

IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

**2013 Session
May 30-June 1, 2013**

**United Methodist Church of the Resurrection
Leawood, Kansas
Bishop Scott J. Jones, Presiding
Karen Robertson, Secretary**

4.

HISTORY - The 2013 session of the Kansas East Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is the one hundred fifty-ninth session, the forty-fifth regular session since the union of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church. The conference was held on the campus of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. The theme of this year's conference was "Dancing with the Spirit" in recognition of the conference's journey into the future as part of the Great Plains Annual Conference. This was the last session of the Kansas East Annual Conference and the conference's history was shared in many ways during the session.

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES - Institutions, agencies of the conference and several commercial entities including Cokesbury set up displays in the West Building at Church of the Resurrection. Rev. Jim Hopwood coordinated the displays. The Pensions and Benefits Office provided health checks.

REGISTRATION - A large registration area was set up in the narthex/lobby area, where registration materials and informational packets were distributed by Kay Stephens, Conference Registrar, assisted by Kay Inman, members of the Treasurer's Office staff, and volunteers from COR. Total registration for this year's conference was approximately 715.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE – The service on Thursday morning included many elements of an old-fashioned camp meeting, including a love feast and an altar call. Hymns were accompanied by an antique pump organ, a banjo and a trumpet. The service was written and directed by Rev. Dr. January Kiefer with help from Rev. Melinda Harwood, Rev. Trudy Kenyon Anderson, and Rev. Alice Purvis. An offering of \$3333.15 was taken for the effort to end human trafficking.

An Awards Luncheon was held over the noon hour to honor those winning scholarships and recognition for their contributions to camping, campus ministry, scouting and other ministries.

AFTERNOON SESSION

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS - Bishop Jones opened the session by welcoming members and guests and thanking UM Church of the Resurrection for their hospitality. As there were threatening weather forecasts for the week, he reassured the conference that the situation was being monitored and there were shelters at Church of the Resurrection that would accommodate every-

one. He noted that "We are privileged to be a part of this Annual Conference and looking forward to a time both of looking back and celebrating who we have been as a Kansas East Conference but also working on our opportunities and the beautiful future God has in store for the Great Plains Annual Conference beginning next January 1st."

The bishop then introduced Rev. Maria Campbell, chair of the Sessions and Rules Committee, who asked members to open up the Organizational Motions in the conference workbook. She also explained the colored voting cards denoting whether the member is eligible to vote on the Constitutional Amendments (yellow) or not eligible (blue), and reminded those who are presenting items on the agenda to sit in the front right section of the sanctuary to avoid delays.

4.

ORGANIZATIONAL MOTIONS - Maria then presented the Organizational Motions as the enabling motion for the conference session. There was no discussion and the Motions were approved by voice vote. The Organizational Motions follow:

1. The written materials covering this session of the Annual Conference that were available in the conference workbook and supplemental packet as well as any documents received during this session shall become the official agenda.

2. The bar of the conference shall consist of the voting members holding colored identification cards on the Sanctuary floor, as well as any voting members on the platform or in the production area. Visitors, guests, and observers are welcome to be seated among the voting members. The Cabinet, conference staff, youth, tellers, and members of Sessions and Rules will have designated seating areas. In addition, an "allergy-free zone" will be designated.

3. The conference lay leader shall assist the presiding bishop.

4. The following rules of order from General Conference shall be excepted from this annual conference: 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 15, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37.

5. Roll call cards shall be completed and submitted during the time allotted on the schedule or as soon as possible thereafter. Cards not submitted by the end of the session will not be accepted.

6. In order that agenda items may be presented., the privilege of the floor shall be given to the following persons:

- conference secretary, conference treasurer, conference pension and health benefits officer, area communications director;
- chief executive officer of each institution/agency of the Kansas East Annual Conference and any person designated by an official body of this Annual Conference

7. The spouse of the bishop shall be granted honorary membership in the Kansas East Annual Conference and thus shall have the privilege of the floor.

8. Those desiring the floor shall go to a microphone, be recognized by the presiding bishop

(or president pro tempore), and then clearly identify him/herself by name, clergy or lay status, and local church or area of responsibility before making any other statement.

9. In order to allow adequate consideration of a matter of importance, debate shall be subject to, but not limited by, the presiding bishop (or president pro tempore). When and if it becomes necessary to impose a general limitation of debate to insure timely completion of all business, the following rule shall be proposed by the conference secretary for approval by the conference:

Rule for General Limitation of Debate: Debate on each motion shall be limited to four (2 lay and 2 clergy) two-minute speeches for and four (2 lay and 2 clergy) speeches against, and persons shall be limited to one speech per motion (excluding persons rising to point of order, making amendments, or offering final summation).

When this rule has been invoked on the floor, the legislative committees will be instructed to follow the rule as an extension of the conference.

10. Any motion from the floor of Annual Conference that increases the conference budget must be offset with a corresponding or greater budget reduction as part of the same motion.

11. Items for action submitted late will be considered as detailed in the Standing Rules on page 465 of the 2011 Journal.

12. The rules for distribution shall be as follows:

- The only distribution to occur during the session will be items related to pending action of the annual conference. Items are to be distributed only by members of the annual conference, and the items must have the signature(s) of member(s) of the annual conference.
- All other materials must be sent to the Conference Office to be put in the supplemental packets. No items are to be distributed within the Sanctuary at COR.
- Food items may be distributed only from a designated pick-up area and may not be generally distributed on the floor of the conference. Those bringing perishable items shall be responsible for disposal of any remaining or deteriorating items.

13. All announcements shall be written and submitted to the conference secretary or a teller well in advance of the time that they are to be made.

14. The Conference Courtesy Committee shall be the Rev. Maria Campbell, the Rev. Morgan Whitaker Smith, and Libby Oberdorf. All guests to be introduced should be made known to them.

Finally, Maria asked for approval of the 2012 Journal as the minutes of the last meeting and they were approved by voice vote.

