A Report from Nigeria Mission Team #5

A partnership of ministry between the Eastern Pennsylvania and Nigeria Annual Conferences continues to blossom. This is the first year of the second quadrennium in which we will work together bringing hope to children and families living in poverty in Nigeria.

The last four years was the beginning of relationship building, the collaboration between the two conferences fueled the team’s feelings of hope and excitement about planning the next phase of ministry together: revitalization of the Medical Clinic in Zing. The collaboration between the two conferences fueled the team’s feelings of hope and excitement about planning the next phase of ministry together: revitalization of the Medical Clinic in Zing.

During the cruise you will develop skills and insights to share with your church and community open to members of The United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Mary Elam, pastor of St. Thomas UMC in Philadelphia, stands with a group of children at the Scibre Rural Health Dispensary in Zing, Nigeria.

The District Superintendents of both Annual Conferences will serve as Coordinator and Program Director.

Expanding benefits:

* Share in scriptural growth as we worship, sing, pray, and commune together

* Discover your natural leadership potential as a servant of Christ

* Develop a new awareness of stewardship of God’s Creation

* Create new and lasting friendships among laity and pastors

The Deans of the Conference Cabinets will serve as Coordinator and Program Director.

Brochures that describe the itinerary and cost from both Philadelphia and Baltimore Airports will be distributed at both Annual Conferences. Please join me as we experience the beauty of God’s creation on this memorable Alaskan cruise. I look forward to welcoming you aboard.

Sincerely,

Marcus Matthews,
Bishop of The Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My wife, Barbara, and I are pleased to invite you to join us in an extraordinary travel opportunity open to members of The Philadelphia Area, their families, and friends. In cooperation with Educational Opportunities, we are offering a 7-day Alaska Scenic Cruise aboard Holland America’s Oosterdam cruise ship departing Seattle, Washington, May 20, 2006. During the cruise you will develop a profound understanding of the beauty of God’s creation through the awe-inspiring Alaskan scenery. Our theme will be “God’s Glory in Creation.”

Scripture will come alive in special devotions, which will help prepare us spiritually for seeing the sites on the itinerary. You will also enjoy the following benefits:

- Share in scriptural growth as we worship, sing, pray, and commune together

- Discover your natural leadership potential as a servant of Christ

- Develop a new awareness of stewardship of God’s Creation

- Create new and lasting friendships among laity and pastors

The Deans of the Conference Cabinets will serve as Coordinator and Program Director.

Brochures that describe the itinerary and cost from both Philadelphia and Baltimore Airports will be distributed at Annual Conference in June. Please join me as we experience the beauty of God’s creation on this memorable Alaskan cruise. I look forward to welcoming you aboard.

Sincerely,

Marcus Matthews,
Bishop of The Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church
June 4

Celebration Luncheon for Rev. Philip L. Ponce

A celebration luncheon for Rev. Philip L. Ponce, Superintendent of the Central District (formerly the Hosier/Philadelphia South and Albright/Lebanon Reading Districts) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at Eastwick at The Meadows, 6630 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. Conference staff, pastors, representatives of all churches in the Central District as well as colleagues, family and friends are invited to attend the celebration of Rev. Ponce’s superintendent- tency as he prepares to continue in his ministry at Berwyn UMC.

Bishop Marcus Matthews, resident and presiding bishop of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will bring greetings. The celebration luncheon cost is $35 and includes a gift for the honoree. For tickets and more information call Amy White at 610-519-9812. If unable to attend, gifts and notes of appreciation may be sent to Rev. Ponce in care of Dr. Mary White, District Lay Leader, 312 Rockingham Road, Rosemont, PA 19010 or emailed to mwhite9891@aol.com.

June 4

Outdoor Concert Event

The spacious, woods-surrounded amphitheater at Hopewell UMC will be the site of a free public concert and Praise fest from 4:00 p.m.-7:30 pm. The March Creek Church Band, the Dawn Kurtz Band and Hopewell UMC’s own Praise Team will be performing. For details, call (610) 269-1545 or go to www.HopewellHappenings.org.

June 5

Reception and Celebration for Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow

You are invited to join churches and Conference staff, pastors, representatives of all churches, and acknowledge her work with the Ministry of the General Board of Discipleship, Nashville. It will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at Eastwick at The Meadows, 6630 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. Conference staff, pastors, representatives of all churches in the Central District as well as colleagues, family and friends are invited to attend the celebration of Rev. Ponce’s superintendent- tency as he prepares to continue in his ministry at Berwyn UMC.

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July 16

EP Conference Church Softball Tournament

The EP Conference Church Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2005. To register or receive further information please contact Ross Brightwell, tournament coordinator, day or evening, at 215-643-1389, or at rossbrightwell@worldnet.att.net.

July 22-24

Christian School of Mission

Youth Alpha Camp

Pcono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center is hosting Youth Alpha Camp. It is a fun way to learn about basic Christian- ity. The program consists of: Youth speakers, day and night games, video clips, music and family discussion groups. It also includes the regular camp activities: waterfront, boating, campfires and low ropes. The special cost of this 3-day overnight camp is $95 per person and includes all meals and activities. Hurry! Space is limited! Contact Pcono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center at 570-676-3665 or visit our website at: http://www.pconoplateau.org.

August 7

Laity Academy

(See ad p.3.)

August 20

United Methodist Night at the Phillies

(See ad p.3.)

September 24

3rd Annual Alcohol & Drug Recovery Expo

“You Learn More - Suffer Less” hosted by United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 161 Sharp Lane, Exton, PA 19341. “In celebration of the 18th Annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month the Church will host Recovery Expo 2005 on Saturday, September 24, in partnership with Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services. We believe that the more people learn about addiction and the process of Recovery - the less they and their families will have to suffer. For additional information, please contact Wendy Beck @ (610) 363-6164, email her at WBeck@Coagroup.com or visit www.umc.org.

October 21-22

EP Older Adult Conference

Sponsored by the Nurturing Disciples Resource Team Older Adult Task Force, this conference will feature Bishop Marcus Matthews and Dr. Richard Gentzler, Director of the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministry of the General Board of Discipleship, Nashville. It will be held at the Days Inn Conference Center, 1151 Bulldog Drive, Routes 22 & 39 in Allentown. For further information or to receive “The Elder Sage” Newsletter contact: Dorothea Burnett, Older Adult Coordinator, 116 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19139; 215-476-5504 or othea@netzero.com.

October 29

The Gala - Delaware Conference Remembrance...40 years

Wyndham Hotel, 8th & King Streets, Wilmington, DE 19801. Honorary Chairpersons: Bishop Marcus Matthews and Bishop Melvin G. Talbert. Reception: 4:00 PM, Dinner/Program: 7:00 PM, Keynote Speaker: Bishop Violet Fisher; Extended reception 10:00 PM; Black Tie event. Tickets: $50.00 per person, table of 10: $500.00. Commemorative booklet and hotel information available. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant Harris or Mr. James E. Harris, Co-Chairpersons: 410-219-5401; delconf40@comcast.net; or Rev. Hebert Cote at 610-876-8152; Ms. Betty Henderson at 215-226-5268; Rev. Herbert Palmer at 215-236-6223; or Ms. Anne Williams at 215-223-1391.

May 2006

Cruise to Alaska

(For more information, see p.1.)

