

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
40TH SESSION
OF THE
WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HELD IN APPLETON, WISCONSIN
JUNE 14-17, 2009

Sunday Afternoon, June 14, 2009

Clergy Session

Clergy members of the Wisconsin Conference gathered in the Empire Room of the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, 2009 for the Clergy Session of the conference. The minutes of the Clergy Session are printed at the conclusion of these Daily Proceedings.

Laity Session

The Laity Session began at 3:00 p.m. with an inspirational presentation by Robert Connolly, the guest speaker, who has conducted leadership-training seminars, supervised planning processes, and managed stewardship and capital fund appeals for a wide variety of nonprofit institutions. He informed and encouraged us to build relationships, develop strong leaders, and act on our values in order to transform congregations and the world. JAM, a musical group from First Church Green Bay, performed contemporary and upbeat music.

Sunday Evening, June 14, 2009

Members and friends of the Wisconsin Annual Conference gathered in the Chapel of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, at 7:00 p.m. for the Service of Ordination of Elders. Music for the prelude was provided by the Fox Valley Circuit Choir under the direction of Robert Butler, Jon Riehle, Organist, and The Brass Circle.

The processional hymn was "For All The Saints." Bishop Linda Lee called the 40th Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference to order, and offered words of greeting and prayer. She invited all those present to reaffirm the call to ministry that is inherent in our Christian baptism. Dorthy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, and Richard Strait, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the following persons to be ordained Elder and received into full membership in the Annual Conference:

Mark Daniel Gilbert
Cathy Lynn Pearson Hamblin
Amelita Grace Gonzales Cajiuat Herigstad
Deborah Ann Pimm
Ann Watson Scott
Brenda K. Whitford

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

The Fox Valley Circuit Choir sang “Hallelujah” from “Mount of Olives” by Beethoven.

The Scripture Lesson from John 10:9-10 was read by representatives of the Dong Bu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church.

Bishop James Justman of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America delivered the sermon, “Live Enthusiastically.”

An offering was taken to support the Clergy in Transition Fund and the Dong Bu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. During the offering Grace Cajiua Herigstad and Al Schmidt, accompanied by the Fox Valley Circuit Choir, sang the spiritual “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me.”

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 Bishops 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 Mark Daniel Gilbert, Cathy Lynn Pearson Hamblin, Amelita Grace Gonzales Cajiua Herigstad, Deborah Ann Pimm, Ann Watson Scott, and Brenda K. Whitford as Elders in The United Methodist Church, with the laying on of hands and prayer. Members of the retiring class of 2009 recognized those who were ordained and welcomed them as full members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Following the singing of the hymn “We Are God’s People,” Bishop Lee, assisted by Bishops of the Dong Bu Conference, celebrated 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 Me An Instrument of Thy Peace” by Mary McDonald.

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 during the recessional hymn. While the congregation sang “Hope of the World” 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.

Following the ordination service, the congregation greeted the newly ordained elders at a reception which was held at the First United Methodist Church of Appleton.

Music leadership for the service was provided by John Riehle, organist, and Kathy Orth, pianist. Robert Butler directed the Fox Valley Circuit Choir. Members of the Brass Circle were Michael Henckel, Marty Robinson, Keith Powell, Andy Zipperer, and Eric High. The percussionist was Paul Ristau.

Members of the cabinet participating in the service were: Rev. Stephen J. Polster, Rev. Ann Spindt Henschel, Rev. Jorge Mayorga Solis, Rev. Gordon Lind, and Rev. Sam Royappa.

Monday Morning, June 15, 2009

Members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference gathered at 7:55 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin for a time of singing, which was led by Carly Kuntz, a clergy member of the Annual Conference.

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

Dale Eggert, a member of the Program and Arrangements Committee, shared information about the mission work projects in the Appleton community that members of the conference will be participating in this afternoon, and encouraged everyone to sign up for one of the work projects.

Sue D'Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries, introduced Rachael Barnett, Mission Support Liaison for the General Board of Global Ministries, who spoke to the conference about mission work supported by the Wisconsin Annual Conference through The Advance.

D'Alessio then introduced Timyra Cowling, who shared information about Holy Conferencing. She reviewed the nature of Holy Conferencing and the process that is used in this kind of conversation.

Rosalind Dryver-Scott then gave a Biblical framework for Holy Conferencing time. She spoke about the Biblical imagery in which branches of the vine that are fruitful produce grapes.

Cowling and Graham West gave a demonstration about how to speak and listen during Holy Conferencing, and how not to speak and listen during Holy Conferencing. The members of the conference then practiced Holy Conferencing around the issue of Missions as a way of preparing for the Mission Work Project experience this afternoon.

Following a short break, Bishop Lee called the conference back into session at 9:00 a.m. She welcomed everyone present to this 40th Regular Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and called upon Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary, to lead the conference through the organizational items.

Rice Myers 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 Annual Conference. He **moved**

“that the bar of this conference now be established to include all of the chairs on the floor of the Grand Ballroom of the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel (except those on the sides of the room defined by Orange Gaffer’s Tape on the floor, which are reserved for visitors), the platform at the front of the Ball Room, the Conference Secretary’s tables to my right, and the tables at the back of the room where the Video Display equipment is located.”

