

## Daily Proceedings

### Kansas West Annual Conference

Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, KS

May 22 - 24, 2013

Scott Jameson Jones, Presiding Bishop

Kim Dickerson-Oard, Conference Secretary

Theme: Moving Forward, Looking Back

#### ***Tuesday, May 21***

**Retired Ministers and Spouses Registration and Luncheon:** Kansas West Conference Retirees Registration was at 11 a.m. in the Sunflower North Building. A fellowship time and luncheon were held at 12 p.m. Tim Raymond presented the program on the theme "On with the Show." An offering for the Pass the Torch Scholarship Fund was taken.

**Young Adult Clergy Dinner:** The Young Adult Clergy Dinner was at 5 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church.

**Clergy Gathering and Registration:** Clergy gathering and registration was at 7 p.m. in the Sunflower North Building.

**Clergy Session:** The Clergy Session was at 7:30 p.m. to consider matters related to the report of the Board of Ordained Ministries.

**Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors:** This event was at 9 p.m. in the Sunflower North Building.

#### ***Wednesday Morning, May 22***

**Breakfast:** United Methodist Health Ministry Fund provided breakfast and snacks in the Meadowlark Building of the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

**Registration:** Registration began at 7:30 a.m. in the Meadowlark Building.

**Child Care:** A nursery for infants /toddlers and a Kid's Camp for school age children were provided at Trinity United Methodist Church. A Parent's Room was located in the Sunflower South building at the Fairgrounds.

**Laity Session:** The Board of Laity conducted an orientations session at 8:15 a.m. in Sunflower North Building. Conference Lay Leader Carolyn May welcomed participants. Presenters were Susan Higbee, Salina District Co-Lay Leader; Mollie Haberer, Hays District Co-Lay Leader; and Phyllis Stoppel, Director of Lay Speaking Ministries.

**Displays:** Displays of various ministries were set up in the Sunflower North Building. They were: Kansas Resource Center; Conference Council on Youth Ministries; Disaster Response; Guest Quest; Kansas Area Health and Wellness Committee; The Mission Society; Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation; United Methodist Open Door; United Methodist Health Ministry Fund; College Hill United Methodist Church; Vivid Pro Systems; Kansas Wesleyan University; Saint Paul School of Theology; United Theological Seminary; Kansas West Conference Board of Laity; Volunteers in Mission; Circles of Kansas; Photo Booth; Asbury Park; Horizon United Methodist Center, Inc.; CCIP-Zimbabwe; Kansas Committee of Heifer International; United Methodist Women; Great Plains United Methodist Rural Advocates; Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; Phillips Theological Seminary; Prison Fellowship Ministry Angel Tree; United Methodist Youthville; Southwestern University; Mission U; Kansas Christians United; Mates in Ministry; Spiritual Life Center; Counseling and Mediation Center, Inc.; Wesley Towers Retirement Community; Grace Med; United Methodist Men; Kansas

Interfaith Power and Light; Perkins School of Theology; Kairos Prison Ministries; United Methodist Motorcyclist Mission; United Methodist Campus Ministry of Kansas; United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries; Ethiopia Reads; Church Mutual Insurance; Camp Lakeside; Medical Loan Closet of Wichita; Maundy Thursday Drama; Mount Sequoyah Center; Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty; Kansas Leadership Development; and Hispanic Ministry.

**Call to Order:** Bishop Scott Jameson Jones called the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Kansas West Annual Conference to order at 9:15 a.m. Delegates and guests sang “O For A Thousand Tongues.”

**Hospitalities-Announcements:** Mike Rose, Hospitality Chair, welcomed everyone to the conference. He called attention to the Twitter hashtag, the Conference Wi-Fi, photography booth hours, and the recycling bins.

Bishop Jones discussed looking back and moving forward. At this conference we have opportunity to be thankful for what God has done in the past and to look forward to what God will do in the future. He invited all to the Uniting Conference August 22-24, 2013 at the Bi-Centennial Center in Salina. There will be three simultaneous sessions of the three Annual Conferences—Kansas West, Kansas East, and Nebraska—with votes taken as individual conferences. He invited delegates and guests to spend time in silent meditation to prepare for worship.

**Worship Service:** Liturgists were Amanda Baker and Kevass Harding. Kathy Aeillo and Mohri Exline presented a pantomime, packing up old things and making way for new things. Video excerpts of comments from the Retiring Class of 2013 were on the same theme. Scriptures were Exodus 14: 10-12, Numbers 18:1-4, and Philippians 3:10-14. Retired Bishop Richard B. Wilke was the preacher. He was elected to the Episcopacy from Kansas West Conference in 1984. He and his wife Julia created Disciple Bible Studies. He is currently Bishop in Residence at Southwestern College. In a sermon entitled “The Times? They Are A Changin’.” The future is scary because change is coming so quickly, but we must go forward, pressing on with Jesus. Young people don’t want ‘churchianity’, they want Jesus. We can re-discover John Wesley’s style of home class meetings for Bible study, prayer, and sharing. We can reach the poor, the outcast, and factory workers by rediscovering our Wesleyan roots. Like Wesley, we must forget structures and give people Jesus. Bishop Jones led The Service of Holy Communion. Music was provided by Mohri Exline, Scott Farthing, and Casey Stuckey. Set design was by Michael and Rachel Downs. An offering was taken for Imagine No Malaria

**Business-Plenary I:** Bishop Jones called the session to order and led in singing “And Can It Be?”

**Sessions Planning Committee:** Kim Dickerson-Oard, Chair, welcomed delegates and guests to the 2013 Annual Conference. It is historic since it is the last session of the Kansas West Conference. She and the Sessions Planning team have been praying for us. During the Memorial Service a special offering will be taken for UMCOR to help with Oklahoma tornado recovery.

**Recognition of Annual Conference Sponsor:** Kim thanked conference sponsors. United Methodist Health Ministry Fund is providing breakfast and snacks. Church Mutual is providing sodas in the afternoon. Asbury Park provided table cloths for booths. Trinity United Methodist Church, Hutchinson, is hosting childcare and providing ice cream and cookies following the Retirement Service.

**Enabling Motion:** Kim presented the Enabling Motion. She stated that the bar of the Conference is the area with tables. During business, only delegates should be seated within the bar of the bar of the Conference. Members shall not speak more than twice on a given

subject or speak longer than three (3) minutes without special permission of the Chairperson. Kim moved adoption of the Enabling Motion.

The Enabling Motion passed

**Recognition of 1969 Uniting Conference Members:** Those recognized by name were Bob McLean, Jim Iwig, Christy Hanne, and Bob Baer.