NEWSpirit submission requirements

Submit an article or photographs to the NEWSpirit using e-mail or U.S. Mail in only the following formats: Microsoft Word document (.doc), Rich Text format (.rtf), or Simple text file (.txt). We prefer photos sent as actual photographic prints or electronically, as.tif or .jpg. We cannot use pictures less than 800 pixels wide. Please send logos or other graphic art in either .wmf or .eps format.

Email your items to communications@epaumc.org.
2005 School of Christian Mission: Cornerstones of Hope

By Laura J. Mitchell

The School of Mission for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will take place July 22-24, 2005. Everyone is invited—men, women, youth and children. The school is a mission-minded community. Come stay on campus for a weekend of learning and sharing about mission, or make a daily commute to be part of this tremendous event.

We are blessed to have an organization of dedicated women within Conference United Methodist Women who plan and conduct our Schools of Mission. Each year we assemble for study, spiritual growth, worship and fellowship. Our theme for School of Mission this year is “Cornerstones of Hope.”

The Spiritual Growth Study, Children of the Bible, will be led by Lois Dauway, Women’s Division assistant general secretary. The social responsibility Brenda Tildon and the Rev. Arthur Rettew will lead our Social Issues Study, Public Witness. For our geographical study, India and Pakistan, the leaders are Praveena Bala Sundaram and the Rev. Felicia Kumar, both from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and Georganne Knisely from the Central Pennsylvania Conference.

Additionally, we provide a Children’s Program for ages 6-11 and a Youth Program for young people in grades 6 through 12. Deb MacPhail will lead the Children’s Program. Joy Frazier along with Georganne Toner will lead our youth Program. Their study and special focus will be “Children of the Bible.” All three leaders for our young people are from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Each study at School of Mission is accompanied by a text and related study guide that is written especially to cover issues and events that impact us in the world today. Children of the Bible—Twelve Stories, was written through concerted efforts of the Mother/Daughter team of Stephanie Biggs-Scribner and 10-year-old Maggie Biggs Scribner, along with nationally known author Linda H. Holmes, and is accompanied by a study guide written by Bishop Minerva Carcaño, the first Hispanic woman elected to the episcopacy of The United Methodist Church.

Public Education—Issues and Challenges and accompanying study guide were written by Mary Grace Lyman, who served more than 20 years on the staff of Women’s Division, General Board of Global Ministries, administering schools of Christian mission and developing printed and video study materials for adults, children and youth. The India and Pakistan text was written by Women’s Division Executive Secretary for Justice Education, Glory Dhammaraj, with study guide by Dianne M. Miller, who recently worked for Women’s Division as Executive Secretary for Social Issues in the Region.

India and Pakistan, the subject for our geographical study, was a cornerstone of Mission as our foremothers founded Clara Swain Hospital in 1869. The hospital still stands as a mission agency funded by United Methodist Women. Schools were the next priority of mission. Today, we continue to promote education as we explore the challenges of public education in the United States. The painful stories of children of the Bible resonate with children’s lives today and remind us that Jesus put children at the center of the Gospel. Our three studies compel us to build a future of justice and righteousness for all children so that each generation is born into abundant life.

Schools of Mission bring us closer to the world, and the world closer to us. Jesus not only served in Judea, but he went into Samaritania to heal, bring hope, justice and mercy. He instructed all of his disciples to go to the uttermost parts of the earth to carry his love and help others in need of blessings from the Lord. When disaster occurs somewhere in the world, missions, missionaries and Bible Women supported by the United Methodist Women are nearby to step in to meet a vital need of the affected area or areas. Members of this United Methodist organization of dedicated women prepare health kits, infant care kits and school kits to send to distribution centers of UMCS (the United Methodist Commission On Relief), where they are kept until there is a need for them within the United States or in other places around the globe. We are called upon to provide more of these vital resources when the supply becomes low, as was the case when the tsunami devastated the South Asia region in December of 2004.

Our ways of helping women, children and—men who are in need of food and clothing have long been through soup kitchens, food pantries and clothes closet programs in churches or community centers. We have helped establish, provide and/or serve in shelters for homeless and abused women and their children within our own towns and cities. This current era within the United States brings about an unprecedented number of women who are housed in prisons. Ministry in the love of Jesus has been taken inside the prison walls to support and sustain them in hope for their futures. Programs such as “Mother’s Voice,”—which is located in the Philadelphia Conference—connect incarcerated mothers with their children through counseling and tape recording of a mother’s reading and greeting her child. This service helps to bring mothers spiritually closer to those precious children who must grow without the physical presence of their moms.

Please register early for the School of Christian Mission, which will be held at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA, located near Quakertown. De Sales is a beautiful campus of modern buildings with wide-open green spaces, art learning facilities and amenable accommodations.

For additional information on the Eastern Pennsylvania School of Christian Mission contact: Mary Ann Repsher, Dean, 164 South Ninth Street, Bangor, PA 18013; Phone: 610-988-1064; E-mail: merlins@enter.net

Laura J. Mitchell is the communications coordinator, for the UMW in the EPA Conference.

Frank Billman - From Philadelphia: Southeastern Pennsylvania Conference (1/2 Time Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, 1/2 Time Joelton, Tennessee: Forest Grove)
Thomas Brooks, III - From Bristol: Harriman To Philadelphia: Frankford Memorial
John Davidson - From Philadelphia: Church Of The Good Shepherd To Scottsville
Alfred T. Day - From Philadelphia: Germantown, First To Philadelphia: St. George’s
Daniel E. Unrath - From New Holland: New Holland To Bala Cynwyd
Susan Sliker - From New Holland: Bala Cynwyd

Appointments

Bishop Marcus Matthews announces the effective July 1, 2005:

Caroleen Brubaker - From Attending School PT and Lancaster: First (Assoc/PT) To West Chester (Assoc)
Helen S. Fleming - From Philadelphia: Eastwick and Sharon Hill Christian Church To Philadelphia: From West Chester (Assoc/PT) To Philadelphia: Easton District, Vienna Charge

Laura J. Mitchell

JUNE 2005 3

Appointments

Lewis E. Powell - To Mount Hope (Assoc) Retire
X. Peter Wernett - To Sr. Vice President Precept Group Inc. To Retirement

Charles Yrigoyen, Jr. - To General Secretary, Commission On Archives and History To Retirement

Scott Widmer - From Honeybrook To Marshallstown
Timothy J. Smith - From Ironville To Millersville: First

Scott Widmer - From Honeybrook To Marshallstown
Scott J. Logden-Veitch - From Marshallstown (3/4 Time) To Honeybrook

Kerry E. Leeper - From Amwell: Knowlton To Bellgrove To Lancaster: First (Assoc)
Gertrude Duckett - From Philadelphia: Buyers To Chester: Trinity & Siloam

Timothy A. Heitz - From Ephrata: First To Honorable Location
Steven Tylor - From Millersville: First To Ephrata: First
Church men launch new effort to reduce hunger in America

By Rich Peck

Presidents of United Methodist Men in U.S. annual conferences are launching an effort to involve 9,600 men in hunger relief and to create 800 local church units for men’s ministry. The effort will begin with a gleaning, a potato drop, and a dried and canned food collection at the July 15-17 National Gathering of United Methodist Men at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

Every four years, United Methodist men from around the globe gather for a time of spiritual renewal, fellowship and instruction. This year’s event is the ninth gathering.

