



THE ARKANSAS CONFERENCE DAILY DIGEST

A Publication of The Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church

June 9, 2010

8th Session of the Arkansas Annual Conference

Number 3

AWARDS & NEWS

Horison's Stewardship

Award--Rev. Andrew Ballentine & Ebenezer UMC, Conway

E Christian Education

Certificates--Cissy Green, Jesse Griffith

Jay Lawhon Volunteers in

Mission Award--Rev. Byron & Janice Mann

Widow's Mite Award

--Rev. Regina Turner & Spadra UMC

Micah Mission Awards

--Hot Springs Haven UMC, Little Rock FUMC

Peace with Justice Grant

--Primrose UMC, Arkadelphia FUMC, Nothing in Return, Hamburg FUMC, McCabe Chapel UMC, Conway Cradle Care, Justice for Our Neighbors, Conference Hunger Task Force

Jim Beal Barnabas Award

--Rev. John Fleming

7th Annual Interfaith

Awards--Little Rock St. James UMC, Rev. Malik Saafir, Rev. Stephen Copley

Hendrix College Youth

Minister of the Year Award--Jay Clark

A ruling of law was requested of the Bishop asking if a seminarian who has received UMC MEF service loans from one Conference switches conferences upon graduation, can the Conference administering the funds (the old conference) require the graduate to repay the funds to that conference.

Correction: Ella Mae Harris completed Course of Study this year, not James Harris.

Appointments become official

The 2010 Arkansas Annual Conference concluded early Wednesday afternoon with a "Celebrate of an Appointment" worship service. The service included the reading of the new appointments of clergy serving within the Annual Conference.

Clergy and laity together accepted the ministries of each other and promised to work together to make disciples for Jesus Christ or the transformation of the world.

After the names of newly appointed clergy were read in each district, all those serving and representing that district were asked, "Will all of you by God's grace do all in your power to faithfully live and share the ministry of Christ in your local church or ministry?" All those already serving or representing churches that are not getting a new minister in that district were asked, "Will you include these persons newly appointed in our connected ministry?"

With the reading, the appointments became fixed for the Conference year.

The gathered Conference sang the traditional, "A Charge to Keep I Have" upon departing.



Resolutions & motions

Motion to hold a Conference Church of the Year Awards banquet unless the previous Annual Conference votes not to do it--Referred to Conference Planning Team.

Resolution #5: "To affirm the support of The United Methodist Church for universal access to health care"--Passed as amended.

Resolution #6: "Requesting the Judicial Council reconsider Decision 1032 on its own merit"--Passed 311-205.

Motion about witness of service and worship at 2012 Annual Conference--Passed.

Moving coming up

Moving date is later than usual this year and it is on a different day of the week. Moving day is Tuesday, June 29, 2010. Another change this year is that pastors will receive June salary and expense checks from the church they were ministering to in June. That is, ministers who will be moving in June will receive June compensation checks before they move.

Next Annual Conference will be convened in Hot Springs June 5-8, 2011.

Future Conferences will meet in Fort Smith June 10-13, 2012, and Little Rock June 9-12, 2013.

Monitoring report

Sunday's worship modeled intentional diversity in leadership of the service. Monday evening's worship not only modeled diversity of persons involved, but also inclusive and balanced the language in hymns.

Those in Monday's laity session worked to hear the voices of young adults. The clergy executive session received approximately 26 persons into new ministerial relationship within our conference--23% women; 77% men; 15% racial/ethnic minority; 85% white/Anglo.

Reports Imagine Ministry breakout sessions were mixed with some groups lacking young adult voices, while others reported criticism of young adult voice. Some minority voices were not shared, while others were received well.

Reports received

Nominations, Youth, Equitable Compensation, and Hunger Task Force reports were received.

Trustees reported that Moreland UMC was discontinued and the property was deeded to the NC District. The report was received.

Finance & Administration report in the Pre-Conference was amended. It was noted that pastors' moving expenses are increasing based on direction by the 2008 Annual Conference. The budget will increase 5.6%. Rules had to be suspended or the budget would have had to have been \$500,000 more.