

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

---

Cleveland, Ohio

Monday, May 8, 2000

Vol. 4, No. 6

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## Working Beyond the Plenaries

On Saturday, the work of the 2000 General Conference moved from the orderly tables of the auditorium to a number of other venues in and around the convention center. With 1967 pieces of legislation based on 14,000 petitions in front of them, delegates took a break from their work by participating in a number of special events.

Before the noon hour, bishops, delegates and visitors gathered together to unload 45,000 pounds of potatoes as a response to the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty.

Delegates and visitors gathered at the food court of the convention center to hear the music and voices of the massed youth choir, which included youth from Texas, Georgia, South Carolina and Ohio.

The Reconciling Congregations Program sponsored a Communion service and rally at a park near the convention center. Some 400 persons gathered to hear several speakers including Bishop Melvin Talbert of the San Francisco area, who was honored by the organization.

The warm weather and bright sun brought many people outside to enjoy the fresh air before they returned to the work of

legislative committees. As they returned to the convention center they were greeted with a flurry of flyers and newsletters.

The Faith and Order Legislative Committee had a predictably long line of people waiting to observe its work. After voting delegates were seated, the rest of the chairs in the room were filled with visitors, monitors, observers, and reporters. An additional room down the hall with a live video feed allowed everyone access to the proceedings.

Bob Hayes, chair of the committee, opened the first session with the reading of Acts 2, the story of Pentecost, in Swahili, Portuguese and English. He stressed his belief that "what we need most is the power of the Holy Spirit... that we might be of one accord." He engaged the gathering as he told them that "we are very good about telling other people our story, but we are not always eager to hear other peoples' stories." He then asked people to turn to someone they did not know and tell them "what brought you here." For 10 minutes the room was filled with stories of personal faith and struggle.

The petitions sent to Faith and Order were divided into two categories: homosexuality and abortion. The category of homosexuality was divided into four sub-categories. Hayes suggested that they discuss the issues of each category in a general way before moving to specific legislation. After they had discussed them and felt ready to move on, they would then proceed to a parliamentary process to deal with the actual petitions. Late Saturday evening the committee abandoned that process and went directly to the petitions. Faith and Order was one of three legislative committees that met on Sunday to do their work.

A variety of banquets and celebrations held Saturday and Sunday gave people the opportunity to meet with old friends and meet new ones.

On Saturday and Sunday  
Aldersgate Renewal Ministries

*The long line of people for Faith and Order Legislative Committee required a second room to accommodate everyone. —UMNS Photo by Mike DeBose*

hosted two Praise Services at Faith United Methodist Church in Twinsburg Ohio.

On Sunday, 32 United Methodist churches in the Cleveland area had General Conference delegates or bishops preaching. Other services included one sponsored by the Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the Little Theater, and a Reconciling Church Program service at First UMC Cleveland.

Delegates returned to the convention center this morning for a week filled with worship, discussion, and legislative action that will define the churches work for the next four years.

—Brad Motta

### Author Signings at the Cokesbury Store

#### Monday - May 8

11:00 a.m. to noon

**Marilyn Brown Oden**, *Through the East Window*  
**Gus Nelson**, *Service Is the Point*

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Patricia Brown**, *Heart to Heart / From the Heart*  
**Lydia Istomina**, *Bringing Hidden Things to Light*  
**Sally Geis**, *The Befuddled Stork*  
**H. Eddie Fox**, *Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So*

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Mary Ebinger**, *Do-It-Yourself Marriage Enrichment*  
**Warren Ebinger**, *Do-It-Yourself Marriage Enrichment*  
**J. Ellsworth Kalas**, *New Testament Stories*  
from the Back Side

#### Wednesday - May 10

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Rodney Wilmoth**, *How United Methodists*  
Share Their Faith  
**Donald Messer**, *The Befuddled Stork*  
**Marie White Webb**, *The Power of the Dream*  
**ST Kimbrough, Jr.**, *Methodism in Russia*  
and the Baltic States

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Robert Martin Walker**, *Encounters with the Living God*  
**James W. Moore**, *Some Folks Feel the Rain*

### Agenda for Monday, May 8

- 8:00 a.m. Choral Music
- 8:15 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Committee on Calendar and Agenda Report
- \*9:10 a.m. Communities of Shalom Report
- 9:22 a.m. Begin Judicial Council elections and election of Conference Secretary
- 9:32 a.m. Calendar Items
- \*11:25 a.m. General Council of Ministries Report 3: Shared Mission Focus on Young People Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- 12:05 p.m. Conference Announcements and Committee on Presiding Officers
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Recess
- 2:30 p.m. Legislative Committees
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner Recess
- 7:20 p.m. Gathering Music
- \*7:30 p.m. National Plan for Hispanic Ministries
- 8:00 p.m. Calendar Items
- \**Order of the Day*

## Delegates Act on 20 Petitions

More than 20 petitions were handled in Saturday morning's plenary session. Delegates concurred with most legislative committee recommendations. Delegates did table one item relating to baptism.

Delegates defeated a proposal to increase the number of clergy needed to form a provisional conference. The assembly agreed that a proposal calling for the need for at least 20 clergy to compose a provisional conference would make life difficult for Central Conference churches with few clergy.

Delegates voted down a petition limiting an active U.S. bishop to a single eight-year term. After the one term, bishops would have been eligible for appointment as an itinerate minister, unless the bishop retired. Presently, bishops are elected for life and must retire sometime between 65 and 70 years of age.

