \$10,000. *The motion was referred to the Implications Committee for consideration*.

Fran Deaner **moved to extend the time** to take another ballot. The motion was **approved**.

Bishop Rader read the results of *General Conference Ballot 5*. There was *no election*.

General Conference Ballot 6 was taken at this time.

The Bishop and secretary read announcements, and the Bishop offered prayer.

The Conference recessed for the evening at 9:26 pm.

Tuesday Morning, June 17, 2003

Members of the conference gathered in the plenary area at 8:15 a.m. for the opening hymn sing.

Bishop Rader called the conference to order at 8:30 A.M. She reported that her shoes, which had been held hostage by the CCYM since the opening plenary session, have been returned.

She introduced Rev. Priscilla Jaiah, a minister from the Ghana Methodist Church who works with refugees who have come to Ghana from Liberia.

The Bishop then introduced Louie Garena, the liaison to the Wisconsin Conference from the Rio Grande Annual Conference, which is our partner conference in mission.

The Bishop read the results of *General Conference Ballot 6*. *Mary Council-Austin* was **elected** on the Clergy Ballot. This completed the election of the Clergy Delegation to the General Conference. There was *no election* on the *Laity Ballot*.

Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 1 and *Laity General Conference Ballot 7* were taken at this time.

Bishop Rader invited the conference to turn to “A Celebration of Christ’s Ministry “ in the agenda and resource booklet. The celebration began with the singing of “Forward Through the Ages,” followed by a recognition of common ministry and reaffirmation of baptism. Several persons were commissioned to short-term Christian service. Local pastors who are serving in their first appointment in the Wisconsin Annual Conference were recognized and their ministry was affirmed. Shanti Samuel, the first Deaconess to transfer INTO The United Methodist Church from another Methodist denomination, was recognized. She transferred into the Wisconsin Conference from the Methodist Church of India, and is serving at the Hartland UMC. Marilyn Higgins, a Commissioned Community Developer serving in the Milwaukee area, was recognized.

Bishop Rader and the District Superintendents read the *changes in appointments* since the last session of the Annual Conference, and *the Bishop declared the appointments fixed*.

Hee-Soo Jung, Chairperson of the Cabinet, delivered the *Cabinet Address*. The text of his message is printed in the Conference Journal. Bishop Rader then led the conference in a time of covenant, using the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer, and the Celebration concluded with the singing of “Halle, Halle, Halleluja!”

After a short break, the conference gathered again in the plenary area for a time of Worship and Bible Study. Grace Cajuat let a time of inspirational singing. Deb Kuehl read the scripture lesson from Romans 12:1-18. Ivelisse Quinones shared a testimony, sharing the story of her call to ministry. Rev. Daniel Flores shared information and stories related to John Wesley’s sermon on Evangelical Zeal and invited the conference to discuss insights and share stories related to the message. The time of Worship and Bible Study ended with the singing of “As a Fire is Meant for Burning.”

Following another short break, members and friends of the conference re-convened for the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. The service took the form of a funeral service in the style of the Oneida United Methodist Church. The Oneida singers, members of the congregation and community, began the service with the singing of several hymns in the Oneida language. The time of singing was an invitation for the Spirit to come and embrace the mourners with holy love and bring them the presence of God’s comfort and hope as they grieve the death of a loved one. Following the singing, Evelyn Elm, an elder of the Oneida congregation, spoke about the “Tradition of the Strawberry Field,” and how it relates to the Oneida tradition of heaven. Bishop Sharon Rader then shared scripture and words of comfort, and read the names of those persons of the Annual Conference community who have died during the past year. She offered a benediction. The Oneida singers then shared several hymns, and another elder of the tribe led the congregation in praying the Lord’s Prayer in the Oneida language. Following the Lord’s Prayer, a time of drumming began. In the Oneida tradition, drumming is a way to assist the spirits of those who

have died as they are carried to their Creator. The drumbeat replicates the beat of the heart, which represents the life/soul of a human. Following the service, family members were invited to go to the worship area to receive a strawberry plant as a gift of remembrance in honor of their loved one. After the Memorial Service, the conference recessed for the noon meal.

