

Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Cleveland, Ohio

Friday, May 5, 2000

Vol. 4, No. 4

Delegates Celebrate Heritage Tackle Contemporary Challenges

Heritage and contemporary problems shared space on the docket of the United Methodist General Conference, May 4.

Two centuries of ministry by two predecessor bodies of The United Methodist Church were recalled in pictures and words. Both the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Association mark their beginning as 1880.

The two churches joined in 1946 to create the Evangelical United Brethren Church. That body, in turn, united with the Methodist Church in 1968.

Text and pictures highlighted mileposts of the two churches that ministered to the thousands of German-speaking peoples who fled Europe to come to the United States. Their work paralleled Methodist ministry with English-speaking residents of the young nation.

Included in the memories were:

- the “great meeting” in Isaac Long’s barn on the outskirts of Lancaster, Pa., in 1767 where Phillip William Otterbein and Martin Boehm met;

Agenda for Friday, May 5

8:00 a.m.	Choral Music
8:15 a.m.	Worship Service
9:00 a.m.	Africa University Report
9:30 a.m.	Bishops passing of the gavel
9:40 a.m.	Nominations for Judicial Council and University Senate
10:00 a.m.	Debate on Connectional Process Team report
12:15 p.m.	Lunch Recess
2:30 p.m.	Legislative Committees
5:00 p.m.	Dinner Recess
7:30 p.m.	Legislative Committee

Bishop George W. Bashore, Pittsburgh Area, delivers the sermon during morning worship May 4.

UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

- the formation of the United Brethren in Christ in September 1800 on a farm near Frederick, Md.;
- the organization at about the same time of the Evangelical Association a few miles west of Lancaster; and
- the uniting of the two bodies in 1946 in Johnstown, Pa., to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Boehm, a Mennonite, and Otterbein, a German Reformed pastor, were elected bishops at the United Brethren in Christ organizational meeting in Maryland. Jacob Albright, organizer of the Evangelical Association, had been converted by Methodists.

The 200th observance was directed by Jim Nelson, a professor at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and director of the Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage.

As part of the commemoration, The United Methodist Publishing House produced a hardbound historical sampler of the EUB church and predecessor bodies. The volume was presented to all delegates, along with a commemorative issue of the *Telescope Messenger*, the semiannual publication of the center.

It is difficult for United Methodists today to grasp the desperation of the German refugees, according to the multimedia presentation. "We can make use of the heritage left us by ministry two centuries ago," the presenters declared.

The ceremony was concluded with the singing, partly in German, of the familiar hymn "Jesus Loves Me" under the leadership of Bishop George W. Bashore, a member of the Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of the 1968 union with the Methodist Church.

In another presentation, United Methodists won praise from the founder of Habitat for Humanity, Millard Fuller. Habitat's work, he said, is "so enormous that it can't be done just by one denomination."

In 1998, The UMC had 7,340 congregations involved in Habitat work, according to a Habitat spokeswoman.

Several delegates from Africa were assigned to legislative committees where language interpretation was not available. After a long discussion of possible remedies, delegates called for steps to be taken to correct any inequities in interpretation in the 10 legislative committees. The Commission on General Conference and the General Board of Global Ministries acted quickly to recruit five translators for every committee at a cost of \$95,000.

One language needing no interpretation Thursday was that of the Methodist Choir of Copenhagen which sang at the morning worship hour, and had the hallways ringing during the noon hour as they serenaded delegates eating in the convention center food court.

News of the May 4 arrest of Bishop Juan Vera Mendez of the autonomous Methodist Church of Puerto Rico spread quickly through the assembly. The bishop was arrested for engaging in a peaceful encampment on Vieques to protest the presence and actions of the U.S. military. Following a press conference, an evening session called for a General Conference delegation to meet with President Clinton to protest the arrest of the bishop and 300 other demonstrators and practices of the U.S. military

In other business Thursday, the conference sent condolences to the family, associates and church of the late Cardinal John O'Connor.

It was announced that the special Hope for the Children of Africa offering received \$16,568.33.

Wednesday night one of United Methodism's best-known civil rights leaders told attendees at a Board of Church and Society banquet that the church's challenge in the new century is to provide spiritual, ethical and moral leadership as the nation redefines itself.

"There is an opportunity for General Conference to sound prophetic voices, to be courageous souls," said the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, former head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

—Robert Lear

Daily Christian Advocate	
Editorial Offices: Hall C	
Cleveland Convention Center	
Sales and Subscriptions: Hall A	
Editor	J. Richard Peck
Associate Editor	Sheila McGee
Roundup and Photo Editor	Brad Motta
News and Features Editor	Barbara Dunlap Berg
News and Features Writers	Kurt Gwartney, Bob Lear Patty Meyers, and Dave Persons
Computer Assistant	Richard Street
Computer Manager/Calendar Editor	Mike Cunningham
Composition Editors	Gayl Hinton, Victoria Rebeck
Recorder Trainer/Conversion Specialist	Glenn Hinton
Assistant Trainer	Tom Baker
Manager of Audio Transcription	George Dunn
Audio Technicians	Carola Beasley-Topliffe, Brian Brightly
Coordinators of Transcribers	Angela Butler, Sylvia Street
Coordinator of Copy Editors	Marvin Cropsey
Copy Editors	Keith Beasley-Topliffe, Joey Crowe, Elena de la Peña, Jennifer Proudfoot and Tonya Williams
Floor Identifiers	Jonathan Freshwater, Bill Quick and John Thornburg
Index Editor	Thelma Boeder
Production Manager	Teresa Alspaugh
Sales Manager	Juanita Freudenthal
Sales Representatives	Barbara Acuff, Marge Poteete
Distribution Manager	John Clark
Office Manager	Dottie Porter
Circulation Manager (Nashville)	Joyce Wolf

Resolution Sent to Judicial Council by Whisker-thin Margin

By a vote of 50.6 to 49.4%, General Conference voted Thursday night to ask the Judicial Council for a decision on the covenant relationship between the annual conferences, the General Conference and the *Discipline*. Citing Paragraphs 2616.1 and 2616.2 in *The Book of Discipline*, and speaking at the unanimous behest of the North Georgia Annual Conference delegation, lay delegate Joe M. Whittemore asked for a declaratory decision on how the covenant relationship between the annual conference and its clergy relates to *The Book of Discipline*. He asked for a decision on the constitutionality of actions taken that violate *The Book of Discipline* based on an annual conference's conscientious disagreement with a particular paragraph. Whittemore further asked that the Judicial Council rule as to whether there are more basic and more fundamental covenants that have precedence over *The Book of Discipline*, and if so, which covenants may annual conferences rely upon to supersede or disobey disciplinary provisions. He said that if we are in covenant with one another, we need to

know what defines the covenant agreement and must be able to trust one another. Two delegates spoke against the motion, saying that the resolution seeks a litigious response to a theological issue.