**Roll Call:** The roll is taken from forms submitted to the Conference Secretary by 5 p.m. Wednesday.

**Motion to Elect Conference Secretary:** Bishop Jones moved to elect Kim Dickerson-Oard as Conference Secretary. The motion passed.

**Asbury Park:** Tom Williams, Chief Executive Officer, showed a video and discussed services of Asbury Park. About 60% of residents are on Medicaid, Many others receive help through the Good Samaritan Care program. The most recent state inspection showed zero deficiencies. The Aspen Care Program helps meet needs of the developmentally disabled. Bishop Jones thanked Tom and stated that Asbury Park was begun by the Evangelical United Brethren church prior to the 1969 merger.

**Bishop's Bike Challenge:** Amy Lippoldt and Cindy Watson, on behalf of uppity women, challenged the Bishop to raise more funds than they did for the previous year. The Bike Challenge will be held June 22, 2013 and raises money for the Open Door capital campaign. Amy showed a video clip of her riding her bike. She explained that "uppity" means not taking the easy road, riding past any limits, feeding the hunger, and housing the homeless. She invites everyone to live "uppity." Amy is selling uppity bracelets.

Cindy offered gourmet dinners for those who contribute the most to help her out-raise Bishop Jones. She offered Bishop Jones a dinner if he would concede now, but he refused. He stated that the goal is to raise \$100,000 over the next two years. He complemented the work of Deann Smith, Executive Director of Open Door; the Board of Directors; and all involved with the agency.

**Lydia Patterson Institute:** Richard Hearne, Development Director, showed a video and brought greetings from Dr. Socorro De Anda, President. The video highlighted history, current services, and stories of successful Lydia Patterson graduates. The Institute is updating the campus. About 90% of their high school graduates also graduate from college. Richard gave Bishop Jones a check for the Bike Challenge.

**United Methodist Men:** George Houle, Spiritual Director, shared United Methodist Men's passion for building bridges with young men. They are sponsoring a Mission Impact tour July 7-13 2013 that includes work in inner city St. Louis homeless ministries. Four participants will also attend the national gathering of UMM in Nashville July 12-14, 2013. UMM have supported the Upper Room Prayer Line since 1979. Conference attendees can sign up to take calls and pray for people all over the world. George showed a video to promote the National Gathering. Bishop Jones thanked George and United Methodist Men for their work.

**United Methodist Open Door:** Deann Smith, Executive Director, thanked everyone for their Second Mile giving. The new facility has enabled them to establish great partnerships that facilitate service delivery and give hope to clients. She hopes that as a legacy we will continue to support them and other missions throughout the Great Plains Annual Conference.

Bishop Jones commended Open Door and other agencies that feed the hungry, clothe people, and serve the homeless. He stated that we are a connectional church and through our gifts and service we can all have a part of carrying out Jesus' commandments. He thanked Deann

for being a missionary for the cause of Christ. An Open Door video featured stories of clients and showed volunteers at work.

**Hospitality –Announcements:** Mike Rose, Hospitality Chair, called attention to the photo booth located in Sunflower South Building and to the history display at the East end of the Meadowlark Building. He invited attendees to record their memories at the History Booth. He announced that the offering for Imagine No Malaria was \$4,981.62. Bishop Wilke gave the mealtime blessing.

Bishop Jones recessed the session.

### ***Wednesday Afternoon, May 22:***

**Luncheon:** The Clergy-Lay Luncheon was held in the Sunflower North Building. Door prizes were awarded to the delegates who had attended the most Annual Conference sessions, were the oldest, or had traveled the most miles to attend.

**Business – Plenary II:** Bishop Jones called the session to order with the singing of “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.”

**Mount Sequoyah Video:** The video highlighted history and programs of the jurisdictional Conference and Resort Center. It lifted up events such as Academy for Spiritual Formation.

**United Methodist Men Recognitions:** Bishop Jones recognized men who have served as presidents of UMM and/or attended the National Gatherings.

**Imagine No Malaria:** Ashley Gish, Field Coordinator for Kansas, and Doug Foss, Campaign Chair, reported on progress in combatting malaria. Four years ago a child died of malaria every 30 seconds. Bishop Jones participated in “Shoot for Malaria” by attempting 1,000 free throws in one day. He made 360. Charlie Cadwell had the closest guess at 363. Mark Conard raised the most funds. Kip Ryherd shot 722 free throws. Jamie Bryant got her school involved; they raised over \$500.00. To date, over 1.2 million nets have been distributed and 5,800 workers trained. Now the death rate is one every 60 seconds. Via video, Bishop Jones and Mark related experiences distributing bed nets. Ashley called attention to the Imagine No Malaria display and items for sale. Basketballs are \$10.00, the price of one net. The person who buys a basketball and makes the most free throws during the Annual Conference will win the Golden Swatter Award. Doug Foss stated that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus as we continue work to end malaria. He thanked everyone for their support.

**Celebration of Past Initiatives:** Bishop Jones recognized previous initiatives supported by Kansas West Conference, including Tara Project, Hunger in the Andes, Hope for the Children of Africa, and Africa University.

**Volunteers in Mission:** Janet Robinson, Coordinator, related stories of people whose lives have been positively influenced through VIM. She talked about the work of RV Ministry Teams. At the Uniting Conference August 22-24, there will be a great day of volunteering. She recognized all who have participated in a VIM effort and thanked them for their service.

**Chabadza Recognition and Gifts:** Mark Conard brought greetings from Ttshi Madziyre, Harare District Superintendent in Zimbabwe East Conference. She sent bracelets and necklaces for those who hosted Zimbabwe delegates in Kansas last year.

**Transition Team Report:** Gary Brooks, Kansas West Conference, and Jan Todd and Nancy Brown, Kansas East Conference, presented the report. The three conferences combined had 4,718 professions of faith last year. The plan of organization hopes to move evangelism from good to great. Gary introduced members of the team who were present. They were Gary

Beach, Janet Maxwell, Evelyn Fisher, Katherine Witte, Pat Ault-Duell, and Bob Cox. He thanked Communications Director Lisa Diehl and her staff for their help. He asked people to write their questions on cards that were previously distributed. The team will respond to the questions tomorrow. According to a video, the Great Plains Annual Conference will have 200,000 members, 1,000 congregations, and span nearly 800 miles. He called attention to the written report.

