

NEW Spirit!

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Volume 14 Number 2
Summer 2014

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

Clergy to discuss covenant, sexuality in fall dialogues

A NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOHN W. COLEMAN,
EPA CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

**“May we not be of one heart,
though we are not of one opinion?”**
John Wesley

It's important to build trust and respect for one another before entering into hard conversations, said

the head of the appeals committee that ruled recently to restore the Rev. Frank Schaefer's credentials as a clergy member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Schaefer transferred his credentials to the California-Pacific Conference as of July 1. But the com-

mittee's deliberations that led to his reinstatement could be helpful when his former clergy colleagues dialogue with Bishop Peggy Johnson in October--not what was said in deliberations, which is not known verbatim, but how it was said.

“We spent a lot of time trying to understand each other, to know each other, as well as the matter before us,” said Jen Ihlo, interviewed after the committee she presided over announced its decision on June 24. “How we held our conversations could be a model for the church. We ought to be able to have loving, respectful conversations about hard subjects and still part as friends.”

Ihlo, a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Justice Department, led the nine-member panel of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Appeals that heard arguments for and against Schaefer's appeal on June 20 and ruled in his favor four days later. The former pastor of Zion UMC of Iona in Lebanon was found to have violated church law by conducting a private same-sex wedding ceremony for his son, Tim Schaefer, in 2007 at a Massachusetts restaurant. The committee found errors in the ju-

ry's “compounded penalty” of both 30 days suspension and the surrender of Schaefer's credentials if he could not promise after his suspension to henceforth “uphold the denomination's Book of Discipline in its entirety.” He



Rev. Frank Schaefer

refused to make that promise.

The panel, which denounced the mixing of two discrete penalties, also determined that the latter penalty was vague and erroneously predicated not on what Schaefer had done but on what he might or might not do in the future. Thus, they left the already-served 30-day suspension in force and voided the withdrawal of his ministerial credentials, ordering the conference to remit to him the lost salary and benefits that resulted from that judgment.

Ihlo spoke later to Erik Alsgaard of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, who covered the hearing for United Methodist News Service (UMNS).

She reported that the appeals committee, whose members held opposing views of the trial's charges, met in March with JustPeace, an agency that aids churches in resolving conflicts. It helped them “bond together,” said Ihlo. “It helped us build trust and respect for

Continued on page 4



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

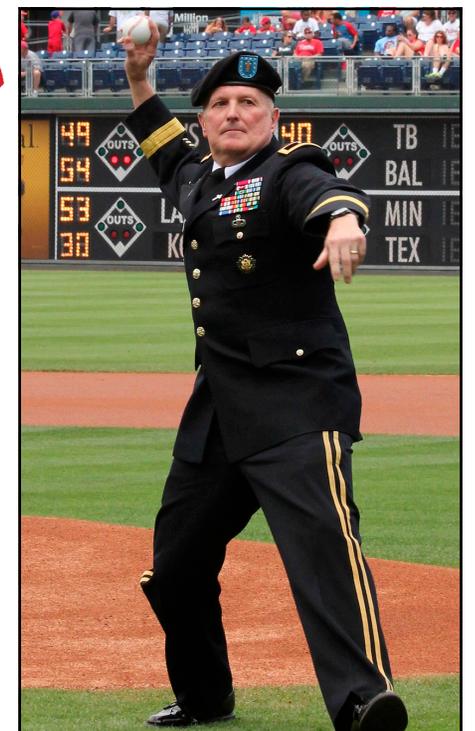
Bishop Peggy Johnson commissions Edward Cameron, a Provisional Deacon, assisted by the Rev. Susan Worrell, during the Annual Conference ordination service, May 16.

During the formal but emotional service, always a high moment of any annual conference session, the bishop ordained seven new elders, commissioned seven provisional elders and three provisional deacons, and welcomed one elder who transferred his membership into the EPA Conference. Read and view more coverage of the 2014 Annual Conference on [page 4](#). *Sabrina Daluisio photo.*



EPA CELEBRATES UM DAY AT THE PHILLIES

At United Methodist Day at the Phillies baseball game, June 28, a choir from Kochenderfer UMC, Lebanon, sang “America the Beautiful” and the National Anthem. Then Gen. Charles Bailey, a United Methodist chaplain and weekend guest of the EPA Conference UM Men, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. *A Phillies photo by Heddy Bergsman.*



JULY

JULY 25 – JULY 27

Mission U: The United Methodist Women's annual weekend academy for lovers of lifelong learning will convene at the Inn of Reading. "Learning Together for the Transformation of the World" is the 2014 theme.

JULY 22 AND OCT. 18

Level 1 (Basic) Sexual Ethics Workshops: EPA Conference-approved Level 1 (Basic) Sexual Ethics Workshops, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., both at West Lawn UMC, Reading. Register online (cost: \$30) at www.epaumc.org/events.

AUGUST

AUGUST 8 – AUGUST 10

2014 Annual Academy for Laity: The theme is "Moving Forward in Faith, Hope and Knowledge." The academy provides training for laypersons looking to further their knowledge and involvement in the UMC.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Celebrate Campus Ministry Sunday: As college and university students return to their campuses, take this time to celebrate the vital importance of campus ministry to them and to congregations that are, or can be, involved in their lives and their formative faith journeys.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 6

"Leading from the Heart: Reviving Worship for the 21st Century" at Paoli UMC: 9 am to 3 pm; Sponsored by the Central District but open to all. Registraton, for \$45, ends August 31 or when capacity is reached. Register online at centraldistrict.smartevents.com/public/events.

INSTALLATION SERVICES
FOR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Sept. 7: The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm Southeast District, 4 pm, at St.Daniel's UMC, 315 Edwards Street, Chester, PA.

Sept. 14: The Rev. Bumkoo Chung Southwest District, 4 pm, at First UMC, 29 E.Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA.

Sept. 21: The Rev. Tracy Bass East District, 4 pm, at Lehman Memorial UMC, 300 S. York Road., Hatboro., PA.

SEPTEMBER 30

Advanced Level Sexual Ethics Workshops (\$30/person including breakfast, lunch and materials): "Sexual Infidelity Among Clergy Members: Understanding Risk Factors and Prevention from and Attachment Framework." 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. West Lawn UMC, 15 Woodside Avenue, West Lawn, PA.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 10

Advanced Level Sexual Ethics Workshops (\$30/person including breakfast, lunch and materials): "A Preacher and a Shrink Talk about Sexual Ethics." 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Ruhl's United Methodist Church, 4810 Elizabethtown Road, Manheim, PA

OCTOBER 21, 22, AND 23

Change Stewardship in Your Church, Seminars led by author Dr. Clif Christopher:
Oct. 21: Wescosville: Bethany UMC
Oct. 22: Ashton: Mt. Hope UMC
Oct. 23: Dover, DE, Wyoming UMC

OCTOBER 25

Safe Sanctuaries District Trainings: The EPA Conference's new Safe Sanctuaries Committee wants to be sure every church has leaders or teams present at the Safe Sanctuaries district trainings to ensure that their church policies and procedures can comply with new changes in state law.

Central: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Cedarville UMC.
East: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Langhorne UMC.
Northeast: Time TBA, at Effort UMC.
Northwest: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at First UMC.
Southeast: 9 - 11:30 a.m. at Thorndale UMC.
Southwest: Time TBA, at Lititz UMC.

