

## Bishop Palmer assigned to Illinois Area

*Council of Bishops President to succeed Bishop Christopher Sept. 1*

By Paul Black

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.** — Bishop Gregory V. Palmer has been assigned as the new episcopal leader of the Illinois Area of The United Methodist Church, effective Sept. 1. Palmer succeeds retiring Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher.

Palmer, who is currently completing his second term as bishop of the Iowa Area, was a clergy member in the East Ohio Conference prior to his election in 2000. He is also serving a two-year term as president of the Council of Bishops, the denomination's executive branch.

Newly-elected Bishop Julius Trimble will succeed Palmer in Iowa. Delegates also affirmed a third term for Bishop Bruce Ough to serve the West Ohio Area.

The remaining assignments are as follows:

- Dakotas Area — reassignment of Bishop Deborah Kiesey for a second term
- Minnesota Area — reassignment of Bishop Sally Dyck for a second term
- Wisconsin Area — reassignment of



*Bishop Palmer shares a comment with a delegate at the Jurisdictional Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

Bishop Linda Lee for a second term second term  
Northern Illinois Conference — reassignment of Bishop Hee-Soo Jung for a second term  
Michigan Area — reassignment of  
*See Bishop Palmer on page 8 . . .*



**For complete listing of episcopal assignments, visit [www.igrc.org](http://www.igrc.org)**

## General church, jurisdictional assignments announced

Those selected to general church agencies include:

**Connectional Table:** Rev. Dr. Beverly Wilkes-Null, superintendent of the Mississippi River District

**General Board of Church and Society:** Kara Crawford of Tuscola UMC

**General Board of Discipleship:** Rev. Dr. Roger Ross, pastor of Springfield First UMC

**General Board of Global Ministries:** Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Bias, pastor of Peoria First UMC. Carolyn Yockey, IGRC United Methodist Women's president is also on the board as a Women's Division appointee.

**General Commission on Communication:** Paul Black, IGRC Director of Communication Ministries

**General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns:** Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin, pastor of Dayspring UMC, East Peoria

**National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA:** Dr. Pamela Hammond McDavid from Springfield Grace UMC; Kim Reis of Mt. Vernon UMC in Iroquois River District; and Fred Iutzi and Melissa Calvillo, both of Carthage UMC

*See Assignments on page 9 . . .*



## Trimble elected to the episcopacy

*IGRC candidate Tim Bias withdraws after 17th ballot*

By Paul Black

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.** — Dr. Julius C. Trimble emerged from a field of 12 candidates and was elected to the office of bishop by delegates of the North Central Jurisdiction July 18.

"I am humbled to find myself in this

*See Bishop Trimble on page 9 . . .*

## Bishop Hopkins says Midwest in crisis, church can provide hope

By Art McClanahan  
Director of Communications  
Iowa Conference

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.** — Radical change is the future of the Midwest and the church in the Midwest, according to Bishop John Hopkins of the East Ohio Area, as he delivered the Episcopal Address on the state of the jurisdiction July 17.

He said the church cannot stay the same and the North Central Jurisdiction must lead the change:

- The church must take more risk in reaching out to people. It must venture
- The church can learn to be relevant in the temporal world.
- The church can learn that it must "leave the building" and lead in shaping the future by community building and social reform.

"A Future of Hope is a major shift to become the change itself," Hopkins said. "Care and identity is part of our core mission."

He outlined the changes that have taken place since the establishment of The

**"Currently, we are in crisis in the Midwest, a crisis that affects small towns and cities ... That crisis is globalization. If we don't change, we will fall behind and continue to lose members and our influence in society."**

— Bishop John Hopkins

United Methodist Church 40 years ago.

He asked, "Have we been spending 40 years in the Promised Land or in the wilderness?" He said the children of Israel were ready to go, but then the people began to complain about the leadership and the food. Numbers 13 says the spies came back from Canaan with an unfavorable report.

"Currently, we are in crisis in the Midwest, a crisis that affects small towns and cities," Hopkins said. "That crisis is globalization. If we don't change, we will fall behind and continue to lose members and our influence in society."

Hopkins said the good news is that globalization can shape the future. The bad news is that the Midwest is behind in

*See Bishop Hopkins on page 9 . . .*

## Announcements and Events

### College of Christian Life Aug. 11-13

Rev. Tom Albin, dean of the Upper Room Chapel and Team Leader for the Program Unit of Upper Room Ministries in Nashville, Tenn., will be the speaker for the 2008 College of Christian Life to be held Aug. 11-13 at the City Centre Holiday Inn in Peoria.

Registration materials are available online at: <http://www.igrc.org/2008-College-of-Christian-Life.aspx> or by contacting John Eisfelder at 309-256-3408 or by emailing: [revman8@yahoo.com](mailto:revman8@yahoo.com)

### Harvest worship conference

The Harvest Worship Conference will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Troy UMC.

Lance Winkler, Director of Contemporary Worship at Church of the Resurrection will be the featured speaker as well as many other elective seminars presented by local church worship leaders around the conference.

This event is designed for local church worship leaders, praise band members, children's worship leaders and worship planners.

For more information, contact Tim Price at 618-667-6241 ext 414 or by emailing: [tim@harvestministryteams.com](mailto:tim@harvestministryteams.com) to request a brochure.

### IRS increases mileage rates through Dec. 31

**WASHINGTON** — The Internal Revenue Service has announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

The rate will increase to 58.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008. This is an increase of eight (8) cents from the 50.5 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2008.

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2008. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year.

The optional business standard mileage rate is used to compute the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business use in lieu of tracking actual costs. This rate is also used as a benchmark by the federal government and many businesses to reimburse their employees for mileage.

The new six-month rate for computing deductible medical or moving expenses will also increase by 8 cents to 27 cents a mile, up from 19 cents for the first six months of 2008. The rate for providing services for charitable organizations is set by statute, not the IRS, and remains at 14 cents a mile.

### Online course on Wesleys offered

Hartford Seminary is offering a new online course, *Theology of the Wesleys and its Wider Religious Impact*.

This course will examine some of the sermons by John Wesley and theologically rich hymns penned by Charles Wesley. In order to understand the theological significance and enduring appeal of their work, we also will sample current expressions of Wesleyan theology and ministry found in a variety of religious movements, attempting to assess their relationship to the theology of the Wesley brothers.

Since this course is taught online, there is no need for travel to Hartford, Conn., and the weekly schedule is set by the student. Participants can log on at their convenience to participate in the readings and discussion. The course will begin on Monday, Sept. 8 and run through Thursday, Dec. 18. For more information, please consult our website at [www.hartsem.edu](http://www.hartsem.edu) or send an email to Marcia Pavao at [mpavao@hartsem.edu](mailto:mpavao@hartsem.edu). Those interested may obtain a registration form for the course at [http://www.hartsem.edu/academic/courses\\_Fall08.html](http://www.hartsem.edu/academic/courses_Fall08.html).

### The Well to be offered at six sites this fall

The Well, for youth workers, will be hosted around the conference this fall in various locations.

Identical sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Monday, Oct. 6 – Mt. Vernon (PM)
- Tuesday, Oct. 7 – Belleville (AM)
- Tuesday, Oct. 7 – Clinton (PM)
- Wednesday, Oct. 8 – Bloomington (AM)
- Thursday, Oct. 9 – Peoria (AM)
- Thursday, Oct. 9 – Jacksonville (PM)

The presenter will be Dr. Hal Hamilton, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at First UMC in Tulsa, Okla.

The Well is designed to be a "close to home" time for equipping and training local church youth ministry leaders (volunteer or paid).

Contact Tim Price at 618-667-6241 ext 414 or by emailing: [tim@harvestministryteams.com](mailto:tim@harvestministryteams.com) for a brochure.

### Two-year Academy for Spiritual Formation Aug. 19-24

Applications are still being accepted for the two-year Academy for Spiritual Formation which will be held Aug. 19-24 at Sinsinawa, Wis., (near Dubuque, Iowa).

This two-year journey into the heart, mind, soul and will of Christ has been offered to clergy and lay participants since 1983. It is one of the most highly regarded programs of its kind, providing a balanced approach to spiritual formation with wor-

ship, lectures, silence, covenant groups and spiritual disciplines. Participants gather eight times for five days every calendar quarter – a total of 40 days in retreat. Racial-ethnic participants are encouraged to apply.

Faculty for this Academy (#28) includes Juan Bek, Wendy Wright, Dick and Elise Eslinger, Bob Mulholland, Sr. Donald Corcoran, Bruce Rigdon, Jane Vennard, Susan Muto, Kathryn Damiano, Tom Albin, Charles Gipson, Bishop Hee-soo Jung, Kent Millard, Sr. Kathleen Flood and Youngsook Kang. The leadership team which guides the experience consists of Barrie Tritle, Jo Hoover, In-Sook Hwang, Marty Schumacher and Steve West.

More information about the Academy, including an application can be found by visiting the website at: [www.upperroom.org/academy](http://www.upperroom.org/academy) or by calling toll-free 1-877-899-2781, ext. 7233. Scholarship assistance is available.

### Appointments

In consultation with the Cabinet of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher appoints the following pastors:

**Donald A. Burkhart** to Deer Creek, Illinois River District, effective Aug. 1.

**Megan Thompson** to Shiloh, Iroquois River District, effective July 1.

**Sandra Hire** to Camargo, Newman and Murdock, Iroquois River, effective July 1.

**Janet Longtin** to Cissna Park and Rankin, Iroquois River, effective July 1.

**Elaine McCoy** to Pleasant Grove, Iroquois River, effective July 1.

**Donna Blythe** to Moline: Riverside, Associate, Spoon River District, effective Sept. 1.

**Bessie Adams** to Wayne County Parish, Kaskaskia River District, effective July 1.

**Joshua Williams** to Pinkstaff and Birds, Kaskaskia River District, effective July 1.

**Jerry Sawyer** to Bryant and St. David, Illinois River District, effective July 1. Rev. Sawyer will continue ½ time at Maples Mill in addition to providing sacramental ministry at Bryant and St. David.

#### Supply not appointed

Ronald M. Johnson to Tate's Chapel, Cache River District, effective July 1.

Angela K. Kaye to Dale, Webb's Chapel and Oliver, Cache River District, effective July 1.

**Scott Kelly** to Olmstead, Cache River

District, effective July 1.

**Michael Eugene Shearer** to Cache Chapel, Cache River District, beginning July 1.

**Samuel D. Anderson** to Granite City: Dewey Ave. and Good Shepherd, Mississippi River District, effective July 1.

**Roland Devor** to Dahlgren and Macedonia, Cache River District, effective July 1.

**Brent Gordon** to Joppa and Oak Grove, Cache River District, effective July 1.

**Michael Hall** to Garrison Temple, Kaskaskia River District, effective July 1.

**Pablo D. Marty** to St. Jacob, Mississippi River District, effective July 1.

**Kenneth L. Dean** to Grayville and Fortney, Kaskaskia River District, effective July 1.

**Edward E. Endsley** to Marlow, Kaskaskia River District, effective July 1.

**Matt Filicsky** to Shining Light Parish, Iroquois River District, effective August 1.

**Randy Rutledge** to Hoopole: Zion and Hillsdale, Spoon River District, effective August 1.

**Jungil Rhee** to Kirkwood, Smithshire, Macomb Korean Fellowship, Spoon River District, effective July 16.

#### Change of status

**Hahnshik Min** transfer of membership to Seoul South Annual Conference, The Korean Methodist Church, effective May 29.

### Death notices

**Marilyn Stanger Woodruff**, wife of retired pastor and former conference treasurer, Rev. John Woodruff, died July 6. Funeral services were held July 10 at Normal First UMC. Burial was in Blue Grass Memorial Gardens, Nicholasville, Ky. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Rev. Woodruff at: 20 Brompton Ct., Bloomington 61704-6287 or by visiting her memorial page at: <http://cs.igrc.org/media/p/9.aspx> Persons will need to create an account on the IGRC Community website in order to post their condolences. Memorial pages will remain available for six months following the date of death.