Jan said there would be three office locations-- Wichita, Lincoln, and Topeka---with staff at each office. The mission share (apportionment) formula will be 10%, phased in over the next two years. There will be an "asking" of 1% to fund agencies and institutions that are not a direct part of the new conference structure. A handout explained the choice of Cigna as the health insurance carrier. Nancy said there would be a focus on recruiting youth and diverse clergy. Partnerships will need to be developed among congregations and with global missions. Gary called attention to the plan for camping ministries. He stated that some efforts, such as prison ministries, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, campus ministries, and Imagine No Malaria would continue.

Bishop Jones thanked the team for their report. The plan will be voted on at the August 22-24 Uniting Conference. A final draft will be mailed out the first week in August. There will be additions such as a nominating report and by-laws.

**Marketing & Communication Council:** Jeff Slater, Chair, showed slides of early publications designed for both United Methodists and the general audiences. The conference paper was originally the Crossfire but is now the Kansas West Connection. Kansas West Conference was a pioneer in television communication, then went into videos and established a conference website. Currently, much communication is through Twitter and other social media. There are both a Great Plains Conference website and an engagement site. Since the world is our parish, we need to reach out through all possible ways.

**History Video:** The video featured Jim Reed, Sondra Matthaei, and Jim Bush. They talked about the merger of the United Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren in 1969. Changes include greater involvement of laity and amount of debate on the conference floor during sessions.

**Introduction:** Evelyn Fisher, Director of Congregational Excellence, introduced Shane Hinderliter as the new Coordinator of Local Church Youth Ministry. Shane was previously Young People's Ministries director for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Evelyn thanked Justin Lefto, director for Student Ministries, and Brenda Davids, assistant, for their work over the past years.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose announced that Roll Cards need to be submitted to the Conference Secretary by 5 p.m.

The conference was recessed for a break.

**Business – Plenary III:** Bishop Jones called the session back to order with singing of "Marching to Zion."

**Board of Discipleship:** Patrick Broz, Chair, presented the report.

**Harry Denman Evangelism Awards:** These awards are given to persons whose lives and personal ministries have had a great positive influence on others. Lynn Linde presented the clergy award to James Mardock, Colby UMC. Shelly Petz presented the lay award to Gordon Pettibone, Goodland UMC. Amy Dundas presented the youth award posthumously to Keenan

Jellison-Knock. Amy stated that Keenan lived out a spirit of hospitality and sought out people who were on the margins.

Guest Quest: Patrick talked about Guest Quest, a program that promotes invitation and evangelism discipleship. Free training is available in person or on-line. A video featured Bishop Jones. The website is GuestQuest.org. Patrick thanked board members for their work during the past year.

**History Video:** The video featured Sondra Matthaedi, Jim Reed, and Jim Bush. They talked about the “can do” independent spirit of the Kansas West Conference. Women clergy have become a vital part of the Conference.

**Board of Ordained Ministries Report:** Amy Lippoldt, Chair, presented the report. She recognized and thanked members of BOOM. Amy thanked Micki McCorkle for serving as the Kansas-Nebraska registrar. The new registrar is Karen Jeffcoat. BOOM is working on clergy recruitment and retention plus other issues.

Local Pastor Recognition: On behalf of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate members, Jim Rice recognized Sharon Thomas, Maureen Appenfeller, and Linda Van Zandt for completing the Course of Study. Bishop Jones congratulated them.

Introduction of Those Being Ordained or Commissioned: Commissioned Elder: Aaron Alexander Duell, Donna Jean Hull Goltry, and William Kenyon; Full Member/Deacon: Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson and Abby Lynn Caseman; Full Member/Elder: Ross Allen Baker, Christopher Keith Eshleman, James M. (Mike) Gaddie, Justin Lee Jamis, Margaret Elizabeth Johnson, Janet Sue Myers, and Anne Maurine Williams. The conference gave them a standing ovation.

Historic Questions: Bishop Jones asked the Historic Questions of those being ordained.

Introduction of 2013 Retirees: Bishop Jones recognized Kathy Aeillo, James Bush, Marilyn Christmore, A. Mark Conard, Phil Fischer, Katherine Elaine Graver, Laurence Jay Greenwood, William Hammond, Ralph Jarboe, Dennis Kuder, Guy Rendoff, Alvin C. Rose, Linda Stewart, Susan Stover, Sue Talbot, Donna Wise, and Hilda Amarillys “Amy” Jamie-Wood. The conference gave them a standing ovation.

**Iliff School of Theology Video:** The video highlighted diversity and how people are transformed with interaction with other faith communities. Iliff is committed to serving lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender students and to an atmosphere of openness and social justice.

**United Methodist Women:** Diane Thompson, President, recognized Mary Lou Reece and presented a gift to mission in her honor. Diane highlighted the Mission Education Tour. The purpose of United Methodist Women is to further mission work with women, youth, and children.

Quilt Presentation: A quilt made in 1892 was donated to the Kansas West Conference by Caprice Walker, Santa Monica, CA, and Louana George, Denver, CO. The quilt was embroidered with names of several southwest Kansas and one Oklahoma town. It may have made for their great-grandfather, Dr. Augustus Phillips George, who was a Circuit Riding Minister in the Southwest areas of Kansas. The gift was facilitated by Deanell Reece Tacha, Mary Lou Reece’s sister, who attended the presentation. She had earlier written that “Somehow I think God connects us when we least expect it.” Mary Lou had note cards made with pictures of the quilt for all three women. She also gave them “uppity women” bracelets. Bishop Jones expressed his gratitude for the gift of the quilt.

Bishop Jones recognized and thanked women who have been part of Mission Education Tour and those who have served as president of Kansas West Conference United Methodist Women.

**Food In-Gathering:** Harlan Rittgers, Chair, Hunger Committee, thanked people for donations through the In-Gathering. Hutchinson won the district challenge by collecting 1, 217 food items. Total number of items so far is 3,151 and food is still coming in. He thanked CCYM members and Trinity youth for their help in unloading.

**History Video:** Jim Reed, Sondra Matthaei, and Jim Bush recalled events such as the sale of Wesley Hospital; the work of Paul and Marjorie Matthaei in behalf of the conference; and establishment of United Methodist Urban Ministries and United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose made announcements. Bishop Jones stated that a gift of \$10,000 from Kansas West Conference has been sent to Bishop Hayes for tornado relief work in Oklahoma. He called attention to the UMCOR offering that will be taken during the Memorial Service. Bishop Jones stated that Dr. Augustus Curtis George, father of Dr. Augustus Phillips George, was part of the first ecumenical gathering of Methodists in England. Bishop Jones attended the in 1981 gathering and wrote a book about the history of the Methodist Ecumenical movement.

The session was recessed.