Bishop Jones thanked Rev. Campbell and the Sessions Committee and mentioned that an offering has been scheduled for Friday morning for the victims of last week's tornado in Moore, Oklahoma. The Great Plains Area has already sent \$10,000 to the Oklahoma conference to use in setting up a disaster relief office, so this offering will go to UMCOR's work with the victims.

4.

HISTORY MOMENT - The bishop then introduced Rev. Jack Gregory to speak about the efforts of a team of lay and clergypersons who have worked over the past year to research and relate stories of the history of the Kansas East Conference. History Celebration Team members were Maria Campbell, Oliver Green, Kurt Cooper, Jean Marie Grabher, Phyllis Garrett, Frank Dorsey, Kibum Kim, Dale Fooshee, Jack and Marilyn Gregory, Lisa Diehl and Britt Bradley from the Communications Office, and Jen McCollough from the Conference Archives at Baker University. The results of their efforts could be seen in the display in the lobby, in the history booklet created for all members, and in a series of videos concentrating on various aspects of our history. Before introducing the first two video segments on pioneers and women in leadership, Jack urged members to visit the history booth and share their stories or memories for the archives. The first videos about the early days of the church in Kansas and the groundbreaking accomplishments of women in the conference were then shown and were greeted with much applause.

AWARDS RECOGNITION - Rev. Angela DeFisher, who was the master of ceremonies for the Awards Luncheon earlier, was introduced to recognize those honored:

- The Doc Wollen Award is given annually to recognize support of Camping Ministry. This year's award was given posthumously to Denise Kaff, whose family accepted the award on her behalf.
- Merit Scholarships were given to Rachel Dannen, who will attend Perkins School of Theology, Lora Ann Finley, who is attending Baker University, and Kendra Jean Clark, who will also attend Baker.
- The Torchbearer Award recognizes service to youth through scouting or other youth organizations. This year's winners are Terri and Jim Schmitz from Parsons Wesley UMC.
- The Francis Asbury Award is given for service to campus ministry and this year's award goes to Rev. H. Eduardo Bousson, campus minister at Washburn University.
- The Harry Denman Evangelism Awards are given to persons who exhibit outstanding efforts in Wesleyan evangelism. This year the clergy award goes to Mike Toluba, the lay award to Ronelle Neperud, and the youth co-winners are Kati Haybarker and Alyssa Wistuba.

STATE OF THE CONFERENCE - Bishop Jones and conference lay leader Oliver Green then gave a joint State of the Conference report. Oliver began by applauding the history and diversity of the conference and asked for a moment of personal privilege to introduce one example of what the apportionments do to benefit local churches. Members of the Young Lions group from Asbury/Mt. Olive in Topeka came onstage and presented a flag and a t-shirt to the bishop with their thanks. The mentoring program for young males received a grant of \$29,000 from the General Board of Church and Society which enables them to support this vulnerable population. Bishop Jones shook the hands of each member of the group and reminded them of what God said to Abraham about being a blessing to others.

Oliver spoke of other ways individuals, local churches and districts benefit from connectionalism, such as camping, Institute, UNDC tours, Hands On Topeka, Imagine No Malaria, the Global AIDS Fund, and Healthy Families, Healthy Planet. He mentioned two upcoming events to help us connect as United Methodists: our guest from Haiti, Rev. Jacki Sincère, will be preaching on June 1 at Asbury/Mt. Olive in Topeka, and on July 27, David Wilson, the superintendent of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, will speak at an area event at Countryside UMC in Topeka.

Finally, Oliver spoke about accountability for both laity and clergy as we move into the future and asked Bishop Jones what the standards are for accountability and making appointments.

Bishop Jones began his remarks by lifting up more things the Kansas East Conference has to celebrate: the Round-Up for Hunger, Ogden Friendship House, Wesley House, Center of Grace, the partnership with Haiti, and the many new church starts of recent years. In particular he mentioned the Guest Quest program and the success the Oskaloosa UMC has had with it.

The bishop then addressed Oliver's questions about accountability and the appointment system. It used to be that the goal of making appointments was to have "happy churches and happy pastors" – that is, to provide a career ladder for pastors to move up in salary and responsibility and for churches to always have a pastor that they liked. Since the adoption in 1996 of the mission statement about God using us to make disciples and transform the world, leaders have come to realize that keeping happy the people who are already here is the way to the decline of the church. The goal should be to "raise up, credential and appoint pastors who will then lead congregations to be more vital in the future than they have in the past."

Bishop Jones then spoke about vitality and how to measure it, mentioning Bishop Schnase's Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, leadership incubators, the Vital Congregations program, and the need for a sustained effort to increase the number of vital congregations in the United States. He feels that the new Great Plains Conference will give us a chance to rethink, renew, reinvigorate and revitalize our churches and members. The bishop lifted up two "Big, Holy Audacious Goals" of his: for the best preaching in every community to be at the United Methodist Church and for every United Methodist Church to have the best youth ministry in the community.

There will be challenges in the Great Plains Conference and one is the distance involved in getting together. Video-conferencing and other technological advances will help overcome that. Appointment-making will be another challenge; the bishop drew a laugh by commenting that Kansas churches might get a pastor with 'Husker loyalties!

Bishop Jones closed by saying, "We don't have all the answers of what it's going to be like in the Great Plains Annual Conference, but I want to quote to you Ephesians 3:20 and 21, because the most important part of our future is very certain. "Now to him who, by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever, amen."

The business session resumed after a break, and the bishop welcomed Associate Lay Leader Barbara Frederick to the head table.

BYLAWS CHANGE - Kay Scarbrough, Superintendent of the Topeka District and member of the Board of Trustees of United Methodist Homes, introduced a bylaws change proposal from the Board. She asked members to look in the workbook and see that the change involves deleting a sentence and replacing it with another. The effect of the change would be to prohibit a resident of Aldersgate Village from serving on the Board as sensitive staffing and personnel issues are often discussed at Board meetings. She emphasized that residents have other opportunities for input to

the community. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, she moved to approve the bylaws change. The motion was seconded and was approved by show of voting cards.