**Elsie Louise Clark**, widow of Rev. Clair S. Clark, died June 17. She was a resident of the United Methodist Village in Lawrenceville. Rev. Clark died in active service in 1978. Elsie served with her husband in various appointments in the former

*See Announcements on page 3 . . .*

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## Local Church News



Photo courtesy of Dottie Aiken

Attendees of Vacation Bible School at Rosewood Heights St. Paul UMC thought they were seeing double — and they were. Among the teachers and children attending were four sets of twins. Pictured from left to right are: Brooke and Brittney Harlan (teachers); Kristina and Kaydence Harlan, daughters of Jay & Sandy Harlan; Peyton and Brynleigh Kelley, daughters of Brandy Buatte; and Madelaine and Morgann Ramirez, daughters of Anthony and Erika Ramirez. All of these children regularly attend at St. Paul UMC. The VBS theme was *Surfin' Through the Scriptures*. The attendance was the highest it has been in recent years with an average of more than 100 children, teachers, and helpers participating during the week. A total of \$128 was raised by the children during the week of Bible School to support the IGRC Flood Bucket project. An additional \$902 was contributed by the St. Paul congregation during May and June.

## Former local pastor opens own church following discontinuance as local pastor

By Paul Black

The discontinuation of an IGRC local pastor by the Cache River District Committee on Ministry has sparked controversy in a nearly 200-year-old United Methodist congregation east of Carmi.

Published reports in the July 1 *Carmi Times* announced Rev. Jerry Crawford would be holding his first service as “an unaffiliated, independent minister” in Crossville July 6.

The announcement followed a second meeting between Cache River District Superintendent Greg Courtright and members of the congregation who were upset because of Crawford’s discontinuance as a local pastor. Crawford, who has served as a local pastor for 12 years, failed to com-

plete the Course of Study required by paragraph 319.3 of the denomination’s *Book of Discipline*. Local pastors, who are licensed for a specific site of ministry, are required to complete two weeks of schooling each summer or enroll in the weekend extension course for part-time local pastors in Springfield offered by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference.

Each two weeks of coursework or three weekends each in the fall and spring account for a half-year of training toward the five-year Course of Study. During the 12-year period, Crawford completed only one year (two two-week sessions).

During his ministry at McHenry, attendance has grown from eight to 10 persons to 30. Crawford, who works full-time as a

*See Local pastor on page 6 . . .*

## Announcements

*Continued from page 2*

Southern Illinois Conference, last serving Pochontas/Panama. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to a daughter, Jo Ann Hensley, PO Box 3981, Carbondale, IL 62902.

**Eleanor L. Barkalow**, widow of the Rev. Gale Barkalow died June 22 in Fitchburg, Wis. They were previously residents of the United Methodist Village in Lawrenceville. Rev. Barkalow actually retired as a member of the Northern Illinois Conference, but he and Eleanor lived in the IGRC for so long they were considered

among the conference’s retirees.

The Barkalows served Elliott and Canton in the 1950s and early 1960s, in the former Evangelical United Brethren Church. Rev. Barkalow to Northern Illinois in 1962 and retired in 1980. Visitation and prayer services were held June 27 at the United Methodist Village in Lawrenceville with burial at the Ohio Cemetery in West Union.

## Job Opportunities

**Drummer/guitarist** — Belleville Union is seeking Drummer/Guitarist instrumentalists to assist with the 11:15 am service

## Donations pour in for flood relief

### United Way organizes fundraiser for victims in Henderson County

*(Editor’s note: The following article highlights an effort by Knox County United Way’s efforts to assist in flood relief but the ideas generated for the effort came from an administrative council meeting at Galesburg Faith UMC earlier in the week. Members of the congregation were among those manning the donation table. Pastor Jean Hembrough reports that during her shift, a family walked by and looked at the pictures of the flooded areas that were posted at the display. “The mother pulled her children over next to her and said, ‘Look! There’s grandma’s house!’”)*

By Stephen Geinosky  
Galesburg Register-Mail

**GALESBURG** — United Way of Knox County is extending its sphere of influence, lending support to flood victims in Henderson County. United Way collected money and supplies for flood victims of Oquawka, Keithsburg, Gulfport and Gladstone June 20-21.

What began as an idea at Galesburg’s Faith United Methodist Church became a two-day fundraiser organized by Craig Boynton. The United Way chairman of special events said he felt compelled to help those in need due to his connection to the area.

“I used to go over to the Lock and Dam 18 area with friends and family and thought it was good to give back to the community,” Boynton said.

Boynton hopes other area residents will help out the Henderson County residents, with an eye toward bringing area communities together.

Boynton arranged for Galesburg’s Wal-Mart Supercenter to serve as the collection point for the June 20-21 fundraiser. The response was overwhelming even after just two hours, with more than \$2,000 in donations. People are donating any way they can, Boynton said, before and after they shop. Some have stopped just to drop off donations.

Joan Knapp contacted Boynton during

### What is needed

- Non-perishable food items
- Bleach
- Anti-bacterial soap
- Baby formula
- Diapers
- 5-gallon buckets with resealable lids
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Liquid Lysol cleaner concentrate
- Air freshener
- Insect repellent (not killer)
- Scouring pads (not steel wool)
- Scrub brushes
- Cleaning towels
- Sponges
- Clothes pins
- Clotheslines
- Dust masks
- Latex gloves
- Work gloves
- Trash bags
- Bottled water
- Batteries
- Flashlights
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Toiletries

the day June 20 and showed up with a truck full of donations, including clothes, towels, washcloths, socks, men’s clothes, a purse, stuffed animals. She said she wanted to help after hearing about the devastation and went through her closet for donations.

“Anything anybody can do would be great,” Knapp said. “I don’t think any of us have any concept of how horrible it must be to walk away and think you’re going to go back to something and everything is gone.”

Chris Chevalier donated \$10 before walking into the store Friday afternoon.

Boynton and Ann Tucker, United Way executive director, said they really need cleaning and baby supplies, such as bleach, anti-bacterial soap, diapers and formula. About 55 families in Keithsburg, Gulfport, Gladstone and Oquawka have

*See Donations on page 4 . . .*

twice a month to start. Hours and services have potential to grow. Send resume to Rev. Edward Weston, 721 E. Main, Belleville, IL 62220 or ed@unionumc.org

**Youth director** — Full time youth director needed at the First UMC of Fairfield. The church is located in a Southern Illinois town with a community college. Church membership is at 400 members. Duties include leading and organizing youth programs, connecting with worship services and working with the pastor and staff. Complete job description available upon request. Salary and benefit pack-

age commensurate with education and experience. Minimum education of associate degree with some background in religious studies and working with youth is preferred. Questions and resumes can be directed to PPRC, 109 South 1st Street, Fairfield IL 62837 or to jdrox@yahoo.com.

**Director of Recreation/Jr. High Youth** — Belleville Union UMC seeks a Director of Recreation/Junior High Youth. This is a combined position of about 15 - 20 hours weekly. Belleville Union UMC. Send resume to Rev. Edward Weston 721 E. Main, Belleville, IL 62220

## Local Church News



Photo courtesy of Beth Leggett

### Oblong Evangelical UMC holds Bible School for children with autism

Oblong Evangelical UMC held a Vacation Bible School June 9-12 for children ages preschool to first grade with autism. This was the second year for the Bible school, which included seven children with autism, four peer “buddies” and seven adults. Staff adapted the VBS curriculum to the level of the students and provided communication equipment and sensory areas for children to regulate their systems and relax before joining the group again. One parent was in tears of joy as this was her child’s first opportunity to participate in a children’s ministry event and the family attends a church in another town.

This is a ministry opportunity to reach

families of children with significant needs. The ultimate goal of this Vacation Bible School is to assist families in feeling welcome and adjusting to attending church with a child who has extra special needs. Whether the family wishes to attend Oblong EUM or another church, VBS staff are available to help them integrate when they’re ready. Each year the staff have expressed they receive such a blessing participating in this event.

The VBS was planned by Beth Leggett and Lisa McMorris. Other adults assisting during the week were Kyle and Tawnya Bailey, Caleb Wartsbaugh, Kendra Ridlen, Bekki Smith, Beth Meese, and Cathy Weddell.

### International group of young adults explore social justice issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Juliana Abe, a native of Côte d’Ivoire, is exploring a different culture and country while she works for the rights of Africans and African-American people around the world. Native American Luke Eastin, a National Council of Churches of Christ intern focusing on eco-justice issues, sees his internship as a way of generating ideas for community service back home.

“I hope this summer will help strengthen my faith and give me ideas to better serve my community back home,” the Illinois Central College student said. “I also wish to learn more about our earth, and how to protect her in this, the 21st century. I hope this summer will help strengthen my faith and give me ideas to better serve my community back home.”

Abe and Eastin are among 12 persons participating in the Ethnic Young Adult (EYA) Summer Internship program of the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) of The United Methodist Church (UMC).

Some of this year’s placement sites include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the TransAfrica Forum,

Tobacco Free Kids, People for the American Way, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC), National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) and United Methodist Women (UMW). Besides Abe from Cote d’Ivoire, this year’s slate of interns also come from Gambia, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Philippines.

#### Most international group ever

“This is the most international group we have had,” said the Rev. Neal Christie, GBCS assistant general secretary for Education and Leadership Development.

Christie, who was an EYA intern in 1984, oversees the interns. He is assisted by Theon Johnson III, a third-year Master of Divinity student at Wesley Theological Seminary whose practice in mission and ministry placement is with GBCS.

In the Philippines ... there are a lot of political killings, a lot of poverty issues that are not resolved. Jose Carlo de Pano is an EYA intern from the Philippines. He is a recent graduate from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and is active in the Philippines Conference.

See *Young Adults* on page 6 . . .

### Methodist campers donate to support The Baby Fold ministry



Photo courtesy of East Bay Camp

*Pictured are (L to R): Tom Corum, Camp Dean (Sparta UMC); Dale Strassheim, CEO (The Baby Fold), Mary Jurgens, UMC camper; Maggie Gould, Director of Residential Treatment (The Baby Fold); Willie, Baby Fold camper; Brian Galecki, UMC camper; Dianne Schultz, Director of Academic Services (The Baby Fold); Joseph, Baby Fold camper.*

The Baby Fold’s Summer Camp program (July 12-18; East Bay Camp, Lake Bloomington) received a special boost this summer from 45 high school students representing several downstate United Methodist churches. These students, who participate as helpers in the week-long camp, raised more than \$6,500 above and beyond their own camping costs to donate to The Baby Fold. The camp also received more than \$10,000 collected by the McLean County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge Number 176, as well as \$16,860 from 155 individual donors.

The Baby Fold Camp is offered to approximately 85 child clients of The Baby Fold each summer. This monetary donation is especially critical as the costs of camp transportation and staff continue to grow from year to year. Summer camp is a time for The Baby Fold’s children to learn new skills, take in the quiet beauty of nature, and quite literally make a splash with fun activities. They are taken out of their comfort zones and allowed to explore possibilities. Through it all, they build friendships, self-esteem, and a

respect for the teachers and staff who care for them. It’s not just a chance to get away, but it’s a chance to come back renewed, as well.

The camp, started in 1978, pairs young adults from area churches with children of The Baby Fold who suffer from severe mental, emotional and behavioral issues. The camp provides an opportunity for The Baby Fold children to experience the outdoors and for the UMC students to share the love of Christ through acts of kindness and service.

The Baby Fold is a not-for-profit child and family support agency that specializes in holistic healing of children and their families, many of whom suffer from severe emotional and behavioral conditions. The Baby Fold is focused in the areas of residential treatment, child welfare services, family support services (parenting, housing), and academic services (alternative education, community outreach, professional training and consultation). The agency serves over 1,000 children and families throughout Central Illinois each year.

### Donations

*Continued from page 3*

babies, they said.

Residents have been out in force donating, though, Boynton said. Donations Friday afternoon already had filled a pickup truck and a shopping cart.

“Our goal is just to help people in the communities,” Boynton said. “I think it’s just essential right now for the community to support this area.”

Knapp agreed.

“We all have too much,” she said. “So I figured, well, this is a great way to help someone.”

“I think everybody could help greatly if everybody just did a little,” Knapp said. “When people are in trouble you want to help them. They’re good people, they didn’t ask for this.”