A gleaning, or collecting of left-over food from a farmer’s field after harvest, will be held on the morning of July 15. Food will be distributed to hunger relief agencies in the West Lafayette area.

The potato drop will be held on the afternoon of the same day next to the Purdue football stadium. More than 40,000 pounds of potatoes will be bagged and then distributed to more hunger relief agencies.

The 4,000 men expected to attend the national gathering are also asked to bring five cans of vegetables, fruits and soups to help feed the hungry.

These missions will be held in combination with hunger-relief training sessions and hunger-relief workshops.

The workshops will help men understand a new effort launched by the National Association of Conference Presidents and the Society of St. Andrew, a hunger relief ministry based in Big Island, Va.

Each annual conference president of United Methodist Men is asked to find 12 churches without a unit of United Methodist Men. Following the Purdue event, they will ask each of these churches to send 10 volunteers to participate in a potato drop, gleaning or other hunger-relief effort. The men will also be challenged to give $20 each for Meals for Millions to support national hunger-relief ministries.

The men hope each church will want to charter a unit of United Methodist Men to participate in future mission and spiritual-enrichment experiences.

In a world that produces 4.3 pounds of food daily for every individual on the planet, there is no reason for anyone to go to bed hungry, said the Rev. Ken Horne, the top staff executive of the Society of St. Andrew.

“Our goal is not to sponsor more potato drops or gleaning efforts,” Horne said. “Our goal is to have enough people get angry about hunger in America that they will demand action.” He estimates the efforts by United Methodist Men will raise $158,000 for hunger relief.

Speakers at the national gathering include:

- Rudy Rettigter, a short-stature man who struggled with dyslexia but dreamed of playing on the Notre Dame football team. His story inspired the film “Rudy.”
- Clay Dyer, who was born without any lower limbs, no arm on the left side and a partial arm on the right. His limitations have not dampened his determination or love of competitive bass fishing.
- He is an active member of First Baptist Church, Hearsie, an and a full-time staff member of Making U Disciples ministries.
- Dayton Edmonds, a full-blooded Native American of the Caddo nation and a retired United Methodist missionary.
- Bishop Violet L. Fisher, who leads 800 local churches and 1,500 clergy in the North Central New York and Western New York annual (regional) conferences.
- The Rev. James W. Moore, senior pastor of the 7,500-member St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Houston.

Other featured performers include:

- Friends of the Groom, an interdenominational national theater group; Phillips Craig & Dean, three full-time church ministers with a music ministry that has produced nine albums; Christlike, an Oklahoma-based group of men who combine country flavor acts with traditional Southern Gospel music; Africa University Choir, 16-member choir from Zimbabwe; and Paul Saik, soloist from Nashville, Tenn.

The week will also include 30 workshops on topics ranging from using the Internet to practicing biblical justice. Cal Turner, former president of Dollar General Stores, will speak at a dinner honoring members of the John Wesley Society, and a mission fair will include exhibits from national and international agencies. The three-day event will also include a golf tournament and a fun run.

For information and to register, go to www.epaumc.org and click on the 9th National Gathering.

William Peck is the communications coordinator for the Commission on United Methodist Men.

The Nation in Brief

- **YOUTH EMPOWERED**
  Donnella Cranford says she is called to train up a new generation of Esthers. “God charged Esther with an important undertaking,” Cranford said of the biblical queen who saved the Jewish people from destruction. “We are here to raise up modern-day Esthers.” Cranford, a United Methodist lay person in Atlanta, is founder of Women After God’s Own Heart, a mentoring ministry in which older Christian women help African American teen girls develop into healthy young adults. For the past year, Cranford and several other women have helped 19 teens grow in faith and prepare for adulthood. The girls completed the program in March with a formal cocitillon. The mentoring ministry is among many “rites of passage” programs developed since the 1980s.

- **MAKING DISCIPLES**
  The bishops of the United Methodist Church spent their May 1-6 meeting in Arlington, Va., working on their primary focus: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The bishops adopted the 2005-08 emphasis last fall as their quadrennial focus, one that points directly to the United Methodist Church’s primary mission of disciple-making. Bishop Peter Weaver, council president, said in an interview that he has “been hearing in congregation after congregation the desire to reach out into their communities to make disciples of Jesus Christ, but often they don’t know how to do that.” Those congregations, he said, are “looking for resources and training and examples that they can go and visit. And there are many of those examples among the congregations in our connection, so we need to reconnect congregations that are yearning to make disciples of Jesus Christ in 21st century ways.”

- **BISHOP RESOLUTIONS**
  The Council of Bishops recognized Hunger Awareness Day (June 7); called for an immediate moratorium on capital punishment; recognized the pending 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Japan and called for an end to nuclear weapons worldwide; and demanded justice for surviving “comfort women” from Asian nations who were enslaved by the Japanese military during World War II. The bishops also approved a draft of a message for 2005 International Workers Day and Labor Day.
Around the World

United Methodist sends help to home village in Kenya

By Kelly Martini

In the Mulathankari village in Meru district of Kenya, young people attend school but then leave for the cities where they can find jobs and other opportunities.

But the city is not home. And when they contract HIV/AIDS, they come back with their children.

Anne Kiome Gatobu, a member of Lodgepole United Methodist Women in the denomination’s Nebraska Annual (regional) Conference, realized the significance of this when she returned to her home village for the funeral of a brother who had died of meningitis.

More than her brother’s death, she said, was most affected by the number of orphans left by HIV/AIDS and the number of grandparents who care for them.

Gatobu asked Kenyan women and the church there what she could do. Giving them educational opportunities to move them from poverty and disease was their greatest hope, she was told.

She began an organization called named FOWCUS (Focusing on Women and Children to Uplift Society). The board of FOWCUS comprises both American and Kenyan Christians. United Methodist Women and churches from the Nebraska and Rocky Mountain conferences are working to make the program a success.

Public school students in Kenya must provide their own uniforms, chalk, books, and classroom supplies. The organization’s adopt-a-kid initiative ensures that people in the United States and Kenya can adopt a child educationally for $120 a year.

A local women’s group in Mulathankari is responsible for the disbursement of funds throughout the year. The women had been putting their money together in a “kitty” for years, according to Gatobu.

“I approached this group and asked them to do something for the children,” she said. “This is the group who identifies the children who are high in need and who distributes the money.”

The women also are breaking cultural barriers by visiting those who are dying from HIV/AIDS. “This is the most touching thing that has happened to many of them in their life—that someone actually comes and visits them—when the rest of the community has ostracized them,” she added.

“Since the women have done this, there has been so much forgiveness. It has challenged the community to start thinking about what we are going to do about AIDS and the children who have been left and what are we going to do about the elderly grandparents who can’t take care of the family. It’s opened a million of questions that they need to be addressing.”

Meanwhile, in the United States, Gatobu is educating church members and United Methodist Women about the disease and its effects on one small African village.

“The group also works on establishing a reading room for children in the village. They built shelves and collected and sent over 700 pounds of children’s books for the reading room. They also ran an open-air health clinic in this village.”

Providing such opportunities for children in her home village of Kenya was not without questions and Gatobu is the first to admit that there’s much to be done to keep an organization like this running year after year.