4.

BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE REPORT – Gary Beach asked the conference to remember five years ago, when the Bridges to the Future capital campaign began, and to watch a video showing what has been done with the more than \$3 million that has been received. The video showed the changes that have been made at Camp Chippewa and the campus ministry sites in the conference, and the new churches that have been started. We have received \$3,189,805.36 as of May 28, a figure that received applause, but there are still pledges to be fulfilled and goals to be met before the campaign officially ends on December 31, 2013.

ADVANCE SPECIALS – Sue Luttrell, chair of the Board of Global Ministries, presented the Advance Specials in place of Camille Sutton, the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, who could not be present. She called attention to the page in the conference workbook listing the Advance Specials, which are:

Independent Ministries – Camp Chippewa, Center of Grace Olathe, Common Ground Elwood, Committee on Native American Ministries, Fellowship & Faith Topeka, Campus Ministries at ESU, KSU, KU, PSU, and Washburn, Forest Park Topeka, La Esperanza Emporia, Ogden Friendship House, Tall Grass Retreat Center Matfield Green and Wesley House Pittsburg.

Cooperative Ministries – Bourbon County Parish, Jerusalem Road Parish, Santa Fe Parish, and the Haiti Task Force.

Sue moved for approval of the Advance Specials. As the motion came from a conference board, no second was needed, and the Advance Specials were approved by voice vote.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Brent Messick presented a short report thanking the Council members, past chairs, and conference staff members for their work with the Council. There is no 2014 budget to present as the 2014 budget for the Great Plains Conference will be voted on at the Uniting Conference. Brent reported that the conference ended 2012 with \$4.5 million in receipts toward a \$5.3 million budget, or 85.3% paid, a slight improvement over 2011. The year ended with \$616,000 in reserves, just slightly over the target of 11%, and 218 out of 323 churches paid 100% or more of their total apportionments.

Through April of 2013, \$2.4 million has been received towards a budget of \$5.3, which is slightly behind last year. He urged members not to get so involved in looking toward the future in the Great Plains Conference that they forget there is still missions and ministry work to do this year and apportionments that need to be paid to do that work.

PETITION - Morgan Whitaker Smith introduced the only petition which was submitted this year, entitled "Petition Regarding United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Campaign." The petition was submitted by the Board of Church and Society and Kurt Cooper, the chair of the Board, was introduced to speak to it. Kurt noted that a petition was passed in 2011 which laid out goals for local church involvement in addressing the AIDS pandemic, and the Board discovered that local churches were not doing the things they had been tasked with. He pointed out that 34.2 million persons currently live with HIV/AIDS. Young people of today do not remember a world without AIDS and the conversation about the disease needs to be continued so folks are aware of its impact. There was no

discussion and the bishop called for a vote. By a show of voting cards, the petition was approved.

TRANSITION TEAM INITIAL PRESENTATION – for the benefit of first-time conference attendees, Bishop Jones summarized the process of selecting the Transition Team, the one conference vote the Team presented last year, and the Plan of Organization they are presenting this year. He reminded members that when the conference adjourns on Saturday, it will only be a temporary adjournment as we will reconvene August 22-24 in Salina to adopt the Plan of Organization. He then introduced Jan Todd to speak first for the Transition Team.

Jan began by recognizing the leadership of Bishop Jones in the transition process and he received cheers and applause. She called attention to the complete current draft of the Plan in the workbook, and noted that it sets the three conferences up for being, not good at what they do, but great. She explained the table conferencing which would take place on Friday, and noted that there were cards in the registration packets to use in writing down questions for the Transition Team which they would answer on Friday. Jan then introduced the members of the Transition Team who were present: Gary Beach, Nancy Brown, Tom Watson, Evelyn Fisher, Janet Maxwell, and Bob Kautz.

A video was shown which illustrated the structure of the new conference as a puzzle with five pieces – clergy excellence, congregational excellence, mercy & justice, administrative services and episcopal office – and elaborated on each piece.

Tom Watson then spoke about the office of Congregational Excellence, which will be headed by Rev. Evelyn Fisher and located in Wichita. He outlined the work that office will be doing and emphasized that the work needs to be funded by mission shares. The mission share formula for the new conference will be a 10% tithe of operating income plus 1% for askings.

Nancy Brown summarized the emphasis of the new conference on developing leaders, both clergy and laity, and spoke of the training and partnerships which will be provided. She also pointed out the ministry teams which will come under the heading of the Office of Administration.

Jan Todd returned to the microphone to summarize the opportunities to become great disciples that the new conference will provide. She asked the conference to repeat with her the preferred vision of the Great Plains Annual Conference – Great Churches, Great Leaders, Great Disciples, Transformed World.

Bishop Jones thanked the Transition Team for their work and urged the members to write any questions on the index cards and turn them in. For those who don't feel that the Plan of Organization is going to create a regenerated, revitalized annual conference ready for the 21st century, he had this comment, "Friends, this document is not going to make the kind of conference we want to become. What it does, it creates the authorization and the space for that to happen. What really is required is changed behavior by me, as your Bishop, by all the District Superintendents, by all the pastors, by all the laity. We're the ones who have to catch the vision that's embedded in this document, and the rules of living together as an Annual Conference."

The bishop spoke of the process that will take place in August, when each conference will vote separately on identical sections of the Plan. Technically, anything can be changed in the plan, but practically there will not be time for extended debate and amendments at the Uniting Conference. It is hoped that the feedback from the spring conferences will create a document that all will approve. It will not be perfect, but it will enable the Great Plains Conference to get off to a good start.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The conference secretary asked members to complete their roll call cards and pass them to the end of the rows to be collected by the tellers. She also reminded laity (and clergy who didn't have a photo taken already) of the opportunity to have their photos taken to help everyone get acquainted in August.

