
**CLERGY SESSION
OF THE
WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
34TH SESSION**

Sunday, June 15, 2003

Bishop Rader called the Clergy Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison, Wisconsin.

Paul Johnsen, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, welcomed the clergy members of the Conference, and asked Bishop Rader to remind us of who is to be present at this session. The Bishop noted that all clergy members of the Conference, including Members in Full Connection, Probationary members, Local Pastors and Student Pastors, as well as Lay Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may be present and have voice in the Clergy Session. Only Elders and Deacons in Full Connection and Lay Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may vote.

Karen Ebert, Chairperson of the Division of Elders of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented Question 28b of The Business of the Annual Conference, and introduced the following persons who are recommended by the Board for election as Probationary Members and Commissioning to Pastoral Ministry in preparation for ordination:

Keith Aurand
Debbie Hastings
Rebecca Henry
Hyu-Jae Lee
Kyung-Sook Lee

The Clergy Session voted to elect each of these persons as Probationary Members and to Commission them to Pastoral Ministry.

Ebert presented Questions 33b, 35b, and 37a, and introduced the following persons who have been recommended by the Board for election as Members in Full Connection of the Annual Conference and Ordained as Elders in The United Methodist Church:

Christal Bindrich
Susan E. Bresser
Rachel Cobb
Richard Fite
Kelly Fowler
Sandra Hamilton
Amy Jameson
Teresa Koca
Deanna Merritt
Wendee Nitz
Jack R. Starr
Jean Waldron

She introduced Hyo-Won Park, who has been recommended by the Board for election as a Member in Full Connection. She noted that his ordination as an Elder in the Korean Methodist Church

was recognized by the Annual Conference last year, and that he has been serving as a probationary member until completing United Methodist Studies.)

Bishop Rader noted that all of these persons had been introduced at the Special Clergy Session which was held in Wausau, Wisconsin, on May 21st, and that there had been speeches of affirmation for their ministry at that time.

The members of the Clergy Session voted to elect each of these persons as Members in Full Connection, and to grant Elder's Orders to each of those persons to be ordained.

The Clergy Session affirmed the ministry of all of the persons who were elected with a round of applause.

Following the singing of a hymn, Bishop Rader declared the clergy session in recess until Monday Evening, June 16, 2003.

Monday June 16, 2003

Bishop Rader called the Clergy Session to Order at 9:45 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center in Middleton, Wisconsin.

Paul Johnsen, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, welcomed those present. He invited Harold Zimmick, a member of the Board, to lead the clergy session in prayer.

Following the opening prayer, Johnsen asked Bishop Rader to remind us of who is to be present and voting in this clergy session.

Bishop Rader noted that, according to the provisions of ¶605.6 of The Book of Discipline, all clergy members of the conference – including deacons, elders, local pastors and student pastors under appointment of a bishop (full and part time), and lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may be present and have voice in the Clergy session. Only Elders and Deacons in Full Connection and lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may vote in the Clergy Session.

Hee-Soo Jung, Chairperson of the Cabinet, read the cabinet's response to Question 17, "Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration?" The text of the cabinet's response is printed in "The Business of The Annual Conference" in Volume 1 of the 2003 Wisconsin Conference Journal.

Johnsen introduced Kevin Rice Myers, the Executive Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, who presented the Board's report.

Rice Myers presented questions 18a and 18b, and noted that there were two changes this year in the membership of the Committee on Investigation (18a). The Clergy Session elected them.

He presented Questions 19 and 20 for information.

He then presented Question 21, and invited those who have completed the 5-Year Course of Study this past year to stand and be recognized. They are: Phillip Airhart, John Hazen, and Mark Peacock. The Clergy Session affirmed their work with a round of applause.

Rice Myers moved the adoption of Question 21(a) – Those approved for appointment as Full Time Local Pastors. It was approved.

He moved Question 21(b), Those approved for appointment as Part-Time Local Pastors, with the addition of the name of Loretta Waughtal, which was incorrectly listed under Question 19 in the printed report. It was approved.

He moved Question 21(c), Those appointed as Student Local Pastors. It was approved.

He presented Question 22, Those Discontinued as Local Pastors, for information.

Jerry Eckert made the following motion:

“I move as a substitute motion that Item 22, Discontinuance of Local Pastors, become a matter to be voted on by the clergy session.”

