
2003 Recognitions and Awards

Commission on Archives and History Awards for Years of Service -- 2003

60 Years

Lawrence A. Brown
J. Roy Deming
Robert R. Sanks
William Rodney Shaw
Robert J. Trobaugh

50 Years

Dale R. Christopher
R. James Hagen
David Sights Hinshaw
Thomas E. Lowery
Gerald F. Moede
Howard M. Ott
Kenneth R. Redfearn
Harold R. Riebe
Veryl E. Schubert

25 Years

Phyllis H. Averill
C. Arlene O'Flanagan
Jodie E. Joiner
Robert H. Linaberry-Charis
Kevin Rice Myers
Marjorie Rice Myers
Carson R. Timblin

Perry Saito Award

The Perry Saito Award is given annually by the Wisconsin United Methodist Federation for Social Action to an individual or group who has significantly contributed to social justice in today's world.

This year's recipient is

INFORMATION PROJECT FOR UNITED METHODISTS

The 2003 Perry Saito Award is given to the Information Project for United Methodists (www.ipum.org) for their book *United Methodism @RISK: A Wake Up Call*. This publication documents the rise and strategies of "conservative renewal groups" as they labor to take over the structure of the United Methodist Church/ Bringing this information to light illustrates deliberate and untruthful attempts of the religious right to discredit social justice ministries as a key element in a strategy to seize power in the church.

This important work of uncovering source information regarding the financial base, methods and tactics of conservative renewal groups often goes unappreciated. We honor the Information Project for United Methodists for giving the whole church a look behind the scenes. This sort of truth, along with the movement of the Holy Spirit, can indeed set us free to build on the traditions of the Wesleyan movement, to continue binding together personal and social holiness.

Creation Care Church Award

First United Methodist Church, Waupaca

A Creation Care Church Award for 2003 is presented to First UMC, Waupaca for carrying out a program of environmental education, witness, energy reduction, and community service to nurture and care for God's creation and advance the cause of Eco-Justice. The award is given by the Conference Board of Church and Society.

Commission on the Status & Role of Women Bridge Builder Awards

The C.O.S.R.O.W. (Commission on the Status & Role of Women) Bridge Builders Award is given to persons who have been and are good bridge builders between men and women, lay and clergy in our Conference and in society. It is the Commission's hope to present the award to a man and a woman each year. Those receiving the award must have met the criteria of (1) They must be inclusive in their style of leadership. (2) They must work to break down barriers that both the Church and society have built. The recipients of this year's award have spent many years in these pursuits.

The 2003 Bridge Builder Award recipients are:

Odell Thompson

Odell Thompson has been a persistent and graceful contributor in the work of building bridges for many years through her efforts and presence in the United Methodist Church, her workplace, and her community. She carries a special passion for children in need.

As a Director of Women's Division, she traveled the world gathering information, giving hope, and connecting people in dire circumstances with resources to address their need. She works to eliminate racism and foster understanding between people, whatever their skin color and heritage. She is an advocate for grandparents who are providing primary parenting for their grandchildren.

Thank you, Odell. In a hurting and hurtful world, your continuing witness is a bridge of strength and love.

Rev. Frank Gaylord

Frank has been an advocate and support for women in leadership in the church for many years. As pastor of local congregations and as Council Director of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, Frank gave encouragement to clergy and lay women who were accepting new roles in leadership. He has also been a steady voice to eradicate racism and its effects on people's lives. Frank represents our conference on the Board of Project Equality (Milwaukee).

Frank is currently using some of his retirement time and energy to focus on working with churches in conflict.

Thank you, Frank, for your past, present, and future efforts in choosing to build bridges.

Mission Olympics

The Wisconsin Conference Mission Motivation Committee in its Mission Olympics Challenge Program recognizes the following churches for their mission study:

Bronze Award

(Members, including the pastor, completed one study topic)

***Amherst United Methodist Church, Amherst
Bashford United Methodist Church, Madison***

The Silver Award is given for the study of two study topics and the Gold Award for the study of three topics. The mission studies for 2002-2003 School of Christian Mission were James, Mexico and Restorative Justice.

Thelma W. Gregg Memorial Fund Award

The Thelma W. Gregg award is named for a woman who demonstrated her Christian commitment in a tireless promotion of the missionary outreach of the Church. She showed a concern for church growth and mission education in her church, Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church in the Metro North District, as well as in the Wisconsin Conference.

This award is a family-initiated endowment which awards an annual gift to a United Methodist lay person who serves in the mission spirit personified by Thelma W. Gregg. This lay person will be actively and creatively engaged in local, national and global missions.

The award was established in 1993 by the family to recognize and honor lay persons who are doing vital missions in ways that reflect the love of Christ. The award includes a financial gift to be designated to an Advance project by the recipient.

The 2003 Thelma Gregg Award is given to:

David Beimborn

Fountain Park UMC, Sheboygan

Dave works as a physical therapist in Sheboygan. He takes his vacation to participate in mission trips. Some of the many mission projects he has been involved with are: Haiti the last 10 years to work with school children; went to the Ukraine for 17 days working with children with cerebral palsy as a result of the Chernobyl meltdown; went to Bolivia and Peru to help with Heifer Project; to the Dominican Republic to help get a mission grade school started; to Honduras to help build houses for people whose home had been destroyed by Hurricane Mitch; to China to help fit and train people for the use of wheel chairs; every summer he has counseled at a UM camp for the physically handicapped in Central Pennsylvania.

When it is brought to Dave's attention that all of these projects of the local church have been done under his leadership, Dave's response is "It's not me that did all these things, it's the whole church." Dave has such a deep Christian faith. Dave is a strong witness for Jesus Christ. He is a warm person and genuinely interested in others. He also has wonderful sense of humor. Besides chairing the Missions Committee he leads a weekly Bible study.

Thank you, Dave, for giving your time and energy to missions.

Francis Asbury Award

The Francis Asbury Award offers recognition to individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering the church's ministries in higher education at the local, district, or annual conference level of the church. The name is based on Bishop Asbury's admonition to the people called Methodist to erect a school in the vicinity of every church "...to give the key of knowledge in a general way to your children, and those of the poor in the vicinity of your small towns and villages."

Rev. Nancy Moffatt

Rev. Nancy Moffatt, Chippewa District Superintendent, is the recipient of the 2003 Francis Asbury Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering the church's ministries in higher education. The Division of Higher Education gives the award after the recipient is selected by the Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry. As a lay person, Nancy served as United Methodist Higher Education campus minister at UW-Stevens Point from 1981-1991. She was active in United Ministries in Higher Education—Wisconsin (UMHE) and with campus ministry on the national level. For several years, she served as editor of KIT (Keep in Touch) which linked campus ministers together. From 1998—2002, Nancy served as chair of the Wisconsin Conference Board of Higher Education and Student Ministry and helped begin a grant process for funding of campus and local ministries to secondary education students.

Denman Evangelism Awards

The Denman Evangelism Award was established in 1980 by the Foundation for Evangelism of The United Methodist Church to recognize and honor pastors and lay persons who are doing the vital work of evangelism.

Lay Award: Eldred Nicholas

Of the Oneida United Methodist Church

Eldred Nicholas was born in and has lived in Oneida, Wisconsin all of his life. By the grace of God, Eldred experienced the transforming work of Jesus Christ 35 years ago. He has grown into a mature, fruitful disciple and servant of Jesus. Eldred is a true evangelist dedicated to loving people and inviting them to believe in and follow after Jesus Christ. One of his styles of evangelism is to invite others. He has the fruit of seeking and finding the lost. He follows up his love for witnessing of Jesus to others with his discipling and caring ministries. A snapshot of his recent efforts shows us this: "I had not been in church for such a long time and did not know how to come back to church, but Eldred reopened the door for me." "With Eldred and his committee our congregation received 25 new members in 2001 and 12 in 2002, and 6 new members already in 2003." Harry Denman had a passion and a gift of making people want to listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who work and worship with Eldred also see this passion and gift in him.

Clergy Award: Gordon Lind and Amber Wolover

Our 2003 Denman Award goes to the clergy team of Gordon Lind and Amber Wolover. Their gifts for evangelism have blossomed, as they have been the spiritual leaders for the launching of a new faith community in the Menasha area. Their team ministry has resulted in many persons finding discipleship in Jesus Christ. Their SPRC chairperson writes: "Both of them have a passion for evangelism and a personal commitment to bring the love and teachings of Jesus to the community and the unchurched." In Gordon and Amber is a contagious love for children and parents from which seekers are touched with the Good News of Jesus, engaged in Jesus' teachings, connected with the church family and enlisted on a journey of discipleship. The fruit of their evangelism and excitement is a new church family in Menasha that is thriving and growing. Harry Denman was a "Fisher of all persons." He worked hard to lead the Board of Evangelism into wide presentations of the Gospel to reach people. Amber Wolover and Gordon Lind are deserving of also being called "fishers of all persons."