Conditions in other parts of the world also attracted delegate's attention Saturday.

By a substantial margin, the conference called for the lifting of the 10-year-old United Nations economic sanctions against Iraq. The Clinton administration is urged to support such an action "and assist in restoring Iraq to its previous status as a respected and prosperous member of the international community."

Violence in other sections of the world were reported and prayers for peace were offered.

Delegates opened Saturday's business agenda with a prayer in which they remembered the tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., and "thousands of other places in the world where our children are being slaughtered."

The General Council on Ministries related stories of the many and varied mission activities of the church in their report. Programs cited ranged from a church in Columbus, Ohio, serving breakfast between 1 and 3 a.m. to Ohio State University students, to the removal of land mines in Mozambique.

Delegates also heard an extensive report on the growth of ministry among Koreans living in the United States. The denomination has 500 Korean-American pastors and 360 Korean-American congregations. Ministry to Korean immigrants began in 1903 in Hawaii.

A task force is recommending a six-part program to strengthen the ministries. The proposal carries a price tag of about \$3.2 million.

Native Americans among the 992 delegates have raised objection to the "Chief Wahoo" logo of the Cleveland Indians baseball team. The petition says the logo demeans American Indians.

The Native Americans attending General Conference will join with a local group of Native Americans in a protest directed at the baseball club on May 11, the team's next home game.

In the morning worship service, Bishop Charles W. Jordan, Des Moines, Iowa, said biblical justice for the poor does not just offer equity before the law but demands new opportunity. The bishop said there are 35 million people living in poverty in the United States, and the gap between rich and poor is growing.

—Robert Lear

## Men's and Women's

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## Principles of CPT Affirmed, GCOM Retained

The report that provoked church-wide discussion in the months prior to General Conference was received “with appreciation,” and most of its principles affirmed, but its suggestion to create a Covenant Council in place of the General Council on Ministries was rejected Saturday night by the legislative committee on General/Judicial Administration. By a vote of 71-2-1, the committee amended the original CPT report by deleting the entire text and replacing it with a new charge to the General Council on Ministries for the new quadrennium.

The committee expressed their appreciation for the five ‘transformational directions’ contained in the CPT report:

- Centering on Christian formation
- Calling forth covenant leadership
- Empowering the connection for leadership
- Strengthening our global connection and ecumenical relationships
- Encouraging doctrinal and theological discourse

Stating that they are more committed to renewal of the spirit in which the church does its ministry than they are to the structure of the church, the committee charged the General Council on Ministries:

- To work with the church in discerning God’s will for its work and living as biblical people in the Wesleyan tradition through a style of leadership that is collegial,

cooperative, inclusive and actively practices hospitality”

- To be a model for the church for how to articulate a clear and compelling ministry vision that “focuses the work of all the parts”
- To determine the most effective design for the work of the general agencies (avoiding duplication, enhanced resourcing for annual conferences and local churches), and to provide implementing legislation for the 2004 conference
- To help annual conferences and local churches live out the transformational directions both locally and connectionally
- To rebuild trust between general agencies and their constituents
- To continue the dialogue about the global nature of the UMC

“I can’t complement the committee enough,” said chairwoman Christine Harman of the Kentucky Conference. “It was an astonishing work of the Holy Spirit.”

If it is determined that there are not financial implications to the proposal, the recommendation will go on the “Consent Calendar” and will be approved along with other uncontested items.

—John Thornburg

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## “Silenced Witnesses”

The “Silenced Witnesses” project was born in the heart of the Rev. Dr. Jeanne Knepper, director of Sha lom Min is tries of the Oregon-Idaho Conference. The idea was conceived in the painful loss of two friends, two United Methodist women, who were murdered by two men who justified their hate and action for religious reasons.

The display is composed of 25 blue life-sized silhouettes of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals who were murdered or who committed suicide. Each of the persons is named along with the date of death, the method of torture and/or the cause of death. Each witness contains a statement pertaining to bigotry or a religious quote by the perpetrator at tempting to justify the killing.

*Jeanne Knepper holds silhouettes representing people who have been killed by acts of violence because of their sexual orientation.*  
UMNS photo by Mike DeBose

One participant who held a silhouette the first day, Friday, May 5th, said that persons who saw the display were visibly moved. The “Silenced Witnesses,” appearing at the south

entrance to mall B of the convention center, are accompanied by United Methodists from across the denomination, gay and straight, clergy and laity, who believe that the only One who has the authority to exclude anyone, has already included everyone.

The Shower of Stoles, in the AMAR room of the Sheraton Hotel, shares space with the “Silenced Witnesses” when they are not visible in the convention center mall. They will be displayed prior to morning worship and afternoon plenaries May 8-12.

—*Velma McConnell  
and Patty Meyers*

## Sierra Leone Peace Process in Peril

Bishop Joseph Christian Humper of Sierra Leone told General Conference delegates on Saturday that “one man is holding our whole nation hostage.”

Responding to news reports of rebel leader forces in Sierra Leone, led by Foday Sankoh, who captured and tortured United Nations peacekeeping personnel, Bishop Humper appealed to the Conference for prayers and support.

Sankoh’s Revolutionary United Front had signed a peace accord with the Sierra Leone government last July after the rebels had terrorized the country with a campaign of chopping off hands, feet and arms.

