

CLERGY SESSION  
OF THE  
WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
HELD IN THE BALLROOM OF THE  
MADISON MARRIOTT WEST HOTEL  
AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008  
3:00 P.M.

Bishop Linda Lee called the Clergy Session of the 2008 Annual Conference to order at 3:00 p.m. and offered words of welcome and greeting. She then led the clergy session in an opening prayer.

Richard Strait, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry also welcomed those present to the Clergy Session.

Strait then asked Bishop Lee to indicate who is to be present and voting in the Clergy Session.

Bishop Lee responded that 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.

Strait moved “that all clergy members of other annual conferences or denominations who are appointed to serve Wisconsin United Methodist Churches be granted permission to be present in the Clergy Session with voice.” The motion was **approved**.

Kevin Rice Myers, Executive Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, **moved** “that Alexander von Wascinski, an Elder in the Southern Germany Conference who is present for the Ordination Service this evening, be granted permission to be present in the Clergy Session with voice.” The motion was **approved**.

Strait introduced Karen Ebert, Chairperson of the Division of Elders of the Board. Ebert presented those persons who are to be Commissioned and Ordained at this session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Ebert presented **Question 33: Who are elected as members in full connection?** and **Questions 35b and 37b: Who are elected for ordination as elders?** Following speeches of affirmation, the conference voted on each candidate for full membership and ordination individually.

Kristina Marie Krause Androsky, Sharon Leah Stowe Cook, Cherie A. Forret, Kathleen Linda Cottrell Jury, Jean B. Schmidt, and Markus Wegenast were elected as Clergy Members of the Annual Conference in Full Connection and granted Elder’s Orders.

Ebert moved **Question 28b(1): Who are elected and commissioned as Probationary members?** Each candidate was introduced individually.

Listowel Ayensu-Mensah, George William Beaton, Claudia June Deede, Eric D. Nelson, and Patrick W. Schultz, were elected as probationary members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and granted commissioning for Pastoral Ministry in The United Methodist Church.

Ebert presented **Question 32a: Who have been received from other Christian Denominations** as probationary members, and **Question 43b: What clergy, coming from other Christian denominations, have had their orders recognized as elders?** She introduced Carrie Lynn Kreps Wegenast, who is transferring into the Wisconsin Annual Conference from the Congregational Christian Church.

Ebert **moved**

“that Carrie Lynn Kreps Wegenast be received as a probationary member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and that her ordination as an elder in the Congregational Church be recognized.”

The motion was **approved**.

Nancy Moffatt, Dean of the Cabinet, presented the Cabinet’s response to **Question 17: Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration?** Those present in the clergy session read the cabinet’s response to Question 17 in unison.

Richard Strait introduced Kevin Rice Myers, the Executive Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, who continued the presentation of the Board’s report.

Rice Myers presented **Question 18a: Committee on Investigation**, and noted that, since this is the first Annual Conference session following the General Conference, these persons are being elected for the coming Quadrennium. **Question 18a** was **approved**.

He presented **Question 18b: Administrative Review Committee**, and noted that these persons are also being elected for the coming Quadrennium. **Question 18b** was **approved**.

He presented **Question 19** for information, adding the name of Mary Balson to the printed report.

He presented **Question 20** for information.

Rice Myers presented **Question 21a: Who are approved as full time local pastors?**, noting that Brenda Jahns-Grams name should be deleted from Question 21a and added to Question 21b. **Question 21a** was **approved as adjusted**.

He presented **Question 21b: Who are approved as part-time local pastors?** It was **approved as adjusted**.

He presented **Question 21c: Who are approved as student local pastors?**, adding the name of Kevin Dembinski, 2007 Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. **Question 21c** was **approved as adjusted**.

He presented **Question 21d: Who are approved as student local pastors from other annual conferences?** It was **approved**.

Rice Myers then recognized the following local pastors who have completed the 5-Year Basic Course of Study this year: Lesley Munnik, Mara Pehkonen, Rafael Cubilette, Sharon Smith, Lawrence Turner, and David Vang. The clergy session recognized them with a round of applause.

Rice Myers moved that **Question 21** be approved in its entirety. It was **approved**.

He presented **Question 24: Clergy from other Annual Conferences or Methodist Denominations** for information, and noted that the following three persons' names are appearing in this list for the first time this year: Randall Booth, Daniel Fahs and Marvin Singh; He invited them to stand and be recognized, and then invited all clergy serving among us from other Conferences or Methodist Denominations to stand and be recognized. The Clergy Session greeted them with a round of applause.

