

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
2008 SESSION
OF THE
WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Afternoon, June 8, 2008

Clergy Session

Clergy members of the Wisconsin Conference gathered in the Ballroom of the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8, 2008 for the Clergy Session of the conference. The minutes of the Clergy Session are printed at the conclusion of these daily proceedings.

Laiety Session

The Laiety Session began at 4:00 PM. Karen McCaa, the guest speaker, was spirit filled, engaging, and inspiring. Her message focused on taking risks, encouraging us to follow our dreams, always loving others, and being true to ourselves. Karen's message moved us to laughter and tears. She further encouraged us to examine our hearts and minds to embrace and engage in Holy conferencing. The Faithful Men, from Crossroad United Methodist Church in Waunakee, filled our hearts with joy as they preformed wonderful, thought provoking music. The Spirit of God was very present as we closed the session, on our feet in praise. Our hearts, minds and souls were filled with God's Spirit.

Sunday Evening, June 8, 2008

Members and friends of the Wisconsin Annual Conference gathered in the Superior Room of the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center at 7:00 p.m. for the Service of Ordination of Elders. Music for the prelude was provided by the Festival Choir of First United Methodist Church, Appleton, under the direction of Robert Butler, and by Marlene Butler, Organist and Bruce Brooks, Trumpet.

The processional hymn was 'God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian.' Bishop Linda Lee offered words of greeting and prayer, and invited all those present to reaffirm the call to ministry that is inherent in our Christian baptism. Dorthy Radley, Conference Lay leader, Richard Strait, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, David Wilkinson, Chairperson of the Order of Deacons, and Forrest Clark, Chairperson of the Order of Elders, presented the following persons to be ordained Elder and received into full membership in the Annual Conference:

Kristina Marie Krause Androsky
Sharon Lea Stowe Cook
Cherie A. Forret
Kathleen Linda Cottrell Jury
Jean B. Schmidt
Markus Wegenast

They presented Carrie Lynn Kreps Wegenast for probationary membership and recognition of her ordination in the Congregational Church.

Bishop Lee asked for the assent of the gathered congregation for their ordination and reception into full membership. It was given joyfully!

Following the singing of “God Give Us Vision,” Forrest Clark and David Wilkinson read the scripture lessons from Psalm 103 and John 15:1-7.

Rev. Kelvin Sauls, Director of Congregational Transformation for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, gave the sermon, entitled “Living a Love Supreme.”

Following the sermon, the congregation sang “It is the Cry of My Heart to Follow You.”

Bishop Lee asked the candidates for ordination John Wesley’s Historic Questions, and the General Questions for Ordinands prescribed by the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. They all answered the questions appropriately.

Bishop Lee, assisted by Bishop Kim, Namchul of the Dong Bu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church, Conference Lay Leader Dorthy Radley, the District Superintendents, and other ordained deacons and elders, ordained Kristina Marie Krause Androsky, Sharon Lea Stowe Cook, Cherie A. Forret, Kathleen Linda Cottrell Jury, Jean B. Schmidt, and Markus Wegenast as Elders in The United Methodist Church, with the laying on of hands and prayer. Bishop Lee welcomed Carrie Lynn Kreps Wegenast into Probationary Membership in the Annual Conference. Following the service of Ordination, the congregation sang ‘A Charge to Keep I Have.’

An offering was taken to support the Clergy in Transition Fund, which has been established by the Board of Ordained Ministry to assist ordained clergy during the difficult and sometimes unforeseen transition from active pastoral ministry at a time other than retirement, and the Dong Bu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. During the offering the Festival Choir sang “Psalm 150” by Allen Pote.

Bishop Lee, assisted by Bishop Kim, served as celebrants for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The newly ordained elders served communion to the gathered congregation. During the distribution of the elements, the choir sang “Look at the World” by John Rutter and “Make My Life an Alleluia” by Ruth Elaine Schram.

Following the celebration of the sacrament, Bishop Lee offered an ‘Invitation to Hear God’s Call to Ministry.’ Those who sensed God’s Spirit within them calling them to a deeper commitment to following Christ were invited to come forward and offer themselves to God. While the congregation sang ‘Here I Am, Lord,’ and “Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow” a number of persons came forward in response to the call. They were greeted by the District Superintendents and members of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Bishop Lee offered the Blessing, and Rev. David Wilkinson offered words of dismissal. The recessional hymn was ‘Marching to Zion.’ Following the ordination service, the congregation greeted the newly ordained elders at a reception which was held in the Ballroom of the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center.

Music leadership for the service was provided by Grace Cajiua, Cantor, Marlene Butler, Organist and Bruce Brooks, Trumpet. Robert Butler directed the Festival Choir of First

United Methodist Church, Appleton. Members of the cabinet participating in the service were: Rev. Stephen J. Polster, Rev. Nancy Moffatt, Rev. Jorge Mayorga Solis, Rev. Gordon Lind, and Rev. Sam Royappa.

Monday Morning, June 9, 2008

Members and friends of the conference gathered in the plenary area at 8:15 a.m. for a time of singing, which was led by Rev. Grace Cajiuat, Conference Music Leader.

Bishop Lee called the first plenary session of the 39th Wisconsin Annual Conference to order at 8:42 a.m. She welcomed everyone to this session, and called upon the Conference Secretary, Kevin Rice Myers, to lead the conference through the organizational items.

Rice Myers welcomed the members of the conference and announced that the roll call for this session of the annual conference is being taken at the time of registration.

He noted that “the bar of the conference” is the official seating area where members must be when voting on actions that come before the conference. He **moved**:

“that the bar of this conference now be established to include all of the round tables on the floor of the Michigan, Wisconsin, Mendota and Geneva Rooms of the Madison Marriott West Conference Center (which are covered with white tablecloths), the platform at the front of the rooms, the conference secretary’s tables at the front of the room, and the tables at the back of the room where the video display equipment is located.”

The motion was **approved**.