Whittemore did not mention the California-Nevada Conference by name. However, many persons assumed that he was referring to the seven-member committee of that conference which decided not to place 67 conference clergy on trial for concelebrating a same-gender service of holy union. In a statement following that decision, Bishop Melvin G. Talbert said that while some will feel the committee decision has broken covenant with the *Discipline*, "the decision does reflect the long-standing covenant commitments for inclusiveness and justice of the California-Nevada Annual Conference . . ." (*Newscope*). The General Conference expects a decision from the Judicial Council soon.

United Methodists Respond to Arrests in Vieques, Puerto Rico

Bishop Juan Vera Mendez and Pastor Lucy Rosario of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico were among ecumenical leaders and peaceful protestors arrested this morning by the FBI, Federal Marshals, and U.S. military personnel on the island of Vieques. The US Navy uses the island for training and practice bombing. The action effectively broke negotiations between a religious coalition, the White House, and Congress.

Upset with US policy and these developments, Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Charlotte Area; Bishop Ricardo Periera, Cuba; Retired Bishop Isaias Gutierrez, Chile; Victor R. Ortiz, lay delegate from Puerto Rico; and Thom White Wolf Fassett, general secretary, General Board of Church and Society; spoke to the press Thursday, May 4. Bishop Felton Edwin May, Washington Area, read a statement by the Council of Bishops' delegation to Vieques. Several other bishops and church leaders attended the briefing.

According to a statement by the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist concerns for the Vieques controversy date back to the Reagan administration. Protests have continued on the island of 9,500 inhabitants. Fassett

identified the issues as colonialism, ownership, land use, health and safety. Bishop Gutierrez, president of the Council of the Evangelical Methodist Church in the Caribbean (CIEMAL), expressed concern for "my friend and colleague" Bishop Juan Vera Mendez, CIEMAL vice president.

Asked what was being done to gain release of those arrested, Ortiz said he heard that Bishop Mendez was released, but he knew nothing about the welfare of Pastor Rosario. On behalf of the Council of Bishops, Bishop William Boyd Grove signed a letter sent to the White House by the National Council of Churches, and Bishop Robert C. Morgan sent a telegram to Bishop Mendez. GBGM lawyers in Puerto Rico are providing legal services. Ortiz said the Puerto Rican delegation has a resolution to present to the General Conference.

- Patty Meyers

Pushing Buttons at General Conference

Pushing buttons can be a good thing, especially when it gets your message across to other delegates. There are buttons of every color and shape. Many groups, caucuses, boards and agencies have created buttons to make themselves visible here. Share your buttons through the *DCA*. We will collect them throughout the week and publish a picture of them in a future issue. Drop your buttons by the *DCA* office, attention Brad Motta.

COSROW

We Are Here to Be With Jesus

I am a part of the Memphis Conference delegation. By profession, I am a dentist.

Last Saturday I treated a few patients, including one who needed a root canal. I told her, "I don't want to start a root-canal treatment and be gone for two weeks."

She replied, "Where are you going for your vacation?"

When I answered, "I am going to a church meeting," she immediately added, "You are going to find Jesus."

The biblical concept of a church meeting is to find Jesus or to be with Jesus. May the Lord help us not to become so engaged in church programs we miss being with him. And may the Holy Spirit guide our every decision.

—*Solomon Christian*

Find Waldo and the Missing Judicial Council Members

The printed program for the Monday night bishops' reception listed the names of the bishops and Judicial Council members. It identified the various locations where delegates and guests could greet each other. It created an evening of "find your bishop."

The names of some Judicial Council members were accidentally omitted from the program. The complete list of Judicial Council members includes: Sally Curtis Askew, Wesley Bailey, C. Rex Bevins, Evelyn S. Caterson, John G. Corry, Susan T. Henry-Crowe, Zan W. Holmes Jr., Tom Matheny and Theodore H. Walter.

-*Brad Motta*

Julius Archibald Shares Passion for Older Adult Ministries

Dr. Julius Archibald, Troy Conference lay leader and General Conference delegate, heads the National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. A retired professor of computer science at Plattsburgh State University of New York, he has a passion for older adult ministries.

He is also a strong advocate of United Methodism's Comprehensive Plan for Older Adult Ministries, related to the General Board of Discipleship. According to Dr. Archibald, older adults are the fastest-growing segment of the population worldwide. The 2001-04 funding request is for \$500,000 to provide:

- full-time older adult ministries staff person and support staff at GBOD;
- printed, visual, and electronic materials for older adult ministries;
- grants to annual conferences to conduct survey needs; and
- grants to conferences, districts, local congregations and individuals to develop and implement older adult ministries.

Particularly concerned about persons with handicapping conditions and those confined to secular nursing facilities, Dr. Archibald notes churches often struggle to provide regular worship services for these persons. Some people who were faithful church members when able-bodied are lonely and feel neglected by their church family. Dr. Archibald coordinates worship services for two secular nursing homes. Lay speakers do most of the weekly preaching, and clergy celebrate monthly communion and special worship services.

— *Patty Meyers*

Up Close and Personal: Seminarists Play Key Role in CPT Process

Thirty-three men and women related to the Methodist Theological School of Ohio (Methesco) are viewing General Conference up close. Some are here doing coursework, while others are getting continuing education credit.

Each participant is following the work of a legislative committee. They got a bigger dose of the proceedings than they counted on when they were drafted to be recorders for the small groups discussing the report of the Connectional Process Team. Because of their work, two students were among those reporting the results of those discussions.

Student observations about General Conference included:

- The fast pace is frustrating.
- "Process" can be messy.
- "People who lack hymnals are out of luck.
- Access to legislative committees and sub-committees is inequitable.
- A surprising amount of input in the CPT discernment process came from non-delegates.
- "Non-English-speaking Central Conference delegates are at a disadvantage because more translators are needed and they cannot read the legislation in their own language.

Bill McCartney, a field educator for the seminary from 1987 until his retirement in 1998, directs the Methesco program. McCartney also served 34 years as a local church pastor.

Other schools, including Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill, are offering similar learning opportunities during General Conference.

—*John Thornburg*

Where in the Convention Center is . . . Brad Motta?????

Since we do not have the budget of "The Today Show"'s Matt Lauer, my adventures are limited to the Cleveland Convention Center. Despite that, I have ventured to some very interesting areas. Can you guess where I am???????

Clues:

This place is filled with pizza boxes. It has a unique aroma. It is constantly being filled and emptied. The people in the area are working hard to ensure every delegate and visitor has a "crumby" experience. See photo on page on page 1798 for the location.

Miracles Happen Through Habitat for Humanity

United Methodists have more participants in Habitat for Humanity than any other denomination, founder Millard Fuller told delegates May 4.

“We have seen ourselves as a servant of the church,” Fuller said. United Methodists have been part of the effort to house the poor since Millard and Linda Fuller founded Habitat in 1967. Since then, Habitat volunteers have built homes with more than 90,000 needy families in more than 1,500 U.S. cities and 67 countries.

This week Fuller and United Methodist leaders dedicated three Habitat houses in Cleveland funded by the Cleveland District and worked on by church volunteers. Nearby were homes constructed by volunteers from Presbyterian and Baptist churches. Habitat’s mission to eliminate poverty housing is so huge it cannot be done by one denomination, Fuller emphasized.