The 7,200-member U.N. peacekeeping force, deployed in December, 1999 to secure a truce after nine years of a brutal civil war, is in jeopardy. A 208-man Zambian battalion was seized near Makeni on Friday. Their weapons were taken and they were stripped of their clothes. Bishop Humper, reminding

members of the General Conference that “the peace process is in peril,” did not know the fate of the forces captured by the rebels.

The majority of the U.N. military forces are from Africa.

Earlier in the week the rebels confiscated the weapons of some 100 Nigerian peacekeepers who were later released.

There are 93,400 United Methodists in Sierra Leone, served by 251 pastors in 288 organized churches.

—*Bill Quick*

### Replacement

Cyprien Ntungwanayo of the Africa Central Conference, named to the General Council on Finance and Administration, has been replaced by John Gihara of the Africa Central Conference.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- “The Witness,” a video of testimonies from the consultation “In Disagreement, Charity: A Conversation on Homosexuality” sponsored by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, is available at General Conference for \$10 by calling Betty Gamble at 216-241-5100. The video may also be ordered from for \$15 (includes shipping and handling).
- Join moderator Bishop Felton May for a brown bag lunch briefing, The United Methodist Church in Africa, Part II, from 1:00–2:15 p.m. today in room 230-B. Topics include a panel discussion on conflict resolution and an update on the flood situation in Mozambique.
- The Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy elected the following officers: *James W. Standiford*, chair, Desert Southwest; *Jonathon Baker*, vice-chair, Peninsula-Delaware; Anita H. Crump, secretary, Louisiana.
- All Western North Carolina delegates, pages, marshals and friends are invited to lunch with Bishop Charlene Kammerer Wednesday in the Savoy Room at the Sheraton City Centre hotel. Contact Joetta Rinehart for reservations.
- The Philadelphia Area delegation’s dinner meeting with Bishop Pete D. Weaver will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the Sheraton City Centre hotel. Contact Robert Daugherty today for reservations for the \$25 meal.
- The Section of Deacons and Diaconal Ministers invites deacons, diaconal ministers and friends to join them for lunch today at Cleveland’s First United Methodist Church. A trolley will leave no later than five minutes after the morning session closes from the Lakeside Street ramp.
- The New England delegation dinner will be held at 5:45 p.m. today in Fern’s Steakhouse at the corner of Prospect and Fourth. Reservations must be made today by 10 a.m. by contacting Bob Sweet (C-12-14). All persons currently or formerly related to the New England Conference are welcome.
- The Holston Area delegation’s dinner with Bishop Ray and Martha Chamberlain will be held at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday at the Spaghetti Warehouse, 1231 Main Ave. Delegates and friends of the Holston Area are invited. For reservations contact Alan Groseclose or Jean Henderson at 771-7600.
- Free demographic samples for churches and communities are available from the General Board of Global Ministries research office. To find out more, go to the display located to the left of the audio/video sales booth near the food court.
- The “Transforming Lives, Transforming Africa” videotape on Africa University is now available in the Cokesbury Bookstore for \$10.
- The Mississippi Conference delegation’s “dutch” dinner will be held from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the first floor banquet room of the Holiday Inn Select City Centre Lakeshore, 1111 Lakeshore Ave. The cost, including tax and gratuities, is \$22.66. Delegates, family, guests and friends may make reservations by calling Gay Huff at 241-5100 by noon today.
- Join the Kansas East and West delegates in a reception for Bishop Fritz and Etta Mae Mutti Tuesday from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Independence. Bus transportation will leave from the Convention Center at 4:30 p.m. and return in time for the evening session.
- Clergywomen delegates and women bishops are asked to meet Liz Lopez immediately following this morning’s session for a group picture in Exhibit Hall A in front of the stairs which face the sign reading, “The Advance.”
- The Gammon Theological Seminary luncheon will be held Tuesday in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel at Key Center. See Frederick G. Outlaw or Gary Henderson for tickets.

Announcements submitted to the *DCA* will only run once.  
 All announcements are due by 3 p.m. the day before publication. Contact  
 Kurt Gwartney in the *DCA* offices  
 at 348-2564 for more information.

## Marshals, Pages, Recorders

You've heard of NPR (National Public Radio)? General Conference has MPR, its own unique group of public servants. They are marshals, pages, and recorders – volunteers all, who facilitate the conference's work.

### Marshals

Midway through Thursday evening's Act of Repentance for Reconciliation, marshal Ralph Miesse looks into the Convention Center from his back door post. With all eyes on the platform, few pass his door. "I did this for the first time in 1992," Miesse, a resident of Columbus, Ohio, said. "I had to wait until I retired. Missed the last [General Conference] because of heart trouble, but here I am again." His wife, Helen, is also a marshal. Miesse memorized all the possible combinations of badge colors and styles. Each identifies which doors its wearer can enter. "My job as marshal is to help people who belong inside to find their way and to help people who don't belong inside to find their way out." Miesse's badge has a solid blue line at the bottom; pages wear a badge with diagonal blue stripes. The one that opens the most doors? It's in a red, not black, nylon pocket.

