

CLERGY SESSION  
OF THE  
WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
HELD IN THE EMPIRE ROOM  
OF THE  
RADISSON PAPER VALLEY HOTEL  
APPLETON, WISCONSIN  
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009  
3:00 P.M.

Bishop Linda Lee called the Clergy Session of the 2009 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, provisional members, local pastors and student pastors under full and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge – 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 who are members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference 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**.

Sam Royappa requested a moment of personal privilege on behalf of the cabinet. He announced that Bishop Lee will be celebrating her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday soon. On behalf of the cabinet, he welcomed her back to the Wisconsin Conference for this quadrennium, wished her a happy birthday, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers and balloons. The clergy session affirmed these words with a round of applause.

Strait introduced Forrest Clark, Chairperson of the Order of Elders. Clark introduced those persons who are to be Ordained or Commissioned at this session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Clark presented **Question 31b: Who are elected as members in full connection?** and **Question 33a: Who are elected for ordination as elders?** Following speeches of affirmation, the conference voted on each candidate for full membership and ordination individually.

Mark Daniel Gilbert, Cathy Lynn Pearson Hamblin, Amelita Grace Gonzalez Cajiuat Herigstad, Deborah Ann Pimm, Ann Watson Scott, and Brenda K. Whitford were elected

as Clergy Members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference in Full Connection and granted Elder's Orders.

Clark presented **Question 28b(1): Who are elected and commissioned as Probationary (provisional) Elders (under ¶324)?** Each candidate was introduced individually.

Krystal Gayle Lynn Bartlett, Timothy Bruce Berlew, Kevin Anthony Dembinski, TyLacey Simms Hines, Edward Steven Jones, and R. Ellen Rasmussen were elected as Provisional Members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, and granted commissioning for Pastoral Ministry in The United Methodist Church.

Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis, 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 noted that the Business of the Annual Conference questions have been re-written and re-numbered for the 2009-2012 quadrennium.

He presented **Question 18a: Committee on Investigation**, and noted that while this committee is elected for the quadrennium, there have been changes in the membership of the committee since the last Annual Conference Session which require the approval of the Clergy Session. Linda Vance and Jeff Virchow were elected to the Committee on Investigation. Jean Schmidt and Markus Wegenast were elected as alternates. **Question 18a was approved.**

He presented **Question 18b: Administrative Review Committee**, and again noted that while this committee is elected for the quadrennium, there have been changes in the membership of the committee since the last Annual Conference Session which require the approval of the Clergy Session. Kathryn Croskery Jones was elected to the Administrative Review Committee. **Question 18b was approved.**

He presented **Questions 19 and 20** for information.

Rice Myers noted that it was necessary to consider Questions 30 and 42 out of sequence, since the persons listed in these two questions are being appointed as Licensed Local Pastors, and the actions required in Questions 30 and 42 must be taken before the Clergy Session can approve the list of Licensed Local Pastors in Question 21.

Rice Myers presented **Question 30b: Who have been received from other Christian denominations?** Pha Her was received as a Licensed Local Pastor from the Lao Evangelical Church. **Question 30b was approved.**

He presented **Question 42: Who are discontinued as probationary (provisional) members?** Harriett B. Rowland was discontinued effective 1/1/2009, at her own request. James Virgil McKay was discontinued effective 4/1/2009, at his own request. **Question 42 was approved.**

Rice Myers presented **Question 21a: Who are approved as full time local pastors.**

**Question 21a was approved.**

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

He presented **Question 21c: Who are approved as student local pastors?**, noting that the 2008 Book of Discipline has been changed so that only students from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church are included in this category. **Question 21c** was **approved**.

Rice Myers then recognized the following local pastors who have completed the 5-Year Basic Course of Study this year: Michael Herdt, Gabriel Marrero and Tania Montero. He also noted that Eileen Kuehnl completed the Course of Study in 2003, but that information had not been previously recorded in The Business of the Annual Conference. He asked all those who have completed the 5-Year Course of Study to stand. 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 24a: Clergy from other Annual Conferences and Question 24b: Clergy from Other Methodist Denominations** for information, and noted that the following four persons' names are appearing in this list for the first time this year: Michael Adedokun, Ellis "Hap" Itson, Chung Nam Kwak, and Nancy Lanman. 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 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**.

Rice Myers presented **Question 26b: Affiliate Members Without Vote**. **Question 26b** was **approved**.

He presented **Question 29b and 29e: Those continued as Provisional Elders**, for information.

He presented **Question 37: Those received by transfer from other annual conferences**, for information, and invited those present to stand and be recognized.

He presented **Question 41: Those transferred out to other annual conferences**, for information, and invited those present to stand and be recognized.

He presented **Question 43a(1): Who have been granted honorable location this year**. There was considerable discussion regarding the inclusion of the name of Frederick R. Surret in this category. Bishop Lee indicated that she would reinvestigate the issues regarding Fred Surret. **Question 43a(1)** was **approved as presented**.