### ***Wednesday Evening, May 22:***

**Dinner:** The Ordination Dinner was held in Sunflower North Building.

**Service of Commissioning and Ordination:** The Service of Ordination of Deacons and Elders with Commissioning of Provisional Elders and Recognition of Associate Members was held in the Meadowlark Building. Ecumenical guest was Pastor John Kreidler, Bishop's Associate for Administration, representing Bishop Gerald Mansholt of the Central States Synod, ELCA. Pastor Kriedler led the Recognition of Common Ministry and Reaffirmation of Baptism.

Carolyn May, Lay Leader, and Amy Lippoldt, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministries, presented candidates to be commissioned as provisional elders. They are: Aaron Alexander Duell, Donna Jean Hull Goltry, and William E. Kenyon. Jim Rice, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors, presented Nancy Proffitt to be recognized as an associate member. Ashlee Alley, Co-Chair of the Order of Deacons, presented Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson and Abby Lynn Caseman to be ordained as deacons. Michael Marion, Chair of the Order of Elders, presented candidates to be ordained as elders. They are: Ross Allen Baker; Christopher Keith Eshelman, James M. (Mike) Gaddie, Justin Lee Jamis, Margaret Elizabeth Johnson, Janet Sue Myers, and Anne Maurine Williams. Bishop Jones conducted the Commissioning of Provisional Members and Prayer of Commissioning and Laying On of Hands and the Recognition of Associate Member.

Ashlee Alley read the Gospel Reading, Matthew 18: 12-13. Retired Bishop Bruce Blake's sermon was entitled "Our Destiny: N.Y.C." Bishop Blake was elected to the Episcopacy from Kansas West Conference in 1988 and served the Dallas and Oklahoma City areas. Bishop Blake asked "For whose sake is this ordination and commissioning service?" He stated that it's for the sake of the Not Yet Church. In fact, all of us exist for the Not Yet Church. The Methodist witness spread like Fire on the Prairie because ordained clergy were sent to give birth to new churches. Jesus called followers to share the good news of God's forgiveness with those who are not yet in the fold. Our destiny is the Not Yet Church, and that is what this night is all about.

Bishop Jones conducted the Examination of Deacons and the Laying on of Hands and Prayer for Deacons; the Examination of Elders; and the Laying on of Hands and Prayer for Elders. The offering was for the Seminary Scholarship Endowment. Music was provided by the Wichita East Heights Chancel Choir and David Cason. A reception was held following the service.

### ***Thursday Morning, May 23***

**Breakfast:** United Methodist Health Ministry Fund provided breakfast and snacks in the Meadowlark Building.

**Devotions:** Members of CCYM led devotions. The CCYM Band led music. Members are Mohri Exline, Greg Reffner, and Ben Wheeler. Jakin Lefto read Psalm 117 and gave the opening prayer. Zachery Ledford read Acts 4:32-37. In his message, Greg Reffner said that the word “community” stands out in the Acts Scripture. We may not want to give up our current community to be part of the larger one, but we should give ourselves up freely. The Holy Spirit will work and we should rejoice in the Holy Spirit. Greg challenged church leaders to reach out and forge an informal partnership with a church in another conference. When we do that we will see the fuller image of God. The One Event video was shown. Brooke Waters closed with prayer.

**Business – Plenary IV:** Bishop Jones called the session to order and led singing of “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.”

**College Celebration:** Bishop Jones stated that change is only valuable if we emerge on the other side more faithful and more fruitful. One of the priorities of the Great Plains Annual Conference is leadership development. We will hear how our colleges and universities are preparing leaders.

Kansas Wesleyan University: Bishop Jones welcomed President Dr. Matt Thompson and Cameron Jackson, Director of Spiritual Development. Matt asked all trustees, alums, and students to stand and thanked them for their support. Kansas Wesleyan University’s purpose is to prepare students minds, bodies, and spirits to go out to serve their families, communities and churches.

Nebraska Wesleyan University: Bishop Jones introduced Dr. Fred Ohles, President, and welcomed him. Fred asked whether the greatest challenges today were faced by churches, universities, and clinics? He then stated they are historically intertwined. We must look beyond our traditions to sustain our work. He thanked God for the leading God gives.

Southwestern College: Steve Wilke, Vice President, brought greetings from the college. The Board of Trustees revised its mission statement to add words about service throughout the world. Steve thanked the conference for supporting Southwestern and their students.

Bishop Jones expressed his gratitude for their work.

**Bishop Jones’ Birthday:** In celebration of Bishop Jones’ 59<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mary Lou Reece interrupted business to wish him Happy Birthday and give the first ten of 59 reasons she loves and appreciates him.

**Transition Team Report:** Gary Beach introduced Transition Team members who weren’t present yesterday: Tom Watson, Corey Daniel Godbey, Troy Bowers and Sherry Cramer. Gary addressed financial questions from the cards submitted previously. Mike Shockley, Jim Graves, and Mike Bird addressed questions related to health and pension benefits. Mike suggested people visit the Cigna and General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits booths for individual questions. A final draft plan will be sent prior to the August 22-24 Uniting Conference. The plan can be changed and amended then, but all three conferences must agree to the changes.



Additional information may be obtained and comments and questions submitted via [www.EngageGreatPlains.org](http://www.EngageGreatPlains.org) website or by emailing [info@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:info@greatplainsumc.org).

**Holy Conferencing:** Evelyn Fisher, Director of Congregational Excellence, gave instructions for the Holy Conferencing scheduled to take place in the Sunflower North Building from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. There are 70 tables with a facilitator at each table. A written feedback sheet will be compiled by each table and will be given to the Transition Team.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose gave announcements. He lifted up the Retirement Service and the ice cream social that will follow it.

The session was recessed.

### **Thursday Afternoon, May 23**

**Luncheons:** Great Plains United Methodist Rural Advocates Luncheon was held in Sunflower North Building. Sheila Frahm. Former State Senator and Lt. Governor of Kansas, was the speaker. Carl Ellis, Matt Johnson, and Kaye Metzler received appreciation awards. Lance Carrithers and Don Schwab received Merit Awards. Saint Paul School of Theology Luncheon was held at 4-H Centennial Hall.

Hispanic Ministries provided music prior to the afternoon session.