### Pages

The Rev. Kelvin Sauls is counting heads. Paired with another page, he's responsible for tracking the number of people seated in his half of a legislative committee, so that when it's time to vote he won't have to count a large number of "ayes" or "nays." He'll count the smaller number and subtract it from all voting delegates inside the bar. "It's an opportunity to serve," he said, "and to make the time here comfortable for delegates as they discern the denomination's future." Each

page belongs to either the Albright Team or the Bethune Team, named for pioneering Methodist leaders. Pages work two out of three shifts each day, with one shift "not off," he says, "but to recuperate." Everyone works during plenary sessions, running errands, carrying messages, whatever is needed.

### Recorders

In the corner of the committee room, recorders Sandy Scaggs and Christine Fryer type at a computer as the votes are taken. It's Scaggs' third General Conference as a recorder, here from Macon, Georgia, where she works as Bishop Richard Looney's secretary. As each vote is taken, she records results and types changes into the text of the petition. At the committee session's end, she'll print a copy of each action that the committee's three officers will sign, making the action official so the recorder can release the updated text to the **Petition Entry and Tracking System** and the central computer, where it will be stored until it is printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for action by a plenary session of General Conference. It's Christine Fryer's first experience as a recorder. Brought up an American Baptist, she already knows a lot about United Methodism from her work as Bishop Hae-Jong Kim's secretary in the Western New York Area.

Pages, marshals, and recorders serve at their own expense. One offering taken during the conference is divided among them to defray expenses. Their desire to serve, to make people welcome and help them in their work is what brings them to the General Conference.

— Tom Slack

### Where in the Convention Center Is . . . Brad Motta?????

It is a distant place that is most easily accessed through one of Ladie's room doors. It has an "umbilical cord" that connects it to the auditorium. It is a place that could silence the delegates and bishops with the slip of the hand. It is the only vehicle that is parked in a tow-away zone, and hasn't been towed.

See photo on page 1953 for the location.

### Top Ten Hymn Titles that Catch the General Conference Experience

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 10. We Utter Our Cry                              | No. 439 |
| 9. Let There Be Light                             | No. 440 |
| 8. We'll Understand It<br>Better By and By        | No. 525 |
| 7. Rise, Shine, You People                        | No. 187 |
| 6. How Can We Sinners Know                        | No. 372 |
| 5. I Stand Amazed in the Presence                 | No. 371 |
| 4. I Surrender All                                | No. 354 |
| 3. Come, Ye Disconsolate,<br>where'er ye languish | No. 510 |
| 2. Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit              | No. 264 |
| 1. The Friendly Beasts                            | No. 227 |

*Bishop Richard Wilke and Julia Wilke authors of the Disciple study manuals share some time with Disciple study graduates. Graduates have been gathering and talking in the display area in the Cokesbury book display. The program now offers three studies with a fourth one in the editing process.*

—Dewayne and Ginnie Lowther photo

**Additional Biographical Sketch  
and a Correction to Judicial  
Council Nominee's Biographical  
Sketches**

*Sheila Yvette Flemming, Ph.D.*

A graduate of Bethune-Cookman College, Atlanta University and Howard University. She was associate general secretary for mission personnel of the General Board of Global Ministries. She currently serves as an American Council of Education Fellow at Spellman College. She is on leave from Bethune-Cookman College where she is Professor of History and Chair of the Division of Social Sciences. She has taught at several institutions; served on various civic, professional and church-related committees and governing units; has been a member of re-accreditation teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. She recently published

*Bethune-Cookman 1904-1994: The Answered Prayer to a Dream.*

*Paul Ervin*

Paul Ervin attended Duke Law School. He served on the Duke Divinity School Board of Visitors, and was a recipient the Woodrow Seals Laity Award from Perkins School of Theology. His late father was a former president of the Judicial Council, not Paul Ervin.

**University Senate Additional  
Biographical Sketch**

*Thomas W. Cole*

President of Clark-Atlanta University, the largest of our United Methodist "Black Colleges," with more than 5000 students. Before coming to Clark-Atlanta, he was chancellor of the State of West Virginia's university system.

## New Covenant Strengthens Church–School Connection

(UMNS)– Leaders of the United Methodist church and its schools have strengthened their commitment to provide quality education and supportive faith communities as they prepare people for lives of service.

A new agreement, titled “An Education Covenant of Partnership,” was signed Friday by Bishop William Oden, president of the Council of Bishops, the Rev. Roger Ireson, top staff executive of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville, Tenn., and Peter Mitchell, president of the National Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities of the United Methodist Church.

The signing occurred at a Higher Education Night banquet. Delegates at the banquet were asked to affirm the document. No official action was requested from General Conference.

The covenant emerged as the result of conversations with bishops, college presidents, campus ministers and conference boards of higher education and ministry during the past eight years, Ireson said. The leaders endorsed the document as a way of affirming the denomination’s 250-year tradition of church-related education and committing to a partnership of mutual service and support.

Too often, the Board of Higher Education and Ministry feels as though it is on a bridge, Ireson said. Academia and the church have much to offer each other, but “we are saddened that no one will walk across the bridge into the other person’s world,” he said.

The covenant signifies the joining of lives so that “those who are in education will walk across the bridge into the world of the church and stretch out their hands in covenant and that those who are on the other side of the bridge will walk across it,” Ireson said. “And together learning and religion will be joined and we...will prepare a new generation of Christian leaders for this world.”