In September, according to Fuller, former President Jimmy Carter and other regular Habitat volunteers will go to Harlem to complete the organization’s 100,000th home. After that, he said, the new goal is to complete another 100,000 houses in five years.

“It’s an exciting challenge,” Fuller said, but with God “all things are possible.” Habitat, said Fuller, is “another way to proclaim the gospel.”

“We have an open door, but we are a Christian ministry,” he said. “People have found Jesus on Habitat work sites.”

Fuller cited the words of a woman whose home was built by Habitat volunteers: “Is this what it means to be a Christian—to love strangers? I want to be that kind of person.”

Fuller added: “That’s the kind of witness we make when we build houses in the name of Jesus.”

Habitat also is a reconciling ministry, he noted, bringing together people with diverse viewpoints and backgrounds who don’t normally work together. In Selma, Ala., African Americans and Whites from 46 churches have worked together on Habitat projects. In Ireland, Protestants and Catholics unite on projects.

Fuller joked about seeing former President Carter, a Democrat, and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a conservative Republican, working on the same drywall panel. “They became good friends, and it embarrassed both of them,” he said.

During Carter’s 1999 work project in the Philippines, where more than 14,000 people helped build 283 homes, one woman summed up the Habitat philosophy, Fuller said. She said that what would mean most to her while living in the Habitat

home was the fact that she had seen Carter’s sweat dripping into the mortar that would hold the walls together.

“That’s the secret,” Fuller said. “If we are willing to put our sweat into God’s work, then the miracle occurs.”

—Jackie Campbell

Subcommittee Chairs

Faith and Order

Natural World–Nurturing Community
Claudia Bloem, Switzerland-France

Social Community
Sally Dyck, East Ohio

Alcohol–Drug–Pornography–Media Violence
Jon Gray, Missouri West

Economic Community
Les Longdon, West Michigan

Political and World Community
Phil Wogaman, Baltimore-Washington

Adoption and Parental Responsibilities
Gregory McGarvey, South Indiana

Public Education–Health Care
Arnetta Beverly, Western North Carolina

Baptism and Ordination
Les Fowler, Western North Carolina

Faith and Order Process and Structure;
Roles and Care of Clergy
Ruth Daugherty,
Eastern Pennsylvania

The Ministry and Jesus Christ
Greg Stover, West Ohio

Bill Clinton Letter

1 page

Judicial Council Decisions

DECISION NO. 882

IN RE: Review of the Rewritten Policy on Sexual Misconduct by Church Professionals of the North Alabama Annual Conference.

DIGEST

The Policy on Sexual Misconduct by Church Professionals of the North Alabama Annual Conference is in compliance on the condition that the second paragraph of section four of the policy be modified to state, "The procedures for reporting and responding to complaints shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the *Book of Discipline*." Upon notification of the Judicial Council that the North Alabama Conference has adopted this modification, the policy is in full effect.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The 1999 session of the North Alabama Annual Conference adopted a revised "Policy on Sexual Misconduct by Church Professionals in the North Alabama Conference" in response to Decisions 814 and 839.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Par. 2616 of the *1996 Discipline*.

Analysis and Rationale

The 1999 session of the North Alabama Annual Conference adopted a revised "Policy on Sexual Misconduct by Church Professionals in the North Alabama Conference" in response to Decisions 814 and 839 and the related guidelines set forth in Decision 736.

In the adopted policy the second paragraph of section four states: "The provisions of Paragraph(s) 358, 413, and Paragraphs 2623–2629 of the *Book of Discipline* (1996) shall determine the procedure." The intent of this wording is properly to affirm compliance with the appropriate paragraphs of the *Discipline* related to fair process and the related administrative and judicial procedures on reporting and responding to complaints. The annual conference may not vote for or against a statement which constitutes a vote on whether the *Discipline* ". . . shall determine the procedures."

Although it is proper to cite the specific paragraph numbers of the *Discipline*, to include specific paragraph numbers may require policy revision following each General Conference where the paragraph numbers may be changed.

To avoid confusion on the issues mentioned above the Judicial Council recommends a modification of the second paragraph of section four to state, "The procedures for reporting and responding to complaints shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the *Discipline*." This modification brings the 1999 revised policy of the North Alabama Conference in compliance with the *Discipline* and Judicial Council Decisions 814, 839 and 736.

Decision

The Policy on Sexual Misconduct by Church Professionals of the North Alabama Annual Conference is in compliance on the condition that the second paragraph of section four of the policy be modified to state, "The procedures for reporting and responding to complaints shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the *Book of Discipline*." Upon notification of the Judicial Council that the North Alabama Conference has adopted this modification, the policy is in full effect.

May 1, 2000

DECISION NO. 883

IN RE: Request from the Coordinating Council of the Philippines Central Conference as to Whether Delegates to the Central Conference Must Be Elected by a Simple Majority or May They Be Elected by a Simple Plurality.

DIGEST

The *Discipline* and the Constitution provide that the actual process for the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and the central conference is to be determined by the annual conference as long as the constitutionally mandated criteria for such delegates are met.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

During the regular session of the Central Luzon Philippines Annual Conference April 15–17, 1999, the annual conference members cast many ballots in order to elect delegates to the Philippines Central Conference before voting to change the 2/3 majority requirement for election to first a simple majority and then a simple plurality.

At a meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Philippines Central Conference August 13, 1999, "it was acted upon that the Judicial Council be requested for its declaratory statement regarding" this election procedure.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Par. 2616 of the *1996 Discipline*.

Analysis and Rationale

Article III of the Constitution states that “The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V.” These two Articles describe the qualifications for a clergy and a lay delegate respectively, but neither Article addresses the manner of the voting procedure for this election.

In the matter before the Judicial Council, the Central Luzon Philippine Annual Conference moved to alter its election procedure on two occasions at its annual conference session. On both occasions, appropriate parliamentary procedure was used to make these changes.

There is nothing in the *1996 Discipline* which would cause the invalidation of the voting procedures used by the Central Luzon Philippines Annual Conference.

Decision

The *Discipline* and the Constitution provide that the actual process for the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and the central conference be determined by the annual conference as long as the constitutionally mandated criteria for such delegates are met.

May 1, 2000

DECISION NO. 884

IN RE: Request from the General Conference Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision for a Declaratory Decision on Petitions Relating to Paragraphs 215, 222.1-5, 227.2, 231.1 and .2 of the *1996 Discipline* Which Have Been Declared Unconstitutional.

DIGEST

All petitions to the 2000 General Conference which seek to amend Paragraphs 215, 222.1-5, 227.2, 231.1 and .2 of the *1996 Discipline* which have been declared unconstitutional, are out of order and shall not be considered by the 2000 General Conference. The 2000 General Conference shall not re-adopt any paragraphs of the *1996 Discipline*, which have been declared unconstitutional, under Par. 4 of the Constitution including but not limited to Pars. 215, 222.1-5, 227.2, 231.1 and .2 of the *1996 Discipline*. Par. 4 of the Constitution requires every individual personally to take the appropriate vows to become a member of a local church.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A number of petitions seeking to amend Pars. 215, 222.1-5, 227.2, 231.1 and .2 of the *1996 Discipline* were submitted to the 2000 General Conference. The four questions raised by the petitioner are:

1. Since Decision 811 restored Paragraphs 216.4, 222–224, 232.1 and .2 of the *1992 Book of Discipline*, can the petition submitted, which amend the language in the *1996 Book of Discipline*, be received and acted upon by the legislative committee as they are presented?