**Bishop Jones' Birthday:** Mary Lou Reece showed slides and listed more reasons she loves Bishop Jones.

**Business – Plenary V:** Bishop Jones called the session to order.

**Hispanic Ministries:** Sergio Tristan, Chair, Hispanic Ministries Task Force, thanked the Conference for their support. He discussed the growth in Hispanic ministries in Wichita and Southwest Kansas. Dodge City and Liberal Hispanic congregations are now worshipping in the main sanctuary. The new church start at Pleasant Valley UMC is going well. Gabriel Marrero, Conference Evangelist, preaches and leads Bibles studies in Wichita and Southwest Kansas. Evangelica UMC, Garden City, has 140 people in worship and needs more space. They are building a playground in cooperation with First United Methodist Church. Corey Godbey, Director of Hispanic Ministry, stated that Hispanic ministry offers to the conference facilitation of missional conversations; a conference evangelist; the Spanish-language leadership academy which currently has 75 enrolled in the three-year program; and an ESL program at Pleasant Valley UMC in Wichita. He thanked the Conference for their support. Bishop Jones stated that reaching Spanish-speaking people is crucial to the success of the new conference.

**New Church Development Commission:** Susan Stover, Chair, reported that a building has been purchased for Church at the Well and a new sanctuary will be finished soon. The Church at Park City has an Awana Truth Seekers ministry with attendance of about 230 for both services. They want people to worship God, Love people, and follow Jesus.

Kent Melcher, Area Superintendent for New Church Development, is retiring. He thanked the conference for supporting new church development over the past seven years. He thanked all who have served as commission members. They have developed a financial model that will allow purchase of property. Money for purchases has come through Bridges to the Future. Nathan Stanton will be New Church Development Coordinator for the Great Plains Annual Conference. Bishop Jones thanked Kent on behalf of the entire Conference, stating that Kent has not only started new congregations but has shaped the culture of the conferences to be more welcoming of and involved with new church starts.

**United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries:** Stephanie Waggoner, Chief Executive Officer, thanked the conference for their support. The agency has evolved to serve a changing constituency. A video highlighted medical and social services.

**Transition Team Report:** Gary Beach addressed questions related to the minimum salary schedule and the reduction in benefits for Great Plains Annual Conference lay employees. Amy Lippoldt, Chair of the Clergy Excellence Task Force, wished Bishop Jones Happy Birthday and addressed questions related to the Board of Ordained Ministries. Corey Godbey addressed questions related to youth and camping. Gary Brooks addressed questions regarding barriers that may hamper small, poor, and rural congregations from participating in future annual conferences and/or activities.

**Bishop Jones' Birthday:** Mary Lou Reece showed slides and listed more reasons she loves Bishop Jones.

**Transition Team Report:** Bob Cox stated that the 2014 Annual Conference will be held in Lincoln, NE, but that future locations haven't been set. The most difficult issues have been distance, time, travel, and technology. The easiest were electronic connections, common goals, and love of God. Evelyn Fisher said that the Transition Team will set a place for the 2015 Annual Conference. A Nominating Committee composed of five persons from each of the three current conferences will meet in June to nominate a Lay Leader and other elected leadership. She addressed questions related to the role of Lay Servant Ministries, the Board of Laity, and the proposed Connecting Council. There will be a media team and it will have to set priorities. Organizations such as United Methodist Women and Retired Clergy aren't officially part of the Annual Conference and can organize as they wish. Bishop Jones stated that he has and will continue to set priorities when it comes to meeting obligations. He is sorry he didn't respond to a young person from a local church who wrote him, but answering e-mails and letters is a problem. If something is crucial people can get in touch with Leslie Ann Browning, Administrative Assistant. He again stated that the Plan of Organization can be changed at the Uniting Conference but that all three annual conferences must agree to changes.

**Bishop Jones' Birthday:** Mary Lou Reece said that one of the reasons she loves Bishop Jones is that he is going to be a grandfather in September.

The session recessed for a break.

Bishop Jones called the session back to order and led singing "Here Am I, Lord",

**Transition Team Report:** Delegates made comments and asked questions about the Plan of Organization. Bill Salmon made a plea for a common salary so that appointments could be made based on gifts and grace---a plea he has made for 63 years. Kate Johnson-Martin asked that the Nominating Committee consider asking for self-nominations so that people could make their interests known. Larry Danforth suggested adding additional persons to the Archives and History Commission. Bishop Jones asked Larry e-mail his suggestion to the Transition Team and to him. Dirk Hutchinson asked where visioning would take place? Brad Kirk, Deann Smith, and Dave Sanford questioned whether the 1% "asking" would be sufficient to fund agencies, colleges, and institutions. Deann stated that mission should be as important as administration or church growth. Dave called attention to the unprecedented opportunity that medical ministries have to share the Gospel due to health reform, but they will need money to do it. Bishop Jones thanked the conference for their feedback. Evelyn Fisher thanked the conference for engaging in the Holy Conferencing. She thanked the facilitators.

**Bishop Jones' Birthday:** Mary Lou Reece brought additional reasons she loves Bishop Jones.

Bishop Jones promoted the One Event for youth that is scheduled for 2014.

**Introduction of Extended Cabinet:** Mary Lou Reece introduced the Extended Cabinet: Carolyn May, Evelyn Fisher, Dennis Livingston, Kendal Utt, Max Clayton, Gary Brooks, Lou Van der Wege, Linda Louderback, Lisa Diehl (she brought her daughter Rachel), and Gary Beach.

**Vital Congregations:** Evelyn Fisher, Director of Congregational Excellence, and Bev Weber, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries, presented the report. Local churches set goals in five areas: worship attendance, professions of faith, small group participation, persons serving in mission and outreach, and giving. Five congregations met their goals in all five areas and received certificates. They are Mentor UMC, Scott City UMC, Aulne UMC, Hoisington UMC, and Winfield First UMC. The names of churches who met one-four goals were shown on the screen. They will also receive certificates.

**Introduction:** Jenny McCollough, Archivist, was introduced. She reminded people to submit their Kansas West Conference memories to be preserved.

**Church Closings:** No churches have closed during the past year. Bishop Jones prayed for all of the churches who were once part of the Kansas West Conference but have closed.

**Archives and History:** Larry Danforth, Chair, recognized Salina First UMC for being in ministry 150 years. David Watson, pastor, received the award.

**State of the Conference:** Bishop Jones and Carolyn May, Lay Leader, gave the address. Carolyn highlighted ministries, including Take it to the Streets, Chabadza Partnership, United Methodist Men's Mission Impact Tour, and Imagine No Malaria. Kansas West Conference has donated over \$83,000, plus the offering taken at this conference, to Imagine No Malaria. Bishop Jones said that the Chabadza Partnership is a longtime commitment. Simon Mufunda, Zimbabwe, reminded Bishop Jones that "It's not about you. It's about Christ." Bishop Jones lifted up the new church starts and the Vital Congregations project. There is an opportunity in every community in Kansas to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Carolyn asked congregations to set and review goals for spiritual growth and vitality. Bishop Jones stated that Guest Quest and Next Steps can help churches be more welcoming.