The partnership covenant calls for the church and its schools to:

- Create an inclusive atmosphere that supports the faith journeys of students, faculty and staff;
- Uphold academic freedom without restricting the integrity of each church-related institution;
- Stress through teaching and example the worth and dignity of each person by providing voluntary community service and a concern for international relations;
- Prepare students, regardless of social status, ethnic identity or gender, for lives of “intellectual vigor,” moral integrity and spiritual fulfillment, and for leadership in a new century;
- Provide mutually agreed upon support and service;

- Affirm the relations between the church and its educational institutions openly and with pride for their mutual history and shared potential for the future.

## Study Group Recommends Funding Korean-American Ministries

(UMNS) – General Conference delegates heard a request Friday for \$3.2 million to support the ministries of Korean-American congregations in the United Methodist Church.

The request came from the Task Force on Korean American Ministries, which has spent four years studying the needs of that part of the church.

By the centennial of Korean immigration to U.S. territory in 2003, the United States will have more than 1.4 million Korean Americans, said Bishop Hae-Jong Kim, task force chairman. Kim, the denomination's only Korean-American bishop, heads the church's New York West Area.

In 1903, the first Korean-American ministry of what is now the United Methodist Church began when a pastor and congregation arrived in Hawaii. By 1978, only six such congregations existed in the United States, Kim said. Today, that number has grown to more than 400 congregations and more than 500 Korean-American pastors, he said.

The task force's goal is to make the most of this opportunity. The task force has recommended a six-part program that would carry an estimated price tag of \$3.2 million, said Bishop R. Sheldon Duecker, a task force member. Its goals are to:

- Provide a leadership program for clergy and lay members in bilingual and cross-cultural ministry;
- Offer a leadership program for Korean-American clergywomen;
- Establish 20 new next-generation congregations and 15 campus ministries;
- Strengthen existing congregations and establish 30 new congregations;
- Recruit 40 next-generation people for the ordained ministry; and
- Create culturally relevant resource materials.

Duecker stressed the importance of stemming the silent exodus of the next-generation members, who are rarely able to speak Korean.

Delegates also heard a report on the development of a Korean-English hymnal. They are being asked to approve the proposed hymnal as an official resource of the church, and will have the opportunity to vote later in the conference.

The hymnal project began in 1998, and publication is expected in November 2001.

## Petition Corrections

**In response to the plenary motion on May 5, the following two petitions were created.**

31994-GJ-NonDis-O  
Connectional Process Team Report (pp. 1-5)

31995-GJ-NonDis-O  
Connectional Process Team Report (pp. 5-21)

### Petition Number and Title Change

Pet.#: 30955-FA-806.12-D  
Title: Delete 806.12

### Petition Source Clarification

Pet.#: 31988-FO-NonDis-O  
Source: Administrative Council, Pleasant View UMC, Kellogg, IA

Pet.#: 31974-CC-2201.1-D  
Source: Rwanda District Conference

### Petitions Referred by Committee on Reference

Pet.# - From - To  
30059 - GJ - FA  
30060 - GJ - FA  
30106 - CS - IC  
30107 - DI - FO  
30421 - FA - DI  
30458 - FA - DI  
30483 - FA - DI  
31085 - DI - CO  
31556 - DI - CO  
31693 - FA - GJ  
31723 - DI - CS  
31729 - FA - DI  
31745 - CS - FO  
31784 - FO - DI  
31786 - CO - CC  
31977 - HE - LC

### Petition Voided by Committee on Reference

31675

## Prayer Concerns

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:

- Vanessa and Jeff Edwards
- Bert Talbott. Alternate delegate, South Indiana, is unable to attend because of back surgery.
- Helen, an Africa University choir member, and her cousin, who was injured in an auto accident. The cousin is the primary care giver for Helen's three children while the choir is on tour.
- 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.
- Jim Pitka, spouse of Iowa conference pastor, Marjolein Pitka, who is near death in Iowa City.
- Betty Reilly, a conference page, who is now hospitalized.
- Amelia Mostyn, undergoing heart surgery.
- Rev. Wally Riches, pastor in the California-Nevada Conference, undergoing treatment for leukemia.
- John Shettle, an elected delegate from North Indiana who could not come because of cancer treatment.
- Anita Fenstermacher, an alternate delegate from North Indiana who could not come because of cancer treatment.
- For the inclusion of all God's children.

## “The Time To Extend the Table Is Now!”

Under a hot, high noon sun, a crowd of more than 400 chanted the litany, “The time to extend the table is now!” At a noon rally Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in the shadow of the Cleveland Browns’ Stadium, speakers joined the Reverend Dr. Gayle Felton in telling the gathering to be prophets for those who have not yet caught the vision of inclusivity. Felton expressed her joy in the gathering that included several bishops.

Randy Miller, African American, who spoke to the 1996 General Conference as an openly gay man, quoted Denzel Washington’s line in the movie “The Hurricane, “Love has busted me out and I’m not going back!” He added, “We are working on no less than a revolution of love that will overthrow homophobia, racism, and colonialism that plagues our church.”

Paul Beeman, national president of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), invited clergy persons present who either have or are willing to officiate at services of holy union to raise their hands. As many hands went up, Beeman said, “There may be people across the street who can outvote us, but they cannot out-love us, and we will win.”