Bishop's Days
on the Districts**Northeast District - Wednesday, October 1**

9:00am: Clergy, Allentown: Asbury UMC
1:15pm: Clergy, East Stroudsburg UMC
7:00pm: Laity, Moore Township: Covenant UMC

Central District - Thursday, October 9

9:30am: Clergy, North Wales: Sanctuary UMC
6:30pm: Laity, Valley Forge: St. Matthews

Northwest District - Wednesday, October 15

8:30am: Clergy, Cleona: Immanuel UMC
12:30pm: Clergy, Shamokin: First UMC
7:00pm: Laity, Schuylkill Haven: First

Southwest District - Tuesday, October 21

8:30am: Clergy, Lancaster: Hempfield UMC
1:00pm: Clergy, Willow Street: Boehm's UMC
7:00pm: Laity, Lancaster: Hempfield UMC

East District - Wednesday, October 22

8:30am: Clergy, Bensalem UMC
7:30pm: Laity, Bensalem UMC

Southeast District - Thursday, October 23

8:30am: Clergy, Elam UMC
7:00pm: Laity, Willistown UMC

EPA Conference
Staff Changes

Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries **Matthew Davis** and Coordinator of Development for Camp and Retreat Ministries **Kenneth Kunhle** both resigned from their part-time positions in June to give more time to their other, increasing responsibilities. Both men joined the conference staff in 2013 and have expressed regret about leaving but also ongoing support for the ministries they have played an important role in developing. We wish them well.

Also **Lindsey Cotman**, who joined our staff in April as a temp-to-hire Desktop Publisher and Database Support Associate, became a permanent staff member on June 1. The 2013 graduate of Kutztown University does graphic design and layout of NewSpirit and helps manage the conference's online media operations.



This year's Academy, from Friday evening till Sunday morning, features 12 courses taught by some of the best instructors in our denomination. The Basic Course is the first step to becoming a Christ Servant Minister or Certified Lay Minister. All other courses qualify attendees for advanced credit as a Christ Servant Minister, but they are open to anyone wishing to grow in knowledge of our Lord and His teachings. These are full-length, 10-hour courses; so there is only time to take one course.

Learn more and register online at <https://epaumc.org> (look under the Events tab) **by the July 31 deadline.** (The hotel group-rate room discount expired July 9.) Contact Aubrey Bates at aubreybates@verizon.net with any questions. Sponsored by the EPA Conference Board of Lay Ministry.



(USPS 19-604)

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

Bishop Peggy Johnson - Philadelphia Area Bishop
John Coleman - Director of Communications, Editor
Lindsey Cotman - Graphic Design and Layout
Dr. Christopher J. Kurien - Director of Connectional Ministries

Published 4 times per year. Annual Subscription \$12.
Please submit articles for publication by the 10th of the month to:
EPAUMC, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482
or via email to communications@epaumc.org

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



Faithfully Yours

From meditation to mission: postcards from the heart



May your summer be filled with rest, Sabbath, inner discoveries and engagement in different kinds of ministries. Summer is often a time when churches have a slower pace, or perhaps just a different pace. The same is true for my calendar in the coming weeks. I will be taking some of the summer off as a renewal leave.

During that time I hope to dedicate much time to prayer and contemplation. During part of the renewal leave I am scheduled to be at the Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, Md., for a silent retreat. I appreciate your prayers for my discernment, wisdom and a closer walk with the Lord.

During another part of the summer I will teach a course on “Disabilities and the Church” at three of our United Methodist Women’s “Mission U” gatherings. “Mission U” is the new name for what used to be the School of Christian Mission. Two years ago I was contracted by the United Methodist Women to

write the text for this study, and I am happy to say that a study guide was added to it. The “Mission U” participants will have an opportunity to study how we as a church can do a better job in ministry with people with disabilities.

There are over 54 million people in the United States and as many as 200 million people in the world with disabilities. It is one of our most underserved populations, and the gifts and graces of the disability community are our un-mined precious gold. Christian education, when it is done best, results in personal and missional transformation. Please pray that our various schools each bear fruit, “fruit that will last.” (John 15:16). There is still time to sign up for Mission U in Pen Del (July 17-19) and in Eastern PA (July 25-27). Do yourself this favor.

Finally, I will travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo in August to complete an exchange of episcopal visits with the East Congo Area of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Gabriel Unda Yembe was the preacher at our May Annual Conference in Eastern PA. I will travel with a group of general church agency leaders and other bishops to tour this newest episcopal area of our Church.

We will be on hand for the dedication of the bishop’s office and residence and several university classrooms. We will also visit a number of UM mission sites, including: health clinics, educational institutions, a sustainable agriculture program and homes with foster parents for orphans dislocated by war and disease.

The people called Methodist in East Congo are strong and resilient in spirit and faith. I ask for your prayers for this pilgrimage, for those who will welcome us, and for more needed resources to help the many people who are experiencing extreme poverty, health risks and deadly political unrest. In some areas that unrest has forced people from their homes and into refugee camps.

I will be praying for you as well, as unforgettable sights, sounds and sensations of my African journey are imprinted on my mind like postcards to share with you when I return.

May you have many postcards to share from your summer activities as well. In all that we do, may we follow the leading of the God’s Spirit and keep our missional goals ever before us, as we tell more and more people about the love of God experienced abundantly through Jesus Christ.



Peggy A. Johnson



The Rev. Dr. Christopher Jacob Kurien

Celebrate Campus Ministry Sunday on Aug. 24

BY THE REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER JACOB KURIEN, DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Out of crisis can come great opportunities for growth.

Participants at a recent meeting discussed closing the Asbury Campus Ministry at Drexel University due to financial challenges. The Wesley Foundation

endowment that had supported this campus ministry for many years could no longer sustain it because of depleted funds.

When this dire situation came to the attention of our Bishop and the Connectional Ministries Office, we felt the need to look at our campus ministry opportunities with a different perspective. At a subsequent Cabinet meeting, we decided to not close the Drexel campus ministry but rather staff it with a part-time position. We also considered expanding our outreach to other campuses in our conference area.

The Methodist movement was started in England on Oxford University’s campus when John and Charles Wesley gathered with others to study the word of God, to pray and to grow in community. This so called “Holy Club” later became a powerhouse that started a movement some jokingly called “the Methodists.”

As we know, from those humble beginnings came an influential movement that spread over much of

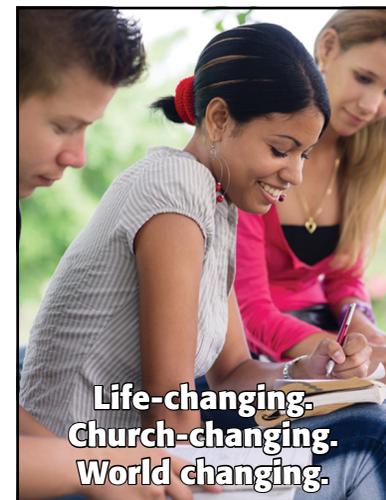
the world. A small campus ministry effort grew to be one of the largest denominations in the world.

Currently our conference has two other related campus ministries: Albright College and Lebanon Valley College. Additionally, there is a campus ministry at Millersville University facilitated by nearby Grace UMC; and there may be similar church-related campus ministries we don’t yet know about.

Our conference Cabinet concurred with a proposal to have at least one campus ministry on every district, supported by local churches there. District Mission ConneXion groups could be directly involved in these potentially vital ministries to reach, invite, support and accompany young people on their life paths and faith journeys into adulthood. The possibilities and opportunities for impactful ministry are immense, and we should take advantage of them.

One way our generation can reverse the trend of decline and revitalize the Methodist movement is through campus ministry. What the Wesleys experienced and cultivated could surely happen again. It could begin by recognizing, embracing and praying for our college students on Campus Ministry Sunday and giving them opportunities to share their experiences, their hopes and dreams with congregations.

We are asking EPA congregations to please celebrate Campus Ministry Sunday on August 24 (or on another more convenient Sunday) and consider receiving a second-mile offering to support new campus ministry efforts in our conference. Congregations already involved in campus ministries may designate up to 50 percent of their voluntary, second-mile offerings to support those ongoing ministries. The rest should



**Life-changing.
Church-changing.
World changing.**

Celebrate Campus Ministry Sunday

on August 24, and please give to support EPA Conference Campus Ministry initiatives.

www.epaumc.org/campusministry

be forwarded to the Conference Office to aid in our connectional, conference-wide efforts.