*(Reprinted with permission from the June 21 issue of the Galesburg Register-Mail.)*

## Local Church News

### Mr. Deitz goes to Washington

*United Methodist layman from McLeansboro honored in the National High School Hall of Fame*

By Joe Szykowski

Longtime local sports official Dick Deitz is used to making big calls. But it was a call he recently received that helped put in perspective the 50 years of devoted service he has provided to Illinois high school athletics.

A brief phone call informing Deitz he was one of 12 individ-

with players, coaches, fans and other officials.”

#### The Hall

The National High School Sports Hall of Fame was initiated in 1982. It was set up to honor high school athletes, coaches, officials and administrators for their efforts in the arena of high school athletics. Through the first 25 years, 118 athletes, 115 coaches, 51 officials and 38 administrators have been inducted into the exclusive hall. According to the hall of fame website, “Membership in the National High School Hall of Fame is the highest honor an individual associated with high school sports can receive.”

Deitz’s in-depth selection process began when the IHSA nominated him for the hall of fame. Nominations that pass through a screening committee are then sent to the hall of fame selection committee, which ranks each of the candidates on a scale of 1 to 5. The highest vote-getters are then inducted.

“Technically, anyone can nominate an individual,” said Hall of Fame

Director Bruce Howard, who

made the phone call informing Deitz of his selection.

“However, if the person is not nominated by a state association, that nominee must carry the endorsement of the respective high school association.”

#### Getting started

Deitz got the itch to officiate during his time as a four-sport high school athlete at McLeansboro, in the mid-1950’s. He watched officials closely and figured he could succeed at the profession.

As one-room schoolhouses became less prevalent across Southern Illinois, Deitz took his newfound interest in officiating to the small grade schools popping up in the area. He started refereeing intramural and grade school basketball his junior year of high school in 1956.

“There was a girls’ gym at that time, and me and another fellow refereed the grade school games on nights that we weren’t playing,” Deitz recalled. “My coach in high school got me involved in switching to football and I continued in basketball. Back then, we didn’t have all the sports we have today. We had football in the fall, basketball in the winter and then track and baseball. Softball wasn’t heard of at that time.”

Deitz was learning quickly. His skills grew with his passion for the job as he made the smooth transition from player to official.

“It was a pretty natural adjustment for me. I just had a great respect for the game,” he said. “I quickly found there were two main things to officiating. Number one is: knowing the rules; number two is: knowing the mechanics of the game, especially foot-

ball. You had to know how to stay out of the way.”

#### A witness to history

Deitz boasts quite an impressive officiating resume. He refereed his first basketball regional tournament game in 1962 and in the same year began officiating the Centralia Holiday Tournament. Deitz continued to officiate holiday tournaments for 35 straight years.

Among his many honors were induction into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association in 1998 and being selected Illinois Football Official of the Year in 2000.

Deitz followed a specific strategy of honor and instinct to accrue such accomplishments throughout the years.

“I tried to go by the mechanics and rules of the game, players dictate it themselves if you let them,” he said. “I’m not telling you I haven’t had tough calls or made mistakes. But we work very hard at trying not to do that. In my entire career, I don’t know of anyone who has ever been partial to one side or another. You are just so wrapped up in what’s going on.”

Deitz, 69, said he has witnessed many groundbreaking changes to the sports he loves, none of which were more important than basketball’s adoption of the 3-point line. “The 3-pointer was probably the most significant rule change I’ve seen over the years in any sport,” he said. “The 3-pointer changed scoring records, coaches’ strategy, shooting habits and mechanics of referees, among other things.”

#### Away from home

A sports official’s day doesn’t end when the final buzzer sounds. Grueling travel and extended time away from home go hand-in-hand with being a dedicated official.

Deitz has “made many travels down the highway,” and said he could have done it without the strength and support of his family in McLeansboro.

“My wife Sue has been a tremendous inspiration for me,” Deitz said. “She’s the real hero here. She raised the kids (son Darrin and daughter Lynn). I worked and she was able to support me and be understanding. In this profession you have to be away from home a lot to be successful.”

Deitz’s time away from home increased when his officiating duties expanded to the college forum. He and his crew, including longtime friends Hungate and Bobby Blondi, would travel between four states to work Division II and III basketball back when athletic directors were still contracting officials. Hungate estimates the crew worked Division III college football for eight to 10 years.

“My heart was always with high school,” Deitz said. “I didn’t mind college, it was better pay, but a lot more travel.”

#### A special bond

Deitz, Hungate and Blondi still take to

**Deitz he was one of 12 individuals selected to the 2008 class of the National High School Hall of Fame. He was inducted July 7 in Washington, D.C. The shock and awe has not wore off yet.**

each other on a daily basis. The ties that bound them together during those countless days and nights on the fields and courts have grown stronger over the years, forming an unbreakable bond of friendship and mutual respect.

“Those times were one of the greatest experiences of my life,” Blondi said. “We got along so well, had the same morals, we were all big family people. We were just like another family. I can guarantee you nobody had more fun refereeing than we did.”

One of Hungate’s favorite stories about Deitz echoes Blondi’s sentiments. “My oldest son played football...and one time Dick tossed him out of a game,” Hungate recalled. “The next night we were out on the floor refereeing basketball together. We’ve joked about that throughout the years. We’ve just had wonderful times together and we share a lot of stories, most of them funny. (Deitz) is very deserving of the honor he has received and all the other honors.”

#### A new forum

It was the late 1980’s when Deitz saw the need to expand his impact on McLeansboro and neighboring communities. He served as city alderman from 1989 to 1993 before being elected mayor, a position he still holds and cherishes.

“I saw a need for service that I thought I could give to McLeansboro,” he said. “I thought I could make a difference and make life a little easier for a whole lot of people. I’ve tried to turn a community into a place where we could live, work, play and be happy.”

Deitz thinks sports and community go hand in hand, and he tries to take advantage of the opportunity to instill values of fair play and commitment into the minds of young people.

“I’ve always tried to help society by being an example of honesty and integrity,” he said. “And I’ve tried to give something back to the community as an example to the kids. The thing I love about high school sports is watching the kids and coaches mature and develop. What we try to do is put the best citizens on the street. If we can just contribute to the maturity of those kids in making good decisions and good choices, then we’ve succeeded.”

*Reprinted with permission from the June 2008 issue of SI Sports Connection. Joe Szykowski is a freelance writer for SISC. The magazine’s website is [www.sisportconnection.com](http://www.sisportconnection.com)*



Dick Deitz

uals selected to the 2008 class of the National High School Hall of Fame dizzied the McLeansboro native. He was inducted July 7 in Washington, D.C. The shock and awe has not wore off yet.

“It almost makes you feel like, ‘Is this really happening to me?’” Deitz said. “It’s just been a very overwhelming experience for me and my family. It’s an honor of a lifetime.”

Deitz retired from basketball three years ago because of re-occurring arthritis in his right knee. He still referees football, baseball and softball and is the head official for the Illinois High School Association football playoffs. A dedicated student of all sports, Deitz is also a clinician in basketball and football and has been a rules interpreter for the IHSA in basketball and baseball since 1976.

“In my mind he stands out as one of the most outstanding official throughout the years,” said Kenny Hungate, longtime friend and co-worker of Deitz. “He has dedication, determination, persistence, character and his personality worked well

## Communications

### Young adults

*Continued from page 4*

De Pano, an intern in GBCS's Communications Department, said he is interested in seeing how problems are addressed in the United States so he can help his country gain social equality. "In the Philippines the government says we have equality, the government says we are in a democratic country, but there are a lot of political killings, a lot of poverty issues that are not resolved," de Pano said. "They are offering short-term solutions for long-term problems."

Intern Arienne Reagor is a Filipino-Caucasian from the state of Washington who belongs to Oregon-Idaho Conference. At the Rebecca Project for Human Rights, she is learning how drug use affects families, schools and communities, and is also learning about racism and sexism of the prison system. She attends George Fox University in Oregon.

#### Range of assignments

Other interns and their assignments this summer include:

Lakisha Lockhart, a student at Clafflin University in South Carolina, is a member of Trinity UMC in the North Georgia Conference. She is placed with the NAACP.

The internship is an opportunity that very few people are blessed to receive, according to Lockhart. It "is the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and meet new people with different backgrounds and traditions, from different countries, and with different views," she said. "It allows us all to come together and focus on the one thing that binds us all together, no matter what our age, ethnicity, or gender: God."

Kelsey Williamson, an African-American-Caucasian student at Sterling College in Kansas, works with People of the American Way, which focuses on human rights and voting protection. Melekaufusi Pepa of Tongan ethnicity attends the University of Hawaii in Manoa. A member of the California-Pacific Conference, she is an intern with the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

Mayzara Garcia, a student at Florida International University in Miami, is working with both RCRC and UMW. She attends the Iglesia Metodista Unida de Coral Way.

Jonathan Kim, a Korean-American from North Georgia Conference, attends Emory University in Atlanta. He works with Jubilee USA, which addresses debt relief for developing countries.

**"[The internship] is the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and meet new people with different backgrounds and traditions, from different countries, and with different views ... [The internship] allows us all to come together and focus on the one thing that binds us all together, no matter what our age, ethnicity, or gender: God?"**

— Lakisha Lockhart, Trinity UMC, North Georgia Conference

Ilunga Raissa Kiboko, whose native country is the DRC, is an intern with the Faith and Politics Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit, interfaith organization that strives to bridge the gap between church and politics. She is a student at Central Methodist University. She is from Laurel, in the Iowa Conference.

Aareddy Gomez, a Mexican-Aruban-Dutch-American, is an incoming student at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala. The member of the Alabama-West Florida Conference is placed with the Latin American Working Group, one of the nation's longest standing coalitions dedicated to foreign policy.

Joseph Aubee from Gambia works with NCCC. As a returning intern he also serves as the senior intern for the EYA program. Aubee studies at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.V., and represents the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

And, of course, Abe, a doctorate student at the University of Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire, is working at TransAfrica Forum. The African-American human rights and social justice organization promotes diversity and equality in the foreign policy arena. She is active in the Cocody UMC.

"We are all different," Abe said of her intern associates, "but we are all brothers and sisters in Christ."

#### American University

Interns are housed at United Methodist-related American University and attend church together every Sunday. They meet for weekly evening devotions and Bible studies. They will also travel to New York to visit GBCS's office, which is across the street from the United Nations.

In addition to their assignments, the interns participate in weekly seminars that explore issues that concern different racial ethnic communities.

*Editor's note: Kathy Gilbert of United Methodist News Service is the principal writer of this article. Additional material was provided by EYA interns Carlo Garcia de Pano and Joseph Aubee.*



Photo courtesy of Normal First UMC

The IGRC United Methodist Women delegation completed their training at the UMW Regional School at Manchester College in North Manchester, Ind. Nearly all the teachers for the UMW School of Mission, to be held Aug. 1-3 and 3-7, received the necessary training at the Regional School. The Regional School also provides training for the School of Christian leadership team and UMW Conference Officers. The three areas of study for this year's School of Mission are: I Believe in Jesus, Native Americans, Israel and Palestine. Each day began with a worship service and a challenge emphasizing one of these issues. Each team member then attended a class on one of these topics.

### Local pastor

*Continued from page 3*

nursing home activity director and chaplain, also has a song ministry in area nursing homes.

"We affirm Mr. Crawford's ministry and have considered it nothing but positive," Courtright said. "However, Jerry entered into a covenant which included educational requirements when he became a local pastor. And now, he and the congregation are wanting him to have the same status as the 61 full-time and 81 part-time local pastors currently appointed in the conference that are fulfilling the covenant agreement of additional education."

Both Courtright and Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher noted that continuing education is a "lifelong commitment," noting that many licensed secular professions regulated by the state require a minimum continuing education requirement in order to have a license renewed.

Christopher, resident bishop of the Illinois Area, agreed to appoint Crawford week-by-week as a supply pastor for up to 30 days, so that Reverend Courtright could continue conversation with the congregation and Crawford could make arrangements to complete educational requirements.

As a supply pastor, Crawford could continue preaching and providing pastoral care at McHenry but would have to have the assistance of an ordained elder or appointed local pastor to assist with sacramental duties such as communion, baptism and weddings. Currently, there are 64 supply pastors that are serving among the nearly 900 congregations within the Illinois Great Rivers Conference.

"This option allowed Mr. Crawford to fulfill his educational obligation as a local pastor and give him a period of grace,"

Christopher said.