2. If so, can legislation as perfected by the legislative committee using 1996 language, be adopted by the General Conference as legislation replacing the 1992 paragraphs without re-adopting the 1996 language?

3. Would the effect of adopting this legislation be to replace the relevant 1992 paragraphs? If not, would the 1996 legislation have to be reintroduced (as amended by the legislative committee) and then re-adopted in its entirety? (sic)

4. To complete the work of these provisions would it require separately stating that it replaces the 1992 language?

Pars. 215, 222.1-5, 227.2, 231.1 and .2 of the *1996 Discipline* were declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Council in Decision 811. Decision 811 restored the provisions of the *1992 Discipline* relating to membership categories, “preparatory membership” and “full membership,” including Pars. 216.4, 222–224, 232.1 and .2 (*1992 Discipline*), which currently remain as the governing law of The United Methodist Church.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Par. 2616 of the *1996 Discipline*.

Analysis and Rationale

The questions raised by the committee relate to the process for amendment of provisions of the *1996 Discipline*, which were declared unconstitutional in Decision 811. The rationale for declaring the 1996 paragraphs unconstitutional is set forth in Decision 811.

Paragraphs of the *Discipline* which have been declared unconstitutional cannot be amended; nor can paragraphs or language which have been declared unconstitutional be re-adopted without constitutional change. Any legislation which is based on constitutional change cannot precede the process of amending the Constitution.

Paragraph 57 states:

Amendments to the Constitution shall be made upon a two-thirds majority of the General Conference present and voting and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, except in the case of the first and second Restrictive Rules, which shall require a three-fourths majority of all the members of the annual conferences present and voting. The vote, after being completed, shall be canvassed by the Council of Bishops, and the amendment voted upon shall become effective upon their announcement of its having received the required majority.

A constitutional amendment adopted by the General Conference requires “. . . a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting. . .” An amendment shall become effective upon the announcement by the Council of Bishops. Only then can legislation on the related amended paragraphs be proposed to the next General Conference.

All petitions to the 2000 General Conference which seek to amend Pars. 215, 222.1-5, 227.2, 231.1 and .2 of the *1996 Discipline* are out of order and shall not be considered by the 2000 General Conference. The submitted petitions address paragraphs of the *1996 Discipline*, which were declared unconstitutional by Decision 811.

Further, any attempt to re-adopt the *1996 Discipline* language of the noted paragraphs would also be out of order for the reason that the relevant paragraphs of the *1996 Discipline* violated Par. 4 of the Constitution and have been declared unconstitutional. (See Decision 811.)

Decision 811 states “while theological changes may have taken place in some members’ understanding of how baptism is related to church membership and ‘the growing ecumenical consensus’ assisted the Study Committee in their thinking, and the inclusion of the provision that only professing members are to be included for statistical purposes, no change which abolishes the vow requirement can be legislated without amending the Constitution.”

Decision 811 further states that such legislation violates Par. 4 of the Constitution, which requires every individual personally to take the appropriate vows to become a member of a local church. All legislation based on the definitions of “baptized members” and “professing members” as set forth in the *1996 Discipline* is unconstitutional.

Decision

All petitions to the 2000 General Conference which seek to amend Pars. 215, 222.1-5, 227.2, 231.1 and .2 of the *1996 Discipline* which have been declared unconstitutional, are out of order and shall not be considered by the 2000 General Conference. The 2000 General Conference shall not re-adopt any paragraphs of the *1996 Discipline*, which have been declared unconstitutional, under Par. 4 of the Constitution including but not limited to Pars. 215, 222.1-5, 227.2, 231.1 and .2 of the *1996 Discipline*. Par. 4 of the Constitution requires every individual personally to take the appropriate vows to become a member of a local church.

May 3, 2000

Author Signings at the Cokesbury Store Friday, May 5

11 a.m to noon:

Bishop James K. Mathews, *A Global Odyssey*

Noon to 1 p.m.:

Tom Frank, *Soul of the Congregation*

Marjorie Kimbrough, *Stories Between the Testaments*

Keith Beasley-Topliffe, *The Upper Room Spiritual Classics*

Announcements

- The General Council on Ministries is hosting a reception for David Lundquist, general secretary, in recognition of his planned fall 2000 retirement. All are welcome to greet Dave and Georgia, his wife, during this open house Sunday from 3-5 p.m. in the Dolder Grand Room at the Sheraton Cleveland City Centre Hotel.
- The World Methodist Council's General Conference luncheon is 12:30 p.m. Friday at the Holiday Inn Select, 1111 Lakeside Ave.
- MARCHA's banquet celebrating the ministry of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry and the initiative Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean is 6 p.m. Saturday at the Sheraton Cleveland City Centre Hotel. A donation of \$30 is suggested. Tickets are available by calling (216) 696-9200, voice mail, or by contacting Oscar Garza in sections 54-56 in the public hall. The MARCHA office is in Room 615 of the Marriott Hotel.
- **COMPUTER VIRUS ALERT** Do not open e-mail messages labeled "I love you" or "love letter." These messages are computer viruses that are rapidly spreading across the Internet and computer networks. The virus will terminate your access to the Internet. It also sends itself to every address in e-mail address books. Contact your anti-virus software manufacturer for help with this problem.
- The New Jersey Area luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, in the Erie Room of the Marriott Hotel at Key Center. Delegates and visitors from the Northern and Southern New Jersey conferences are invited to attend. Reservations for the \$20-per-person luncheon must be made by noon Monday. Contact Dale Whilden at seat B-6-2 by phone at (216)696-9200, ext. 2221, for more information.
- The Arkansas Area luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m., Monday, in the Hassler Room at the Sheraton. Arkansas delegates and friends are invited to attend. Reservations for the \$20-per-person luncheon must be made by 2 p.m. Friday. Contact Karen Miller at seat B-15-7 or Sam Hocutt at 771-7600 for more information.
- The North Carolina Conference delegation dinner with Bishop Marion and Linda Edwards will be held at 5:30 p.m., Monday, in The Grille, lower level of the Sheraton Cleveland City Centre Hotel. The cost is \$13 per person. Reservations are due by noon Monday. Contact delegation members Allen Norris or Becky Balentine at the Sheraton, 771-7600.
- The Pacific Northwest Conference delegates and visitors are invited to attend a dinner gathering at 6 p.m. Monday at Greek Isles, 500 W. St. Clair Ave. The cost is \$20. Reservations are due Sunday at noon. Contact Jenni Yeoh at seat B-11-9.
- A peaceful demonstration to protest the proposed resumption of the U.S. Navy's live-fire training exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico, is slated for 4:30 p.m. today at the U.S. Federal Courthouse, Superior Avenue at Public Square, Cleveland. For more information, call (216)631-2051, 431-5275, or 736-3280.
- Don't miss the dynamic final presentation of "A World View of United Methodism Today—An Episcopal Spouse Perspective," today from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the Marriott Hotel, Salon A. Marta Bolleter, Gerlinde Minor, Martha Borgen and Annegret Klaiber will take a closer look at United Methodism in Europe.
- Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary's breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, at the Sheraton Hotel.
- The Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy will meet tomorrow night, May 5th, at 10 p.m. in R205A. The meeting is for organizational purposes and will be short.