The **motion to set the bar of the conference** was **approved**.

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

- Conference Speakers:
 - Bishop James Justman
 - Rev. Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches
 - Timyra Cowling, who will be leading us in Holy Conferencing every day
- The bishops and our guests from the Dong Bu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church
- Rev. Dan Dick, who will be the new Director of Connectional Ministries for the Wisconsin Annual Conference, beginning July 1, 2009
- Melody Patterson, Representative from Wiley College
- Dan O'Neill, Managing Director for Central Conference Pension Initiative, General Board of Pension & Health Benefits
- Josie Martinez, Conference Liaison, General Board of Pension & Health Benefits
- 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-Chairpersons of Conference Boards and Agencies who are not members of the Annual Conference
- Michele Virnig, Conference Director of Communications

He noted that our Conference Rules provide that the lay directors and coordinators on the conference staff who fall within the guidelines of the Book of Discipline are voting members of the Annual Conference, but that Michele Virnig does not meet those guidelines, as she is not a member of The United Methodist Church.

The motion was **approved**.

He then **moved** that the following persons to be given the privilege of sitting in the bar of the conference WITHOUT VOICE OR VOTE:

- Conference Staff:
 - Episcopal Administrative Assistant: Cindy Churan
 - Regional Office Administrators: Bonita Smith, Barb Ridgely, Barb Franken
 - Conference Registrar: Diane Williams
 - Conference Computer Support Specialist: Pat Falkner
 - Service Department Manager: Katie Hoepfner
 - Service Department Assistant: Audree Hostetler
 - Conference Archivist: Lynn Lubkeman
- Program and Arrangements Committee Members who are not conference members
- 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 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

He noted that Sherry Malone, Regional Office Administrator for the Capital/Coulee Region, has been elected as a voting lay member of the Annual Conference by her local congregation.

The motion was **approved**.

He then moved that the following persons be elected as **tellers and assistant secretaries** for this session of the Annual Conference:

Tellers:

- Mary Ann Floerke
- Cathy Hamblin
- Cindy Glocke
- Mike Weaver
- Paul Foulke
- Freddie Kirk
- Mary Anne Conklin
- Craig Conklin
- Anita Genrich
- Annie Tricker
- Gail Mitchell
- John Hazen
- Wendell Williams
- Terry Dorenbush
- Bill Dow
- Jo Bierer

Assistant Secretaries

- Cindy Churan
- Ron Kral
- Sherry Malone
- Jean Nicholas
- Marjorie Rice Myers
- Carolyn Saunders
- Gary Swanson

Carolyn Saunders **moved** to add the name of Mike Christensen to list of tellers. This **motion was accepted** as a friendly amendment.

The **motion to elect tellers and assistant secretaries** was **approved as amended**.

Rice Myers explained the **Proposed Consent Agenda**, and made the following motion regarding the procedure for implementing the Consent Agenda at this session of the Annual Conference:

“In accordance with Conference Rule 2.3.3, I move that the following procedure for dealing with the Consent Agenda be adopted by this session of the Annual Conference:

The Proposed Consent Agenda will be placed before the Annual Conference at the opening plenary session. Opportunity will be given at that time to remove items from the Proposed Consent Agenda. Removal of an item from the Proposed Consent Agenda shall require at least 100 votes. Any items removed from the Consent Agenda shall be placed on the Regular Agenda for consideration by the conference during a later plenary session. The Annual Conference will then vote on the items remaining on the Consent Agenda during the opening plenary session.”

The motion was **approved**.

The secretary shared several other items of information and announcements.

Bishop Lee introduced those who are seated on platform with her for this session of the Annual Conference:

- Bill White, Conference Chancellor
- Steve Polster, Assistant to the Bishop
- Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary

Following the procedures of Conference Rule 3.3.3, Bishop Lee named the following members of **Implications Committee**:

- Mark Geisthart, Chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration
- Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis, Dean of the Cabinet
- Lisa King, Director of Finance and Administration
- Dorthy Radley, Conference Lay Leader
- Larry McGuin, Clergy Member of the Annual Conference
- Diane Odeen, Lay Member of the Annual Conference
- Eric Taylor, Youth Member of the Annual Conference

Bishop Lee introduced the members of the Prayer Team for this Annual Conference and invited them to stand.

Bishop Lee introduced her husband, Rev. Lamarr Gibson, and thanked him for his support. She noted that today is their 18th Wedding Anniversary. The conference expressed its appreciation for their ministry among us with a round of applause.