The motion was seconded. Following discussion, the substitute motion was defeated.

Rice Myers presented Question 24 for information, adding the name of Juanita Ferguson from the Detroit Annual Conference.

He presented Question 25. It was approved.

He presented Questions 30(a), 30(b) and 31(c) for information.

He presented Questions 32(a) & 43(b). Gary Cole and Bradley Van Fossen, who are being received by recognition of their orders from the Evangelical Covenant Church and recommended by the Board for election as Probationary Members were introduced to the Clergy Session. The Clergy Session affirmed their ministry with a round of applause. Questions 32(a) and 43(b) were approved.

Rice Myers presented Question 41, Those Received by Transfer from Other Annual Conferences, for Information. He invited those present to come forward and introduced them to the Clergy Session.

He presented question 44b, and noted that on Sunday Afternoon, June 15th, Bishop Rader ordained Daniel Flores as a Deacon under the provisions of the 1992 Discipline as a courtesy to the Rio Grande Annual Conference. Rev. Flores is serving as the guest Bible study leader for our Annual Conference, and because of that was unable to be present at the Ordination Service at the Rio Grande Conference Session.

Rice Myers presented Question 45, Those Transferred Out to other Annual Conferences, for information. He noted that Ivelisse Quiñones and Jairo Franco, Local Pastors, are transferring their candidacy status to the South Georgia Annual Conference, and that Jairo completed the 5-year Course of Study this year. He invited him to stand and be recognized, and the conference affirmed his ministry with a round of applause.

Rice Myers presented Question 46, those Discontinued as Probationary Members, and noted that the effective date for Robert Varnam’s discontinuance was May 24, 2003. It was approved.

He presented Question 47(a)(2), and noted that three of the pastors on Honorable Location have not complied with reporting requirements. It was also noted for information that Scott Lone holds Charge Conference membership at Milwaukee: Central UMC. This information will be added to the Business of the Annual Conference report when it is printed in the 2003 Journal.

He presented Questions 48(a) and 48(b) for information.

He presented Question 49. It was approved.

Rice Myers presented Questions 52 (a) & (c), Those who have died during the past year. He read the names of the deceased clergy members, adding the name of Earl Hackett, who died on June 9, 2003, to the printed list. He then invited the clergy session to a time of silent prayer in memory of these colleagues in ministry.

He presented Question 53, Those Appointed to Other Annual Conferences, for information, adding the name of John Ruiz, who has been appointed to the East Ohio Annual Conference.

Rice Myers presented Question 54(a), those on Leave of Absence. He noted that this question requires a 2/3 approval vote for those whose leave has extended beyond 5 years. The clergy session voted separately on those whose leave has extended beyond 5 years, and it was approved with the necessary 2/3 majority.

Question 54(a) – those on Leave of Absence for 5 years or less, was then adopted with the necessary majority.

He presented Question 54(c). It was approved.

He presented Question 55(a), noting that Marilyn Hair's request to continue on Family Leave requires a 2/3 approval vote since it has extended beyond 5 years. Her request was approved by the necessary 2/3 majority. The rest of the list of those on Family Leave was then approved by the necessary majority.

Rice Myers presented question 55(b). It was approved.

He presented Question 56 – Sabbatical Leave, noting that the effective date Sabbatical Leave for Mary Hedgecock was January 1, 2003. It was approved.

He presented Question 57(a), noting that the effective date of Incapacity Leave for William Dushek was January 1, 2003. It was approved.

He presented Question 57(c). It was approved.

He presented Question 58(a), Those Elders Retiring this Year, and noted that the name of Earl Hackett should be deleted from the printed list. He invited those who are retiring to come forward and be recognized. The Clergy Session affirmed their ministry with a round of applause, and Question 58(a) was approved. Bishop Rader greeted each of the retirees, and noted that together they had given several hundred years of service to The United Methodist Church.

Rice Myers presented Questions 58(b) and 59(b) for information.

He presented Questions 61(a) and 61(b) for Information.

Rice Myers noted that Questions 62, 63 and 64 are statistical charts and tables that are completed after the annual conference session.

Questions 65 through 69 deal with persons who are certified in specialized areas of ministry.

He presented Questions 65 and 66 for information.

Questions 70 through 81 deal with Diaconal Ministers

Rice Myers presented Question 75 for information.

He presented Questions 81(a) and (b), noting that Shirley Clement has requested the Retired Relationship as a Diaconal Minister. It was approved.

He presented Question 82, those Appointed to Less Than Full Time Service, noting that a 2/3 vote is required for those who have held this appointment for more than 8 years. He added the name of John Ruiz to the report, at ¾ time. Question 82 was approved by the necessary majority.

He presented Question 83 for information.

He presented Question 87(c), Those Appointed to Extension Ministry under ¶335.1d. It was approved by the necessary 2/3 majority.

He presented Question 88, Those Appointed to Attend School, for information

He presented Question 89 for information.

He presented Question 90. Several additional personal notations were made, and these will be added to the printed report in the 2003 Journal.

He presented Question 91. Bishop Rader announced that the 2004 Wisconsin Annual Conference Session will be held from June 13 – 16, 2004, at the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center. The Bishop asked the clergy members to note this date and not to schedule weddings or other events that conflict with Annual Conference.

Paul Johnsen called upon Sue Ott-Holland, Chair of the Order of Elders, Amber Wolover, Chair of the Order of Deacons, and Ron Kral, Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors, to share information about the work of the Orders and the Fellowship. They announced that New Clergy Orientation will be August 25-26, 2003, at Byron Center, and extended an invitation to clergy to be involved in Spiritual Formation. Training in group leadership for Spiritual Formation will be held August 5-7, both in Wausau and at the Conference Center in Sun Prairie. A list of Spiritual Guides/Directors/Retreat Leaders is now available.

Johnsen expressed his thanks to all those who assist the Board with its task of the credentialing of faithful, competent, and responsible clergy spiritual leaders for this Annual Conference and its extension ministries. He invited the following persons to stand and be recognized:

- Pastors who have had a person from their church be approved as a candidate this past year.
- Inquiring Candidate Retreat Leaders
- Candidacy mentors
- Clergy/probationary mentors
- District Committee members (and that of course includes District Superintendents)
- Continuing Education Contact person
- The Executive Secretary of the Board
- Board of Ordained Ministry members.

He placed the entire report of the Board of Ordained Ministry before the Clergy Session. It was adopted.

The 2003 Clergy Session was adjourned.

**SPECIAL CLERGY SESSION
OF THE
WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MAY 21, 2003
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN CONFERENCE, UMC**

Clergy Members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference gathered in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Wausau, Wisconsin at 10:00 A.M. on May 21, 2003 for a time of worship, learning and celebration. The opening hymn was "Gather Us In." Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader read the scripture lesson from 1 Corinthians 12. She introduced Bishop Michael Coyner, Bishop of the Dakotas Area of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Coyner shared a presentation about "Keeping the Clergy Covenant." Following Bishop Coyner's presentation, the gathered clergy sang "Where Charity and Love Prevail."

Stephen Polster shared a presentation from the Conference Task Force on Structure of The Superintendency, about the proposals for re-structuring and clergy circuits that will be brought to the Annual Conference session in June.

Amber Wolover, Chair of the Order of Deacons, Sue Ott-Holland, Chair of the Order of Elders, and Ron Kral, Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors, presented an overview of the work that is being done to provide opportunities for Conferencing and Covenant Groups for clergy.

Following a prayer offered by Cathy Hamblin, the clergy session recessed for lunch, which was served by members of the host congregation.

After lunch, the clergy members of the conference gathered again in the sanctuary to celebrate those who will be entering and leaving the covenant community at this year's annual conference session.

Those who are to be recommended for commissioning and ordination at the regular clergy session in June were introduced to the clergy members, as well as those who are to be received by transfer from other denominations. There were speeches of affirmation for each of them.

Those who will be retiring at the Annual Conference Session were introduced. The clergy members expressed their appreciation for their ministry.

Following the singing of "The Servant Song" and a Litany From Ecclesiastes 4, Bishop Coyner led the clergy members in a time of exploration of the question "Where is God Calling You to Strengthen Your Covenants?"

The Special Clergy Session closed with a reading of "A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition" and the singing of "Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessing."

Bishop Rader adjourned the Special Clergy Session with a Blessing at 3:00 P.M.