The loom on the stage is creating an altar cloth which will be the gift of the KS East Conference to the Great Plains Conference and presented at the Uniting Conference. All are welcome to sign up to weave a part of the altar cloth - go to the registration table to sign up for a session of weaving on the loom – experience not necessary.

4.

The session was dismissed with prayer by Barbara Frederick. The Great Plains United Methodist Rural Advocates dinner was held at Church of the Resurrection, and the Young Clergy Fellowship and the Order of Deacons met off-site.

EVENING SESSION

After several announcements, Bishop Jones invited Rev. Jacki Sincère and Ms. Josetta Dérilus to the stage and introduced them to the conference. Rev. Sincère is the circuit superintendent for the island of La Gonave, off the coast of Haiti, and Ms. Dérilus is an active laywoman from a church near Port-Au-Prince. When Bishop Jones and Oliver Green went to Haiti last January for the conference of the Methodist Church in Haiti, they extended an invitation to that conference to send representatives to our annual conference session. The Kansas East Conference has a long history of involvement on LaGonave, and part of our covenant with the church in Haiti concerns that island.

Rev. Sincère brought greetings to our conference from the officials and people of the church in Haiti and expressed his thanks for making their trip to Kansas possible and for the conference's work on LaGonave. The conditions there are very poor – although LaGonave is a beautiful place, there is almost no fresh water on the island and the few services they have are very expensive. Rev. Sincère told of the early days of Methodist missionaries in Haiti in the 1960s and 1970s and the churches, schools and clinics they built. In fact, Rev. Sincère was the first child born in the new clinic at LaGonave and his education began in the school there. After the hurricanes of recent years and the earthquake in 2010, Haiti is in even worse condition and Rev. Sincère again expressed his thanks for the help the Kansas East Conference is providing.

SECOND HISTORY MOMENT – the missionaries who have gone out from Kansas and the institutions supported by the conference through the years were featured in the second history video segments.

A wellness break led by Cathy Fitzgerald had the conference on their feet dancing with the spirit.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT – Rev. Bruce Emmert, chair of the Board, invited all those who were elected at the clergy session to come onstage while he spoke about the work of the Board now and in the Great Plains Conference. The Great Plains Board of Ordained Ministry will be made up of 51 members, 17 from each conference, and Bruce will be the chair. He then introduced those who were being certified, commissioned or ordained this year and invited Charlotte Morrow to come up to present recognition pins from the UMW.

Dorothy Welch was certified as a lay minister this year.

Melinda Harwood and Lori Schwilling were elected as associate members.

Andrea Beyer, William DelValle Gonzalez, Bill Gepford, Bryce Hansen, Pat Longstreth, Jo

Mead and Kathy Williams were elected Provisional Elders.

Kyle Butler and Hyun-jin Cho were elected to membership in full connection and will be ordained on Saturday. Bishop Jones asked these two the historical questions from John Wesley's day. He also spoke of the commitment and cost of a seminary education and urged local churches to take an offering to support the Ministerial Education Fund. All of those being recognized were greeted with applause.

YOUTH EVENING DEVOTIONS – While the youth were setting up for their devotions, the bishop promoted The One Event, the first Great Plains Conference-wide event which will be held for youth on January 4 & 5 in Topeka. A video gave more details of the event.

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Various members of the youth delegation led the conference in several songs and offered prayers and scripture readings. After the devotions, the conference adjourned and the youth gathered in the Student Center with the bishop and Mary Lou for their traditional malts.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

MORNING SESSION

After devotions by members of the youth delegation, several announcements were made and Jo Cross was introduced as the lay leader at the head table this morning.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - Bishop Jones introduced Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of Church of the Resurrection, who officially welcomed the conference to COR. He related that there were four amendments to the constitution of the United Methodist Church made at the 2012 General Conference and by church law, these amendments must be approved by more than a 2/3 margin at General Conference and then approved by at least 2/3 of the annual conferences. Adam briefly reviewed the contents of the amendments, which were printed in full in the conference workbooks and which made minor changes to the constitution. Bishop Jones then called for questions or discussion but there was none.

The voting procedure was that those clergy in full connection and laity eligible to vote had been given yellow voting cards. They were asked to hold up those yellow cards and were given a paper ballot by the tellers. The four amendments were listed separately on the ballot and members could vote “yes” or “no” for any or all of the amendments. After an appropriate time had passed, the ballots were collected and the voting was declared closed. (The results of the voting, as sent to the Council of Bishops after annual conference, were that all four amendments passed overwhelmingly.)

CHURCH CLOSINGS – The bishop called on District Superintendents Howard Johnson, Kay Scarbrough and Dennis Ackerman to come forward to present resolutions for the discontinuance of churches in their districts.

Howard Johnson spoke first about the Bazaar UMC and introduced Bob Grover, who has served as lay minister there. Howard read the resolution, which called for the discontinuance of the church as of July 1, 2013 and the transfer of the property to the Chase County Historical Society. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

Kay Scarbrough then spoke on behalf of the Centralia UMC, recognizing Rev. Michael McKee, who has served the church for several years, and giving a brief history of the more than

150-year-old church. She read the resolution calling for the discontinuance of the church effective June 30, 2013 and the disposal of the property in accordance with The Book of Discipline by the congregation, the district and the conference Board of Trustees. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

Dennis Ackerman introduced Rev. Don Flanner, who has been serving the Devon UMC, and read the resolution for its discontinuance. The resolution called for discontinuance effective June 30, 2013 and disposal of the property in accordance with The Book of Discipline by the congregation, the district and the conference Board of Trustees. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

4.

Bishop Jones led the conference in prayer, thanking God for the ministry of these three churches and their congregations. He then related that the Methodists closed more churches between 1920 and 1930 than in the last 13 years because the automobile changed society and we didn't need a church every ten miles. Again in the 21st century, demographics are changing and we need to keep small rural churches vital but accept when change is inevitable.

