



THE ARKANSAS CONFERENCE DAILY DIGEST

A Publication of The Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church

June 8, 2010

8th Session of the Arkansas Annual Conference

Number 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Those persons were listed for **ordination and commissioning** in yesterday's *Daily Digest* were received at Tuesday evening's worship service.

Motion #1: To request the AC Planning Committee schedule a witness for service and witness of worship--

Motion was adopted to form a working group to raise funds for the Congo and report back next year.

Word was received that the **Rev. Archie N. Boyd** died last night. He retired in 1983.

Denman Evangelism Awards: Ben Ault, Youth; Bill Stanley, Laity; Rev. Dan Williams.

Various **gifts**, mostly funding for water wells, were presented to Bishop Ntambo **for the Congo**.

Our **pension reserve** is declining. By 2012, it is expected that the reserve fund will be about one-half (\$3,000,000) what we want to maintain.

The mortgage was burned on the **Mt. Eagle** property.

Information was received about a new initiative of the Conference, "**Sharing Together in Christ's Name**." It includes Bible studies and advertising promoting what we are able to accomplish through our shared connectional giving.

Lay address imagines the future

You have been engaged in a conversation of imagination at your local church and that you entered into this exercise with energy and sincerity.

Some of the information we received was troubling and not the things we wanted to hear. Many of us asked ourselves and each other, "How did this happen?" "What have we done?" "What have we not done?" "What can we do?" This didn't happen overnight and we are not going to fix it overnight, but we are getting started.

We have spent an inordinate amount of time trying to find the magic bullet. We have been looking for the beacon to show our way out of the wilderness.

It is time to intentionally allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit to a place that we know not, a place we have never been, a place where we can effectively share the good news of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

Change is not new for the Church. Throughout our history, we have constantly been faced with a world that was rapidly changing. Within Christianity, there have been some of us who believed we must stick with the things we have always done. We have adopted the mantra made famous by a cigarette commercial many years ago "We would rather fight than switch." Others are ready to throw out everything and start all over.

Our history is a Wesleyan culture which pushed relentlessly to spread the gospel despite the twists and turns required to adapt. What drove John Wesley was an all-consuming passion and relentless pursuit "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Fewer people are coming to The United Methodist Church so we must go to today's mine pits, today's street corners, use the language of today and use the tools of our age to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of us want to cling to Jesus and what we have known in the past. Mary Magaline had to let go of what she knew from the past and prepare for a new time of transition.

The Holy Spirit is going before us and will guide us into new pathways of truth if we listen, receive, and act. God isn't through with us yet!

We must develop the culture of listening and we must prepare our hearts to listen and to be attentive to the whispering of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us individually and collectively through the voice of the Imagine Ministries Team. We must prepare our souls for the seeds of truth given to us by the Holy Spirit.

The Imagine Ministries team does not have the answers but has been charged to collect as much information as possible to shape and reimagine The United Methodist Church of Arkansas.

Variety of resolutions considered

Resolution #1: On care of the environment--Passed.

Resolution #2: On hospitality--Passed with ammendment that this would not promote illegal immigration.

Resolution #3: To serve the poorest communities of the AAC--Referred to BOM and CFA. To be reported 2011.

Resolution #4: To provide funds to congregations serving the poorest communities of the AAC--Failed.

Resolutions #5 and #6 will be considered Wednesday.

Health insurance

Health insurance rates were raised 19% for 2010. It appears that income will cover expenses this years. It is anticipated that costs will increase 10% next year. Options to keep premium increases to a minimum are being looked at.

The new healthcare law should result in only small increases in costs initially.

Concerns were voiced about how the new law will affect retired clergy.

C&S report

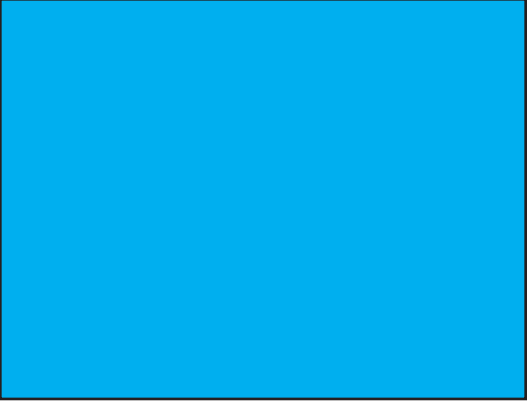
Neil Christie, General Secretary of the General Board of Church & Society spoke on the Board's faith-inspired vision for healthcare and the government healthcare reform that was successfully passed in 2010. That reform brings almost everyone under healthcare. He highlighted several details of coverage in the new healthcare act and areas where the law falls short--areas the UMC will work toward correcting. There will be groups who will oppose what the Board is doing.

A 188 word story can go in this text block

Unt essi blaortie delesti onsenderer si ea faccummod eugait lum esequis issectem quisl ut ullan henibh eugait, volenisis auguerc inciliquat, si ex erilit, sis nit la am vendre magnim dolorti ncidunt adiam eugue feum volorem ent nim vullamcorper iusto eugiamet, sequamcommy nos dolut lutem quipit ver alisci ent adiam dolore consed esed magna acipisim eugait wisl ex et, quamet lan heniam iure molobor si.

Ipit nulput wis am do euisim iure ming eros nullan ut pratisit nos elit iuscilit, quat.

Etum dolenis modipsuscul ilismod dolobore con utatio ecte vulla feum del delismo loreet, commodi onsequis at autat augue feugiamet laoreet ueriurero enisisequip et, conum nit voloborem vent illaore minim in vel ex euis aliquisim quis eniat vel delit nulputpat am, quamet, volobor aliquismod exerosto consequisum dolorem doleniscil ut adiam iliquam commodo loreet lorer ad min veros dunt la alisit delit ver alisiscip etum delissi blam ex eugiam enisi exeros amconsed modo digna faccum andrem vulputet numsandre dit wisim quat, volorti ssequate do conumsan ex et labor adiatio er sismolorer sustrud dolorerosto ea feum aliqui bla feuis et, qui tation hent wis ea consectem ver sim dit lummy nisi.



Veniscipit alit nos nulluptatio coreetum quisi tie doloborem venibh et atie consed ercilibl irit nonsequ isciduip eugiamet atiniat del diamet nulla faci er sustrud molut nis augait nos nos nos am euis elit ea feu faccum nosto odit inis augue