Our newly formed Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is looking for ways to help our districts and congregations enhance their work in this significant ministry area. As we progress in this new initiative, we will share more information with you.

Let us demonstrate our commitment to young people by supporting the dedicated efforts of this new board, led by the Rev. Jason Perkowski, a pastor and teacher. And let us expand our own outreach to young adults to include campus ministry. In all our efforts let us always focus on the most important thing: sharing the love and liberating gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

Thanks for your continued support for all our ministries. May God bless you all, and may you have a great summer!

Annual Conference highlights vital ministry, visionary leaders

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN,
EPA CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The spirited praise and worship that began the 2014 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference burst forth in vivid pageantry and vivacious African rhythms of music and dance. No less energetic was the teaching that followed, when mega-church pastor the Rev. Mike Slaughter shared empirical--and at times, radical--wisdom on ministries and principles essential for "Growing Vital Congregations."

With that theme, the EPA Conference's 228th annual session began with a bang on May 15. But after three days of reports and presentations, inspiring worship, and challenging legislative debates, it ended in subdued relief when presiding Bishop Peggy Johnson finally pronounced the meeting of more than 900 delegates adjourned.

After separate meetings of clergy and lay members, the conference commenced Thursday afternoon at the Philadelphia Area Expo Center in Oaks, Pa., with a prayer to "bless the ground" offered by local Native American musician Barry Lee.

Celebrative worship ensued, heralded by "the sound of the drum," played by African members of New Life UMC at 2600 Bond Ave., Drexel Hill. They led Bishop Johnson and visiting Bishop Gabriel Unda Yemba

of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in a dancing procession to the stage singing a Zimbabwean hymn, "Hakuna Wakaita Sa Jesu."

Several African languages and French were heard in Scripture, prayer and song throughout the Communion service. Meanwhile, guest music director Mark Miller and his small but gifted band of musicians and vocalists further enhanced the worship experience.

'THE LORD KNOWS ME,' SAYS EAST CONGO BISHOP

Bishop Unda preached in his native Otetela, as Annette Onema of First UMC Germantown interpreted for him. She is the daughter of retired Congolese Bishop Onema Fama.

The new bishop, elected in 2012 to lead the new East Congo Episcopal Area, preached about God claiming Jacob as his own, despite his faults, renaming him Israel and promising to bless him and his progeny.

"The Lord knows me," asserted Unda, mentioning the recent deaths of his wife and daughter, his capture and imprisonment by rebel soldiers, and the



prayers that he believes stopped his planned execution. "We are all here because God knows us. I am a witness."

After his sermon Bishop Unda, who will host Bishop Johnson on her visit to the East Congo Area in August, described and depicted in slides conditions and needs in his area, as well as ministries that include a school, maternity wards for new mothers, and basic

Continued on page 5

CLERGY TO DISCUSS COVENANT, SEXUALITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

each other. I really appreciate the way our committee worked and how seriously we took our task."

EPA Conference clergy will share their various views when they dialogue in regional gatherings with Bishop Johnson about human sexuality and covenant during her annual Days on the Districts in October.

The bishop, who sought to resolve the charges against Schaefer without a trial, turned the matter over to the Rev. Christopher Fisher, who served as Counsel for the Church, and to retired Bishop Alfred Gwinn, who agreed to serve as the trial judge. Fisher has said he will decide whether or not to appeal the latest ruling to the church's Judicial Council by July 19.

Six resolutions on the related topics of church trials for conducting same-gender weddings, accountability for honoring clergy covenantal vows and full participation of LGBT persons in all aspects of the church's ministry were brought to Annual Conference in May. After some debate a motion was passed to refer them to the Bishop's Cabinet to be addressed during the district meetings.

Of course, those gatherings won't have the appeals committee's advantage of extensive discussion time aided by JustPeace. But perhaps the same values of trust and respect that Ihlo cited are still possible if the commitment to "holy conferencing" is upheld.

One other commitment may also help. All clergy participants are expected to read the new book they received at their Clergy Session just before Annual Conference: *Finding Our Way: Love and Law in The United Methodist Church*. The 115-page, aptly titled volume of probing essays authored by eight United Methodist bishops--active and retired--wrestles with

the decades-long controversy of homosexuality and church law from various points of view.

Retired Bishop Rueben Job and Neil Alexander, president and publisher of the United Methodist Publishing House, initiated and edited the small but influential book, seeking diversity among the writers. Included are bishops from the U.S., Africa and Europe, addressing what is undeniably a global church concern.

Some authors agree with the church's official stance on homosexuality, that its practice is "incompatible with Christian teaching" and should not be sanctioned through officiating same-gender weddings nor through the ordination or appointment of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) clergy. Other authors call for long-sought changes in the Discipline that would remove what they consider to be antiquated, unfair, hypocritical and often damaging restrictions and rejection of sisters and brothers who are fellow members of the body of Christ.

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, MO, has offered a third way. He suggested that churches be allowed to decide on this matter

individually; and there can be a variety of responses depending on the heart of the leadership, raising the question, "Does church unity require uniformity?"

While the church's General Conference has held firm every four years, the debate has intensified as more states and some countries legalize same-gender civil marriage and other rights of homosexual and transgender citizens. Meanwhile, some United Methodist clergy have defied the Discipline's same-gender matrimonial ban, and both sides have contended over whether expensive, painful, time-consuming church

This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. —Philippians 1:9-10, CEB



Deacon Eddie Cameron with *Finding Our Way* at EPA Annual Conference 2014. Jim Mundell photo.

trials are warranted, even if other means of just resolution and compromise cannot be achieved.

"We plead for a quality and character of debate that is rooted in the saving grace of Jesus Christ..." Bishop Job and Neil Alexander told UMNS, "and that demonstrates that the people called Methodist choose to grapple with controversial issues in ways that edify and build up the body of Christ." They noted that United Methodist bishops' responsibility as servant leaders includes having "an enquiring mind and a commitment to the teaching office."

Bishop Johnson, in her statement on the appeal decision and the "challenging judicial process," called for continuing prayers for the Schaefer family and for "the members and churches of our conference and our denomination, as we struggle gracefully to find common ground.

"I pray confidently that our church may emerge stronger," she continued, "more hopeful and more faithful to both its biblical grounding and its prophetic calling, as it continues to make disciples of Jesus Christ and equip them for God's transforming work in the world."

Yet, less confident voices that inevitably foresee or even call for a church schism are growing, and even Bishop Job and Neal Alexander admit that possibility is there. But none of the bishops writing in *Finding Our Way* agree.

Council of Bishops president Rosemary Wenner of Germany takes encouragement from John Wesley's poignant appeal in his sermon "The Catholic Spirit." It is an appeal with which even Jen Ihlo might agree: "Though we can't all think alike, may we not love alike?" Wesley implored. "May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?"

Note: UMNS news stories written by Erik Alsgaard, Heather Hahn and Kathy Gilbert provided some source material for this analysis.

Continued from page 4

shelter and rebuilt homes for people displaced by civil war.

The evening ended and Friday morning began with the Rev. Mike Slaughter, an influential speaker, author and church-planting, church-growing visionary. He shared nearly four hours of wisdom from his 35 years as lead-pastor of the renowned, 5,000-member Ginghamburg UMC, a multicultural, multi-campus, mission-focused congregation based in Tipp City, Ohio, near Dayton.

SLAUGHTER: 'PASTORS SHOULD EMPOWER TEAMS'

"We are people of the Resurrection, and we need a mission strategy to bring people into a life-celebrating, sustaining relationship with Jesus Christ," said Slaughter. Warning that many pastors are "trying to do too many things," he showed a diagram contrasting two triangles. The traditional one positioned the congregation at the broad base, church leaders in the middle and the pastor at the narrow point where only limited ministry and evangelism can happen. The inverted triangle reversed that order, placing the pastor at the bottom point, church leaders in the middle and the congregation at the broader top where more ministry and evangelism can happen.