He **moved** that the following persons be given the privilege of sitting in the bar of the conference WITH VOICE:

Conference Speakers:

- Bishop Susan Hassinger, Albany Episcopal Area (Troy & Wyoming UM Conferences)
- Bishop April Ulring Larson, LaCrosse Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Rev. Kelvin Sauls, Director of Congregational Development, General Board of Discipleship

Guests:

- Bishop Kim, Nam Chul and our guests from the Dong Bu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church
- Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Sheridan Gaines, Representative for the Lina McCord Black College Fund
- Dr. Lallene Rector, Dean of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- Melody Patterson, Representative from Wiley College
- Erika Krueger, Representative of North Central College
- Lynette Rice, Representative from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

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- Ashley Cook, United Methodist Publishing House Representative
- David Ogden, Consultant to the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation
- Various guests who will be making presentations or receiving recognitions throughout the conference.
- All clergy members from other annual conferences or denominations who are serving United Methodist churches or ministries in the Wisconsin Conference.
- Vice-Chairs of Conference Boards and Agencies who are not members of the Annual Conference.
- Allen Kahl, Information Technology Manager

The motion was **approved**.

Rice Myers moved that the following persons to be given the privilege of sitting in the bar of the Conference WITHOUT VOICE OR VOTE:

- Staff:
 - Episcopal Administrative Assistant: Cindy Churan
 - Regional Administrative Assistants: Sherry Malone, Bonita Smith, Barb Ridgely, Barb Franken
 - Conference Registrars: Karen Lamoree and Diane Williams
 - Conference Computer Support Specialist: Pat Faulkner
 - Service Department Manager: Katie Hoepfner
 - Conference Archivist: Lynn Lubkemann
- Program and Arrangements Committee Members who are not Conference Members
- Staff Members from Creative Convention Consulting, who have been working with the Program and Arrangements Committee
- Members of the Commissions on Religion and Race and the Commission on Status and Role of Women, who are present for the purpose of monitoring.
- Video Technicians and Audio Technicians
- Seminary students related to the Wisconsin Conference who are certified candidates for ministry.
- Supply pastors who are serving churches in the Wisconsin Conference.

Fran Deaner raised a point of order, noting that Sherry Malone, Regional Administrative Assistant for the Capital/Coulee region, has been elected as a Lay Member of the Conference from the Madison: Bashford UMC, and is therefore entitled to vote. This was accepted as a friendly amendment to the motion.

The motion was **approved as amended**.

Rice Myers moved that the following persons be elected as Tellers and Assistant Secretaries for this session of the Annual Conference:

Tellers:

Shirley Clark
Mary Anne Conklin
Craig Conklin

Bill Dow
Mary Ann Floerke
Paul Foulke
Anita Genrich
Cindy Glocke
Cathy Hamblin
John Hazen
Freddie Kirk
Julie Mieke
Gail Mitchell
Joyce Rich
Annie Tricker
Wendell Williams
Darrell Zietlow

Assistant Secretaries

Cindy Churan
Ron Kral
Sherry Malone
Marjorie Rice Myers
Jean Ehnert Nicholas
Carolyn Saunders

The **motion** was **approved**.

The secretary shared several other organizational items of information.

Bishop Lee then introduced those who are sitting on the platform for this session of the Annual Conference: Bill White, Conference Chancellor, Rev. Steve Polster, Assistant to the Bishop, and Rev. Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary.

Bishop Lee named the members of the Implications Committee (Conference Rule 3.3.3): Joel Certa-Werner, Erika Kreuger, Lawrence McGuin, Nancy Moffatt, Dorthy Radley, Eric Taylor, and Jack Werner.

Sue D'Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries, presented the agenda for this session of the Annual Conference. She spoke about "Holy Conferencing, Holy Listening." She noted that we will be hearing several "Holy Listening Moments" during the course of the Annual Conference. These Holy Listening Moments will describe how people have been "neighbored to" or how they have "neighbored" others through various ministries of churches, circuits and other missional ministries of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Andy Oren, Chairperson of the Conference Nominations Committee, presented the preliminary report of the committee.

Jerry Eckert requested a moment of personal privilege. He noted that Bill White, our Conference Chancellor, has been elected as the second alternate to the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church. The conference acknowledged this with a round of applause.

Marilyn Higgins and Rosa Torres presented a “Holy Listening Moment” about the ministry of the Summer Developers Program in the Green Bay Hispanic Ministry, with translation by Jorge Mayorga Solis.

Nancy Moffatt, Dean of the Cabinet, Sue D’Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries, and Dorothy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, presented information on the **Conference Strategic Plan**. During the course of this Annual Conference Session they will be modeling team ministry by making joint presentations in place of the separate messages of the Cabinet and Lay Leader that have been shared with the conference in prior years. They expressed appreciation to Bishop Lee for the way she models collaborative leadership. They then invited Bruce Gardow, Circuit Leader of Circuit 8, to describe how circuit ministry has worked in that area. Diane Nichols, Conference Director of Lay Speaking, shared about the Food Pantry Ministry of the Oconto Falls UMC.

A report on the strategic planning process will be included in the 2008 Conference Journal.

Rick Brewer, representing the **Conference Personnel Committee**, presented information on the need to expand and improve communications in the Annual Conference, and the inclusion of funding for a new “Director of Communications” position for the Annual Conference in the 2009 Proposed Budget. He noted that this new position is a direct result of the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Process.

Jack Werner, Chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and Lisa King, Director of Finance and Administration, shared information about the Conference’s financial results for 2007 and introduced the 2009 Proposed Budget.

Werner **moved to suspend Conference Policy 10.4.1**, which limits the amount of increase in the budget which the Council may present to the Annual Conference.

Marty Chandler **moved to table** this motion until we are discussing the budget. The Bishop ruled the motion out of order.

Bishop Lee called for a standing count vote on the motion to suspend Conference Policy 10.4.1.

Rick Kindschi requested a moment of personal privilege to share information about the “Nothing But Nets” program, with a goal of eliminating malaria in Africa. He shared a basketball autographed at General Conference by many of our Bishops. The basketball will be given to the individual, church or ministry who invests the greatest amount in the “Nothing But Nets” campaign during this session of the Annual Conference. The goal is to raise at least \$5,000 before the end of this conference session.

The **motion to suspend the policy** was approved by a count vote of 393-yes, 254-no.

Bishop Lee announced that the Conference will resume the presentation of the budget at the next plenary session. She then recessed the conference for the opening worship service.