Where in the Convention Center is ... Brad Motta?

In a small area outside the auditorium, cookies in pizza boxes are unloaded so they can be delivered throughout the convention center. The "cookie people" have worked hard for several months. Representative of the many people who have volunteered for this project are: Joan Wood (chair of hospitality), Vicki Kelley, Lee Peters, Ken Price, Alyce Ripple, Barb Dillon, Pat Hoover, Dave Henke, MaryKay McCallum, Jerry McCallum, Betty James, Emerson Milner, David Hartong, Janice Weston, Johanna Smith, and Jim Keogh.

Photo by Dewayne & Gennie Lowther

Who Wants to be a Delegate?

Imagine a game show where prospective General Conference delegates must answer a series of questions. Here are some sample questions and answers:

Who of the following persons is a United Methodist bishop?

- a. Alfred Johnson
- b. Lyndon Baines Johnson
- c. Johnson & Johnson
- d. Johnson Wax

Which of the following will you find in your *DCA* Delegates' Handbook?

- a. an Ohio lottery ticket
- b. a coupon for a free alcoholic beverage at your hotel
- c. the smoking policy of the Cleveland Convention Center
- d. the hotel room numbers of all the bishops

Which of the following statements can you expect to hear on the conference floor?

- a. Let's party!
- b. Let's adjourn early; everyone seems to agree on everything!
- c. I move that we send flowers to each of the *DCA* staff.
- d. I move that we suspend the rules to extend the length of this session.

Which of the following T-shirts should you pack for General Conference?

- a. "My parents went to General Conference and all they bought me was this lousy T-shirt."
- b. "So many beers, so little time"
- c. "Absolut Conference"
- d. "Whom Shall I Send? The Advance for Christ and His Church"

-Brad Motta

s

On Saturday May 6, MARCHA, the national Hispanic caucus, will sponsor a banquet at the Sheraton Hotel. The banquet celebrates MARCHA's quadrennial achievements and the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry. The caucus, organized in 1971, has been the voice for justice on behalf of the Hispanic population. MARCHA's goal is to respond to the needs of church and unchurched persons. The banquet will celebrate the success of the National Plan through which more than 200 Hispanic ministries have been created, doubling the number of conference programs that provide this type of outreach. Projections indicate in 50 years, Hispanics will be the largest population of persons of color. MARCHA looks forward to continued ministry in the years ahead.

Planning the banquet are left to right (back row): Eduardo Bouson, Clara Ivy Soto, Magely Bordon, Victor Perez Silvestry, Irving Cotto, Oscar Garza, Noemi Perez, Jose' Orlando Rivera and (front row): Aida Fernandez, Awilda Noya, Mary Silva, Ester. Photo by Dewayne & Ginnie Lowthar.

General Conference Prayer List

You are invited to bring prayer requests to any Cokesbury checkout counter or bring to Brad Motta in the DCA office. The requests will be printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate*. Please pray for the following:

- Mary Beth Anderson – Elected delegate from Illinois Great Rivers Conference who had to remain home for chemotherapy
- Marty and Kristi – Marriage
- Joanne Kirkland – Oklahoma reserve delegate injured in a serious car accident just before she was to leave for General Conference
- The people of Vieques, Puerto Rico
- The family and friends of Preston Price's father, who died May 4.

Community of Faith Must Lead, SCLC Founder Says

An evening of folk-singing, clapping, and soul-stirring revival preaching inspired a crowd of 400 social activists to several standing ovations during the General Board of Church and Society banquet Wednesday evening, May 3.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, Southern Christian Leadership Conference founder and third president (1977-97), told attendees “this nation is . . . redefining itself” and “the community of faith must lead in redefining the nation.”

“Nobody expects the General Conference to be a defining moment, but who knows?” Lowery said. “We could ignite creative energy and set it loose in society!”

Taking his texts from Matthew 25:31-46 and 1 Corinthians 12, he identified major issues in the redefinition and urged people of faith to:

- get out of the valley of racial foolishness and stop “majoring in the minors of complexion”;
- work for economic justice, reducing the income disparity between “those who have less than they always need and those who have more than they will ever need”;
- deal with issues of sexuality: “How can you challenge God’s power to use anyone he calls?”;
- reform the criminal justice system, which Lowery called “the system least impacted by social change because the 1999 system is the same as the 1909 system.”

“Faith and works go together [because one] can’t think of the Holy Spirit without a manifestation of the common good,” he continued.

Jim and Jean Strathdee, folk singers from Carmichael, Calif., led singing, and GBCS General Secretary Thom White Wolf Fassett read a prepared statement. He said unlike Elian González, his father, and his Florida relatives—all drawn into the matter by circumstance—the GBCS Executive Committee entered by choice.

“This was not about communism and democracy,” Fassett said. “It was about one father and one son.”

— Tom Slack

Top Ten Items Now Being Developed by Cokesbury

10. A “Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Circuit-Rider’s-Horse” game

9. A movable structure book that allows people to create their own general church structure
8. Mood stoles for clergy – they change color depending on the wearer’s mood
7. A “Dress-the-Delegates Colorforms” kit
6. A WWJD beer-bottle opener
5. A musical keepsake box from General Conference that plays “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen”
4. A hymnal with perforated pages so people can carefully remove the hymns they do not like.
3. A red-letter edition of the DCA with the words Jesus would have spoken highlighted in red
2. Black velvet paintings of all the bishops
1. A scratch-and-sniff *Book of Discipline*

—Brad Motta

All in the Family

Discussion of politics and religion may be discouraged at some family dinner tables, but these delegates to General Conference actually welcome it!

The Rev. Philip R. Granger and Sue Granger, North Indiana Conference, are spouses, as are Christine Dean Keels and the Rev. Bernard “Skip” Keels, Baltimore-Washington Conference.

The Rev. Robert “Bob” and Elizabeth “Betty” Sweet, New England Conference, have attended previous General Conferences. Betty has been a delegate at every General Conference since 1980, leading her delegation three times (twice as a Southern New Jersey Conference delegate). Bob was first elected in 1984 and has been a delegate or alternate ever since. He is also a nominee to the Judicial Council, having served as an alternate the past two quadrenniums.

The Rev. Roger A. Hopson, Memphis Conference, is joined by his wife, Cynthia Bond Hopson, as a delegate this year.

Not to be outdone by his son Rick, who was elected to General Conference in 1996 as well as 2000, Roger A. Kindschi is a delegate this year from the Wisconsin Conference.