After asking for a day to consider this option, Crawford announced his intention to open the Crossville church in the Carmi newspaper.

The McHenry congregation began in White County in 1814. The ground and current church were donated by the McHenry family in the 1880's. Members cite this donation as grounds for allowing the current membership to keep operating the church as a non-denominational church.

However, all local church property in The United Methodist Church is held "in trust" on behalf of the annual conference. This trust clause, a fixture in United Methodist property recitals, is consistent with the church's connectional nature and has more than 200 years of legal precedent.

"The trust clause is a protection of interests," Courtright said. "The McHenry family chose to associate with the predecessor denomination of The United Methodist Church when it was formed. As part of that covenant, the conference is given responsibility to see that the donor's wishes are carried out. The conference also has provided pastors for the church over the last 194 years."

"But the trust clause also is a protection for the current local church. Unlike a congregational church, where a group of people could come in, gain membership and then take over the church, the trust clause prevents such takeovers from occurring since the property and assets are held on behalf of the denomination," Courtright said.

In accordance with the denomination's *Book of Discipline*, an assessment of ministry will be made if the membership abandons the current property. However, the Bishop has indicated she will appoint a new pastor following Crawford's rejection of this option and his discontinuance.

## Dwight holds VBS, offering supports Nothing But Nets anti-malaria campaign

Dwight UMC held Vacation Bible School June 9-13. The VBS program, *God's Big Backyard*, featured service as a key element in the weeklong program.

The VBS mission was Nothing But Nets in which offerings totaling \$320 were used to finance the purchase of 32 bed nets to assist families in Africa in combating malaria.

## Conference Ministries

### Youth Ministry Essentials unveiled

Youth Ministry Essentials, a four-module of training for youth leaders, will be rolled out this fall. The multi-module training is sponsored by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Youth Ministry and the Youth Worker Movement, and consists of one-day training opportunities for youth workers, paid youth staff, volunteer youth leaders, junior high and senior high Sunday School teachers, and others who work with youth.

Cost for each module is \$47 which includes lunch, all training supplies and handouts and a book. Training will be provided by qualified, experienced youth ministers and clergy.

Each of the four modules offered is a stand-alone piece focusing on various facets of youth ministry. Each module helps create a foundation for and a basic understanding of "success" in youth ministry. The goal of the Youth Ministry Essentials is to provide every person who ministers to young people a basic level of



training that will benefit youth and churches throughout the conference.

Training opportunities for Module 1 – "The Call" are listed below. Registration at all locations will be open from 9 to 9:25 a.m. Training begins at 9:30 a.m. and is completed by 4 p.m.

Aug. 9 – Galesburg First UMC and Peoria First

Aug. 23 – Effingham Centenary and Bourbonnais Grace

Oct. 4 – East Moline Christ and Bloomington Morningstar

Oct. 25 – Marion Aldersgate, Godfrey, and Champaign Faith

Module 2 – "The Quad" will be held in January and February 2009.

Register online at <http://youth.igr-camp.org> (registration fees apply) or register by mail or fax by downloading information from [youth.igr-camp.org](http://youth.igr-camp.org) and submitting forms and payment to Peggy O'Neal, P.O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794.

### Leadership Institute enlightens local pastors

By Paul W. Widicus  
Pastor, Harrisburg First UMC

Key to church growth is the pastor's understanding of the congregation and the pastor's understanding of himself or herself. That has been the center of the 2008 Congregational Development Leadership Institute sponsored by the Office of Congregational Development of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Michael Crawford, Director of Congregational Development, has done a masterful job of bringing leaders to the sessions who are nationally known and experienced in growing churches.

Jim Griffith, who has planted 6 new congregations, used our "Personal Discernment Inventories" to help us understand how we might go about starting new congregations, starting satellite congregations, starting congregations within an existing congregation or revitalizing an existing congregation. He then helped us find ways different personality type pastors can work with "vital, legacy, accidental or toxic congregations to help them grow.

Paul Nixon, who has grown new congregations, started satellite congregations and turned around existing congregations, gave hope that any congregation can grow. He urged us to "get out of our offices and into the community" so we could reach new people. He taught us how to use demographic material to find our churches mission field. He challenged us to be a church leader who chooses "life over death, community over isolation, fun over

**The 2008 Leadership Institute brought together 70 pastors from across the Conference and is making a difference in their congregations and in their lives.**

drudgery, bold over mild, frontier over fortress and now over later."

Michael Crawford and Jeremy Henson, Pastor of Olney Immanuel UMC, had each pastor complete "Strength Finder 2.0" for the third session of the Leadership Institute. We learned that our personality strengths are so unique that only one out of every 35,000,000 people shares the same strengths. Because we are so unique and each congregation and community is unique, we must develop a "Plan for Ministry" if we want to make permanent changes in the current reality of the congregation we serve. If a congregation can find the "Vision Intersection Point" where the church leadership, congregation's gifts and community needs come together, growth can take place.

Linnea Nilsen Capshaw will lead the last Congregational Development session in the fall. She will focus on how to care for yourself spiritually and emotionally while you lead a congregation through change.

The 2008 Leadership Institute brought together 70 pastors from across the Conference and is making a difference in their congregations and in their lives. Enrollment is beginning for the 2009 Leadership Institute. From my experience it is well worth the time and effort to learn more about yourself, your congregation and your mission field.

### Fundraising challenge at Beulah Camp

A challenge has been issued by a friend of Beulah Camp to erase the camp's \$75,000 debt by Oct. 1 by offering a 2 to 1 match. An anonymous friend of Beulah has initiated a "Wipe the Slate Clean" campaign, offering \$2 for every \$1 raised toward paying off the camp's indebtedness. "The Lord has laid a burden on my heart," the donor wrote. "Beulah Holiness Camp with all its many summer programs has touched so many lives over the years. Then as each life touches others the effect is amazing."

According to camp treasurer Ruby Bronke, the current balance on the loan is roughly \$75,000. That means that \$25,000 in donations would erase the \$75,000 debt

if the donations are received prior to Oct. 1. Beulah Camp is a Conference Advance Special and donations can be credited to a local congregation.

Donations for the challenge need to be sent to: Ruby Joy Bronke, 7651 Farmers Market Road, Tamaroa, IL 62888. The receipt issued by the camp can then be attached to the year-end report for the congregation to receive credit.

The \$75,000 balance is what remains of nearly \$350,000 in improvements made in 2002 and 2003 that include rehabilitation of the tabernacle and the installation of new water and sewer lines on the 22-acre campsite.



### Celebrating 12 years of leadership under Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher



Photo by Linda Smith

A total of 20 current and past Cabinet members gathered recently at the Conference Center to celebrate the 12 years of leadership under Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher. The Cabinet members and spouses shared a meal, reminisced and took the opportunity to honor Bishop Christopher for her tenure in the Illinois Area.

Those in attendance for the celebration included in back, from left: John Hartleroad, Assistant to the Bishop; Mike Eischen, J. Gregory Courtright, Cache River District Superintendent; Larry Gilbert, Janice Griffith, Spoon River District Superintendent and Paul Black, Director of Communication Ministries and former Assistant to the Bishop.

Pictured in the middle row, from left are: J. Keith Zimmerman, Vermilion River District Superintendent; Beverly Wilkes-Null, Mississippi River District Superintendent; J. William Werner, Cindy Jones, Howard Daughenbaugh, Robert Mushrush, Jerry King, Sangamon River District Superintendent, William Frazier and Alan Rhein, Kaskaskia River District

Superintendent.

Seated in front are: Melva Graham England, Illinois River District Superintendent; Terry Clark, J. William Cooper, Bishop Christopher and Charles Logsdon Christopher, Alice Shirley and David Eadie.

Those unable to attend but recognized as part of the cadre of leadership during Christopher's tenure included: Jack Newsome, Paul Sellers, Bradley F. Watkins, Don Burroughs, James Rhea, Ray Owens, Thomas Hawkins, Kathleen McCafferty Rudolph, Glen Bocox, John Woodruff, Brenda Barton, Sherry Daniels, Rick Van Giesen, Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer; Kent Lolling, Director of Connectional Ministries; In-Sook Hwang, Iroquois River District Superintendent; Randy Robinson, LaMoine River District Superintendent and Randy Reese, Embarras River District Superintendent.

The following former Cabinet members that are deceased were also remembered: Mary Vick Roth and Solomon Jadhav.

# North Central Jurisdictional Conference

## Bishop Palmer

*Continued from page 1*

Bishop Jonathan Keaton for a second term  
Indiana Area — reassignment of Bishop Michael Coyner for a second term  
East Ohio Area — reassignment of Bishop John Hopkins for a second term

A native of Philadelphia, Pa., Bishop Palmer is the son of a retired United Methodist pastor who resides in Philadelphia. His mother, now deceased, was a teacher in the Philadelphia Public Schools.

A graduate of Central High School in Philadelphia, Palmer received his B.A. from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and his M.Div. from Duke University Divinity School. He was elected a deacon and probationary member in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in 1977 and ordained elder in the East Ohio Conference in 1981.

Palmer served as president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry during the 2004-2008 quadrennium and is the co-author of a book, *Becoming Jesus' Prayer: Transforming Your Life Through the Lord's Prayer* (published by Pilgrim Press).

Palmer's wife, Cynthia, is an honors graduate in religion of Duke University. She is a Senior Sales Director with Mary Kay Cosmetics. She has served as a Director of Christian Education, as staff of several Community Action Agencies focused on Welfare to Work projects. She is an outstanding student and teacher of the scriptures and has a strong interest women's leadership development. The Palmers are the parents of Monica, a Middle School Special Education teacher in Charlotte, N.C. and Aaron, also of Charlotte, N.C., who works in Financial Services.



All photos by Paul Black

Starting above and working clockwise on page 8: Bishop Jonathan Keaton makes the sign of the cross on Marmie Hall Woodworth's forehead during worship, while Mike Smith and IGRC episcopal candidate Tim Bias studies election returns. IGRC delegates Cindy Jones and Deryck Sonaram fellowship during one of the breaks. King Batch and Queen Carole were part of a three-part skit during worship. The conference was filled with times of voting as the 276 delegates cast 24 rounds of ballots before a bishop was elected. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung confers with the chair of the agenda meeting over the schedule.

Page 9 from top to bottom: IGRC young adults Andy Black and Kara Crawford take part in the Young People's Address. Black was elected treasurer and Crawford secretary of the jurisdictional youth council. Delegates Sara Isbell, Carolyn Yockey and Bunny Wolfe listen to one of the 12 episcopal candidates during a candidates' forum. Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher was honored with a gift that included the photography of Assistant John Hartleroad in a special recognition service. Fred Shaw and Carol Lakota Eastin gave the report of the NCJ Committee on Native American Ministries.

## North Central Jurisdictional Conference



### Bishop Trimble

*Continued from page 1*

time and place,” Trimble said. “I came to jurisdictional conference knowing that hundreds of people were praying for God’s will to be done for all who offer themselves to lead gives me peace. I am thankful to have been part of a field of persons, any of which would have been excellent leaders for the church. “I thank Jesus Christ, who is my personal savior but not my private one. You could have elected any of the other candidates, and you would have done a great work for the church.”

Trimble described the call to the Episcopacy as “a journey of conversations and constant prayer,” saying that he believes “God will not call me to a task but what God will also be with me to equip me (for the task).”

Trimble was elected on the 24th ballot after the entire field had been cleared when the final endorsed nominee, Dr. David Alan Bard, withdrew following the announcement of the 23rd round of voting.

Trimble, who was endorsed by both the East Ohio delegation and the NCJ Black Methodists for Church Renewal, polled strong from the outset, notching a second place tie in the crowded field on the first ballot and never fell below fourth on any ballot.

IGRC endorsed nominee Dr. Timothy L. Bias, withdrew after the 17th ballot after vote totals held steady through the early rounds of voting. Bias, who was running for the second time, said the process was an opportunity to “see whether there was an affirmation to what he felt was God’s call to the episcopacy.”

“In the church, when we have someone who believes they are called into ministry, they meet with the Board of Ordained Ministry to explore that call,” Bias said during a brief time in which the five candidates that remained after the 16th round were able to address the entire conference. “Likewise, a call to the episcopacy was kindled in me four years ago and your vote will determine whether that call is affirmed or not.”