Representing members of AMAR, a coalition of four United Methodist related organizations, Rev. Gregory Dell presented an award to Bishop Melvin Talbert of the San Francisco area for his prophetic and faithful work. Bishop

Talbert noted that he really did not want to be there but “the commitment I made to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ compels me to be here... I hope that I never forget what it feels like to be excluded.” The bishop reiterated his commitment to keep working for justice for all: “I’ve gone to other countries on behalf of the church to tell them, ‘You are wrong.’ If I can say it to the governments of the world, I ought to be able to say it to my own church, ‘You are wrong.’ He added, “And while I have to uphold the discipline of the church, I don’t have to like it.”

While rally attenders received bright yellow cards containing guidelines for behavior, flyers were also distributed that announced “An Evening with Heroes” and “A Walk with Sheroes” next week. Rally sponsors offered hospitable provision of first aid, water, and sunscreen as well as an announcement of the “Accountability Project” that will “document incidents of inhospitality and discrimination that are unwelcomed by everyone.”

The rally, sponsored by the Reconciling Congregation Program, ended with forming a human circle around the convention center as a “symbol of hospitality” in a world that is not hospitable to everyone.

—Patty Meyers and Brad Motta

## Blizzards in Cleveland

Most days in early May, the temperatures in Cleveland hover in the mid seventies and yet delegates are daily buried by avalanches.

What I’m talking about is the blizzard of paper that meets delegates every day both in and outside of the convention center.

“I wish I had a match for all this useless paper!” said one delegate.

Following election, General Conference delegates received 40-to-50 pounds of material. They received 1,429 DCA pages prior to their departure for Cleveland and that total increased to 1,938 pages by Saturday. That total does not include other material placed on delegates’ desks, information from official United Methodist groups, and countless handouts that greet delegates outside the convention center doors each day.

“I love to read them!” said Laura Simmons of the West Virginia Conference. “I enjoy reading all of the opinions and viewpoints of people. They provide ways to hear one another and share in their diversity.”

“I have a great respect for those who stand in the weather and the crowds to keep us informed,” said one youth delegate.

Andy Almond, youth delegate from the Northern Illinois Conference, suggests that we may need more paper rather than less, as we need information in at least five languages. As an alternative, he suggests that we get rid of all the paper and rely on electronic means of communicating. He sees this struggle to communicate with others in their own languages as vitally important to the church becoming more inclusive and caring.

—David Persons

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

*The production crew is housed in this trailer between the convention center and the Sheraton Hotel. It takes a crew of persons to keep the microphones "live" for the speakers, and to keep the images on the screen. On my visit to the trailer, the crew was working hard (with broken air-conditioning) to bring the conference to life: Aaron Sheaffer, Tim Coppock, Paula Watson, Ed Warren, Larry Nelson, and Steve Fralick.*

*--Dewayne and Ginnie  
Lowther photo*

**Cokesbury's special of the day is Desmond Tutu's book, *No Future Without Forgiveness* at 30 percent off. The book is regularly \$23.95, but is only \$17 today.**

## Reports of Legislative Committees

### Church and Society—(5/7/00 6 p.m.)

Phil Grainger was elected interim vice chair because Robert Hoshibata was called away from General Conference until Tuesday.

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Regarding immigrants in the U.S. (as amended);
- Concerning church government relations in the U.S.;
- Regarding grand jury abuse;
- Urging state legislatures to allow candidates without large bank accounts to appear on the ballot;
- Regarding repression and the right to privacy;
- Providing universal access to healthcare in the U.S. and related territories;
- Regarding one step toward a dioxin-free future;
- Approving amendments to “New Developments in Genetic Science”;
- Stopping mountaintop-removal coal mining;
- Petitioning U.S. president to pardon Latin-American debt as an aid to reestablishing human lives;
- Concerning the UN resolutions and the Israel-Palestinian conflict;
- Affirming the precautionary principle;
- Seeking justice for Filipino WWII veterans;
- Asking the U.S. Attorney General to investigate anti-trust violations of commercial farm enterprises;
- Providing the General Board of Church and Society or other structure to provide work on the Social Principles;
- Eradicating sexual harassment in the UMC and society;
- Changing laws that support under use of pain-relieving medication;
- Regarding prejudice against Muslims and Arabs in the U.S.;
- Concerning the Native American international caucus of UMC;
- Regarding Native American social witness program;
- On human rights of native people of the Americas;
- On treatment of women under Social Security in the U.S.;
- On federal funds for the Indian Health Service;
- Concerning juvenile delinquency and prevention;
- Regarding white privilege in the U.S.;
- Correcting injustice in healthcare;
- On the UMC and America’s native people;
- On comity agreements affecting development of Native American ministries by UMC;
- To add new wording to the 1996 *Book of Discipline* resolution “Capital Punishment” encouraging overt action to end the death penalty;
- Addressing the parental right to withhold medical care from children according to religious beliefs;
- Urging continued UMC involvement in promoting international debt relief for impoverished nations;
- Calling for assistance, sanctuary and deportation relief for Refugees (amended title);
- Working toward global human dignity and human rights;
- Regarding immigration and amnesty;
- Calling for a ban on handguns, assault weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the hands of individuals;
- Calling for the GBCS to form a bioethics task force on relevant ethical issues;
- Ending the practice of contractualization and subcontractualization which abuses workers;
- Eliminating violent video games aimed at children and youth;
- Asking General Conference to protest alcohol advertising at or near all Olympic games;
- Engaging Cleveland community and ownership of pro baseball team in dialogue regarding sports mascot;
- Calling for abolishment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Resolution Act.