Jerry Ruth Williams, Missouri East Conference, is the first cousin of Bishop Alfred L. Norris.

—Tom Burger

Judicial Council Decision Will Delay Membership Change

The Judicial Council ruled May 4 that General Conference cannot act upon petitions seeking to amend or re-adopt any paragraphs of the *1996 Discipline* which have been declared unconstitutional.

In 1997, the Judicial Council nullified 1996 legislation that would have implemented the Baptism Study Report by making all baptized persons (including infants) members of The United Methodist Church. They would become “professing members” and be counted for membership statistics upon confirmation. The Judicial Council reasoned that since the Constitution requires individuals themselves to take appropriate vows to become church members, and since infants can’t take such vows, the 1996 General Conference action was unconstitutional. The Judicial Council action did not nullify the baptism paper itself.

The General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) wanted General Conference to begin the process that would allow persons to become baptized members at baptism and professing

members upon taking vows declaring their Christian faith. That action called for a re-adoption of sections ruled unconstitutional.

The ruling put GBOD in an awkward situation in which they could not re-adopt 1996 legislation without changing the Constitution. The Constitution cannot be amended until it is passed by General Conference and ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of all annual conference members, meeting after General Conference. In effect, the council ruling delayed efforts to change membership categories until the 2004 General Conference.

In an earlier session, the council gave conditional approval to North Alabama Conference’s sexual misconduct policy for church professionals. The nine-member group also approved a decision by the Central Luzon Conference, Philippines, to elect General Conference delegates by plurality vote.

– Rich Peck

Multicultural Communion Service

A communion service will be held at 12:30 p.m. on the northwest corner of the mall outside the convention center on the following dates.

Dates and Celebrants

- May 5 The Rev. Minerva G. Carcano
Rio Grande Conference
- May 8 Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader
Wisconsin Area
- May 9 Bishop Judith Craig
Ohio West Area
- May 10 Bishop Susan M. Morrison
Albany Area
- May 11 Bishop C. Joseph Sprague
Chicago Area
Bishop A. Frederick Mutti
Kansas Area
- May 12 The Rev. Bob Hoshibata, the Rev. Sharon Moe
Pacific Northwest Conference

G-ETS Students Find Learning Lab at General Conference

Sixteen students, three auditors, and two faculty members from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (G-ETS), Evanston, Ill., are engaged in a learning laboratory commonly known as General Conference. Doris Rudy and Dr. Dick Tholin meet with the students daily either over lunch with guest speakers or at 5 p.m. to debrief the day’s experiences. The students met on campus for three sessions using the *Advance DCA* as their text. They held their first on-site session Monday at Cleveland State University, where most of them are staying. Each student is assigned to a legislative committee. One seminarian, Jana M. Bennett, is a delegate from Rocky Mountain Conference and a subcommittee chair. The students get a comprehensive overview of the church’s polity, history, and worship. They are required to keep a journal and give reports when they return to campus. The students will receive one full unit of academic credit for this elective course.

G-ETS was the first seminary to offer a General Conference seminar. Dr. Al Lindgren, who once served on the Judicial Council, inaugurated the program in 1968.

–Patty Meyers

Reports of Legislative Committees

Church and Society—(5/4/00 5:30 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- To oppose food and medicine blockades;
- Requiring recycling and use of recycled products;
- Supporting higher quality of life for all of God's creation;
- Supporting the UMC land church government relations;
- Supporting health for all for 2000;
- On school busing;
- Concerning the KKK and other hate groups;
- On the closing of military installations;
- Concerning justice for the Rev. Alex Award;
- Relating to domestic surveillance;
- On police firearms policy;
- On African American farmers;
- On the right to organize and bargain collectively;
- Regarding investment ethics;
- On the rights of farm workers in the U.S.;
- On Project Equality;
- On the rights of workers;

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Forbidding the GBCS from taking any action;
- Stating the UMC position on guns as inappropriate.

—*Gretchen Hakola and Paul Widicus*

Conferences—(5/4/00 4 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Using “professing” to clarify membership in the calculation of numbers for General Conference delegates;
- Adding the word “professing” to clarify other membership issues;
- Replacing “ordained minister” with “clergy member” to allow all to petition General Conference;

- Concerning the committee on disability concerns, which shall be an advocate for persons with disabilities;

The committee recommend concurrence with amendments:

- On meetings scheduled . . . people with disabilities, even if this means scheduling meetings outside church, related facilities.

—*Dean Snyder and Wally Athey*

Discipleship—(5/4/00 3:45 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Changing the name of NYMO (National Youth Ministry Organization) to United Methodist Youth Organization;
- Changing the purpose, mission and structure and organization of NYMO as contained in paragraphs 1202, 1204, 1205, 1207 and 1210;
- Changing the election processes for membership to NYMO Steering Committee to be more inclusive of racial, ethnic and minority youth for paragraph 1207.
- Requesting the General Conference to work with the World Council of Churches toward establishing a unified date for Easter;
- Supporting Chrysalis, the Walk to Emmaus, Concern for the Abuse of Older Adults and Inclusive Language and Ministry to people of all ages;
- Requesting General Conference to organize a comprehensive and interpretative study on the theology and practice of Holy Communion in the United Methodist Church to be reported to the 2004 General Conference.

The committee did not consider any legislation addressing baptism and its related concerns because it is awaiting an appeal on a Judicial Council ruling.

—*Frank Estrada and Linda Green*

Faith and Order—(5/4/00 5:50 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Adding a new Paragraph 66S to the Social Principles that calls for all persons with HIV and AIDS to be treated with dignity and respect; encourages church to minister with victims and families regardless of how the disease was contracted; urges church to be actively involved in prevention of spread of AIDS;
- Urging the church to work with other civic groups to make the Internet safe, especially for children;
- Adding subparagraph after 66N of the Social Principles supporting sustainable agriculture and promote a livelihood for people who work the land;
- Amending 66D to change its title to “Rights of Young People”;
- Adding language to Paragraph 66A that affirms equal access to financial opportunities for members of racial ethnic groups;
- Adding “emotional abuse” to list in Paragraph 66C of things from which children need protection;
- Affirming that people with disabilities have a rightful place in society;
- Adding to Paragraph 66A a recognition that white people around the world “are unfairly granted privileges and benefits that are denied to persons of color.”

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- On equal rights regardless of social or economic class;
- Regarding children’s environmental protection;
- Requiring UM seminaries to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act by 2011 with no exceptions;
- Deleting Paragraph 66 from Social Principles.

–Erik Alsgaard and Ann Whiting

Financial Administration—(5/4/00)

- The committee recommended nonconcurrence:
- Creating a new fund to supplement the pensions of lower paid clergy;
- To a plan to base minimum clergy pension benefits on the average clergy compensation rate;
- To a plan to add a new subparagraph to Paragraph 806.13 that would cut funding to any agency, commission, board, committee, council or task force

that takes a stand on abortion and make the General Board on Finance and Administration responsible for enforcing the amendment;

- Deleting the portion of Paragraph 806.2 that gives GCFA the power to enforce a prohibition against funding going to boards, councils, agencies, committees, commissions or groups that promote the acceptance of homosexuality;
- Requiring conference directors of communications to be non-voting members of conference council on finance and administration;
- Including more inclusive language for the church’s discrimination policy;
- Deleting all of Paragraph 811.5;
- Allowing a charge or local church to increase or decrease apportionments.