“[the call to the Episcopacy is] a journey of conversations and constant prayer ... God will not call me to a task but what God will also be with me to equip me (for the task).”

— Bishop Julius Trimble

Following Bias was Rev. Greg Stover of the West Ohio Conference, who left the race after the 22nd round. This was Stover’s third run for the episcopacy, having also run in 2000 and 2004.

Trimble received his master’s degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1983 and was named an outstanding alumnus in 1998. He earned his D.Min. from Ashland Theological Seminary in 1999. He was ordained deacon and elder in the Northern Illinois Conference and has spent the past 20 years in ministry in the East Ohio Conference, serving in his current appointment at Aldersgate UMC in Warrensville, Ohio, since 2003.

In 2007, Trimble was honored with the Bishop James S. Thomas Social Action Award from the Methodist Federation for Social Action. He is a member of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, a trustee of the Saint Luke’s Foundation of Cleveland and a director of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, where he is chairperson of the Alcohol, Other Addictions and Healthcare work area.

Since 2001 he has served as an adjunct instructor in the religion department of Baldwin-Wallace College, teaching courses on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the African-American religious experience.

Trimble has preached in South Africa and Zimbabwe and was the keynote speaker for the National Episcopal Urban Conference in 1996.

Beginning his career in Chicago as a community organizer, teacher and social worker, Trimble met his wife of 35 years, Racelder Grandberry Trimble, on the campus of Illinois State University. The Trimbles have three children — Cameron, 26; Candace, 23, and Julius Thomas, 20.

### Assignments

*Continued from page 1*

**Division on Ministries with Young People:** Rev. Miriam Snider, pastor of Marshall: Armstrong and Dunlap UMC’s

Also receiving jurisdictional appointments were: Rev. Bill Pyatt, pastor of Carthage UMC and Andy Black of

Springfield Jerome UMC. Both were appointed to the Jurisdictional Mission Council which oversees the ministries that are funded by the jurisdictional conference apportionment, including Volunteers in Mission, Older Adult Ministries, the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, and the Committee on Native American Ministries.

### Bishop Hopkins

*Continued from page 1*

this transition.

“The future is already here; are we still living in the past?” he said.

Hopkins then outlined what the church needs to know and how the church needs to respond in light of globalization as the church.

“Leaders define reality, and create a shared vision for the future. Behind the figures are people struggling,” he said. “I don’t believe in economic determination. My conversation is about the crisis so we can move into the future.”

Audio and video links to the Episcopal Address are found at the Jurisdictional website: [www.ncj2008.org](http://www.ncj2008.org)

## Missions

### School, training center sites identified for 2008 Liberia mission trips



Photo by Sharrif Seward

Students at the I. J. Williams School at the end of a day of school.

By **Bunny Wolfe**  
Coordinator of Missions and Outreach

Two projects have been identified for IGRC mission teams going to Liberia this fall with an immediate financial need of \$12,000 for one of them.

**The I. J. Williams United Methodist School** will be the first mission project tackled by a mission team scheduled for Oct. 21-Nov. 3. A second project – the Bishop Prince A. Taylor UM Youth Training Center in the Paynesville area – will be the project that both the newly-ordained conference clergy will work on in November as well as college students who travel to Liberia Dec. 27-Jan. 7.

An immediate financial need of \$12,000 is needed for the I.J. Williams expansion. Funds must be “in hand” by mid-September. Each of the IGRC mission teams is committed to raising \$10,000 for the rebuilding of this important training facility. Our conference has pledged \$20,000 total to begin restoration of the youth training center, but much more is needed for completion. I believe we will exceed our pledged goal.

If you or your mission committee feels

called to help give educational opportunities for children and young adults in Liberia, these two projects are in need of building costs. Donations may be made by making checks out to IGRC and in the designation line place “LBMAT 1-3-300-44143”. All donations going to Liberia building materials through this designation will directly go into the cost of building materials for IGRC mission teams working in Liberia. A power point and video of the Bishop Prince A Taylor training center and a few photos of the I. J. William United Methodist School are available by contacting Bunny Wolfe, conference coordinator of missions and outreach.

I. J. Williams United Methodist School began in 1982 in response to appeals by parents, guardians, community leaders and surrounding communities in Lower Magibi County near the Roberts International Airport. It is in a very congested, highly populated area in need of educational opportunities for all ages. The school began in the I. J. Williams UMC, but quickly outgrew that space. A building with poor ventilation, inadequate lighting and space was rented to house the school. Currently the school yearly turns away stu-

dents due to lack of space. It only accepts students through the eighth grade although it is to offer education for pre-school through the ninth grade.

Two years ago, a three-room building was constructed on the grounds of the I. J. Williams UMC to expand needed classroom space, but plenty of land is available for additional expansion. Because the school can no longer affording the increasing cost of rent, the October IGRC project will help construct six additional classrooms to completely relocate the school back onto the church property where it began.

Unification Town, the location of I.J. Williams UM School, is nicknamed “Smell No Taste Community”. During the civil war residents of that area could only “smell” the food being cooked by military and rebel soldiers during a time of extreme hunger and shortage of food supplies. The nickname still remains. This school is in the Kakata Farmington District of the Liberia Annual Conference, an area where IGRC has not yet worked. This will be the first IGRC project in this district.

Four spaces are still available for the I. J. Williams School mission experience and the last date to register for this trip is Sept. 1. Is God calling you to be a part of this project? If interested, immediately apply for a passport and contact Bunny Wolfe at 217-529-2749 or by emailing: [bwolfe@igrc.org](mailto:bwolfe@igrc.org).

Two work teams will be working on the **Bishop Prince A Taylor Youth Training Center** in the Paynesville area, just outside of Monrovia. Newly ordained clergy of IGRC leave Nov. 4 and will work on this site. Wesley Foundation students and other United Methodist college-age students leave Dec. 27 and will be in Liberia until January 7 to also work at this location.

Bishop Arthur Kulah, former Bishop of the Liberia Annual Conference, lived at the Bishop Prince A Taylor Youth Training Center during the Civil War. This was a place for older teens and young adults to receive a variety of skills training and spiritual formation. The need for skills training for young adults is crucial today because

there are thousands who never had the opportunity to attend school since the beginning of intense civil conflict as early as 1989. Former child soldiers are now young adults with no education. Other young adults come from families who simply could not afford the cost of education. Trade skills are their only hope of employment.

In telling her hope for restoration of Liberian youth, Rev. Nelly Wright, Director of the Youth and Young Adults for the Liberia Annual Conference states the following about this training center. “Our youth are traumatized. They are devastated! Can you help us give them hope, coming out of years of civil unrest that broke down the very fabric of our national, spiritual, social, physical, and economic life? God has called us to be faithful stewards. I have been challenged to give hope to the youth, to inspire them and to re-awaken the spirit of love in their lives. Bishop Taylor lit the flame and together we must keep it burning. If you have not thought about what it would look like, consider what it will be used for in the lives of thousands of our young people who are placed into our hands for guidance, training, education, love, and spiritual development. Please help us to help them!”

The youth training center was mostly destroyed during the war. Currently there are only partial shells of buildings standing. The only complete building on site is one small home where the caretaker’s family and two other families live. Others live in the partially standing structures hoping that some day restoration will happen.

I remain very thankful for the many ways IGRC continues to support our partnership with the Liberia Annual Conference. I know there are many former and current educators in this conference who understand the value of education. I also know that when our churches understand needs, you are always very generous and willing to be a part of mission projects.

We continue to make a significant difference in the lives of youth in Liberia through our scholarships and building of schools. Thank you!

### Bringing in the Boomers workshop Oct. 3

A nationally-known author of numerous books on older adult ministries will lead a workshop *Bringing in the Boomers* on Friday, Oct. 3.

Dr. Richard H Gertzler, director of the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries for the UMC Board of Discipleship, will lead the workshop that is being presented by the IGRC Older Adult Ministries Team.

Gertzler’s latest book, *Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century*, will be released within the next month. This workshop identifies the boomers, addresses the challenges they face, and encourages discussion of faith and reli-

gious issues. Specific ideas for reaching out to this generation and welcoming their church participation will also be addressed. Gertzler previously participated in an IGRC Older Adult Ministries conference in 2006.

The cost of the workshop which includes lunch is \$25.

For reservations and further information, contact Sidna Young at 217-259-3257, or [sangriver@igrc.org](mailto:sangriver@igrc.org). Registration deadline is Sept. 27. Overnight reservations for Oct. 2 can be made at the Baymont Inn, 5871 S. 6th St. by calling 217-529-6655.

### Emergency preparedness webcasts archived

Live webcasts of selected sessions of the Illinois Public Health Emergency Preparedness Summit will be available through Aug. 15 on the Illinois Public Health Association website at [www.ipha.com](http://www.ipha.com).

Click on “2008 Illinois Public Health Emergency Preparedness Summit” for further instructions. The webcasts are of presentations made during the Summit held July 15-17. The following sessions are currently available:

- *From Soup to Nuts: A Public Health Emergency Preparedness User’s Guide*
- *Public Health’s Role in Biodefense*

*and Strategic Perspectives on Emerging Challenges*

- Keynote Address: *Creating a Culture of Preparedness*

- Keynote Address: *Psychology of Terrorism and Responding to Pandemics*
- *Illinois Public Health Emergency Powers*

- *Integrated, Collaborative Preparedness Planning for Functional Needs*
- *Community Engagement in Health Emergency Planning*

- Keynote Address: *Terrorism and Today’s Military Service Member: A Positive Perspective*

## Missions

### Early response team training Aug. 23

An early response team training for disaster response will be held Saturday, Aug. 23 at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

The training event will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration is necessary and can be made by contacting Christy Blickensderfer at 217-529-2473 or by emailing: [cblickensderfer@igrc.org](mailto:cblickensderfer@igrc.org). Cost is \$20 which includes the UMCOR Early Response Team manual, lunch and snacks.

The Rev. Sharon Monroe and her husband Ron will be leading the training. The Monroes attended the Train the Trainer Workshop sponsored by UMCOR and fol-

lowing this presentation will be authorized to lead training workshops around the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Following a disaster, such as the flooding the Conference has experienced this summer, trained responders assist in cleaning up the affected area.

The Disaster Response Committee encourages people interested in helping following any disaster to be prepared by taking the Early Response Team training. Each district is encouraged to participate in this training. Training can also be arranged by contacting Conference Disaster Response Committee chair Judy Doyle at [jdoyle@igrc.org](mailto:jdoyle@igrc.org).

### 3-day workshop to help church find voice on immigration

Bishop Minerva Carcaño of the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church will be a featured speaker at "Welcoming the Sojourner — Finding the Church's Voice on Immigration." The event will be Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 16-18, at the Lisle Hilton in Naperville, Ill.

Carcaño is chair of the United Methodist Council of Bishops committee on immigration. She also heads an interagency task force of the denomination that targets reform of U.S. immigration laws.

"Welcoming the Sojourner" is co-sponsored by the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church and the denomination's General Board of Church & Society (GBCS).

Other featured speakers include Bishop Hee-Soo Jung of the Northern Illinois Conference; the Rev. Mark Sills, executive director of FaithAction International House, Greensboro, N.C., an interfaith, interracial, non-profit organization working to form a united community of many cultures; and José Oliva, an organizer for Interfaith Worker Justice in Chicago.

Workshops at "Welcoming the Sojourner" will include:

- The Bible and Immigration
- Organizing United Methodists for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- The Local Church as a Place of Outreach and Ministry
- Immigration and Racism
- The New Sanctuary Movement, and
- INS Raids and Your Community

A Continuing Education Credit will be awarded for the event. Registration fee is \$95. Register online at: <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/ncjimmigration>

### Mission trip to Tanzania

The Vincennes District of the South Indiana Conference will be hosting a mission trip to the Ilula Orphan Program at Ilula, Tanzania will from Jan. 9-26, 2009.

Indiana missionary Berit Skaare is coordinating the accommodations at Ilula.