Bishop Jones called Camp Lakeside and Camp Horizon precious jewels that change people's lives. He quoted Sheila Frahm, who spoke at the Rural Advocates Luncheon: "Being good is not good enough. We need to be great." Priorities of the Great Plains Annual conference include enhancing the ministry of local churches, new church starts, and leadership development. Bishop Jones recognized current and past Boards of Laity. He stated that the most important thing about the State of the Conference speech is Ephesians 3:20-21: "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen." (CEB)

**Bishop Jones' Birthday:** Dirk Hutchinson spoke to Mary Lou Reece about item 18 on Bishop Jones' birthday list, that he ate food after dropping it on the sidewalk. Dirk said that in medical literature this past year, the 15-second rule was validated. Mary Lou told Dirk that his information didn't override the "yuck" factor. She showed a wedding picture. The last reasons she loves Bishop Jones are that he has Jayhawk/KState pajamas and that he signs his cards "AML" for "ALL MY LOVE." The conference sang Happy Birthday to Bishop Jones, Mike Gaddie, and Doug Tofland.

**Camp Horizon:** Joel Wilke, Director, and Larry Harris showed a video that highlighted summer camp. They have over 750 kids registered and expect to have 1,000 before the summer is over. They thanked the conference for supporting Horizon through Bridges to the Future and also thanked major contributors. They are sponsoring a Golf Scramble on August 10, 2023. Larry

told Bishop Jones that Bishop Wilke is sponsoring a hole for \$100. Bishop Jones agreed to sponsor a hole for \$150.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose made announcements.

Bishop Jones recessed the session.

### ***Thursday Evening, May 23***

**Dinners:** Volunteers In Mission Dinner was held in Sunflower North Building. Kansans for United Methodist Renewal Dinner was at Tenth Avenue United Methodist Church. Jeff Gannon, Senior and Founding Pastor of Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, spoke on “Why the Wesleyan Movement is Vital to Effective Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” United Theological Seminary Dinner was at El Potrillo Restaurant. Gerald Young, Student Recruiter, was the speaker.

**Retirement Worship Service:** The Retirement Service was held in the Meadowlark Building. Abby Caseman and Christopher Eshleman were liturgists. Scripture was Psalm 119, selected verses. Through a video presentation, members of the Retirement Class of 2013 shared memories and future plans following the themes “Moving Forward: Where God is Moving in the Future” and “What’s Next for Retirees?” Bishop Jones introduced the retirees, presented each with a certificate, and led the retirement liturgy. Passing of the Mantle participants were Bishop Jones, Laurence Greenwood, Abby Caseman, and Christopher Eshleman. Music was provided by Scott Farthing and Heidi Gordon. Set Design was by Michael and Rachel Downs.

#### Retirement Class of 2013

Kathy Aellio	Laurence J. Greenwood	Alvin Rose
James Bush	William Hammond	Linda Stewart
Marilyn Christmore	Hilda “Amy” Jaime-Wood	Susan Stover
A Mark Conard	Ralph Jarboe	Sue Talbot
Phil Fischer	Dennis Kuder	Donna Wise
Katherine E. Graber	Guy Rendoff	

A reception followed the service. Trinity United Methodist Church provided homemade ice cream and cookies.

### ***Friday Morning, May 24***

**CCYM Worship Service:** Members of CCYM led devotions. The CCYM Band led music. Members are Ben Wheeler, Greg Reffner, and Mohri Exline. Daniel Reffner gave the Call to Worship and opening prayer. Shayla Jordan read I Peter 2:21-23. In her message, Mohri Exline asked “Why are we here? What is our purpose? She learned she and all of us are created to live for God and as a testament to Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a life of love and loved others unconditionally. It is not our place to judge. God gave us our lives and we owe them back to him. She showed a video “Pep Talk.” Bailey Waters gave the closing prayer.

Bishop Jones thanked the youth. The conference gave them a standing ovation.

#### **Business – Plenary VII:**

Bishop Jones called the session to order.

**Hospitality – Announcements:** Mike Rose highlighted the Memorial Service at 11 a.m. There will be an offering for UMCOR. The water brought from local churches for use at the Uniting Conference will be brought forward during the closing worship. He thanked everyone who helped with reception and refreshments.

Offerings: Offering for the Youth Service Fund was \$ 1,877.07. Offering for the Seminary Scholarship Endowment was \$ 2,764.80.

**Board of Laity Report:** Carolyn May, Lay Leader, gave the report and moved to approve the resolutions.

Fun Run: Fun Run winners were Keith Fink, Liz Lippoldt, Mike Keating, Linda Odle, Claire Gadberry, Jack Miller, Annette Jones, Bill Robinson, Ashley Alley, and Amy Lippoldt.

Resolution to Celebrate Clergy Appointments in the Local Church: Carolyn called attention to the flyer that listed twenty suggestions

Resolution to Celebrate Laity and Lay Service in the Church: Carolyn urged all churches to celebrate Laity Sunday in October 20, 2013 or another Sunday.

Resolution to Recognize National Red Ribbon Week: National Red Ribbon Week is October 23 - 31, 2013. Red ribbons are available at the Laity Booth.

Recognition of Conference Lay Leaders: Carolyn recognized all past Conference Lay Leaders and others who had served the Annual Conference. Dirk Hutchinson was recognized for having served 38 years.

The resolutions were approved.

**Imagine No Malaria:** Ashley Gish, Field Coordinator, gave Golden Swatter Award to Kyle Dundas for making 142 basketball goals. The total amount raised for No More Malaria was \$7,241.62. This sum includes the special offering, money raised from sale of T-shirts and basketballs at the No More Malaria booth, and an offering from Salina District

**Kansas Wesleyan University Video:** A video featured stories of students whose lives had been changed through activities, service, and contacts at the university.

**United Methodist Area Foundation:** Steve Childs, President, and Mike Rose, Chair of the Board, gave the report. Mike said the Foundation was established in 1964 and will celebrate 50 years of service in 2014. There are currently about 48.2 million dollars in assets under management. Steve stated that part of his job was talking with congregations about ways to improve fund-raising and conduct capital campaigns. He enjoys and honors the privilege of working with churches. People can leave a legacy through the Foundation. There is a loan program of about 6.7 million dollars that supports land and building purchase and remodeling. Bishop Jones thanked Steve and Mike.