A special offering was taken for the victims of the recent tornado in Moore, Oklahoma, and Bishop Jones led the conference in prayer for the people there. He congratulated the Kansas East Conference for its effective and appropriate response to disasters.

THIRD HISTORY MOMENT – This video highlighted the starting of new churches in the early days, in the 1980s through the Pioneer Fund, and in the last few years through Bridges to the Future. Cooperative parishes in rural areas were also lifted up as Kansas was the poster child of cooperative ministry in the 1970s.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Rev. Neil Gately, chair of the Board, was introduced and explained some changes in insurance as we move into the Great Plains Conference. There will not be a conference-wide property insurance program, but there will be a group insurance plan for the churches of the former Kansas East Conference. Workers Comp will be immediately available in the GPAC, but other liability insurance will not.

He also mentioned cyber security, which is not currently included in the conference policy but which the Board feels some churches could benefit from. This would cover the liability to a church if a person's electronic identity is stolen from the church computers. He asked for permission for Sue Courtney, conference insurance broker, and David Borgman, a "cyber guru" from Philadelphia Insurance Company, to speak about cyber security and permission was given.

Sue reported that she has been getting quite a few calls from churches about this issue so she brought David with her to talk to church representatives and give estimates of what the premium would be to purchase this coverage. David spoke of "cyber-liability" - the responsibility of a church that accepts debit or credit card payments if its security is breached and personal identities are stolen. He will be at the insurance booth all morning.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA – Bishop Jones introduced Ashley Gish, who was assigned to our episcopal area by United Methodist Communications to encourage churches and members to support the Imagine No Malaria campaign. She related that only four years ago, over a million lives were lost in Africa every year due to malaria – one every 30 seconds. She celebrated the bishop's free throw challenge and the activities of many local churches over the past year to raise money for Imagine No Malaria. Through the nationwide campaign, over 1.2 million bed nets have been distributed,

more than 5800 local health care workers have been trained, and the death rate has been cut in half, from one every 30 seconds to one every 60 seconds. She invited Bishop Jones to show off his free throw shooting skills with the goal onstage and challenged others to shoot for no malaria at her booth in the lobby.

A Wellness Moment led by Cathy Fitzgerald and a break followed Ashley's report.

FOREST PARK BY-LAWS – Kerrie Bacon, a member of the Board of Trustees of Forest Park, introduced the changes they are requesting to their bylaws, which were distributed in the information packet. There were no questions after her review, and Bishop Jones called for a vote. The Forest Park by-laws were approved by voice vote. Kerrie then asked for a few moments to update the conference on the situation at Forest Park and to thank the conference for its support.

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Mary Lou Reece, the bishop's wife, interrupted to give her humorous list of fifteen reasons she loves him/things that make him uncomfortable, accompanied by slides.

HAITI SECOND PRESENTATION – Rev. Jacki Sincère spoke again about the things that UMCOR and the Kansas East Conference have done for Haiti. In particular, he mentioned the new manse (parsonage) that will be built on LaGonave. At the present time, he lives on the mainland and has to make a long, expensive boat ride to LaGonave to serve the churches there. Building a manse will enable the minister of the LaGonave circuit to live on the island and serve the people much better. A drawing of the proposed manse was shown on the screen.

Bishop Jones confirmed that the conference is ready to help however it can when land is chosen and they are ready to build. He also mentioned that Jo Cross and Joe Edgerton were leaving the next day on a mission trip to Haiti. The bishop called on Claudia Bakely, chair of the Haiti Task Force, who presented two water filters to Rev. Jacki Sincère as a gift from the Kansas East Conference.

TRANSITION TEAM RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS – Tom Watson and other members of the Transition Team answered questions that had been turned in on Thursday. Some of those questions and the answers:

- Will there be an effort made to ensure diversity on the 75-member Connecting Council? – Of course; in addition to those on the Council by reason of their position, there will be at-large members to balance the diversity.
- Has the Nominating Committee report been passed by the Transition Team? - No, because that group has not yet been formed. At each of the three annual conferences, five persons are being elected to an interim Nominating Committee. That committee will prepare a slate to be elected at the United Conference.
- Folks don't feel that they have been part of the transition process. – The Transition Team has tried very hard to provide multiple opportunities for education and feedback and they apologize if folks still feel like they haven't had enough chance for input. Members were invited to talk to any Team members with their concerns.
- Where will annual conference be held? The 2014 conference will be held in Lincoln. A decision about 2015 will be made at the Uniting Conference.

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- How many paid staff positions will there be in the new conference and how does that compare with the number now? – There is a chart in the Plan that shows current staff positions in the three conferences and in the Great Plains conference. It's hard to make comparisons as there is already some overlap because we are one episcopal area and there are area-wide positions.
- Why is there so little youth and young adult representation at the next conference and how are they chosen? – The three conferences do youth representation differently and it all depends on the lay equalization formula, but the Team feels that the number of voting youth and young adult representatives will work out to be pretty much the same as we have now. Technically the District Superintendents chose the youth and young adult delegates, but practically that is done with the input of the district and conference Councils on Youth Ministry.
- Why isn't the percentage of lay and clergy more clearly defined for committees, particularly the Vital Congregations Team? – The focus is more on expertise and flexibility than quotas.
- If Jesus is our focus, why are we talking so much about being greater or better than others? – We're not talking about being greater than any other conference or denomination, we're talking about being the greatest Great Plains Conference that we can be. We're only comparing ourselves to the mission that God is giving us.
- Will Bridges to the Future money only be spent in our conference? – General checkbook money will go into one account after January 1, 2014, but donor-designated gifts of any kind will by law be used for the purpose for which they were given.
- What kind of efficiencies will we be able to achieve by becoming one conference? – The budgets of the three conferences are too different to compare, but the bottom line is that the proposed budget for 2014 adds up to \$400,000 less than what the three 2013 budgets total. Some of the efficiencies are reduced staff, one website and communications system instead of three, one audit, etc.
- Can we have more information about relating to institutions? – There is some information in the Plan now but some of that is still being worked out by the attorneys and will be in the material we will vote on in August.
- Will there be events to explain the new pensions and benefits? – Yes, there will be. The pension changes are resulting from action at General Conference, not from becoming one conference, and the General Board of Pensions will be sending representatives to hold educational events in our conference in July. Information about health insurance in the new conference was distributed in the packet; the higher deductibles and co-pays are a result of the increasing cost of health care and insurance.
- Explain the draw on the deposit accounts. – The deposit accounts are excess funds at the General Board of Pensions and both KE and KW have drawn on them as additional funds for the base budget. The formula that determines how much is drawn will change for Kansas East because the formula that Kansas West was using was much better and will draw less out of the deposit accounts.
- Will there be an effort to have each conference contribute the same amount to the general or reserve funds of the GPAC on January 1? – No, because that would imply that we don't trust each other. One conference may contribute more to one fund but less to another so it will all equalize.
- Why are we not incorporating the GPAC Board of Pensions like we do the Kansas East Board? – The other two conferences do not incorporate their Boards, and the attorneys say it is not necessary now to protect pension funds by separate incorporation.
- Why has the Plan eliminated the requirement that churches pay a utility allowance to clergy in