Bishop Lee welcomed the leaders of the Delegation from the Dong Bu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church, with which the Wisconsin Annual Conference has a sister-conference relationship. The delegation was led by Bishop Won, Jong Kuk, who is the 17th Bishop of the Dong Bu Conference. Bishop Won presented gifts to Bishop Lee on behalf of the Dong Bu Conference. He then spoke to the Conference in Korean, and Yul Kwon, a clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference, translated. He noted that bishops in the Korean Methodist Church are elected for two year terms. Bishop Won introduced the other bishops who are part of the Dong Bu Conference delegation to Wisconsin this year:

- Bishop Kim, Nam Chul, 16th Bishop
- Bishop Park, George Chong, 15th Bishop
- Bishop Kwon, Oh Suh, 14th Bishop
- Bishop Park, Sang Hyuk, 13th Bishop

- Bishop Kim, Myung Ki, 12th Bishop
- Bishop Kim, Chang Su, 11th Bishop

Bishop Won then introduced the other members of the delegation who are present. The conference welcomed them with a round of applause.

Bishop Won shared information and a PowerPoint slide show about the Dong Bu Annual Conference Session earlier this year, as well as the many ministries of the Dong-Bu Conference.

Bishop Lee presented gifts to Bishop Won on behalf of the Wisconsin Conference.

Sue D'Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries, presented the **Proposed Agenda** for this session of the Annual Conference, adding Action Item 16 to the printed agenda for Wednesday.

She then **moved** the adoption of the **Proposed Consent Agenda**.

Bill Helwig **moved to lift Action Item 7 from the Proposed Consent Agenda**. The motion was **approved** with more than the 100 votes necessary, and **Action Item 7 was removed from the Proposed Consent Agenda**.

The **Proposed Consent Agenda** was **approved as amended**. The following Action Items were approved on the Consent Agenda:

- **Action Item 1: Local Church Camping Coordinator**
- **Action Item 2: Camp and Retreat Emphasis Sunday**
- **Action Item 3: New Camp Participants**
- **Action Item 4: United Methodist Women's Sunday**
- **Action Item 5: United Methodist Youth Sunday**
- **Action Item 10: Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Wisconsin Conference**
- **Action Item 13: Resolution on 2009 Formal Funding Plan for Pre-1982 Pension Liability**

Debra Ivanoff Hastings, Chairperson of the Conference Nominations Committee, presented the **Preliminary Nominations Report**. She noted that there is a "Leadership Nominations Form" in the packet which everyone received at registration, and encouraged people to suggest names of persons for positions of leadership in the conference.

Robb McClintock and Eric Taylor presented a "What If..." moment, inviting the members of the conference to "ReThink Church." They shared a video and PowerPoint presentation.

Bishop Lee announced a 10 minute recess.

Bishop Lee called the conference back to order following the recess.

Gail Burgess and Sharon Smith presented **Action Item 8: Volunteers in Mission Recognition & Awareness Day**. **Action Item 8** was **approved**.

Sue D'Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries, assisted by Dan Dick, Eric Taylor, Dan Schwerin, Tom Lambrecht, and Lawrence McGuin, gave a presentation outlining the work of the Strategic Plan Implementation Team.

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Dorthy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, introduced Diane Nichols, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, who spoke about the opportunities for ministry in this area.

Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis, Dean of the Cabinet, presented the cabinet's report in the form of a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Living Enthusiastically." The presentation highlighted the ministries of one church in each of the four regions of the conference.

Mark Geisthardt, Chairperson of the **Conference Council on Finance and Administration**, and Lisa King, Director of Finance and Administration, presented the report of the Council on Finance and Administration.

The Council on Finance and Administration is recommending that the 2009 Budget, which was approved by the 2008 Annual Conference Session, be reduced by \$100,000.

Geisthardt **moved to adjust the 2009 Budget** by reducing the Moving Expenses line item from \$221,165 to \$168,165, and by reducing the Contingency-Non-Budgeted line item from \$47,000 to \$0. The **motion to reduce the 2009 Budget** was **approved**.

Geisthardt noted that since the Proposed 2010 Budget was printed in the pre-Conference Workbook, the Council has met and determined that they should present to the Annual Conference for its consideration a **Revised 2010 Proposed Budget**. The revised proposal represents a 4% decrease from the original Proposed 2010 Budget. Copies of the **Revised 2010 Proposed Budget Summary** were distributed to Annual Conference members. Lisa King noted for the conference where significant changes were made.

Mark Swanson **moved** "that the conference mandate that each local church WILL have an annual stewardship campaign."

Jeff Virchow **moved to table** the Swanson motion until the 2010 Proposed Budget report is before us for a vote. The **motion to table** was **approved**.

Geisthardt **moved to suspend Conference Rule 10.7.1** for Budget Year 2010, as requested by the Cabinet and approved by the Council on Finance and Administration, in order to allow for no salary increase for District Superintendents and the Assistant to the Bishop for 2010. The **motion to suspend** Rule 10.7.1 was **approved**.

Graham West led the conference in a time of Holy Conferencing around the Proposed 2010 Budget.

The Secretary read announcements.

Bishop Lee recessed the Conference at 12:05 p.m., and sent the members of the conference forth to be involved in "hands on mission" projects in the Appleton/Neenah/Menasha area during Monday Afternoon.

Monday Afternoon and Evening, June 15, 2009

Members of the Annual Conference participated in a number of "Hands-On Mission Projects" in the Appleton-Neenah-Menasha area during Monday afternoon.