**Youthville:** Shelley Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, presented the report. As of July 1, 2013, Youthville will no longer provide services involving reintegration, case management, and adoption in the Wichita area. Before this contract with the State of Kansas was terminated, they served over 5,800 children in Sedgwick County, including helping 1,167 children be adopted. Youthville will retain the campuses in Newton and Dodge City, and also 350 foster homes statewide. They will continue to offer behavioral services. On July 1, 2013, they will change their name from Youthville to Emberhope.

Bishop Jones said that the agency still has an important vision and work, and he praised the Board of Directors and agency. The conference expressed appreciation for Youthville. A video was shown. Matt Johnson, Director of Church Operations, thanked everyone for their gifts. Fifty-five churches received Big Hearts Recognition Awards.

**Board of Trustees:** Peter Marcus, Chair, highlighted items from the written report. A new District Superintendent house is nearing completion in Dodge City. They have a signed contract on the former St. Paul UMC in Liberal. Pete thanked David Seeley, Chancellor, for all

his work when Pete was ill. He thanked the other Trustees and Gary Beach, Treasurer. Patrick McKaig, Marketing Director, will be in charge of the parsonages in the future

**Board of Pensions:** Mike Shockley, Chair, called attention to the written report. The Joint Distribution Team recommends the policies and procedures he is presenting. He thanked Gary Beach, Treasurer; committee members Jim Graves and Mike Gardner; Paula Whitbeck, General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits; and Carol Jackson, Benefits Officer, for their help. Cigna was chosen as the health insurance carrier because they thought it was the best plan. Dental and Vision benefits were unbundled to give more flexibility and cut costs. Two options will be offered, a traditional PPO and a High Deductible Plan with a Health Savings Account. Changes in pension plans are those mandated by the 2012 General Conference. Mike thanked Bishop Jones for the opportunity to serve on the Joint Distributing Committee.

Mike Rose expressed concern about unbundling dental and vision and the fact that if a family had a major claim it could cost them \$15,000. He asked if there were other options. Mike Shockley stated that there should be money in individual accounts to help with the deductible. Mike Rose asked if there could be insurance information meetings. Mike Shockley said they would be held after August. Bishop Jones said that pension education meetings would take place during the summer, as mandated by General Conference. Bishop Jones thanked Mike and the committee.

**Council on Finance and Administration:** Carl Nord, Chair, and Gary Beach, Treasurer, gave the report. Kansas West is a financially healthy conference due to the diligence of committees who stay within the budgets and churches who take seriously their apportionment commitments. Carl recognized everyone who has ever served on the Council. He stated that Christina Allen is a certified United Methodist Church Administrator. He is glad to have her as a resource.

Resolution to Manage Carryover Accounts as of December 31, 2013: Carl presented the resolution that "As of December 31, 2013, the Council on Finance and Administration is authorized to close the balances of all carryover accounts to the Operating Reserve except as hereafter provided:

- A. Funds that have been set aside for specific and identifiable purposes shall be retained in the account.
- B. Funds that are permanently restricted shall be returned to the account.

The resolution was approved.

Gary introduced Scott Brewer, Associate General Secretary for Connectional Relations, General Council on Finance and Administration. On behalf of GCFA, Scott thanked Kansas West conference for paying 100% of General Church apportionments in 2012. He showed a video in which Bishop Michael Coyner, GCFA President, thanked the conference for its generosity. The video featured ministries supported through apportionments, including Open Door in Wichita. Scott presented a plaque to Bishop Jones in appreciation of 100% giving.

Carl thanked Mary Conrad, Assistant Treasurer, and Gary Beach for their help. Carl also made a donation to Bishop Jones for the Bishop's Bike Challenge.

**Recognition of Lay Leaders:** Bishop Jones recognized current and past lay leaders.

**United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries:** Penney Schwab, former Executive Director, recognized Jose Olivas for 39 years of service and Karen Nonhof, MD, ABFP, for 27 years of service to the people of southwest Kansas. The conference gave them a standing ovation.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose displayed a cake can be sampled during the break. He recognized Mates in Ministry and announced winners of Disaster Response Kits. He also announced that Larry Danforth is getting married. Bishop Jones recessed the session.

**Memorial Service:** A Service of Remembrance was held in the Meadowlark Building.

Cheryl Bell was liturgist. Scriptures were Isaiah 40:28-31 and 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Jim Reed gave the sermon. He is a retired Elder and Chaplain in the Kansas Air National Guard. He is currently volunteer Director of Development for K-State Wesley. The sermon was entitled “Meanwhile, Back at the Church, or, “No Longer Worn Out.” He asked those present to look at the Memorial Roll and think of a memory of at least one person. They are powerful memories and we are blessed, but we still have work to do in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The term “worn out preachers” comes from the early days of Methodism. Pastors have always worn themselves out for the sake of the Gospel. But God promises we will be renewed. With John Wesley, we can say “Best of all, God is with us.” The offering was for UMCOR. Music was provided by Scott Farthing, Heidi Gordon, Kate Hovis, and a String Ensemble composed of Bryan Hess, Debra Spencer, Bruce Boyd, and Bruce Wagoner.

The Memorial Roll was read by Stephen Holmes and Nancy Proffitt. A candle was lit each person who died during the year.

**Memorial Roll:**

Clergy

Donald V. Bumgarner  
Bernard L. Cook  
Frank M. DeFisher  
Curtis D. Fulton  
Russell J. Gotschall  
Charles Hadley  
Nancy Harris- Ott  
James A Hlad  
Kenneth E. Kirkendall  
Jay L. Kump  
Barbara H. Kurtz

Clergy Spouses

Eva Lucile Cies  
Charlotte F. Gleason  
E. Cindie Gotschall  
Sylvia Dewey Muse  
Wanda J. Razak  
Iola L. Redfield  
Gloria L. Short  
Jeannette E. Weinert  
Lou Winget

District Superintendent

Assignments  
Leonard E. Cox

Lay Members to Annual Conference

Glen A. Randolph  
E. Leroy Smoot  
Lloyd H. Swindler  
Susan E. Steuber  
Neil A. Thompson  
Donna R. Volz  
Leta Beth Wheeler

Family Members of Clergy

Caleb Garcia  
Gary R. Hathaway  
Keenan Jellison-Knock  
Dyron P. Schutte

***Friday afternoon, May 24***

**Business – Plenary VIII:**

Bishop Jones called the session to order and led singing “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.”

**Camp Lakeside Video:** Camp Lakeside was established in 1948 and hosts camps, retreats, and family reunions. Via video the Lakeside staff and Board of Directors thanked churches and local supports for their generosity through the years.