The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:

- To create jobs for former welfare recipients;
- Regarding the church’s response to aging in the U.S.;
- Rejecting Human Cloning.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Asking the US government to impose a moratorium on the death penalty;
- Eliminating the General Board of Church and Society.

–Gretchen Hakola and Paul Widicus

**Conferences—(5/6/00 2:30 p.m.)**

Of the 103 petitions submitted to the Committee on Conferences, action has been taken on 60.

The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:

- On the stability to the entitlement of bishops with an amendment restoring the number 320,000 as is currently in the Discipline. The petition prevents the number of bishops in a jurisdiction from being reduced unless the number of its church members decreases by 10 percent;
- Changing the number formula for General Conference delegates to restore fairness and balance. An amendment to the formula using “209 clergy and 41,800 members” failed on a 37-37-4 vote.
- On the responsibilities of annual conferences and director of connectional ministries with amendments including: that the position of director is recommended, may be lay or clergy, and shall sit with the cabinet.

The committee recommended referral:

- To the Council of Bishops and Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns petitions relating to concordats with the Methodist Church of India and the Korean Methodist Church.

The committee recommended concurrence:

- To a constitutional amendment adding a youth and young adult from each district as members of the annual conference;
- To a disciplinary provision to add youth and young adults to lay membership of the annual conference.

—Dean Snyder and Wally Athey

**Discipleship—(5/7/00 5:30 p.m.)**

The committee received the “Services for the Ordering of Ministry In the United Methodist Church” report with recommended changes and concurred with the petition as amended.

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Approving the document “Sacramental Faithfulness: Guidelines for Receiving People for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon)” as a study resource and guideline for pastors and congregations who face the challenge of receiving former Mormons who seek to become United Methodist. The document affirms the need for converts to receive the sacrament of baptism since baptism as practiced by the Latter-Day Saints church is not within the bounds of the historic, apostolic tradition of the faith;

- Recommending the development of a comprehensive plan for older adult ministry;
- Calling the appropriate church agency to provide guidelines for local churches regarding childcare guidelines, specifically on area of personnel review;
- Recommending that Children’s Sabbath Day be celebrated the second weekend of October in order that it not conflict with Laity Sunday, celebrated the third Sunday of October;
- Developing a 4-year study to develop ministry to Young Adults or persons 18-30 years of age;
- Recommend that the General Board of Discipleship be encouraged to develop resources for stewardship education for small membership and rural churches;
- Developing resources for the reaffirmation of ordination vows;
- Establishing a seeker web site on the Internet and requesting that it be directly linked to the official web site of the denomination.

The committee recommended referral:

- To the Church and Society Committee a resolution on experiencing grief for acts of violence;
- To the General Board of Discipleship’s study on communion a petition regarding pastors from other traditions serving communion.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Deleting “By Water and the Spirit” from the *Book of Resolutions*.

—Frank Estrada and Linda Green

**Faith and Order—(5/7/00 8 p.m.)**

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Acknowledging the necessity of military action in the case of unchecked aggression, tyranny and genocide;
- Changing 69C, War and Peace, to read... “We therefore reject war as a usual instrument as national foreign policy . . .”;
- Adding to 68D, Education, “The state should not prohibit the free exercise of voluntary prayer in public schools . . .”;
- Adding a new paragraph on Christian and pastoral perspectives on suicide, affirming that “nothing, including suicide, separates us from the love of God” but also stating that “suicide is not the way a human life should end”; the paragraph opposes “physician-assisted suicide”;

- Using language consistent with “By Water and the Spirit” in on “The Heart of Christian Ministry”, stating that “Christians are called **through their baptism** into a ministry of servanthood . . .”;
- Affirming that ordination to the same or equivalent order is not repeatable;
- Omitting phrase that elders are also called to the office and responsibilities of the deacon;
- Clarifying that clergy are not employees of the local church or the annual conference;
- Adding to the qualifications for ordination the ability to lead in making disciples for Jesus Christ;
- Urging every local church to nurture candidates for ordained ministry;
- Specifying in “The Ministry of All Christians” that our call to discipleship is grounded in the Lordship of Jesus Christ;
- Adopting a resolution declaring that Jesus is the only way to salvation, with a minority report.

The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:

- Replacing current resolution on adoption with “Adoption in a Global Context”;
- Replacing current resolution on sexual violence/pornography with new resolution from GBGM, “Pornography and Sexual Violence”;
- Adopting a new resolution “Public Education and the Church in the USA.”

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Ending private health insurance and advocating a national health care system;
- Declaring Genesis accounts of creation are literally true;
- Including the General Conference Mission Statement adopted in 1988, “Grace Upon Grace,” in the Book of Resolutions.

—*Erik Alsgaard and Ann Whiting*

#### **Financial Administration—(5/7/00 6 p.m.)**

The committee voted concurrence on Reports 1 and 2 from the General Council on Finance and Administration.