Tuesday Afternoon, June 17, 2003

Bishop Rader called the conference to order at 1:30 P.M. She introduced Bishop Don Ott, who spoke to the Conference about the Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty. Bishop Ott was a member of the Wisconsin Conference at the time of his election to the Episcopacy.

Bishop Rader introduced Scott Anderson, the new Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. He spoke to the Conference and brought greetings from the 11 denominations that are members of the WCC.

Bishop Rader spoke about "The Christian Disciple Farm" vacation Bible school for special needs children being sponsored by the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, and encouraged support of this ministry through volunteering and through Advance Special giving.

Bishop Rader read the results of *Laity General Conference Ballot 7*. Rick Kindschi was **elected**. This completes the election of the Laity Delegation to General Conference. The Bishop read the results of *Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 1*. Stephen J. Polster was **elected**.

Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 2 and *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 1* were taken at this time.

Bishop Rader introduced Bishop Oh-Suh Kwon and the members of the delegation from the Dong-Bu (East) Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. Bishop Kwon spoke to the conference, with translation from Korean to English by Hee-Soo Jung. The conference greeted the Bishop and delegation with a standing ovation, and Bishop Rader and Bishop Kwon exchanged gifts. Bishop Rader spoke about the important work that the Council of Bishops is doing to support the reunification of the Korean people.

Bishop Rader introduced Loretta Thompson Martin, Vice-President of External Relations at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, who brought greetings to the conference from the college. She shared information about the important educational work that Wiley College is doing, and presented Bishop Rader and the conference with a canvas mural of the Wiley College Campus.

Bishop Rader introduced Hal Wilde, President of North Central College, and Lyn Pries, Chaplain at the college. They brought greetings to the conference from the college and spoke about the ministry of the college.

Bruce Bartel presented the report of the *Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries*. He introduced Mike Ford, consultant from Kaleidoscope, Inc., who shared a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Comprehensive Assessment of Program and Sites.

Bartel recognized the Camp Site directors, and introduced those who were present to the conference.

Bartel presented *Action Item 1: Resolution on Local Church Camping Coordinator*. It was **approved**.

He presented *Action Item 2: Resolution on Camp and Retreat Emphasis Sunday*. It was **approved**.

Joan Fordham and David Ogden presented the action items from the **Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation**.

Ogden moved *Action Item 5: Resolution on Housing Allowance for Retired and Disabled Clergy*. The motion was **approved**.

Fordham moved *Action Item 6: Resolution on Past Service Annuity Rate*. The motion was **approved**.

Ogden moved *Action Item 7: Resolution on Minimum Compensation*.

Bob Blackburn **moved to amend** the motion by adding a resolution establishing a task force to determine a more economically just method for determining the clergy portion of health insurance premiums.

Steve Zekoff raised a point of order, that the resolution was not related to the motion before the body. Bishop Rader ruled the Blackburn motion out of order at this time, but indicated that the conference could consider it prior to the conclusion of the report from the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation.

Action Item 7 was **approved**.

Fordham moved *Action Item 8: Resolution on Formal Funding Plan for Pre-1982 Pension Liability*. The motion was **approved**.

The Bishop and Secretary read announcements, and the conference recessed for the Service of Transition and Thanksgiving.

Members and friends of the conference gathered at 3:30 p.m. for the Service of Transition and Thanksgiving. The service began with the singing of "Forward Through the Ages." During a time of Celebration of the Call, Blessings, and Faithful Service, each retiree's favorite hymn was played, their favorite scripture and pictures from their ministry were displayed on the screens. Howard Hintzman invited each of the retirees to share one story about their ministry. The offering was taken to support the purchase of educational materials for those who are preparing for ministry in the Wisconsin Conference and in our partner conferences, Rio Grande and Cuba. Bishop Rader expressed the conference's appreciation to the retirees for their ministry, and led in a litany of "Release from Unfinished Business – Entrustment." Richard Jones, representing this year's class of retirees, "passed the mantle" to Teresa Koca, representing this year's class of ordinands. The Service of Transition and Thanksgiving concluded with the singing of "This is a Day of New Beginnings." The conference then recessed until the evening Banquet.

