

Daily Summary Saturday June 20 2009

The Session began at 8:00 a.m. with worship led by The Edge from San Francisco State University.

Conference Committee on Religion and Race report – Jeffrey Kwan and Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh.

General observations: There is diversity of leadership seated on the stage in terms of ethnicity and gender; presentations from the floor were overwhelmingly European (80%). The rest of the breakdown was: 7% African American, 5% Asian American, 4% Hispanic/Latino American, and less than 1% Native American. Participation from the floor was quite even by gender: 52% women and 48% men. Lay-clergy participation from the floor was: 56% laity and 44% clergy. We clearly need more participation from non-European Americans from the floor. Ministry workshops' presenters were predominantly European American, and those who participated in the conversations were predominately European American. The legislative sections were led by a diversity representative of our Conference. However, the participation was again predominately by European Americans. The worship service of the Journey of the Saints showed great diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, generation, and the inclusion of persons with disability. The transfer of the mantle from a retiring European American male to an Asian American woman clergy to be ordained was a powerful symbol. In conclusion, do we need to rethink the way we do Annual Conference, especially the business portion? Is this the only way to do business? Do other racial/ethnic groups have different ways of doing things? Is there more than language acting as a barrier? We need to use our collective wisdom to grow.

Opening Prayer was given by Siosifa Hingano.

Point of Personal Privilege – Phil Lawson, the grandson of a man who escaped from slavery, reminded us that today, June 20, is an historic day for African Americans who come from Texas. Today is "Juneteenth," the day when we celebrate the arrival of the news of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas. *Announcement:* Retired clergy Alfred Chandler was unable to answer the Roll Call this year. This would have been his 76th Annual Conference. We were dismissed for lunch after prayer by Joanne Peterson.

Section Work – Mark Zier, Chair.

Section G – Jola Bortner, Chair. Items 25, 26, 27 and 31 were considered and all are on Consent Calendar.

Section H – Rosa Washington-Olson, Chair. Items 28, 29 and 30 were considered and placed on the Consent Calendar. Item 32 was amended and approved, 60 yes, 0 no, and removed from the calendar. Kimberly Willis, Christ Church Santa Rosa, moved that paragraph 6 be revised to read, "...celebrate the State of Nevada's recent move to legally recognize both heterosexual and same gender domestic partnerships." Amendment approved. Item 32, as amended, was approved.

Mark Zier, Chair of the Legislative Sections. The Consent Calendar is before us, with Items 2, 12, 14 and 32 removed. The Consent Calendar was adopted.

Western Jurisdictional Committee on Conferences, Dale Weatherspoon. This subcommittee of the Jurisdictional Conference is charged to determine the boundaries of ACs in Western Jurisdiction, but not to assign bishops. 2008 General Conference voted to reduce by one bishop for each Jurisdiction, starting September 2012. The committee is planning to implement this decision, recognizing that we either proactively change or we will be forced to change by imposition. We need to realign and reassign our resources. We are choosing to use this moment to use our God-given graces to make disciples for Jesus Christ. The committee's proposal to date includes:

1. Assign bishops of WJ both geographically and missionally. Assign to mission and ministry affinities as well as by geography, so that one bishop with gift for new church development, for example, would become a resource for all in Jurisdiction.
2. Make development of new churches the strategic priority for the Western Jurisdiction.
3. Combine the Seattle and Portland Episcopal Areas into one Conference, including Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.
4. Move towards merging the Annual Conferences in Denver Area into single Annual Conference.
5. Expand the Desert Southwest Conference to include the state of Utah and most of Nevada. California-Nevada would keep the Reno area.

The work of the Jurisdiction is far reaching. We are considering sharing resources across Conference lines, sharing pastors, thinking through regional cost of living adjustments, contemplating the potential loss of connectional relationship with one bishop, and imagining how to handle the candidacy processes and clergy benefits and pension.

We need your ideas, suggestions, and comments. What are you thinking, feeling? Contact Dale Weatherspoon or Blanche Farnam. The Circuits will discuss the positives and negatives. Would this empower ministry for them? We need that feedback.

Point of Personal Privilege – Fel Cao. Introduced a church planting workshop being held at Valley Faith in Sunnyvale, Aug 15, 2009. All are invited to register – we may learn together how to plant churches. Registration information distributed by the Pages.

Fixing of appointments of those supervised by Ben Silva-Netto and Mariellen Yoshino.

Kids at Conference were introduced. They gave a plush cross and cool model car (1947 red Cadillac convertible signed by the children) to the Bishop.

Point of Personal Privilege – Don Fado. Don asked that we not use plastic bags to distribute material. This year we received 48 pages of advertising from UMCCom – 50,000 sheets of paper! People go to the Internet if they want information. The Bishop urged us to think about some of the important messages we need to make as a body.