The committee referred petitions:

- Changing provisions of supplement one of the MPP to the General Board Pension and Health Benefits;
- Creating a new benefits trust to GPHB.

–Davie Burgdorf and Tom Burger

General/Judicial Administration—(5/4/00)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Printing the Judicial Council docket and decisions in *Newscope* and the denomination’s official Web site, umc.org, as well as in *Interpreter*.

–Garlinda Burton and Cathy Farmer

Global Ministries—(5/4/00)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Extending provisions for the relationship with the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico;
- Supporting the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians;
- Calling for peace, justice and the reunification of Korea;
- Banning the use of child soldiers;
- Supporting the rights of farm workers in the United States;
- Calling for the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq;
- Upholding human rights for religious minorities in India.

– Linda Bloom and Cheryl Edwards

Higher Education and Ministry—(5/4/00 5 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Authorizing the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) to raise \$300 million in endowment funds for the 11 historically Black colleges and universities related to The United Methodist Church;
- Challenging local churches to study the revised edition of *Education: The Gift of Hope*;
- Including persons with disabilities in the Course of Study;
- Affirming the longstanding and faithful ministry of higher education in United Methodist-related women's colleges and the study of their contributions and report to the church;
- Defining the nature of commissioning and of probationary service of commissioned ministers;
- Defining a pastor as an ordained elder, probationary deacon, or licensed person;
- Providing for incapacity leave resulting from health matters and disabling conditions with the request that the terms "incapacity" and "disabling" be defined;
- Adding "failure of persons in extension ministries to report for two consecutive years" may result in honorable location;
- Readmitting clergy to probationary membership as long as they have served three years of probation prior to ordination;
- Amending Petitions 30741 and 30743 by removing the words "especially members of Churches of Christ Uniting" from the last sentence;
- Requiring a willingness of clergy to relate themselves to all regardless of ethnicity, gender, orientation, age, and economic condition.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Requiring deacons and elders to commit to fidelity in "all covenant relationships";
- Requiring both elders and deacons to sign a statement affirming that homosexuality is not God's perfect will;
- Asking every United Methodist official if they will uphold all of the Scriptures of the Bible;
- Removing the requirement of clergy to secure permission to engage an evangelist.

–Duane Ewers and Terri Hiers

Independent Commissions—(5/4/00 5 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Supporting funding for the "Igniting Ministry" campaign;
- Implementing the "Igniting Ministry" campaign with an amendment calling for all symbols used in the camping to be reflective of the diversity of The United Methodist Church;
- Revising language concerning the election of jurisdictional members of the General Commission on United Methodist Men;
- Adopting new language for the purpose, program and resource delivery systems of the General Commission on United Methodist Men;
- Establishing the General Commission on United Methodist Men beyond temporary status in funding legislation;
- Adding the district lay leader and the district superintendent to the district committee on United Methodist Men;
- Revising the language of the Conference constitution for United Methodist Men to add the Conference lay leader to the Conference committee and to clarify that all men in local churches within the bounds of the Conference and all clergy are members;
- Making United Brethren founding sites in Maryland an official heritage landmark of The United Methodist Church;
- Nominating buildings, locations and structures for classification as historic or heritage landmarks;
- Calling the general church, annual conferences, districts, local churches and individuals to increase hate crimes in church and society;
- Broadening the definition of racial harassment;
- Replacing language in *The Book of Resolutions* concerning sexual ethics within ministerial relationships within The United Methodist Church and to expand the definition of those in ministerial relationships;
- Adopting "Goals and Recommendations for Full Participation of All Women" to replace current language in *The Book of Resolutions* concerning "Goals and Recommendations" and "Equal Rights of Women";
- Working toward unity and greater understanding within The United Methodist Church;

- Moving the reference to the liaison role of the Council of Bishops to a more appropriate place in *The Book of Discipline*;
- Continuing membership in the World Council of Churches.

The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:

- Encouraging that all videos produced by general church agencies, committees or authorized task forces include closed captioning;
- Including an independent monitoring unit, such as a commission or committee on religion and race, at every level of the United Methodist Church to eliminate racism.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Increasing the membership of the General Council on United Methodist Men to 29 (non-concurrence in support of another petition calling for a greater increase in membership);
- Having The United Methodist Church be a member of and provide financial support for the World Council of Churches only if classical Christianity is upheld.

– *Andy Ellis and Kathy Noble*

Local Church—(5/4/00)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Reordering the explanation of the process of making disciples;
- Affirming support of persons regardless of race, ethnic origin or disability for all ministries;
- Educating the church community on the value of diversity in the selection of clergy and lay staff;

- Strengthening the requirements for the responsible handling and reporting of offerings;
- Encouraging the development of an accessibility plan which includes chancel areas in each church which plans remodeling;
- Requiring the pastor must be elected to be a voting member of the board of trustees;
- Encouraging conferences to provide salary increments and training support for pastors who serve continuously in small membership churches or town and country settings;
- Removing the requirement to hold an annual confirmation class.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Changing the minimum time from two years to one year for the removal of a name from the membership roll;
- Excluding all fornicators, adulterers and homosexuals from the UMC;
- Requiring the notification of non-appointed employees of a meeting at which their employment is to be discussed;
- Requiring the written consent of the pastor, bishop and three-quarters of the cabinet in order to mortgage church property;
- Allowing local churches to move to a different denomination;
- Allowing for affiliate or associate membership when no significant distance is involved.

The committee agreed not to handle the petitions relating to disciplinary paragraphs that had been ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council.

– *Tom Slack and Charlene Bailey*

Correction

DCA, p. 1783, column 3. BISHOP SHARON CHRISTOPHER BROWN, should be BISHOP SHARON BROWN CHRISTOPHER.

Increased Number of Interpreters Solves Dilemma

A group of Central Conference delegates from Africa responded with righteous indignation at the first meeting of the Legislative Committee on Church and Society May 3. They discovered they had been forced to choose between serving in their assigned committee of choice without an interpreter or to have interpreter services in a committee in which they had neither voice nor vote. After a flurry of activity it was announced Thursday evening that more than 70 interpreters (double those previously available) now covered every legislative committee.

These delegates traveled thousands of miles to attend General Conference. They came ready to participate in legislative committees and general plenary sessions only to be frustrated by a lack of interpreters. Some wanted to speak on resolutions on human sexuality and abortion, but those resolutions had been transferred to Faith and Order, a committee with no French or Swahili interpreter.

They asked for the right to speak and vote in the legislative committee; however, General Conference rules denied them that right. After several attempts to resolve the issue, Church and Society responded Wednesday evening by voting to suspend all actions of its legislative committee until the issue was resolved.

The Rev. Terri Rae Chattin, legislative committee chairs and Baltimore-Washington delegate, said, "Church and Society sees this as a justice issue. It sends a message to the General Conference about full and equal participation. If we are a truly global church, all delegates should have a vote. This is an issue the whole General Conference must address."