Following the afternoon of mission service in the community, members and friends of the conference gathered in Pierce Park in Appleton at 5:30 p.m. for a picnic supper sponsored

by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. After the picnic supper, the conference gathered for worship in the park, which was led by the youth of the conference. Bishop Lee preached the sermon and celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which was distributed to those present in small circles throughout the worship area. Music was provided by the “Sheltered Reality” drum and percussion group. Following the worship service the conference recessed for the evening.

Tuesday Morning, June 16, 2009

Bishop Lee called the conference to order at 8:00 a.m.

The morning session began with the singing of “Let It Shine.”

Steve Polster, Assistant to the Bishop, offered the opening prayer.

Claudia Deede, Chairperson of the **Program and Arrangements Committee**, expressed the committee’s thanks for the patience and hospitality shown by all those present as we work through the logistics of holding the annual conference session in a new location that offers significant challenges to us.

Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis, Chairperson of the Wisconsin Conference’s **2008 General Conference Delegation**, introduced the members of the delegation.

Sue D’Alessio reminded the members of the conference about the nature of “Holy Conferencing” and explained the process we will use to discuss the **Proposed Constitutional Amendments**.

Mayorga Solis and the members of the General Conference Delegation gave a presentation describing the 32 **Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church** that were approved by the 2008 General Conference and which have now been submitted to the Annual Conferences for ratification. They shared both the nature of the amendments and the rationale provided by the General Conference for the amendments. 23 of the Proposed Constitutional Amendments deal with “The Worldwide Nature of The United Methodist Church,” and were treated as one block for the purposes of discussion. The members of the delegation shared that, regardless of whether members of the conference vote in favor of or against this proposal, they should vote the same way on all 23 of these amendments.

Mayorga Solis and other members of the General Conference Delegation then led the conference in a time of questions and answers and Holy Conferencing around the Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Mayorga Solis **requested permission** from the Conference for John Lawson, son of Bishop David Lawson and a General Conference delegate from the South Indiana Conference who was a member of the legislative committee dealing with Proposed Amendment 1, to speak to the conference. **Permission was granted**. Lawson then spoke to the conference explaining the rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1.

At 10:00 a.m. Bishop Lee called for the Order of the Day: **Voting on the Proposed Constitutional Amendments**.

Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary, explained the procedures to be used for voting on the Proposed Constitutional Amendments. Tellers distributed ballot forms to those conference members who are eligible to vote on the Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Bishop Lee led the conference through the process of voting individually on each of the 32 Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Tellers collected the ballots, which were counted electronically. The results of the conference's voting on the Proposed Constitutional Amendments will be posted on the Conference Website and printed in the Conference Journal, and will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Council of Bishops for tabulation with the results of voting in all of the other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church. Approval of each Proposed Constitutional Amendment requires a two-thirds majority of the aggregate number of votes cast in all of the annual conferences on that particular amendment.

Following the voting on the Proposed Constitutional Amendments, Bishop Lee declared a recess, and announced that the conference would reconvene at 11:00 a.m. for the Memorial Service.

Memorial Service

Members and friends of the Conference gathered in the Ballroom of the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel at 11:00 a.m. for "A Service of Comfort, Remembrance and Thanksgiving." The service began with words of welcome and instruction, and the singing of the hymn "You Are Mine." Jean Schmidt and Kevin Rice Myers led the congregation in a "Litany of Mourning, Lament and Grief." Schmidt read the scripture lesson from Romans 14:7-12. The congregation sang "Bring Many Names." 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 the 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 for the service was provided by Grace Cajiuat and Justin Lowe.

Tuesday Afternoon, June 16, 2009

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

Jeff Nicholas, Vice-Chairperson of the **Commission on Archives and History**, introduced those clergy persons who are being recognized this year for 25, 50, 60, or more years of service to The United Methodist Church. They were invited to stand, and given certificates of recognition and flowers. The Conference expressed its appreciation for their years of

service with a standing ovation. The list of those recognized will be printed in the 2009 Conference Journal.

Fran Deaner, Chairperson of the **Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation**, presented the report of the Board.

He introduced Dan O'Neill, Director of the **Central Conference Pension Initiative**, who spoke to the conference and showed a brief video regarding this program, which is designed to provide pension support for clergy persons in the Central Conferences, many of whom have given a lifetime of service to The United Methodist Church, but who must struggle to survive in retirement because they have little or no pension income from their church service.

Deaner moved **Action Item 14: Resolution for Support of the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI)**, which sets a goal for the Wisconsin Conference to raise \$500,000 for the Central Conference Pension Initiative between 2009 and 2014.

Sam Royappa **moved to amend** Action Item 14 by adding the words "and Circuits" following the word "churches." Deaner **accepted** this motion as a **friendly amendment**.

Action Item 14 was approved as amended.

Deaner moved **Action Item 11: Resolution on Past Service Annuity Rate**. It was **approved**.