addition to the base salary? – The other conferences have not had that requirement, and the effect of eliminating it is cushioned by the fact that minimum salaries are higher. In addition, a worksheet was included in the packet that will assist clergy in avoiding the tax bite of that salary increase.

- How does the Plan and the budget address small membership churches? – The budget shows broad categories; within those categories will be specific line items for small church revitalization. In addition, the Congregational Excellence Team will include a Coordinator of Small Membership Church Ministries, and that person is Rev. Micki McCorkle. Talk has already begun about being able to combine small membership churches for ministries such as youth activities and Volunteers in Mission.

4.

LUNCH - At this point, Bishop Jones suggested that the questions that were still unanswered be postponed until after lunch. After some announcements, the session was dismissed with prayer by Jo Cross. The Board of Church and Society and the Associate and Local Pastors had luncheon gatherings, as well as graduates and friends of several seminaries.

AFTERNOON SESSION – Evelyn Fisher returned to the stage to finish answering the questions that had been posed.

- Why is there no mention in the staffing plan of the Mercy and Justice section of the Plan and who will direct Mercy and Justice ministries? – The Mercy & Justice staff and teams will be partnered with the Congregational Excellence staff because the Plan emphasizes ministry through local churches. There will be a Mercy and Justice Coordinator and staff, and they will be housed in the Wichita office under the supervision of the Director of Congregational Excellence.
- How will Mission U (the former School of Christian Mission) be funded in the GPAC? – There is not a specific line item for Mission U but there are grant funds through the Mercy and Justice Ministry which Mission U can apply for.
- What about Lay Servant Ministry, campus ministries, camps, health ministries, etc.? – Specific details about how these things will look and function in the GPAC will be worked out in partnership with the folks involved in those particular ministries. The campus ministries and the camps will be incorporated separately and have already begun meeting to plan. Everything won't all be planned down to the last detail by August 22 but will continue to evolve.

Bishop Jones addressed one last question: "What happens if the Great Plains Annual Conference is not approved at the August meeting?" His reply was that the GPAC has already been established by the Jurisdictional Conference last year after all three conferences voted in favor of the move. He assumed that the question was really asking what would happen if the Plan of Organization was not approved. His back-up plan, which is authorized through The Book of Discipline, is to call a special session of the conferences for the end of September. If the Plan of Organization is not approved at that session, he will call another session for the end of October, and so on until the Plan is approved. After urging members to participate in the table conferencing and take advantage of engagegreatplainsumc.org, he called on Bob Cox to close the Transition Team presentation with a prayer from St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Harlem.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – Bruce Draper, the chair of the committee, called attention to a sheet in the packet which contained a motion recommending that the current structure of the conference remain in office until 12/31/2013. The sheet also listed Kansas East members of the Board

of Ordained Ministry of the GPAC and members of an interim Nominations Committee to fill the committees, boards and agencies of the new conference. There was no discussion of the proposals, so Bishop Jones called for approval of the recommendations of the Committee on Nominations by voice vote, and approval was given.

Kay Scarbrough called attention to a sheet included in the packet which listed representatives and trustees elected to ecumenical and institutional organizations and moved for their approval also. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

4.

INTRODUCTION OF CABINET MEMBERS – Bishop Jones invited extended cabinet members from the Kansas West and Nebraska to come onstage and introduce themselves. They were: Kay Alnor, Great West District Superintendent from Nebraska; Galen Wray, Blue River District Superintendent from Nebraska; Lew Van Der Wege, Salina District Superintendent; Dennis Livingston, Hutchinson District Superintendent; Kendal Utt, Dodge City District Superintendent; Dan Flanagan, Missouri River District Superintendent; and Tom Watson, a member of the Transition Team who is also Lay Leader of the Nebraska Conference.

Evelyn Fisher instructed the members on the process for the table conferencing, pointing out that the same process was being used in Kansas West and Nebraska so that the feedback collected by the facilitators will be in a compatible form. She then called Gary Beach to the stage to help her recognize the members of the conference staff, who have been working hard to implement the transition to the new conference. The jobs of some of those staff members are not included in the GPAC. The conference recognized the staff with a standing ovation.

After announcements and a closing prayer by Oliver Green, the members were dismissed to move to the East Building for the table conferencing and to return in one hour for the worship service.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE WORSHIP SERVICE - This service included communion, the memorial service and the baptism of three children of clergypersons. The Rev. Dr. Angela Washington was the song leader and the Rev. Ronald King gave the sermon entitled "Why We Are Here." Several of the conference youth delegation participated in the service.