He presented **Question 25: Clergy from Other Christian Denominations**, and noted that the following persons' names are appearing in the list for the first time this year: Donald D. Entenman, Harsha Kotian, Kathy Reid, Earl Smith. He invited these five persons to stand and be recognized. He then invited all Clergy from Other Christian Denominations who are serving among us to stand and be recognized. The Clergy Session greeted them with a round of applause.

**Question 25** was **approved as adjusted**.

Rice Myers presented **Question 26b: Affiliate Members Without Vote**, noting that Dee Webber's name is appearing on the list this year for the first time. He invited the Affiliate Members present to stand and be recognized. The Clergy Session greeted them with a round of applause. **Question 26b** was **approved**.

He presented **Question 30b: Those continued as Probationary Members**, for information, and noted that Heather Brewer, whose name appears here, is transferring into the Wisconsin Conference from the North Texas Conference, which will be reported in Question 41.

He presented **Question 40c: Those returned to effective relationship after voluntary retirement**. He invited William McBride to stand and be recognized. **Question 40c** was **approved**.

He presented **Question 41: Those received by transfer from other annual conferences**, for information, and invited those present to stand and be recognized.

He presented **Question 45: Those transferred out to other annual conferences**, for information.

He presented **Question 46: Those discontinued as Probationary Members**, noting that Lois Reed Takata, a Retired Probationary Member, requested in writing that she be discontinued, effective 12/18/2007. **Question 46** was **approved**.

He presented **Questions 47 and 48 (Honorable Location)** for information.

He presented **Question 50a: Who have had their Conference Membership terminated by withdrawal to unite with another denomination?** noting that Robert Maeglin, a retired local pastor, has informed the conference that he has joined the Wesleyan Church. **Question 50a** was **approved**.

He presented **Question 50b. Who have had their conference membership terminated by withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office?** noting that both Lois Reed Takata and Kevin Field had made this request in writing. **Question 50b** was **approved**.

He presented **Question 52c**, (those who have died since last Annual Conference) adding the name of Samuel C. Godfrey, who passed away on May 31, 2008, to the printed list. He also noted that Rosemary Skinner Keller, a Retired Professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary who taught many of the Wisconsin Conference Clergy, died peacefully at her home on Friday morning, June 6<sup>th</sup>, following several weeks of hospice care.

After the names of all those who have died were read, there was a time of silent prayer in memory of these colleagues in ministry, and Bishop Lee offered prayer.

Rice Myers presented **Question 53: Those appointed to other Annual Conferences**, for information. He invited Jason Dickerson, who is being appointed to the South Georgia Conference this year, to stand and be recognized.

Rice Myers presented **Question 54a: Those on Voluntary Leave of Absence**. The Clergy Session voted on those who have been on Voluntary Leave of Absence for less than five years. It was **approved**. The Clergy Session then voted on those who have been on Voluntary Leave of Absence for more than five years. It was **approved by the necessary two-thirds majority**.

Rice Myers then presented **Question 54b: Involuntary Leave of Absence**. He read a statement describing the circumstances which have led to the Board of Ordained Ministry's recommendation that Frederick R. Surret, an elder in full connection, be placed on Involuntary Leave of Absence.

Lucretia Fehrmann, Chairperson of the Administrative Review Committee, reported that the committee met on May 7, 2008, and reviewed the entire process which led to this recommendation, as required by ¶354.5 and ¶635 of the 2004 Book of Discipline, and had determined that all of the procedures of the Book of Discipline for Involuntary Leave of Absence had been adequately and appropriately followed.

Rice Myers then **moved**, on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry,

“that Rev. Frederick R. Surret be placed on Involuntary Leave of Absence, effective immediately.”

**The motion was approved.**

Rice Myers presented **Question 54d** for information.

He then moved that the clergy session approve **Question 54** in its entirety. **Question 54** was **approved**.

Rice Myers presented **Question 55: Those on Family Leave**, and noted that the only new name on the list this year is Christine Deaner-Rogers

He moved that those listed in **Question 55a** for *less than 5 years* be approved. It was **approved**.

He then moved that those listed in **Question 55a** for *more than 5 years* be approved. It was **approved by the necessary two-thirds majority**.

He presented **Questions 55b and 55c**. They were **approved**.

He moved approval of **Question 55** in its entirety. **Question 55** was **approved**.

He presented **Question 57a: Those granted Incapacity Leave since the last Annual Conference Session**. It was approved.

He presented **Question 57c: Those granted Incapacity Leave at this session of the Annual Conference**. It was **approved**.

Rice Myers presented **Questions 59a and 62a: Clergy Retirements This Year**. He noted that Benito Agtarap, a clergy member of the Philippines Annual Conference who has been serving among us while retaining his membership there, is retiring from that Conference this year.