"We've gotten rid of every committee in our church... which was illegal (in our denomination) until 1996," said Slaughter. He challenged the attentive audience to "minimize meetings and maximize mission."

"The pastor should empower teams, not committees... which exist mostly to approve stuff for the pastor to do anyway."

Slaughter, who answered questions and signed copies of his books after his talk, showed living



examples of his inverted triangle in short videos portraying laity who were empowered to take the lead in outreach ministries and evangelism, both local and worldwide. Some have even become Ginghamburg-nurtured local pastors of innovative new-church starts, without the benefit--or the burden, in his view--of seminary education.

"I believe the future of pastoral ministry in many churches is the licensed local pastor," he proclaimed.

Slaughter outlined three ingredients every "contagious leader" needs: a picture of God's purpose for new ministry; a strategic plan to realize that vision; and some "repetitious, persistent practices" to inculcate key principles of faith and effective ministry into the hearts and habits of the congregation.

Among those who may disagree with him, however, about the importance of a seminary education were some new seminary graduates who were about to become full and provisional elders and deacons. The Service of Ordination and Commissioning Friday was deeply moving as always with a grand procession, the

singing of majestic hymns of faith, the presentation and examination of those to be commissioned and ordained, the placing of hands upon their heads for prayer and consecration, and finally the bishop's invitation that inspired more than a dozen lay members to come forward in response to God's call to ordained ministry.

HONORING NEW, RETIRED AND EXPIRED CLERGY

In her sermon Bishop Johnson addressed seven new elders, seven provisional elders, three provisional deacons and one elder transferring his orders. She advised them all to manifest the wisdom of Ephesians 4:1-6 by walking "in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Hours earlier she recognized 19 new clergy retirees for having lived and served in a manner worthy of their calling for many years. Five retirees were featured in brief videos sharing insights and experiences from their years of ministry. Many will continue to serve part-time as pastors. But all were applauded by conference attendees before passing the mantle of service to the new class of ordinands.

Also honored in a poignant memorial service were three United Methodist bishops, 15 EPA Conference clergy and 22 clergy spouses who all expired and entered the "Church Triumphant" since the 2013 annual conference. Their names were read amid silence, as a bell tolled, and friends and family members either stood or came forward to place red and white carnations in a vase on the altar.

The Rev. Byung Woo Cho, founding pastor of the Lighthouse Korean UMC in Glenside, Pa., preached about true, sacrificial faith. He honored the memory of early American Methodist missionaries who brought the gospel to Korea, as well as the recently departed saints who served in this conference. A mass choir of members from several Korean congregations sang during the service.

REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS

In addition to these special moments there were numerous reports from:

- the Council on Finance and Administration, whose proposed 2015 total budget of \$3,150,000--a nearly \$285,000 decrease from 2014--was approved (including a \$50,000 increase in program and administration funding but nearly \$335,000 less in the amount designated to help retire the pre-1982 unfunded pension liability debt).
- Connectional Ministries, which highlighted an array of diverse ministries initiated or supported by conference program staff, boards and committees.
- Leaders of the "Fulfilling Our Covenant" Capital Campaign to retire the pre-1982 pension debt, who celebrated raising \$3.7 million in pledges, surpassing the \$3 million goal.
- Conference Lay Leader Mary White, who was honored for her eight years of service and leadership;
- District Superintendents, who reported on church property matters, three church closures, and various district and congregational ministry highlights over the past year.
- the Council on Youth Ministries, including Adrienne Newcomer's reflections on her "life-changing" experience as one of three EPA Conference youth on the 2014 Mission of Peace to South Africa.
- the Rev. David Ryan on the conference's Congo

Partnership global mission project.

- United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men; and
- the Monitoring Team, which evaluated the conference session's racial, gender and disability inclusiveness.

Moreover, two special presentations marked the 150th anniversaries of both the former, all-black, predecessor Delaware Conference and Simpson House, the conference-affiliated assisted-care and nursing facility for seniors in Philadelphia.

Cynthia Kent, president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries, came from New Jersey to speak briefly about the importance of preparing for the Service of Repentance and Reconciliation with Native Americans that all annual conferences are charged to observe in 2015.

David Koch was recognized as the new Conference Lay Leader for 2014-2018. And newly-trained Certified



Lay Ministers who will graduate in June were also presented.

Denman Awards for exemplary clergy, lay and youth leadership in evangelism were presented to the Rev. Michael Roberts, pastor of Eastwick UMC, Conference Lay Leader Mary White and Sierra Shoudt-Reddi, an active youth member of St. Matthew's UMC Valley Forge. Kim Jefferson Urban Ministry Awards went to East Stroudsburg UMC for its leadership in the Monroe County Homeless Initiative and St. Matthew's UMC in Reading for its innovative outreach events to serve families and youth in its community.

Finally, the conference deliberated, amended and voted on most of the 25 resolutions it received, com-



pleting a near-marathon six-hour legislative session before the conference adjourned Saturday evening.

But it referred to the Cabinet six controversial resolutions on how the conference should view and address challenges to the denomination's rules disallowing same-sex marriages and homosexual ordained clergy. Those resolutions will be considered in dialogues the bishop and Cabinet members will hold with clergy and laity in each district in the fall.

Cabinet cites recent gains, losses among EPAC churches

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN
EPA CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The EPA Superintendents' report to the 2014 Annual Conference in May reported gains and losses on several fronts among congregations, including fewer people coming in the doors to join and worship from 2012 to 2013, but more people going out to serve in their communities and beyond.

Voicing concern about "clear trends in the statistical report of our conference," the Rev. James Todd, outgoing Dean of the Cabinet, cited conference declines in professing membership (down 2 percent to under 110,000 members), average worship attendance (down 3 percent to just above 40,000 worshippers), and Sunday school attendance (down 4 percent). While those percentages seem small, he cautioned, "over time their cumulative weight pulls our numbers down dramatically."

On the upside, Todd reported, the number of young adults in faith formation groups increased 12 percent, and groups and individuals serving as Volunteers in Mission also increased, probably in response to Super-storm Sandy in 2012. Moreover, the largest increase reported by charge conferences was in "the number of persons served by community ministries for outreach, justice and mercy," which rose by 32 percent or 114,000 people.

"These latter statistics are highly encouraging," said Todd, "because they show that our churches are reaching out in meaningful, creative ways to a hurting world... We seem to have difficulty in getting people into our buildings, but we have great success in taking our God-given mission on behalf of Christ out into the community."

That irony prompted Todd, who became pastor of East Stroudsburg UMC in July after eight years on the Cabinet, to ask a probing question resonant of the

denomination's Rethink Church initiative: "Are there ways that our churches can creatively offer worship, Bible study experiences and small-group studies in non-traditional spaces in our communities as a way to reach those who may never desire to darken the door of a traditional church building?"

In other comments, Todd, who was Superintendent of the Southwest District, questioned, in light of ongoing financial challenges, the 2013 Annual Conference's decision to retain six districts rather than decrease them to four. He suggested that decision may need to be revisited in the future if the financial picture does not improve.

Each of the superintendents reported to the conference body on various administrative matters. The Rev. Gary Nicholson, who oversees the Northwest District, reported on Mission Connexions, an experimental, two-year initiative started in 2013 to help churches cooperate in outreach efforts.

Nicholson, who initially proposed the idea, cited numerous encouraging outcomes thus far, including collaborative Mission "ConneXions" councils and projects, joint community worship and Bible studies, sharing of ministry resources, and inter-church fellowship and discipleship experiences involving men, youth, young adults, and Christ Servant Ministers.

"This is just the beginning. We are in a pilot phase" Nicholson announced. "Some ideas will not work, but do not let a fear of failure hold your Connexion back. Learn about community needs. Discern the call of God. Work together as the body of Christ. Let the Spirit guide you. Enjoy the deepening relationships that come from working together."

