By Paul Black

The 2008 Illinois Great Rivers Conference held its 12th annual session June 4-7 at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria. This year’s session focused on Living the United Methodist Way, spotlighting Wesley’s general rules “Doing No Harm. Doing Good. Staying in Love with God.”

A video segment began each day with one of the three areas. In the first segment, IGRC retired pastor Miley Palmer described how his family coped with the tragedy at Northern Illinois University in dealing with his granddaughter Ryanne Mace’s death. The second segment featured the story of Mississippi teen Elizabeth Cumbest who has raised $45,000 for Gulf Coast hurricane relief with her music; and the third segment provided a cross-section of insights in how persons stay in love with God.

The conference was also the final conference for Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher, who announced her retirement last fall. Christopher has been the only bishop of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, which united just two weeks prior to her arrival in 1996. On the opening night, Christopher gave a reprise of the Episcopal Address she gave at General Conference in April. The address, which gained wide acclaim across the connection, was received warmly by the 2,000 members of the annual conference as she told the stories of transformation wrapped into the liturgy of communion. A farewell celebration was held that recounted Bishop Christopher’s call into the ministry at a time where women had just been given the rights of ordination. Several speakers also paid tribute for Christopher’s 20 years of service – 12 in Illinois and eight in Minnesota.

Bishop Bruce Ough, episcopal leader from the West Ohio Conference, was the special conference speaker as he presented the Council of Bishops’ Seven Vision Pathways and resourced the conference around transformational leadership in the local church.

Conference members also gave their enthusiastic support for the candidacy of Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher issuing a pastoral letter June 20, noted both crisis and opportunity.

“| I hear the anxiety and anguish of those
See Cleanup on page 20 . . |

Judy Doyle, conference disaster coordinator joins in the sandbagging effort in Quincy.

Annual conference focuses on Living the United Methodist Way

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See Annual Conference on page 11 . . |

Judy Doyle, conference disaster coordinator joins in the sandbagging effort in Quincy.
Quest UMC to host NBN run/walk

Quest UMC will be hosting a 5K run/walk in Champaign-Urbana on Saturday, Aug. 30, with all proceeds going to Nothing But Nets. For more information, visit the website: www.questfornets.com. The website includes information about the run/walk as well as how to register to participate.

The Well to be offered at six sites

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 for a brochure.

Youth Ministry Essentials unveiled

Youth Ministry Essentials, a four-month, 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.igrcamp.org (registration fees apply) or register by mail or fax by downloading information from youth.igrcamp.org and submitting forms and payment to Peggy O’Neal, P.O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794.

Appointments

- Angel Taylor to Morton, Associate, Illinois River District, effective July 1.
- Dan D. Selbert to Forsyth, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.
- Dianne Duncan to Walnut Grove, Spoon River District, effective July 1.
- Janet Miller to Catlin, Iroquois River District, effective July 1.
- Dan D. Selbert to Forsyth, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.
- Alan M. Simonson, Sr. to LaMoine River Parish, Spoon River District, effective July 1.
- James O. Tinzmann to Litchfield: St. Timothy, Mississippi River District, effective July 1.
- Robert Lee Shook to Benton: First, Cache River District, effective July 1.
- Jeff Stahl to Bethany and Sanner Chapel, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.
- Janice M. Devor to Greater West Frankfort Parish, Cache River District, effective July 1.
- Steve Livengood to Tower Hill, Ramsey and Herrick, Embarras River District, effective July 1.
- Betty Coffey to Buckeye and Owaneco, Sangamon River District, effective July 1.
- Rebecca Laumeier to Rossville and Bismarck, Iroquois River District, effective July 1.
- Jane Bradford to Saunemin and Trinity UM Parish, Associate, Vermilion River District, effective July 1.
- David L. Phillips to Saunemin and Trinity UM Parish, Vermilion River District, effective July 1.
- Supply not appointed
- James Whitaker to Shelby Cooperative, Embarras River District, beginning July 1.
- Michael Eugene Shearer to Cache Chapel, Cache River District, beginning July 1.

Deaths

- Retired pastor Richard “Dick” Hucks died recently in Ohio. He was a pastor in the former Central Illinois Conference for over 30 years, retiring in 1993. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Ruth Hucks, 802 Loretta Place, Lima, OH 45805.
- Mary Marzahn, wife of the late Wilbert Marzahn, died recently. Services will be held Saturday, June 21 at First Centenary UMC in Chattanooga, TN. Expressions of sympathy, at the request of the family, may be made through the following website: http://techm.nest.com/Story.aspx?id=2491540

Positions

- Music Director and/or Organist needed at Grace UMC, Decatur, IL. We See Announcements on page 3...
School supplies needed in Afghanistan

IGRC clergy member Howard Bell, pastor of Oblong Evangelical UMC, is currently stationed in Afghanistan. He reports a desperate need for school supplies for Afghan children.

All types of basic school supplies are needed, including: backpacks or book bags; pencils (wooden with erasers); ink pens (any size or color); composition books (bound); coloring books; crayons (small boxes); rulers and protractors; erasers; pencil sharpeners; scissors (small); glue sticks; and highlighters.

Teachers’ kits are also needed with such items as flash cards, visual aids and instruction manuals for math, science, English, and the alphabet; index cards (3 x 5 and 5 x 7); ball point pens (any color) and pencils; tape (masking and Scotch-type); scissors (large); paper clips; colored push pins; world maps; art stencils; stickers (as rewards for good work); post-it note pads (any size or color notebooks and folders); indelible markers (all colors and styles); chalk and blackboard erasers; whiteboard, colored markers and erasers; staples with refills; bottled glue for art projects; poster paper (any color); and large boxes of crayons.

The items can be shipped to Bell at: Howard S. Bell, Task Force Medical Hospital, APO AE 09354. The U.S. Postal Service has a special Priority Mail Box that gets a $2 discount to an APO address. It is $10.95 rather than $12.95.

Middlefork confrmands in mission

The Middlefork UMC in Potomac celebrated the completion of its confirmation class May 11.

In all, 10 youth were in the class. As part of the curriculum the youth were required to complete a mission project for the church family, but also a project outside of the church.

The project for the church was to clean up the church yard from the fall and winter. The youth gathered 18 large sacks of leaves and garbage from the church property.

On Sunday, April 13, the youth prepared and served a meal to our church family. The meal consisted of spaghetti, lasagna, garlic bread, relish tray, drink and cake. There was a freewill offering. The youth had decided that they would buy the items for health kits with their profit from the dinner they served.

The fruit of their efforts were awesome. The youth sent $50 to Heifer International to purchase a share in a heifer. They were also able to assemble 50 health kits for the Midwest Distribution Center. A dedication for the health kits was held April 27 during worship.

Eldorado play started with discussion on Christian discipleship

Continued from page 2

By Beth Fender
Coordinator of New Streams

The third to eighth grade youth of Eldorado UMC presented the play Cricket County Cousins June 1. What is unusual about this production is that it started with a discussion about discipleship.

The Sunday evening women’s Bible study group, led by Rev. Julie Allison, began this discussion last fall. Rev. Allison led the group in a study of several chapters of the New Streams workbook, Charting the Course of Christian Discipleship. The ladies discussed the mission of the church, and reflected on what it means to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

A new adult Sunday school class was formed out of the discussion. The Bible study group also started to consider the idea of a metaphor for disciple formation based on Jacob’s Ladder – each rung being a step closer to God.

As the study went on, God spoke in a direct way to one member of the group. “The Lord woke me up in the middle of the night,” says Phylis. She and a friend who previously discussed starting a prayer ministry that would go beyond the existing telephone prayer chain, and God seemed to be telling her that the time was right to move ahead. She visited each Sunday school class to enlist volunteers, each of whom agreed to pray for one hour on their assigned day.

“We all pray differently,” Phylis explains. Some pray for an hour-long block, while others pray at various times throughout the day. Volunteers pray at the church, at their homes, or even in a local park. Some incorporate scripture in their prayer time.

Some of the volunteers started praying for the youth of their church – specifically, for God to send them at least ten youth. The church had three junior high youth in the confirmation class, and one of the confirmation mentors agreed to teach a Sunday school class for these students. After some discussion with their pastor, a decision was made to offer a prize for the youth who invited the most friends.

Before long, the church had considerably more than 10 youth attending. “And they’re still coming!” the ladies report.

The congregation hired a member to serve as a part-time youth director, and soon they decided to present a spring play – which brings us back to where this story started.

And the ladies? They are now involved in Companions in Christ, but they say they may come back to the New Streams materials in the future. They report that their experience with New Streams helped them to grow – a little bit. Reflecting the Jacob’s Ladder metaphor, one member exclaimed, “Maybe we’re on the first rung!”

Announcements

Continued from page 2

are a large established church with a long history of high quality music ministry. Duties include but not limited to: direct adult choir and bell choir, select choir music, assist ministerial staff with worship service, music selection, worship service song leader, assist organize and perform special music; assist and support all music programs. Organ performance skills preferred. 20 to 40 hours per week, depending on qualifications. Salary based on education and experience. Resume and references to: Pam Wentworth, Grace UMC, 901 N. Main St., Decatur, IL 62521, fax 217-429-8272, email pwentworth@decatur grace.org.

Choir companionist, UMC of Murphysboro, Murphysboro, Ill. Our church is seeking a pianist to accompany the adult choir for Sunday services 9 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. This position includes cantatas, Lenten services, special Christmas events, and possibly community educational services. Choir practices on Wednesday evening. The term of contract runs from last week in August until May 31. A long term contract is welcome. Experience in accompanying vocal choirs is preferred. Please call Perry H. Patterson at 618-549-6851 if you are interested or e-mail at perry0441@aol.com.

Items for sale

OMI-CHORD by Suzuki, Model OM-84, System two, has advanced micro technology to program all back ground chords, rhythms, bass and drums. Unit has no visible strings; it is played by button chords and strumming a strum plate. Instructions and case included with instrument. Please call Rev Judy Medlen at 217-763-6299.
Harvest Ministries begins 13th summer

Harvest Ministry Teams has begun its 13th summer of ministry. Each year, Harvest Ministry, which was established in 1996 with a mission to “equip young adults for ministry while providing a resource to the local church,” invites young adults from around the state to apply for the team. After a week of training, the group is sent to serve as worship leaders for camps, churches and ministry events all over Illinois and the Midwest. Team members serve as short-term missionaries for two months during the summer and there have been over 160 young adults who have served on the teams since the ministry began.

The team for 2008 includes: Jeff Nail, Litchfield; Amy Hawk, Carlinville; Tom Noble, Champaign; Joshua Eastin, Salem; Kim Przybylski, Lawrenceville; and Ryan Roach from Benld.

Those with HIV/AIDS point to Peoria’s stigma of stereotypes, denial

Say continuing ‘fallacy’ helps spread of ‘epidemic’

By Clare Howard
Peoria Journal Star

PEORIA — A gay Peoria attorney with full-blown AIDS who still works 60 hours a week said stereotypes blind people from seeing the truth. A former construction worker who has lived with AIDS more than 20 years said he’s getting weary of the prejudice and rejection.

A Peoria woman whose former husband was a U.S. Marine when he gave her the disease in 1989 said the military gave him a discharge with benefits. She got a divorce.

Narratives abound not only confirming that HIV/AIDS no longer fits the confines of the young gay male population, but also raising doubts that it ever did. Today, the virus clearly crosses all demographic boundaries, and some people are contending the spread was accelerated by denial and stereotyping.

‘The stigma of HIV/AIDS still exists and still keeps people from getting tested, getting free condoms, talking about the disease,’ said Christina Henry, a grandmother from Peoria Heights who contracted the disease from a monogamous heterosexual relationship. “People will get tested if they believe it’s only gay men who get it.”

Pastor visits Swiss United Methodists

By Janet Miller
Pastor, Piper City-Onarga UMCs

One pastor told me that the early Methodists often met in secret, and Methodists were not allowed to build churches at first. Many of the churches I visited were in buildings converted from previous places of business, such as restaurants and one church was even in a car dealership.

The churches looked very modern. The eight churches I visited all had slate or tile floors and used chairs instead of pews.

They all had “beemers” or projectors so hymnals were not used. Some of the churches did not even have hymnals, and worship bulletins were also nonexistent. All of the churches used supplemental musicians as well as the organist. There were no stained glass windows, frosted perhaps, but no color; the altars and pulpits were also very plain.

The people and pastors of these Methodist churches were very warm and friendly, however. They are aware of the needs of their communities and try to meet these needs.

Many of the churches provide a noon meal that is open to members and the public for a small charge. I shared this meal in a number of churches and I was surprised by the intergenerational group that attended. There were school children on lunch break as well as business people and senior citizens. It was a weekly fellowship that everyone enjoyed. Day care type groups were also supported by some churches. One had just finished a vacation Bible school for children of the community.

Martin Weick pastors a church in Bulach, a town near Zurich. After visiting with him on the phone, he decided that I should do an evening program for his congregation which he would also open to the community of Bulach.

See Switzerland on page 5 . . .
Local Church News

Church will close, memories will remain
Springfield First UMC holds last service downtown June 22

By Nicole Milstead
Springfield State Journal-Register

Medfred and Pat Schnirring were married 60 years ago in First United Methodist Church at 501 E. Capitol Ave.

The church that stands there now is not the same building where they exchanged their vows, but they have attended services at that location for more than 30 years, and they said Friday they would be sad to see it close its doors.

“It is sad to see an era end, but we have attended services here for a long time,” said Medfred Schnirring.

“We don’t see efforts beyond specific groups. We don’t see work in the mainstream medical community,” he said. “This epidemic is not going away. It’s getting worse.”

Daniel Wessling, 57, was diagnosed with the virus 27 years ago. He was stabbed in the back, received a blood transfusion and learned later it was tainted blood.

“I’m a long-term survivor,” said Wessling, who grew up in Iowa and now lives in Peoria. “In those early days, a diagnosis was a death sentence.”

The church views comprehensive sex education as part of the solution. “Our senior pastor offered to provide a faith-based comprehensive education program to the schools. He received no answer,” Pichaske said.

The disease has spread and continues to spread because it is viewed in terms of stereotypes, said Holly Mehawich, HIV program coordinator with the Peoria City/County Health Department. “That’s exactly why it’s an epidemic. We can’t deal with it adequately through stereotypes,” she said.

Reprinted with permission from the Peoria Journal Star.
A friendly challenge benefits Liberia

Cardinals fans of RiversEdge UMC in Spring Bay, Illinois, to the left of the bell, led by Joe Helms (standing). Cubs fans to the right of the bell are led by Beth Fender (center, holding the helmet). The Cardinals fans are a bit downcast as the Cubs fans celebrate their victory in a recent giving challenge.