Deceased clergy and spouses honored were Harriett Bechtle, Billy Joe Hamilton, Donald Harper, Willie Jones, Roger Noah, Rowena Pine, Kenneth Rogers, Ralph Ruhlen, Gladys Blackman, Roberta Gingerich, Jeanette Hanson, Wyona Hiatt, Dale McAllister, Lucille Miller, Polly Jo Nolin, LaVerne Riley and Raymond Hodges. Baptized were: Yul Cho, son of Rev. Hyun-Jin Cho and Sunnyeo Kim; Ethan Michael Cloud, son of Rev. Jacob and Leslie Cloud; and Joshua Jung Kim, son of Rev. Changsu Kim and Eun Su Jung. The offering at this service was taken for the Youth Service Fund and \$2139.45 was received.

DINNER AND CELEBRATION – The retirees met for their annual banquet over the dinner hour. Following dinner, a celebration was held in the Student Center which included live music by a jazz band with a chocolate fountain and other desserts. Special guests for the dinner and the celebration were former Kansas East bishops Kenneth Hicks and Fritz Mutti.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

MORNING SESSION – Bishop Jones opened the morning business session by reminding the members that the worship services and the history moments would be available to order on DVD through the conference website. A summary of the conference would also be posted there. He then turned the microphone over to his wife, Mary Lou, for the introduction of the extended Kansas East Cabinet. Those introduced were Dennis and Debbie Ackerman, Mike and Judy Chamberlain, Evelyn Fisher, Kay Scarbrough, Howard and Lois Johnson, Claudia Bakely, Gary Beach, Kibum Kim and Lisa Diehl. Mary Lou then invited any clergy spouses in the audience to follow her to the Clergy Spouse Brunch.

4.

Bishop Jones introduced Dr. Fred Ohles, President of Nebraska Wesleyan University, and invited him to say a few words to the conference.

FOURTH HISTORY MOMENT – The last videos covered youth ministry, including Epworth League and Institute, UNDC tours and youth leadership in the conference. It also included interviews with several folks of other cultures speaking about ethnic ministry in the conference. The bishop again thanked those who were responsible and Karen Robertson asked the conference to greet Dave Fisher, the lay member from Topeka First UMC who is a direct descendent of Rev. Hugh Fisher, who came to serve churches in Kansas in 1858.

VITAL CONGREGATIONS RECOGNITIONS – Evelyn Fisher reviewed the Vital Congregations process in which each church was asked to set goals in five areas: worship attendance, professions of faith, members in mission, mission giving, and small groups. Although no churches in Kansas East met their goals in all five areas, many met at least some of their goals and she had certificates of recognition for those churches. She encouraged churches to review their goals, revise them if necessary and remember to report their progress.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA – Ashley Gish returned to present the Golden Swatter to Michael Purvis, who made 283 free throws during conference. Members who brought an offering from their churches for Imagine No Malaria were asked to leave it at the registration desk during the break before the closing worship service.

GREAT PLAINS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – Bishop Jones reported that what the Kansas East Conference accomplished in the Bridges to the Future campaign is unequalled in any other conference in the U.S. and he has been talking to leaders in all three conferences about what might be accomplished if a similar campaign is undertaken in the Great Plains Annual Conference. The first step would be to evaluate the Bridges campaign and assess the needs. The bishop's feeling is that the greatest need is in the area of leadership development. There will probably be a proposal at next year's GPAC conference session about a capital campaign.

CLOSING REMARKS – Maria Campbell opened her remarks with a prayer and then moved for the acceptance of the reports and other material in the workbook. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. She thanked all those who participated in the table conferencing and reminded members that registration would open soon for the Uniting Conference in Salina in Au-

gust – information about the conference was included in the registration packet. Thanks were also extended to members of the History Team, the Worship Team, Sessions and Rules, and the staff and volunteers from Church of the Resurrection. Special recognition was given to Lisa Diehl, Britt Bradley and Jen McCollough for all of their hard work on the history booklet and videos.

Karen Robertson was called up to receive several gifts in recognition of her service as she prepares to retire as conference secretary at the end of the year. Kay Stephens, the conference registrar, and Chuck Motter, who does the closed captioning, were also recognized with thanks. Finally, the contributions of the conference youth delegation were celebrated.

4.

As Maria finished her remarks, Morgan Whitaker Smith asked the conference to thank Maria for all that she does as chair of Sessions and Rules and the conference responded with a standing ovation.

After some closing announcements, Associate Lay Leader Gary Kilgore closed the business session with prayer and the members prepared for the final worship service.

CLOSING WORSHIP – The final worship service honored those retiring and those being commissioned and ordained. Bishop Scott Jones brought the message, “Abundantly More Than All,” and challenged the conference members to give all that they can because God can use what they give to accomplish more than they can imagine. Part of his sermon was given from a ladder to illustrate the need to get out of one’s comfort zone to give abundantly.

Music was provided by the Conference Choir, led by Sara Wentz, and water was collected from local churches to be poured together with water from Kansas West and Nebraska at the Uniting Conference. A meaningful part of the service was the participation of two former bishops of the Kansas East Conference, Bishop Kenneth Hicks and Bishop Fritz Mutti.

The retiring clergypersons honored were Charlotte Coates, Connie Cox, Charles Cryderman, Andrew Gardner, Gary Gooding, Dottie Forinash Knetsch, Kent Melcher, Wally Proctor, Dale Houghton, Karen Mitchell and Byung Yoon Park. Commissioned as Provisional Elders were Andrea Beyer, William DeValle-Gonzalez, William Gepford, Bryce Hansen, Pat Longstroth, Betty Jo Mead and Kathy Williams. Kyle Butler and Hyun-Jin Cho were ordained elders, and Melinda Harwood and Lori Schwilling were recognized as Associate Members.

The Central Conference Pension Initiative was the recipient of the morning’s offering of \$2689.45. During the conference session, a special offering for the tornado victims of Moore, Oklahoma was collected which totaled \$3846.68. In addition, donations had been brought to conference for Imagine No Malaria and those totaled \$8518.96.