—*Davie Burgdorf and Tom Burger*

#### **General/Judicial Administration—(5/6/00)**

The committee recommended concurrence:

- To require recipients of Native American Ministries Sunday scholarships to serve at least two years in a Native American United Methodist congregation as a condition of the scholarship. If the recipient fails to meet the requirement, 50 percent of the scholarship will be considered a loan that must be repaid;
- Asking all agencies and institutions of the church, where possible, to hold all events in places that adequately accommodates persons with disabilities;
- Recommending the continuation of the churchwide “Strengthening the Black Church” initiative for the 2001-2004 quadrennium;
- Recommending the continuation of the churchwide “Shared Mission Focus on Young People” for the 2001-2004 quadrennium.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Creating a churchwide commission on “the status and role of evangelicals”;
- Changing the name of the denomination from the United Methodist Church to “The Church of Jesus Christ”;
- Establishing an annual-conference-level Judicial Council;
- Allowing local churches to redirect apportionments of the general church to other Christian ministries;
- Requiring church agencies and institutions, where possible, to hold events in accommodations which have collective bargaining agreements with their employees and “maintain safe and nondiscriminatory work environments.”

—*Garlinda Burton and Cathy Farmer*

#### **Global Ministries—(5/7/00 5:30 p.m.)**

Our apologies to the Global Ministries committee and its reporters for the errors in Friday’s *DCA*.

CORRECTION to *DCA*, p. 1872:

The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:

- Advancing Korean-American Ministries in the 2001-2004 quadrennium;
- Implementing the Asian American language study;
- Supporting a study on the use of American Indian lands by the church;
- Developing a four-year study on “Caring for Creation from a Native American Perspective”.

The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:

- Directing the General Board of Global Ministries to study issues related to health and care and rural churches;
- Strengthening Volunteers in Mission coordination.

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Implementing a team to complete the National Comprehensive Plan for Town and Country Ministry as originally intended;
- Including mission institutions as potential applicants to the United Methodist Development Fund;
- Supporting the international treaty to ban landmines;
- Condemning the U.S. Navy use of the island of Vieques.

– Cheryl Hahs Edwards and Linda Bloom

#### **Higher Education and Ministry—(5/7/00 5 p.m.)**

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Making Africa University a priority in the next quadrennium with support of \$20 million in apportioned funds;
- Nurturing of candidates for ordained ministry by the local church;
- Amending Para. 342 to add that the executive committee of the conference board of ordained ministry may issue an interim license as local pastor;
- Affirming that licensed full-time local pastor process be in accordance with General Board of Higher Education's (GBHEM) guidelines;
- Providing that the bishop and the board of ordained ministry may appoint probationary members to extension ministries;
- Changing "license as a local pastor" to "license for pastoral ministry";
- Reducing seminary student indebtedness;
- Continuing to strengthen the Black church.

The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:

- Inserting rather than moving last sentence of Para. 65C (prohibition against same-sex union by our ministers or in our churches) into ministry section (Para. 332.6). Minority Report to be submitted;
- Funding of Petition 30595 in the amount of \$4 million in the 2001-2004 quadrennium (\$2 million from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and \$2 million in apportionment funding) with the amendment to leave specific funding of institutions and programs to

be determined by GBHEM in consultation with the leadership of the eastern European church;

- Encouraging inquiring candidates to attend a United Methodist seminary and amending to make effective upon conclusion of 2000 General Conference;
- Amending Petition 31144 by deleting "and the assigned member of the district committee on ordained ministry" and "and by a two-thirds majority written ballot be recommended to the charge conference" in subsection a).

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Changing two-thirds to three-fourths for written ballot count of the charge conference for candidates for ordination;
- Allowing that student pastors serving in their home church may vote at annual conference and attend clergy session.

– Terri Hiers and Duane Ewers

#### **Independent Commissions—(5/7/00 p.m.)**

Carolyn Marshall, secretary of the General Conference, told the committee members Friday evening her heart is with them as they struggle over the lack of materials for delegates in their native languages. Marshall cited several reasons for the problem, including funding.

"You can as a General Conference mandate it (the translated materials)," Marshall said, "but you have to fund it."

Delegates from both central and annual conferences appreciated Marshall's remarks and her understanding of the justice issues involved. But one delegate said, "We are not going to put up with this four years from now!"

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Eliminating the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women;
- Creating a General Commission on Alcohol and Drugs.

– Andy Ellis and Kathy Noble

#### **Local Church—(5/7/00 p.m.)**

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Adding the position of coordinator of small-group ministries;
- Electing an earth advocacy chairperson;
- Opening membership in United Methodist Men to any man who desires to belong;
- Simplifying inclusive language;

- Giving churches permission to start satellite congregations;
- Allowing a district superintendent to appoint a task force to determine the viability of a congregation;
- Allowing parents, spouses, or legal guardians who are church members to recite appropriate vows on behalf of persons with disabilities;
- Deleting Paras. 101, 102, and 103 and moving the passage preceding Para. 201 into their place;
- Encouraging churches to obtain guidelines for information technology from their annual conferences;
- Encouraging churches to identify, nurture, and offer spiritual and financial support to candidates for ordained ministry, including support for the Ministerial Education Fund;
- Requiring district superintendents to notify churches of apportionment amounts and making church leaders

responsible for interpreting the importance of full support.

The committee recommended nonconcurrency:

- Allowing absentee balloting at charge conferences or church conferences;
- Allowing a majority of churches in a conference to establish an equitable salary structure;
- Letting churches leave the denomination with their property if three-fourths of Administrative Board members disagree with *The Book of Discipline*;
- Allowing rebaptism;
- Allowing charge conferences to vote on whether services that celebrate homosexual unions may be permitted in the church.
- Making a chargeable offense of allowing a homosexual union to be conducted in the church.

– Tom Slack/Charlene Bailey