He presented **Questions 43a(2) and 43b (Honorable Location)** for information.

He noted that we will come back to **Question 44a** in a few minutes, and then presented **Question 44b** for information.

He presented **Question 45: Who have had their status as honorable located and their orders terminated?**, indicating that Samuel Gratz has not reported for eight years and has not responded to any communications from the Annual Conference. **Question 45 was approved.**

He presented **Question 46a: Who have had their Conference Membership terminated by withdrawal to unite with another denomination?** noting that Jeffrey Jorgenson, an Elder who has been on Leave of Absence for 14 years, had responded in writing to an inquiry indicating that he has joined another denomination. **Question 46a was approved.**

He presented **Question 48c: Those who have died since last Annual Conference**, noting that the deaths of Ethel “Penny” Roth, a former UCC clergyperson who served Merrimac, and Zi Hyung Sa, a former clergy member who transferred to the New Mexico Conference, are reported in Question 84.

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 49: Those appointed to other Annual Conferences**, for information.

Rice Myers presented **Questions 50a and 50c: Those on Voluntary Leave of Absence**, noting that the 2008 General Conference renamed the types of Voluntary Leave to include Personal Leave, Family Leave, and Transitional Leave. He noted changes that have taken place in the list as a result of this change by the General Conference. 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**.

He presented **Question 50d: Who have had their leave of absence terminated since the last session of the annual conference?** for information.

He presented **Question 52b: Who have had their incapacity leave terminated since the last session of the annual conference?** for information.

He presented **Question 52c: Who are granted incapacity leave at this session? Question 52c was approved.**

Rice Myers presented **Questions 44a, 53a and 56a: Clergy Retirements This Year**. He noted that Mary Beth Byrne, a Deacon in Full Connection in the Indiana Conference who has been serving at The River of Life UMC in Beloit while retaining her membership in Indiana, is retiring from that Conference this year.

Rice Myers invited all those who are retiring this year to come forward and be recognized. The Clergy Session thanked the retirees for their ministry with a standing ovation. **Questions 44a, 53a and 56a were approved.**

He presented **Questions 53b, 54b, and 56b** for information. It was noted that the name of Mary Hedgcock needs to be added to Question 53b.

Rice Myers presented **Questions 57, 58, and 59**, which are statistical charts and tables. He pointed out that these charts have been re-organized for this quadrennium, and noted the following changes in the demographics of the clergy of the annual conference: an increasing percentage of retirees, an increasing percentage of female clergy, an increasing percentage of clergy from racial/ethnic groups other than “white,” and no Native American or Pacific Islander clergy in the conference, although there is at least one Native American candidate for ministry and at least one other Native American person in the candidacy process.

He presented **Questions 60 through 65**, which report actions concerning persons who are certified in specialized areas of ministry, and are presented for information only. He noted that **Question 60: Who are the candidates in process for certification in specialized ministry**, has been reviewed, that persons listed in this question have been contacted, and a number who are no longer pursuing certification have been removed from the printed list. Next year we may have as many as three or four persons who will be completing the requirements for certification.

He presented **Question 64** for information, noting that the persons listed did not submit their requests for renewal in 2008.

He noted that **Questions 66 through 75** report actions concerning Diaconal Ministers, and that there are no changes this year.

Rice Myers presented **Question 76a: Associate Members, Elders and Probationary Members approved for less than full time appointment**.

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 76b: Deacons approved for less than full time service**, noting that this does not require approval of the Clergy Session.

He presented **Questions 77, 78, 80a and 80b** for information.

He presented **Question 80c: Those appointed to other valid ministries under the provisions of ¶344.1d**. It was approved by the necessary two-thirds majority.

He presented **Question 81: Who are appointed as Deacons?** for information, noting that this is a new question in the Business of the Annual Conference which does not require approval of the clergy session.

He presented **Question 82** for information.

He presented **Question 83** for information, noting that Richard Whitaker is the only active Diaconal Minister still serving in the Wisconsin Conference

He presented **Question 84: Personal notations**.

Rice Myers presented **Question 85** for information, noting that next year’s Annual Conference Session will be held from June 13-16, 2010, at the LaCrosse Center in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Rice Myers **moved the adoption of the entire report of the Board of Ordained Ministry. It was approved.**

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.**

Bishop Lee thanked Strait and the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry for their work. She thanked Kevin Rice Myers for his work as Executive Secretary of the Board and as Conference Secretary, and Dale Hanaman, Secretary of the Board, for taking the minutes of this meeting. She also reminded the clergy that she prays for each of them during the month of their birth.

Instructions and information were given about the ordination service, which will be held this evening at the Lawrence University Chapel, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Bishop Lee offered reflections and a closing prayer.

The clergy session adjourned at 5:29 p.m.