The final part of the worship service was the reading of the appointments. Bishop Jones then closed the last session of the Kansas East Annual Conference with this blessing: “May God bless you as you go forth into the world to make disciples for Jesus Christ. May God’s spirit rest mightily upon you, empowering you to be a light for Christ wherever you go. In the name of the Father, and of the son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.”



Among those retiring at Annual Conference this year were (back row): Charles Cryderman, Andrew Gardner, Dale Houghton, Wally Proctor, (front row) Charlotte Coates, Dottie Forinash Knetsch, Kent Melcher.

CERTIFICATION

*This record of proceedings,
reports, petitions and recommendations as approved
by the Conference and published in this Journal,
is the official record of the 2013 Session of the
Kansas East Conference of The United Methodist Church.*

Bishop Scott J. Jones, President

Karen Robertson, Secretary

CERTIFICATION OF ORDINATION

4.

This is to certify that I commissioned and ordained the following individuals after they were elected by the Ministerial Members of the Kansas East Conference in Executive Session at Leawood, Kansas, on May 30, 2013.

Andrea Anna Beyer
William Del Valle-González
William F. Gepford
Bryce Hansen
Patricia Longstroth
Betty Jo Mead
Kathy Lynn Williams

were commissioned as Provisional Members, Order of Elders, in The United Methodist Church.

Melinda Harwood
Lori Schwilling

were recognized as Associate Members in The United Methodist Church

Kyle Butler
Hyun-Jin Cho

were ordained as Full Members, Order of Elders, in The United Methodist Church.



4.

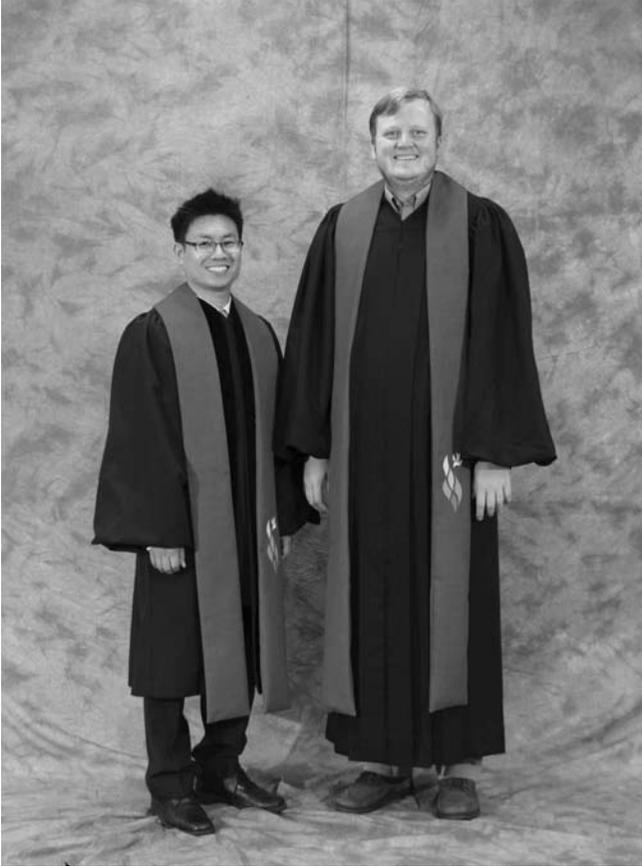


Commissioned as Provisional Elders were: (back row): William Del Valle-González, Betty Jo Mead, Kathy Williams, Patricia Longstroth. (front row) Bryce Hansen, Bill Gepford, Andrea Beyer

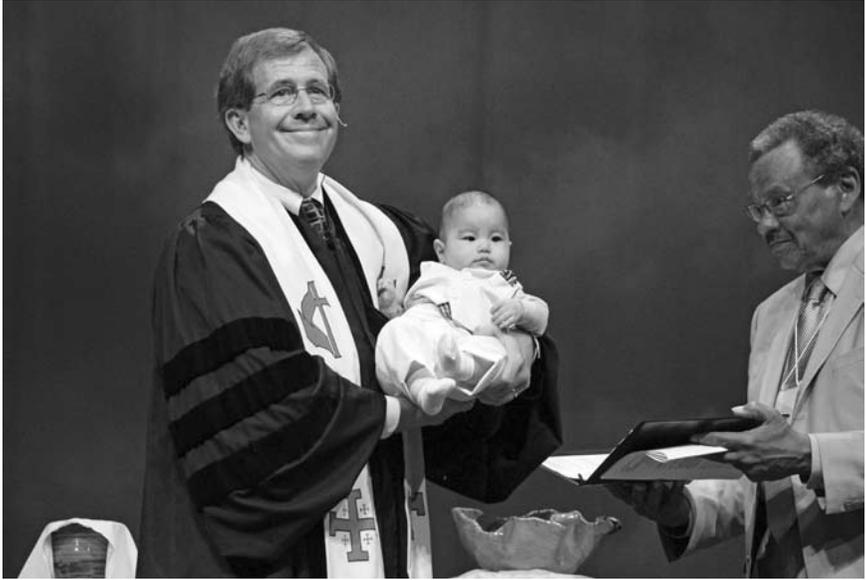


Lori Schwilling and Melinda Harwood were recognized as Associate Members.

4.



Hyun-Jin Cho and Kyle Butler were ordained as Full Elders.



4.

Baptized on Friday afternoon were Yul Cho, son of Rev. Hyun-Jin Cho and Sunnyeo Kim; Ethan Michael Cloud, son of Rev. Jacob and Leslie Cloud; and Joshua Jung Kim, son of Rev. Changsu Kim and Eun Su Jung.



Part of the Bishop's sermon at the final worship service was given from a ladder to illustrate the need to get out of one's comfort zone to give abundantly.

4.