Tuesday Evening, June 17, 2003

Members and friends of the Conference gathered for the Recognition and Awards Banquet at 6:30. The Ekaterinburg Trio, a musical group from Russia that has been performing in the United States for the past several summers, provided dinner music. The conference expressed its appreciation for the music with a warm round of applause.

Following the meal, Howard Hintzman and Lynn Church announced the recipients of the many awards that are given by various conference groups each year. The complete listing of the awards will be printed in the 2003 Wisconsin Conference Yearbook and Journal.

Bishop Rader called the plenary session to order at 8:20 p.m.

Anita Genrich, Chairperson of the Health and Welfare Ministries Committee, introduced Perry Huyck, Executive Director of United Methodist Children's Services who has been recognized as "Outstanding Administrator of the Year for Children, Youth and Adult Ministries, and David Green of Evergreen Retirement Community, who has been recognized as "Administrator of the Year for Older Adult Ministries." Both of these recognitions come from The United Methodist Association of Health Care Administrators. Genrich expressed her appreciation to Bishop Rader for her support of the Health and Welfare ministries of the Conference.

Bishop Rader read the results of *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 1*. *Jessie Hakes, Judy Lybeck, and Sue Setterlund* were **elected**. She read the results of *Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 2*. *Francis R. Deaner and M. Lynn Scott* were **elected**.

Clergy Jurisdictional Ballot 3 and *Laity Jurisdictional Ballot 2* were taken at this time.

Bob Blackburn withdrew the motion he had presented this afternoon.

Warren Waddell **moved** that the Board of Pensions & Health Care and the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation present to the 2004 Wisconsin Annual Conference a more expanded report of the Income and expenses for the Permanent Pension Fund and Ministerial Pension Plan Fund including:

- Amount in
- Amount out
- Interest
- Dividend
- And totals to give us an idea of where the funds are going.

The motion was **approved**.

Hee-Soo Jung presented the report of the Implications Committee on the implications of the Niese amendment to amend Rule 120.1.5, which was approved Monday Evening. He **moved**:

“to refer the Niese motion to the Health Insurance Committee of the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation for further research and, to bring its recommendation to the 2004 Annual Conference.”

Mark Smith, Conference Benefits Officer, shared the rationale behind the recommendation.

The *motion to refer* was **approved**.

Steve Zekoff **moved** “to delay implementation of the revised 120.1.5 introductory paragraph until the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance, and Equitable Compensation can present to the 2004 Annual Conference session the implications of this action.”

The motion was **approved**.

Zekoff moved the adoption of the entire report of the **Rules Committee**. The motion was **approved**.

Bill Helwig, Executive Director of the *Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*, presented *Action Item 3: Designation of Earnings from the “New Ministries Fund”*. It was **approved**.

Sheri Graeber and Andy Oren, Conference Lay Leaders, presented the *Report of the Lay Leader* to the Annual Conference. The text of their message is printed in the Conference Journal.

Bishop Rader read the results of *Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 3*. *Richard Jones* was **elected**. She read the results of *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 2*. *Robert Spinti* was **elected**. Bishop Rader asked the secretary to check the accuracy of the results of Laity Jurisdictional Ballot 2.

Bishop Rader placed *Action Item 12: Resolution in Support of the International Criminal Court* before the conference, with the notation that it was submitted by Everett Refior, a member of the Whitewater UMC, rather than by the congregation. *Action Item 12* was **adopted**.

The Secretary reported that after re-processing Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 2, it was determined that a candidate ID number had inadvertently been omitted from the computer database. After the ID number was added into the computer, the ballots were re-processed. While the re-processing of the ballots changed the total number of votes that some persons received, it did not change the outcome of Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 2. Robert Spinti was elected. Bishop Rader read the corrected results of Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 2.

Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 4 and *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 3* were taken at this time.

Janet Ellinger resumed presentation of the report of the **Petitions Committee**. Tellers distributed Ballot Forms.

Petitions 10 and 11 were considered and voted on.

The tellers collected the Petitions Ballot Forms.

The Secretary read announcements. The conference then recessed for the evening at 10:15 p.m.

Wednesday Morning, June 18, 2003

Members of the conference gathered in the plenary area at 8:15 a.m. for the opening hymn sing, which was led by Grace Cajuat.

Bishop Rader called the Plenary Session to order at 8:33 a.m. She read opening announcements.

The Bishop then read the results of *Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 4*. There was no election.

She read the results of *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 5*. **Roger Kindschi** was **elected**.

Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 5 and *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 4* were taken at this time.

Bruce Bartel presented the report of the Bishop's Task Force on Superintending.

Bartel **moved** the following resolution:

Whereas the Wisconsin Annual Conference at its 2002 session adopted a motion to refer to the Vision/Quality Improvement Team for its consideration the matter of reducing the number of districts in this Annual Conference, and

Whereas the Vision/Quality Improvement Team was also instructed to "research and present plans for alternative systems of supervision employed in the superintendency," and

Whereas the Vision/Quality Improvement Team subsequently requested the Bishop to convene a Task Force, consisting of one former and one current district superintendent, two clergy persons, and two laypersons to assist in accomplishing the aforementioned tasks, and

Whereas the Task Force was appointed by the Bishop in January of this year, and has since produced its report with recommendations for action by the Annual Conference

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Annual Conference give approval to begin the implementation, in the 2003-2004 conference year, of the Task Force recommendations for superintending the mission and ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church by reducing the number of district superintendents to four, the creation of Circuits, and creating the position of Assistant to the Bishop. This plan will take effect July 1, 2004.

Barbara G. Cook **moved** "that we refer the Task Force proposal to our churches for discussion, suggested revisions and advisory votes at their annual church conferences, with the suggested revisions and advisory votes to be reported to the Task Force for their report to the 2004 Annual Conference."

Karly Kuntz **moved the previous question** on the motion to refer. The **motion to cease debate** was **approved**. The **motion to refer** was **defeated**.

Linda Pliska **moved** "that we delete the phrases "by reducing the number of District Superintendents to four" and "creating the Assistant to the Bishop." and that we insert: "As the process develops it is hoped that we can reduce the number of DS's from 8 to 4 and add training staff at that time."

Mel Henrichs **moved to suspend the rule** requiring referral of this motion to the implications committee. The **motion to suspend rules** was **approved**.

John Sumwalt **moved to amend** the Pliska Amendment by adding the following: “Take \$20,000 funding of leadership development salary line item to use as seed money and seek funds from other resources.”

Gary Swanson **moved previous question on all that is before us**. The **motion to cease debate** on the whole matter was **defeated**.

Elyse Kruger **moved the previous question on the Sumwalt amendment**. The **motion to cease debate** was **approved**.

The **Sumwalt amendment** was **defeated**.

Mark Geisthart **moved the previous question** on Pliska Amendment. The **motion to cease debate** on the Pliska amendment was **approved**.

The **Pliska amendment** was **defeated**.

Mark Swanson **moved the previous question on all that is before us**. The **motion to cease debate** was **approved**.

Paul Johnsen requested a **written ballot**.

Tellers distributed ballot forms. The conference voted on the Report of the Bishop’s Task Force on Superintending” as it was originally presented by written ballot.

While the tellers were counting the written ballot on the task force report, the conference considered the following items.

Nancy Moffatt, Superintendent of the Chippewa District, moved *Action Item 13: Discontinuance of Christ United Methodist Church, Cameron*. The motion was **approved**.

Lynn Scott, Superintendent of the Heartland District, moved *Action Item 14, Discontinuance of Big Creek United Methodist Church, Big Creek Valley, Wisconsin*. The motion was **approved**.