Deaner **moved to suspend** Conference Policy 110.1.0 for 2010. (This policy sets a formula for determining the Minimum Compensation for pastors for the coming year.) He explained that the formula would call for an increase in minimum compensation of 6.8%, because it depends upon factors and government indicators that were determined before the current economic crisis took place. The Joint Board's recommendation is for an increase of 3% in the minimum compensation for pastors.

The **motion to suspend** Policy 110.1.0 for 2010 was **approved**.

Deaner moved **Action Item 12: Resolution on Minimum Compensation**. The resolution sets the minimum compensation for Elders, Provisional Members, and Associate Members serving full time in 2010 at \$35,609. It sets the minimum compensation for Local Pastors serving full time in 2010 at \$31,341.

Following discussion Sharon Cook **moved the previous question**. The **motion to close debate** was **approved**.

Action Item 12 was approved as presented.

Deaner **moved the adoption of the entire report** of the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation. It was **approved**.

Jorge Mayorga Solis presented a "What If..." moment, highlighting the Lay Ministry of the churches of Circuit 32.

Sue D'Alessio introduced the members of the Ministry and Outreach staff, who shared a PowerPoint presentation asking the question "What if...every congregation in the Wisconsin Annual Conference was a vital community of faith?"

Dorthy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, introduced Diane Schobert, who shared a “What If...” moment asking the question “What if circuit ministry was fully functional and we actually engaged in mutual leadership between laity and clergy?”

Jeff Killey, Chairperson of the **Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries**, presented the report of the Board regarding the study and review of all conference camp facilities, and the proposal to sell both Byron Center and Whispering Pines Camp.

Domnik Israel led the conference in a time of Holy Conferencing around the proposal to sell these two camps. The time of Holy Conference was concluded with prayer.

Killey moved **Action Item 9: Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Whispering Pines Camp and Byron Center.**

There was considerable discussion, with many questions raised about the proposal. Members of the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries, the Conference Trustees, and the Coordinator of Camp and Retreat Ministries provided answers to the questions.

At 3:50 p.m. Bishop Lee called for the order of the day, and announced that discussion of Action Item 9 would resume during the Wednesday morning plenary session.

George Kafer and Mike Weigand presented a “What If...” moment on “Revitalizing Existing Congregations”

The Secretary read announcements.

Bishop Lee recessed the conference at 4:00 p.m. for the Retirement Recognition.

Retirement Recognition

Members and friends of the conference gathered in the Ballroom of the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel at 4:00 p.m. for the Retirement Recognition. Howard Hitzman served as the host. Each of the retirees present for the recognition was introduced by one of their colleagues, and invited to share words, stories and thoughts about their ministry. Pictures from each retiree’s ministry were displayed on the video screens. Those retiring this year are:

Robert W. Eagle
Dennis Govier
Nancy Christman Green
Dora Gutierrez
Melvin W. Henrichs
Alan J. Hagstrom
Samuel Hyuksoon Kwon
Dixie Marklund
Jaime Nolla
Martin Nolet
James M. Thunstrom
Wesley J. White
Harvey Stower

Following the Retirement Recognition, the conference recessed for the evening meal.

Tuesday Evening, June 16, 2009

Members and friends of the Annual Conference gathered at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Lawrence University for “The Order for Commissioning Provisional Members for Service.”

The service began with music provided by Jon Riehle, organist, and The Brass Circle. Cheryl Kirking Kilker sang “You Are Here.” The Processional Hymn was “Gather Us In.” Bishop Lee offered words of welcome and introduction. Dorothy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, read the scripture lesson from John 4:31-42. Scott D. Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, gave the sermon entitled “First Impressions.” The congregation then sang “For Everyone Born.” An offering was taken to support the ministries of the East Angola Conference of The United Methodist Church. Cheryl Kirking Kilker sang special music.

Bishop Lee presented Licenses as Local Pastors to the following persons who are being appointed for the first time:

Mary Balson
Ann Bullis
James Droste
Lon Jury
Justin Lowe
Barbara Wells

Rev. Richard Strait, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the following persons to be commissioned as Provisional Elders in the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

Krystal Gayle Lynn Bartlett
Timothy Bruce Berlew
Kevin Anthony Dembinski
TyLacey Sims Hines
Edward Steven Jones
R. Ellen Rasmussen

Bishop Lee asked the new Provisional Members the questions prescribed for commissioning, and they all responded appropriately. Each was commissioned as a Provisional Member of the Annual Conference.

Bishop Lee then celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The newly commissioned Provisional Members served the gathered congregation. Cheryl Kirking Kilker sang “Child in You.” After Words of Sending Forth, the congregation sang the closing hymn, “We Are Called.”

Following the Commissioning service, the congregation greeted the newly commissioned Provisional Members at a reception which was held at the First United Methodist Church of Appleton.

Music leadership for the service was provided by John Riehle, organist, and Paula Johnson, pianist. Cheryl Kirking Kilker was the worship leader and song writer. Members of the Brass Circle were Michael Henckel, Marty Robinson, Keith Powell, Andy Zipperer, and Eric High. The percussionist was Paul Ristau.

Representatives of the Class of 2009 Retirees served as readers for the service.