Opening Worship

Members and friends of the conference gathered in the worship area at 10:45 a.m. for the opening worship service, which began with the Sounding of the Shofar. Native American drumming accompanied the processional and the “Prayer to the Four Directions.” The

scripture lessons were read from Psalm 103:1-8 and Micah 6:6-8. The Gospel Lesson from Luke 10:25-28 was read simultaneously in Spanish, Hmong, Gujarati, Korean, Ojibwe and English. Bishop Linda Lee preached the sermon "Beyond All Expectation." Following the sermon the "Litany of the Social Creed" which was adopted by the 2008 General Conference was introduced to the Conference. Rev. Grace Cajiuat sang the solo, "For Everyone Born." The Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated. Justin Lowe provided keyboard accompaniment for the service. Participants included Robert Hays, Shofar; Tradition Keepers Drums, Antonio Doxtator, lead; and Sonia Alvarado, Nhia Wahn Her, Domnik Israel, Jung Ja Lee, Roger Thomas and Amber Wolover, Liturgists. Following the service the conference recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Monday Afternoon, June 9, 2008

Bishop Lee called the conference to order at 1:30 PM

Jack Werner resumed presentation of **2009 Budget** and placed it before the conference for its consideration during this session.

Bishop Lee welcomed and introduced the members of the Delegation from the Dong Bu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church: Bishop Kim, Namchul; Bishop Park, Rev. Park, Shin Jin, and Lay Leader Lee, Young Kiu. Bishop Kim spoke to the conference in Korean, and Rev. Young Choe, a clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference, translated.

Bishop Kim presented gifts to Bishop Lee and to the District Superintendents, and Bishop Lee gave gifts to the members of the Korean Delegation.

Lamarr Gibson, Fred Brancel, Billie LaBumbard, and Jakes Voker, presented information about East Angola.

Jeff Virchow, Chairperson of the Conference Board of Global Ministries, presented the following motion for information.

We recommend that the Wisconsin Annual Conference enter into a Partner Conference Relationship with East Angola Conference and with the Wisconsin Native American Ministry, for the quadrennium 2009-2012.

The motion will be presented for action on Wednesday afternoon.

Bishop Lee introduced Rev. Kelvin Sauls, Director of Congregational Development for the General Board of Discipleship, who was the preacher at the ordination service.

Bishop Lee introduced Jon Furlow, who has served as co-chancellor for the conference for many years. He has moved to a different area of legal practice and will no longer be serving as co-chancellor. The conference recognized and thanked him for his work with a round of applause.

Bishop Lee introduced Bishop Susan Hassinger, Bishop of the Albany Episcopal Area (Troy & Wyoming UM Conferences), who led the conference in a learning experience about "Holy Conferencing." In this first presentation she focused on the theme "Listening to God; Listening to Each Other." She shared with the conference the idea of "RESPECT" in communications:

RESPONSIBILITY – for what you say and feel without blaming others

EMPATHETIC LISTENING

SENSITIVITY – to the differences in communication styles

PONDER what you hear and feel before you speak

EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions

CONFIDENTIALITY – keep when requested or appropriate

TRUST ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong

Bishop Hassinger invited conversations around the tables and in small groups in order to teach by example “Mutual Invitation,” a model for the type of interaction that makes up Holy Conferencing. In this model everyone is given an opportunity to speak, and may choose to do so or may decline.

Following Bishop Hassinger’s presentation, Bishop Lee recessed the conference for the afternoon break at 3:10 p.m.

Bishop Lee called the conference back to order at 3:25 p.m.

Bishop Lee shared information regarding the natural disasters that have been occurring in Wisconsin this week, as well as a number of health concerns of conference members. She then led the conference in prayer.

Bishop Lee called upon the youth to present a “Holy Listening Moment.” Amanda Bollman, Lindsey Hafley, Corissa Raska and Eric Taylor spoke about ministries by and with youth.

Ashley Cook, manager of the Cokesbury store, spoke to the conference about the ministries of the United Methodist Publishing House, and presented the Wisconsin Conference with a check in the amount of \$10,981.89, which represents the Wisconsin Conference’s share of the net income from the United Methodist Publishing House for 2007. These monies are restricted by the Constitution of The United Methodist Church to support the beneficiaries of the ministerial pension systems.

Fran Deaner, Chairperson of the Joint Board Pensions, Health Insurance and Equitable Compensation, moved “that the monies received from the United Methodist Publishing House (Cokesbury) be sent to the Central Conference Pension Initiative Benefit Fund managed by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be used to help fund the pension liabilities of the Central Conferences where there is a desperate need for funding alternatives.”

The motion was **approved**.

Scott Anderson, Executive Director of Wisconsin Council of Churches, shared information about the ministries of the Council.

Melody Patterson, Director of Church Relations at Wiley College, brought greetings from the college and shared information about the ministries of the college. Wiley is one of 11 historically Black United Methodist colleges and universities.

Amanda Stein, Chairperson of the Board of Church and Society introduced Neal Christie, Assistant General Secretary for Education and Leadership Formation for the General Board of Church and Society, who spoke to the conference. He will be presenting a program this evening on “Teaching the Social Principles in Local Congregations.”

Stein presented **Action Item 17: Resolution on “A Jesus Christmas.”** Action Item 17 was **approved**.

Stein presented **Action Item 18: Resolution on Our Response to Global Climate Change**.

Tom Lambrecht moved to amend Action Item 18 by replacing the last sentence of the final “Be It Resolved” paragraph with the following sentence:

“This sense of spiritual relatedness will strengthen the interest and motivation for individual or political action to save the earth within which we live.”

The **amendment** was **approved**.

Bishop Lee called for the Order of the Day, and noted that the conference will resume consideration of Action Item 18 at the next plenary session.

Sue D’Alessio, Karen Klatt and Bill McBride introduced the DVD “The Circuit Challenge: Overview of Circuit Ministry in Wisconsin” which has been prepared for the 2008 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. A brief selection from the DVD was played for the conference, and each conference member received a copy of the DVD to take back to their congregation.

Mary Council-Austin, a member of the Wisconsin Conference’s General Conference Delegation, presented the preliminary report on the Jurisdictional Nominations Pool. The Conference will vote on the election of persons to the Jurisdictional Nominations Pool at the Wednesday afternoon plenary session.