Moffatt and Scott led the conference in the “Litany of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of these United Methodist Churches.” The conference then sang one verse of “The Church’s One Foundation.”

Bishop Rader declared a 10-minute recess.

Members of the Conference gathered at 10:35 for a time of Worship and Bible Study. The service was led by Grace Cajiuat, Howard Hitzman, and Deb Kuehl. Marvin Spence shared the story of his journey into ministry. Rev. Daniel Flores led a study on John Wesley’s Sermon on “The Use of Money.” During the study time Scripture lessons were read by several people from the floor of the conference. Rev. Flores shared comments on Wesley’s sermon, and invited the conference to discuss around the tables several questions about the insights they have gained from this sermon.

Bishop thanked Rev. Flores for his leadership during the study times at this conference session, and invited Rev. Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis, pastor at La Resurrección United Methodist Church in Lake Geneva, to teach the conference how to express our appreciation for Rev. Flores’ ministry among us in the Spanish language.

The Secretary read announcements. The Bishop announced that the afternoon plenary will start at 1:10 p.m. She offered prayer, and the conference recessed for lunch at 11:33 p.m.

Wednesday Afternoon, June 18, 2003

Bishop Rader called the afternoon plenary session to order at 1:10 p.m.

She read the results of *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 4*. **Michael Mueller** was **elected**. This completed the election of the Laity Delegation. One more Laity Ballot will be taken to elect two reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference.

Bishop Rader read the results of *Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 5*. There was no election.

Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 6 and *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 5* were taken at this time.

Steve Ward requested a moment of privilege to express thanks for the conference's support of the Siren congregation and community following the tornado that devastated that community two years ago. He noted that it is the second anniversary of the tornado, and he thanked all the workers who came to help the people of Siren recover from this disaster.

Warren Waddell **moved** "that study be made to determine the possibility of a new church start in the Cameron area, and that a new church start be encouraged in the Cameron area if it is determined that a new church is viable." The motion was **defeated**.

Bishop Rader shared the results of vote on the *Report of the Task Force on Superintending*. The recommendation was **adopted** on a written vote of 594 yes, 183 no.

Craig Myrbo **moved** that "in order to insure success of the plan the Conference shall make an intensive educational effort in all churches regarding the plan of new superintending." The motion was **adopted**.

Martha Blumer, manager of the Cokesbury store made a brief presentation about the work of The United Methodist Publishing House. She gave Bishop Rader a copy of the *New Interpreter's Study Bible (New Revised Standard Version)*. She presented the conference a check for \$12,996, which represents the Wisconsin Conference's share of the proceeds of The United Methodist Publishing House for last year. According to *The Book of Discipline*, these funds are designated for support of the Conference pension program.

Mark Smith, Conference Benefits Officer, **moved** "that the monies from the United Methodist Publishing House (Cokesbury) be sent to General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to be used to help fund the pension liabilities of the Central Conferences, where there is a more desperate need for funding alternatives." The motion was **approved**.

Bishop Rader read results of *Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 6*. There was no election.

Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 7 was taken at this time. This ballot will complete the delegation. The two persons who receive the highest number of votes will be delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, and the two persons who receive the next highest number of votes will be reserve delegates.

Janet Ellinger resumed presentation of the report of the *Petitions Committee*.

Petitions 12 through 21 were considered at this time.

Following consideration of Petition 12, Steve Foster **moved to limit debate** to 2 speeches 4 and 2 against and the time limit be 2 minutes for the remainder of the petitions. The **motion to limit debate** was **approved**.

Following consideration of Petition 15, Jim Cotter **moved to suspend discussion** of General Conference Petitions 16-21 and vote on those petitions without further debate. The motion was **defeated**.

After completion of the voting on petitions, the tellers collected the ballots.

The results of the voting on the petitions will be printed in the Conference Journal and published on the Conference website.