Members of the cabinet participating in the service were: Rev. Stephen J. Polster, Rev. Ann Spindt Henschel, Rev. Jorge Mayorga Solis, Rev. Gordon Lind, and Rev. Sam Royappa.

Wednesday Morning, June 17, 2009

Members of the conference gathered together in the Ballroom of the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel at 7:55 a.m. with the reading of Psalm 150, and praise rhythm, drumming, and singing from the Cuban tradition.

Bishop Lee called the conference to order at 8:00 a.m.

Dan Dick, incoming Director of Connectional Ministries, offered the opening prayer.

Amanda Stein presented **Action Item 6: Young Adult Task Force Resolution** on behalf of the Bishop's Young Adult Task Force. **Action Item 6** was approved.

Gail Burgess, representative of the Health and Welfare Ministries Committee, presented **Action Item 20: Covenant of Affiliation between The Village at Manor Park, Inc. and the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church.** **Action Item 20** was approved.

Kevin Rice Myers, Executive Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented **Action Item 16: Resolution on Minimum Continuing Education Allowance.** **Action Item 16** was approved.

The **Denman Evangelism Award** is given each year to both lay and clergy persons for their outstanding ministry in the area of evangelism. This year's lay awards were presented to Jay Hamann, a member of New Hope United Methodist Church in DePere, and to Gerald and Beverly Fosdal, members of the Willerup United Methodist Church in Cambridge. The clergy award was presented to Gary Holmes, pastor of the Sugar River United Methodist Church in Verona.

Jeff Nicholas, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Archives and History, presented the **Ministry of Memory Award** to Lois Olsen. The conference recognized Lois with a standing ovation.

Karen Stimeling, Co-Chairperson of the Commission on Status and Role of Women, presented the **Bridge Builder Award** to Julio Alvarado.

Deborah Thompson, Conference Coordinator of Missions, presented the **Thelma Gregg Award**, given for commitment to the missionary outreach of the church, to Roger and LuAnn Jones of Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church in Menomonee Falls.

Mark Geisthardt, chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, shared with the Conference the **"100% Apportionment Payment Recognition"** award which was presented to the Wisconsin Annual Conference by the General Council on Finance and Administration. This is the eighteenth year in a row that the Wisconsin Annual Conference has received this recognition.

Bishop Lee expressed her appreciation for the conference's extravagant generosity in its support of General Church Apportionments as well as giving to The Advance and to mission and ministry projects.

Jeremy Deaner and Markus Wegenast presented a "What If..." moment, about what might happen if the church really worked at the goal of eliminating poverty.

Amanda Stein requested a **moment of personal privilege**. She and several lay members from Trinity United Methodist Church in Madison shared with the conference information about the carbon monoxide poisoning incident that occurred during worship at the church earlier this year, and "asked, challenged, begged" all churches to install carbon monoxide detectors.

Bishop Lee resumed the presentation and consideration of **Action Item 9: Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Whispering Pines Camp and Byron Center**, which was begun on Tuesday afternoon.

There was a time for questions and discussion.

Franciso Nolla **moved to divide the question** regarding the sale of Whispering Pines and Byron Center to consider the sale of each camp separately. The **motion to divide the question** was **defeated**.

Scott Carlson **moved the previous question**.

Tim Vanden Langeberg raised a point of order regarding the process, indicating that that the conference had been in a "question and answer period" to be followed with debate, but that the debating period had not yet begun.

Bishop Lee ruled the **motion for the previous question out of order**.

Carolyn Saunders **moved** the following as a **substitute motion** for Action Item 9:

"That a task force be developed for the purpose of: promoting and marketing Whispering Pines and Byron Center Camps by making a concerted effort to invite churches (including United Methodist Churches from neighboring Annual Conferences and non-United Methodist Churches), church-related boards and agencies, and non-religious organizations to use both of the camps.

We encourage the task force to evaluate the current use of the properties and to propose additional, creative ways to use them, thereby improving the potential for increased campers. We also encourage the task force to rethink the programs that are currently offered and to suggest programs that may have a wider appeal.

The task force would report their findings and recommendations back to the 2010 Annual Conference session.

The task force would be comprised of two representatives from each of the following: the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries, the Wisconsin Conference Board of Trustees, Circuit #2, Circuit #24, as well as two persons appointed by Bishop Linda Lee.

Brad Mather raised a **point of order**, questioning whether the substitute motion was in order. Bishop Lee ruled that the substitute motion was in order.

J.D. McCarty offered a friendly amendment to include include Circuit 22 and Circuit 6 in the substitute motion. The **friendly amendment** was **accepted** by the maker of the motion.

Corissa Raska **moved to amend** the substitute motion by adding “a youth/young adult” to the proposed task force. The **motion to amend** the substitute motion was **approved**.

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

Jeff Virchow raised a point of order, questioning whether final remarks by the makers of the motions before us would be allowed.

Alan George **requested a paper ballot on Action Item 9**. Bishop Lee put the question to the conference, which **voted not to take a paper ballot**.

Several other points of order were raised.