“I could not envision where I would begin to make a difference in the face of so much need,” she said. “I have since learned that when God asks one to take on a task, just say ‘yes’ and give yourself to God.”

Kelly Martini is the executive secretary for communications for the Women’s Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

The World in Brief

• DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

People in the Dominican Republic suffered multiple floods and hurricanes in 2004. Rains contaminated potable water supplies in eight towns. These communities are experiencing a dramatic increase of water-borne diseases. Children under five years old are the most severely affected, with 70 percent of these youngsters dying from diarrhea because of the contaminated water supply. UMCOR is issuing emergency grant money to provide these eight communities with education and equipment to treat their water and prevent the further spread of water-borne illnesses. Your gift to UMCOR Advance #410200, Dominican Republic/Haiti Flood Relief can help give these children safe water to drink.

• WORLDWIDE

At times it may seem that health and school kits are merely “drops in the ocean” when we think about the immense needs of the people who receive them. One UMCOR worker recalls the most moving part of her recent trip to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan was the opportunity to give these kits away. She says, “During a visit to an orphanage in Tbilisi, Georgia, I saw children’s eyes light up with the gift of a school kit, for they rarely, if ever, receive presents or new items of their own.” Health and school kits contain not only practical items; they also contain the care and concern of the one who took the time to contribute to it. These are tangible ways to show others we care.

UMCOR field offices have requested nearly 200,000 health kits for distribution in 2005 – more than UMCOR has ever shipped before.

• WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Josephine, a Southern Sudanese woman, arrived in Egypt seeking safety and assistance. She was welcomed by St. Andrew’s Church, which has an UMCOR-supported refugee program. Josephine is thankful for their spirit of hospitality and acceptance. “It is really good to meet a community which brings all people together regardless of religion and race. I am grateful for their love and kindness.” We are all called to have a spirit of hospitality and welcome those who find themselves in need of the kindness of strangers. Plan to celebrate World Refugee Day. It is an international day of remembrance and recognition.

www.epaumc.org

JUNE 2005
RESOLUTION #2005-017
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Relating to the Recognition of Christ ministering Program Opportunities
Presented by the Conference Work Team on Christ ministering

WHEREAS, Lay Methodists in the United States have a long and distinguished tradition of serving in their local church. In the 1990s a program known as Lay Ministry, following John Wesley’s guidance officially commissioned lay workers Richard Boardman and Joseph Pimlor to provide support for the growing Methodist movement in America; and

WHEREAS, Lay Ministry would leave to attend other churches or on their charge, and instruct members of the congregation who became known as exhorters to fill the pulp and other laity to conduct the business of the church; and

WHEREAS, Lay Ministry was officially approved and at the 1992 General Conference included the adoption of a Lay Speaking logo emphasizing caring, leading, and communicating; and

WHEREAS, because of the many persons across the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference who felt the name “Lay Speaker” did not adequately capture these three dimensions of lay ministry and at the Annual Conference of 1997 officially adopted the name, Christ ministering Ministries with instructions to follow the rules for Lay Speakers as stated in the Discipline, but to go a step further and specifically recognize laity in their area of training—speaking, leading, and caring; and

WHEREAS, these lay servants of Christ continue to minister with and to groups of Methodists, Christians and other communities in a multitude of ways that include not only preaching,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,
that each church in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference encourage lay leadership, lay caregivers, and all laity who seek to be servants of Christ to take advantage of training opportunities provided by United Methodist Church’s Christ ministering Ministries program...so that by the 2007 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference — the 10th Anniversary of Christ ministering Ministries - all churches have Christ ministering staff members.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: George J. Hollich, Jr.

RESOLUTION #2005-018
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Relating to the Small Membership Churches
Presented by the Conference Work Team on Christ ministering

WHEREAS, small membership churches played a significant role in the growth and development of Methodism in America; and

WHEREAS, small membership churches continue to have a vital role in the ever-changing landscape of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, particularly for the rural as well as suburban areas of our Conference; and

WHEREAS, large churches make headlines, we recognize that 71 percent of U.S. congregations have fewer than 100 regularly participating adult members, and small membership churches may be defined as having a membership of less than two-hundred which represents 40 to 50% of the total churches of this Conference; and

WHEREAS, small membership churches demonstrate vitality even though their membership may never grow much larger, and some may never be able to support a full-time pastor, but each small church can make an impact on their communities through strong, effective ministries.

WHEREAS, pastors serving these congregations may be limited to part-time local pastors, certified lay ministers, lay supply or retired pastors serving in part-time status; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that small churches are quite different from larger churches and require different strategies in religious education, mission involvement, and opportunities for spiritual growth;

WE THEREFORE, urge the Annual Conference to consider the uniqueness of the small membership church and sponsor training events at every level that would nurture their uniqueness and support their effectiveness.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church commend small membership congregations that demonstrate vitality in ministry and the strength of commitment to service in their unique situations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Annual Conference establish the minimum salary for persons under appointment in the local church for the year 2006 as follows:

a) Elders and Presiding Elder - $45,392
b) Transitional Deacons, and Commissioned toward Deacons and Elders - $29,296
under full-time post seminary appointments

c) Associate Minister - $28,631
d) Full-Time Local Pastors - $27,105

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to assure that the minimum cash salary for each pastored local church is increased, one thousand dollars be added to the appropriate base listed above; and in the amount of 1% of the pastor’s base salary for each year of service, defined as part-time service under appointment (part-time accruing, i.e., years two half-time appointments equals one year of service);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a consideration for a cost of living increase along with inflation be merit increased for each pastor;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each church or charge in recommending increases consider increases above the minimum cash salary, and that Pastor / Staff-Parish Relations Committees particularly take note of such areas as education, experience, skills,

commitment, amount paid by clergy as self-employed persons for Social Security, family needs, and payment towards health insurance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any amount provided as a housing allowance as described in Section 4 of the Journal under “Policies and Procedures” is in addition to, and not to be considered part of, the minimum cash salary as set forth in this resolution.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Lester Groves
RESOLUTIONS

Conferences in the collection and disbursement of UMCOR Kits and other supplies for mission and disaster relief. This is also a General Church Approved Advance Special.

General: Spiritual Renewal Ministries, Inc. - $15,000
This ministry companion churches, groups, and individuals who desire to deepen their relationship with God through spiritual direction, retreats and seminars undergirding their mission and ministry.

Hazleton: Hazleton Enlarged Ministry - $30,000
HUM is an outreach program dedicated to nurturing children, building their self-esteem and helping them to discover their gifts while providing a safe place to play and learn. HUM has been a life-saver for many children in crisis. HUM develops programs for the enrichment of the local churches.

Philadelphia: First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMC) After School Program - $15,000
The After School Program of the First United Methodist Church of Germantown is a local school program, providing assistance to support the needs of persons in crisis. HUM develops programs for the enrichment of the local churches.

Philadelphia: Kensington Area Ministry - $40,000
The Kensington Area Ministry is a group of seven churches working in the inner-city of Philadelphia. These churches, five are located downtown, eight Vacation Bible Schools, two overnight camps for children, three eight week day camps in the summer, a Prayer Breakfast for rehab members, luncheons for poor and hopeless, coat distributions, toy distribution and other efforts.

Philadelphia: Methodist Family Services of Philadelphia’s Fresh Start Program - $40,000
Fresh Start is a program to prevent young women who are eighteen and leaving the foster care system from becoming homeless and falling into a life of prostitution, drug abuse and victimization. MFSF will renovate the second and third floors of the Main Building to create eleven one-bedroom apartments for these women, some of whom may have infants, and provide staff support to help them become fully independent and self-sufficient through life-skills training, budgeting, nutrition and counseling. Fresh Start apartments will be fully furnished, and the young women will have access to community college or other vocational training programs and will receive support for transportation and child care in order to achieve their goals.

Philadelphia: Methodist Russian Mission - $10,000
The Methodist Russian Mission is a new church start and the only ministry in our conference to serve the large Russian speaking population of Northeast Philadelphia. It offers Worship, Bible Study, Adult English Classes, Children and Youth Programs and Summer Day Camp for Children.

Philadelphia: Mother African Zoar Social Service Ministries - $10,000
The Mother African Zoar Social Service Ministries of Philadelphia offers a number of services to the church and to the community. There is a desire to enhance and expand many of the programs that are presently in operation. Some of the socials that are provided are teen lounge (safe haven) after school tutorial program, the 6th annual promotion, family day, and Vacation Church School. Senior Citizens programs and some of the ministries that are operated by the church.

Philadelphia: Mount Zion Children/Youth Ministry - $7,100
Mt. Zion Children/Youth Ministry combines a variety of programs in which approximately 50 children in grades K-6 are served. After School Program, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Children/Youth Choirs, Acolytes, Greeters, Praise Dances, Sunday School, Class and Teen Lounge. Most participants reside in North Philadelphia and many live at the poverty level.

Philadelphia: North Philadelphia Cluster - $20,000
The North Philadelphia Cluster United Methodist Church is composed of the eight African American Congregations in North Central Philadelphia. The past three years the cluster has had two major program foci—the establishment of teen lounges (safe havens for community and church youth) and the working with youth/youth adults who are a risk between the ages of fourteen to twenty-one who are in the Department of Human Services system to provide an academic arena and provide a quality education.

Philadelphia: United Methodist Neighborhood Services - $25,000
United Methodist Neighborhood Services (UMNS) serves the needs of poor and marginalized inner city Philadelphia people, especially women, children and youth. The cluster has a program through Advance Special giving will be used to enhance the living conditions of the residents of the North Philadelphia area, provide adequate camping experiences and tutor programs for our children.

Pottsville: Angel Baby Ministries, Inc. - $12,000
The Angel Baby Ministries operates an adoption program, provides a free option for expectant mothers, assists single mothers who are enrolled in a full-time educational program. We also offer food, clothing and supply banks as well as parenting and life-skills classes, tutoring and a study area.

Reading: Central Park UMC Food Ministry - $800
We operate a Soup Kitchen five days each week. Every Wednesday we open a Kitchen Cupboard where clients come to take home food of their choice. Every Thursday we hold a worship service for our Soup Kitchen Clients.

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RESOLUTIONS

West Grove: Cristo Rey United Methodist Church - $10,000
Cristo Rey UMC is a Latino mission congregation reaching Southern Chester County area with outreach services, worship and teaching. Cristo Rey is reaching a disenfran-
chised segment of the local community, inviting them to discipleship and service, pro-
viding nurture, support and education for faith and life.

NEW AND RECENT CHURCH STARTS:
Blandon: Journey United Methodist Church - 13,500
Journey is a non-traditional new church start in Middletown Township just North of
Reading ministering to residents of 1,500 new homes. Primarily families with children.
Living Waters: Living Waters Christian Fellowship New Church Start - $30,000
Living Waters Church is a new church start in the Southwest District. Living Waters
Church was started to reach young, unchurched people by using a contemporary wor-
ship format.
Mount Joy: The Bridge United Methodist Church - $22,000
The Bridge Church is a new church start making disciples of truly unchurched folks of
all ages.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Dick Howarth

RESOLUTION #2005-023A
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Relating to Disaster Response Offering
Presented by Elaine B. Barnes, Disaster Response Coordinator, Eastern Pennsyl-
vania Conference, Disaster Response Team

WHEREAS,
1. Disasters can strike at anytime,
2. There have been four declared disasters within the bounds of our annual
conference in this conference year. These disasters have involved every part of
the conference,
3. Funds are needed to enable the training and equipping of a conference-wide
disaster response team.
4. Funds are needed to enable immediate response in times of disaster. These
funds are used in conjunction with funds given by the United Methodist Commit-
tee on Relief.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the first Sunday of Advent be designated Disas-
ter Response Sunday and that a special offering be received for disaster response.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Elaine Barnes

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTIONS
(Revised May 17, 2005)
RESOLUTION #2005-013S
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Proposal for the EPC Annual Conference June 2005
Presented by Paul C. Davis

WHEREAS, racism is the application of different rules to different persons based on
their race or ethnic background, for reasons other than correcting racial/ethnic imbal-
ances of the past; and
WHEREAS, a reasonable standard for racial/ethnic balance in any coveted institution is
that the number of racial/ethnic minorities be of equal percentage to their percent-
age in the general body; and
WHEREAS, the EPC has as its purpose to correct racial/ethnic imbalances that prob-
ably did exist in our Conference Agencies more than twenty years ago. and
WHEREAS, the percentages of minorities on Conference Boards and Agencies prob-
ably now exceed the percentages of minorities attending all local UM churches by
factors of two to five (depending on the race or ethnic background) (The number of
African Americans attending local churches is probably <10% and the number on dif-
ferent Conference Agencies is as follows: 100’s, 26%, 200’s 32%, 300’s 26% as of 2/26/
05.), and
WHEREAS, the incidence of under-representation (particularly among African-Ameri-
cans) is temporarily in abeyance, and
WHEREAS, the semantics “included for racial balance” is offensive to some minorities,
and
WHEREAS, any change in rules of Agency membership at this Annual Conference will
have minimal effect for another three years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the same criteria be applied for membership in
Conference Agencies regardless of race or ethnic background.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the procedure be initiated to amend
Conference Rules for elected membership to allow an electee to be elected to two major
Conference Boards and Agencies (rather than one), and that this rule be applied strictly
to all races or ethnic backgrounds.

EPC Boards & Com. Mem. by Race (Conf. Info. dated 2/26/05)
Agency Number: Totals AA % Lat. % Ais. % Cau. %
EPC Congregational Trans. Team 24 37.5 12.5 4.2 45.8
100.1Calling Disciples Team 9 11.1 22.2 0.0 66.7
100.2Nurturing Disciples Team 11 27.3 0.0 0.0 72.7
100.3Addressing C&W Prov. Team 10 70.0 0.0 0.0 30.0
100.4 Leadership Resource Team 12 25.0 0.0 0.0 66.7
100.5 Administrative Resource 10 10.0 10.0 10.0 70.0
104 United Methodist Metro Min. 9 33.3 11.1 11.1 44.4
106 Commission on Archives and Hist 13 15.4 0.0 0.0 84.6
106 Board of Lay Ministry 24 33.3 8.3 0.0 58.3
108 Camping Board 21 14.3 9.5 0.0 76.2
Totals of 100’s 122 25.9 7.0 2.1 50.3

203 Com. on Equitable Compens. 11 27.3 9.1 18.2 45.5
204 Com. on Episcopacy 11 36.4 9.1 0.0 54.5
Totals of 200’s 22 31.8 9.1 9.1 50.0
301 Council on Fin. & Admin. 17 29.4 0.0 5.9 64.7
302 Board of Trustees 13 30.8 0.0 7.7 61.5
302.2 Property & Liability Insur. 6 0.0 0.0 16.7 83.3
304 Comm. on Conf. Sessions 15 26.7 0.0 13.3 60.9
304 Comm. on Nominations 22 27.3 4.5 4.5 63.6
305 Comm. on Religion & Race 6 33.3 0.0 16.7 50.0
306 Comm. on Status and Role of Women 14 21.4 7.1 0.0 71.4
308 Loan Fund Board 11 18.2 9.1 9.1 63.6
309 Conf. Education Society 8 12.5 0.0 25.0 62.5
310 Board of Pension & Health B. 17 23.5 0.0 11.8 64.7
312 Bradley Fund Trustees 7 42.9 0.0 14.3 42.9
313 Human Resources (Personnel) 13 38.5 0.0 7.7 53.8
Totals of 300’s 149 26.2 2.0 9.4 62.4

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Mr. Paul C. Davis
(Revised as of May 11, 2005)
RESOLUTION #2005-014S
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Resolution Relating to Child Abuse Credentialing of all workers with children
and youth in local churches
Presented by the ICARE Team, 2005

WHEREAS, Jesus commanded us to “Let the little children come to me”(Matt.19:13)
and also indicated that children should be protected and respected in his community
(Matt.18: 1-6); and
WHEREAS, the safety and sanctity of our children and youth is a primary
concern for every United Methodist Church in this Annual Conference; and
WHEREAS, we desire to do our best to affirm our valuable workers, both volunteer
and paid, and to protect them from suspicion and gossip; and
WHEREAS, we last year enacted a resolution to require that all persons serving in any
capacity of clergy leadership (elder, deacon, licensed local pastor; retired pastor; lay
supervisor; interim, student pastor) in a local church of this Annual Conference be
required to show appropriate Child Abuse clearances as a condition of such appoint-
ment; and
WHEREAS, our Annual Conference Camping Board requires such Child Abuse clear-
ances of all persons serving at our Conference Camps; and
WHEREAS, our Methodist Home for Children requires such Child Abuse clearances
of all workers serving on their campus in any capacity.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that this Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Confer-
ence of The United Methodist Church require, in accordance with this resolution, that
“all workers with children and youth” as defined herein in its local congregations shall
have on file current appropriate Child Abuse clearances in order to continue such work.
This requirement shall go into effect September 1, 2005.

Notes: “all workers with children and youth” shall be interpreted to mean all persons
who work with children ages birth through 12 and youth ages through 18 in any regular
capacity such as Sunday School teacher, youth group leader, choir director, regular
or other drivers, regular food servers, and general helpers on a regular basis.
“Appropriate” clearances mean clearances in accordance with the current policy of
the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Camping Board policy in any given year.
Given that clearances can take a long time to clear the system and/or that emergen-
cies arise requiring substitute workers, there must be a system to cover workers in cases of
emergencies, delays, or unforeseen circumstances. In these situations, congregations
would have a form to be signed by the employee or volunteer certifying that this person:
1)has no background of sexual misconduct with children or youth, and 2) pledges that
no such behavior will occur during this event. (See example in Safe Sanctuaries books
available from Cokesbury.)
It is suggested that prospective staff will pay for their clearances as a part of their
qualification for work. For volunteers, it is suggested this cost be borne by the local
church, unless the volunteer wishes to pay it as a contribution to the work of the church.
It is recommended that the Staff-Parish Committee Chairperson, along with the Pastor,
will be responsible to check for such clearances and shall maintain them in locked files
along with other personnel records.
Compliance with this resolution shall be a matter of record at each annual Charge Con-
fERENCE.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Beverly T. Andrews, Chair
RESOLUTION #2005-24A
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Relating to the Discontinuance of Falls United Methodist Church/East District
Presented by the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
WHEREAS, the membership and financial resources of the Falls United Methodist Church are limited and insufficient to maintain current operations; and
WHEREAS, the membership of the Falls United Methodist Church wishes to discontinue; and
WHEREAS, members of the Falls United Methodist Church Administrative Board and Trustees have consulted with the District Superintendent and the District Board of Church Location and Building of the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and received consent to discontinue; and
WHEREAS, the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 24th day of January, 2005, consented to discontinue Falls United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, the Falls United Methodist Church will have its closing Service of Celebration on Sunday, June 19th, 2005;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Falls United Methodist Church continue effective as the close of this Annual Conference Session;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assets resulting from the sale of property and any other remaining assets held by the Falls United Methodist Church be distributed as requested by vote of the Falls United Methodist Church at a duly called congregational meeting on May 5, 2005;
As follows – 30% toward development of a new church start in Manayunk; 30% to the United Methodist Home for Children and 30% to the Simpson House Benevolent Fund, $1000 each to three neighborhood partners – Friends of Falls of Schuykill Library, the Academy Players, and Falls Presbyterian Church, representing collaboration in community ministry over several decades.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the historical record be forwarded to the archives at St. George United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.
Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow, District Superintendent, East District
RESOLUTION #2005-25A
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Relating to the Discontinuance of Frankford Central United Methodist Church/East District
Presented by the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
WHEREAS, the membership and financial resources of the Frankford Central United Methodist Church are limited and insufficient to maintain current operations; and
WHEREAS, the membership of the Frankford Central United Methodist Church wishes to discontinue as an active congregation; and
WHEREAS, members of the Frankford Central United Methodist Church Administrative Board and Trustees have consulted with the District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building of the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and the Director of Frankford Group Ministry and received consent to discontinue; and
WHEREAS, the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 16th day of May, 2005, consented to discontinue Frankford Central United Methodist Church; and
WHEREAS, the Frankford Central United Methodist Church will have its closing Service of Celebration on Sunday, June 19th, 2005;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Frankford Central United Methodist Church discontinue effective as the close of this Annual Conference Session;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the property and assets held by the Frankford Central United Methodist Church be given to Frankford Group Ministry to be used for the continuation of worship, fellowship, and community ministry as requested by vote of the Frankford Central United Methodist Church at a duly called congregational meeting on April 10, 2005.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the historical record be forwarded to the archives at St. George United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.
Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow, District Superintendent, East District
RESOLUTION #2005-26A
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Relating to the Merger of La Resurreccion-Lindley United Methodist Church/ East District and Juniata Park United Methodist Church/East District
WHEREAS, the membership and financial resources of both La Resurreccion-Lindley United Methodist Church and Juniata Park United Methodist Church are limited and insufficient to maintain and thrive in ministry and mission in the current reality of their separate locations; and
WHEREAS, the membership of both churches have explored merger, studied demographics, and are developing a plan for ministry as they have become acquainted with each other's congregations, staff, and mission;
WHEREAS, members of both churches have consulted with the District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building of the East District, the Director of Outreach and Church Multiplication Ministries of the District and the Latin Ministry, and received consent to merge; and
WHEREAS, the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 16th of May, 2005, consented to the merger of both churches;
WHEREAS, La Resurreccion-Lindley United Methodist Church and Juniata Park United Methodist Church will have a Celebration of Merger including the adoption of a new name, a new creation, on Sunday, June 19th, 2005;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that La Resurreccion-Lindley United Methodist Church and Juniata Park United Methodist Church merge effective as of the close of this Annual Conference Session;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the property and assets held by both churches be used for continuing worship, fellowship, and community ministry in Juniata Park and that the building now occupied by La Resurreccion-Lindley be sold and the assets become part of the merger of the new merged church, after consultation with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees concerning necessary funds to manage the transition.
Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow, District Superintendent, East District

Use and Antique Book Sale at Annual Conference
Bring your choicest books to donate. Stop by to purchase some gems. Sponsored by the Historical Society. Proceeds will go toward preserving and telling the story of our heritage.

Find the Historical Society's used book sale in the vendor area at Annual Conference. Look for issue number 2 of “Annals of Eastern PA,” our new historical journal. New and used book titles include a reminiscence of former lay leader John Harper by Dr. Joe Hale, an eyewitness account of the founding session of the Delaware Conference in 1864, and the story of the first woman class leader in America, Mary Thorn.

**Ordination**
The Service of Ordination and Commissioning will be held on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. at Tindley Temple UMC. A combined choir from Tindley Temple and Arch Street Churches will provide music, Bishop Matthews will preach and the service will conclude with an invitation to ministry extended to all present. Transportation will be provided between the Loews Hotel and Tindley Temple.

Dave M. Krueger will be ordained deacon; Kerry Bart, Felicia Kumar, Kerry Lecer, Shelly Petz and Edgardo Rivera will be ordained elders; Caroline Brubaker, Susan Czarneczi, Jeff Goodman, Christina Keller, Christopher Schiavino, Barbara Seekford and Scott Friedgen-Veltch will be ordained elders; and Susan Silker will be ordained deacon in transition.

**Nigeria**
(cont’d pg1)
both body and soul in a natural, holistic, culturally specific, and effective manner.
As we strive to bring hope to children living in poverty, we again challenge Eastern Pennsylvania Conference churches and members to meet our new, shared goal of raising another $460,000. As we did last quadrennium, half of the $460,00 will be used for ministries impacting children in Eastern Pennsylvania whose families live below the poverty line and the other half, will provide for the property and staffing expansion of the vital medical clinic in Zing.
If each church again agrees to commit just $1,000 over the next quadrennium toward this ministry, we will exceed our goal and continue our covenant work in creating a world where, in the words of John Wesley, “all God’s Children have enough and no one has too little.” Please bring your church’s and your own commitment toward Hope for the Children to Annual Conference for the offering on Thursday evening, June 16.

* Members of Mission Team 4 provided this report: Bukola Ogunqua, M.D., Mary Elam, Rev. Gil Hatcher, Andrew Hatcher, Rev. Donna Jones, Kim Jones, and the Tatgenhorst family, Rev. Dave, Kathy and Elijah.
Blessed with a Bequest - then what?

The church office receives a phone call. The caller shares that your church was named the recipient of a gift from a member. The caller is thanked and their contact information is taken. A prayer of thanksgiving is offered for the thoughtfulness and witness of the donor and for the connection your church has made with the donor.

Now what? Get the message to the appropriate party in your membership and have the following questions addressed: what is the amount of the gift? what form is the gift – cash, stock, real estate? when can the gift be delivered? are there any guidelines or provisions regarding the use or application of the gift? do any documents need to be reviewed or signed? does the gift meet the provisions of your gift acceptance policy?

As the church member collects the answer and learns more, you will begin to see if the gift will be easily received into an account or fund already in place. If so, the gift can immediately begin its life of supporting an important ministry in your church.

If not, the process of assimilating the gift into the finances and ministries of the church will take longer. Two more important questions are: how will the funds begin to support a church and witness of the donor and for the furtherance of that stewardship. Celebrate the gifts realized by the recipient of the gift. Rejoice and enjoy the glory of responding to God’s gifts.

Please feel free to contact me at the Foundation office with any questions that you have at any time during the process. Further, the Foundation offers several investment solutions with a minimum account size of $5,000. One of those solutions is a Short Term Fund that may meet your needs during those times of reflection and consideration. This fund is currently paying 3.27% that is comparable to 2-year CD rates but with greater liquidity – withdrawals are permitted every quarter.

Stacy Martin is the Executive Director of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Pennsylvania United Methodist Foundation. Tel: 800-826-9937 x247, or email: stacy.martin@epaumc.org.

As the saying goes, time is money. This is the exciting part. This is the opportunity for your church to serve the Lord in a new way – either in the ministry or manner of ministry. Please break these choices with candid conversation and prayer.

Third are the decisions that must be made regarding the investment choices to meet the cash flow or disbursement needs of the ministry and perhaps, to care for the gift while these above discussed matters are addressed. Depending on your estimates of time, your options include a short term CD, money market account or other short term investment should be chosen to care for the gift while decisions and plans are made. The best solution is a function of the interest rates, capital security and liquidity. Once the plan is developed, the asset should be reviewed and a more permanent asset mix instituted.

Finally, celebrate, celebrate, celebrate! The donor’s stewardship, witness and thoughtfulness. Celebrate the committee’s work and furtherance of that stewardship. Celebrate the gifts realized by the recipients of the ministry. Rejoice and enjoy the glory of responding to God’s gifts.

I thought the right thing for me to do was to turn it down,” she said, explaining that she did not want to be a “political football” for various parts of the denomination. “That could just trivialize what ordination is and means.”

Stroud said she would be placed on voluntary leave of absence as a clergy member but would continue her work as a lay minister at First United Methodist Church.

While losing my credentials in the trial was painful for me and for my family and for the whole congregation, it has also been for me a time of healing and reconciliation,” she told United Methodist News Service.

Stroud characterized the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as a “close little family” that she’s been involved with for years, and she has appreciated the opportunity to be open and honest with people about her committed relationship with another woman. Chris Paige.

Although she has received some “very negative messages from people that I don’t know,” Stroud said that all who do know her “have been very loving and very respectful…and have wanted to know about my journey and learn from it.”

The entire experience, she believes, “can teach and model a way of talking about this issue that is more honest, more open, more Christian and more respectful.”

Linda Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to appeal Stroud decision

By Linda Bloom

An appeal of the recent decision to reinstate the credentials of a former United Methodist pastor will be filed with the denomination’s top court.

Bishop Marcus Matthews, who presides over the church’s Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, announced May 3 that he was authorizing legal counsel “to proceed immediately with filing an appeal with the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church.”

The appeal will be filed within the allotted 30-day period, by May 29. The Judicial Council’s next regularly scheduled meeting is Oct. 26-29 in Houston.

Last December, a trial court of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference found Irene Elizabeth (Beth) Stroud guilty of violating the denomination’s prohibition of “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” in the ordained ministry. Stroud, who was associate pastor of First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia, lost her clergy credentials but remained on staff of the church as a lay person.

On April 29, the Northeast Jurisdiction Committee on Appeals set aside the trial court’s verdict and penalty because of legal errors and reinstated Stroud to clergy standing.

In a May 3 telephone interview, Stroud told United Methodist News Service she had met with Matthews that morning. She said the bishop returned her ordination credentials and offered to reappoint her to her former position, but she declined the appointment until her case is concluded.

Theme: Visioning for Effective Leadership

#1: Worship and Music with Rev Harry Benson, Pastor of Siloam UMC

#2: Stewardship with Mr. David Napoleon a member of Scottsville United Methodist Church

#3: Small Church Ministry with Rev. Alfred Maloney District Superintendent of East District of The United Methodist Church

#4: Eucharist with Dr. William Staton, Jr. former District Superintendent of Harry Hosier District

#5: The Basic Christ Servant Ministry Course, with Dr. Kenneth Morrison and Rev Donna Jones For first-time attendants who want to become lay servants in their Local CHURCH in the areas of CARING, LEADING and SPEAKING

The Academy of Laity is sponsored by: The Board of Lay Ministry of The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

Registration Deadline: June 20th, 2005

To register, please contact: Mrs. Elizabeth Gruenbaum 1921 Park Avenue Nazareth, PA 18064 (215) 638-7718

UM Conference Loew’s Hotel, June 15-17; 8am – 10pm

We hope to see you all at the Annual Conference in Phila. Cokesbury would like to invite the members of your congregations to visit us at Loew’s Hotel. We will have an extensive display of new release titles, gifts, and traditional books and Bibles.

Please stop and visit with us.

22nd Annual Acaademy For Laity

(A Biblically Based Study for People to Learn More about Their Faith)

Friday, August 5, – Sunday, August 7, 2005 Sheraton Reading Hotel, Reading, PA

Registration Friday from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Bishop Marcus Matthews – Opening Speaker

Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow – Closing Speaker

Cokesbury Bookstore 150 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, PA 19046 Phone: 610-265-3341

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Vacation Bible School Program: There is still time to order your VBS program. You may order Group, Gospel Light, Standard, Augsburg, Concordia, Urban Ministries from Cokesbury.

Pulpit robes on sale: Now through June 30, Abbott Hall and Collegiate pulpit robes will be sold with a 15% discount.

July 21-23: Annual Sidewalk Sale – Mark your calendars now!

UM Conference Loew’s Hotel, June 15-17; 8am – 10pm

We hope to see you all at the Annual Conference in Phila. Cokesbury would like to invite the members of your congregations to visit us at Loew’s Hotel. We will have an extensive display of new release titles, gifts, and traditional books and Bibles.

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**DIRECTOR POSITION**

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church invites applications for the position of Director of Camping and Nurture Ministries. This position is located in the Conference Office in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The position reports directly to the Conference Executive Director of Congregational Transformation. Primary responsibilities include overseeing at $2.7 million dollar Conference wide Christian camping and retreats program. There are additional responsibilities in the guidance and consultation of age-level ministries. A full ministry description can be obtained by calling the Conference Office at 1-800-823-9033 or it can be retrieved at the Conference website: www.epaumc.org. Minimum requirements for this position are a bachelor’s degree or equivalent from a four year college or graduate school with experience and/or training in camp and retreat ministries. Equivalent experience in an administrative/managerial field for a minimum of five years will be considered. Extensive travel throughout the Conference is required. Salary will be determined based upon experience and educational background. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Anticipated start date is October 1, 2005. Interested candidates should send a letter of intent, resume and salary history to the Office of the Executive Director of Congregational Transformation, PO Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

**PROGRAM MANAGER**

Full-time, year-round salaried position at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Responsible to market, schedule, facilitate, maintain & construct challenge courses; coordinate summer camp staff & weekly programs; and develop, plan & implement camp sponsored retreats. Benefits include health, dental, pension & on-site housing. Contact Rev. Ron Schane, Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center, RR 2, Box 2747, Cresco, PA, 18326, or call: 570-676-3665.

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

St. Matthew’s UMC of Valley Forge, located in Wayne, PA, seeks a dynamic, spirited Director of Music to lead the Music Ministry of our Church. Strong emphasis placed on the importance of music as part of Worship, and currently enjoy a Chancel Choir; two Children’s Choirs, a Bell Choir; and a blossoming Praise Band. Interested candidates may request a job description or email their resumes and questions to: stmatthews1@aol.com Attn: Pastor Bob Wilt.

**DISCIPLESHIP ASSOCIATE (YOUTH MINISTRY)**

SHOUT Youth Ministry of Hempfield United Methodist Church (Lancaster, PA) is searching for a Discipleship Associate. The position is salaried part-time (25 hours per week) and schedule will vary and is flexible. Primary responsibilities will be to provide administrative leadership and support to SHOUT Youth Ministry and Youth Pastor so that youth can become more fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. For a complete job description and more information about our church and ministry visit our website at www.hempfieldchurch.org. Submit cover letter and resume or any questions to HUMC, Sean P. Williams, 3650 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17543 or swilliams@hempfieldchurch.org.

**ASSOCIATE YOUTH PASTOR**

Associate Youth Pastor at Grove UMC to work part-time or full time with Youth Ministry team in a strongly supportive congregation located in West Chester. Candidate should be a self-starter who is passionate about sharing God’s love with others, an excellent communicator; friendly, energetic, creative in program development, and open to persons with varying theological viewpoints. College degree and previous youth leadership experience preferred. E-mail resume to judygrin@comcast.net or fax to 610-696-5625.

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY (PART-TIME)**

St. John’s United Methodist Church in Ivyland (Bucks County) is seeking a Director of Youth Ministry. This is a part-time position involving approximately 20-25 hours per week. Salary is negotiable, commensurate with experience. The responsibilities: Coordinate and direct a strong, well established youth program; recruit and orient volunteers; attend staff meetings; other activities as needed. Interested parties may send a resume or contact for further information. Rev. Janice Pultit, Associate Pastor, St. John’s UMC, 820 Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA 18974; 215-557-6966; e-mail: revjamp@comcast.net.

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**2005 class of retirees honored**

Twelve retirees representing 373 years in ministry were honored in a luncheon at the Reading Country Club on Thursday, May 12. All retirees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and their spouses were invited to the event.


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**Rev. Hess is in the pink!**

By Chip Lillie

The congregation at Media: First United Methodist did a double take on Mothers Day as the Rev. Janet Hess made good on her fundraising challenge to the church’s youth group. The kids raised over $1,700.00 by asking members of the congregation to vote by donation on what hair color would be most fitting of their well-respected senior pastor. Pink was the overwhelming choice.

“I can’t believe she really went through with it,” explained 11 year old Jeff Lillie. “She was brighter than the flowers - I needed sunglasses,” said 16 year old Britney Gardner. Rev. Hess commented, “Most people put their money where their mouth is - I just decided to put my hair where other peoples money was as a way to support our youth!”

“This is the most fun I ever had in church,” explained Adele Jezorski a parishioner for more than four decades (and stylist) as she tried to hide the pink dye on her fingers.

Associate Pastor Larry Bergstresser even loaned moral support by adding a little color to his Mother’s day appearance as well. The money raised will be used to for youth discipleship events.

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**Reverends Janet Hess & Larry Bergstresser sport pink hair as a result of an innovative youth fund raiser at First UMC of Media.**

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**Bishop Marcus Matthews stands with the 2005 class of retirees.**


Clergy Spouses in frontrow (l. to r.) Mrs. Diana Streeper, Mrs. Cheryl Ann Troester, Rev., Bill Blose, Mrs. Jeannette Yrigoyen and Mrs. Shirley Grove