Debbie Dillon, Commission on the AC. Evaluation on Internet.

The fourth Bishop's Award was presented to Angela Brown, from Jones Memorial Church.

The Session indicated a willingness to suspend the rules to **allow a motion from Motoe Yamada** that "We, The California-Nevada Conference of the UMC, ask UM Communications to think 'green' as they rethink the church, and eliminate the distributing of plastic bags and the providing of free booklets, such as the 48-page *The United Methodist Church Making Disciples of the Transformation of the World* in printed form, by utilizing the UMC website." Statement against was given. Another statement against was given. The motion failed. Ardith Allread, on behalf of Conference Communications Commission, indicated that the commission would report the concerns named in this discussion to UMCom.

The Laity Address was given by co-Lay Leaders Gayle Shearman and Burt Yin. The address was opened in memory of Pete Taylor, former Lay Leader who passed away during the past conference year. The team of Lay Leaders was introduced. There are exciting changes before us – expanding the ministry of the laity for our spiritual formation. What if church were a verb? The Conference Mission Statement and the four foci of the Connectional Table are captured in a printed card distributed to the tables. A video introducing the Four Areas of Focus of the denomination was shown. Bishop remarked that we all need to think a little more dangerously. In order to be a catalyst for change, we must begin thinking about the church as a verb.

Laddie Perez Galang – Nominations report: Rules suspended. A unanimous ballot for the election of the classes of 2010 to 11 of the Conference Board of Trustees, and to fill vacancies as listed in its other classes, was cast by the Conference Secretary. The remainder of the Nominations Report was approved.

Hmong Ministry report, Paul Khamdy Yang, Chair. There have been seven Hmong ministries established in CNAC since 1987. Last Annual Conference Session, it was approved to establish a Conference Committee on Hmong Ministries. A video presentation of special events during the past year was shown. Denise Leslie presented to the Bishop a stole made by Melody Yang. Chuckua Yang, associate pastor at Oroville First, presented a translation of the "Local Church" section of the *Book of Discipline* into the Hmong language.

Board of Ordained Ministry, Kathi McShane, Chair. The Board has been about the work of creating transformational leadership for the inspiring, equipping, and sending forth of disciples into the world. The historic examination of this year's class of Ordinands was given by Bishop Brown using the Wesley questions.

Report from Order of Elders – Siosifa Hingano, and Order of Deacons – Susan Grace Smith. Gathering together this year in November to build upon relationships. Theme is "Out of the Cocoon." Please encourage your pastor to go. We serve in connection with one another and it is important for us to be with one another. The dates are November 17-19 at Zephyr Point. Register soon!

Cokesbury – UMC publishing house – Shinya Goto, speaking as a member of the board. For six decades they have made contributions to clergy pensions – but this year, there have been reductions due to the economic downturn and costs of business. Their objective is to be a fully sustaining ministry. With great

regret they note that they are unable to contribute to allocation for clergy pensions this year. They are striving to hold down costs and rebuild assets, and look forward to renewing their gifts.

Kelly Newell – report on Nothing But Nets. \$3,029.10 earned by youth delegation during conference.

Conference Council on Ministries, Linda Wiberg, staff person. Reports were heard from some of the council's member bodies, as follows:

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Debbie Weatherspoon, Chair. Introduced Carolyn Talmadge, SF State; Tarah Trueblood from Wesley Foundation (announcing that Berkeley Wesley House and Campus Center is due to open September 2010, with 90 beds; groundbreaking July 1); Kristin Stoneking from UC Davis Campus Ministry (which has 38 beds); Jennifer Goto, new campus minister at UC Merced.

Youth and Camping, Kelly Newell, staff. The role of the staff and committee is to support the vision of youth for ministry and to support youth workers. She provides Safe Sanctuaries training.

Committee on Church Vitality, Blake Busick, Chair. Stability is necessary for vitality. Growth is also necessary. 59% of churches completed survey. 18% vital; 40% decaying; 24% Retrogressive; 18% dystrophic. Check your vital signs repeatedly.

Board of Church and Society, Margo Tenold, Chair. The board identified priorities of interest: Health care, alcohol and other addictions; civil and human rights (immigration reform and abolishing torture); economic justice (population concerns). For Action alerts sign is up at www.umc-gbcs.org/fia.

UMVIM and disaster response, Sue King staff. Look for DVD on web. Introduced Phil Bandy, new Interim Director.

Greetings from Bishop Mel Talbert were shared and from other Annual Conferences in the Jurisdiction.

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination was held in the afternoon, Bishop Warner Brown preaching.