It started out as a simple announcement.
Rhonda Whitaker, conference lay leader, had challenged the conference laity to bring a $20 donation to the 2008 Annual Conference session, with the goal of building a school in Monrovia, Liberia.

As a lay member of the Annual Conference, Beth Fender accepted that challenge and decided to offer the opportunity to contribute to the school to the members of her local church, RiversEdge UMC in Spring Bay.

The announcement went as planned at the 8 a.m. worship service. Those in attendance heard about the recent civil war in Liberia and the dire need for schools to prepare more leaders like Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who was educated in United Methodist schools in Liberia. Beth volunteered to convey any donations from those who wished to join her in meeting Rhonda’s challenge. Following the service, six members handed her $20 bills.

Excited by this success, Beth prepared to make the same announcement at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. As she once again explained the need for the school, Joe Helms stood up behind her in the choir loft. Joe, who serves as a children’s Sunday school teacher and pastor-parish relations chair in addition to singing in the choir, had already contributed $20 to the cause. He suggested a little “friendly challenge” between two distinct and often oppositional groups in the church: fans of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs.

He recommended that two batting helmets be put in the back of the sanctuary – red for the Cardinals and blue for the Cubs. Congregation members were challenged to put donations of any size into the helmets. All contributions would be passed along to the conference for the construction of the Liberian school.

In the first week of the two-week challenge, Cubs fans took an early lead with $202 in contributions, while Cardinals fans lagged behind with $148. When all the pennies were counted (along with a generous donation of $100 from one couple), it was discovered that the Cubs fans had held on for a final victory, with final totals of $280 for the Cubs and $183 for the Cardinals. When added to the initial donations of $120, which were considered “undesignated,” the grand total came to $583.

The RiversEdge congregation would like to challenge other IGRC churches to join them in supporting this project. Contributions should be designated 6990 - Monrovia School.

Family honors Jack North on 90th birthday

The family of Dr. Jack B. North will hold a 90th birthday reception in his honor on Sunday, July 20, at Champaign First UMC from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

A light lunch will be served, as will cake with candles (the Champaign Fire Department will be notified). The party is not a surprise. Anyone who wishes to share a memory or two may do so at the event or in writing. If you are not able to attend but have an experience to share (suitable for sharing aloud), you may send it by return email or US mail.

For more information or to RSVP by July 1, contact North’s son, John North at: 217 Old Park Road, St. Joseph, IL 61873, or by phoning 217-493-3329 or emailing jnorth@uiuc.edu.

Sunset Home launches $1.4 million fund development campaign

In anticipation of its 120th year of ministry, Sunset Home is launching a $1.4 million Leading the Way campaign with a goal of receiving an average of $1,000 from 1,400 donors in gifts and pledges.

The funds will be used to provide benevolent care to those who cannot financially afford it.

In calendar year 2007, Sunset provided charity care to over 100 individuals at a cost of $1.6 million. Providing this care has left Sunset facing a large financial deficit.

“Sunset has taken many steps to decrease expenses while continuing to provide quality care to the residents who depend on us,” according to Chris Hopson, CEO/Administrator. “With the renovations of the RiverView building complete, we are also working hard to increase the number of individuals we serve. This will allow us to better serve our residents while utilizing our buildings and employees more efficiently.”

Similar to other nursing care facilities, Sunset has seen a major cost increase in utilities, medical supplies, and food costs over the last few years. The cost to provide Sunset’s employees with adequate medical coverage has also seen a sharp increase. Due to these and other expenses as well as slow reimbursement schedules from government sources, Sunset is facing a large financial deficit.

Hopson stated, “Sunset is certainly facing several challenges, but we are confident these can be overcome. The $1.4 million will keep us on our feet and is just the beginning of a long-term plan to help us cover the cost of charity care.” In 2007 Sunset Home was blessed to be able to provide $1.6 million in charity care and to serve more than 277 seniors.

Sunset began in 1889 when Charles and Augusta Pfeiffer sent a proposal to the German Methodist Episcopal Conference offering to give their home and its contents to the conference if the church would continue its use as a home for the aged. According to an April 1999 article in the Quincy Herald Whig written by Carl Landrum, Sunset became the first Methodist home of its kind west of Chicago.

The Pfeiffers were generously “Leading the Way” then by offering their home to “homeless old people” who no longer had a place to live. Their heritage, serving Jesus by opening their home to the aging, is the basis on which Sunset Home continues “Leading the Way” today.

Gifts can be sent to Sunset Home, 418 Washington, Quincy, IL 62301. To learn more about Sunset Home’s services or ways to give to the campaign, contact Barb Dietrich, Fund Development Director, 217-223-2636, or visit Sunset’s website at www.sunsethome.org.

Local Church News
IGRC nominee for bishop — Dr. Timothy L. Bias

By Paul Black

Dr. Timothy Bias tells the story of trying to win his father’s approval as a child.

“ar thing I could to win my father’s attention and favor,” he said. “I would play sports and do things I knew he was interested in.”

It was only later in his teen years that Bias learned that the favor he sought as a child had already been demonstrated by his father’s adoption of Bias. It is that story that tells much about the life of Tim Bias.

“I found out that my father had already loved and accepted me years earlier and I hadn’t worked for it,” Bias says, recalling that serendious moment. “John Wesley called that prevenient grace – the grace that goes before us – that is neither earned nor merited. We merely accept it.”

Bias emerged as the Illinois Great Rivers Conference’s consensus candidate during a period of discernment by IGRC delegates. The endorsement was unaniously affirmed at the 2008 annual conference session.

“As we look at the essential qualities and characteristics of an episcopal leader – one whose life is biblically and theologically grounded; relational; a passion for connecting all people to God; integrity; and administrator, Tim Bias exemplifies all these qualities,” said Rev. Dr. J. Keith Zimmerman, superintendent of the Vermilion River District.

“Tim Bias is Christ-centered, center values, and gives Christ to other,” added Pete Paulson, lay delegate from Decatur.

Grace UMC.

Beverly Wilkes Null, herself an episcopal candidate in 2004, noted that Bias was a “globetrotter” that can serve our world-wide church. “The winds of change are blowing in The United Methodist Church and a bishop must have a global perspective of what it means to be The United Methodist Church in our shared 21st century context. Tim Bias has the necessary gifts and graces.”

Bias is pastor of Peoria First UMC, having transferred to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference March 1, 1999, from the West Virginia Conference. He encouraged his congregation to a new level of commitment with their ministries.

Building Bridges within the community

During Bias’ tenure in Peoria, the congregation has been transformed from a church that is downtown to a downtown church that see itself lifting up the love of Christ in the heart of the city.

“People have a choice in regard to where they are going to live out their Christian faith,” Bias says. “We seek to make a significant difference in the Peoria tri-county area and we invite persons to join us in lifting up their Christian faith in tangible ways. We are committed to being a ‘kingdom-oriented’ congregation in an urban setting.”

In the diversity in ministry at Peoria First UMC, its community ministries include partnering with an elementary school, a prayer partnership with the Peoria Police Department; Neutral Ground, an HIV/AIDS ministry that partners with the University of Illinois School of Medicine; a Loaves and Fishes ministry, providing a hot meal to more than 250 marginalized persons in Peoria every Saturday and a housing ministry that has built 10 houses through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

“There is a natural progression that seems to build as you develop relation-ships with people,” said Loy Sloan, one of the coordinators of the Irving School choir program. “You start by saying, ‘let’s go save them’ and then ‘let’s go serve them.’ But Tim challenged us to build relationships over a long period of time, develop trust and invite them to be a part of the family.”

Rev. Steve Pichaske, pastor of outreach ministries, agrees. “Since Tim’s been here, he’s been very intentional about inviting everyone into the life of the church,” he said. “With that philosophy, our ministries have taken the next steps to move outside our comfort zone. Tim’s passion has become the church’s passion and it is clearly seen in our outreach.”

Building Bridges within the conference

Serving on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Bias led the Board through a process that resulted in a ministerial effectiveness document and has modeled what it means to be in covenant community. “I have worked with Tim for seven years on the Board of Ordained Ministry,” said Rev. Deryck Sonaram, BOM chair. “He has compassion for pastors coming through the process that will serve him well as bishop.”

Tim has taught in UMW Schools of Christian Mission in both West Virginia and Illinois.

“Tim has been supportive of the UMW as a pastor and Conference leader as well as being part of the General Board of Global Ministries,” said Carolyn Yockey, IGRC President of UMW. “Our conference UMW experienced spiritual growth and new insights as Tim led the Spiritual Growth study, Shalom, Peace, Salaam at the Conference School of Christian Mission.”

In 2004 and 2008, the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and its general and jurisdictional conference delegation have endorsed Bias’ nomination for bishop. In 2004, Bias emerged as a darkhorse candidate and was the last candidate to withdraw after the 35th ballot which led to the election of Bishop Sally Dyck on the 36th ballot.

Building Bridges across the connection

On April 17, the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church withdrew a petition to the 2008 General Conference seeking divestment of holdings in Caterpillar Inc. as a result of talks brokered by Tim Bias.

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In the diversity in ministry at Peoria First UMC, its community ministries include partnering with an elementary school, a prayer partnership with the Peoria Police Department; Neutral Ground, an HIV/AIDS ministry that partners with the University of Illinois School of Medicine; a Loaves and Fishes ministry, providing a hot meal to more than 250 marginalized persons in Peoria every Saturday and a housing ministry that has built 10 houses through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

“There is a natural progression that seems to build as you develop relation-ships with people,” said Loy Sloan, one of the coordinators of the Irving School choir program. “You start by saying, ‘let’s go save them’ and then ‘let’s go serve them.’ But Tim challenged us to build relationships over a long period of time, develop trust and invite them to be a part of the family.”

Rev. Steve Pichaske, pastor of outreach ministries, agrees. “Since Tim’s been here, he’s been very intentional about inviting everyone into the life of the church,” he said. “With that philosophy, our ministries have taken the next steps to move outside our comfort zone. Tim’s passion has become the church’s passion and it is clearly seen in our outreach.”

Building Bridges within the conference

Serving on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Bias led the Board through a process that resulted in a ministerial effectiveness document and has modeled what it means to be in covenant community. “I have worked with Tim for seven years on the Board of Ordained Ministry,” said Rev. Deryck Sonaram, BOM chair. “He has compassion for pastors coming through the process that will serve him well as bishop.”

Tim has taught in UMW Schools of Christian Mission in both West Virginia and Illinois.

“Tim has been supportive of the UMW as a pastor and Conference leader as well as being part of the General Board of Global Ministries,” said Carolyn Yockey, IGRC President of UMW. “Our conference UMW experienced spiritual growth and new insights as Tim led the Spiritual Growth study, Shalom, Peace, Salaam at the Conference School of Christian Mission.”

In 2004 and 2008, the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and its general and jurisdictional conference delegation have endorsed Bias’ nomination for bishop. In 2004, Bias emerged as a darkhorse candidate and was the last candidate to withdraw after the 35th ballot which led to the election of Bishop Sally Dyck on the 36th ballot.

Building Bridges across the connection

On April 17, the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church withdrew a petition to the 2008 General Conference seeking divestment of holdings in Caterpillar Inc. as a result of talks brokered by Tim Bias.
Bias
Continued from page 7

between the church agency and the Peoria-based heavy equipment manufactur-

er. Bias got involved in facilitating conver-

sation because no conversation took place between the two parties prior to the peti-

tion’s filing.

“If we are to bring transformation to the world, we will do so by building trust and


gaining trust with persons whose views may be different than our own,” Bias said.

“We don’t bring about transformation when we go toe-to-toe; we do it when we go


hand in hand. We sit down and find common ground in the midst of the conver-


sation, we find a way to address the issue together.”

Bias hopes that the fruits of the talks could impact the way people talk to one


another within The United Methodist Church. When a proposed petition came
to the floor of General Conference con-
cerning socially responsible investing, Bias offered an amendment which passed
stating that the church was committed to holy conferencing with the parties
involved. At General Conference, Bias successfully amended a petition to add
the church’s commitment to holy conferencing as part of any talks dealing with
divestment or socially responsible invest-
ing.

Building Bridges around the world

In the closing moments of the 2005 annual conference, Tim Bias invited the
Illinois Great Rivers Conference to form a partnership with Liberia. What has emerged is a multi-million dollar partner-

ship that has provided a focus for ministry beyond the conference borders. Last year, more than $1 million in support was sent to
Liberia centering around four major

issues.

- Scholarships to educate children
- Salary support for Liberian pastors
- Reconstruction of schools and churches
- Health supplies and resources

Peoria First UMC has been a leader in this effort, providing $100,000 for the building of a hospital wing at the new Ganta Hospital and $29,000 in scholarships for

Yancey School at Camphor Mission. Through partnerships with several local hospitals and international cor-

porations, another $350,000 of equipment and a $250,000 electrical generator has also been provided.

“Tim has touched my life in meaningful

ways through his Christ-centered and

spirit-filled ministry within our denomi-
nation,” said Bishop John G. Innis of
Liberia. “He is a man of strong faith, committed to the things of God in Jesus
Christ. He has a deep love for The United
Methodist Church. His global vision for

the church is beyond explanation. I join
others prayerfully endorsing Tim as a
nominee for the office of Bishop.”

About Tim Bias

Born in Ashland, Ky., Bias received an
undergraduate degree from Marshall
University, a master’s of divinity degree
from Candler School of Theology, Emory
University, and his Doctor of Ministry
degree in evangelism from United
Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.
Bias and his wife, the former Kimberly
Raynes, are the parents of two children.

Bias began his parish ministry in West
Virginia, serving two rural churches.

While at Candler, Bias was a student
associate pastor at Jones Memorial UMC
in the North Georgia Conference where
Jones Memorial was recognized as the
conference’s “Church of the Year in
Evangelism.”

From 1980 to 1995, Bias served West
Virginia churches including Otterbein-

Philips Chapel UMC in Elkins, W. Va.,
and Duff Street UMC in Clarksburg,
where he developed relational evangelism
ministries that resulted in growth of
church membership and worship atten-
dance in both settings.

A Denman Award winner in 1992, Bias

served as Director of Proclamation
Evangelism with the General Board of
Discipleship in Nashville, Tenn. It was
during his tenure at GBOD that he formed
a friendship with Liberian bishop John
Innis which led Bias to invite the Illinois
Great Rivers Conference into a partner-

ship with Liberia at the 2005 annual con-
fERENCE.

Episcopal candidates have posted information about themselves on the Web:

David Alan Bard — www.davidalambard.org
Timothy L. Bias — www.igrc.org/timbias.aspx
Randolph Cross — www.randolphcross.com
Wesley S.K. Daniel — www.wesleyskdanield.com
Jerome DeVine — www.jeromedevine.com
Laurie Haller — www.lauriehaller.org
Laurie Haller

DeVine, currently superintendent of the Albion District, based in Battle Creek, Mich., in the West Michigan Conference, is making
his second run for the episcopacy having received the endorse-
ment of the North Central Jurisdiction Native American Ministries caucus.

DeVine’s work has centered on equip-

ping the church with a sensitivity neces-

sary for a an increasingly multi-cultural

community. He is a member of the General Commission on Religion and Race as well as the NCJ Committee on Native American Ministries. He has been instrumental in the development of the NCJ Native American Indian Lay Speaking School and Native American Course of Study for local pastors.

“Rev. DeVine has been instrumental in raising awareness of Native American Indian concerns in society and in The United Methodist Church,” said a state-
m ent issued by CONAM. “He has encouraged us to share the gifts that we bring to the church from our cultures … Although not Native American himself, we recognize that his heart and his faith are one with us.”

DeVine, a member of the West Michigan delegation, is the first alternate to General Conference. He has served various roles as pastor, Conference staff member and district superintendent.

Randle Cross

Rev. Randolph Cross currently serves the Dakotas Conference as both the Lower James River District Superintendent and the conference Director of Leadership Development and Connectional Ministries. With 28 years of experience in a wide range of ministry set-
tings, Cross has held appointments across both Dakotas.

“I’m humbled to be endorsed by our dele-
gation,” said Cross. “When I look down this path, I know it will only be one that I can take with friends, and with God.”

A native of Omaha, Neb. Cross earned a bachelor’s degree in Latin from the University of North Dakota and a master’s in theology from Perkins School of Divinity at Southern Methodist University. He and his wife, Cheri, have two children.

Laurie Haller

The Rev. Laurie Haller, superintendent of the Grand Rapids District, has been endorsed for the episcopacy by the West Michigan Conference delegation to the 2008 United Methodist General and Jurisdictional conferences.

Haller, 53, is highly regarded in the Michigan Area and beyond as a leader of deep spiritual integrity. Her weekly column, Leading from the Heart, has become a regular source of encouragement and strength for laity and clergy alike.

Haller, who has a broad range of local, regional, and global experience in a variety of settings, believes that leadership in the church involves the “risksy business” of surrendering to God’s intentions.

See Nominees on page 9 . . . .
Nominees
Continued from page 8

“... I am humbled by the many opportunities that God has given us to help shape a future of hope. My prayer for The United Methodist Church is that we would be passionate leaders, working together to shape a world where all can experience the discipleship journey as one of grace and shalom.”

In addition to her church and community leadership, she is an avid marathoner and triathlete and an accomplished musician. She and her husband, the Rev. Gary Haller, have three young adult children.

Larry Pickens
Larry Pickens is the endorsed candidate of the Northern Illinois Conference. Pickens, who formerly served as general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns from July 2004 to December 2007, is a part of the Northern Illinois Conference delegation, serving as General Conference alternate and first elected to jurisdictional conference.

Pickens indicated his priorities as bishop would be leadership development, celebration of diversity, church growth, social justice and faith and worldwide mission.

Rev. Pickens has been a member of the Northern Illinois Conference for 23 years, having been ordained as a deacon in 1985 and an elder in full connection in 1987. A leader with global and local experience, he has served as associate pastor at St. Mark UMC, and senior pastor at Gorham, Maple Park and Elgin First UMC’s. He also served on the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church.

Pickens has been a delegate to General Conference in 2000 and 2008 and delegate to three World Methodist Conferences. As an ecumenical leader Pickens has been a governing board member and General Assembly delegate for the National Council of Churches.

In December 2007, Pickens was dismissed as general secretary of the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Although the commission declined to elaborate on the reasons behind the decision not to re-elect Pickens, a statement noted, “deep gratitude for the service of Dr. Larry Pickens has been given to the commission, The United Methodist Church and the ecumenical and interfaith community.”

Pickens is a graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary as well as the DePaul University School of Law. Rev. Pickens was admitted to the Illinois and South Carolina Bar, as well as the trial bar of the U.S. District Court – Northern District of Illinois in 1997.

Born and raised in Chicago, Pickens attended Chicago Public Schools. He is married to Debra, and father of a daughter, Jessica.

Frank Beard
Black United Methodists in the Indiana Area along with the two Indiana annual conferences have endorsed the Rev. Dr. Frank Beard for the episcopacy. Beard currently serves as superintendent of the Kokomo District in the North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church.

South Indiana Conference Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), North Indiana Conference Black Methodists for Church Renewal and the Black United Methodist Pastors (BUMP) of the Indiana Area recently gave their joint endorsement to Beard. Beard has led the North Indiana Conference Delegations to two General Conferences and serves on several connectional boards and agencies, including on the General Board of Discipleship. He also serves this year as the president of the North Indiana Conference’s Cabinet.

Beard, 50, is a native of Blytheville, Ark. He moved with this family to Elkhart, Ind. in 1966. Beard was ordained as a probationary clergy member of the North Indiana Conference in 1982 and as an Elder in 1985. He has served churches in Winchester, Ky., Middletown, Ky., and in Indiana at Anderson New Hope, Kokomo Beamer, Elkhart Faith as associate pastor, and Walnut Creek as senior pastor. The Bishop appointed him to the North Indiana Cabinet in 2004.

Beard holds degrees from Taylor University (B.A.) in Upland, Ind., Asbury Theological Seminary (M.Div. and D. Min.) in Wilmore, Ky., and Christian Theological Seminary (M.S.T.) in Indianapolis.

Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis
The Wisconsin Conference has endorsed the Rev. Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis, 53, for the episcopacy.

Rev. Mayorga has earned high respect, not only within the Wisconsin Conference, but nationally through his denominational work as a member of the Board of Directors of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, as a facilitator for the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry and as a consultant to annual conferences establishing Hispanic ministries. He also teaches at Garrett Evangelical for the Course of Study.

Elected to General Conference in 2004 and the first clergy elected to the 2008 General Conference, Rev. Mayorga has served as a District Superintendent since 2004. He has also endorsed by MARCHA, the National Hispanic Caucus.

Born in Atiquizaya, El Salvador, he and his wife Rosy have three children and three grandchildren. In the midst of El Salvador’s civil war in 1981, the family moved to the United States. They became American citizens in 1988.

Raised in a Catholic family, Rev. Mayorga received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of 19 and was the first in his family to become a Protestant. Now, two of his other siblings are also United Methodist pastors.

Christina Sung
Sung is the pastor of St. Paul UMC in La Porte City, Iowa. Campaign literature circulated by friends and colleagues announced her candidacy and indicates she is endorsed by the Iowa annual Conference and several Asian and Korean-American caucuses.

Sung is a member of the General Commission on Religion and Race and a clergy member of the Iowa Conference.

Wesley S. K. Daniel
The Iowa delegation and the Iowa Conference Commission on Race and Religion has endorsed the Rev. Dr. Wesley S.K. Daniel.

A native of Sri Lanka, he has been in the United States for 30 years. More than 60 members of his father’s family live in and around Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka, and along the coastal regions where a December 2004 tsunami demolished homes and livelihoods.

Speaking to the Iowa delegation, Daniel outlined 10 priorities, including calling the church back to the basics, addressing “the social ills of our day,” initiating new faith communities, living by the Wesleyan advice of “in essentials, unity, in non-essentials, liberty, and in all things, charity,” developing the leadership of laity and clergy, having a worldwide awareness and being culturally relevant.

Daniel currently serves as Central District superintendent in the Iowa Conference – a post he has held since 2004. He is also dean of the 2007-2008 Cabinet. He has served previous appointments in Iowa at Ames and Spencer. Ordained in 1989, Daniel served as a Program Consultant on the Conference Council on Ministries, as Director of Evangelism Ministries and Director of Evangelism and International Church Development for the General Board of Discipleship.

Daniel is the grandson of a clergy member of the Iowa Conference – a post he has held since 2004. He has also endorsed by MARCHA, the National Hispanic Caucus.

Born in Atiquizaya, El Salvador, he and his wife Rosy have three children and three grandchildren. In the midst of El Salvador’s civil war in 1981, the family moved to the United States. They became American citizens in 1988.

Raised in a Catholic family, Rev. Mayorga received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of 19 and was the first in his family to become a Protestant. Now, two of his other siblings are also United Methodist pastors.

Julius C. Trimble
Dr. Julius C. Trimble is the NCJ Black Methodists for Church Renewal’s endorsed candidate and has been endorsed by the East Ohio Annual Conference.

A pastor with 25 years’ experience, Trimble is the pastor of Aldersgate UMC in Warrensville, Ohio, and is a clergy member of the East Ohio Conference.

He has preached in many places in the United States as well as Liberia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone. He has been a leader in the United Methodist Women’s Schools of Christian Mission in East Ohio and Northern Illinois. He currently teaches at both Baldwin Wallace College and Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

He has served on the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church and as past organizing president of WE-CAN of Cleveland (Westside East Congregation Acting Now) which served as an ecumenical faith-based community organization that focused on race relations, public schools, and public safety.

Responding to a call to ministry at age 16, Trimble worked as a teacher, community organizer and social worker in Chicago prior to entering seminary. He was nurtured in The United Methodist Church and recently has led efforts to bring attention to the issues of mental illness and domestic violence as opportunities for United Methodist churches to be engaged in ministry of caring.

A member of the host committee for the 2000 General Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio, he has been elected a delegate to the 2004 and 2008 General Conferences.

On his leadership style, Trimble describes himself as one who believes in “intentional engagement and unapologetic collaboration.”

Trimble and his wife of 29 years, Racelnder Grandberry Trimble are both natives of Chicago. They have three young adult children.

(Victoria Rebeck, director of communications for the Minnesota Conference; Laura Owen, associate director of communications for the Dakota Conference; Linda Burson, communicator for the West Michigan Conference; Susan Dal Porto, director of communications for the Northern Illinois Conference; and Dan Gangler, director of communications for the Indiana Area contributed to this report).
The Illinois Great Rivers Conference celebrated the lives and ministries of those from the conference family who have gone on to the church triumphant at the June 5 Memorial Service. Clergy and Spouses — deaths from May 2007 – May 2008.

- Ronald Baker
  July 2, 2007
- Alberta Dilworth
  August 7, 2007
- George Fischer
  November 6, 2007
- Raymond Clodfelder
  January 24, 2008
- Janet Deal
  December 10, 2007
- Harrison Blankenship
  July 12, 2007
- Opal Kathleen George
  August 29, 2007
- John Glidden
  April 4, 2008
- Omer Ulrich
  Olney First UMC
  Lay Member
  September 10, 2007
- Bobby Lee Logan
  April 5, 2008
- Roscoe Rose
  June 11, 2007
- Helen Theobald
  March 18, 2008
- L. Maxwell White
  February 11, 2008
- Shirley Barrow
  July 14, 2007
- Minerva Connell
  March 18, 2008
- Anna Dugger
  April 10, 2008
- Laverne Eaker
  February 3, 2008
- Doris Mae Friesner
  October 3, 2007
- Thelma Fisher-Matzahn
  January 23, 2008
- Helen Murphy
  October 15, 2007
- Lois Ann Provinces
  January 6, 2008
- Bernard Purcell
  October 12, 2007
- Robert Roederer
  April 3, 2008
- Beulah Purcell
  October 15, 2007
- Robert Roederer
  April 3, 2008
- Ervin Schmidt
  March 11, 2008
- Mary Lou Scott
  November 9, 2007
- Bernard Wahl, Jr.
  December 22, 2007
- Marilyn Warren
  December 23, 2007

A total of 645.25 years of ministry were celebrated with the Recognition of the Retiring Class of 2008 and a video presentation, commissioned by the Preachers Aid Society and produced by the Conference Communication Ministries Team, featured each of the members of the retiring class.

- L. Sue Bailey
  27 years
- Ron Barrick
  25 years
- Dale A. Beck
  36 years
- Don Burroughs
  38 years
- Terry L. Clark
  41 years
- John R. Crede
  39 years
- Dennis Fager
  23 years
- Martin R. Gutzmer
  35 years
- Robert Lawry
  46 years
- Pinckney V. Love, Jr.
  12 years
- Alan L. Newhall
  41 years
- Brent K. Phillips
  38 years
- Howard Sallee
  13 years
- James N. Schuetz
  42 years
- Robert W. Smith
  38 years

No photos available:
- Karol Brown – 4 years
- Ronald M. Johnson – 16 years
- Louella R. Pence – 10 years
- Gretchen Stonebaugh – 32.75 years
- Gary Whipple – 24.50 years

Note: Rodney Herrick and Carol Edman are also retiring effective July 1, 2008, but will be honored at the 2009 annual conference.
Annual Conference Wrap-Up

Indiana United Methodists approve merger of two conferences

By Daniel R. Gangler*

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (UMNS) — With shouts of joy and prayers of thanksgiving, members of The United Methodist Church’s South Indiana and North Indiana annual conferences approved a plan to merge the two regions into one new Indiana Annual (regional) Conference.

Bishop Mike Coyner of Indianapolis announced the results of votes by each annual conference during the closing session of the South Indiana legislative gathering June 7 at the Indiana University Auditorium in Bloomington. South Indiana members voted 616-185 on June 6 to unite with the North Indiana Conference. North Indiana members, meeting May 30 in West Lafayette, voted 730-192 for the merger.

The votes conclude 62 years of Methodist annual conference sessions at Indiana University and 40 years of United Methodist annual conference sessions at Purdue University.

In a June 9 letter to leaders of both conferences, Coyner thanked all who helped in the process.

“To all who have prayed, discussed, disagreed, and worked together to shape the plan to date,” he wrote. “There are so many steps to follow, but I sense the strong affirmation of both conferences for us to continue on this journey together. I pray that it will all be to the glory of God and to the ministry of Christ here in Indiana.”

Coyner called for a special session of both conferences Oct. 4 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds to finalize amendments, elect committees and begin plans for the first combined Indiana Annual Conference session, scheduled for July 24-27, 2009, at Ball State University in Muncie.

Unified voice

The merger is designed to streamline administration of the Indiana Area to bring resources closer to congregations for their support. The new structure will have five district resource centers across the state. Currently, having two annual conference centers in Bloomington and Marion and an area office in Indianapolis has resulted in administrative duplication and a need for better communication and recordkeeping.

Proponents say uniting the conferences also will give Indiana United Methodists a single statewide voice.

The bishop will appoint a transition team to implement design plans. Features of the new annual conference, which was two years in design, include:

- Forming clergy into covenant groups and all 1,200 congregations into ministry clusters for the support of and accountability to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;

- Dissolving the 18 districts across Indiana and establishing five resource centers to support the Church’s districts; and

- Creating a new conference structure and establishing a new conference center in Indianapolis.

The only major amendments to the 50-page unity document added youth and young adults to the discussion-making process of the statewide church and added more staff in youth and young adult ministries to the five resource centers across the state.

Largest Protestant group

The last such structural change of this magnitude in the state occurred in 1968 when the former Methodist Church and former Evangelical United Brethren Church voted to become The United Methodist Church.

With 225,000 United Methodists and 1,200 congregations in Indiana, The United Methodist Church is the largest Protestant denomination in the state. Methodist first established churches in Indiana in 1801.

The denomination also is related to three Indiana hospitals, three universities, three children’s homes, six residential facilities for seniors, one halfway house and seven retreat/camps. All of these will be part of the new Indiana Conference.

*Gangler is director of communications for the Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church.
Pathways, areas of focus key to returning church to movement

Ough urges church to reclaim its transformational mission to the world

By Paul Black

Bishop Bruce Ough remembers his first Council of Bishops meeting in November 2000.

“One-third of the bishops that year were newly elected and were feeling their oats,” he said. “As a group we wanted to change the church; what we didn’t understand or fully appreciate was that the Holy Spirit was already at work.”

Ough, who is completing his second term as bishop of the West Ohio Conference, told those at the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference Thursday that the church is called to respond to the same question posed to Peter in Acts 2, “So the church is called to respond to the same term as bishop of the West Ohio Conference Thursday that fully appreciate was that the Holy Spirit is changing exponentially. “The early Methodists were nimble. How long has it been since you have used that term to describe our church?” he said. “We live in a time where too many of our churches are a generation or less away from extinction. And yet, the Spirit is moving mightily on the continent of Africa and Asia. It’s changing the context of ministry.”

Ough outlines the Seven Vision Pathways which have guided the Council of Bishops’ leadership of the denomination in its disciple-making mission. The seven components are:

- Teaching the Wesleyan way of reaching and forming disciples of Jesus Christ, “It’s part of our DNA,” Ough said, noting that “we are a lot more evangelical than we are comfortable with; we are a lot more Pentecostal than we are comfortable with and we are more socially engaged and involved than we are comfortable with.” Churches and conferences that are teaching the Wesleyan way of discipleship are the most vital.
- Strengthening clergy and lay leadership: The direction of our leadership is the direction the church goes. Lovett Weems, in responding to the Seven Vision Pathways asked two of his 10 provocative questions: “Should we declare young United Methodist clergy an endangered species?” (clergy under the age of 35 are less than 5 percent of the total clergy) and “Can we shift from spending large resources on a few ineffective clergy to the many faithful” that need to be strengthened for their leadership role? Ough noted that this is critical because persons who are previously unchurched will “join the pastor before they join the church” and that the age of the pastor will be within seven years of the age of the parishioner.
- Transforming existing congregations: Part of the challenge is to change what has been done “for ever and ever.” Ough noted that this is critical because persons who are previously unchurched will “join the pastor before they join the church” and that the age of the pastor will be within seven years of the age of the parishioner.
- Developing new congregations: Several years ago, church growth consultant Lyle Schaller indicated that a conference needed to start congregations at the rate of 2 percent of its total. “Today, that number is 4 percent,” Ough said, noting that such conferences are being challenged because the old methods of church starts aren’t working and they aren’t adaptable to rapid change.” The result is new models of ministry are emerging like a parent church giving birth to new congregations.
- Ending racism as we authentically expand racial/ethnic ministries: “Both go hand in hand,” Ough said. “We have to do both – end racism in the church and then be in ministry of welcoming the stranger in our midst. Some have suggested that one measure might be to track the number of professions of faith among people of color.”
- Eliminating poverty in community with the poor: “There are few biblical mandates that are more clearer than ministry to and with the poor,” Ough said. “The Gospels have a bias toward the poor.”
- Reaching and transforming the lives of new generations of children: In 2006, the number of persons from the millennial generation outnumbered Baby Boomers by 1 million in the United States. “And yet, the church is still fixated on Baby Boomers,” Ough noted.

As a result of the Council of Bishops’ vision pathways, new collaborative efforts of ministry has formed among the general church agencies. The four areas of focus are: developing principled Christian leaders, starting new congregations and renewing existing ones, engaging in ministry with the poor and improving global health.

Four calls to action are inviting persons to be a part of the United Methodist movement. “Every individual can be involved in these four calls of observing the three simple rules, reaching more people, younger people and more diverse people, fighting poverty by saving a child and eliminating the killer diseases of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS,” Ough said. “These are the leading edges to our response.”

Transformational leadership begins with us

Conferences challenged to live out what they profess

By Paul Black

Bishop Bruce Ough remembers a trip to tiny Rinard UMC, a tiny village outside Ft. Dodge, Iowa several years ago.

At that time, Ough was Council on Ministries Director of the Iowa Conference and had been invited to the small community to work with the congregation about its future.

“The village’s three main institutions were the church, the gas station and bar,” Ough said. “The church was beautiful, immaculate and well-kept with an endowment given for maintaining a museum to the past.”

In a congregational conversation, one lady said, “Thirteen.” Ough asked the woman to explain her response.

“There are 13 – 13 children that line up to get on the school bus every day across the street to go to the consolidated school,” she said. “I pray for them and I pray for our church every day. And I pray that one day we might minister to those children. What if we took some of our money and developed an after-school program so that when the children get off the bus, they come here until their parents arrive home for work?”

A quiet stillness filled the room. “The wind was moving, the Spirit was working because one woman took the risk to raise

See Ough on page 13 . . .

Annual Conference Wrap-Up

Illinois Great Rivers Conference — The Current

July 2008

Bishop Bruce Ough discusses the Council of Bishops’ Seven Vision Pathways as it seeks to return The United Methodist Church from an institution to a movement.

The children of the annual conference share several songs in Saturday’s closing session.
Electronic voting makes its debut at conference

By Paul Black

Members of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference got a taste of voting electronically as a demonstration of the technology was used in Friday’s legislative session.

Utilizing wireless keypads the assembly of nearly 1,000 members voted on various amendments and legislation, pushing a single key for “yes” or “no”.

Brian Chan of Florida-based Option Technologies guided the lay and clergy members through a quick orientation session and answered questions about the technology. Chan’s company was selected having worked with the West Michigan and Detroit conference earlier this year in a joint annual conference session which considered uniting the two conferences into a single Michigan conference. Currently, both conferences share a bishop.

“The technology is versatile and can be adapted to those situations anticipated,” Chan said, noting that the IGRC hopes to utilize this to streamline and facilitate the voting at general and jurisdictional conferences.

“After last year’s balloting, many of the comments on evaluations said, ‘there has to be a better way to hold elections.’ Members, we heard you.” — Paul Black, IGRC director of communication ministries

“After last year’s balloting, many of the comments on evaluations said, ‘there has to be a better way to hold elections.’ Members, we heard you,” said Paul Black, IGRC director of communication ministries. Black said although the next balloting wouldn’t occur until 2011, there was general consensus that if this was the direction that the conference wishes to go, electronic voting would be used in 2009 and 2010 so members could become comfortable with using the keypads.

Ough

Continued from page 12

her sail and whoosh… the wind caught it.”

Ough said. “Today, nothing is left in Rinard, Iowa. Even the bar and gas station are closed but the church is thriving.”

Ough challenged members of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference to be “13 People” — persons who would provide transformational leadership today.

Utilizing Romans 12:1-2 as his text, Ough identified the steps for transformational leadership in the Rinard story:

• Prayer — The woman sought God’s direction. “When you begin to pray, God will move the church to be involved,” Ough said. And with our shifts in demographics, “some may be speaking Spanish,” noting the growth of the Hispanic population throughout the United States.

• Courageously name current reality — “Every church in the IGRC has 13, 1,300 or 13,000 persons that do not know Jesus Christ,” Ough said. “The problem is that instead of current reality, we adopt a cultural reality that says we are a dying community and there are no children.”

• Cast a vision — Casting a vision lifts up a vision of God’s preferred future. “Notice the woman began with the resources that were at hand,” Ough said. “We cannot move our congregations to transformation unless we are being transformed. Too many times, cultural reality gets substituted for Kingdom reality.”

• Seek alignment around the principle of a movement: “Focus on identity, purpose and vision, not on institutional preservation and regulation,” Ough said.

Ough offered the following ways in which for individuals and churches to position themselves for transformational leadership:

• It’s our behavior that forms us: practice the Three Simple Rules of Doing No Harm. Doing Good. And staying in love with God.

• Maintain the unity of the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. “Do not let people divide this mission by saying ‘I’m for making disciples of Jesus Christ,’ or ‘I am for transforming the world,’ they are one thing and when you divide it, you lose its power.”

• Maintain your strategic focus even with the transition of episcopal leadership. “The Council of Bishops have been learning together and you are leading the United Methodist connection,” he said. “The vision is larger than any individual episcopal leader and I applaud what you have already done and a new bishop will also appreciate those efforts as well.”

Support for the Four Areas of Focus articulated by the general church leadership of developing principled spiritual leaders; starting new congregations and renewing existing ones; engaging in ministry with the poor; and improving global health

Follow the money: 98 percent of local church money stays within the local church, district and annual conference. “The other 2 percent funds the general church and the new budget passed by the 2008 General Conference are aligning around the seven vision pathways and the four areas of focus,” Ough said.

For page 21 for a summary of legislative action taken at the 2008 Annual Conference.

Annual conference members waded into new waters using wireless electronic keypads to cast their votes on the various reports and resolutions.

Annual Conference Wrap-Up

Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher stands next to the Old Grey Mare (aka Andy Black and James Rosse of Springfield Jerome UMC) who paid a visit to the Conference session Thursday. Christopher recounted that conference secretary Bill Werner had said he felt like a horse when assuming his duties four years ago, asking the Bishop, “Which end am I?” The bishop’s response was, “By the time you are finished, you will know!” And so with the help of conference members, Christopher asked Bill which end of the horse was he.
PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS and SUPPLY 2008-2009

Additional pastoral appointments or changes to charges listed below may be made at any time deemed advisable by the bishop and cabinet (The Book of Discipline, Para 434). This version current as of June 24, 2008

CODE
FE Elder in Full Connection
FD Deacon in Full Connection
AM Associate Member
PE Probationary Elder
PD Probationary Member
FL Full time Local Pastor
PL Part time Local Pastor
SP Student Local Pastor
LP Other Local Pastor
AF Affiliate Member
RM Retired Full Member
RA Retired Associate Member
RP Retired Probationary Member
RL Retired Local Pastor
SY Supply, Not Appointed
DM Diocanal Minister
TBS To Be Supplied
OE Elder Member of other Annual Conference or other Methodist denomination
OD Deacon Member of other Annual Conference
OA Associate Member of other Annual Conference
OP Probationary Member of other Annual Conference
OF Full Member of other denomination
EP Elder/full minister recognized from other denomination serving UM probation
DP Deacon recognized from other denomination serving UM probation

CACHIE RIVER DISTRICT
District Superintendent
James J. Gorcutch 6 FE
4503 W. DeYoung St., Ste. 201C
Marion 62959-5801
618-998-0135, fax 618-998-0137
cachiverdist@verizon.net

Anna........................................William D. Minor 2FE
Belknap/West Eden ..................Steve Heisner 14SY
Benton First .........................Robert L. Shook 1FE
Big Prairie/Maunie/Concord .............C. William Fechtig 22RL
Brookport/Powers ..................Norman C. Sloan 6RM
Broughton ....................................TBS
Cache Chapel ..........................Michael Shearer 15Y
Cairo Tigert Memorial/First Presb.
Yoked/Mounds ..........................Kelly Cox 14FL
Carbondale First .....................John Annable 14FE
Carbondale Grace .................Robert E. Sabo, Jr. 1FE
Carmi Emmanuel ......................Steven J. Friese 2FE
Carmi First ............................Gary L. Feldman 3FE
Carrier Mills ..........................Jody Dunning 7FE
Carterville .............................Stephen L. Palmer 10FE
Cedar Grove/Pittsburg .............April Turner 35Y
Center/Cypress/Luther’s Chapel
Center/Cypress .................Mike Sharp 2SY
Luther’s Chapel .......................Kenneth Baker 55Y
Cobden: Jesus is the Saviour .......Adrian Garcia 11FE
Colp ......................................Jim L. Toockstein 3PL
Crab Orchard/Pleasant Grove Cecil Atchison 7PL
Cross Road/Tamms ..............Allen F. Vinson 5PL
Crossville/Zion ..................Steven B. Williams 2FL
........................................Van Scott 7SY
Dahlgren/Macedonia .................TBS
DuQuoin .............................Michael Ebersohl 4FE
Eldorado/Raleigh ..................Julie Allison 4FL
Elkville/Hurst ......................Gary Billiot 5PL
Enfield/Wesley Chapel ..........Mike Buckman 14FL
Equality/Wesley Chapel/
Ridgway ....................James Allison 1FL
Fountain .............................Donald Bowers 2SY
Galatia ..................................Harrison Peyton14RM
Glendale/Eddyville/Taylor .........Julie Smith 2PE
Golconda/Rosiclaire .............Charles Jackson 2RL
Goreville/Creal Springs .........Tim Woodard 5FL
Grand Tower/Wolf Lake/ Ware ..........................Stephanie Shenwell 3PL
Greater West Frankfort Parish
West Frankfort Antioch /West Frankfort Central/West Frankfort First/
Mt. Etna .............................Janice M. Devor 1FL
Greenwood ...........................Jean Webster 4RL
Harrisburg Circuit
Dorris Heights/ Mt. Moriah ..........Jon R. Westfall 16PL
Harrisburg First ..................Paul Widicus 6FE
Herrin ..................................William Edward Hoke 2FE
Johnston City/Energy ..............Tad A. Hartley 1FE
Jonesboro/Walnut Grove ..........Robert Fear 5RL
Joppa/Oak Grove ....................TBS
Karnak ..............................Al D. Milligan 3ME
Marion Aldersgate ............Timothy D. Ozment 2FE
......................................Kenneth P. Burgard 2PE
Marion First .........................Victor K. Long 6FE
......................................Deborah L. Pollex 3PL
McHenry ..................................TBS
McLeansboro First .............James Peak 3FL
Metropolis ..........................Gary Motta 4FE
Murphysboro .......................Larry A. Gilbert 1FE
New Burnside .....................Janet L. Roy 9PL
Norris City/Sheibah .........Janet L. Roy 1FE
Ohio Chapel ...........................Tammy Horn 5PL
Ohio River Circuit
Shawneetown/Cave In Rock/
Elizabethtown ..........Sharon L. Wilkerson 9PL
Olive Branch .......................Pete Ryan 5FL
Olmsted ..................................TBS
Pincnkeeville .....................James E. Barnett 7FE
Sesser/Valier .......................Harold Quick 5FE
Stirzit ..................................Marion Ford 9RA
Sunfield ...............................Michael L. Kesling 4AM
Tate’s Chapel ..........................TBS
Vergennes Faith ........Angela N. Baughman 5PL
Vienna .........................Lance Leedes 3FE
West Frankfort Trinity ........Mark Jordan 5FE
Zeigler/Royalton/
Christopher .....................James R. Heaney 7OE

EMBARRAS RIVER DISTRICT
District Superintendent
Randall W. Reese 2 FE
1901 S. 4th St., Ste. 234
Effingham 62401-4187
217-347-3913, fax 217-347-3916
embarrivdist@consolidated.net

Altamont Circuit
Asbury/Dexter/Funkhouser/
Salem ....................................Ed Wojnar 3SY
Altamont First ..........................Jeffery VanDyke 6FE
Annapolis/Kirk Chapel ......Catherine Pancake 2SY
Beecher City/Shumway ........Paul R. Bauer 5FE
Brownstown/Emmanuel ......Joe Montgomery 2SY
Casey .....................................Penny Barber 5FE
Charleston Otterbein .........Krista Price 5FE
Charleston Wesley ..........Cynthia A. Jones 6FE
......................................E. Michael Jones 6FE
......................................Tom Renardo 3PL
Cowden/Lakewood ..............Lynette DeAtley 1FE
Cumberland United Methodist Parish
Greenup/Toledo/Cottonwood/
Pleasant Valley/Salem/ Woodbury ..........................Ed Davis 2FE
......................................Tom Renardo 2PL
Dogwood Prairie/Seed
Chapel ..................................David Ducommun 8FL
Edgar County New Vision Parish, Circuit 1
Hume/Christman/Scottland ...Teri Shane 5FL
Edgar County New Vision Parish, Circuit 2
Clay’s Prairie/Vermilion ...........TBS
Edgar County New Vision Parish, Circuit 3
Paris Otterbein/Grandview ....Don Shane 5FL
Effingham Centenary ..............Dan Harry 1FE
Flat Rock ..............................Delbert Pancake 2FE
Harmon ...................................Gene Creek 5PL
Harvest ..................................Daniel Laack 6PL
Kansas ...............................Jeremy Hamson 2SY
Lerna/Johnstown/L. Raymond Roberts, Jr. 4SY

The United Methodist Churches of Marshall
Armstrong/Dunlap ..................Miriam Snider 3FE
Emmanuel/Zion ..................Justin Snider 3PE
First .....................................Richard Lewis 1FE
Parson ..................................Daniel L. Garner 7SY
Trinity/Breck .........................Judy Williams 7FL
Marshall Asbury/Oliver ........Sharon Welliver 2SY

Martinsville Parish
Martinsville/ friendship ........John Gartelos 7PL
Mattoon Faith/Humboldt ......Jack Woods10RM
Mattoon First ..........................James Rhea 3FE
Montgomery Good Shepherd’s Parish
Coffeen/Fillmore/Hillsboro/Iving/
Witt ......................................Diane Bigley 2FL
......................................John Walsh 2PL
......................................Vance Amerman 2SY
Montrose .............................Kenneth Miller 8RM
Neoga/Ema ..........................Deryck Sonaram 1AM
Newton Grace .....................Mario Meyer 3FE
Nokomis ...............................Diwan Twade 1AM
Oakland/Westfield ............Charles Sheldquist 2FE
Oblong Central ......................Tommy J. Brewer 4FL
Oblong Evangelical ..............Howard Bell 5FE
Palestine First/Palestine Grace .Ruth Waite 3PL

See Appointments on page 15 ...
2008-2009 Appointments

Illinois Great Rivers Conference — The Current

Page 15

July 2008

ILLINOIS RIVER DISTRICT
District Superintendent

Melva J. Graham England 7 FE
7820 N. University St., Ste. 102A
Peoria 61614-8301
309-683-0841, fax 309-683-0852
ilriverumc@sbcglobal.net

Bruce W. Bolin Ghitalla
James A. Reynolds, Sr.
Mary Kathryn Pearce
J. Michael Robison
Roger W. Russell
Maurice Midgley
Cyndi Wiedman
Kathryn Lewis
Ardith Corsaw
Gary Fairchild
Linda Richard
William Duke SY

July 2008

Kewanee
Henry
Green Valley First/Eureka
East Peoria First
Delavan
Cuba/London Mills/Smithfield
Chillicothe
Bartonville
Watson
Vandalia Haley Chapel/
Tower Hill/Ramsey/Sugar Grove
Strasburg/Washington
Robinson Otterbein/Robinson First
Paris First

July 2008

Evangelical

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July 2008

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July 2008

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William Duke SY

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July 2008

Kewanee
Henry
Green Valley First/Eureka
East Peoria First
Delavan
Cuba/London Mills/Smithfield
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Vandalia Haley Chapel/
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Paris First

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July 2008

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Cyndi Wiedman
Kathryn Lewis
Ardith Corsaw
Gary Fairchild
Linda Richard
William Duke SY

July 2008
## 2008-2009 Appointments

### KASKASKIA RIVER DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**

Alan R. Rhein 7 FE

4121 S. Water Tower Pl.
Mount Vernon 62864-6293
618-242-2817, fax 618-242-2917
kasdist@yahoo.com

### Urbana Grace

- J. Michael Smith 8FL

### Urbana Jesus’ Love Ministry

- Kook Jin Yun 13FE

### Urbana Wesley

- Howard L. White 6FL

### Villa Grove

- Nicholas B. Shoulter 6FL

### Watseka

- Paul L. Copeland 4FL

### Woodland/Crescent City

- Bobbi Shultz 3FL

### LA MOINE RIVER DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**

Randall L. Robinson 6 FE

102 S. Fayette St., Jacksonville 62650-2097
217-245-0946, fax 217-243-5448
lamoineriverdistrict@verizon.net

### Adams County Group Ministry

- Paloma/Pleasant Grove ...Scott Swigart 5FL
- Beverly/Kingston ......Lois Sorrill 2SY
- Ashland/Peter Cartwright/Roosevelt Smith 2FL
- Barry ..........Nancy Monahan 9FE
- Baso ..................TBS
- Batchtown ..............TBS
- Beardstown ............C. Robert Schoolcraft 5AM
- Bethel/Kane .............Jack Weller 7FL
- Bluff Springs, ....William Hesslerdenz 7SY
- Bright Star United Methodist Parish
  - Griggsville/New Salem/Detroit/Florida/Oxville/Perry/Baylis ....David Kelly 1FL
  - Nashville ..................Alvin Laird 1PL
  - Camp Point/Centennial ....Peg Ratliff 7SY
  - Ebenezer ................Joseph G. Tomich 2AM
  - Carlinville ..............Robert R. Taylor 3FE
  - Christ UMC
    - Carrollton/Christ .......Sara Brown 1PL
    - Carthage ..................William G. Pyatt 9FE

### Circle of Grace Charge

- Astoria/Sheldons Grove/Browning/Sugar Grove ........Bert Nelson 2FE
- Concord/Arenzville ......Timothy D. Rhodes 2FE
- Dodsville ................David Haney 5SY

### Eagle Valley Charge

- Bluffs/Naples ..............Mark Doane 7AM
- Franklin/Durbin ..........Don Long, Sr.11AM

### Trinitas Charge

- Clay City/History/Region
  - Bethel ..................Mark Canada 2FE
  - Union Chapel/Landes ......Deeta Gaither 4PL
- Salem Trinity/Church
  - Chapel ...................Dean A. Beals 3FL
  - Sandoval/Patoka/Boulder ......Clayton Coffey 6AM
  - Shattuck/Gleadow/...Mary Alice Cunningham 5SP
- St. Francisville ..........Rudolph Spring 6SY

### Wayne County Parish

- Geff/Bethel/Cisne/Johnsville .....TBS

### West Salem Zion

- Bob McNeely 2SY

### Greenfield/Rock Bridge

- Tim Gossett 1FL
- Tim Miller 1FL

### Midwest Parish

- Palmyra/Modesto/Scottville
  - John Chisler 9FL
  - Payson/Plainview/Richfield/Stacy Tomich 2FL
- Pleasant Hill/Hamburg ......TBS

### Prairie Mission Cooperative Parish

- Oakford/Bath/Fairview/Judy Vidakovitch 1FL
- Quincy Grace/Mount Zion .....Connie Jenkins 1AM
- Quincy Melrose Chapel .....Walter B. Carlson 6FE
- Quincy Union ........Robert Morwell 8FE
- Quincy Vermont Street ....Louie F. Zuck 5FE

### West Central Church

- Hull/New Canton ....Sheila Kelly 1FE
- Winchester .................Robin R. Lyons 4FE

### MISSISSIPPI RIVER DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**

Beverly Wilkes Null 7 FE

121 Behrens St., Ste. 2, O’Fallon 62269-1510
618-622-3072, fax 618-622-3073
missriverdist@sbglobal.net

### Alton Grace/Hartford

- Elah .....................Charles Schwab 5RL
- Elah Main Street ....Robert Phillips 4FE
- ...Nicoe Cox 2PE
- ......Allynn Walker 7FL

### Belleville St. Matthew

- James K. Sloane 7FE
- ......Donna Blythe 4PE
- ......Larry Patton 13FD

### Belleville Signal Hill

- Peter J. Wehrly 2FE

### Belleville Union/New

- Athens ...................Edward R. Weston 2FE
- Bethalto .................John Tenmyson 6FE
- Jerseyville ................Judy Miller 1PL

### See Appointments on page 17
2008-2009 Appointments

SANGAMON RIVER DISTRICT
District Superintendent
Gerald G. King 6 FE
(5000 S. 2nd St.), PO Box 3487
Springfield 62708-3487
217-529-3257, Fax 217-529-4181
sangriver@igcr.org

Argenta/Warrensburg ............Bong-Choul Wuang 3FE
Assumption/Findlay ...........Thomas Compton 8FM
Athen/Cantrall ................Gloria Davis 10AM
Auburn .......................David W. Venter 5FE
Bethany/Sanner Chapel ..........Jeff Stahl 1FL
Bissell .........................Jack P. Joyner 9PL
Blue Mound/Bethel .............George F. Adam, Sr. 5FE
Buckney/Owaneco .............Betty Coffey 1FE
Cerro Gordo ..................Daniel A. Lybarger 3FE
Chatham .....................Sara L. Isbell 2FL
Cicso .........................Dennis Wayne Beedy 12FL
Clinton ........................Leah R. Pogemiller 5FE
Decatur Central/Decatur
South Shores ..................Robert P. Baker 4FE
Decatur Christ ..................Gerald Savage 2FE
Decatur First ....................Kent King-Nobles 2FE
..........................Kathy King-Nobles 2FE
Decatur Grace ..................Danny Cox 11FE
Decatur Wesley/Garver Brick .Buzz Swett 2FL
Diveron/Farmersville
Midland ........................Linda Vonck 2FL
Easton ..........................D Allen Sample 6PL
Edinburgh/Stonington .........Raymond Radae 5FL
Elwin ............................Randy McGehee 1AM
Forsyth .......................Dan D. Seibert 1FE
Fountain of Life ................Jennifer Seder 1FE
Hammond/LaPlace ..............Pat A. Hutton 7FE
Island Grove/Loomis ...........Donald Peck 9OF
Kenney ............................TBS

Logan County Parish
Lincoln First/Beason/Elkhart/Hartsburg
New Holland ....................Jame Hahs 7FE
..........................Becky Brait 1AM
..........................Dayle Badman 2FL
Long Creek/Dalton City ........Pam Bradford 1FL
Lovingston ....................Larry Bricker 3PL
Macon .........................David J. Hutton 7FE
Moria ..........................Mark Schleeter 1PL
Mason City/San Jose ...........Stephen E. King 5FE
Middletown ....................Robert Ervin 2KL
Monticello .....................Michael F. Eischen 4FL
Moweaqua ........................Shelly E. Forrest 4FL
Mt. Auburn ....................Sharon Pott 4FL
Mt. Pulaski First/Chestnut
Latham ..........................Kevin P. Pott 4FL
Mt. Zion .......................Mark A. Kaley 5FE
New Salem .....................Chuck Kurlman 2FL
Niantic/Illiosis ..................C. W. Reneker, Jr. 5AM
Pana ............................David Hultberg 1FE
Pawnee .........................Troy Benjamin 8FE
Petersburg .....................John Vidakovich 1FE
Raymond Community of
Faith/Morrisville ............Kenneth D. Dees 4AM
Riverton First ..................Jonathan Dixon 11FE
Rochester ........................Jack Swank 6FE
Sharon ..........................M. Catherine Najmon 4FL
Sherman .......................G. Michael Pennell 5FE
South Fork/Fairview ..........Richard Miles 15FL
Springfield Asbury ..........William Burton 12OF
Springfield Douglas Avenue  Julia Melgreen 4FL
Springfield First
........................Roger Ross 2FE
..........................Robert A. Swickard 7FE
..........................Vincent Rohn 6FL
Springfield Grace/Springfield
Kamler ......................Sylvester Weatherall 7FE
..........................Florenc Scott 3FL
Springfield Jerome ...........Paul Black 7SY
Springfield Laurel  ..........John P. Hamilton 17FE
Springfield Northside .........Kathleen Lossau 2FL
Springfield Woodside ..........Jimmie Lee Poole 5FE
..........................Linda Harrod 2PD
Sugar Creek ...................Wes Osborn 4FL
Taylorville ....................Charles Ward 2FL
Thayer ..........................Robert Sabo, Sr.12RM
Williamsville .................Richard F. Piscatelli 3SY
Zion Chapel ....................Sally Hamon 4FE

Diocesan Minister
Springfield First .........James A. Rogers

SPOON RIVER DISTRICT
District Superintendent
Janice L. Griffith 3 FE
120 N. Kellogg St., Galesburg 61401-4785
309-344-1435, fax 309-344-1161
spoonumc@grics.net

ABC Parish
Altina/Bishop Hill/Clover Chapel ...TBS
Abingdon ..........................Paul D. Dinges 6AM
Aledo .............................Jeffrey Bealmar 1FE
Al上がedon
Alpha .............................H. Suzanne Geer 5FL
Annawan Parish
Community/Fairview ......Dan Wright 8FE
Bleedingville/Gladstone ..........................TBS
Blandinsville/Macom
Korean Fellowship .......TBS
Burnside ..........................William I. Deisher 4SY
Bushnell/Avon ..................Trish L. Chapman 2FL
Cambridge .....................John Eifelder 1AM
Colchester/Tenessee ...........Gina Sheridan 2FE
Colona ..........................Steven J. Kettlekamp 7FE
Colusa/Appanoose
Elk ..................................TBS
East Moline Christ .........Alice Shirley 2FE
Elwood .........................Mark B. England Graham 4FE
Fairview Center ..............Gabriel Wanck 1FL
Galesburg First ................Scott L. Grulke 8FE
..........................Marlilyn R. Anell 6FD
Galesburg Missional Charge
Galesburg Faith/Galesburg
Emmanuel .......................Jean H. Hemburg 2FL
Galva First .......................Ann M. Champion 1FE
Galva Grace ..........................Russell Collister 2PL
Geneseo First ...................Robert K. Freeman 5FE
Geneseo Grace .................John E. Davis 5FE
Henderson/North Henderson ......Lee Savage 2PL
Hills Grove ......................Donald L. Long 11FL
Hooppole Zion/Hillsdale .......TBS

See Appointments on page 18...
2008-2009 Appointments

Illinois City/Pine Bluff ………...Toni Ross 1PL
........................................Howard Ross 1PL
Jesus de Nazaret,
NCS …………Juan Carlos Lara-Cardoso 7FL
Kirkwood/Smithshire …………TBS
Knoxville …………Robert A. Herath 2FE
LaHarpe/Durham/ ........................................
Terre Haute …………Thomas R. Wright 2FL

La Moine River Parish
Good Hope/
Jerusalem……………Alan M. Simonson, Jr 1FE
Loraine …………David H. Pyell 4FL
Macomb Wesley …………Russell D. Smith 5FE
........................................Steven M. Smith 7FE
Maquon/Douglas/Orange
Chapel …………Daniel D. Doty 7OF
Milan Trinity/Green River …James H. Ruberg 3FE
Mineral …………Terry Lancaster 16PL
Moline Bethel Wesley …Kenneth L. Harris 3FE
Moline Riverside …………Donald J. Jack 3FE
........................................Jay Reggimitter 5FE
Monmouth First …………Jon Ermal Sims 4FE
Nauvoo …………Lyren A. Haney 2PL
New Philadelphia/Point
Pleasant …………John Douglas 7SY
Ogawua …………Jeffrey R. Robbins 25Y
Orion …………David R. Schultz 3FE
Reynolds/Taylor Ridge …Elizabeth Tekner 2FE
Rock Island Two
Rivers …………Steven E. Anderson 5FE
........................................Marjolein Anderson 5FE
Roosevelt/Swan Creek …Michael Mayfield 2FE
Stronghurst/Carmaran …Eugene A. Turner 3FL

Twin Rivers Cooperative Parish
Carbon Cliff/Church of the Cross/East Moline
Grace/Fairfield/Hampton/Port Byron First/
Silvis …………Donald L. Robinson 5AM
........................................James A. Crozier 6PL
........................................Katherine E. Crozier 6FD
........................................Chet McCoy 4PL
........................................Juan Carlos Lara-Cardoso 1FL
........................................Carol Stufflebeam 1PL
........................................John Crede 15Y
United Church of Oneida …Carolyn B. Weber 100F
Victoria/Maxey Chapel …Sarah Beth Wanck 2SP
Viola/Preamont …………Cindy Retting 2FE
Walnut Grove …………Dianne Hancock 1PL

Westmer Larger Parish
Joy/Eliza/
New Boston …………Richard A. Bishop 9FL
Williamsfield/Dahindar/
Elmore …………Randall W. Douglass 13FE

VERMILION RIVER DISTRICT
District Superintendent
J. Keith Zimmerman 6 FE
210 W. Water St., Ste 2, Pontiac 61764-1790
815-844-3530, fax 815-844-6583
vrdist@verizon.net

Atlanta/Ebenizer …………Robert David Roy 2FE
Bloomington Grace …………Richard H. Kerr 8FE
Bloomington Trinity of Hope UM Parish
Bloomington Faith/Bloomington Park/
Bloomington West/

Bloomington Wesley …………Vaughn A. Hoffman 5FE
........................................Stan Irvin 5FE
Bonfield/Grand Prairie Parish
Bonfield First/Bonfield Evangelical/
Grand Prairie …………John Cross 6FE
Bourbonnais Grace …………Craig Sweet 8FE
Braceville …………Andrea Lee Boggs 3PL
Bradley Wesley …………Thomas A. Wilber 8FE
Braidwood Streams of Hope UM
Fellowship …………Nathan R. Hopping 1SY
Chatsworth/Forrest …………R. David Reynolds 1FE
Chenoa …………Robb McCoy 3PE
Coil City …………Thomas R. Logsdon 5FL
Cofax …………Diane Yentes 5FL
Cooksville Union …………TBS
Cornell/Blackstone …………Larry D. Frank, Jr. 1SY
Cropsey/Saybrook Wesbein …Paulette K. Cott 2FL
Downs …………Ronald C. George 3FE
Dwight …………William Leppin 7FE
Ellsworth/New
Church Start …………Charles Anthony 4AM
El Paso …………David Estep 6FE
Essex …………Dori V. Noble 2SY
Fairbury …………Charles McDonald 4FE
Fathers House
Dana/Lostant/Monick/Richland/
Wenona St. Johns …………Ivy Ameeta Silas 5FE
Flanagan …………David Ross Baker 4SY
Herscher …………Scott C. Baird 3AM
Heyworth …………Amanda J. Richards 2FE
Hudson …………John Tymonko 2FE
Kankakee Asbury …………Steven Goodin 5FE
Kankakee Trinity/Aroma Park/
Bradley Evangelical …James A. Williams 1AM
........................................Hiram Gonzalez 1FL
LeRoy …………Mary Louise Haxton 2FE
Lexington First …………Ray Owens 10FE
Manteno …………Harvey K. Gaither, III 8FE
McDowell …………Donna Baker 11PL
McLean/Waynesville …Andy Maxwell 2FL
Momence/Grant Park/
Illiana Heights …………Jerry Haly 4FE
New Hope Parish
Henpen/Magnolia/
McNabb …………Brian P. Caughlan 2FE
Normal Calvary …………Randall Perry 10FE
........................................Lori A. Harvey 3FE
Normal First …………John K. McIntosh 1FE
........................................Cheryl Peterson-Karlan 1OF
Normal Morningstar …………Shalom S. L. Renner 5FE
Odell …………TBS
Pleasant Grove …………Anet Savedi 2SY
Pontiac First …………Phil Icecone 6FE
........................................Grant D. Armstrong 2FL
Ransom …………Paul White 5OE
Redick/South
Wilkinson …………Dennis P. Brooks 6FE
Richey …………TBS
Roane/Secor …………Kenneth G. Sloan-Couch 2FE
Saunemin/Trinity Parish
Cahery/Cullom/
Kempton …………David Phillips 1FE
........................................Jane Bradford 1PL
Streator First/Grand Ridge/
Long Point …………Bryce D. Hays 5FE
........................................Lon Alderman 2PL
Tonica …………Mark Amend 8PL
Verona/Mazon …………Amber Ada 8PL
Wesley Sunrise Hispanic
Ministry …………Hiram Gonzalez 9FL

Appointments to Extension Ministries
A. Within the Connectional Structures of United Methodism (Paragraph 331.1b, 344.1a, c)
Keith E. Anderson – 2 FE – Executive Director, The
Preachers’ Aid Society, Springfield
Jennifer Edwards Bertrand – 3 FE – Director,
Wesley Foundation at Illinois State University,
Normal; CC: First UMC, Normal
J. Gregory Courtright – 6 FE – Superintendent,
Cache River District, Marion
Michael J. Crawford – 3 FE – Coordinator of
Congregational Development, Springfield; CC:
Tuscola UMC
Kelligay King Crede – 5 FE – Chaplain,
Cunningham Children’s Home, Urbana; CC: Wesley
UMC, Urbana
Carol Edman – 4 SY – Chaplain, Evenglow Lodge,
Pontiac
Melva J. Graham England – 7 FE – Superintendent,
Illinois River District, Peoria
Ted Frost – 4 FE – Director, United Methodist
Foundation, Springfield; CC: Chatham UMC
Janice L. Griffith – 3 FE – Superintendent, Spoon
River District, Galesburg
Bruce Timothy Harrison – 11 FE –
Chaplain/Director of Church Relations, Kendrick
University, Lebanon; CC: Lebanon UMC
John R. Hartleroad – 3 FE – Executive Assistant to
the Bishop, Illinois Area Office, Springfield; CC:
First UMC, Springfield
Craig C. Hill – 14 FE – Associate Professor of New
Testament, Wesley Theological Seminary,
Washington, DC; CC: First UMC, Peoria
In-Sook Hwang – 1 FE – Superintendent, Iroquois
River District, Champaign
Gerald G. King – 6 FE – Superintendent, Sangamon
River District, Springfield
Robert S. Kirby – 6 FE – Associate Director, Wesley
Foundation at University of Illinois, Urbana; CC:
Wesley UMC, Urbana
David A. Lafary – 17 FE – Campus
Minister/Director, Wesley Foundation at Western
Illinois University, Macomb; CC: Wesley UMC, Macomb
Gary D. Livesay – 20 FE – Chaplain, Chaddock
School, Quincy; CC: Vermont Street UMC, Quincy
Kent A. Lolling – 3 FE – Director of Connectional
Ministries, Springfield
Alan D. Milligan – 23 FE – Conference Approved
Evangelist, Director of Eagle House Ministries; CC:
Vienna UMC
Beverly L. Wilkes Null – 7 FE – Superintendent,
Mississippi River District, O’Fallon
Jeffrey A. Rasche – 2 FE – Associate Director of
See Appointments on page 19 . . .
2008-2009 Appointments

Stewardship, Chaddock School, Quincy

Randall W. Reese - 2 FE - Superintendent, Embarosa River District, Effingham

Alan R. Rhein - 7 FE - Superintendent, Kaskaskia River District, Mount Vernon

Paige L. Roberts - 5 FE - Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston; CC: Wesley UMC, Charleston

Randall L. Robinson - 6 FE - Superintendent, La Moine River District, Jacksonville

Paul Stroble, Jr. - 9 FE - Department of History, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio; CC: First UMC, Vandalia

Karen Westerfield Tucker - 5 FE - Professor of Worship, Boston University School of Theology, Boston, MA; CC: Wesley UMC, Urbana

Richard A. VanGiesen - 13 FE - Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, Springfield; CC: Laurel UMC, Springfield

Bradley F. Watkins, II - 3 FE - Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, East St. Louis; CC: Christ UMC, Fairview Heights

Fred R. White - 17 FE - Conference Approved Evangelist; CC: Beulah UMC, Sumner

Howard L. White - 6 FE - Director, Wesley Foundation at University of Illinois, Urbana; CC: Wesley UMC, Urbana

J. Keith Zimmerman - 6 FE - Superintendent, Vermilion River District, Pontiac

B. To Extension Ministries Under Endorsement by General Board of higher Education & Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry, Section of Chaplains (Paragraph 344.1, c)

Bruce Baumberger - 2 FE - Chaplain, Alton Memorial Hospital, Alton

Carl James Brown - 1 FE - Chaplain, Veteran’s Administration Hospital, Cleveland, OH

Donald L. DeJarnett - 3 FE - Spiritual Care Services, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO; CC: Winchester UMC

Kenneth R. Hayden - 4 FE - Director of Pastoral Care, Well-Span Health, York Hospital, York, PA; CC: Carlyle UMC

James D. Johnson - 9 FE - Illinois Army National Guard Chaplain; CC: First UMC, Springfield

Carl D. Johnston - 1 FE - U.S. Army

John D. Read - 25 FE - Chaplain, U.S. Army; CC: Good Shepherd UMC, Granite City

Ronald A. Richter - 7 FE - Supervisory Chaplain, U. S. Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institution, Sheridan, OR; CC: Fairview UMC, Sheffield

Margaret E. Siemer - 6 FE - Chaplain, U.S. Navy; CC: First UMC, Springfield

Douglas Stewart - 13 FE - Chaplain, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Belleville; CC: Shiloh UMC

Brian G. Storey - 7 FE - Director and Pastoral Counselor, Interfaith Counseling Center, Inc., Edwardsville; CC: St. John’s UMC, Edwardsville

Mary S. Whetstone - 19 FE - Coordinator of Pastoral Care, Grant/Riverside Methodist Hospitals, Columbus, OH; CC: First UMC, Carmi

C. Other Valid Ministries Under the Provisions of

Paragraph 331.1a,c, 331.4, 344.1d

Lori L. Bultemeier - 3 FD - Christian Life Coordinator, The Baby Fold, Normal; CC: Calvary UMC, Normal

Stephen Lee Busick - 5 FD - The Christian Counseling Center, Urbana; CC: New Horizon UMC, Champaign

Rebekah Dees-McMahon - 7 FE - Freedom House; CC: Steve Heitkamp - 6 FE - Pastoral Care Counseling Center, St. Louis, MO; CC: Union UMC, Belleville

Linda A. Horrell - 1 FE - Lead Staff Pastoral Counselor, Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care, Manchester, MO; CC: St. John’s UMC, Edwardsville

Rebecca L. Lembke - 2 FE - Youth Specialist, Division of Youth Services, Department of Social Services for the State of Missouri

Steve Lobacz - 8 FE - City of Chicago Dept. of Public Health, Division of Mental Health; CC: Wesley UMC, Urbana

Leon D. McClimans - 5 FE - Christian Counseling Center, Inc., Tinley Park; CC: Gilman UMC

H. Edwin Snow - 2 FE - Chaplain, McCallie School, Chattanooga, TN; CC: Stronghurst UMC

Stephanie Soon - 3 FD - Hospice Chaplain/Bereavement Director, OSF Saint Francis; CC: Normal Morningstar UMC

Kathryn W. Tymonko - 1 FD - Westminster Village Resident Services, Bloomington; CC: Morningstar UMC, Normal

Patrick Wadsworth - 10 FE - Part-time supply to Presbytery of South Louisiana; CC: Carlinville UMC

David Wence - 4 FE - Pastoral Counselor, Decatur Psychological Associates, Decatur; CC: Grace UMC, Decatur

Appointed to Attend School (Paragraph 416.6)

Anne Ferguson (FE)

Brian Manigold (FE)

Deaconesses and Home Missionary Appointments (Paragraph 1313.3)

Vae Rose Fultz - Coordinator for Services for Persons with Special Needs, LaMoine River District; CC: Centenary UMC, Jacksonville

Janet McCarty - SPMC Kidapawan City, Philippines; CC: Centenary UMC, Jacksonville

Individual Participation of Clergy in Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard Units (Paragraph 344.5e)

Howard S. Bell, U.S. Air Force Reserve

Phillip L. Glick, U.S. Naval Reserve (Retired)

Robert D. Greene, U.S. Air Force Reserve

E. Jerry Herring, Civil Air Patrol

James D. Johnson, National Guard

Jack Swank, U.S. Army Reserve

Danny D. Wright, Army National Guard

Diaconal Ministers Beyond the Local Church

Carter L. Frank, Catholic Services for Children and Youth

Retired Diaconal Ministers

Kenneth A. Bade

Merwin Donahue

Nora M. Hanley

Vaudra M. Rushing

Margaret L. Sayre

Laura Jo Smith

Charles C. Taylor

Duane H. Werner

Certified in Christian Communication

Paul Black

Certified in Christian Education

Beth Fender

Cheryl Hendrix

Marcia Heyboer

Certified in Evangelism

Sheila Fitts, (retired)

Certified in Music

Richard F. Boyd

Constance White Guennewig

Margaret L. Sayre (retired)

Certified in Spiritual Formation

Sharon Colbert Garretson (retired)

Mary Ann Hedges

Certified in Youth Ministry

John M. Hauck

Missionaries Serving Outside the United States

Jacques Umembudi Akasa

Miguel Arenas-Herrera

Priscilla Jaiah

Janet McCarty

Eugene and Rachel Muenbo

Connie Wieck

Missionaries Serving in the United States

Hector Sanchez

Mark and Becky Smallwood

Ruth Wiertzema

Sally Wisner-Ott

Hispanic Mission Pastors

Adrian Garcia

Hiram Gonzalez

Juan Carlos Lara-Cardoso

Elke Sharma

See Appointments on page 20 . . .
Appointments
Continued from page 19
Retired Missionaries that Served in the United States
Donna Bischoff
Barbara Campbell
Mrs. Glenn S. (Ruth) Garvin
Beatrice Orrell
Retired Missionaries that Served Outside the United States
Mrs. Charles (Elva) Harper
Marynell Kirkwood
Fusako Krummel
Sarah Smith Lewis
Lela Johnston Maxwell
Jane Miller
Stan and Beryl Moore
Sarah Smith Lewis
Fusako Krummel
Marynell Kirkwood
Mrs. Charles (Elva) Harper
Outside the United States
Beatrice Orrell
Barbara Campbell
Continued from page 19

Cleanup
Continued from page 1
impacted by this natural disaster,” Christopher wrote to the nearly 2,500 persons in the conference’s newsletter database. “At the same time I am hearing the stories of how the minds, hearts, and doors of the people called United Methodist are open in active and compassionate ways to touch those whose lives are ravaged by our overflowing rivers. We United Methodists are assembling flood buckets, supporting the sandbagging efforts, reaching out to those who are temporarily homeless, and offering listening ears to all who are wrapped up in this moment of need. I see us United Methodists in television and newspaper accounts telling their stories of response. I am grateful.

“In moments like this all of us Christians have a role to play,” Christopher said. “We can also offer hope. While the waters of our rivers run amok, we Christians know that in such moments the waters of God’s ever-flowing streams of grace, remembered in our baptismal waters, will hold us, giving us the buoyancy needed to keep our heads above water.”

Shane Bishop, pastor of Fairview Heights Christ UMC, along with his son, was able to secure 50 pallets of sandbags from Lewis’s and have been delivered for use along the river.

Evacuation also occurred in the western Illinois community of Hull, where a request by pastor Patsy Kelly was met with an overwhelming response. The community of 500 also fell victim to the flood of 1993 and the Hull UMC was destroyed.

Rochester UMC pastor Jack Swank said members of his congregation wanted to respond. The group was assisting senior citizens and others who were unable to do some of the hard labor themselves.

Volunteer David Bruun of Sugar Creek UMC said he had taken a truck from Midwest Mission Distribution Center to help with the loading. Bruun said he and other volunteers had also come to assist the residents of Hull after it fell victim to floodwaters in 1993.

“Thirteen to 14 feet of water covered the town,” he recalled. “The Hull Methodist Church was destroyed.” The church was rebuilt on higher ground. Most of the town, however, remained in the flood’s path.

The local American Red Cross has been providing food, water and ice to roughly 1,000 people a day who worked on the levees.

Downstream areas
Downstream in Grafton, a creek rose over a flood evacuation route late June 21, causing temporary residential evacuations. Occupants were able to return to their homes early June 22 after Jersey County Emergency Management officials deemed it safe to do so.

In Calhoun County, the village of Hamburg’s residents and volunteers watched with a steady eye as people worked shifts June 22 to man pumps and make sure a seven-foot wall of sandbags had integrity. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Hamburg could expect another foot rise by its crest June 25.

The Illinois River at Hardin and Beardstown was falling or holding steady June 22, with both cresting at approximately 34.5 feet.

Meanwhile, in Calhoun County, the village of Rockport has had numerous damage reports from emergency officials contacted by IGRC Superintendent Alan Rhein and members of the conference disaster relief team.

In Calhoun County, the village of Calhoun Falls was experiencing multi-day crests because of higher flows and heavier storage from numerous levee breaches and overtopping. A new command post has been established.

In southern Illinois, efforts are already underway in Chester and Randolph County as the Kaskaskia River has been closed due to flooding. Less flooding is predicted for the region due to breaches further north.

Officials are also working in Grand Tower to reinforce a levee.

In the Quad Cities, a Federal Emergency Management Agency emergency response team has set up a staging area at the Rock Island Arsenal, equipped with power generators and truckloads of clean water. The team is awaiting a request from Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich for assistance. FEMA has already completed preliminary damage assessments in 23 of the state’s counties in anticipation of a request from the state government.

FEMA is prepared to provide assistance up to a 100-mile radius of its staging area. The team at Arsenal Island was dispatched to assist the Region V area, which does not include Iowa. Iowa is in Region VII. It’s not yet known if a similar operation will be coordinated for the Iowa Quad-Cities.

In Henry County, the Rock River at快讯

Storm news from other areas—East central Illinois
Recovery efforts have already begun in the Lawrenceville area where the Embarras and Wabash rivers reached flood levels. No potable drinking water was available but crews brought water into Lawrenceville and Bridgeport.

A boil order was in effect for nearly a week as workers searched for a break in the line that feeds the city’s water supply. More than 200 families were displaced but the need for housing was addressed by friends and neighbors according to reports from emergency officials contacted by IGRC Superintendent Alan Rhein and members of the conference disaster relief team.

Meanwhile, in Coles County, a tornado touched down near the village of Lerna, southeast of Mattoon. More than 70 buildings were damaged by the June 7 storm.

Tornado hits East Bay Camp
A June 15 tornado left a path of destruction at East Bay Camp and camping officials put out a call for volunteers to help clean up the site.

Crews moved in to clear several downed trees, which also damaged one of the camp’s cabins and left the campsite without phone and electrical service. A generator restored power to the camp’s kitchen but the sand filter system, which affects the camp’s sewage system is not pumping and the motor to the camp’s swimming pool was also damaged.

No one was injured at East Bay Camp, but three camper groups were on the grounds at the time of the storm: Campalodeans, a group of first and second graders; Counselors in Training; and a Lutheran youth camp. IGRC Camping Coordinator Peggy O’Neal said that the week was “a fairly light week” as it relates to IGRC camps. “We were able to get the cleanup done this week, so I don’t anticipate any changes to our camping schedule,” O’Neal said.

—Storm news from other areas—

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Legislative action
The 2008 conference acted upon the following items:

Resolution 100 – Removed from the agenda.

Report 101 – Approved Advance Special for 2009. Several ministries were added to the list presented before final passage. Final vote: 962-17.

Report 102 – Approved Commission on Equitable Compensation’s recommendation of a $1,200 raise for the minimum salary paid for ordained pastors and full-time local pastors. The 2009 rate will be $32,250 for clergy in full connection and $29,442 for full-time local pastors. Final vote: 933-50

Report 103 – Aldersgate Federal Credit Union. Report was received.

Report 104 – Report of the Communications Ministry Team. Report was received.

Resolution 105 – CCFA Policies and Guidelines. All offered amendments failed. Resolution as proposed passed on a show of hands.


Report 111 – CCFA Report on Tithe-Based Apportionments from 2007 Annual Conference Session. Report received on show of hands Thursday during the initial budget presentation.

Report 112 – Revised Comprehensive Plan for Church Growth and Development. Five amendments offered by the Congregational Development Team was approved as well as amendments by Sylvester Weatherall concerning the development of ethnic minority churches and Roger Ross concerning the goal of starting two new churches each year. A proposal to recommend that the net assets from abandoned churches would be directed to Liberia for church reconstruction. Two proposed amendments – one designating 10 percent of the proceeds and the other, 100 percent were referred to the Conference Board of Trustees and to the Congregational Development Team for a report to the 2009 annual conference. Currently, all proceeds from abandoned churches are used for new church starts in the IGRC.

Resolution 113 – Motion to refer passed 678-257. The body will return to consider passage of the Report as amended today.

Resolution 201 – Requiring lenders to disclose full cost of loans. Defeated.

Resolution 202 – Removed from the agenda.

Resolution 203 – Relational Covenant passed on a show of hands.

Resolution 204 – Removed from the agenda.

Resolution 205 – Ruled Out of Order in the clergy session in that a declaratory decision must come before the full session of the annual conference.

Resolution 206 – Recognizing the Rural Witness Team as an official committee of the IGRC. Approved with minor amendments.

Resolution 207 – Removed from the agenda.

Resolution 208 – Protecting wilderness areas. Approved on a show of hands.

Resolution 209 – Mandated Email Accounts for Pastors. Approved 278-108 after a motion to allow only clergy to vote on clergy email accounts passed 713-259.

Resolution 210 – Designated Older Adult Recognition Day. Approved 542-452.

Resolution 211 – Add Lay Members Email Addresses to Official Journal-Yearbook which would allow lay members on a voluntary basis to submit their email addresses for publication. Approved 422-194 with only laity voting on the matter.

Resolution 212 – Changing Standing Rule regarding moving costs for retired and/or incapacitated clergy. Approved by a 2/3 vote.

Resolution 213 – Changing Standing Rule regarding clergy vacation and activities such as camping and School of Christian Mission. Approved by 2/3 vote.


Resolution 219 – Proceeds of the sale of the parsonage for Crab Orchard UMC, Cache River District. Added to the agenda on opening night. Approved by a show of hands.

Resolution 220 – Change in the Standing Rules Regarding Clergy Sexual Misconduct Training. Added to the agenda on opening night. Approved by a 2/3 vote.

Resolution 221 – Changing Standing Rule regarding clergy vacation and activities such as camping and School of Christian Mission. Approved by 2/3 vote.

Bishop
Continued from page 24

diminishing our capacity to offer hope for the world,” she said, noting that membership in the church grew 34 percent in the 10-year period between 1995 and 2005. Most of that growth occurred across Africa and southeast Asia where professing members increased 200 percent, while membership in Europe decreased by 10 percent and in the United States by 25 percent from 10.7 million to 8 million.

Christopher also noted that the average United Methodist is 57 years old and those under age 18 account for only 4.6 percent of church membership.

Another part of the struggle within includes ruptures in relationships. “Our United Methodist soul is fractured by it,” Christopher said.

Christopher said the division in the world causes the church to apply political solutions to relational differences. “Left or right, conservative or liberal, we treat our baptized brothers and sisters as if they are our enemies. We minimize and distort, judge and even slander those not aligned with our personal ideology. In the name of God, we do harm to one another.”

With the rupturing of relationships inside the church, Christopher said the church turns a deaf ear to the cry of our neighbor. “The spiritual yearning of those in our midst goes unheard and unheeded because of our need to convince them of the ‘right’ way based on our carefully calculated formulae of theology,” she said. “Left or right and middle…we are all guilty. As a result, we do not listen to, much less hear, the yearnings of our neighbors’ hearts. Our own need deafens us to the need of others.”

The answer is living the three simple rules. “To (John) Wesley, Christian faith was a connection with God and one another…a connection bound by – and in place for – the practice of three incredibly simple rules: Do no harm, Do good, and Stay in love with God,” she said. “They are relevant today – here in Peoria and in every corner of God’s earth.”

Cabinet
Continued from page 24

Christian individuals and communities where they intentionally seek ways to develop an atmosphere that supports and nurtures this process.

“If your heart is right as my heart is right, give me your hand. In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

“We can’t focus on making disciples if we are mired in arguments about non-essentials that have no eternal significance,” she said. “Folks, it’s time to get over it! We cannot make disciples for the transformation of the world if we are bickering with each other. Furthermore, who in the world would want to join us in discipleship if all the world sees is a congregation or denomination that can’t get along?”
IGRC: you are the apple of God’s eye

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The following remarks were shared by Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher as part of a celebration of her ministry in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference June 5.)

Participating in uniting processes of annual conferences is not for the faint-hearted. Leading uniting processes is not for the faint-hearted. Just to refresh your memory, The Illinois Great Rivers Conference became one conference in August, 1996. After some thirty years of courtship with several broken engagements, the former Southern Illinois Conference and the former Central Illinois Conference eloped, becoming one conference, two weeks before I arrived.

We have spent the last twelve years becoming a concrete manifestation of unity that is already and always ours in Jesus Christ. We journeyed from Egypt by crossing the river—with fear and trembling and sometimes wailing and gnashing of teeth. Some of us formed Back-to-Egypt Committees. We wandered in the wilderness with its goodly portion of disorientation, whining, blaming, and scapegoating. We crossed the river—again, entering the Promised Land, only to find in this land of milk and honey strangers, differences, hardships, and unanticipated constraints to face and address. In our journey together we have grieved that which was and will no longer be. We have encountered deep cultural, racial, theological, class and gender differences. We have had our identity struggles sometimes reminiscent of the struggles teenagers have. We have combated and survived personal grabs for power, control, and position. We have lived through communal anxiety attacks. We have experienced manipulation by narcissistic tendencies.

Yet, today, by God’s grace, we are more or less one conference, the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. We are with all our differences bound together by one Lord, one faith, one baptism… Thanks be to God!

You, laity and clergy of IGRC, have been gallant, courageous, brave, daring, sometimes longsuffering, steadfast in the love of God and neighbor made known in Jesus Christ.

Even though you are sometimes mistrusting of the expansiveness of God’s grace, you are clear about God’s vision, a vision of all God’s people gathered around God’s table of grace, and you are living into that vision.

Even though you have many different perspectives about how disciples of Jesus Christ are formed and even though some of you don’t know how to do that, and maybe, just maybe, a few of you don’t want to do that, you are clear about our mission: making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In the midst of some lingering conference bashing, a symptom of uniting, your conference leadership—the superintendents in their ministry of oversight, and the conference staff in their ministry of equipping and connecting congregations—are aligned with the vision and mission, working collaboratively with one another and you, and engaged actively and creatively in resourcing you, congregations, as you create disciple-making systems in your congregations and resourcing you, pastors, in how to lead the congregations you serve and impact the geographic communities in which your congregations are located. They have pained and honed so that only the essential remains.

The congregations and pastors of this conference, as you move beyond mistrust and competition, are becoming in fits and starts one web of forming and learning and acting for the sake of our vision and mission. And I must speak of your generous heart that has united you in mission here in Illinois and around the world. Early on you collected 221 tons of red beans and rice for Haiti. The bean producers in the Dakotas were calling their outlets in Illinois to find out what was going on with beans in Illinois! You took on ministries to children all across Illinois.

And there is our partnership with Liberia…Your commitment fueled by your compassion takes my breath away—Liberian children going to school, thanks to you; deaths by malaria decreasing, thanks to you; schools, hospitals, and churches being constructed, thanks to you; pastors and their families being supported, thanks for you—new life for a war-devastated country, thanks to you. And through our new Liberian friendships and connections, your souls are being opened and transformed…AMAZING! You are an amazing conference, an amazing conference, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

To the extent that I have in any way held God’s vision for us, facilitated our disciple-making and disciple-living mission and strategies, connected us to our larger United Methodist, ecumenical, and human families, lifted our horizons and held the hope… I am grateful to God. To the extent that I haven’t, I ask God for forgiveness and your forgiveness.

Early on I became clear that what God—and you—needed from me was not leadership measured by cultural glitziness or standards of success but leadership rooted in the Gospel and formed and demonstrated in faithfulness to God. To the extent I have in any way been rooted and faithful, I give thanks to God. To the extent that I haven’t, I ask God’s forgiveness and your forgiveness.

To the extent I have been in any way patient, rooted, calm, differentiated, and compassionate, to the extent that I have not capitulated to the penultimate distractions that surround us, I give thanks to God, to Charles and our children, to my Brown family, to my covenant groups and spiritual guides, to my friends, to my Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, ecumenical, and Council of Bishops colleagues who have held me in being without fail for all the years of my ministry, especially all the cabinet members who have lived so patiently with me, and to all of you who have prayed for me without ceasing. To the extent that I have succumbed to the conference’s internal tensions and detractors and acted in ways perceived to be and actually were insensitive and hurtful, I ask God’s forgiveness and your forgiveness.

And finally I must offer publicly my deeply-felt thanks to Laurel United Methodist Church in Springfield and Rev. John Hamilton. You are the congregation and pastor who extended to Charles the invitation to exercise his vocational call to ministry by teaching adults toward the end of re-forming adults to live as faithful, 21st century people of God. We both are grateful.

As I have lived among you for twelve years, I have come to know you as a Christian community that can in the name of God move mountains. You can do anything and everything you deem to be responsive to God’s leading. Also, I have come to know that sometimes you do not seem to know this about yourselves. So let me say it again: You are the apple of God’s eye. Through your prayer and decision, all things are possible. You can move mountains!

So here is the prayer I will offer for you from Charles and my new center of life in Nashville, for I will continue to pray for you:

I pray you will recognize, embrace, and live out of the mighty power that God in Jesus Christ has already planted in you, riding the winds of God’s Spirit wherever they decide to take you.

I pray you will discover in ever deeper ways through audacious risk-taking your connection with God made known in Jesus Christ, with the human family, especially the poor, and our United Methodist movement around the world.

I pray you will intentionally increase your capacity for disciple-making by forming and sustaining clergy and lay leadership in ongoing and comprehensive ways.

I pray you will leave all your leftover, unresolved issues related to me in God’s hands for God’s keeping. That is, for your sake and the sake of your new bishop, I pray you will let those issues go and wash your slate clean.

I pray you will welcome your new bishop with open hearts, open minds, and open doors and experience in this time of transition an energy burst of extravagant proportions of imagination and creativity that leads you even deeper into our United Methodist way of doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God.

As St. Paul says, “Where sin abounds, grace does all the more abound.” You have been an agent of grace in mysterious, profound, life-shaping ways in my life. I have been deepened in unfathomable dimensions of God’s love as a result of my journey with you. I have been transformed. Living among you has been joy. I am profoundly, profoundly grateful. Thanks be to God and to you.
A bishop for the whole church

John Hartleroad is going to have a busy summer.

As the keeper of the bishop’s appointment calendar, the line has already started forming for the Illinois Great Rivers Conference prepares to receive a new bishop.

I know from experience because a similar phenomenon occurred four years ago when I was serving in the Area Office. Persons who had long-standing issues or felt frustrated by the current administration sought an audience to plead their case to the new bishop.

Of course, those appointments were abruptly cancelled when Bishop Christopher was reappointed for a third term in 2004. While some of those issues have been resolved, new issues have emerged and the line is already forming.

As the conference pays tribute to Bishop Christopher’s 12 years of ministry as our episcopal leader, I believe that above everything else, Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher has been a bishop for the entire church.

The office of bishop in The United Methodist Church is a special ministry within the order of elder. Part of that specialized ministry is to support and encourage the ministry of all Christians. Implicit with that charge is encouraging and supporting all baptized persons—not just those with whom we always find agreement.

Bishop Christopher’s gift to our conference has been that she is a bishop for the whole church. That doesn’t always sit well with those that feel the need to have the bishop’s affirmation in order to validate their ministry or point of view.

Often times, we take on the posture that “you are either for us or against us,” with a desire to de-compress, re-center, and discern how we can continue to practice hospitality to all. It is time for retirement to be discussed, not squandered but to be lived in tune with our Christian way of loving God and neighbor.

John Hartleroad’s calendar gets fuller each day.

The issue that generated the greatest amount of mail during Bishop Christopher’s tenure centered around a $10,000 grant from the General Commission on Religion and Race to a group that was actively involved in retiring Chief Illiniwek.

While it would have been easy to have discredited the Commission for its action and to have played to the Illinois faithful, Bishop Christopher brought parties on both sides of the issue together in Christian conferencing so that both would have greater understanding of the other.

What emerged from the discussion was the realization that the $10,000 grant had nothing to do with retiring The Chief; the $10,000 grant was given to fund a Native American education program at the University of Illinois YMCA.

And because of the talks brokered by Bishop Christopher, accountability measures were put in place to ensure that funds were used for only the purpose intended.

Bishop Christopher also served a single year as president of the Council of Bishops. It was also the first year of the U.S. war in Iraq in which three pastoral letters were written.

While it is easy to allow politics to inform our faith rather than the other way around, once again Bishop Christopher demonstrated with distinction both concern over our government’s policy while showing care for those that wear the uniform of our armed forces.

And when one examines a statement on Iraq, which passed the 2008 General Conference 836-28 several weeks ago, calling for the withdrawal and safe return of troops from Iraq; the collaboration with the United Nations and other countries to provide a lasting peace; the rebuilding of the country; and the providing of adequate funds for returning military personnel and their families, Bishop Christopher’s letters were prophetic.

In the final analysis, it is probably too early to assess the impact Bishop Christopher has had in her 12 years with us. Time and some distance have a way of providing a more balanced perspective than instant analysis.

Meanwhile, John Hartleroad’s calendar gets fuller each day.

FAQ’s about retirement and moving

In six weeks or so, a moving van will be loading Charles and my things for our move to Nashville, Tennessee, where we will take up our retired relationship to the United Methodist ministry.

Many of you have asked about our plans and so in this my next-to-the-last Current article, I share with all of you the most frequently asked questions, using a Q and A format.

Q: Why are you retiring?
A: The simple and yet complete answer I shared in October when I announced my retirement is still the same: because it is time. Several factors seemed to converge, indicating it is time.

I have served as a United Methodist pastor for thirty-eight years and a bishop for twenty years. They have been incredibly enriching, joyful years. On the one hand, I have no desire or need to leave episcopal ministry. On the other hand, I do want to pay attention to the still, small inner voice that speaks to me now and then about aspects of myself yet to be noticed and developed, the creative potentialities within that take back seat because of the press and demand of episcopal leadership. It is time for re-invention into whatever God has in store for me next. Without, in the moment, a clear blue print of this new thing God is doing in me and needing time and space to figure it out, I choose to retire, trusting it will unfold in appropriate and missional ways.

Further, our grandchildren turn eighteen this summer. We long to be real-time grandparents with them, more than we are now. We long to have more sustained relationship not only with our children but also with my Brown family. Nurturing our friendships is also something we relish. We also anticipate the additional time we will have with one another.

Q: Why are you retiring early?
A: I’m not. I will be 64 before my official retirement date of September 1.

According to our United Methodist polity, the next opportunity I, as bishop, would have for retirement is 2012 when I will be 68.

Q: What are you going to do?
A: As a bishop, my church membership resides in the Council of Bishops until I die. So, I will be a non-voting bishop with voice in the life of the Council of Bishops. Since Charles and I have both been appointed, itinerant United Methodist ministers, we will for the first time in our married lives choose a United Methodist community in which we will work and have an active relationship. We will visit and participate until we find a congregation that feels like home. We are excited that we already have invitations from five friends to worship with them in their respective congregations once we get to Nashville.

In the answering of these questions, I have used words like “re-inventing,” “divesting,” “discerning,” “anticipating,” all words that point to the excitement and potential Charles and I feel as we end this chapter of our lives and start a new one. I am well aware that retirement is a precious gift given to us United Methodist clergy by the church and a phase of life available to most of us who are middle and upper class.

As a result, I receive it as a responsibility not to be squandered but to be lived in tune with our Christian way of loving God and neighbor. I am grateful for the journey to date and anticipate the potential that lies on the other side of the threshold through which we are walking.

As the keeper of the bishop’s appointment calendar, the line has already started forming for the Illinois Great Rivers Conference prepares to receive a new bishop.

While critics decried that holding such a meeting so early to assess the impact Bishop Christopher has had in her 12 years with us, we provide a lasting peace; the rebuilding of the country; and the providing of adequate funds for returning military personnel and their families, Bishop Christopher’s letters were prophetic.

In the final analysis, it is probably too early to assess the impact Bishop Christopher has had in her 12 years with us. Time and some distance have a way of providing a more balanced perspective than instant analysis.

Meanwhile, John Hartleroad’s calendar gets fuller each day.

Bishop Christopher

Many of you have asked about our plans and so in this my next-to-the-last Current article, I share with all of you the most frequently asked questions, using a Q and A format.

Q: Where will you live?
A: Charles and I have chosen Nashville, Tennessee, a diverse place where we have not yet lived and where we have many friends. In this retirement we have a wonderful opportunity to sort out and create a life around long-held values which include: Housing is a function of our mission, Living minimally contributes to the reduction of carbon footprint, Handicapping accessibility affords the chance to practice hospitality to all.

To this end we are actively divesting of much of our material load and moving into a one-story, small condo unit in a three-story building that is within easy walking distance of all our like grocery stores and pharmacies and medical care and walking trails and banks and restaurants and...

Q: What church will you attend?
A: As a bishop, my church membership resides in the Council of Bishops until I die. So, I will be a non-voting bishop with voice in the life of the Council of Bishops. Since Charles and I have both been appointed, itinerant United Methodist ministers, we will for the first time in our married lives choose a United Methodist community in which we will work and have an active relationship. We will visit and participate until we find a congregation that feels like home. We are excited that we already have invitations from five friends to worship with them in their respective congregations once we get to Nashville.

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Bishop urges church to threaten the world with resurrection

By Paul Black

Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher urged United Methodists in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference to demonstrate God’s purpose for the world by observing three simple rules.

“For such a time as this, God calls The United Methodist Church to be a sign, a demonstration of God’s purpose for the world, so that when the world looks at us they see people living responsibly and gracefully by doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God,” Christopher said. “They will exclaim, ‘I want to live the Jesus way, the Christian way, even the United Methodist way, for in this way is hope.’”

Weaving together stories from around the connection into the liturgy of Holy Communion, Christopher presented a reprise of the Episcopal Address she delivered April 24 to the General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The multimedia presentation covered the globe and through the United Methodist connection, a sense of urgency emerged in the charge Christopher gave the open night crowd.

“We United Methodists in partnership with other Christians must go into the nooks and crannies, the highways and byways, the peaks and the valleys and invite the people we encounter into God’s hope by doing no harm, doing good, and loving God. In the midst of the world’s desperation, we must set God’s table of grace with conviction and passion so that the physically, mentally and spiritually hungry of our world may know the hope we know in Jesus Christ.”

Utilizing sung responses set to the Georgia Harkness hymn, Hope of the World, the liturgy moved the participants through confession and forgiveness where the tempo of the response moved from the traditional tune to a jazzier rendition courtesy of pianist Janet Kaizer.

“In the breaking of the bread, sin is transformed into forgiveness. Grief is transformed into joy,” Christopher said. “Conflict is transformed into peace. Fear is transformed into love. Despair is transformed into jihope. In the pouring of the cup, life is reconciled...broken life is mended. The rough places become plain. Walls become bridges.”

Christopher noted that such transformative power is needed, pointing to the struggles inside the church and out. “Our United Methodist struggles within are

See Bishop on page 21 ...

Cabinet, Laity Address provide a snapshot of ministry

By Paul Black

Cabinet co-chairs Larry Gilbert and Greg Courtright noted that much had changed in the 35 years since they began ministry. And while time has marched on, many times churches get stuck in a time warp.

“Today you can go into many United Methodist churches to worship on Sunday morning and you are right back in the 1970’s, or maybe the 60’s or maybe even the 1930’s,” Courtright said, noting the tension between the past and the present can be expressed as: “how to be relevant and effective and at the same time not lose who and what we are supposed to be.”

Meanwhile, Conference Lay Leader Rhonda Whitaker shared the lessons from a recent trip to Liberia and how it has shaped her own discipleship.

And yet, both addresses focused on three simple rules: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. The annual addresses provide the annual conference a snapshot of the State of the Church and its ministries.

Cabinet Address

Gilbert noted that much of the Cabinet’s work had centered around the disciple-making task of the local congregation by asking the following questions:

• What is a disciple?
• How is one made?
• How are we impacting the world?
• Why do so many of our churches struggle to fulfill this mission?

The annual conference, as part of its equipping and connecting function, has put into place a structure aimed at putting persons at key tables of decision-making into the focus and direction of the conference.

The co-chairs also reported on the variety of assessment tools available for local churches through the IGRC Office of Congregational Development.

“If making disciples is a core emphasis of the mission of our church, then it also just makes sense that this important ministry should not be left to chance,” Gilbert said. “That is why the development of intentional disciple formation systems is another key emphasis. Christian disciples are not developed in test tube or grown from seeds planted in the ground. Christian disciples must be formed by

See Cabinet on page 21 ...

2008 Celebration of Ordination

By Paul Black

Those that were elected as probationary members by the clergy session of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference are pictured, from left, Jarrett Evans Wells, Kenneth Price Burgard, Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher, Justin Michael Snider and Miriam Rebekah Snider.

(Left) Those being ordained elders in full connection are, from left, Kim Elise Dancey, John Michael Tymonko, Marc Elliot Brown, Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher, Matthew Scott Henson, Paige Leanne Roberts and Jackie Kaylene Havis-Shaar.