Harriett Rowland presented the monitoring report from the Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the Commission on Religion and Race.

The Conference Secretary read announcements.

Bishop Lee offered closing prayer and announced that the conference will be in recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

Monday Evening, June 9, 2008

Monday evening was scheduled as a “free” evening for conference members. During the evening, conference members and friends were offered the opportunity to attend a concert by Native American singer Michael Jacobs, or a presentation by Neal Christie from the General Board of Church and Society on teaching the Social Principles in Local Churches.

Tuesday Morning, June 10, 2008

Members of the Conference gathered in the plenary area at 8:30 a.m. for a time of singing, which was led by Conference Music Leaders Grace Cajuiat and Justin Lowe.

Bishop Lee called the conference to order at 8:45 a.m. She shared prayer concerns related to persons who have been affected by the flooding in Wisconsin this week, and then offered opening prayer.

Fran Deaner, Chairperson of the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Health Benefits, presented the report of the Board.

He shared information about the work of the Board, and introduced a brief DVD that was shown at General Conference about the Central Conference Pension Initiative. However, there were technical difficulties with the audio, so Deaner moved forward with the presentation of the Board's action items.

Deaner presented **Action Item 8: Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Wisconsin Conference.** It was **approved.**

He presented **Action Item 9: Resolution on Past Service Annuity Rate.** It was **approved.**

He presented **Action Item 10: Resolution on Minimum Compensation.** It was **approved.**

Bishop Lee announced that the DVD is now ready for viewing. It was played at this time.

Deaner presented **Action Item 11: Resolution on 2008 Formal Funding Plan for Pre-1982 Pension Liability.** It was **approved.**

He presented **Action Item 12: Resolution Relating to Retiree Conference Medicare Supplemental Health Insurance.**

Following considerable discussion, Justin Lowe **moved the previous question.** The **motion to close debate** was **approved.**

Action Item 12 was **approved.**

Deaner presented **Action Item 13: Proposed Policy Changes.** It was **approved.**

Deaner **moved the adoption of the entire report.** It was **approved.**

Tina Lang, Deacon in Full Connection at Madison: First United Methodist Church, began the presentation of a Holy Listening moment by reading the gospel lesson from Luke 10:25-29. Kathy Sandifer, Coordinator of Outreach Ministries at First UMC, shared information about how First Church is intentionally being a "neighbor" to the homeless in downtown Madison.

Sue D'Alessio, Nancy Moffatt, and Dorthy Radley shared the next segment of the presentation about the Strategic Plan. They spoke about ways in which the people of The United Methodist Church can touch and transform lives – and thereby transform the world – one person, one congregation, one community at a time. They shared a video clip of seven-year-old Katherine Commale's presentation at General Conference about the malaria-control program called "Nothing But Nets," and her goal to provide a "bed-net" to every person in Africa who needs one. Cherhoua Yang shared about New Hope: Hmong ministry and the ways it is transforming lives. Denise Retzloff, lay member from Circuit 24, spoke about the ministries of that circuit, and how the "L3 Leadership Incubator" is transforming the ministry of the churches in the circuit.

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The members of the 2008 General Conference Delegation presented a “Picture” in stories of what happened at the 2008 General Conference. Each member of the delegation reported on the activities of one day of General Conference.

Sandy Kintner, Chairperson of the Commission on Archives and History, recognized those who are celebrating ministry milestones of 25, 50, and 60 years of ministry. The names of those recognized are printed in with the “Rewards and Recognitions” in the reports section of the Journal. He also noted that this year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the United Brethren in Christ, one of the predecessor denominations of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and The United Methodist Church.

The secretary read announcements.

The Conference recessed for the Memorial Service at 10:35 a.m.

Memorial Service

Members and friends of the Conference gathered in the worship area at 10:45 a.m. for the Memorial Service. The service began with words of welcome and instruction, and the singing of the hymn “You Are Mine.” Dorthy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, led the “Litany of Thanksgiving.” The scripture lesson was read from Romans 14:7-12. During the singing of “Bring Many Names” an offering was taken to support the ongoing Hurricane Katrina relief work in New Orleans, and Wiley College. Rev. Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary, read the names of those clergy members, clergy spouses and children, and lay members of the Annual Conference who have died since the last session of the Annual Conference. During the reading of the names representatives of the families of those who have gone before us into the Church Triumphant since the last session of the Annual Conference were invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of their loved one. Additional names were added to the list of those remembered in this service by members of the congregation. Following reading of the names of those who have died, the congregation sang “For All the Saints Who’ve Shown Your Love.” Bishop Linda Lee offered the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Dismissal and Blessing.

Music leadership was provided by conference musicians Grace Cajiuat and Justin Lowe.

Tuesday Afternoon, June 10, 2008

Bishop Lee called conference to order at 1:30 p.m.

She introduced Steve Zekoff, who served as Parliamentarian for this morning’s plenary session while Bill White, Conference Chancellor was unable to be present.

Lisa King reported that the General Conference delegation has endorsed Rev. Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis as a candidate for election to the Episcopacy at the 2008 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. She **moved** “that the 2008 Wisconsin Annual Conference endorse the Rev. Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis for the Episcopacy.” The **motion** was **approved**. The conference recognized Rev. Mayorga Solis with a standing ovation. He expressed his appreciation to the conference for its affirmation.

Ric Olson, Coordinator of Congregation and Circuit Development, reported that the De Pere: New Hope Congregation was chartered on May 18, 2008. Michael Wiegand spoke about the growth in new churches in the Conference. He asked all those present who have been part of starting a new congregation in the conference in the past ten years to stand and be recognized. He then introduced Randy Richter, Circuit Leader from Green Bay, Mary Lu Scanlon, Lay Leader of the De Pere: New Hope congregation, Jay Hamon, a member of the core generating team, Rev. Barb Ristow, Coordinator of Children's Ministries, and Rev. Greg Jewison, pastor of the De Pere: New Hope congregation. Jewison spoke about the exciting new ministry in this congregation. He expressed the congregation's appreciation for the many ways that the conference has supported this new ministry.

Bishop Lee presented the Certificate of Charter to the New Hope United Methodist Church. She then led the conference in a time of prayer and thanksgiving.