Bishop Jones stated that most of the DVDs we’ve seen at Conference will be available on the web by the end of June.

**CCYM:** CCYM members presented Bishop Jones with a T-shirt that said “Dad knows a lot but grandpa knows everything.” They gave him ear phones so he won’t have to listen to any more uppity women, a super-soft robe to cover his Spandex, and instant oatmeal so he will always have breakfast ready.

**Transition into Ministry:** Nicole Conard, Director, Transition into Ministry, said that the Episcopal Area has a five-year grant from Lily Foundation to assist young people in transitioning from seminary through their first five years of ministry. It engages young graduates who commit two years to serving as an Associate to a Senior Pastor. They are then appointed for three years as a solo pastor but have monthly meetings with laity and others to help shape their journey. Wendy Mohler-Seib, Andy Frazier, and Austin Rivera make up the first class of participants. Wendy is assigned to Chapel Hill UMC, Wichita, and stated that she had benefitted greatly from the opportunity to work with Senior Pastor Jeff Gannon and the congregation. She thanked Bishop Jones and the Lily Foundation for the opportunity to participate in the program. A video featured stories of program participants, including Jeff and Wendy.

**Offering:** The offering for United Methodist Committee on Relief was \$ 6,597.62.

**Recognition of Visiting District Superintendents and Extended Cabinet:** Visiting District Superintendents introduced themselves and were welcomed by Bishop Jones. They were: Kay Scarborough, Mike Chamberlain, and Dennis Ackerman, Kansas East Conference; and Kay Alnore and Dan Flanagan, Nebraska Conference.

**Recognition of Past District Superintendents, Conference Secretaries and Treasurers:** Those who have served in these capacities stood and were recognized by the conference.

Bishop Jones read greetings from Dixie Brewster, former Conference Secretary and Lay Leader. She is sad not to be at Annual Conference, but she and her family are vacationing in Hawaii. She sends her love.

**Bridges to the Future:** Gary Beach, Treasurer, and Evelyn Fisher, Director of Congregational Excellence, presented the report. Bridges to the Future Capital Campaign will end December 31, 2013, after raising nearly 3.9 million dollars to support camping, campus ministries, Hispanic ministries, new church starts, and other projects. Evelyn thanked Carl Ellis for his service as Director of the Center for Church Leadership. Representatives from all groups benefitting from Bridges to the Future funds expressed their appreciation to the conference via video.

**Constitutional Amendments:** Bishop Jones gave criteria for voting and explained that two-thirds of all annual conferences around the world have to approve constitutional changes. The results will be announced next year. He presented the four proposed amendments. Tellers distributed the ballots. Following marking ballots, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed. He thanked the tellers for their work.

**Nominating Report:** Bev Weber, Associate Director of Program Ministries, presented changes to the written report. She moved to approve the report as amended. The Nominating report was approved as amended.

**Recognition of Bev Weber:** Evelyn Fisher, Director of Congregational Excellence, and Linda Louderback, Wichita West District Superintendent, expressed their appreciation for Bev Weber. Bev has worked in the Conference Office for 17 years and will retire at the end of 2013. The conference gave Bev a standing ovation.

Evelyn thanked Nancy Cadwell, resource librarian, for her work. The Resource Center will be moved to Lincoln, NE. The conference expressed appreciation for Nancy and her service.

**Capital Campaign Needs Assessment:** Bishop Jones plans to gather information about the need for a capital campaign and may bring a proposal to the Great Plains Uniting Conference



**Bishops Bike Challenge:** Bishop Jones asked people to donate to the Bishops Bike Challenge. Amy Lippoldt and Cindy Watson thanked the conference for their support of uppity women. Their combined total is \$3,700. They asked that people continue to give.

**Recognitions:** Kim Dickerson-Oard, Conference Secretary, recognized members of the Sessions Planning Committee and thanked them for their work. She thanked Mike Marion, Worship Chair, for the wonderful worship services. She recognized Penney Schwab for taking the Daily Proceedings for 26 years. The conference gave a standing ovation.

**Motion to Accept the Minutes:** Kim Dickerson-Oard moved that the minutes of the 2013 Annual Conference be approved as prepared and submitted. The motion passed. Bishop Jones recessed the session.

**Fixing of Appointments:** Bishop Jones stated that this is the last time Kansas West Conference will make appointments. He read the appointments by district and prayed after each district list was complete. He recognized Kendal Utt, outgoing Dodge City District Superintendent, and Don Hasty, incoming Dodge City District Superintendent. As appointments were read, church representatives brought water from their communities to be used at the Great Plains Uniting Conference.

**Closing Worship:** Ben Hanne and Tania Montero were liturgists. Scripture was Ephesians 3:7-21. Bishop Jones' sermon was entitled "Abundantly More Than All." He used a step ladder as a prop to discuss changes that started with the Reformation and invention of the printing press. Methodists shaped the future of Kansas, How are we going to respond to today's changes? We are creating a new conference and can try to create it as it should be in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are united by our doctrine and Discipline and are standing in the extreme center. We are committed to the sanctifying grace of God. We believe that Christ died for all, and we know we should bless others as God has blessed us. Through God's power and the Word within us we can have more than all...all that we can ask or imagine. Bishop Jones received a standing ovation.

Bishop Jones presided over the Service of Holy Communion. Kathy Aeillo and Mohri Exline "packed up" the old and put it away in a suitcase. Music was provided by Mike Marion, Heidi Gordon, Casey Stucky, Miriam Griggs, Nicholas Griggs, Matt Kuzma, and Scott Farthing.

**Blessing and Sending Forth:** Bishop Jones listed three things to take forward into the future: 1) we practice unity; 2) we have a sense of mission; and 3) we have handled our finances at an extraordinarily high level. He challenged us to pack up the best and leave the worst behind.

The 45<sup>th</sup> and last Session of Kansas West Annual Conference was adjourned.

**Offering Totals:**

Youth Service Fund	\$ 1,877.07
Seminary Scholarship Endowment	2,864.80
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) U.S. Disaster Fund	6,612.62
Imagine No Malaria	4,961.62

Funds were raised for Imagine No Malaria through two other sources. The Salina District had raised \$340 through special offerings, and donations at the Imagine No Malaria booth raised an additional \$1,940, bringing the combined total to \$7,241.62.

**Vote Tally for Constitutional Amendments:**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b>#1</b>	309	3	<b>#3</b>	287	22
<b>#2</b>	291	21	<b>#4</b>	301	6