The deadline for registering is Aug. 1. A flight reservation fee of \$100 is needed

immediately. The remainder of the cost is due Nov. 16. Please make checks payable to First UMC (memo line Tanzania), PO Box 116, Fort Branch, IN 47648. For more information, please contact John Windell at 812-753-4424 or 812-499-3849 or email at [john.windell@insightbb.com](mailto:john.windell@insightbb.com)



A UMNS file photo by Mike DuBose

United Methodist Committee on Relief flood buckets line the sidewalk at a Red Cross shelter housed at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Ocean Springs, Miss., in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina. UMCOR is providing buckets to residents in the Midwest affected by widespread flooding in June. The relief agency has issued an urgent appeal for additional flood buckets or donations to help replenish its supplies, especially since the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season is just beginning.

### Flood buckets help towns soak up damage

By Susan Meister\*

**OAKLAND, Ill.** (UMNS) — Teresa Daniels of Oakland, Ill., has a message for United Methodists who donate tools and cleaning supplies to fill five-gallon pails for storm relief.

"I love flood buckets!" she exclaimed.

Oakland is a rural community of about 1,000 people and is located miles from a major river. But after 12 inches of rain fell June 7, its storm drains backed up, and homes all over town flooded.

In the storm's wake, flood buckets were shipped to Oakland on June 11 from the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, after a request from Judy Doyle, disaster response coordinator for the United Methodist Illinois Great Rivers Annual (regional) Conference, and Bunny Wolfe, missions and outreach coordinator.

"The flood buckets kept us going and gave us hope," said Daniels. "It meant so much that somebody outside our community cared enough to donate the items and deliver those buckets."

The heavy rains and subsequent flooding in Oakland were part of a stormy late spring that has caused widespread flooding in parts of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

"To date, we have sent over 5,000 flood buckets to areas around the Midwest," said the Rev. Tom Hazelwood, an executive with the United Methodist Committee on Relief. "We are preparing for volunteers and long-term case management with our partners. This recovery will likely take years, and we need resources to undergird our response."

UMCOR has issued an urgent appeal for additional flood buckets or donations to help replenish its supplies, especially since the Atlantic hurricane season is just beginning.

"Our current supplies are dangerously

low," explained Kathy Kraiza, director of UMCOR's Sager Brown distribution center in Baldwin, La. "We want to be fully prepared when the need arises. With generous donations now, we can be assured of being able to respond after the next flood or hurricane."

At \$45 per bucket, the flood buckets include supplies ranging from bleach and dust masks to sponges and clothespins. A list of contents is available at <http://www.igrc.org/Ministries/Missions/Disaster-Relief/Flood-Buckets.aspx>

"The flood buckets have everything we need," said Daniels, who has been assisting neighbors whose houses flooded. "The rubber gloves, garbage bags, masks, extra rags. ... I've worn out that scrub brush. The mud sticks to everything."

"People don't understand," she continued. "You drive by and everything looks all right, but you can't see the damage inside."

#### How to help

United Methodists are urged to be part of the recovery by sending completed flood buckets, bulk materials or a contribution to purchase supplies. Financial contributions can be made at <http://secure.gbgs-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=901440&id=3018981>.

To donate to UMCOR's work in the Midwest, drop checks in church offering plates or mail them directly to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Write Advance #901670 Domestic Disaster Response, Midwest Floods, on the memo line. Credit-card donations can be made by calling 800-554-8583 or at [www.give-tomission.org](http://www.give-tomission.org).

Up to 10 percent of gifts for Midwest flooding may be used to repair United Methodist churches and their facilities that were not insured for their catastrophic losses.

\*Meister is the domestic disaster response correspondent for UMCOR.

## New Streams

### On Service

by Beth Fender, Coordinator of New Streams

In the May and June issues of *The Current*, we considered our “favorite” spiritual disciplines (the Lord’s Supper, worship attendance, and prayer) and our “least favorite” spiritual disciplines (fasting, tithing, and following Wesley’s General Rules). One other concern arose from the congregational surveys completed by IGRC churches last fall: for some churches, the “least favorite” practice (the one most likely to receive a response of “never/no”) was serving outside of the church. For a few, it was serving **within** the church. This is surprising, because most Christian disciples would agree that service is one of the most rewarding aspects of discipleship.

Finding ways to serve may just be a matter of changing our perspective. For most of us laity, attending worship and participating in the Lord’s Supper (two of our “favorite” spiritual practices) can be fairly passive activities in which we sit and receive. If we approach the “worship service” with the emphasis on the second word – service – we might find ourselves actively participating by greeting visitors, inviting newcomers to sit with us, singing in the choir, reading scripture, lighting the candles, playing a musical instrument, running the sound or projection system, or leading children’s worship. If we approach the service of Holy Communion with a similar emphasis on service, we might find ourselves preparing the communion elements, assisting in serving the elements, or extending the table by serving on a team that takes communion elements out for fellowship and ministry with those unable to worship at church. Most of these forms of service can be done by anyone of any age or ability. Some require training or practice, while others can be done spontaneously.

Those who serve, whether within the church or in the community, have the privilege of being the hands and feet of Christ and representatives of their local church. In those churches in which many people said they seldom or never serve, it is possible that ministry is done by the pastor(s) and lay staff on behalf of the rest of the congregation. But can all ministry that could pos-

*This is the updated version of the article that appeared in the print copy of the August edition.*

sibly be done in a community, both inside and outside the church, be done by paid staff alone? As Jesus prepared to send out his disciples to minister among the people of Israel, he said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38). We are sent out in mission, and commissioned to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. When we serve joyfully in ministries of care and concern for God’s people both inside and outside the church, we move closer to fulfilling that mission.

Perhaps the most wonderful thing about a church that serves outside its own walls is the excitement and blessings that go along with being part of God’s work in the world. Those who attended the event with Mike Slaughter in Bloomington this spring witnessed his church’s outpouring of support for people in Sudan. Those who have been to Liberia on one of our many conference mission trips come home transformed by their encounter with people they would never have met by staying home. But service does not have to be costly or involve overseas travel. Many United Methodists are transformed by serving in local ministries that feed the hungry or provide shelter for the homeless. Others serve in ministries such as Stephen Ministry that equip them to reach out to those who need a sympathetic ear and a caring hand.

Obviously, one spiritual practice has to be our “least favorite.” Each of us has only 24 hours in a day and many ways to fill those hours. For the sake of God’s Kingdom and the joy found in serving, let us not forget that service (both within and outside the church) is part of the “means of grace.” As we serve others, we are formed to receive God’s grace in our own lives and to be channels of that grace for others. God calls us to serve; will you respond?

*If your church would like to learn more about the means of grace or the development of spiritual leaders, please contact Beth Fender at 217-529-2611 or via email at [bfender@igrc.org](mailto:bfender@igrc.org).*



Beth Fender

### Registration still open for joint conference

Registration is still open for the Christian Educators Fellowship (CEF) and Preaching from the Center (PFTC) joint national conferences, *Blessed to Be a Blessing*. The conferences will be held Oct. 23-27, in Albuquerque, N.M. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Albuquerque Convention Center.

The registration fee will increase very soon, but individuals can save \$40 by using the code CEFPTC01 when they register online. Additional discounts are also available for CEF members, students, and retirees. Full conference details are available at <http://www.cef2008.org>.

*Blessed to Be a Blessing* is a conference open to all Christian educators (professional and volunteer) and preachers (clergy or laity). The featured keynote speaker is well-known environmental writer Bill McKibben. More than 100 workshops will be offered, and individu-

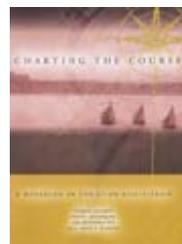
als can register for workshops from either the CEF or PFTC event. Other highlights of the event include daily Bible studies led by Osvaldo Vena, Associate Professor of New Testament at Garrett Theological Seminary; inspiring daily worship; trips and tours in the Albuquerque area; a large “Discovery Center” with dozens of vendors; and pre-conference learning options. Additionally, CEF will celebrate its 40th anniversary at the opening celebration.

Christian Educators Fellowship is a networking organization for any person involved in Christian education ministries. Preaching from the Center is an annual conference sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship.

For more information, contact Ellen Thompson, Director, Christian Educators Fellowship by calling 1-866-629-3113 or by emailing [director@cefumc.org](mailto:director@cefumc.org)

We used the workbook in the spring of 2007 during Lent. It was useful in showing us what things we were doing that were useful in making disciples and what things were not. I have to say I was very skeptical when we were introduced to the workbook at conference (just something else the conference wants us to do) but it has been a great tool to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Leann Bill  
Sheffield UMC  
Illinois River District



I attended New Streams training and served as an active participant in the leadership core group that processed through the entire book at Jacksonville Grace UMC. While I did not (and in the foreseeable future probably will not) utilize the workbook per se [in my role as a Local Pastor in other churches], I do intend to utilize the activity of assessing activities of the church as

well as the purpose statement development activities. The most powerful component to me while working through New Streams with Grace was to come up with a metaphor. And we did it!

Sara Brown  
LaMoine River District

### Women in Ministry Retreat Aug. 21-22

The annual Women in Ministry retreat will be held Aug. 21-22 at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham.

The retreat will run from noon on Aug. 21 to noon on Aug. 22. Sabbath time and Sabbath rest is the theme for the retreat. Resources from the United Media Resource Center will be available. Discussion leader will be Beth Fender, New Streams Coordinator for the conference.

The schedule includes worship, communion, sharing time and quiet time. Friday includes options for working in the distribution center or using the time for undirected Sabbath time.

Participants are encouraged to bring any books, videos or other unwanted items for the first ever book swap.

To make reservation, email Rev. Ann Champion at [ann.champion@mchsi.com](mailto:ann.champion@mchsi.com) or by calling 309-932-2407.

### Northeast

*Continued from page 16*

Methodist Publishing House in 1990 and “The Pillar of Faith Award” from Howard Divinity School in 2006.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in music education from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., in 1975, a master of divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., in 1980 and a doctor of ministry degree from Wesley in 1993.

Besides Christ Church, she has served at

Fulton-Siemers Memorial and Lansdowne United Methodist churches in Baltimore and the Mount Pleasant charge in Frederick, Md. She also was chaplain at Gallaudet University in Washington from 1985 to 1986.

Johnson received the “HIV/AIDS Activist Award” from the Family Service Foundation of Baltimore in 2004 and the “Helping Hand Award” from the Maryland Association of the Deaf in 1991 and 2005. She currently is a part of the Maryland Governor’s Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mental Health Task Force.

### Workshop on demographics Sept. 14

The Office of Congregational Development will be offering a workshop assisting congregations in understanding demographics about their communities and how to position themselves for ministry.

*Who Are These People? ... and how can we reach them?* will be held Sunday, Sept. 14, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the United Methodist Center in Springfield.

This workshop is designed for teams of at least three people from each church

congregation. However, because of limited space, local church teams cannot be larger than eight people.

The cost is \$25 per team, if registered and paid by Sept. 1. After Sept. 1, the cost is \$35 per team. Registrations will not be accepted after the deadline of Sept. 12, and all payments must be received by mail before the event.

For more information contact the office of Congregational Development, 217-529-3219, [congdev@igrc.org](mailto:congdev@igrc.org).

## National News

### Leaders focus on backbone of denomination: small churches

By Linda Green\*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (UMNS)—The United Methodist Church must focus on small and rural churches and not simply go where the wealthy are to build new churches, says a small membership church leader.

“Small churches are the backbone of the denomination,” said the Rev. Julia Wallace, director of ministries with small membership churches at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

“It is no accident that we have a church every three to five miles. At that time we wanted to get the church as close to people as we can. Our job now is keep church as close to the people as we can,” she said.

Today, 76 percent of the denomination’s congregations are small churches, which are defined as those having 200 or fewer members and fewer than 120 in worship.

More than 40 people working with small churches across the country participated in three June 2 telephone-conference conversations to learn about revitalizing small churches and ministries from the Rev. Terence Corkin, a small church expert and top executive of the Uniting Church in Australia. The pastors, district superintendents, directors of connective ministries, lay ministers and community developers also discussed emerging issues and challenges facing small churches.

“It is important that we have conversa-

tions with people who are trying innovative things and are learning leaders,” Wallace said. Issues like deployment of pastors, budgetary constraints, the use of lay pastors versus ordained pastors, lay ministers and licensed local pastors are issues that the Australian church overcame to be effective in the towns across the countryside.