Rice Myers invited all those who are retiring this year to come forward and be recognized, noting that this year's class of retirees has collectively served The United Methodist Church for 445 years. The Clergy Session thanked the retirees for their ministry with a standing ovation. Questions 59a and 62a were **approved**.

He presented **Questions 59b, 60b, 61b and 62b** for information. He noted that there are now more clergy in full connection in the conference who are retired than there are clergy in full connection who are serving local churches. He also noted that the number of clergy eligible to retire in the near future greatly exceeds the number of people who are in the process of entering ministry, and that there is information about clergy recruitment and the candidacy process on Pre-Conference Resource Disk.

Bishop Lee declared a brief, five minute recess.

Bishop Lee called the Clergy Session back to order.

Rice Myers noted that **Questions 63, 64, and 65** are statistical charts and tables that are completed after the annual conference session.

He noted that **Questions 66 through 70** deal with persons who are certified in specialized areas of ministry, and are presented for information only.

He called attention to **Question 67**, noting that Jean B. Schmidt is being certified this year in the area of Spiritual Formation.

He called attention to **Question 69**, noting that Amy Valdez Barker transferred out to the North Georgia Conference as a Probationary Member and as a person certified in Youth Ministry.

He noted that Questions 71 through 82 deal with Diaconal Ministers, and that there are no changes this year.

Rice Myers presented **Question 83a: Associate Members, Elders and Probationary Members approved for less than full time appointment**, noting that the percentage of time following William McBride's name should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ , not  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

The clergy session voted on those who have been appointed less than full time for less than eight years. It was **approved** by the necessary two-thirds majority. The clergy session then voted on those who have been appointed less than full time for eight years or more. It was **approved** by the necessary three-fourths majority.

Rice Myers presented **Question 83b: Deacons approved for less than full time service.** It was approved.

He presented **Questions 84, 85 and 87** for information.

He presented **Question 88c.** It was approved by the necessary two-thirds majority.

He presented **Question 89** for information.

He presented **Question 90** for information, noting that Richard Whitaker is the only active Diaconal Minister still serving in the Wisconsin Conference

He presented **Question 91: Personal notations**

It was noted that Charlotte Bertram was married during the past year, and that her new name will be added to this question.

Rice Myers presented **Question 92** for information, noting that the tentative dates for next year's Annual Conference Session are June 14-17, 2009, but that the location depends upon action that will need to be taken later in this conference session.

Rice Myers **moved the adoption of the entire report of the Board of Ordained Ministry related to the "Business of the Annual Conference."** It was **approved.**

Richard Strait called upon Forrest S. Clark, Chairperson of the Order of Elders and of the Nurture and Formation of Clergy Team of the Board of Ordained Ministry, to present the **"Guidelines for Continuing Theological Education."**

Clark shared briefly about the discussions in the Board which led to the development and recommendation of this document. He **moved** "that the Clergy Session adopt the 'Guidelines for Continuing Theological Education' document as included in the printed report."

Michael Garren **moved to amend** the Exemptions Section of the document by adding an item 4: "Clergy serving as chaplains in a war zone." Clark **accepted the motion** as a friendly amendment.

A suggestion was made that mission trip experiences be included as continuing education events/learning opportunities, with appropriate accountability. There was a consensus in the clergy session that this should be added to the document.

Bill Helwig **moved to refer** the document back to the committee to for input from the circuits during the coming year. The **motion to refer** was **defeated.**

Nancy Carmichael **moved to amend** Minimum Standard 2c by adding the words "mission trip or" before the word "event" and that this type of learning experience be reported as recommended under Point 1 of the Accountability Section of the document.

The motion to amend was **approved.**

Fran Deaner **moved to amend** the "Requirements" section of the document by changing the number of required CEU's to 1 CEU per year and 4 per quadrennium. The **motion to amend** was **approved.**

## 2008 Wisconsin Conference Journal

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Rebecca Neal Niese moved to amend ‘Minimum Standard 2a’ by deleting all of the text after the first sentence, ‘Minimum Standard 2b’ by deleting all of the text after the word “preach” in the first line, and ‘How do I earn ...Point 4: Professional Reading’ by deleting the second sentence. The **motion to amend** was **defeated**.

The “Guidelines for Continuing Theological Education” document was **approved as amended**.

Richard Strait thanked all of those who have assisted the Board of Ordained Ministry in its task of recruitment, nurture and credentialing of clergy in the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and invited everyone who has been involved in the work of the Board during this past year to stand.

He noted that this completes the presentation of the Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The report was **affirmed by the Clergy Session**.

Kevin Rice Myers made several announcements.

Bishop Lee thanked Strait and the members of the Board for their work. She offered reflections and a word of prayer.

The clergy session adjourned at 5:08 p.m.