Randy Nugent, general secretary, General Board of Global Ministries, explained that at the request of the General Commission on General Conference, the General Board of Global Ministries provides interpretation services for General Conference. The budget, languages and number of interpreters is decided in advance by the General Commission on General Conference.

An amendment to Chattin's motion said the General Conference would "immediately" act to remedy this situation. The motion, as amended, was adopted by the General Conference on a vote of 91.6 percent.

The cost to General Conference for these last-minute changes is estimated at \$95,000, said the General Council on Finance and Administration Thursday evening. All persons and groups involved said they are committed to full participation of all elected delegates and will strive to provide enough interpreters for this and future General Conferences.

—Paul Widicus and Gretchen Hakola

Research Explores Impact of Worship, Values that Influence Decision-making

United Methodism's General Conference has been described as "part class reunion, part political convention, part county fair, and part revival meeting."

Two General Council on Ministries (GCOM) research projects currently under way will focus additionally on the impact of worship on the deliberations of General Conference and the values that influence the decision-making process.

Fifty-four alternate delegates are recording their thoughts and observations on all worship services, according to Maxine Clarke Beach, GCOM associate general secretary. "They will look at the images in worship as well as the style and variety of worship during the Cleveland conference," she said.

"From our study, we hope to understand the impact that the worship services have on a delegate's thinking on issues," said research team leader Linda Clark of the Boston University School of Theology. On Sunday, May 7, focus groups will discuss their perceptions of worship through the first week. The researchers will follow up with the alternate delegates by telephone at the end of General Conference. Their observations will be recorded in a 70-page journal.

Regarding the research on the values that guide committee deliberations, Craig Carroll, the primary researcher, says they are trying to learn: "To what do delegates make appeals when they are deliberating—is it history, tradition, the Bible, contemporary culture?" Researchers will seek to discover what makes up the values and beliefs of the delegates when they make decisions on behalf of and for The United Methodist Church.

Assisting Carroll, a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas in Austin, are four Ph.D. candidates: David Brandon, Rebecca Heino, Patricia Kennedy and Joy K. Turnheim. Researchers assisting Clark are Marianne Niesen, Jean Miller-Schmidt, Craig This and Margaret Wiborg.

The two research projects are sponsored by the Inter-Agency Research Task Force established and funded by the GCOM Office of Research.

—Bill Quick

Sunday Worship Opportunities

You are invited to worship at any of the area churches this Sunday, May 7.

Many will have guest preachers in their pulpits.

Special thanks to the Rev. David Wilcox of Hudson United Methodist Church for providing this information.

- Dr. Phillip Wogamon, Westlake UMC, 27650 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, Ohio (440) 871-3088
- Bishop Peter D. Weaver, Pearl Road UMC, 4200 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio (216) 661-5642
- Bishop Michael J. Coyner, Canal Fulton UMC, 363 W. Cherry St., Canal Fulton, Ohio (330) 854-3573
- Bishop R. Sheldon Duecker, Calvary UMC, 16305 Hilliard Road, Lakewood, Ohio (216) 221-4324
- Bishop Richard B. Wilke, Epworth-Euclid UMC, 1919 E. 107th St., Cleveland, Ohio (216) 421-1200
- Bishop William B. Oden, Union Avenue UMC, 1843 S. Union Ave., Alliance, Ohio (330) 823-9270
- The Rev. Jane Allen Middleton, Church of the Saviour, 120 Cleveland Ave., Canton, Ohio (330) 455-1053
- Bishop Ruediger R. Minor, Thoburn UMC, 101 N. Market St., St. Clairsville, Ohio (740) 695-0770
- Bishop John L. Hopkins, Park UMC, 31 Park St., Madison, Ohio (440) 428-1687
- Bishop Paul L. A. Granadosin, Centenary UMC, 40 E. Market St., East Palestine, Ohio (330) 426-2629
- The Rev. D. Max Whitfield, Christ UMC, 3625 W. 138th St., Cleveland, Ohio (216) 671-2600
- Dan Henry, Old Stone UMC, 553 S. Main St., Amherst, Ohio (440) 988-4203
- The Rev. Chester R. Jones, Wedgewood UMC, 2350 Wedgewood Drive, Akron, Ohio (330) 733-8707
- Andrew C. Pearson, Pleasant Grove UMC, 73545 Pleasant Grove Dillonvale, Ohio (740) 546-4466
- The Rev. Bruce D. Tuttle, Bay UMC, 29931 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio (440) 871-2082
- The Rev. David A. Tinoco, East Sparta UMC, 2041 Pine St. S.E., East Sparta, Ohio (330) 866-3341
- Dr. June P. Goldman, Strongsville UMC, 13354 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio (440) 238-6135
- Dr. Richard Jones, Hannibal-Clarington Parish, SR 7, Sardis, Ohio (740) 483-1749
- The Rev. Philip R. Granger, Grace UMC, 13406 W. Lake Road, Vermilion, Ohio (440) 967-5206
- Tyson Ferguson, Cove UMC, 2501 Lake Ave., Lakewood, Ohio (216) 521-7424
- The Rev. Randall F. Flanagan, First UMC, 263 E. Mill St., Akron, Ohio (330) 376-8143
- Bishop Mack B. Stokes, Pleasant Hills UMC, 13200 E. Bagley Road, Milledgeburg Heights, Ohio (440) 845-1244
- The Rev. Ida E. Easley, Trinity UMC, 755 Howe Ave., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (330) 929-7602
- Dr. Bernard Keels, Chardon UMC, 515 North St., Chardon, Ohio (440) 285-5417
- Dr. Jaime Potter-Miller, Trinity UMC, 214 E. Jefferson St., Sandusky, Ohio (419) 625-8669
- The Rev. Beverly L. Wilkes, Grace UMC, 385 E. William St., Delaware, Ohio (740) 363-2092
- The Rev. Frank Alegria, New London UMC, 58 E. Main St., New London, Ohio (419) 929-4631
- Jean E. Edmister, Mahoning Avenue UMC, 2214 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown, Ohio (330) 799-5318
- The Rev. Robert K. Freeman, First UMC, 283 Buffalo St., Conneaut, Ohio (440) 593-2525
- The Rev. Aaron Gray, Moore Memorial UMC, 185 Third St. N.W., Barberton, Ohio (330) 745-4635
- The Rev. Timothy Riss, Simpson UMC, 4900 Middlebranch N.E., Canton, Ohio (330) 492-1632
- The Rev. Thomas H. Griffith, South Euclid-Hillcrest UMC, 1534 S. Green Road, South Euclid, Ohio (216) 381-2953

Author Book Signings at the Cokesbury Exhibit

Friday, May 5

11 a.m. to noon

Bishop James K. Mathews, *A Global Odyssey*

Noon to 1 p.m.

Tom Frank, *Soul of the Congregation*

Marjorie Kimbrough, *Stories Between the Testaments*

Keith Beasley-Topliffe, *The Upper Room Spiritual Classics*