“I see the Uniting Church of Australia as being 10 years ahead of the curve from us because it is already dealing with some of the dire issues that we will be facing,” she said.

#### Differences between countries

Corkin, who served for 20 years in rural ministries before he became top executive in the Uniting Church eight years ago, described the similarities and differences between rural churches in the United States and in Australia and the changes small churches are encountering.

“We have significant experience of congregations that are self-supporting with a very modest amount of external relationship with the wider church in ministry personnel,” he said. The congregations are “stand alone” and are linked together in various ways for mutual support and resource sharing and grouped into about 30 presbyteries, comparable to districts in The United Methodist Church.

Corkin described the Uniting Church as a union church formed in 1977 with Congregational, Methodists and



UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

*Chebon Kernell served Pawnee (Okla.) Indian United Methodist Church. Today, 76 percent of the denomination’s churches have 200 or less members.*

Presbyterian churches. “It is a church that understands itself as a national church in that it has a sense of place and presence across every part of Australia,” he said.

The church’s presence is expressed through indigenous ministries, remote area patrol ministries and community services and through the nearly 1,800 congregations and 1,500 ministers in active service. Some of the congregations are linked, with one minister serving more than one locale.

In many rural areas in the United States

and in Australia, there is a drift toward reduction of services and diminishing capital, aging people and increasing poverty which impact the ability to sustain congregational life, he said. Rural areas also have itinerant populations of people who come in to farm the lands, work in the mines or other industries and then leave.

“I do think a characteristic of small churches at this present time is their morale is not very high,” Corkin said. “They have a memory of being bigger or

*See Leaders on page 14 . . .*

### United Methodists rally to help Iowa flood survivors with recovery

By Marta W. Aldrich

**CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa** (UMNS)—For 30 years, Doug Ward has invested himself in a working-class neighborhood of Cedar Rapids where his family has lived, worked and gone to church—all within a few blocks of each other.

On June 13, he lost all three—his home, his business and his church building—to the rush of floodwaters from nearby Cedar River. Left behind were shoulder-high piles of debris, the stench of dirty water and soggy buildings that may or may not be salvageable.

“They’ve been parts of my life for the last 30 years, and they’re all flooded out,” said Ward, 64, as he stood on the lawn of St. James United Methodist Church, his long-time congregation, just a few blocks from his family’s A&W root beer drive-in.

“You just trust in God, and he’ll take care of us. It will work out. We take it one day at a time.”

Flood survivors with such multiple losses are not uncommon in hard-hit Cedar Rapids and a special concern of United Methodist Bishop Gregory Palmer. “You imagine that, rightly or wrongly, I could handle one of these, and I could probably

bear up under two. But how do you bear up under three: my livelihood, my home and the place that symbolizes my faith?” asked Palmer, of the church’s Iowa Area, as he surveyed flood damage upriver in Charles City June 23.

In Cedar Rapids, which has suffered the highest concentration of Midwest flooding in recent weeks, some 4,000 homes in mostly blue-collar neighborhoods were submerged after days of heavy rain swelled the Cedar River.

Palmer said the church is focusing on residents who have little resources and are dependent on the government, the church and volunteer organizations for assistance. Like Ward, most residents displaced by the floods don’t have flood insurance.

The bishop praised the work of local pastors who are “heroically and nobly” ministering to their neighborhoods, even as their church buildings and sometimes even their own homes are flooded. Three Cedar Rapids congregations—St. James, Salem and Trinity—have buildings that were heavily damaged.

In the storms’ wake, St. James established a makeshift hospitality center on its front lawn to provide residents with bottled water, health kits, cleaning supplies and



UMNS photo by Marta W. Aldrich

*(From left) United Methodist Barry Cuvelier talks with Bishop Gregory Palmer and UMCOR representative Sandra Kennedy-Owes about the impact of a May 25 tornado and June 8 floods on New Hartford, a small farming community in northeastern Iowa.*

Methodists all over the world.” The church’s Western Pennsylvania Conference sent \$20,000 in offerings collected at its recent annual conference meeting, along with a grant from its own disaster response fund. “Other conferences have sent or been in touch about how they can partner—whether through Volunteers in Mission or money or all of the above. To all of it, we say yes,” the bishop said.

Palmer expressed his gratitude “for the ways in which we have felt the support and love, tangibly and spiritually, of United

Methodists all over the world.” The church’s Western Pennsylvania Conference sent \$20,000 in offerings collected at its recent annual conference meeting, along with a grant from its own disaster response fund. “Other conferences have sent or been in touch about how they can partner—whether through Volunteers in Mission or money or all of the above. To all of it, we say yes,” the bishop said.

## National News

### Leaders

*Continued from page 13*

something else. Some have memory of another time and are conscious of the changed circumstances in which they live."

#### Measures of viability

One of the biggest issues facing small churches is money. Many lack the resources to pay clergy salary, building maintenance, insurance premiums and other operating costs, noted the teleconference participants. Some churches already know they will not be able to pay the heating bills this winter and will not be able to open their doors.

In The United Methodist Church in the United States, self-sufficiency and financial vitality are sometimes measures of a congregation's viability.

Viability, Corkin said, is not measured by a congregation's capacity to raise enough funds to pay a minister. While church officials may use it as a strategy to discontinue churches, "it is not one that we believe is an adequate indicator of vitality," he said.

There are numerous churches that cannot pay a salary but are well-connected to one another and "are very effective in bearing witness to the hope that is within them and inviting people to respond to the Christ that they know," Corkin said.

The faithfulness of the church should be the measure, he said. The faithfulness is evident in how the church works in partnership with God and participates in the mission of God, he said.

#### Assets for evangelism

The reality in the United States and in Australia is that churches are different communities even if they are only 20 kilometers or 12 miles from each other. The churches, he said, regardless of where they are located, provide different missional opportunities.

"Rural congregations are among our greatest assets for evangelical and missional renewal among the people called Methodist in the 21st century," said Bishop Kenneth Carder during a rural life celebration at the 2008 General

Conference.

Corkin agrees. "God has raised people up to call his own in these communities and they are going to be there whether there is a roll of members or if we are prepared to support a building continuing to be there."

"We don't make the church," he said. The church exists because of the saving work of Jesus Christ to confront and call people into new life and those people are called into new life in community.

Wallace spoke of a church of eight people who feed 150 every day. The church's feeding ministry launched a partnership with others and caused all involved to think about ministry in new and different ways. "They have learned to be that community which pulls other faithful people together to be in relationship with the homeless.

"They had to figure it out. I think people today want to figure out how to be church," she said. "People want opportunities for ministry."

#### Using all gifts

The use of teams for ministry is critical in revitalizing small churches in the future, Wallace said. "We must move away from being dependent on one person, whether that is a clergy pastor or a lay pastor," she said. "We must begin to celebrate being the whole people of God in that place and use all of the gifts we have been given. The days of clergy dependency are forcing us to now rethink of the way we are going to be a church."

Revitalizing existing churches and planting new ones is the focus of Path One, an organized strategy team on congregational development under the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

Path One seeks to help the church start 650 congregations by 2012. The emphasis on church growth aims to return the denomination to its evangelistic heritage of starting a new congregation every day.

"The time for revitalization is a reality," Wallace said. "We happen to have everything we need."

*\*Green is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.*

Lowry said he quit the church at 18 and went through an agnostic phase. He enrolled in a Quaker College and in a class about Christian beliefs "with all the cynicism an 18-year-old can have." The class and the reading of works of intellectual, religious thinkers led to a "dramatic conversion."

Lowry saw law school and seminary and the ordained ministry as his life choice, but "that call was very clear in my life."

#### James E. Dorff

Dorff, 61, area provost of the North Texas Annual Conference, was elected July 18 following a long balloting process. Endorsed by the North Texas Conference's delegation to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional conferences, Dorff was

### Pa. treasurer to oversee finances

By Marta W. Aldrich\*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (UMNS)—The agency overseeing the finances of The United Methodist Church has elected a church treasurer from eastern Pennsylvania as its new chief executive.

Moses Kumar, 54, of Jeffersonville, Pa., was elected as the sixth general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration on July 8 during a special session of its board. He officially begins his tenure on Sept. 1.

He will be responsible for overseeing the Nashville-based agency that coordinates and administers finances for the 11.5 million-member worldwide denomination, as well as safeguarding its legal interests and rights.

Kumar replaces Sandra Lackore, who retired at the close of 2007 after heading the council for 12 years.

With more than 32 years of ministry experience, Kumar has served the past eight years as treasurer and executive director of administrative ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. He previously worked at Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., where he was vice president for finance and operations.

"I firmly believe that God has called me and provided me with a path to this time and place of global ministry," Kumar said in a prepared statement. "As general secretary of GCFA, I will fully engage my leadership talents to guide the council in fulfilling its ministry of administration."

A native of Chennai (Madras), India, Kumar joins the council at a time when the denomination is placing new emphasis on its global connections and is considering significant changes to its worldwide structure. The United Methodist Church is growing in Africa and the Philippines, while its U.S. membership has shrunk to 7.9 million.

"Moses brings a global perspective and an annual conference understanding of the work of GCFA," said Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, president of the council. "...

elected on the 23rd ballot, receiving 187 of 292 votes cast.

"This is quite a shock," he said. "I'm very excited and pleased ... and looking forward to serving."

Dorff, a former superintendent of the Dallas-Denton District, learned about the episcopacy from North Texas Bishops William Oden and the late Rhymes Moncure. He described Oden as a superb thinker and Moncure as one who liked to be with people and bring people to the church.

The value of relationships is one of the most important lessons he learned from both men, he said.

"People need to know that you love, support and appreciate them, but that you

Moses' collegial style, faith perspective and commitment to The United Methodist Church make him a great leadership fit for the future of our denomination."

Bishop Marcus Matthews, who presides over the church's Philadelphia

Area, said he has admired Kumar's work as conference treasurer and his "persistence in finding ways to help churches facilitate their ministries." He credited Kumar's commitment to stewardship for helping the conference pay 100 percent of its apportionments in 2007, for the first time in 20 years. Apportionments are contributions requested of U.S. annual conferences to support denominational ministries and administration.

"He is also very committed to mission and has a clear understanding of the directions coming out of the general church for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," Matthews said.

Out of 19 applicants, Kumar was recommended to the council by a search committee working with the Center for Non-Profit Management in Nashville.

"The depth and breadth of experience within the applicant pool was impressive and supported a robust and thorough discernment process," Swenson said.

Kumar holds a bachelor of commerce degree from Madras Christian College in India and a master of business administration from Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa.

He and his wife, Felicia, have two grown daughters, Poornima and Penny.

*\*Aldrich is news editor of United Methodist News Service. This story was based, in part, on a news release by the General Council on Finance and Administration.*



Moses Kumar

### South Central

*Continued from page 16 . . .*

Central Jurisdiction July 18.

Endorsed by the Southwest Texas Annual Conference, Lowry was elected on the 11th ballot, receiving 189 of 295 votes cast.

Lowry says that a bishop needs to be the spiritual leader "casting a vision for God's people and God's kingdom that is really inclusive." Most of the people the church makes decisions about are not in the church, he said.

Evangelism and social holiness are "the two towering emphases the church has to be engaged in," Lowry said.

Reflecting on his spiritual development,

need to be able to say the things to them that they need to hear," Dorff said.

Following his election, Dorff, who served as the director of pastoral care and counseling at Highland Park United Methodist Church from 1979-1989, said that his passion for ministry was threefold.

"We need to get back to the business of youth ministry, campus ministry and ministry to young adults," he said.

Area provost since 2005, Dorff said the church has to be about building the leadership of new churches so that they become lasting communities of faith. He wants to examine how the church and bishops "can continue to increase clergy effectiveness, moving to excellence."

## Christian Conversation

### Technology a way to practice stewardship

Editor, *The Current*:

We are called to be good stewards of both our financial resources and the Earth. The cost of fuel is making it difficult to attend meetings that require travel, and the burning of that fuel adds to the pollution problem.

The biblical word for repent means to "change your mind" and think and act in new ways. It is time to repent of our old ways of doing the church's business.