3 CHURCHES CLOSED

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven," began the Rev. Joe Tyson, former Southeast District Superintendent, quoting the

CABINET REPORTS 15 CHURCHES MERGED

Central District: 8 churches merged

- Reading: Memorial Church of the Holy Cross merged with Reading: Wesley UMC. New name: Reading: **Holy Cross UMC**
- Phila.: Tioga merged with Phila.: Mt Carmel. New name: Phila.: **New Vision UMC**
- West Lawn merged with New Journey. Name remains: **West Lawn UMC**
- Ardmore merged with Bala Cynwyd. Name remains: **Ardmore UMC**

East District: 3 churches merged

- Phila.: Advocate-St. Stephens merged with Phila.: Journey of Faith. New name: Phila.: **Servants of Christ UMC**
- Phila.: Hancock-St. John's (East Dist.) merged with New Vision (Central District). Name remains: Phila.: **New Vision UMC**

Southwest District: 4 churches merged

- Millersville: Grace merged with Millersville: First. Name remains: **Millersville: Grace UMC**
- Mt. Pleasant merged with Georgetown. Name remains: **Georgetown UMC**

poet of Ecclesiastes in his solemn report on church closures. "Today we pay honor and remember three congregations who have experienced the fullness of life and who have now come to that part of their life cycle that is filled with sadness and disappointment—the time for discontinuation."

continued on page 7

2014-2015 EPA CONFERENCE EXTENDED CABINET

(From left): The Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Kurién (Director of Connectional Ministries); The Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto (Superintendent, Northeast District); the Rev. Tracy Bass (Superintendent, East District); Bishop Peggy Johnson; the Rev. Dr. Anita A. Powell (Superintendent, Central District, and Cabinet Dean); the Rev. Bumkoo ("BK") Chung (Superintendent, Southwest District); the Rev. Gary Nicholson (Superintendent, Northwest District); the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (Superintendent, Southeast District); and Peter DiNofia (Treasurer)



2014 DEPARTING DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

The Rev. H. Joe Tyson, The Rev. Michele Wright Bartlow and The Rev. James Todd

**CABINET CITES RECENT GAINS, LOSSES
AMONG EPA CHURCHES** continued from page 6

Tyson lauded the years of witness and service of the three congregations—Crozerville, New Life (Korean) and Narbeth—and asked any members present to stand as he moved for the adoption of resolutions finalizing their closure. He then ended his poignant testimony with a worthy mantra: “God made everything beautiful for its own time.”

The Rev. Tracy Bass, the East District’s new Superintendent, followed Tyson to report on eight recent church mergers. He spoke on behalf of his predecessor, the Rev. Michele Bartlow, whose illness prevented her from attending the conference. Three churches on the East District, eight on the Central District, and four on the Southwest District had “pledged to begin life anew together,” according to the report.

The Rev. Anita Powell, Central District Superintendent and new Dean of the Cabinet, announced the conference now totals 433 congregations: 390 Caucasian or white, 24 African American, 10 Latino, four Korean-American and five multicultural/multiracial. She reported 32 cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments, all being racial/ethnic clergy to predominantly Caucasian or white congregations. The conference later approved new guidelines for facilitating and reinforcing cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments.

The Rev. Irving Cotto, Northeast District Superintendent, reported on the conference’s Congregational Development and Revitalization efforts over the past year. He cited Bethany UMC Wescosville’s yoking of Emmanuel UMC Allentown as a new multi-site or satellite model of church development, in which the latter church becomes Bethany’s second campus but keeps its name and its lead pastor.

Cotto went on to describe six diverse, challenging new church starts initiated or continued in the past year: Lighthouse Korean in Glenside; Casa del Pueblo in Hatboro; NorthStar in Exeter Township; PlumbLine in Narbeth; Restoration Worship Center (formerly St. Luke’s) in Philadelphia; and La Hermosa Christian Center in Easton. He also announced a recently started new faith community, Vida y Familia de Dios (Life and Family of God), housed at Salem UMC in downtown Allentown.

“The Cabinet is committed to seeing that new church starts are continued,” concluded Cotto, “and that we move our conference into more new ventures in ministry that provide new places for new people.”

2015 Budget approved Balancing past debts with present needs

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN
EPA CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

One might view the EPA Conference’s 2015 budget for operations and ministries as an effort to get “back to the future,” the title of a classic 1985 film. Approved by the Annual Conference in May, the budget seeks to balance past commitments with present realities in order to ensure progress toward future goals.

The past commitments were those made by the 2012 Annual Conference, through Resolution 2012-21, which called for reducing operational expenses—most notably conference staffing—and applying the surplus savings toward the goal to pay off a \$12 million unfunded pension liability for pre-1982 clergy retirees. Another commitment was to raise \$3 million in an ambitious capital campaign, also to help pay off the formidable pension liability.

The conference came through on both of those commitments, the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) reported to the 2014 annual session on May 16. And it benefitted from a few other timely blessings along the way.

As a result, surplus funds earmarked for the unfunded pension liability have been severely reduced for 2015. Meanwhile, funds allocated to connectional mission and ministry—including staffing—were modestly increased so that the conference can improve program effectiveness and address emerging needs.

Citing the nation’s tepid recovery from its economic recession and the ongoing fiscal struggles churches still face, CFA chairman Kip Craven said the decision to spend more on ministry and less on erasing the pension obligation did not come easily. “We had some heated discussions about this.”

The 2012 budget cuts “were not achieved without significant pain,” said CFA member the Rev. Steve Morton, who presented the bulk of the report. But the pruning yielded fruit with a total budget surplus in 2012 and 2013 of about \$731,000. If (and when) congregations remit 100 percent of their 2014 apportioned giving to the conference, the result could be an additional surplus of a half-million dollars, Morton said.

A third commitment made in 2012 was to earmark gains from the sale of closed church buildings to the pension liability. It has been “only modestly successful” so far, said the report, citing “competing emotions among us concerning the surrender of United Methodist church buildings.”

But the second commitment, the Fulfilling Our Covenant capital campaign, “has revived our hopes,” said Morton, by exceeding the campaign pledge goal and raising \$3.7 million in commitments to be paid over the next three years. Indeed, more than \$600,000 was already in hand by mid-May to be paid against the liability.

Two other unanticipated key factors are also helping to dramatically reduce the liability, CFA reported. The way churches have “honored the obligation of the Direct Bill,” by faithfully paying clergy pensions, has enabled the Conference to contribute \$1.5 million to the unfunded liability when it sends payments to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits each December.

“Thank you for treating the Direct Bill with respect,” said Morton. “It is making a difference.”

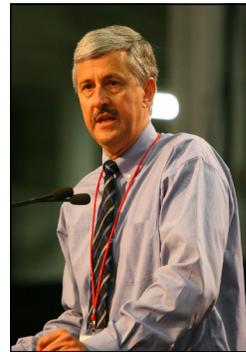
The other key factor enabling the conference to reduce its liability has been “the terrific gain in our equity holdings due to outstanding stock market performance over the past three years,” said Morton. Those holdings, he added, are also more secure now because of strategic changes to reduce the amount of risk in CFA’s investment portfolio.

“The specter of the unfunded liability that three years ago took our breath away,” said Morton, “today appears substantial, without a doubt, but manageable.”

The Connectional Ministries Fund 2015 budget offers a total income and spending decrease from 2014 of nearly \$285,000, from \$3,434,900 to \$3,150,000. But it does so by reducing the allocation to unfunded liability payments by nearly \$335,000, from \$500,000 to \$165,000. It also modestly increases the Connectional Ministries program expense budget by about \$50,000, from \$2,934,239 to \$2,984,132. The report attributes much of that increase to the Human Resources Team’s decision to offer “correctives to the severe staffing cuts executed since the passage of Resolution 2012-21 in hopes of aiding our mission and ministry together.”

While several key staff positions remain part-time, Connectional Ministries recently hired a full-time administrative assistant and returned the Communications Director position to full-time.

“We look forward to the day when no budget surplus will be a necessary tool for retiring an old debt,” Morton concluded in the CFA report, “...and when more local church dollars...will go to support what we all recognize as true mission and ministry. We’re not there yet, but we’re much closer.”



The Rev. Steve Morton

David Koch new EPA Conference Lay Leader



David L. Koch (pronounced “Koke”), of Exton, PA, is the new EPA Conference Lay Leader as of July 1, elected at the 2014 Annual Conference in May. He succeeds Dr. Mary White, who served in that role for the past eight years.

Koch, a retired, certified, senior Human Resources Management professional, is a member of Grove UMC in West Chester, PA. Born and raised a Baptist near St. Louis, MO, he joined the United Methodist Church in 1979 and has chaired Grove UMC’s Administrative Council and Building Committee. He also has taught Sunday school, mentored young confirmands, and participated in the drama ministry, several mission work camps and retreats.

A Christ Servant Minister and former President of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Koch also formerly

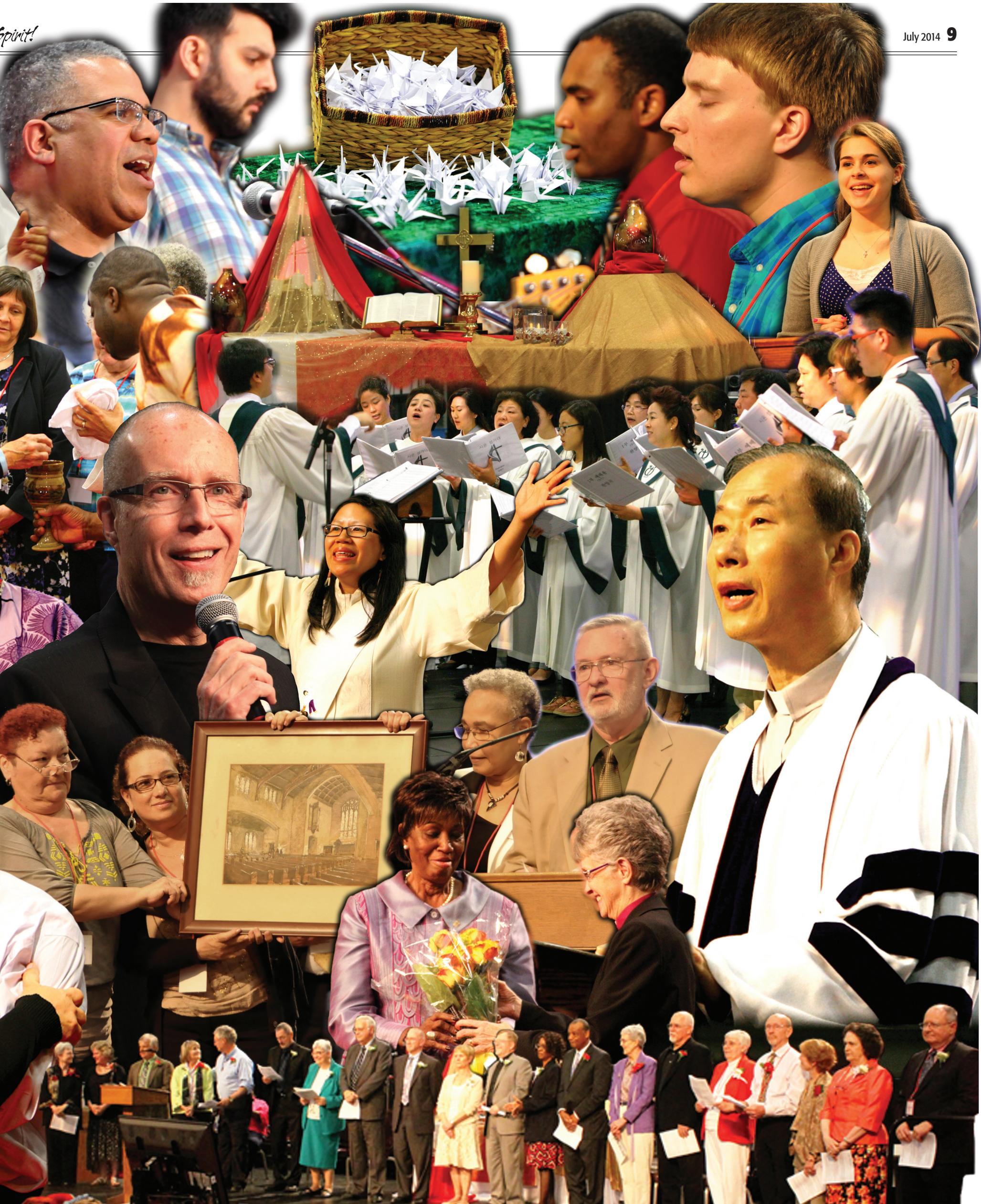
chaired the Southeast District’s Board of Church Location and Building, and he has been an Annual Conference lay equalizing delegate for 12 years. He is also an active volunteer with local and statewide organizations and causes.

Married to the former Donna Beckett for 39 years, this father of two and grandfather retired after working for nearly 30 years in Human Resources Management. He also retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve with the rank of Commander. He holds a degree in mathematics from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, an M.B.A. from the University of Louisville (KY), and a J.D. from Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, DE. He is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Annual Conference 2014

Photos by The Rev. James Mundell, Sabrina Daluisio, The Rev. Steward Warner, Paul Davis, and John Coleman.





MissionInSite can tell you about your community

BY THE REV. GORDON HENDRICKSON
EPA CONFERENCE COORDINATOR
OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MISSIONINSITE 
The Next Generation in Mission Context Analysis

A pastor and lay person asked me how their church could grow? I said, “Tell me about yourselves and your community.” Their response was, “We have a lot of gray-haired people who are Anglo, but our community is young and mostly non-Anglo.”

One way to grow is through “needs-based evangelism”—building bridges into your surrounding community by meeting your neighbors’ needs. The next question is the same one that prompted Jesus’ “parable of the Good Samaritan: “Who is my neighbor?” In other words, “How do we learn who is in our community and what they need?”

Whether your church’s community is urban, suburban or rural, you can get valuable demographic info about it for free from MissionInSite—free because your conference’s Congregational Development Office pays for it (thanks to your apportionment giving).

We will sponsor two MissionInSite workshops to show you how to acquire and use the info. A Webinar is scheduled for Aug. 20 from 8 to 9 p.m. West Chester UMC will host an onsite workshop on Sept. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Once you see the big picture, you can walk and talk with your neighbors in the community, and you can see where and how your congregation can touch their needs and let them know you care. This is a must for any church seeking to grow and revitalize its outreach mission and ministry.



MissionInSite’s Peter Wernett will use the Webinar to support registered MissionInSite users who have selected, downloaded and completed three steps. They will need to have these documents available:

- the Getting Started tab on the Welcome Screen
- the “Introduction to Neighborhood Discovery” directed study
- the “Compare Your Congregation to Your Community” directed study.

I will set up the Webinar—limited to 20 online locations—on Monday Aug. 18. I will need the name and e-mail addresses for all who plan to participate.

For more info on the webinar or the Sept. 20 workshop contact me (Gordon Hendrickson) at gordonacts6@gmail.com

EPAC growing-church pastors share strategies with clergy peers

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN,
EPA CONFERENCE
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Church growth guru the Rev. Michael Slaughter of Ginghamburg Church was the deserved headliner at the 2014 EPA Annual Conference. But there was also some homegrown clergy talent there dispensing empirical church-growth wisdom at a lunchtime gathering.

A panel of three pastors of growing EPA churches shared their learnings, including successes, strategies and challenges, with about 25 pastors, including a few recently appointed to their first charges. The attendees then asked questions and even shared insights and encouragement with each other.

The Rev. Dave Lewis of New Hanover UMC, the Rev. Elena Ortiz of New Birth UMC in Lebanon, and the Rev. Blake Deibler of Wesley UMC in Quarryville together offered a rare opportunity for their peers to hear three exemplary clergy leaders at one time, in one place. They spoke candidly about what works and what doesn’t in their settings.

Lewis, a Vietnam War veteran and graduate of Temple University and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC, gathered a handful of members to plant the New Hanover church in 1987. Their average worship attendance has since grown to 815. He believes his primary job as a pastor is to maintain the health of the congregation so that worship, discipleship, ministry, mission and fellowship can thrive.

“When I arrived at New Birth Church (Nuevo Nacimiento) worship was good, but I felt something was missing,” recalled Elena Ortiz in her remarks. “So I started devoting myself to improve the way we praised God.”

The small congregation began to worship with various instruments and rhythms that resonate with diverse Latino cultures, she explained. They also formed dance, drama and pantomime groups. Two dancers performed at the Latino Ministries display during Annual Conference.

“We began to incorporate the arts in worship,” said Ortiz, “and we also taught hospitality and discipleship to the newly converted, to all who accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.”

The church attendance grew from about 60 to 380. “Every year we receive new people as members,” said the soft-spoken pastor. “This year we will receive 40 new members. To God be the glory.”

Blake Deibler taught public school for 34 years after graduating from Millersville University. In 1992, while still teaching, he attended licensing school and became a licensed local pastor. Appointed to Wesley UMC in Quarryville, he has served there for



The Rev. Dave Lewis of New Hanover UMC shares church-growth insights, along with the Rev. Elena Ortiz (left) of New Birth UMC Lebanon and the Rev. Blake Deibler (right) of Wesley UMC, Quarryville, as the Rev. Gordon Hendrickson, EPA Conference Congregational Development Coordinator, listens.
John Coleman photo.

21 years. When he started in 1993, the church had 35 members. Today there are 550 members, not including the children.

“Develop your brand. Find your niche; do something no one else is doing,” Deibler advised the group. He recommends five basic components for church growth:

- Present Jesus Christ
- Preach the Bible
- Offer passionate leadership
- Provide for growth and
- Empower God’s people

The Rev. Gordon Hendrickson, EPA Conference Congregational Development Coordinator who organized the dialogue, took this rare opportunity a huge step further when he announced a new Growing Church Covenant Groups initiative to start in the fall.

“The idea is to allow pastors who have these gifts to grow churches to invite other pastors into a covenant relationship so they can help them grow their churches,” explained Hendrickson. “This will happen not from the top down but from the bottom up. Instead of superintendents or Congregational Development staff asking pastors to join a group, it will be the pastors themselves who must be motivated to contact one of the selected “growing church” leaders to join a group.”

The leaders will provide their full bios to ensure a good match based on personal and professional affinity, not districts or other boundaries, said Hendrickson. Each group will define what is expected in its covenant agreement, and group leaders will hold members accountable.

The Rev. Anita Powell, Central District Superintendent, also shared her journey as a former new church start pastor during the dialogue. She encouraged the development of the growing church covenant groups. Three additional growing church pastors have also agreed to participate in the “beta model” of this pilot project: the Rev. John Longmire of Hempfield UMC; the Rev. Jim Brashear of Bethany UMC in Wescosville; and the Rev. Jeff Raffauf of West Lawn UMC.

EPA Conference Campus Ministry board starts anew

BY JOHN W. COLEMAN
EPA CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

In the spirit of academia, the new EPA Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry had a lot of questions and got a lot of answers when it convened its inaugural meeting July 9. And while the excitement of learning has just begun, the excitement of doing campus ministry seems sure to follow.

The board--organized for the first time, reportedly, in over a decade--looked back at the conference's past involvement in this ministry arena. It then assessed the current status and challenges, and looked forward to new possibilities and potential partnerships with higher learning institutions, as well as districts and churches.

There to help the board in its assessment were representatives from three campus ministries, who shared candidly about what's happening and what's needed in their respective settings.

Ed Weber is the new campus minister at Millersville University and a lay pastor to young adults at Grace UMC in Lancaster. He described the need for stronger ecumenical ministry relationships at Millersville, where, he said, about 250 of the 8,000 students are involved at some level. He also cited a need to "connect or reconnect more students with the Christian faith as a meaningful part of their life-orientation ... in mind, body and heart."

The Rev. Monica Guepet, a board member of the Wesley Foundation at Drexel University in Philadelphia, described the work of its ecumenical Open Door Christian Community, run by the Rev. Sarah Colwill, a

Presbyterian, along with student leaders. The foundation is trying to survive and continue its creative ministries--for example, serving popular midnight pancakes during final exams period--while adjusting its staffing due to its declining endowment funds.

Representing United Methodist-related Albright College's campus minister, the Rev. Paul Clark, was his former student aide Megan Mosier. She described Bible studies and United Methodist worship held at the Reading campus, along with student-run religious organizations, inter-faith relationships and challenges in connecting students with area churches for volunteer efforts.

All three cited highly stressful academic demands, the need for more United Methodist student involvement, and the need for churches to provide students with fellowship, meals, mission opportunities, transportation, participation in their on-campus worship and other ministries of presence.

Guepet and Weber also said their students would participate in Campus Ministry Sunday on Aug. 24, welcoming invitations from churches to come share in their observances.

The seven-member board hopes to hear from the Rev. Paul Fullmer, campus minister at United Methodist-related Lebanon Valley College, in Annville, at its next meeting, Aug. 13. It also hopes to facilitate supportive networking among campus ministers and EPA Conference churches.

The board, which will research best practices for doing effective campus ministry, wants to encourage local church outreach to other higher learning institutions as well, possibly including West Chester, Lincoln, Lehigh and East Stroudsburg universities.



Campus Ministry board members and guests.

The goal is to help churches foster strategic relationships with at least one institution in each district, led by district superintendents and facilitated by Mission ConneXions or other district leaders.

"This first meeting helped us to understand the real need for a new, dynamic campus ministry initiative in the EPA Conference," said the Rev. Jason Perkowski, board chairman. "We will learn ways to forge effective, creative partnerships so we can support students attending colleges in Eastern Pennsylvania, as well as students from our churches attending institutions around the globe."

Representing the Cabinet, the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Southeast District Superintendent, said, "Our hope is that local churches will take seriously the call to begin intentional ministries with college campuses and to support the Campus Ministry Sunday offering. There is a deep need for people to serve alongside our college students and to bless them as they bless us."



NEW PROVISIONAL DEACONS AND ELDERS

Front row:
Edward L. Cameron; Shauna Ridge; Marcia C. Lincoln-Heinz

Back row:
Gregory Ellis; Richard K. Brown II; Scott C. Dorn; Susan L. Moore; Mercedes A. O'Connor Case

(Not pictured: Beth Ann Trone and Nicole K. Kleinberg)



NEW ORDAINED ELDERS

Front row:
Monica B. Guepet; Lydia E. Munoz; Kevin M. Rutledge

Back row:
Hun Ju Lee; Gary W. Lefever; Christopher K. Eden; Bob Amundsen

21 Recent EPAC Clergy Retirees

These persons retired from active appointed clergy status in 2013-2014:

- Rev. Carolene S. Brubaker
- Rev. Denita Connor
- Rev. Thomas C. Davis-Shappell
- Rev. Kenneth E. DeWalt
- Rev. Sharon Feuerstein
- Rev. James Fryer
- Rev. Robert L. Hachtman, Jr.
- Rev. Thomas N. Hall
- Rev. Gordon E. Hendrickson
- Rev. Barbara L. Housley
- Rev. Dr. Richard A. Johnson
- Rev. Dr. Edward C. Kimes
- Rev. Melvin I. Leaman
- Rev. John Lewis, Sr.
- Rev. Ira Lydic
- Rev. James A. McNair
- Rev. Herbert W. Phillips, Sr.
- Rev. Eric D. Ressler, Sr.
- Rev. Ralph J. Stevenson
- Rev. Dr. Harold E. Taussig
- Rev. Richard E. Wilcock

EPAC visitors learn history of Carlisle Indian School

BY MOLLY DEE ROUNSLEY AND JOHN W. COLEMAN

The recent journey of about 25 EPA Conference members to the site of the historic Carlisle Indian Industrial School took them a distance of only about a hundred miles. But their day-long tour also took them back more than a hundred years into the difficult history of that institution.

