

Extending Christ's Invitation for a Joyous Life

The Daily Summary of Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Clergy Session – Tuesday 7-9:30 PM and Wednesday 9 AM-3:30 PM

The clergy gathered in “worship and work” for the business of the Annual Conference ordaining and commissioning clergy and honoring the retired clergy. The clergy shared the “Wall of Wonder” and the “Wall of Willingness” to risk – stories and/or pictures depicting places that tell us where God was working in our churches and depicting places where our churches were willing to risk. Dave Bunje shared a selection of these one-page presentations.

Laity Session – Wednesday 9 AM – 3 PM

The laity session opened with worship led by the 2008 ClayM graduating class. Worship opened and closed with enthusiastic singing and a moving message by Ron Sachs on “A Joyous Life.” Pete Taylor, Conference Lay Leader, welcomed the laity before the several introductions of lay leadership and committees in the conference. The session received the report from the General Conference delegation. The Camping and Youth Ministries shared a presentation. Bishop Shamana joined the laity session for the laity memorials. In the afternoon, the laity broke into workshops: Volunteers In Mission, Transformational Congregations, Lay Speaking Ministries, Youth and Camping Ministries, and Clay Ministries. The laity sessions ended with District meetings.

Opening Plenary – 3:45 PM

The opening plenary session began with an artistic call to order reminding us that “we are the body of God’s Spirit.” The singing of the historic Wesleyan hymn, “And Are We Yet Alive” officially opened the Session of the California Nevada Annual Conference. The Bishop welcomed the body with characteristic grace and style. Larry Pearson, the agenda chair, reviewed the agenda and announced the changes to the legislation. Item 11 has been withdrawn; Item 09 has been replaced with item 18, which can be found in the first day packet; the budget is item A, not item 1 as printed in the pre-conference material. Four late items were received: item 19 – A Witness to Conscience; item 20 – Affirmation of Marriage Equality in California; item 21 – Retired Clergy (67); and item 22 – Energy and Carpooling.

Odette Lockwood-Stewart gave a thorough explanation of the process for the Episcopal election. She began by explaining our Bishops are a part of the whole church and they are elected and assigned at the jurisdictional level. She further explained each Annual Conference has its own process to elect its nominees for Episcopal election. Our process is in our standing rules and was explained by Odette. Odette announced the persons eligible for the election process are: Thomas (Ted) Virts, Thomas Kimball, Felisicimo Cao, Renae Extrum-Fernandez, Siosifa Hingano, and Dave Bunje. They will each share their vision of the United Methodist Church (in five minutes) on Thursday afternoon. This will be followed by the first ballot.

Mark Zier gave instructions for legislative sections and assigned item 19 to section A, item 20 to section B,; item 21 to section C, and item 22 to section E.

Craig Dale and Jeff Kunkel shared the background, concepts and presentations which will give our conference an artful presence. At various moments, the conference will experience “poeticus interruptus” (as Bishop Shamana called it) where poetry will be read to bring us back to a moment of artful presence. On the east side of the hall, there will be an “Art of the Family” tent featuring art from the Bishop, her mother, and her two sisters; “Gourd Blessings Area” where members are asked to write on a gourd shard which the Bishop will use in a future work of art; and an “Artist in Residence” tent which each day will feature an artist. The artists will be Hilda Robinson, Mark Bollwinkle, Martina Young, and Charlene Virts.

The plenary session closed with a celebration of ministry where we introduced and recognized the retiring clergy.