We already have the technology to conduct meetings of conference bodies by phone and on the internet, though under used. It is vastly easier, cheaper, and cleaner to meet by pushing electrons down a wire at nearly the speed of light than to drive an SUV at 65 mph for hours to get to a meeting in Springfield.

I strongly urge the conference leadership to conduct at least half of the meetings of the various conference-wide committees, commissions, boards, and agencies through electronic means that do not require participants to travel long distances at increasingly greater cost

District offices should also utilize electronic meetings more often.

While face-to-face contact is important and should not be completely replaced, it is no less important to practice good stewardship.

Robert Morwell

Pastor, Quincy Union UMC  
LaMoine River District

### Request to our IGRC General Conference delegation

Editor, *The Current*:

First I offer the disclaimer. What follows has no hidden agenda or sound of axes grinding. I trust and affirm the delegation of IGRC clergy and lay representatives to the 2008 General Conference, and not simply because I have been acquainted in positive ways with several of them for years and have been a good personal friend with one for decades. This request is not an exercise in "gotcha."

Second I make the request. I request our delegation use the conference newspaper, *The Current*, to post how they voted on issues and questions highlighted in the daily wrap-up of conference business sum-

marized by the United Methodist News Services.

Third, I offer two reasons for this request. The first is a matter of common sense. Citizens have a right to know how their elected officials vote. Parents have a right to know how their school board members vote. Secret ballots are expressly forbidden by our church polity unless sensitive personal matters or other legitimate considerations merit that approach. It is fair and healthy to know how our elected delegates reflected the will of the members of IGRC and their own Christian convictions in their votes. Such knowledge creates an improved atmosphere of trust and openness in which Christian conversation can thrive.

The second reason for this request is a matter of deepened Christian connection. I do not expect and would be disappointed to learn that our delegation voted in block on each or any particular issue. (Here I must pause to say that I hope our Jurisdictional delegates do vote in a block for Tim Bias, but that is grist for another mill!) Knowing how our individual delegates voted in matters pertaining to budget, education, clergy standards, constitutional matters and whatever, can help pastors, laity and congregations to continue the conversation with our delegates about the reasons and convictions that informed their decisions and their votes.

There was a time as a Navy chaplain that I served in a position that required an SI clearance. Receiving that clearance involved a lengthy and expensive process more rigorous than the proverbial "Top Secret." The clearance gave me access to minister to people in a setting that was off limits to all but those who had that clearance. I am grateful that our church does not require a security clearance for access to one another or to the process and dynamics by which we collectively seek God's will in our General Conferences. The fact our conference has not made delegate votes known in a systemic way in the past is not the result of some conspiracy or sinister intent. As we move into the future, I believe such steps can assist in nourishing confidence in the integrity of the process and affirming a constructive accountability of those involved. I make this request for the sake of deepening our understanding and informing the conversations that are to come.

Bob Phillips

Pastor, Alton: Main Street UMC

### Southeast

*Continued from page 16*

cast. He is a former district superintendent and has a doctorate in education from North Carolina State University and master's degrees in theology and divinity from Duke Divinity School.

The United Methodist Church was created in 1968 by a merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist churches. Methodists elected

their bishops at one national gathering until 1940, when the jurisdictional system was instituted. Bishops in the EUB church were elected at one national gathering until 1968.

\* Caldwell is editor of the Virginia Advocate, the newspaper of the United Methodist Church's Virginia Annual (regional) Conference. He is directing the Daily Christian Advocate for the 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

### Passing the baton of leadership



Bishop Christopher

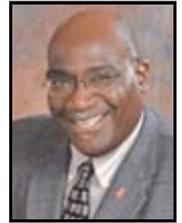
As I have sat quietly and pondered what it is that I might add to their introduction to you, I have decided to say simply that Bishop and Mrs. Palmer will love you and Bishop Palmer will lead you.

The Palmers come as those who reach out to see, to hear, to touch, to embrace, to learn, and to extend the love of Christ wherever they go. Connection with warmth is their way of life. You will be blessed by their engagement with you.

Throughout The United Methodist Church and within the Council of Bishops, Bishop Palmer is respected for his visionary, prophetic leadership that invites change and movement toward the new thing God is doing in our midst. Knowing that the status quo for the sake of the status quo is not necessarily compatible with the movement of God's Spirit, Bishop Palmer will invite you further and deeper into the movement of God in our 21st-century world.

I am honored and delighted to pass the episcopal leadership baton to Bishop Palmer, for I already know that you and the whole Christian movement will be blessed by his leadership with you.

— Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher



Bishop Palmer

### Western

*Continued from page 16*

He will become one of six serving the 12-state Western Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction is home to 390,000 United Methodists in seven annual conferences that span Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, as well as one missionary conference in Alaska.

Endorsed by the California-Pacific Conference, Hagiya was elected by receiving 54 votes cast by 80 delegates.

Prior to serving as a district superintendent, Hagiya led California congregations in Los Angeles, Berkeley and Gardena. He has been an assistant professor at Claremont School of Theology, a United Methodist-related seminary near Los Angeles, where he received his doctor of ministry, master of divinity and master of arts degrees. For the last two years, he has pursued his doctoral degree in organizational leadership at Pepperdine University. He and his wife, Janet, have three children.

"It is so humbling to stand before you like this," Hagiya told delegates after receiving a standing ovation at the conference. He thanked the leaders and people of California-Pacific in particular for their support but added that "a line of demarcation that all the bishops know has been crossed."

"I can no longer say I am from Cal-Pac.

I belong to all of you. I want you to know how deeply moving that is to belong to all of you," he said.

Elaine J.W. Stanovsky

Stanovsky, 54, a district superintendent in Seattle, was elected on July 19 on the 25th ballot. Ordained as a United Methodist deacon in 1981 and as an elder in 1983, Stanovsky has served Washington congregations in Renton and Seattle and headed the Church Council of Greater Seattle from 1990 to 1995. He has been a district superintendent in Puget Sound and in Tacoma, as well as a director of connectional ministries for the Pacific-Northwest Conference and assistant to the bishop.

Endorsed by the Pacific Northwest Annual (regional) Conference, Stanovsky was elected after receiving 53 votes cast by 80 delegates.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Puget Sound and a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.

"I claim my baptism this day and the special callings to which God has called me," said an emotional Stanovsky after her election was announced. "... May God lead us faithfully forward in the name of Jesus Christ."

Surrounded by her husband, Clinton Stanovsky, and their three grown sons, she said she has thought a lot about family as of late. "I am so grateful for a family that brought me into the church," she said.



## Jurisdictional Conference Wrap-Up

### South Central elects three

By Linda Green

**DALLAS, Texas (UMNS)** — Three new bishops were consecrated when delegates of the South Central Jurisdiction met July 16-19.

The Rev. Earl Bledsoe of the Texas Conference, Rev. John Michael Lowry of the Southwest Texas Conference and Rev. James E. Dorff of the North Texas Conference, were elected in a long balloting process that spanned 23 ballots. The three vacancies were created by the retirement of Bishops Joel Martinez and Ben Chamness and the death of Bishop Rhymes Moncure.

The South Central Jurisdiction is home to 1.8 million United Methodists in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

#### Earl Bledsoe

Bledsoe, the son of a United Methodist pastor, has a master's of divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology, where he was a Benjamin E. Mays Scholar in Hebrew and Greek. He has a doctorate from Drew University.

Dr. Bledsoe has been a district superintendent since 2002 for the Bryan/West District in the Texas Conference. He has served as pastor for Spring Woods UMC in Houston, Cypress UMC and Bear Creek UMC in Houston. From 1990-93, he was

director of teaching ministries for the Texas Conference.

He was an assistant pastor at St. Andrews UMC in Fort Worth, and a part-time local pastor for Wyatt Memorial UMC in Amarillo and the Anahuac Circuit.

Dr. Bledsoe is a jurisdictional member of the Connectional Table and was elected a General Conference delegate from 1992-2008. He chairs his conference's Board of Ordained Ministry and is president of the Council on Finance and Administration. He also chairs the Texas Methodist Foundation Board and Houston Board of Missions Revitalization Committee.

He and his wife, Leslie, have six children.

#### John Michael Lowry

Lowry, 58, executive director of new church development and transformation of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference, was the second bishop elected in the South

See *South Central* on page 14 ...



Earl Bledsoe



John Michael Lowry



James E. Dorff

### Northeast elects advocate for deaf ministry

By Linda Bloom

**HARRISBURG, Pa. (UMNS)** — The Rev. Peggy A. Johnson of Baltimore has been elected a bishop by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Johnson, 54, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf, was elected July 17 by jurisdictional conference delegates. On Sept. 1, she will become one of nine active bishops in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, which includes 13 annual (regional) conferences from Maine to West Virginia.

Endorsed by the Baltimore-Washington Conference and the Association of Physically Challenged Ministers, Johnson was elected on the 10th ballot, receiving 163 of 248 votes cast.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction has two retiring bishops, Bishop Violet L. Fisher of Rochester, N.Y., and Bishop Susan Morrison, who took early retirement. Because of a planned change in annual

conference boundaries and a reduction from 10 to nine episcopal areas in 2010, only one new bishop was elected.

Johnson has been actively involved in the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf since 1988 and has supported a deaf ministry effort in Zimbabwe through her conference. Since 1995, she has been an adjunct faculty member at Wesley Theological Seminary.

She served as a General Conference delegate from 1996 through 2008; was a member of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry from 1996 to 2000; served as a consultant on deaf ministry for the Board of Global Ministries from 2001 to 2004 and was a member of the NEJ episcopacy committee from 2000 to 2004.

Johnson received "The Circuit Rider of the Year Award" from the United

See *Northeast* on page 12 ...



Peggy A. Johnson

### Southeast elects Paul Leeland bishop

By Neill Caldwell

**LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (UMNS)** - The Rev. Paul Leeland of the North Carolina Annual (regional) Conference has been elected a bishop by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Leeland, 59, who serves as assistant to the bishop of the Raleigh (N.C.) Episcopal Area and director of ministerial relations in the North Carolina Conference, was elected on a ballot taken at 9:20 p.m. on July 16. The result was read at the start of the opening session July 17. He will fill the vacancy created in the denomination's jurisdictional col-

lege of bishops by the retirement of Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey in the Western North Carolina Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. That is the only opening in the Southeastern Jurisdiction this year.

Leeland will become one of 13 active bishops serving the episcopal areas of the 15 annual conferences that make up the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Endorsed by the North Carolina Conference, Leeland was elected on the sixth ballot, receiving 298 of 498 votes

See *Southeast* on page 15 ...



Paul Leeland

### Western Jurisdiction elects Hagiya, Stanovsky to its college

By Marta W. Aldrich

**PORTLAND, Ore. (UMNS)** — The Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church elected two bishops to replace retiring Bishop Beverly Shamana and Bishop Edward Paup, who resigned from the Council of Bishops to become the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries.

The Rev. Grant Hagiya of Redondo Beach, Calif., and the Rev. Elaine J.W. Stanovsky of Seattle, Wash., has been elected a bishop by the Western Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church.

#### Grant Hagiya

Hagiya, 56, a third-generation Japanese-American, was elected July 18 on the 16th ballot. He is one of eight new

bishops being elected this week at five jurisdictional meetings across the United States. Two of the openings are in the church's Western Jurisdiction.

After serving eight years as a district superintendent in Los Angeles, Hagiya in April became executive director of Leadership Development and the Center of Leadership Excellence, a joint project of the church's California Pacific Annual (regional) Conference and the Claremont School of Theology.

See *Western* on page 15 ...



Grant Hagiya



Elaine J.W. Stanovsky

## United Methodists comment on Church Mutual service.

From New Orleans, LA	From Wausau, WI	From San Antonio, TX
<p>"It's tough being hit by disasters of Biblical proportions. It's important to know a company as dependable as Church Mutual is there for me and for my people."</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Cory Sparks, Pastor Carrollton United Methodist Church</p>	<p>"Compared to some other insurance experiences I have had, this has been a rare and surprising pleasure!"</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Karen Ebert, Pastor First United Methodist Church</p>	<p>"If I were to describe Church Mutual in one word, I would call them responsive. They are extremely responsive to the needs of our churches and our conference."</p> <p style="font-size: small;">David Seilheimer Conference Treasurer/Secretary Southeast Texas Conference</p>

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