Billie LaBumbard, Conference Missions Coordinator, presented **Action Item 16: Resolution on the Continuance of the Wisconsin Annual Conference HIV/AIDS Proactive Task Force.** It was **approved.**

Greg Jewison and Ron Vinger presented a "Holy Listening Moment" about the development of the ministry of New Hope United Methodist Church in De Pere.

Bishop Lee introduced Bishop Susan Hassinger, who led the conference in a second session on "Holy Conferencing." This presentation focused on "Discernment as Spiritual Practice." She highlighted 10 "Stepping Stones" that are generally part of discernment:

1. Framing
2. Grounding
3. Shedding
4. Rooting
5. Listening
6. Exploring
7. Improving
8. Weighting
9. Closing
10. Resting

Bishop Hassinger then spoke about several "spiritual practices" or "means of grace" that can guide the discernment process: story-telling, prayer, journaling, Holy Communion, "examen," and "Community Bible Study," ("lectio divina"). She noted that these stepping stones and guidelines are highlighted in the book *"Discerning God's Will Together: a Spiritual Practice for the Church,"* by Danny Morris and Charles Olsen. She also recommended the book *"Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations,"* by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann.

The conference expressed its appreciation to Bishop Hassinger with a round of applause.

Bishop Lee called upon the youth to present the action items they are bringing to this session of the Annual Conference.

Eric Taylor, outgoing Co-Chairperson of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, presented **Action Item 5: United Methodist Youth Sunday.** It was **approved.**

Amanda Bollman, Young Adult Ministries Representative from the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, presented **Action Item 6: Proposed Rule Change**. It was **approved**.

John Sumwalt presented the report of the **Seminary Debt Task Force** on **2007 Action Item 22: Resolution on Eliminating Seminary Debt** which was approved at the 2007 Annual Conference Session. He indicated that the Task Force hopes to bring recommendations about how seminary debt can be reduced to the 2009 Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Sheridan Gaines, **Lina McCord Black College Fund Representative**, spoke to the conference about the ministries of the historically black colleges supported by The United Methodist Church and the importance of the work supported by the Black College Fund.

Mary Lou Taylor and Richard Whitaker presented a “Holy Listening Moment” about the ministry of the five Special Needs Camps of the Wisconsin Conference.

Bruce Bartel, Chair of the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries, presented **Action Item 1: Local Church Camping Coordinator**. It was **approved**

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

He presented **Action Item 3: New Camp Participants**. It was **approved**.

Bishop Lee called upon Amanda Stein, Chairperson of the Board of Church and Society, who resumed presentation of **Action Item 18** as it was amended on Monday.

Marci Bethurem **moved to amend Action Item 18** by deleting the first bullet point in the first “Therefore Be It Resolved” paragraph.

Lisa Gilbert moved the following **substitute** for the Bethurem amendment:

“Change the word ‘require’ to the word ‘encourage’ in the first bullet point in the first “Be It Resolved” paragraph of Action Item 18.

There was a **motion to call the question**. The **motion to close debate** on the substitute to the amendment was **approved**.

The **substitute motion** was **approved**.

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

The **Substitute Amendment became the main motion** and was **approved**.

Action Item 18 was **approved as amended**.

Stein presented **Action Item 19: Resolution Calling for Healing, Reconciliation and Re-Building in Iraq**.

John Zwissler **moved to amend Action Item 19** by deleting point 1 in the “Therefore Be It Resolved” paragraph and replacing it with “1. Support the development of a plan to responsibly end military action in Iraq” The **amendment** was **approved**.

Skip Robertson offered the following **substitute motion** for the whole resolution:

Whereas: War damages not only bodies, but hearts and minds and

Whereas: The American military has been very effective in rebuilding the countries where they have served despite the trauma of war,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wisconsin Conference will seek healing and offer aid to veterans of all wars and their families,

Be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Conference appreciates and affirms the sacrifices made by these persons on our behalf.

Bishop Lee ruled that this **substitute motion** was **out of order at this time** because it deals with a different subject matter than Action Item 19.

Charles Wagner **moved the previous question.**

Tom Lambrecht raised a point of order, that the maker of the motion made the motion after making a speech.

Bishop Lee **ruled the motion to close debate out of order.**

Following further discussion, Amy Jameson Yackovich **moved the previous question.** The **motion to close debate** was **approved.**

Action Item 19 as amended was **defeated** by a standing count vote of 236 yes, 365 no, 41 abstain.

Stein **moved the entire report of the Board of Church and Society.** The report was **received.**

John Sumwalt and Diane Clark requested moments of personal privilege, asking for further discussion of the issues raised in Action Item 19 among conference members and in our congregations.

Sue D'Alessio shared information about how the Strategic Plan "fits together." She highlighted the "areas of focus and growth" for the Wisconsin Conference in the coming years. Gordon Lind then spoke about modeling mutual accountability.

Chris Bethke spoke about the Wisconsin Conference's commitment to communications and the inclusion of funding for a Director of Communications in the 2009 Conference Budget.

D'Alessio then invited people to consider the questions on the "Table Conversations" page which were distributed earlier, and to put their responses in writing and turn them in for consideration.

Julie Mieke, President of the Conference United Methodist Women, presented **Action Item 4: United Methodist Women's Sunday** with the following addition to the printed text: "or any other Sunday deemed appropriate by a congregation." It was **approved as adjusted.**

Bill Helwig, President of the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, presented **Action Item 7: Designation of Earnings from the "New Ministries Fund."** It was **approved.**

The members of the Foundation staff presented a brief skit – punctuated with uproarious laughter from the conference - about the services offered by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.

The secretary read announcements.

The members of the conference viewed a brief video of the “Children of Hope” Children’s Choir from Uganda, which will be in Wisconsin in July.

Bishop Lee led the conference in singing “Happy Birthday” to Alma Grace, who is celebrating her birthday today.

The conference recessed for evening meal at 5:05 p.m.