Bishop Lee called for the vote on of the items before the conference.

The **Saunders substitute motion** was **defeated**.

Action Item 9 was **approved as presented**.

Dorene Pease requested that when each camp is sold the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries plan a memorial service in conjunction with local circuits in order to allow those who wish to do so to grieve the loss of these camps.

Bishop Lee called for a moment of silence. Following the moment of silence she announced a five minute break.

Bishop Lee called conference back to order at 10:08 a.m.

Nancy Carmichael requested a **moment of personal privilege** to express her thanks for the support of the Bishop, the Cabinet, and her clergy colleagues at the time of her husband’s death.

Chris Bethke, Chairperson of the **Conference Personnel Committee**, noted several transitions in Conference leadership. She recognized Sue D’Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries, and thanked her for her ministry among us. Sue is being appointed to the California-Pacific Annual Conference as Director of Leadership Development. The conference expressed its appreciation for Sue’s ministry with a standing ovation.

Bethke introduced and welcomed Michele Virnig as our new Conference Director of Communications.

Bethke then introduced Dan Dick, the new Director of Connectional Ministries.

Mike Weigand, Chairperson of the **Board of Congregation and Circuit Development**, presented **Action Item 15: Add New Policy 10.13.0 Church Closings**. **Action Item 15** was **approved**.

Sam Royappa, Superintendent of the Capital/Coulee region, presented **Action Item 17: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Wyoming Valley United Methodist Church, Wyoming Valley Township, Wisconsin.** **Action Item 17** was approved.

Jorge Mayorga Solis, Superintendent of the Metro Region, presented **Action Item 18: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Paris Corners United Methodist Church, Town of Paris, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.** **Action Item 18** was approved.

Gordon Lind, Superintendent of the Nicolet/Winnebago Region, presented **Action Item 19: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Lark, Wisconsin.** **Action Item 19** was approved.

Lind offered prayer at this time of church closings.

Bishop Lee and the District Superintendents read the changes in the **Appointments of Clergy for the 2009-2010 Conference Year.**

Jorge Mayorga Solis presented Bishop Lee with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Cabinet in appreciation for her ministry, and to express our gratitude that she has been reassigned to the Wisconsin Conference for the 2009-2012 Quadrennium. The conference expressed its appreciation for Bishop Lee's ministry with a standing ovation.

Bishop Lee expressed her appreciation to the cabinet for their care, concern, commitment and dedication to the work of the annual conference. She thanked Steve Polster, Assistant to the Bishop, and Cindy Churan, Episcopal Office Administrator, for their work which makes her work possible, and presented gifts to each of them.

Bishop Lee expressed her appreciation to the Regional Office Administrators: Barb Franken, Barb Ridgley, Bunny Smith, and Sherry Malone, and the conference recognized all of them for their work with a round of applause.

Dorothy Radley, Conference Lay Leader, presented a "What If..." moment. She introduced Deanna Shimko, Lay Leader of the Metro South District, who spoke about many opportunities for all people to be in ministry.

Radley requested a moment of privilege, and asked all the members of the Board of Lay Ministry to stand. The Conference recognized them with a round of applause.

Jorge Mayorga Solis, Dean of the Cabinet, spoke about the **Ministry Plan Process.** He introduced Brad Mather, who spoke about how Madison: Bethany UMC's Ministry Plan has brought energy, engagement and enthusiasm to the ministry teams of the congregation.

Sue D'Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries, invited the conference to "Rethink Church." She noted that the mission of the church is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and that, through the Strategic Planning Process, there is an increasing awareness that the Annual Conference exists to support local churches in the making of healthy vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Dan Dick, incoming Director of Connectional Ministries, continued the presentation, inviting the conference to turn "What If" into "What Is."

Gordon Lind, Superintendent of the Nicolet/Winnebago region, and Deborah Thompson, Coordinator of Missions, spoke about **Community Change Circles.** They invited all

Wisconsin United Methodists to engage in discussions which address privilege and diversity, and work towards dialogue among people of diverse cultures and points of view.

Bishop Lee noted that the greatest increases in population in the coming years will be among people of color. Her hope is that United Methodist congregations will be the places where people know that they can come in safety to learn about one another and to be an example of how to live together in a culturally diverse society.

Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, brought greetings from the denominations that are members of the Council and spoke about the ministries sponsored by the Council.

Carrie Krepes Wegenast, Listowel Ayensu Mensah, and Ed Vargas presented “A Story About our Fathers,” a PowerPoint presentation about global health, and the differences in treatment and experience between the United States and Africa. They encouraged people to support the United Methodist Global Health Initiative, and reminded all of us that our neighbor’s health is connected to our own health.

The Secretary read announcements.

Bishop Lee announced the Ingathering Results, which will be posted on the Conference website and reported in the Conference Journal.

The Conference recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Wednesday Afternoon, June 17, 2009

Bishop Lee called the conference to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ric Olson, Coordinator of Congregation and Circuit Development, shared information about the chartering of new churches in the annual conference.

Sam Royappa, Superintendent of the Capital/Coulee region, spoke about the ministries of new congregations in the conference.

Mike Weigand, Chairperson of the **Board of Congregation and Circuit Development**, recognized the Hazel Green United Methodist Church, which is the conference’s newest “parent church.” He then introduced representatives of **The Family Church** in Menasha, which is the conference’s newest chartered church. Pastor Paola Bennechi and other members of the congregation shared a PowerPoint presentation about the ministries of the congregation.

Weigand introduced Pastor Gary Holmes and other representatives of the **Sugar River United Methodist Church** in Viroqua, which also was chartered this year. They shared a video about the ministries of the congregation.

Bishop Lee presented the **Certificate of Charter** to both of these congregations.

Jean Nicholas, Vice President of Programs and Resources for the **Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation**, spoke about the ministries and services provided by the Foundation.

She moved **Action Item 7: Designation of Earnings from the “New Ministries Fund.”** **Action Item 7** was approved.

Dale Eggert reported on the “mission work day” in which members of the annual conference participated on Monday afternoon. He noted that 425 volunteers provided several thousand hours of service to 18 different agencies in the Appleton area.

Members of the Annual Conference watched “The Spirit of Annual Conference 2009 - Life is a Highway,” a video celebrating the many events, activities, and ministries that have taken place during this Annual Conference session.

Mark Geisthardt, Chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, resumed presentation of **Action Item 21: Proposed 2010 Budget**. He **moved the adoption** of the **Revised Proposed 2010 Budget** budget that was distributed to the conference on Monday morning.

Sam Royappa **moved** that:

“The 2009 Wisconsin Annual Conference in its session adopts as a high priority for the next four years (and beyond) for spiritual growth in giving, an emphasis on “Tithing” as a goal for every United Methodist congregation and member in the Wisconsin Conference. In order to study and implement the goal as stated here, Bishop Lee is asked to appoint or name a Task Force of seven members representing the Council on Finance and Administration, the United Methodist Foundation, the Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Staff, the Cabinet and two members from the Circuit Leadership. The Task Force is expected to report to each annual conference session on the progress and the output of their work.

The motion was **approved**.

Jane Daniels **moved to suspend Conference Policy 10.7.2**. (This policy sets the base housing allowance for District Superintendents based upon a formula.) The **motion to suspend the policy** was **approved**.

Daniels **moved** “that the base housing allowance for District Superintendents in 2010, which is paid in addition to salary, shall be kept at the same housing allowance as paid in 2009 at \$19,210.” The **motion** was **approved**.

Rebecca Henry **moved** “to restore the Board of Ordained Ministry line item to \$100,250 as originally approved by the Council on Finance and Administration.” The **motion** was **defeated**.

Lisa King reported that, with the Daniels motion which was approved by the conference, the **total budget for 2010** will be \$ **7,070,009**, and the **gross apportionments for 2010** will be \$ **7,855,566**.

The **Revised Proposed 2010 Budget** was **approved as amended**.

Carolyn Saunders **moved**:

“that if our apportionments in 2010 come in at a significantly higher level than we today anticipate because of a turnaround in the economy that we authorize the Council on Finance and Administration to restore an amount to the 2010 budget that could be 1, 2, 3 or 4 percent, at their discretion.”

Fran Deaner **moved the previous question**. The **motion to close debate** was **approved**.

The **Saunders motion** was **defeated**.

Mark Swanson **withdrew the motion regarding annual stewardship campaigns in local churches which he made on Monday** which had been tabled until consideration of the budget was resumed.

Karen Stimeling, Co-Chairperson of the **Commission on the Status and Role of Women**, presented the commission's **Monitoring Report**.

Ethan Larson requested a **moment of personal privilege**.

Andy Oren, Chairperson of the **Commission on Religion and Race**, presented the commission's **Monitoring Report**.

Deb Ivanoff-Hastings, Chairperson of the **Conference Nominations Committee**, presented the **Final Nominations Report**.

She **moved** "that the 2009 nominations report be accepted with editorial changes/corrections to be made after the annual conference session." The **motion** was **approved**.

She **moved** "that the nominations committee be allowed to continue the work to fill the remaining vacancies and any other vacancies that may arise before the next annual conference session." The **motion** was **approved**.

Claudia Deede, Chairperson of the **Program and Arrangements Committee**, expressed appreciation to all of those who have worked so hard to make the Annual Conference session possible.

Sue D'Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries, expressed her appreciation to Deede and the other members of the Program and Arrangements Committee and to many others.

The Secretary read announcements.

Bishop Lee offered closing remarks and expressed her appreciation to everyone for their participation in the Annual Conference session.

The Bishop announced that there would be a brief break in order to prepare for a short closing worship service.

The closing worship service was led by Bishop Lee and Grace Cajiut Herigstad. The service opened with the singing of "And Are We Yet Alive." Following the "Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition" and words of dismissal and blessing, the service and the annual conference session concluded with the singing of "Sent Out in Jesus' Name."

Bishop Lee adjourned the 40th session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference *sine die* at 3:22 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2009.

The foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary