2012 Annual Conference Summary

BY SUZY KEENAN

Nearly 1,000 members of The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference met May 17-19, 2011 at the Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA, with the theme, “Leadership: Making a Way for All.”

Annual Conference began with both Laity Session and Clergy Sessions meeting on the morning of May 17.

Opening Worship on the afternoon of May 17 celebrated our Native American connection. Ray Buckley, noted Native American storyteller/author and United Methodist leader, preached. Buckley told, “One of the strongest memories I have is of my father saying, ‘I am going to pray do you want to come with me?’ Dad went up on the side of the mountain; he took off all of his clothing. He stood in middle of the Pendleton give-away blanket, and laid out red bundles. He stood in presence of God and just talked to God. He unwrapped red bundles with pictures of my mom and me and our family and held them up to God. Another bundle held an eagle feather – a sign of being native in non-native world. There he was 6’5” tall, standing in front of God praying. His prayer was personal, and he stayed in presence of god. Then he wrapped up the bundles and gave them back to God.” Ray took out a hollow bone that had been given to him by his father, and said, “I stand before God as he knows me - inside and out. Because I have been a child of God, I become a hollow bone so you can let the winds of God blow through my life.” Following the service, Buckley presented that bone as a gift to Bishop Peggy Johnson.

The conference welcomed Gary Harke, executive director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, who brought a message, “But we are one in Christ.” Steve Drachler, of United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania, reminded the Body of the Biblical mandate to do justice and to take care of the poor. UM Advocacy is leading an effort to defeat allowing “Pay Day Loans” in Pennsylvania. Ruth Daugherty, who served on the UM Publishing House Board, introduced the new Local Cokesbury Sales Representative, Steven Toombs; he shared new resources from Cokesbury. Chris Franklin from Stop Hunger Now spoke about their vision of “a world without hunger,” and a goal to package over 35,000 meals over the course of Annual Conference.

Rev. Jim Todd and Dr. Mary White presented a report on General Conference, and presented the delegation’s episcopal nominee, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Jacob Kuwasa. Rev. Todd reported that the last act of General Conference was to recognize Ruth Daugherty on her 11th General Conference as an elected delegate. Mr. Lester Calhoun was recognized for his service of 44 years as a Lay Delegate. Mr. David Davis introduced Revs. Mutwale Ntambo Wa Mushidi and Kabaka Ndala Alphonse, missionaries to Tanzania through the General Board of Global Ministries. Bishop Peggy Johnson introduced three persons who

Continued on page 6

2012 General Conference Report

BY MARY WHITE

During the first week of General Conference, delegates met in their assigned legislative committees.

A bishop was assigned to each legislative committee which then elected leadership: chair, vice chair, and secretary. Subcommittee chairs were elected, with each committee having 4 to 5 subcommittees. The sub-chairs are given several petitions to approve, refer or bundle. All petitions had to be completed by 9:30 p.m. on Saturday evening April 29, 2012. There were 13 legislative committees; however, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference had 10 delegates assigned as follows:

Church and Society 1 - Robin Hynicka
Church and Society 2 - Dawn Taylor Storm
Conferences - George Hollich
Discipleship - Judy Ehninger
Faith and Order - Ruth Daugherty
Financial Administration - Mary White, Elected committee sub-chair
General Administration - James Todd
Global Ministries - Lillian Smith
Local Church - Tracy Bass
Ministry and Higher Education - Jordan Harris

The 2012 General Conference was washed in sights and sound of water as delegates from around the world began with an opening worship service that invited them to discipleship by the sea. Marcus Briggs-Cloud, a member of the Maskoke Nation and a son of the Wind Clan People, consecrated the worship and workspace in his native language and tradition. He asked the delegates to be mindful of the land where they are. “We are not your history; we are not Tampa’s or Florida’s history. We are living, breathing vibrant people.”

Marcia McFee, director of worship, was inspired by the stories of Jesus at the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee and the Tampa Bay setting. Videos, graceful dances and flowing music set the tone as we prepare for the long hours and

Continued on page 12
July

MONDAY, JULY 9
NE Jurisdiction Korean Association: First UMC in Lancaster. Dinner at 6 p.m. Worship at 7:30 p.m. Cost: $5 and a dessert. More info or to reserve space for dinner at 717-394-7231 or office@engagegodfirst.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 14
United Methodist Men Softball Tournament: Held on Saturday, July 14th. We have had an opening for this year’s tournament. We are advertising this opening to all churches, with the first church to respond given the opening. For more information please contact Ross Brightwell, Ph. 215/643-1269 or rossbrightwell@verizon.net.

TUESDAY, JULY 17 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

September

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Dialogue on Homosexuality: Gain a better understanding of the issues that will enhance the unity of the Church. Saturday, September 22 - Gettys Glen (SW and NW Districts) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. No cost. Please reserve a spot online: https://epapendelarea.smartevents.com/homosexuality-dialogues

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
40th Anniversary Celebration of the Status and Role of Women: Berwyn UMC, 8:30 to 2:30. Speakers include Bishop Violet Fisher, Bishop Susan Hassinger, and workshops on women’s issues.

October

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6
Dialogue on Homosexuality: Gain a better understanding of the issues that will enhance the unity of the Church. Saturday, October 6 - St. Matthews Valley Forge (C and SE Districts) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. No cost. Please reserve a spot online: https://epapendelarea.smartevents.com/homosexuality-dialogues

November

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Evangelism Training: with Dr. Eddie Fox of the Foundation for Evangelism. $10 per person, includes morning coffee and snacks. 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at Wescosville: Bethany UMC.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10
Adjourned Session of Annual Conference: Vote on the 2013 budget. Location: Hempfeld UMC, 3050 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601. Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

January 2013

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
Tools for Ministry: Held in each district.

March

SATURDAY, MARCH 9
Annual Laity Retreat

THESE AND MORE EVENTS ONLINE: WWW.EPAUMC.ORG/EVENTS/CALENDAR

In Memoriam

Mrs. Martha H. Barley

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Martha Habecker Barley, 77, on Sunday, April 8, 2012, wife of Rev. Donald R. Barley, retired elder, with whom she celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on December 9, 2011. Rev. Barley served Iona UMC in Lebanon, Ironville UMC in Columbia, and Covenant UMC in Bath. She is survived by her husband, Donald, one son: Donald R. Barley, Jr., daughter: Doris K. Barley; four grandchildren: Brady Jacob, Kayda Jasmine, Tyler James and Haven Janay. Condolences may be sent to Rev. Donald R. Barley, 1928 SE Sixth Lane, Cape Coral, FL 33990-1662.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Martha’s memory to: Mission Funds of Central Manor Church of God or Zion United Methodist Church of Iona, 1920 S. Fifth Ave., Lebanon, PA 17042 or Ironville United Methodist Church, 4020 Holly Dr., Columbia, PA 17512 or Covenant United Methodist Church, 2715 Mt. View Dr., Bath, PA 18014. To send an online condolence, visit: www.workmanfuneralhomes.com. Full obituary online: http://lancasteronline.com/obituaries/local/622752_Martha-H-Barley.html

Rev. Edgar D. Wert, Sr.

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Edgar D. Wert, Sr., 86, retired elder, on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Rev. Wert served the following appointments, beginning in 1954: Brunnvell: Lancaster; Covenant; Ephrata: First; Reading: Covenant; Reading: Ebenezer; Birdsboro: Christ; Brownstown: Emmanuel; Palmyra: Gravel Hill. He retired in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and by three sons: Edgar, Geoffrey, and Timothy; a daughter, Sharon Owens; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Lorraine B. Wert, 262 Sand Court, Ephrata, PA 17522-2648. Memorial contributions may be sent to Hope UM Church, 3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata, PA 17522; the Eicher Arts Center, 407 Cocalico Street, Ephrata, PA17522; or Mt. Hope Nazarene Retirement Community, 3026 Mt. Hope Road, Manheim, PA 17524-45. Online condolences: www.stradlingfuneralhome.com.

Mrs. Cheryl L. Yerkes

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Cheryl L. Yerkes, Deaconess, wife of Rev. Charles Rothermel. Rev. Rothermel has served on the Southwest District in Extension Ministry at Crossways Counseling since 2002. Previously he served the following appointments: Helfenstein and Kulpmont; Drexel Hill; Continued on page 4

NEW Spirit!

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church
980 Madison Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403

Periodicals postage paid at Norristown, PA 19403.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: NEWSpirit at EPA Conference, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World
A Word from the Bishop

Reflections on General Conference 2012: Faithfulness

When I think about those 10 days of General Conference in Tampa, Florida, one word comes to mind: faithfulness. Many people were faithful to their tasks. I was grateful for the people from the host committee that gifted us with warm hospitality and an incredible prayer team who sat in each room at all times lifting us in prayer. There was an elaborate prayer room with spiritual direction, a labyrinth and a place to pray and light a candle. All of the delegates received a blue prayer scarf that had been blessed and prayed over by the prayer team.

I was grateful for the army of interpreters who provided language access for the international delegates as well as the sign language interpreting. They worked long into the night preparing and also helping to not only interpret the events of the conference but the world around them.

I was grateful for the incredibly diverse and creative worship experiences that were multi-sensory and inclusive of every language and culture on the globe. The many church choirs and musical groups that came from near and far to sing and dance and provide instrumental music lifted our hearts to God in important ways.

I was grateful for the many networking moments that happened as people met around meals and in tents and around legislative tables. It blessed me to see the "Common Witness" advocacy group that included groups that before did not work together as much. They included: Affirmation, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Methodist Federation for Social Action, National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, Native American International Caucus of the UMC, Reconciling Ministries Network, and United Methodist Ministers with Disabilities.

There was a great deal of faithfulness to the concept of unity in the midst of diversity that made this Common Witness happen.

I was grateful for the legislative groups that worked tirelessly through thousands of petitions and faithful patience of people who presided over those rooms as well as the general plenary meetings. I was grateful for colleague bishops who presided while I watched and marveled at the intricacies of Parliamentary Procedure.

I was grateful that we now have full communion with our Pan Methodist brothers and sisters, that we have a new initiative with Pacific Island Peoples and that we had an Act of Repentance for the sins against the indigenous peoples of the world. We are a global church and our outreach continues to expand and deepen.

I was grateful for the many who stayed back home and kept the churches and ministries going while the delegates and bishops were in Tampa. There were many things that people were hoping would happen in Tampa that did not happen. There were many tears and frustrations and I continue to pray for the day when we are able to be officially be One in Christ in the midst of our differences around social issues. I hope that we will eventually develop a structure that will allow more flexibility while maintaining our Wesleyan heritage, witness and mission. I am grateful that we made the progress we did make and that we can continue the unique ministry of this denomination in the months and years to come in some new ways because a group of people came together in Tampa.

Peggy A. Johnson

Camp scholarships can change the life of a child

The summer camp season is right around the corner. The first camps at Carson Simpson Farm, Gretna Glen, Innabah, and Pocono Plateau begin on June 17 and are held weekly through the end of August! There are children and youth in both your church and community who would love to go to camp for the experience of a lifetime.

Our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference camping program offers opportunities to children to learn to love God's creation, make friendships, share fun experiences, and to fall in love with our savior, Jesus Christ. Why not offer scholarships to camp for children in your community so they can experience Christ and Christian fellowship?

Perhaps you could organize a scholarship offering and find a donor or many donors in your church who would want to help a child this summer to experience summer camp. You could also contact the camps directly to request scholarships for children or youth whose families might not have the resources to pay for summer camp tuition.

There is no greater time than now to reach out to persons not yet in your church with the love of Christ. Offering summer camp scholarships is just one way.

REGISTER - Contact each camp to see about exciting camping opportunities for camping and rentals and register:
www.csfarm.org
www.gretnaglen.org
www.innabah.org
www.poconoplateau.org

Check the conference website for some great videos:
http://www.epaumc.org/camping

T he Rev. Dr. Christopher Jacob Kurien is Director of Connectional Ministries for The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien selected as Conference episcopal candidate

Those elected, both clergy and lay, of the General and Jurisdictional delegations, began meeting in the fall of 2011 to consider all the business of both conferences plus the process used for selecting a possible episcopal nominee. In January 2012, we solicited recommendations for episcopal nominations from throughout the Annual Conference. There were four candidates who met the criteria and who also submitted resumes. The delegation arrived at six written questions for the four to answer and gave them three weeks to answer these questions. On March 25, 2012, the full delegation came together to interview each of the four candidates individually. A whole new set of questions was developed for this process, and each candidate answered the same questions to insure consistency in the process. At the end of a long night of deliberation, the delegation decided that the person who best answered the questions and who also received the most number of recommendations, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien, would be the person to be put forward for endorsement by the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference met from May 17-19, 2012 at the Oaks Convention Center, and deliberations about episcopal endorsement took place during two of those days, May 17 and 18. Other names were put forward, including two of the original four persons, but in the end, only Dr. Kurien received the required percentage of votes. Dr. Kurien will now move forward as the endorsed candidate from our Annual Conference in the election process at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Charleston, WV, July 16-20, 2012.

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien leads liturgy during the Opening Worship Service Communion at the 2012 Annual Conference.

By James Todd

The Rev. James Todd is the Southwest District Superintendent, Vice Chairperson of the Delegation.
Bishop Peggy A. Johnson announces the following appointments

Effective July 1, 2012:

Kevin Babcock ........................................... Clifton Heights
Edward Bean ........................................ Lewistown: Calvary Evangelical at one-half time
Glenn E. Brown .................................. Marticville as clergy supply while on Incapacity part-time
Richard Brown .................................... Hellertown: St. Paul
Sharmune Burgess ................................. East Stroudsburg: Analomink and East Stroudsburg
Richard W. Conner .................. Schoeneck: Wiest as intentional interim pastor
Frederick Douglas, Jr. .................. Retirement and Mont Clare: Otterbein as Retired Supply
Mark Dricker ........................................... Fleetwood: Emmanuel
James A. Duckett .................................. Phila.: Hancock St. John’s
D. Chandler Evans .......................... Mount Nebo
Betty Ford ........................................... Ranshaw: Johnston City at less than one-quarter time
William (Billy) C. Frick .................. Clark’s Grove as lay supply at three quarter time
Scott Friedgen-Veitch .................. Norristown: Haws Avenue
Deborah Gildart-Hanks .................. Elam
David Goss ........................................... East Bangor: Community
Zachary Hopple ............................. Oak Grove
Alfred W. Jones, III .......................... Phila.: Camphor Memorial
Sandra Knaub ................................. Bird-in-Hand as clergy supply while on Incapacity part-time
John T. Krimmel .................................. Hulmeville: Neshamony.
Carol Lawfer ................................ Hazleton: Diamond
Michael Lonergan .......................... Pottsville: Evangelical
James Mc Nair .................................. Fredericksburg
George Eric Miller ................................ Hamorton
Jimmy Montgomery .................. Retirement
Kathryn Painter ................................. Cleona: Immanuel
Kristopher Perry .................. Schuylkill Haven: First
Vctor F. Pronesti ............................ Bainbridge: Ludwig
Margaret Reed ................................. William Penn at less than one-quarter time
Gerald ("Jerry") Reifsnyder ........... Washington Boron
Susan Roehs ................................ Mount Carmel: First and First United Methodists/Presbyterian Church in Ashland
Al Schell ........................................... Trevorton at one-half time
Daniel Siddle .................................. Ranshaw: Johnston City at less than one-quarter time while on incapacity leave
Jennifer Sauerbrun .................... Bethlehem: Epworth
Joanne Young .................................. Zion’s Grove: Davis Chapel at less than one-quarter time

Effective September 16, 2012:

Ivan Alberts .......................... Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and Jersey City: Christ
Michelle Beissel .......................... Elysburg at one-quarter time

In Memoriam

Continued from page 2

Gilberton and Mahanoy City: First; Avon: Zion; and Lancaster: Community.
She is survived by her husband, Charles Rothermel, children: Mark and Amy, Matthew and Kristin, Michelle, Maia and Brian, Paul and Stefanie, and Christine; and eleven grandchildren: Olivia and Ben, Emily, J.R and Vivian, Olivia, Owen, and Ava, Alyssa and Ashley, and Leah Marie.
Condolences may be sent to Rev. Charles Rothermel, 3120 Pleasant View Drive, Manheim, PA 17545. Obituary and online condolences: http://adamofh.com/cheryl4-yerkes/

Mrs. Helen Carver

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Helen Louise (Brand) Carver, 91, on April 27, 2012, wife of the late Rev. Earl C. Carver.
She is survived by four children: Mr. Earl Carver, Mrs. Constance Brown, James (Rev. Jim Carver), and Mr. John Carver; also 9 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Youth Life Foundation, c/o Heather Goodlett, P.O. Box 15202, Richmond VA. Email is hgoodlett@ylf.org Heather, a granddaughter, and daughter of Connie and Les Brown is the Founder and Executive Director of YLF, which enables inner city children to lead whole-some and productive lives in a Christ-centered environment.

Mrs. Anna Mae Brown

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Anna Mae Brown, 73, spouse of Pastor Ashley L. Brown, on April 25, 2012.
Pastor Brown has served as lay supply pastor of Cumbola UMC since 2008. She is survived by her husband, Ashley, son, Brian and his wife, Jodi, and a step-grandson, Landon.
Condolences may be sent to Pastor Ashley L. Brown, 53 Fort Lebanon Road, Auburn, PA 17922. At the family’s request, memorial donations may be sent to Welcome United Methodist Church, 107 Main St., Landingville, PA 17972 or Cumbola United Methodist Church, Highway 208, Cumbola, PA 17930. Online condolences: http://www.gsesfuneral-homes.com/obituaries_detail.php

Mr. Emery Steward

Word has been received of the death of Mr. Emery Steward, husband of Rev. Anna R. Steward (Retired Clergy), on Tuesday, May 8.
Rev. Steward served the following appointments: Phila: Trinity (Baynton); Former Phila: Haven Memorial; Phila: Haven Peniel. She retired in 2002.
Condolences may be sent to Rev. Anna Steward, 515 Wellesley Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119-2932.

Rev. Charlene Gaspar

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Charlene F. Gaspar, retired elder, age 68, on June 17, 2012.
Rev. Gaspar served the following appointments: Narberth, Radnor, and Gladwyne. She retired in 2010.
An avid postcard collector, her efforts to raise funds for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) following the tsunami in South Asia through the sale of postcards on eBay were widely publicized in a story and video: http://archives.ums.org/inte-rior.asp?ptid=26&mid=6487 and http://www.interpretermagazine.org.interior.asp?ptid=7&mid=6136.
She is survived by her husband, Ruben, and children: Ruben Gaspar, Jr., Rebecca C. Gaspar De-Avila, and Jennifer S. Gaspar Pavlova; and four grandchildren.
Condolences may be sent to Mr. Ruben Gaspar, 317 Iven Ave, St. Davids, PA 19087-5232. Memorial gifts may be sent in her name to UMCOR, 475 River-side Dr., New York NY 10115.

The Rev. Joyce Anderson

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Joyce Mounds Anderson, 59, on Wednesday, June 20, 2011.
Rev. Anderson served Valley Forge UMC, 2008-2011. She was commissioned toward Elders orders at the 2011 Annual Conference. She was appointed to Norristown: Haws Ave. UMC in 2011.
A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, June 29 at noon, at West Chester UMC, 129 S. High Street, West Chester, PA 19382. A viewing will be held prior to the service from 9:00 am until noon.
Burial will be at the William Howard Day Cemetery in Steelton, PA. She is survived by daughters: Lauren Colomb and Susaye Lawson; sisters: Norma Littleton, Carol Heaven, Fanny Menefee and brother: Russ Mounds; sev- eral nieces and nephews.
Condolences may be sent to Lauren Colomb, 2601 Pennsylvania Avenue, #929, Philadelphia, PA 19130 and Susaye Lawson, 69 Thompson Street, Apt 4, New York, New York 10012.
Memorial contributions may be sent to

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In mission with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church
In 2010, 43,781 was the average worship attendance; goal for
missions giving was just under $9.7 million; goal for 2015:
Lilian Cotto, Sharon Hatchman, and Barbara Skarbowski. “We had
were commissioned as missionaries during General Conference:
Lance Jurisdiction is Lancaster: First; and that the largest Hispanic
were recognized: Misty L. Fuller.
were commissioned toward Elders Orders: Susan E. Daniels, Monica B. Gupept, Barbara S. Lee, Hun Ju Lee, Lydia E. Munoz. Two persons were ordained Deacon: Benjamin D. Caldwell and Maryanne B. Ditter. Six persons were ordained Elders: Victoria L. Allen, Amy E. Banka, Hannah Adair Bonner, Johnson E. Dodla, Candy Labar, Michael S. Remel. The Elders Orders of one were recognized: Misty L. Fuller.
In a Service of Recognition, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference honored twenty-three
tongue!” added, “May your Bibles be worn and tattered with notes in the
margin!”
were commissioned as missionaries during General Conference:
Rev. Eric Law, of the Kaleidoscope Institute, led two teaching sessions.
Rev. Law spoke on what competent leadership is in a diverse chang-
ing world. He spoke of “Holy Currencies”: Gracious leadership, relation-
ship, truth, wellness, money, and time and place. All continuously move to create sustainable ministry in the
Cycle of Blessings.” Videos of both teaching sessions will be available free of charge online in the
In a vote, Dr. Kurien was approved as the Eastern Pennsyl-
vania Conference’s episcopal candidate.
Rev. Jim Todd presented the “District Superintendents are developing churches, not closing them.” Superintendents are devoted to caring and supporting closing churches; persons stood in tribute to their ministry. He said, “It is a real serious joy to be welcomed back home!” He
said, “We need to ask ourselves the question, ‘What can I do?’ It is up
to you and up to me,” Dr. White said.
Dr. White explained the new Wellness and Healing Ministry
held in Hershey, July 27-29, at the Lancaster Bible College. The Laity
Academy will be held at West Lawn UMC August 3-5. The confer-
nce now has almost 1500 Christ Servant Ministers, a program led
by Mr. George Hollich. A committee is being formed on Children’s
Ministry now has almost 1500 Christ Servant Ministers, a program led
by Mr. George Hollich. A committee is being formed on Children’s
Ministry.

In 2010, 2,157 joined on profession of faith; goal for 2015:
“Gracious Cycle of Blessings.” Videos of both teaching sessions will be available online in the
In a Service of Recognition, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference honored twenty-three

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien, Director of Connectional Minist-
tries, led the Celebration of Ministries. Suzy Keenan, director of Communications, announced that the conference now has a mo-

ile app for both iPhone and Android phones and tablets created by
ourchurchvideos.com. Irving Cotto introduced church planters. The Harry Denman Evangelism Award went to Rev. Mercedes Case, pastor of New London UMC, and to Kenneth Ivory, layperson from Montgomery Square UMC. Rev. Yvette Davis presented the Kim Jefferson Award for Effective Ministry to Grace Community Resource and Empowerment Center, Inc., with Rev. John Lewis accepting the award.

Volunteers in Mission included more than 1,000 people involved in local and global mission projects this year. Asbury Ministry at Drexel University presented a slide show of their student activities.
Camp directors shared news from the four conference camps and the up-coming summer camping season.
Rev. Bron Yocum reported on a 40th Anniversary celebration of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women planned for September 29 at Bervyn UMC, with Bishops Violet Fischer and Susan Hassingr.

On the evening of Friday, May 18, the Service of Ordination in-
cluded the preaching of Bishop Peggy Johnson. She advised those to be ordained: “How to handle word of God: read it every day and every night as if your life and ministry depend on it. Ask to God to be with you as you read the word. You are blessed to have so many Bibles – you can iPod it, iPad it, and CD it.” She spoke of a request for Bibles when going to the Dominican Republic: “Bibles with pictures! You would have thought we had brought gold!” She added, “May your Bibles be worn and tattered with notes in the margin!”

Five persons were commissioned toward Elders Orders: Susan E. Daniels, Monica B. Gupept, Barbara S. Lee, Hun Ju Lee, Lydia E. Munoz. Two persons were ordained Deacon: Benjamin D. Caldwell and Maryanne B. Ditter. Six persons were ordained Elders: Victoria L. Allen, Amy E. Banka, Hannah Adair Bonner, Johnson E. Dodla, Candy Labar, Michael S. Remel. The Elders Orders of one were recognized: Misty L. Fuller.

On the morning of Saturday, May 19, the Memorial Service honored deceased bishops, clergy, and spouses. Bishop Alfred
He said, "It is a real serious joy to be welcomed back home!" He
said, “It is a real serious joy to be welcomed back home!” He
said, “It is a real serious joy to be welcomed back home!” He

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Adolphe Yamba Yamba from DR Congo, who related the economic, medical, and educational needs.

The United Methodist Men distributed 50,000 pounds of potatoes in 50 lb. bags to delegates to take back to their churches or community food banks. Delegates packaged 35,600 dehydrated, high protein, and highly nutritious meals to be distributed to schools and orphanages in Haiti by Stop Hunger Now, exceeding the goal by 600 meals.

Youth created a "Penny War" between the districts and raised more than $1200 for the Youth Service Fund. They also collected "Blessing Bags" of supplies for the Allentown Rescue Mission.

Annual Conference communications included live video streaming, posts on the conference website, Facebook, and Twitter. American Sign Language, assistive listening devices, and on-screen transcription of the spoken word were offered for Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons. A big-screen reader made written materials available to persons with visual disabilities. Prior to the opening of the conference, the Eastern Pennsylvania Renewal Fellowship led a prayer walk around the conference rooms. The Order of St. Luke held morning communion in the Prayer Room.

Offerings received during Annual Conference will go to these important ministries:
- Opening Worship: $10,623 for Imagine No Malaria and for scholarships for undergraduate students.
- Service of Ordination: $3,365 toward scholarships for seminary students.

Rev. Tracy Duncan served as worship leader. Doug Ellis, scouting ministry coordinator for the United Methodist Men organized the efforts of 50 scouts and five scout leaders from Pack 397 from Lansdale: Christ and Troop 141 from Hatfield, to build the cross. Each scout wrote on their piece what “duty to God” and “a scout is reverent” means to them. Fall Session will be held on Saturday Nov. 10, 2012, at Hempfield UMC at 9:00 am, to approve a budget for 2013.

2011 MEMBERSHIP/ATTENDANCE
- Membership stands at 115,798 down 2452 from 2010.
- Worship Attendance stands at 42,727 down 1453 from 2010.
- Sunday School attendance stands at 14,433 down 4771 from 2010.

Thank you to volunteer reporter, Chris McLaughlin, and volunteer photographers: Rev. Jim Mundell, Ms. Sabrina Daluisio, Mr. John Shannon, and Rev. Mark Dricker.

For more information, including links to photographs, videos, sermon texts, resolutions, and more, go to: http://www.epaumc.org/events/annualconference.

SUZY KEENAN IS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

CAROL BLACK, EQUALIZING DELEGATE, and chair of the Nominations Committee presented the amendment to the Rules of Order to increase the time a person can serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry from two to three quadrennium. The amendment was approved.

Carol Black also presented the Nominations Report, which was revised and approved.

The conference approved resolutions relating to the amendment of by-laws for UM Metro Ministries, nine church closings, approval of eighteen organizations as Conference Advance Specials, and creation of a comprehensive urban ministry strategy. In terms of social issues, the conference approved resolutions against the escalating increase in alcohol availability, recognizing the importance of education in the success of our society, against gambling, and for restoring civil and factual election campaigns. Resolution 2012-21 addressed Pre-82 Funding Obligation of $14 million toward pre-82 pension which the conference will need to pay over the next 8 years. A Capital Campaign to raise $3 million has been recommended. A strategy for raising the funds will be presented at the Fall Session for approval.
Join the Men and Women who are

Embracing Life

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Reflections on developing leaders

BY CHRISTOPHER KURIE

After the 2012 General Conference many people went home with mixed feelings. Up to the final hours of the Conference, delegates were facing interesting challenges, including an attempt to rework the General Church Budget after the Judicial Council ruled the proposed UMC restructuring plan unconstitutional. There are probably more discussions ahead related to guaranteed appointments, the Discipline’s language about homosexuality and the UMC structure.

During the General Conference, it was a tremendous blessing to see many youth and young adults present, including one of the EPA Conference’s delegates, Jordan Harris. Their presence brought to mind the denomination’s commitment to increase the opportunity for youth and young adults to participate and take leadership roles in our Conference and churches. One of the decisions of General Conference was to designate $7 million of its budget to support young adults exploring and following through with a call to Christian Ministry.

While we saw a slight increase in the presence of young adults at Eastern Pennsylvania’s Annual Conference, we can be more intentional in our outreach. Our Conference does have some ministries in place to nurture young adults in leadership roles such as an annual Call to Ministry retreat, encouraging young adult participation in the denomination’s Exploration event, Annual Conference Youth retreats, and the camping ministry.

I believe this work really begins at the local level where youth and young adults need to be empowered on a regular basis. We need to use more of John Wesley’s model of small group/class meetings to develop leaders among young people. These gatherings must also be more relevant if we are to attract younger people, who may not always relate to traditional approaches to ministry, and who are longing for their life’s purpose and meaningful relationships. It is in the context of these small groups that young people can experience the joy of hearing about one another’s experience with Christ, and find the courage to share their own.

Developing leaders at all levels of the church is something we have to keep working at. We need workers/leaders who have a passion to reach out to all people in our society. It is unfortunate that while the U.S. population is increasing, Church membership continues to decline. The need of the hour is for more leaders who are inspired to serve and transform our communities in the name of Jesus Christ. Let us commit ourselves and work to this end!

THE REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER JACOB

KURIE IS DIRECTOR OF CONNecTioNAl MiNiStrieS for the eastern pennsylvania conference of the united Methodist church.

Ann Jacob and Arial Kaiser prepare for Conference Sessions.

Daily Schedule

Friday, August 3, 2012

Registration 4:00 p.m.
Buffet Dinner 5:30 p.m.
Evening Program 6:30 p.m.
Study Class 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 4, 2012

Buffet Breakfast 7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
Announcements 7:45 a.m.
Bible Study 8:00 a.m.
Study Class 8:30 a.m.
Buffet Lunch 11:45 a.m.
Study Class 1:45 p.m.
Banquet 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 5, 2012

Buffet Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
Study Class 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Registration Deadline - July 6, 2012

Registration Materials available online at:
http://www.epaumc.org/events/calendar/academy-for-lay-day-2

More Information:
Janet A. Mills, Dean - jmills6248@aol.com
Aubrey Bates, Assistant Dean - aubreybates@verizon.net

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Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation

BY JACK BROOKS

The Giving USA Foundation and the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, recently released their annual look at philanthropy in the United States, a survey done annually since 1956. The news for 2011 gives a snapshot of both the landscape of charitable donations and America’s generosity.

Last year $298.42 billion was donated in America, an increase of 4 percent from 2010’s $286.91 billion, 73 percent came from individuals like you and me. Even when adding the huge dollars given each year by such organizations as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Buffett Foundation, and many other foundations in our area, individuals gave, in amounts both big and small, 73 percent of all donations last year. When all bequests and family foundations are added to this amount the total given by individuals was 88%.

The 2011 report shows some encouraging signs. Americans are continuing to give, are slightly more confident in doing so, and they continue to believe in the mission of charitable organizations. However, there is also the sobering news that the last two years, while showing increases in giving, represents the slowest economic post recession recovery in over 40 years. It’s not surprising that as long as there is continued volatility in the economy, charitable giving will reflect this reality in the coming months and years ahead.

So what does it mean for you and for me? It means that American individuals are committed to church and charity – much more than corporations and more than the largest foundations – by supporting the critical and essential work done by the more than 1.5 million charities in the U.S. to address global issues. It means that individuals – just like you – have a voice in what gets done and how. And it means that YOU can make change happen, with $10 or $100 or $1,000 or much more.

American giving is coming from:
- Individuals represented, as noted above, 73 percent of total giving
- Bequests (gifts in a will) were 8 percent of giving
- Corporate giving (corporations and corporate foundations) was flat - just 5 percent of the total
- Charitable Foundation support was up but represents only 14 percent of the total

...and it is going to:
- Education, which ranked second (far behind religion), was 13 percent of the total
- Human Services was 12 percent of the total, an increase of 2.5 percent and the third highest total ever for this subsector
- Health donations increased and were 8% of the total
- International Affairs grew to 8 percent, partly due to the fact that more charities are working internationally, like the United Methodist Church, to address major disasters around the world.
- Public-Society benefit support was 7 percent. However, the three largest "Donor Advised Funds" in this group grew by an astounding 77 percent
- Support of Arts, Culture and Humanities was 4 percent of the total
- Giving to Environmental and Animal organizations increased to 3 percent of donations

Of special note:
- Religion continued to be, as always, the largest of all subsectors and in 2011 was 32 percent of all giving. But 2011 was the second straight year showing decreases in the amount given to religious organizations, declining by 1.7 percent
- Giving to Foundations decreased by 6.1 percent to 9 percent of the total
- You and your family truly make a difference with your generosity. Half of all donations are made by households with incomes under $100,000, and every donation makes a difference.

Here are five (5) tips to consider when deciding on support of your church:
- Think about your Church, and intentionally plan to support all areas of ministry including locally, regionally, nationally or even internationally.
- Look into the needs of your community that your church helps to address.
- Add church donations to your annual family budget, so your support can grow without straining your other needs; you can even set up a donation plan so your gift happens automatically on a monthly or quarterly basis.
- Give your children the habit of philanthropy by putting aside part of their allowance for tithing. Help them understand the meaning of good stewardship.
- Attend one of the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation’s seminars on the essentials of Will’s, Trusts, Estate Planning, and Planned Giving. You can make a difference far into the future of the United Methodist Church; in fact, you’ll find there are planned gifts that pay YOU on a regular basis (look into “charitable gift annuities” to learn more).

To learn more call the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation at 800-828-9093 ext: 247.

Volunteers Needed

United Methodist Neighborhood Services is looking for volunteers to assist with some light office duties such as answering the phone and filing.

As a ministry to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, United Methodist Neighborhood Services provides a safe, meaningful, enjoyable experience in Summer Camp for children and youth that leads them to new and renewed life in Jesus Christ. Our goal is for summer camp to be a blessing to our community children who may not have the opportunity of experiencing the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our prayer is that you will sponsor a child in the amount of $150.00.

Contact Dr. Mary White at 215-236-0304 or mwhite891@aol.com.

For more information: www.nejumc.org.
General Conference Report continued from page 1

difficult decisions ahead.

Western North Carolina Bishop Larry Goodpaster, president of the Council of Bishops, delivered the opening sermon "The Radical Invitation," reflecting the first day’s theme of the "Call." He invited all to hear the call of Jesus in the "midst of all the legislation that will crowd our time and drain our energy."

In an emotional Episcopal Address, New England Bishop Peter Weaver brought onto the stage four teenagers who survived genocide in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and were baptized in a chilly river in New Hampshire. Bishop Weaver called for a "resurrection revolution" in the United Methodist Church. He said, "If God can bring to life the crucified Christ; surely God can bring to life a calcified church."

The Laity Address was given by three lay persons, Amory Peck from Bellingham, WA, Steve Furr from Jackson, AL, and Betty Kattivo of Zimbabwe each coming with a different perspective. "Imagine if all laity brought just one person to Jesus Christ each year what a joy that would be for our church."

That too few young people are in leadership roles in the UMC was echoed by both Khiri Ali, age 18, from Denver, joined by Eva Algodon-Bohol age 24 via video from the Philippines during the Young People’s address. They said that we must overcome our age differences.

If United Methodists are serious about repenting for past injustices against native people, they must prepare for a long and painful journey, said Native American theologian, Rev. George Tinker. "There is a lot of history that has been concealed; you have to go dig it up," said Rev. George Tinker. He said he realizes how hard it is for white people to know the true story of America. It is not taught in our schools. Native Americans have to learn this in their homes and from their grandparents.

The Judicial Council, the UMC’s top court, ruled that bishops have the sole authority to determine the time when an annual conference will meet. In the United Methodist Church.

The Council of Bishops voted to meet as a full body only once a year, including active and retired bishops, which had previously met twice a year. Instead, only active bishops will meet in the spring to focus on solving shared problems.

The assembly approved a $603.1 million budget for seven general church funds for 2013-2016. That total is 6.03% less than the amount apportioned for 2009-2012. General agencies will receive nearly 10% less money for 2013-2016 than they did in 2009-2012. The Judicial Council decision on Plan UMC led the General Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table to reallocate funds set aside for the Plan UMC Council on Strategy and Oversight. The World Service Fund received $1.5 million; $1 million to the General Administration Fund to pay for General Conference deficits and $500,000 went General Administration Contingency Fund. Delegates approved two new line items in World Service Fund. They established a new $5 million fund for theological education in central conference and $7 million to recruit and train young clergy in the United States.

In other business, we called for the Advance edition of the Daily Christian Advocate to be translated into Kiswahili and increased the size of the Commission on General Conference, thus adding some $600,000 to the cost of the conference.

Delegates agreed to save money by eliminating the right of individuals to petition the General Conference. All petitions now must be submitted by a local church council or larger units of the UMC. A proposal to end guaranteed appointments was approved on a consent calendar. An effort to reconsider the previously approved legislation was defeated 564-373. Under this new legislation, bishops and cabinets will be allowed to give elders less than full-time appointments. The legislation also would permit bishops and their cabinets, with the approval of their boards of ordained ministry and annual conference’s executive session, to put elders on unpaid transitional leave for up to 24 months. Clergy on transitional leave would be able to participate in their conference health program through their own contributions. A motion was approved to ask the Judicial Council for declaratory decision on the constitutionality of the approved change that removes guaranteed appointment for elders and associate members. The matter was referred to the Judicial Council to be placed on the fall docket.

United Methodist Women was approved to be an autonomous agency. A series of recommendations from UMW will structurally strengthen ties between local UMW members, their national structure and the ministries they support around the world. The national UMW organization will be governed by a 25 member board of directors with 20 elected by UMW members through jurisdictional channels and five through a nominations process to ensure diversity of age, race, language, physical ability and working status. The board will be responsible for managing the organization’s program, policies, and finances including investments, budgets, and property polices.

In regard to the issue of sexuality, demonstrations by groups seeking changes in church law that call the practice of homosexuality “incompatible with Christian teaching,” prohibit the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals and prohibit marriage to same gender couples began on April 25 with a silent witness outside the evening session. Demonstrators moved into the plenary hall on May 1 and 2 but remained on the perimeter of the delegate seating area in a mostly silent witness.

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of the UM Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., and the Rev Mike Slaughter, pastor of Ginghamsburg Church, Tipp City, Ohio proposed a substitution motion to Para 161F that sought to clarify that United Methodists disagree on whether homosexual practice is contrary to the will of God and urged unity over division and respect for co-existence. Their substitution replaced the last paragraph of a petition submitted by the Global Convocation of Young people after its 2010 conference.

At the end of the discussion, supporters of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, including non-delegates, crowded around the altar, inside the bar of the conference, singing. The session ended early because of the demonstration. The remaining petitions related to human sexuality were not addressed by the time of the conference adjourned on May 4, and the statements in the current book of discipline will remain church law through the 2016 General Conference.

The Pension Plan was modified. United Methodist clergy in the United States will continue to participate in a retirement program that includes a monthly pension payment. Delegates approved 819-78 a modified clergy retirement security program. The plan combines a defined benefit component with a defined contribution component, like the clergy’s current retirement program, but with a reduced benefit for clergy and, consequently, a lower contribution for U.S. annual conferences. It is mandatory only for full time clergy.