Tuesday Evening, June 10, 2008

Members and friends of the Conference gathered in the worship area at 7:00 P.M. for The Service for Celebration of Ministries. The service began with the processional hymn, ‘In the Midst of New Dimensions.’ Richard Strait, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and Kevin Rice Myers, Executive Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the following candidates for Commissioning to the Ministry of an Elder:

Listowel Ayensu-Mensah
G. William Beaton
Claudia J. Deede
Eric Nelson
Patrick W. Schultz

Gail Mitchell, Chairperson of the Fellowship of Local Pastors, and Jorge Mayorga Solis, on behalf of the District Committees on Ordained Ministry, presented the following persons to be licensed as Local Pastors:

Candace Ascher
Kevin Dembinski
Jayneann Gagner
Steven R. Hanusa
Patricia Herdt
Brenda Jahns-Grams
Kenneth F. Markley, Jr.
Lucas M. Hernandez Miranda
TyLacey Sims
Annette Tricker

Bishop Lee invited the congregation to affirm the reception of these persons into the ministry of the Conference. They did so joyfully.

Bishop Lee then introduced the following clergy persons who are retiring at this session of the Annual Conference:

Benito S.P. Agtarap
David A. Busker
Elliott J. Bush
Carl R. Doersch
Joan E. Goebel
Laurence R. Goebel

Sandra E. Hamilton
Robert A. Kenas, Jr.
Suzanne M. Landis
Patricia E. Lyon
Gloria Esther Miranda
Nancy Lee Moffatt
Donald L. Nickolson
Patricia Ann Nolet
Mark H. Peacock
Penny L. Robbins
Theresa Scherf
Steve J. Ward
Charles T. Wendt

Bishop Lee invited the conference to affirm and express its gratitude for the ministry of these servants of Christ. It did so gratefully.

The congregation sang the hymn ‘Forward Through the Ages.’

Bishop Lee introduced Bishop April Ulring Larson, Bishop of the LaCrosse Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Bishop Aspha from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ethiopia.

Dorothy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, read the scripture lesson from Matthew 25:31-46 and 26:1-2. Bishop Larson then delivered the sermon, expressing her appreciation for the hospitality she has been shown by the people of The United Methodist Church. The sermon was followed by the singing of the hymn ‘Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore,’ with verses sung alternately in Spanish and English. An offering was taken to support The United Methodist Church in East Angola.

Bishop Lee led the congregation in celebrating the ministries of the newly licensed local pastors. She then invited those who were to be commissioned as probationary members to come forward. She asked the new probationary members the questions prescribed for commissioning, and they all responded appropriately. Each was commissioned as a Probationary Member of the Annual Conference. Kevin Rice Myers, Executive Secretary of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and Dorothy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, presented those commissioned with their Certificates of Commissioning and gifts on behalf of the Conference.

The Bishop invited those retiring to come forward, and led the congregation in a prayer of thanksgiving for their ministry. Each of the retirees was given the opportunity to pass on words of blessing to those who were newly commissioned.

Following the singing of ‘Walk With Me,’ Bishop Lee, assisted by Bishop Larson and Bishop Aspha, celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion. The retirees, along with the newly commissioned and licensed clergy, served the congregation. Bishop Lee offered the Dismissal with Blessing, and the service concluded with the recessional hymn ‘Lead On, O Cloud of Presence.’

Music leadership for the service was provided by Conference Musicians Grace Cajuat and Justin Lowe. Members of the Cabinet participating in the service were: Rev. Nancy Moffatt, Rev. Jorge Mayorga, Rev. Gordon Lind, Rev. Sam Royappa, and Rev. Stephen Polster.

Wednesday Morning, June 11, 2008

Members of the conference gathered in the plenary area at 8:30 a.m. for a time of singing, led by Conference Musicians Grace Cajuat and Justin Lowe.

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

She shared a report about the conference's support of the "Nothing but Nets" ministry.

Dr. Lallene Rector, Associate Professor Psychology of Religion and Pastoral Psychotherapy at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, brought greetings from the seminary and spoke about the ministry of the seminary.

Barbara Certa-Werner presented a "Holy Listening Moment," speaking about the ministry of Harbor House Crisis Shelter. She shared a video in which persons who have directly benefited from the ministry of Harbor House Crisis Shelter spoke about its impact and meaning for their lives.

Kathy Jury requested a moment of personal privilege to speak about her congregation's commitment to "Nothing But Nets."

Bishop Lee recognized Jane Sommers and Scott Carlson, who are celebrating birthdays today. The conference sang "Happy Birthday" to them.

Bishop Lee welcomed Bishop Susan Hassinger to the stage to share the third Presentation on "Holy Conferencing." This session focused on "Holy Conferencing as Practice." She explored the questions "When might an annual conference choose discernment as a way of decision-making?" and "How might an annual conference engage in discernment?," noting that the same questions could apply to local church groups. She noted that "Robert's Rules of Order" is a useful tool for orderly decision making in large groups in a relatively short period of time, but that it creates "winners" and "losers" through its emphasis on voting yes or no, and that there are times when other forms of decision making, including discernment, may be more appropriate. She noted that discernment involves prayer, reflection and "examen" – which is an examination of consciousness and examination of conscience. During the presentation Bishop Hassinger again invited the members of the conference to engage in discussion around the tables around the questions: "Where have you sensed God's presence in these days together? Where has God seemed distant or absent? For what do you give thanks to God? For what do you offer an expression of confession?"

Bishop Lee and the members of the conference expressed their appreciation to Bishop Hassinger for her leadership in this conference session around the issue of "Holy Conferencing."

Bishop Lee and others shared prayer requests, and the Bishop offered prayer.

Sue D'Alessio presented **Action Item 15: Resolution Establishing a “Conference Faith-based Safety Task Force.”** It was **approved.**

Sam Royappa presented **Action Item 14: Resolution for Learning, Living and Growing Together as Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Many Colors and Cultures Here in the Wisconsin Annual Conference** noting that the words “agree to” the first “Therefore Be It Resolved” paragraph are to be deleted from the resolution being proposed.

Susan Hodges moved to amend the resolution by adding the following paragraph:

“**Be it resolved** that we plan for alternative website translation on our conference website.”

The motion was **accepted** as a **friendly amendment.**

Action Item 14 was **approved as amended.**

Ken Rheingans presented the following motion:

Whereas, the United Methodist Church was founded on the visions and passions of John Wesley who was a young adult at the time,

Whereas, the Wisconsin Annual Conference desires to include visions and passions of today’s young adults into its ministry programs.

Whereas, the Wisconsin Annual Conference wants to help support local churches and circuits in sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the young adults of Wisconsin.

Therefore, be it resolved that by November 1, 2008, Bishop Linda Lee will appoint a Young Adult Task Force consisting of no less than four (4) laity and four (4) clergy.

Be it further resolved that this Young Adult Task Force will provide to the 2009 Wisconsin Annual Conference and the Wisconsin Annual Conference Strategic Planning Team, a set of recommendations for furthering young adult ministry at the local church and circuit level.

The motion was approved by a standing count vote of 289 yes, 206 no, 47 abstain.

Sue D'Alessio, Nancy Moffatt, and Dorothy Radley, presented the last report on the Strategic Plan and the importance of Team Ministry. Moffatt introduced Brad Van Fossen, Circuit Leader for Circuit 40 in the Racine and Union Grove area, who spoke about the team ministry of the circuit.

Ana Luisa Mayorga De Chacon expressed thanks from the Racine: Casa de Dios congregation for Circuit 40’s support of their ministry.

Dorothy Radley introduced Kadie Her-Yang from the Hmong Christian Community United Methodist Church in Milwaukee (which is the largest Hmong United Methodist Church in the nation), who shared two stories about the ministries of the congregation.

Moffatt introduced Lynn Lemke Schreck, Barbara Gist Cook, Duane Andrus, and other clergy and lay leaders from Circuit 49 spoke about a number of “team ministries” that are taking place in the circuit.

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D'Alessio invited the conference to consider how we can turn the conference's vision statement: "Live, Give, Love...Beyond All Expectation" into reality through team ministry.

Bishop Lee thanked D'Alessio for the fine work that she has been doing, and announced that her job title had been renamed to "Director of Connectional Ministry." The conference affirmed this with a round of applause.

Bishop Lee and the District Superintendents **read the appointments for the coming conference year.** Bishop Lee fixed the appointments. She then presented gifts to the District Superintendents in appreciation for their work. She presented gifts to Steve Polster and Cindy Churan in appreciation for their work in the Episcopal Office. The conference expressed its appreciation for all of their work with a round of applause.

Gordon Lind presented **Action Item 20: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Abrams United Methodist Church, Abrams, Wisconsin.** The motion was **approved.**

Nancy Moffatt introduced Mike Grotham, Lay Member from the Frederick, Lorain charge, who presented **Action Item 21: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Lorain United Methodist Church of Frederic, Wisconsin.** It was **approved.**

Lind led the conference in a "Litany of Church Closing."

Bishop Lee recessed the conference for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Wednesday Afternoon, June 11, 2008

Bishop Lee called the conference to order at 1:15 p.m.

Jeff Virchow presented the report of the **Board of Global Ministries.**

He moved "that the Wisconsin Annual Conference enter into Partner Conference relationships with the East Angola Conference and with the Wisconsin Native American Ministry for the 2009-2012 Quadrennium." The motion was **approved.**

Virchow called upon David Green, Chairperson of the Health and Welfare Ministries Committee of the Board, who spoke about the importance of the Health and Welfare Ministries of the conference, and introduced representatives of those ministries, who are present today: Lance Herrick, Representative of the United Methodist Health and Welfare Ministries Committee of the Denomination; Perry Huyck, Executive Director of United Methodist Children's Services, Jim Olson, Administrator at Schmidt Woodland Hills; Fid Sailor, Chaplain at Madison United Methodist Hospitals Ministry.

Virchow recognized members of the Board who are leaving their positions at the end of this quadrennium.

Virchow announced that Pam Brownlee is the recipient of the 2008 "Love in Action" award for her work in disaster relief. He presented the award to Mary Anne Floerke, who is accepting the award on Brownlee's behalf, as she is currently involved in flood relief work in Southwest Wisconsin.

He introduced Gail Burgess, who will be the new Chairperson of the Board of Global Ministries.

He presented a gift to “Mission Billie” LaBumbard, Conference Missions Coordinator, who is retiring this year, and thanked her for her work.

David Sharpe, Conference Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, gave an update on the relief work that is already taking place and will take place in flooded areas of Wisconsin in the coming days, weeks and months.

The members of the Conference acknowledged Virchow for his leadership of the Board of Global Ministries for the last 7 years with a standing ovation.

Beth Farrell and Joyce Unke presented a “Holy Listening Moment” about the ministries that are being supported by the Lodi congregation and the circuit in that part of the state as well as support for overseas missions.

Irv Case announced that the 2008 recipients of the Denman Evangelism Award are Greg Jewison and Dana Saxton. Saxton and Jewison expressed their appreciation.

Debra Ivanoff-Hastings announced that 2008 Recipients of the Commission on Status and Role of Women’s “Bridge Builder’s Award” are Linda Ravelo and George Robson.

Wesley White announced that the 2008 recipients of the Perry Saito Award are Lee and Tom Brown, and Jim Christiansen.

Erika Krueger, as student at North Central College, brought greetings to the Conference from President Hal Wilde and Chaplain Lyn Pries, and spoke about the ministry of the college. She expressed her appreciation for the Conference’s support of the college.

Sue D’Alessio reported on behalf of Grace Cajiuat on **2007 Annual Conference Action Item 20: Resolution Towards Peace With Justice For Israel/Palestine**. She noted that conversations are beginning regarding this issue and a report will be made at a future annual conference session.

Ron Retherford requested a moment of personal privilege. He offered a statement regarding our responsibility to provide spiritual, temporal, emotional, and financial support for the veterans of all military conflicts and their families. He noted that this statement resulted from the conversations around Holy Conference, and was being offered in lieu of the resolution that Skip Robertson had attempted to present earlier in this conference session.

Jack Werner, Chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, presented **Action Item 23: 2009 Proposed Budget**.

Paul Johnson **moved**:

“That the 2009 Personnel Committee budget be reduced by \$100,000.”

Bishop Lee **ruled the motion out of order**, because it does not specify where in the Personnel Committee budget the reduction is to be made.

Ken Rheingans **moved**:

“That \$9,000 from the 2009 ending cash reserve line item be moved to the line item in the Board of Higher Education and Student Ministries for North Central College. The funds are to be designated to help support leadership development programs for students going into ministry.”

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Justin Lowe **moved the previous question**. The **motion to close debate** was **approved**.

The Rheingans motion was **defeated** on a standing count vote of 155 Yes; 280 No; 23 Abstain.

Ron Retherford **moved** that we reduce the Personnel Committee budget by the following amounts:

Salaries Min. & Outreach:	\$55,000
Housing, Min. & Outreach:	\$17,500
Social Security:	\$4,000
Pension:	\$6,000
Health Ins:	\$14,000
Death & Disability Ins.:	\$3,500
Total	\$100,000

Fran Deaner **moved to suspend Conference Rule 3.3.3** which would require that this motion be sent to the implications committee. The **motion to suspend the rule** was **approved**.

There was a motion to **call the previous question**. The **motion to end debate** was **approved**.

The **Retherford motion** was **defeated**.

Peter Murray presented the following resolution:

Resolved that the Wisconsin Conference limit total spending in 2009 to no more than actual revenue received in 2008 until it becomes clear that 2009 revenue will be sufficient to support additional spending.

Be it further resolved that apportionments for 2009 be held at 2008 levels until it becomes clear that local churches can afford additional apportionments while meeting their established mission, vision, and goals and have developed their ministries.

Bishop Lee **ruled the resolution out of order**.

Allegra Zick moved:

“to set the increases of the District Superintendents at 3.58% a sum of \$9,279.36 (vs. the proposed 6.79% increase, an amount of \$17,600) and move the difference (\$8,320.64) to the budget of Global Ministry.”

Bishop Lee noted that the salaries of District Superintendents are based upon a conference rule, and that the conference would need to suspend the rule in order to consider this motion. There was no motion to suspend the rules. Therefore the Bishop **ruled the motion out of order**.

Don Amphlett **moved the previous question** on the entire budget. The **motion to close debate** was **approved**.

The **2009 Budget** was **approved** as **presented**.

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Werner thanked the conference for the privilege of serving as Chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration for the last four years. He recognized and thanked the members of the Council for their hard work.

The Conference thanked Werner for his work with a standing ovation.

Lisa King, Director of Finance and Administration and a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration, presented the “100% General Church Apportionment Payment Recognition” from the General Council for 2007.

Billie LaBumbard presented the final report of the Ingathering:

Flood Buckets:	373 (to be used in Wisconsin)
Preemie Caps:	8,527
School Bags:	2,062
Blankets:	223
Ditty Bags (seafarers):	248
Medicine Chest:	65
School Desks:	42
Global Aids Fund:	\$10,946
Ingathering Shipping:	\$7,448
Phone Cards (seafarers):	\$1,670.50

Bishop Lee thanked the conference for its generosity.

Andy Oren, Chairperson of the Conference Nominations Committee, presented the report of the committee. He **moved** to accept the printed report as distributed in the registration packets, with corrections that will be forwarded to the conference office. The motion was **approved**.

Oren **moved** “to allow the Nominations Committee to continue to fill vacancies between now and our next Annual Conference.” The motion was **approved**.

Ellen Rasmussen **presented the following resolution**:

Be it resolved that all congregations be encouraged to have a special offering designated for North Central College and Wiley College. This special offering is to be held prior to December 1, 2008, and be disbursed to the colleges by December 31, 2008. Notification of this special offering is to be given to both colleges following this conference in order to assure the colleges that while we have not designated funds for them this year, we still value our relationship with them and wish to maintain our connection.

Lisa King offered a friendly amendment, inserting the phrase “or the Conference Finance Office” before the words “by December 31, 2008.”

The resolution was **approved**.

Richard Strait requested a moment of personal privilege, and called attention to the “RUCalled” camp which will be held at Lake Lucerne this summer.”

Lance Herrick requested a moment of personal privilege to lift up the work that Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary to reduce the financial burden of seminary education on students. He noted that the seminary's goal is to increase the endowment fund sufficiently to make it possible for all United Methodist students to have a tuition-free seminary education.

Mary Council-Austin presented the report of the **Jurisdictional Nominations Pool**. The report was **approved**.

Amy Jameson Yackovich, Chairperson of the Program and Arrangements Committee, presented **Action Item 22: Resolution on the Location of the 2009 Wisconsin Annual Conference Session**. It was **approved**.

She presented **Action Item 24: Location of Future Annual Conferences**. It was **approved**.

She thanked all of those who have made this session of the Annual Conference possible.

She then announced that the 2009 Annual Conference Session will be held June 14 -17, 2009 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

Bishop Lee thanked Yackovich for her work as Chairperson of the Program and Arrangements Committee.

Bishop Lee then thanked John Moffatt for his work as Conference Moving Director for the past several years. He is retiring from that position this year.

She announced that Jorge Mayorga Solis will be the Dean of the Cabinet for 2008-2009.

Laurel Gilbert presented the following resolution:

Whereas: Jesus said "...I tell you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:44), and,

Whereas: When Jesus saw the faith of the four who carried their paralyzed friend to Him, said: Take heart son, your sins are forgiven. (Matthew 9:2), and,

Whereas: "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. (Romans 8:28)

Be it resolved that the members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference will pray with all the faith God has given us, and lead others to pray that:

The hearts of the terrorists in the world be softened and healed and turned to the living Triune God; converted by God's Love through Christ who paid the sin-debt for all who will believe in Him:

That Peace may come upon the earth beyond all expectation.

Gilbert noted that the resolution was presented for information, consideration, and affirmation, but did not ask the conference to act on it.

The secretary announced the results of the "Nothing But Nets" project during this Annual Conference Session. The conference has given or pledged \$18,965.75, which will provide 1896 bed nets. The "Episcopal Basketball" will go to the Black River Falls congregation for its pledge of \$5,000 to this ministry. He read other closing announcements.

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Bishop Lee expressed her appreciation to the people for their participation in this conference session, and for the privilege of serving the people of Wisconsin during this quadrennium.

She invited the conference to a brief time of closing worship. Music leadership was provided by Grace Cajiuat and Justin Lowe. The service began with the singing of “What Does the Lord Require of You.” Bishop Lee led in a time of prayer and dismissal. The Service concluded with the singing of “We Are Called.”

The 39th Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference adjourned *sine die* at 4:05 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2008.

The foregoing is a true and complete record of the proceedings of the Conference.

Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary