



The Current

News of Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church



Pre Conference Issue

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May 2010

United Methodists to gather for annual conference June 2-5

By Paul Black

PEORIA – The Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church will be meeting in Peoria for the ninth consecutive year June 2-5. The Peoria Civic Center will serve as the conference's central location for the more than 2,400 expected to attend.

The theme of the conference is *Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise*, which will focus on passionate worship.

Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources for the denomination's General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tenn., will be speaking on Thursday and Friday mornings. Australian-born evangelist Mike Rayson and musician Grant Norsworthy will be leading worship times during the conference. Rayson is president of Mike Rayson Ministries and has traveled worldwide as a speaker, preacher and worship leader. Norsworthy, also originally from Australia, is a former member of the Christian pop group, SonicFlood.

The conference has planned an all-conference dinner in which Rayson, Norsworthy and the liturgical dancers from Springfield Grace UMC will provide a celebration around *Sing, Sing, Sing*.

The 2010 conference will be the second for Bishop Gregory V. Palmer as presiding bishop of the Illinois Area. Palmer was assigned to the Illinois Area in September 2008 and currently serves The United Methodist Church as president of the church's executive branch – the Council of Bishops. Bishop Palmer will open each morning of the conference with a short devotional time called Morning Manna.

Liberian pastor Rev. Jerry Kulah will be a guest of the conference and address its members Friday afternoon as part of the conference's celebration of its partnership with the west African country which is still recovering from a 14-year civil war. The conference has focused on four critical areas: educational scholarships for children; pastoral salary support; funds to rebuild churches and schools; and funds to provide bed nets to combat malaria.

Conferees will be collecting special offerings will include funding for construction of the John Kofi Asmah School in Monrovia, Liberia; an offering for Africa University; the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College, one of the denomination's Black Colleges; and one for this year's class of ordinands who will be going as a group to engage in mission work.

In addition to legislative sessions, United Methodists will also be sharing in special collections which include items for emergency health kits assembled by the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham and sent worldwide as part of the United Methodist disaster response as well as bringing bags of rice to assist the Liberia Annual Conference.

Conference attendees will celebrate opening worship on Wednesday evening with a memorial service led by Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker, an IGRC clergy member that is Professor of Worship at Boston University School of Theology, as pastors, pastors' spouses and lay members to annual conference who have died in the last year are remembered.

A service of recognition of retiring pastors will be held on Thursday afternoon as well as the commissioning of persons for ministry. Dr. John Hamilton, pastor of Springfield Laurel UMC, will preach. A Service of Ordination will be held Friday evening.

2011 budget to be considered

By Paul Black

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration will present an \$11.5 million budget for 2011, which will be consid-

ered by lay and clergy members at the 2010 annual conference.

The spending plan provides funding for an additional \$2.9 million in payments to
See Budget on page 5 ...

Before you register for annual conference...

Registration fee: The \$55 registration fee is optional and used to offset material publication costs. Mail all copies of the registration form and your check in the addressed envelope included in the mailing.

Meal tickets: To reserve tickets for meals, indicate the number of ticket you would like on the registration form. All meals ordered through the registration form must be purchased before coming to Annual Conference. No meal tickets will be sold after Friday, May 14. Location of meals will be provided in the packet of materials received upon arrival in Peoria. Vegetarian meals must be indicated on your order form. Persons with special dietary needs should contact Nancy Patton at 217-529-2397, by email, npatton@igrc.org or by fax at 217-529-4009.

Credit card payments: Credit card payments will be accepted this year. Complete the credit card information on

the registration form. A 4 percent service fee will be assessed to the grand total amount. This is a fee which is charged to IGRC by the credit card company. Charges on your credit card will show as "United Methodist Church."

Pickup of meal tickets: If your registration form is received with the correct amount of money by Friday, May 14, a copy of the form along with meal tickets and name badge will be mailed to you. Registrations received after May 17 will need to be picked up at the Conference Information Center on site.

Balances due: If your registration form is received by May 14 accompanied by the incorrect amount of money, it will be processed and returned to you indicating an amount due or an amount to be refunded. Payments and refunds can be processed at the Annual Conference Information Center during registration.

Refunds: No refunds for meals will be

made after Friday, May 21. Cancellation notice must receive Cindy Welch or Nancy Patton at the United Methodist Center by the May 21 deadline. Phone: 217-529-2397 or write P. O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207.

Pre-Registration: Persons who have pre-registered will not have to stand in a registration line. You will be able to pick up your information packet (which contains a badge holder), from tables located in the Peoria Civic Center.

Child care: Child care is by pre-registration only. It will be provided for children ages 6 months through completion of their 8th grade years of school. A registration form with complete details was in the pre-conference mailing. Deadline for registering and paying for child care was Wednesday, April 28.

One payment: Fees for child care, registration, parking fee and special meals can be paid in one check.

Errata – pre-conference workbook

Two errors have been found in the pre-conference workbook:

- **Page 4, line 32:** 2011 budget should read "11,603,834" and not "1,603,834"
- **Page 14, line 24:** 2010 budget should read "144,400.00" and not "44,400.00"

Reminders

Housing: Members of the annual conference are responsible for securing their own housing during the conference. Materials with a list of motels with reserved blocks of rooms have been mailed to clergy and the lay member to annual conference elected by the church's charge conference.

In order to reserve a room at the prices quotes, reservations must be made by May 2.

Credentials: If the person that was elected as lay member to annual conference by the charge conference is not attending and someone else is, then the change must be reported to your District office so the Superintendent can approve the change. By doing this in advance of arriving in Peoria, you will expedite the registration process.

Pre-Conference Workbook: All clergy and lay members were mailed the Pre-Conference workbook April 7. If you have not yet received your copy, contact Doug Stone at the Conference Center, 217-529-3267 or by email at dstone@igrc.org to obtain your copy.

Displays: Groups officially recognized by and/or related to The United Methodist Church that have secured display space will be able to set up in Exhibit Hall D on Wednesday, June 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Courtesies: Anyone having a guest at Annual Conference may contact Annual Conference Secretary Alice Shirley to request they be introduced to the Conference by the Courtesy Committee. Requests must be submitted in writing to Shirley at 3801 7th St., East Moline, IL 61244, along with the basic biographic information about the guest.

Wednesday at Conference

Agenda - Wednesday, June 2, 2010

11:00 – 12:00 PM	Hospitality Training - Room 134 Ordinands Photos – Verizon Café Lobby
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Secretarial Staff Training – Room 135
2:00 – 5:00 PM	Clergy Session – Peoria First UMC
2:00 – 9:00 PM	Registration- Terrazzo Lobby
4:00 – 6:30 PM	Laity Session – Grand Ballroom
5:30 – 6:00 PM	Hospitality Training - Room 134
7:00 – 8:30 PM	Memorial Service & Holy Communion <i>Preaching:</i> Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker <i>Celebrant:</i> Bishop Gregory V. Palmer <i>Offering:</i> John Kofi Asmah UM School

Laity session: new location, new time

The 2010 laity session for the 2010 Annual Conference will sport a new location and a new time.

The session will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2. The session will be held in the Grand Ballroom (4th floor) of the Peoria Civic Center.

Doors will open at 4 p.m. with pre-ordered boxed lunches ready to eat (see

special meals order form if you wish to reserve a boxed lunch).

In addition to music by Conference Worship Leader Mike Rayson and greetings from Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, the session will be used as an orientation session for newcomers as well as discussion of legislation that will be presented to the annual conference session.

Why do we sing *And Are We Yet Alive* at the opening of annual conference?

By Dean McIntyre

It happens at this time of the year all over the world at Methodist and United Methodist sessions of annual conference and other gatherings. We gather together — clergy and laity, members, guests, and friends — and we stand and sing lustily and with good courage the great Charles Wesley hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." It is a moment of celebration of our common heritage and common mission and the ties that bind us in the faith and the connection, and it is a moment of thanks to God for the experiences we have had since our last gathering.

Where did the custom arise of singing this hymn at the opening of our conferences?

"And Are We Yet Alive" first appeared in the Wesleys' 1749 hymnal, *Hymns And Sacred Poems*. In 1780 John included it in his *A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodist* as the first hymn in the section titled "For the Society . . . at meeting."

It was John himself who began the custom of opening the annual meeting of Methodists by singing this hymn. The practice was picked up by Methodists

around the world, and it largely continues today. There is no requirement that this be the opening hymn at annual conference; but it is, indeed, a cherished custom.

Dean McIntyre (dmcintyre@gbod.org) is the Director of Music Resources for The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship.

And Are We Yet Alive

*And are we yet alive, and
see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus
give for his almighty grace!*

*Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join,
and in his sight appear.*

*What troubles have we seen,
what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without,
and fears within,
since we assembled last!*

Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker



Karen Westerfield Tucker

Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker, an IGRC elder, will be preaching the opening worship of the 2010 Annual Conference.

Tucker is professor of worship at Boston University School of Theology and has done extensive work in the area of liturgical history and hymnody. The 2010 annual conference theme is *Passionate Worship: Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise*.

A probationary member of the Baltimore Conference in 1978, Tucker was ordained an elder in full connection in 1981 by the former Central Illinois Conference. She served as associate pastor of Rock Island First UMC and associate director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois before pursuing a doctorate in liturgical studies at the University of Notre Dame. She was on the faculty at Duke University for 15 years, and has taught seminary and continuing education courses throughout the United States and Canada, and in Asia, Pacifica, and Europe.

Her academic and research interests

include North American liturgical history and theology, Methodist/Wesleyan liturgical history and theology, liturgy and pastoral care, and hymnody. In 2002-2003 she was selected as a Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology to study the theological and cultural dynamics of hymnals.

Dr. Westerfield Tucker is the author of *American Methodist Worship* (Oxford University Press, 2001). She conceived and edited *The Sunday Service of the Methodists: Twentieth-century Worship in Worldwide Methodism* (Abingdon/Kingswood, 1996), and with Geoffrey Wainwright edited *The Oxford History of Christian Worship* (Oxford University Press, 2006). She is a writer for the Wesley Works Project (Abingdon Press), and is working on a book drawn from her research as a Luce Fellow.

The President-elect (2007-2009) of the international and ecumenical Societas Liturgica, Dr. Westerfield Tucker is also editor-in-chief of the society's journal *Studia Liturgica*. She serves on the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council, relates to the Council's Committee on Ecumenics and Dialogue, and is a member of the international dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church.

Pulling out all the stops for 2010 IGRC

Since 2001 Church Organ Network and Samuel Music has been providing the Allen Digital Renaissance Organ and the Yamaha Concert Grand Piano for the Conference Worship Services!

Complete selection of Allen Organs and Yamaha Pianos are available to serve your musical worship needs. Organs and Pianos used at Church Conferences are offered at reduced prices as well as pianos and clavinos which are part of Academic year University loan programs (U of I, Greenville and Illinois Colleges, Lincoln Christian University).

Call 217 342 2207 or email info@churchorgannetwork.com for information regarding specifications and special pricing.



Thursday at Conference

Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards Conference Speaker



Taylor Burton-Edwards

Worship Resources for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church.

An elder in the North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, Burton-Edwards was Director of Community Impact with United Way of Madison County (Anderson, Ind.) 2002-2005; associate pastor of First United Methodist Church (Anderson, Ind.) 1998-2002; and pastor of Tyner UMC (1995-1998), Wawaka UMC (1994-1995) and Waldron Baptist Church

The Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards will be the guest speaker at the 2010 Annual Conference, speaking both Thursday and Friday mornings. Burton-Edwards serves as Director of

Worship Resources for the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. His academic work has focused heavily on history (BA, Kenyon College 1985), historical theology/liturgy (M.Div. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary 1990), and the intersection of peacemaking and liturgical studies (MA in Peace Studies, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, 1997). He is a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy (2009), the Consultation on Common Texts (2005), and Prior for the CyberChapter of the Order of Saint Luke (1996).

He is married to The Rev. Dr. Grace Burton-Edwards, an Episcopal Priest in the Diocese of Indianapolis, Associate Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Indianapolis, and Chaplain at its companion ministry, St. Richard's School. Their two teenage sons are Jacob and Will.

Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise

Mike Rayson, Worship Leader



Mike Rayson

in a number of local congregations and most recently, served as worship leader for Covenant Keepers 2009.

After completing his education in tiny rural Australian schools, Rayson went on to a career in the media. After hosting number 1 rated radio programs in rural, regional and metropolitan markets and writing many national radio commercial campaigns, he heeded God's call, and went on to ministry with the Uniting Church of Australia — an amalgamation of Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches -- the third largest denomination in the country.

Rayson's first pastoral role was in the regional town of Port Lincoln, South Australia, where Steven Spielberg filmed the underwater scenes of the movie *Jaws*. He also served as Chaplain/Pastor to the

local High School of 900 students and 60 staff. From Port Lincoln, Rayson took an appointment to the capital city of South Australia (Adelaide), where he served in 2 parishes — Marion and Seacliff.

With a passion for music infusing his pastoral ministry, and increasing time away from his churches accepting invitations to preach and sing elsewhere, he stepped out of fulltime pastoral ministry in 2000 and started Mike Rayson International Ministries, which is partnered with Compassion International. The ministry organization runs under a 13-member board of directors and a constant prayer team that has members spanning six countries.

In 2005, Mike and his wife Amy, and their children Sam, Laura and Oliver, heeded God's call on their lives and relocated their ministry to the other side of the world, just outside of Nashville. He is a regular worship leader and preacher at the Upper Room, and was also invited to minister last year in the world famous Central Methodist Meeting Hall in London, UK.

He has ministered with such people as Anne Graham Lotz—daughter of legendary Christian evangelist Billy Graham; Rev Dr Len Sweet—author and theologian; and has shared the musical stage with Darlene Zschech—composer of the song *Shout To the Lord*.

Agenda - Thursday, June 3, 2010

8:30 – 8:31 AM	Call to Order
8:31 – 8:35 AM	Courtesies
8:35 – 9:00 AM	Morning Manna
9:00 – 9:05 AM	Roll Call
9:05 – 9:15 AM	Electronic Voting Training & Organizational Motions
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Board of Ordained Ministry Presentation of Ordinands Presentation of Provisional Members
9:30 – 9:40 AM	Preachers' Aid Society & Benefit Fund
9:40 – 9:50 AM	Central Conference Pension Initiative
9:50 – 10:00 AM	Report on Pension and Health Benefit
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Africa University & Offering
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 – 10:55 AM	Conference Budget Initial Presentation
10:55 – 11:00 AM	Video Segment
11:00 – 12:00 PM	Guest Speaker: Taylor Burton Edwards
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Recess
1:30 – 1:45 PM	Worship
1:45 – 2:45 PM	Episcopal Address
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Reports and Resolutions
4:00 – 5:30 PM	Service of Recognition of Retirees Service of Commissioning <i>Preaching:</i> Dr. John Hamilton
5:30 PM	Reception for Retirees & Commissioned Clergy Exhibit Hall D
5:30 PM	Recess
6:00 PM	Gathering Time: Conference Dinner
6:30 PM	Dinner Serving Time Theme: Sing, Sing, Sing (Springfield Grace Liturgical Dancers & Mike Rayson)

Friday at Conference

Agenda - Friday, June 4, 2010

8:30 – 8:31 AM	Call to Order
8:31 – 8:35 AM	Courtesies
8:35 – 9:00 AM	Morning Manna
9:00 – 9:20 AM	Cabinet Address
9:20 – 9:40 AM	Laity Address
9:40 – 9:50 AM	Nominations Initial Presentation
9:50 – 9:55 AM	Video Segment
9:55 – 10:10 AM	Wiley College Ambassador
10:10 – 10:15 AM	Offering: Tom Brown Scholarship for Wiley
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Board of Trustees Report Recognition of Churches Completing their Mission Video
11:00 – 12:00 PM	+ Guest Speaker: Taylor Burton Edwards
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Recess
1:30 – 1:45 PM	Worship
1:45 – 2:00 PM	75th Anniversary of The Upper Room
2:00 – 2:15 PM	Advance & Video
2:15 – 2:30 PM	UM Communications <i>Imagine No Malaria</i>
2:30 – 3:15 PM	Liberia Report
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 – 3:45 PM	Bishop's Task Force on Clergy Wellness
3:45 – 5:00 PM	Reports & Resolutions
5:00 PM	Recess
7:00 PM	Worship: Ordination & Holy Communion <i>Preaching:</i> Bishop Gregory V. Palmer <i>Celebrant:</i> Bishop Gregory V. Palmer <i>Offering:</i> Ordinands Mission Trip

Grant Norsworthy, Worship Leader



Grant Norsworthy

Grant Norsworthy joins Mike Rayson in leading the afternoon worship services on Thursday and Friday.

Norsworthy is a bass guitarist, up until recently playing with

Christian band SONICFLOOD who largely rose to fame through his involvement in the Paul Colman Trio. On the side, Grant was also well known around the local Melbourne cover band scene, playing in bands such as Rockett, Stealers, Vasoline and Supernova.

He started playing the guitar in his early

teenage years and has been quoted to have written his first musical piece on the piano at age 14, picking up the bass guitar following high school at age 19. Currently, Grant is based out of Nashville, Tenn., where he lives with his New Zealand-born wife, Brooke, son Maxwell and their cat, Princess Buttercup. Grant left SONICFLOOD in April 2008 to use his newfound talents of preaching and speaking. He has appropriately named his new combination of skills "Word & Song."

He currently travels the U.S with his wife and son, speaking and singing at church services, festivals, college groups, youth groups, and more inspiring them to cultivate a deeper relationship with God. He is also a spokesperson for Compassion International.

Rev. John Hamilton
Commissioning and Retirees Service

John Hamilton

Rev. John Hamilton, pastor of Springfield Laurel UMC, will be preaching at the Thursday afternoon Service of Commissioning and Retirees Recognition.

Hamilton is one of 15 clergy members that comprise the retiree class of 2010.

Hamilton was granted probationary status in 1969 and was ordained an elder in

full connection in 1973.

He is concluding a 40-year career in active ministry that included service pastorates in the former Central Illinois Conference and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. They include: Nauvoo, White Hall, associate pastor at Normal First UMC, Hanna City-Trivoli, Mt. Zion and Springfield Laurel UMC.

Video presentations produced by the IGRC Communication Ministries team in cooperation with Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund, will be part of the Thursday afternoon celebration.

Tracy N. Funchess, Ambassador
Black College Fund/Wiley College

Tracy N. Funchess

Tracy Nicole Funchess is a 19 year old from Houston, Texas, and the daughter of Patrick and Gay Campbell.

She just completed her freshman year at Wiley College majoring in Early

Childhood Education. Throughout her recent freshman year Tracy has achieved many accomplishments.

Before school started, she participated in a program called Freshman Leaders. This is when a number of incoming freshman, who are thought to be potential campus leaders, are selected to attend the

Student Leadership Retreat with the students who are already leaders on the campus. Later on, Tracy became a member of the Wiley Wildcat Cheerleaders and also was voted into Miss Wiley's royal court as Miss Freshman.

Tracy has participated in Wiley's Religious Emphasis Week and has spoken at the weekly chapel services on different occasions. Recently, she has started a Debutante presentation program with Marshall, Texas's Nu Omega Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. One of Tracy's ultimate goals for this upcoming school year is to become Miss National UNCF.

After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school and use her degrees to open daycare centers around the city of Houston.

Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise

Saturday at Conference

Dr. Tom Albin Dean, The Upper Room



Tom Albin

Rev. Tom Albin is currently Dean of the Upper Room Chapel and Team Leader for the Program Unit of The Upper Room Ministries in Nashville, Tenn. He will be the

conference to celebrate The Upper Room's 75th anniversary.

The eldest of four children raised on the family farm, Tom's elementary education was in a one-room schoolhouse on the Kansas prairie. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Oral Roberts University, Albin answered God's call to the ministry and was ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church. He graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., with an M.A. in Theological and

Historical Studies (with honors) before traveling to England in September of 1978 to begin the first of four years of doctoral study at Cambridge.

Albin returned to pastoral ministry in Oklahoma in 1982, serving as an associate pastor in a church of more than 5,000 members. There he gave leadership to the areas of Evangelism & Discipleship, Lay Counseling, and College Ministries, as well as teaching regularly in the Wednesday night Lay Academy. In 1987, Tom joined the faculty of Boston University School of Theology and taught courses in American Church History, Wesley Studies, Evangelism and Church Growth before returning to the heartland to develop a program in Christian Spiritual Formation at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

Albin's academic interests lie in the areas of spiritual formation, Wesley studies, historical theology, mission and evangelism.

Child advocacy workshop Wednesday

"You can Make It Happen, Advocacy for Children and Families" is the theme for the Child Advocacy workshop which will be held Wednesday, June 2, at Peoria First UMC, 116 N.E. Perry Ave., from 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Persons from a variety of churches in size and communities will tell about activities which have been successful as their congregations have advocated for children. One may term the day 'live and local'.

Quincy Vermont Street UMC will tell how a family was relocated and cared for by the church; Franklin UMC has several programs to share which help support fam-

ilies in their local community; and members of Peoria First UMC will tell about the Bear Buddies program. Hear also about supporting and building after school programs which are meaningful.

Lunch will be provided and this is an opportunity to share with other child advocates.

Registration is \$15. Send registrations to Lisa Graves, 1200 N. 13th Street, East St. Louis, IL 62205. Phone: 618-874-0777 ext 1113. Email: lgraves@lessie-bates-davis.org. Please make checks payable to United Voices for Children.

Mission opportunities for local churches

Local congregations can be a part of the 2010 annual conference as the site is serving as a collection point for a couple of mission opportunities.

Bags of rice for Liberia. The rice must be of the long grain variety with no Minute Rice or boxed rice. Bags need to be 5 pounds or less each. Shipping costs about \$1 for each pound of rice. Cash or check payments payable to Midwest Mission Distribution Center will be accepted with the donations.

The MMDC is also collecting items for health kits.

Specific items include toothbrushes (adult size in original wrapper; no multi-packs)

Tubes of toothpaste (6.4 oz. or larger with expiration dates at least a year away)

Soap – 3 oz. or larger in original wrapper

Items may be dropped off at the Peoria Civic Center on opening day.

Keep informed and updated

The Daily Current will be produced as an electronic newsletter and emailed at the conclusion of each day to those who subscribe to *The Current Week in Review*.

Subscribers to *The Current Week in Review* need not do anything in order to receive *The Daily Current*.

Persons who wish to receive *The Daily Current* may send an email to IGRC

Director of Communications Paul Black at pblack@igrc.org and your email address will be added to the mailing list.

Persons unable to attend the annual conference will be able to view the proceedings via a live web stream on the IGRC website. Visit www.igrc.org and click on the link to the live Annual Conference stream.

Agenda - Saturday, June 5, 2010

8:30 – 8:31 AM	Call to Order
8:31 – 8:35 AM	Courtesies
8:35 – 9:00 AM	Morning Manna
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Children of the Annual Conference
9:15 – 9:30 AM	IGRC Award Video & UMM Torch Award
9:30 – 9:45 AM	Annual Conference Foundation
9:45 – 10:00 AM	Nominations Report for Approval
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 – 11:45 AM	Approve Conference Budget
11:45 – 12:00	Service of Appointments & Recognition of Superintendents
12:00 PM	+Adjournment

Budget

Continued from page 1

the General Board of Pensions and health Benefits due to the downturn in the economic markets in 2008 and early 2009. The \$2.9 million in additional payments is over and above the \$3.2 million already paid annually for pensions.

If the proposal is approved as presented by the annual conference, the net effect is that the cost to the local church will be at or near 2010 levels.

In order to address the \$2.9 million shortfall, the plan calls for the conference to take advantage of a "holiday" being offered by the General Board of Pensions for payments on clergy and spouse death and disability insurance. The holiday is possible due to the overfunding of the plan. The General Board is foregoing billing the conference for the benefit in years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The spending plan calls for using two years of the holiday in 2011 for \$1.6 million of savings that can be reallocated to address the crisis.

Another \$258,189 will be realized through an increase in the CRSP defined benefit portion which will increase to \$7,260 for a full-time pastor – up from the current \$6,720. Churches served by part-time pastors will receive a proportional increase.

In an effort to hold churches harmless, CFA's budget is \$276,813 less than the 2010 budget, so while the direct bill increases for local churches, there is a corresponding decrease in apportionments. While other factors can impact the final total, the amounts attempt to neutralize the financial impact.

Among the budget cuts:

\$100,000 for the SA&E/District Mission Fund which was added to the budget in

2010 as transitional funds to assist churches with the move to direct-bill of pension payments.

\$154,000 from Pastoral Care Office, using existing reserve funds to operate the ministry in 2011.

\$138,550 from Congregational Development, using existing reserves to fund parts of their budget in 2011.

\$78,887 from the Conference Benevolence budget, which includes decreases in support to health and welfare ministries, specialized ministries, higher education and campus ministries, and interdenominational ministries.

\$170,425 from the Equipping and Connecting Team budget, with cuts coming in camping and retreat ministries, leadership development and life cycle ministries.

Increases to the budget include areas in which contractual agreements, anticipated expenses or figures supplied by the denomination come into play:

\$55,543 in general church apportionments.

\$50,000 to establish a fund which will be used to host the 2016 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. The last jurisdictional conference in Illinois was held in Peoria in 1968. The fund will be used to offset expenses incurred by the hosting of the conference.

\$1,146 increase for Archives and History which is paid to MacMurray College on contract.

The remaining \$806,800 will be drawn from the post-retirement benefit reserve fund, which currently has a \$9 million balance but a projected liability of \$44 million.

The budget, a narrative of the line items and worksheets for the Equipping and Connecting Team, Congregational Development and the Benevolence budgets are located on pages 3 to 21 in the Blue Section and marked Legislative Item 103.

Annual Conference Special Meals

Special meals at annual conference

Special meal tickets are ordered through an order form in the pre-conference packet mailed to lay and clergy members of the annual conference. No meal tickets will be sold after Friday, May 14 and no refunds will be made after Friday, May 21.

Wednesday Dinner

Menu: Heartland Chicken Saute (boneless chicken breast with wild mushrooms, diced tomato and roast pepper, seasoned vegetables, dessert, rolls and butter, coffee, decaf, iced water and lemonade).

- Good News Dinner

Laity Box Meal: persons attending the laity session can pre-order a meal that will be available in the Grand Ballroom (4th floor) when they arrive at 4 p.m. Meal choices include Club House Croissant, Peoria Grinder or grilled chicken Caesar salad

Thursday Breakfast

Menu: Bistro Breakfast (scrambled eggs, bacon, cheddar breakfast potatoes and fresh fruit cup, breakfast scones and whipped butter, coffee, decaf, iced water, orange juice, milk)

- Garrett-Evangelical Alumni Breakfast

Thursday Lunch

Menu: Chicken Parmesan (Chicken breast encrusted with parmesan and breadcrumbs, topped with marinara and shredded mozzarella, served with buttered linguini, salad, vegetables, dessert, roll and butter, coffee, decaf, iced tea and iced water)

- Ethnic Local Concerns Committee/Hispanic Ministries/Religion and Race
- Golden Cross Lunch
- Retired Ministers and Spouses Lunch
- United Methodist Foundation Lunch
- John Wesley Fellowship Lunch
- St. Paul School of Theology Lunch
- Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members Lunch
- Liberian Reunion Lunch
- COSROW Lunch

Other lunches:

■ Young Adult Clergy and Friends Lunch (Buy your own at Courthouse Plaza, 324 Main St.)

■ Daily Lunch Buffet (Italian Beef with bun, tossed garden salad with dressings, sour cole slaw, cheesy potatoes, chips, dessert and choice of bottled water or soda) – located in Display Area, Hall D

Thursday Dinner

All Conference Dinner – Grand Ballroom (4th floor). (Fried chicken dinner). Entertainment provided by liturgical dancers from Springfield Grace UMC and Mike Rayson in concert.

Friday Breakfast

Menu: Rise and Shine (Eggs Benedict, breakfast potatoes and fresh fruit cup, coffee, assorted muffins, decaf, iced water, orange juice, milk)

- United Voices for Children Breakfast
- Aldersgate Federal Credit Union Breakfast
- Drew University Theological School Breakfast

Friday Lunch

Menu: Peoria Pot Roast (Slow roasted, seasons and served with carrots, onions, celery and pan style gravy, mashed potatoes, salad, vegetables, dessert, roll and butter, coffee, decaf, iced water and lemonade)

- Illinois Wesleyan University Lunch
- Reconciling Uniting Ministries of Illinois Lunch
- Africa University Lunch
- Clergy Couples Lunch
- Ministers' Mates Lunch
- Friends and Alumni of Eden Theological Seminary Lunch
- Order of St. Luke Lunch
- ILCAAAP Lunch
- Candler Club Lunch

Other lunches:

■ Daily Lunch Buffet (Grilled hamburger and jumbo hotdogs with buns, mustard potato salad, tossed garden salad with dressings, baked beans, chips, dessert, choice of bottled water or soda) – located in Display Area, Hall D

Friday Dinner

Menu: Chicken Framboise (Chicken breast, Boursin (cream) cheese, raspberry preserves, wrapped in puff pastry, finished with Aurora sauce, seasoned vegetables, dessert, roll and butter, coffee, decaf, iced tea and iced water)

- Social Justice Dinner
- Asbury Seminary Alumni and Friends Dinner
- Volunteers in Mission Dinner
- United Methodist Women Dinner
- McKendree University Dinner

Saturday Breakfast

■ United Methodist Men's Breakfast, Peoria Bethel UMC, 210 N. Richard Pryor Place, 6:30 a.m. – Freewill offering

Saturday Lunch

Menu: Southwest Turkey and Side Salad (Sliced breast of turkey with pepper jack cheese, chipotle mayonnaise on sourdough bread, side salad, dessert, coffee, decaf, iced water, lemonade)

- Historical Society Lunch

Special meal speakers



Rob Renfroe

Good News Dinner, Wednesday

Rob Renfroe is the president and publisher of Good News, a renewal and reform ministry within the United Methodist Church. He is the pastor of adult discipleship at The Woodlands United Methodist Church in The Woodlands, Texas. Prior to his leadership role at Good News, he was the president of The Confessing Movement within the United Methodist Church.



Tracy N. Funchess

Ethnic Local Concerns/Hispanic Ministries/Religion & Race Lunch, Thursday

Tracy N. Funchess, a freshman from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, will be the guest speaker. Tracy is this year's Annual Conference ambassador from Wiley College and she will be addressing the full session of Annual Conference Thursday morning.



Rev. Merlin Schendel

John Wesley Fellowship Lunch, Thursday

The JWF luncheon will hear from the Rev. Merlin Schendel, the 2009 recipient of the Peter Cartwright Lifetime Evangelism Award from the IGRC Evangelism committee. The announcements of the winners of the local church evangelism outstanding achievements by church size categories will be featured.

Photo not available

Kay Zibby

United Voices for Children Breakfast, Friday

Kay Zibby, Vice President of Operations at the UM Children's Home in Mt. Vernon is coordinating the program on Foster Care. The importance of Foster Care in our state will be highlighted. Flyers will be available from the IGRC UM Childcare agencies telling about their specific role in Foster Care in Illinois



Dr. Lawson Stone

Asbury Seminary Dinner, Friday

Dr. Lawson G. Stone, professor of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary since 1987 will be this year's Asbury Dinner speaker.

For more information, contact Pastor Larry Moreau lmoreau@igrc.org.



Rev. Richard Chrisman

Historical Society Lunch, Saturday

Conference Historian Richard Chrisman will present a paper *Confronting the Evil of Slavery: Illinois Methodism and Slavery*.

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2010 Annual Conference
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Annual Conference
Webcast



Annual Conference Action Items

Legislation offered for annual conference consideration

By Paul Black

Lay and clergy members of the annual conference will consider no less than 25 pieces of legislation when they gather for the 2010 Annual Conference at the Peoria Civic Center June 2-5.

The qualified quantity recognizes a deliberative process that includes those items that are in the pre-conference packet and those which may be brought to the floor by a member or members of the annual conference.

According to the Conference Standing Rules, all reports or resolutions with financial implications must be submitted by Feb. 15. All other reports and resolutions have a March 1 deadline.

Persons who submit items between March 1 and May 19 are required to submit 2,000 copies of the material at their own expense to be included in the packet. During the organizational time of ordering the business of the conference, these items may be considered for inclusion into the agenda, but only if they are accepted by the body for consideration by a 2/3 vote.

Here is a summary of the legislation that is part of the pre-conference workbook:

Legislative Item 101: Organizational Motions. This item, which will be considered Thursday morning following roll call, will establish the rules of order, the voting area of the conference and the agenda which the conference will consider.

Legislative Item 102: Bar of the Clergy Session. This item will be considered during the organizational motions when the clergy session convenes at 2 p.m. Wednesday. Since the clergy session does conduct business involving voting, the bar establishes the area in which persons must sit in order to cast votes on business brought before the session.

Legislative Item 103: 2011 Budget Proposal brought by CCFA. The initial budget presentation will be made at 10:30 a.m. Thursday. However, a vote on the budget will be one of the last items of business at the conference since other items with financial implications can cause budget line-items to change and impact the original proposal. The overall budget, found on pages 3 to 21 of the Blue Section of the Pre-Conference workbook, includes supplemental narrative explanations and worksheets for the Equipping and Connecting Team, Congregational Development and information on specialized ministries that are a part of the Conference Benevolence Budget.

Legislative Item 104: CCFA Policies and Guidelines. These policies are approved annually by the annual conference. This year, a new formula is being proposed for the setting of District Superintendent's salaries. As part of the 2011 budget, those salaries are frozen as

are the salaries of all conference staff.

Legislative Item 105: Correct Standing Rule V.F. (Requires 2/3 vote). This change is offered to bring the standing rules into alignment with action taken by the 2008 annual conference regarding training of pastors regarding sexual misconduct.

Legislative Item 106: Amend Standing Rule III.C.5.b. (Requires 2/3 vote) This amendment is offered to bring the wording of the Standing Rule and to accurately reference the appropriate section.

Legislative Item 107: 2011 Equitable Compensation. The Commission on Equitable Compensation is charged with recommending conference standards for pastoral support (§625.2, The Book of Discipline, 2008) The Commission is recommending a minimum salary of \$34,500 for clergy in full connection and \$31,600 for full-time local pastors – increases of \$1,250 and \$1,268 respectively.

Legislative Item 108: Pension Funding Plan. As part of the budget, this legislative item outlines how the conference will pay its pension obligations for 2011. The measure calls upon applying a holiday for CPP premiums for 2010 and 2011 to the pension obligation, an estimated \$1.6 million; an increase in the direct-bill payment by local churches for each full-time pastor to \$7,260 per year; apportionment payments redirected from the conference budget through budget cuts, \$234,360; and \$806,800 being withdrawn from the Retiree Benefits Reserve.

Legislative Item 109: Board of Pensions. This report from the Conference Board of Pensions which will be presented Thursday morning is asking for no increase in health insurance rates for 2011.

The pension rate for pre-1982 years of service would be set at \$660.94 per service year – an increase of 2 percent.

Legislative Item 110: Bishop Hill Historic Site. This resolution, if passed, would designate the Bishop Hill UMC as a historic site – the first step toward obtaining designation as an official historic site of the denomination (§1712, The Book of Discipline, 2008).

Legislative Item 111: Prentice Memorial Sermon. This resolution merely gives approval to a transfer of responsibility from the Conference Board of Trustees to the Conference Commission on Archive and History for the setting of the annual Prentice Memorial Sermon.

Legislative Item 112: Ministry with Migrant Neighbors. This legislation seeks annual conference support for ministries that serve neighbors who are immigrant regardless of their documentary status; that a letter communicate the support to the President, Senators and House

members; and that encouragement be given for local church and conference efforts that support these efforts.

Legislative Item 113: Hold Over Funds for Camping. This resolution seeks to enable the Camping Commission to keep excess budget funds in a holding account for future capital improvements. The CCFA comment seeks to also address years in which budgets are overspent and that the fund could be tapped to recoup any overspending which currently is taken from other unspent funds in the budget.

Legislative Item 114: Discontinuation of Sibley UMC.

Legislative Item 115: Discontinuation of Quincy Grace UMC.

Legislative Item 116: Discontinuation of Basco UMC.

These three resolutions provide for the disposition of any real or personal property in congregations that have completed their mission and have discontinued their ministry.

Legislative Item 201: Consolidating Resolutions. This resolution seeks to consolidate all resolutions and business into a single block of time. This resolution is advisory in nature (hence, recommends), since The Book of Discipline, §605.2 grants the authority for preparing the agenda to “the bishop, the district superintendents and the conference lay leader and such others as the conference may name.”

Legislative Item 202: Shortening Annual Conference. This resolution, if passed, recommends the shortening of annual conference by a day. This resolution is also advisory, since The Book of Discipline, §603.2, authorizes the bishop to “appoint the times for holding the annual conference.”

Legislative Item 203: Apportionment Calculation Exemption. This resolution seeks to give local churches an exemption from apportionment calculations capital expenditures that exceed 10 percent of a

church's annual budget. However, the current formula already excludes capital expenditures from the apportionment calculation.

Legislative Item 204: Pension Rollover Policy. This resolution seeks to have the IGRC request a change in a General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits policy regarding rollovers of Personal Investment Plans administered by GBOPHB to other 403(b) plans. Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, GBOPHB no longer allowed such rollovers to occur which the GBOPHB announced in October 2009.

Legislative Item 205: Affirming Inclusion of New Members. This resolution seeks to remind persons of the action at the 2008 General Conference in light of Judicial Council Decision 1032 regarding admission of members into a local church baptized persons who desire admission to the church and avows the faith.

Report 301: Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund. This report, along with the recommendations included in the supplemental packet, will be presented Thursday morning.

Report 302: Advance Specials for 2011. Each year, the Specialized Ministry Committee submits a report to the Annual Conference on those projects that have received Advance Special status. Included in the report is the designation of how these advance specials fit within the IGRC Five Star Mission program.

Report 303: United Methodist Foundation. Each year, the United Methodist Foundation reports on its ministry to enhance the financial strength of the local church, Conference agencies and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for the expansion of ministry.

Report 304: Conference Treasurer's Report of Budgetary Income and Expenses. This report shows a report of income and expenses for the line-items of

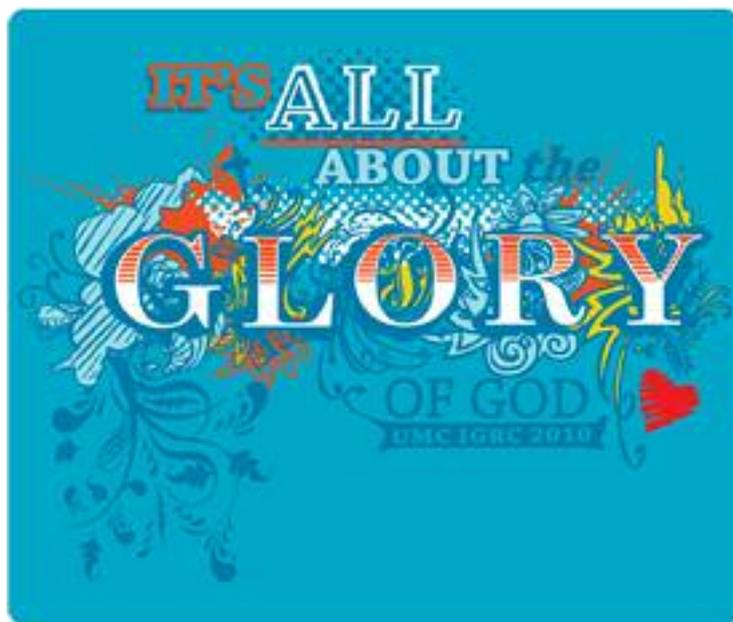


Electronic voting will be used for the second year at annual conference.

2010 Annual Conference

Order your SPECIAL EDITION annual conference T-shirt

Passionate Worship: Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise



Notice: Children registered for Kids' Conference will receive their t-shirts as part of their registration.

The 2010 Annual Conference shirts are California blue with bright four-color printing. This year's Conference theme, "Passionate Worship: Lost in Wonder, Love & Praise," is referenced. The shirts are 50/50 poly cotton. *Toddler sizes 2T, 3T, and 4T may be light blue.*

Order forms can be found in your Pre-Conference Packet. **Orders must be received no later than May 14.**

Kids are struggling to go to camp ... using a little **VISA** can help!

Help United Methodist camps without spending an extra nickel!

Your United Methodist Ministries Credit Union is partnering with the camping programs of Illinois Great Rivers and Northern Illinois Conferences to give them a boost.

Your part? Just shop with your UMMCU VISA Card, and we'll make a contribution to camping!

Purchase groceries and help kids get to camp. Buy gas and help kids get to camp. Use your UMMCU VISA Card for anything for the next year, and you will be aiding United Methodist camping ministries all around Illinois.

Don't have a UMMCU VISA Card? No problem! Just contact the *United Methodist Ministries Credit Union* office at 309-827-8636, and the friendly staff will help you with the application right away! (Website: ummcu.com)

As an added bonus, everyone who becomes a **new member** of the *United Methodist Ministries Credit Union* and gets a UMMCU VISA Card will generate an extra \$5 gift to the camping programs. The more folks who participate, the more funds for camp. Everybody benefits!



Come to the Quiet

Sponsored by the Upper Room's Academy for Spiritual Formation and The Illinois Great Rivers Conference

What: Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

When: May 1, 2011, 3 p.m. - Fri. May 6, 1 p.m.

Where: Nazareth House, Henry, IL

For Whom: Clergy and laypersons

Cost: \$475

If registered before March 15, 2011, cost is \$450

Retreat Leaders

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Canham, author of *Heart Whispers* and *Praying the Bible*, speaking on being attentive to God's word through meditation, reflection, silence and holy listening.

Rev. Dan Wolpert, author of *Leading a Life With God: The Practice of Spiritual Leadership* and *Creating a Life With God: The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices*, speaking on spiritual leadership as seen through prayer practices.

Full registration information to be announced later.

For information on scholarships, contact Rev. Stan Haxton, 217-454-5543, or email at shaxton@igrc.org