Jerry Eckert **moved** that the Wisconsin Annual Conference request from the Judicial Council a declaratory decision under Paragraph 2610 on the constitutionality of Par. 346.1 in light of Paragraphs 18 and 31 of the constitution and in light of Paragraphs 341.5 and 344.2. Additional parties to the proceeding are: Bob Kohler, GBHEM Division of Ordained Ministry; Fellowship of Associate and Local Pastors, Wisconsin Conference Cabinet, Wisconsin Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Myron Talcott **moved to refer** the motion so that there would be a consultation convened by Bishop, with representatives of the Cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and maker of motion to discuss whether to recommend that this declaratory opinion be sought.

The **motion to refer** was **approved**.

Bishop Rader read the results of **Clergy Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 7**. *Steven Zekoff* and *Christine Bethke* were **elected** as delegates. *Amy DeLong* and *Forrest Wells* were elected as *reserve delegates*.

Bishop Rader read the results of *Laity Jurisdictional Conference Ballot 5*. *Diane Odeen* was **elected** as the first reserve delegate. Bishop Rader then announced that there was a tie vote for the second reserve delegate position. Beverly Case and Nancy Hanaman each received the same number of votes.

Joel Deaner-Rogers **moved to suspend rules** to allow send 3 Lay Reserve Delegates to Jurisdictional Conference. The **motion to suspend the rules** was **approved**.

Steve Zekoff raised a Point of Order: that only laity can vote on the laity election. Bishop Rader ruled that the conference was voting on procedures rather than on the election of delegates, and that the motion was therefore in order.

The Conference then voted to send 3 lay reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference.

Sue Setterlund, Chairperson of the *Nominations Committee*, presented the nominations report. She **moved** that Nominations Committee be given permission to fill vacancies as they occur during the coming year. The motion was **approved**.

Setterlund **moved the adoption of the full report** of the Nominations Committee including the addendum, and the election of those persons needing to be elected. The motion was **approved**.

Jon Furlow presented the Conference with a Certificate of Appreciation from the General Council on Finance and Administration in recognition of Wisconsin's 100% payment of our General Church Apportionments. The certificate was accepted on behalf of the Conference by Joan Frost, and Skip Virchow, pastor and lay member from the Waterloo United Methodist Church, a 196 member congregation which paid its apportionments in full in 2002 for the first time in many years.

Bishop Rader expressed her pride in the Wisconsin Conference for its generous support of our denominational obligations.

George Groves expressed thanks for the conference's generous support of Ladysmith after the tornado that swept through that community last September.

Doug Stallsmith, Chairperson **of the Council on Finance and Administration**, **moved adoption of the Proposed Budget** for 2004.

Carl Doersch **moved to amend** 2004 budget by adding \$9,000 to the budget of the Board of Global Ministries for salary support at Odanah UMC in 2004. The **motion** was **approved**.

Steve Zekoff **moved to transfer** the \$9000 for Odanah to the budget of Board of Congregation and Parish Development, so that all similar items can be grouped together.

Jeff Virchow **moved amend** the Zekoff motion by changing the location of the transfer to the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation. The Virchow motion was **accepted as a friendly amendment**.

The Zekoff motion was **approved as amended**.

Stallsmith reported that the amended budget total is \$7,329,560.

The **2004 Budget** was **approved as amended**.

The Secretary read the results of the votes on Petitions to General Conference. The vote totals will be printed in the Conference Journal and posted on the Conference website.

The Secretary read announcements.

Carolyn Saunders, chairperson of the *Program and Arrangements Committee*, expressed thanks to all those who have led and facilitated this session of the Annual Conference.

She introduced the members of the Program and Arrangements Committee and invited them to stand.

Saunders then announced that the 2004 session of the Annual Conference will take place June 13 – 16, 2004 at the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center.

Warren Waddell **moved** “that the Program and Arrangements Committee take special care to plan the annual conference at a time when all people can attend equally.” The motion was **approved**.

Bishop Rader expressed her appreciation for all of those who assisted with this session of the Annual Conference.

The 34th session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church adjourned *sine die* at 4:40 P.M.