Carlisle was the first of 26 off-reservation industrial schools created by the U.S. government to acculturate Native American children and youth by teaching them acceptable customs of mainstream American society in place of their own. It opened in 1879 with 82 boys and girls. By the time it closed in 1918, more than 10,600 students, ages 6-25, had passed through its gates, their lives and even their families back home forever changed, and for many, changed for the worse.

The school was built on an abandoned Army base; and now the National Historic Landmark site has returned to that original use as the U.S. Army's War College and barracks. But the school's memories, including heroes like the famous Olympic athlete Jim Thorpe, are forever present there, like the white gravestones near the entrance marking where hundreds of former students are buried.

The visitors who boarded a yellow school bus to journey there on June 24 were treated to the adventure by the EPA Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM).

Sandra Cianciulli and Barbara Christy, both CoNAM members, recently joined advocates in saving the former school's farmhouse, a key part of its legacy. They prevailed over attempts in 2012 to demolish and replace the timeworn building with additional Army base homes. Over the next few years the farmhouse, whose historical significance was uncovered through research, will instead be renovated and possibly turned into a museum or visitors' center to better tell the compelling story of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School.



Carlisle Indian School farmhouse. *Image Source: Elizabeth Gibson, The Patriot-News.*

During visits to the nearby Cumberland County Historical Society and the Army base, an informative guide gave the group a look back into Carlisle's history. It was the brainchild of Capt. Richard Henry Pratt of the U.S. Army Cavalry. After the Civil War Pratt fought against American Indians in the West and brought prisoners back to Fort Marion in Florida.

He had local Quaker women teach them to read and write; and when the prisoners were released some



Carlisle visitors pre-departure. *Molly Dee Rounsley photo.*

went to college and others to agricultural school. Pratt believed assimilation into mainstream white culture—teaching children to speak English, to dress as whites did, and to learn useful trades—would give Native Americans their best chance for survival.

'KILL THE INDIAN. SAVE THE MAN.'

While some may have benefited from these assimilation efforts, it is widely felt that the majority of students and graduates did not. "Kill the Indian. Save the man," was Pratt's now-infamous motto.

"Our guide said it was a form of blackmail, in a way, to keep the Native people in line," reported Molly Dee Rounsley, who chronicled the journey. "Imagine saying to parents, 'We will take your children far away from home and give them a good education and trade.' On the surface that sounds good; but think about it on a deeper level. It also says to parents, 'We have your children; so you'd better not cause any more trouble.'"

Children from 150 tribes arrived wearing Native American dress, but their clothes were immediately removed, burned and replaced with attire that white children wore. The boys' long hair was cut short and the girls' hair was coiffed and curled. In many tribal cultures, hair is cut only in mourning when a family member has died. So many children thought they had lost a relative.

Students were not allowed to speak in their native tongues, only in English. They were often placed in dormitory rooms with children from tribes of their adversaries. Corporal punishment was the norm, as it was in most schools.

"Two of the students in the first class in 1879 were my relatives," said Cianciulli, "Geoffrey Chipps (Walks in the Clouds) was 7; Bertha Chipps (Keeps Cane) was 9. Even though I don't know either of their stories—it was so long ago—just realizing they were there gets me a little emotional and inspires me to keep up the good fight."

The Carlisle school excelled in sports and music, the guide explained. Its football team and its band were nationally known. The renowned Pop Warner coached the football team in the early 1900's, and his star player was Jim Thorpe, a phenomenal, versatile athlete. The school had an 11-to-1 record in 1911 and won the National Football Championship in 1912, the same year Thorpe earned two Olympic Gold Medals.

The music band, meanwhile, traveled the country playing at several World's Fairs and presidential inaugurations.

Carpentry was one of numerous trades the students learned, and several buildings they erected still remain on the grounds, including a gymnasium, housing for teachers and an infirmary. Students trained in masonry also built a stone wall that channeled water from a nearby spring to encircle the grounds and irrigate the fields.

"Our guide told us that children were not sent to the infirmary to get well, but were sent there if they were not expected to recover," recalled Rounsley. "Or they were returned by train to die at home because it would reflect poorly on the school if they died there."

Reportedly, one tenth of Carlisle's roughly 10,000 students died in its 39-year history; and 186 of them are buried in the cemetery near the entrance, some in unmarked graves.

PAINFUL MEMORIES REPRESSED

Many who survived Indian industrial schools later repressed painful memories, just as their tribal customs were repressed. Forced to reject their own cultures, they were prepared for assimilation into a mainstream culture that ultimately rejected them out of racism. The result for many was alienation, shame and generational trauma.

As the CoNAM tour group boarded the bus to return home, some were no doubt thinking about the 2012 General Conference resolution titled Acts of Remembrance and Reconciliation with Native Americans. It charges the denomination's Council of Bishops and all annual conferences to engage in an ongoing process to improve relations with indigenous peoples through acts of repentance.

The 2015 EPA Annual Conference is expected to include activities to honor that commitment. It may benefit more conference members to prepare for that occasion by taking the same journey to the former Carlisle School and learning its painful but revealing lessons.

Editor's Note: Much of the content for this article was provided by Molly Dee Rounsley. NewSpirit thanks her for reporting on this important journey. For more information about Carlisle and the Farmhouse restoration project, contact Sandra Cianciulli, CoNAM co-chairwoman, at sandi_c524@hotmail.com.



'It takes a village'

Ronald G. Neal Jr. (seated left) and Brandon Mangum (seated right) received scholarships from BMCR and BUMP, along with words of wisdom from the Rev. Anita Powell and Bishop Peggy Johnson (seated between them). Also there to support them were their families, pastors and presidents of the two sponsoring organizations: Lawrence Lee (far right) of BMCR and the Rev. Herbert Coe (center) of BUMP. Standing to Coe's left is new EPA Conference Lay Leader David Koch. *John Coleman photo.*

BMCR/BUMP award 2 scholarships

Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) and Black United Methodist Preachers (BUMP) together gave two promising young men much needed help in paying for college recently by awarding them each \$1,000 scholarships. Brandon Mangum of Janes Memorial UMC, Philadelphia, and Ronald G. Neal Jr. of Eastwick UMC received their awards at a June 28 luncheon in the company of their family members and pastors and leaders of the two organizations.

Mangum, who has won prizes in science, athletic and oratorical competitions, will attend Penn State University in Harrisburg to study mechanical engineering. Neal, who has taken advance courses in economics and other subjects, will attend Temple University and wants to ultimately earn law and business degrees and start his own business law practice.

Both young men are active church members and were praised by their pastors during the annual luncheon. Bishop Peggy Johnson, BMCR Chairman Lawrence Lee, Scholarship Committee Chairwoman Lenora Thompson, Central District Superintendent Dr. Anita Adams Powell and Conference Lay Leader-elect David Koch all offered the awardees words of wisdom, encouraging them to stay close to God, make smart choices and pursue their academic goals with confidence and commitment.

UMs enjoy Night at the Museum

About 30 United Methodists, with family and friends, relished a night named in their honor at the famed Philadelphia Museum of Art June 25. Co-sponsored by St. Luke UMC in Bryn Mawr and Tindley Temple UMC, the pay-what-you-want visit featured a gathering with Bishop Peggy Johnson and a museum docent who inspired discovery and discussion on the profound relationship between art and faith. Then visitors toured the massive treasury of art--including a portrait of John Wesley and scenes of the Passion of Christ, the Madonna and Child and other religious and non-religious themes. The Rev. David Tatgenhorst, St. Luke's pastor, organized this second-time meet-up affair.

Here, viewing Impressionist masterpieces by Monet and Picasso are the Rev. Gary Nicholson and his daughter Rachel (left) and Vicki Baker and Maurice Simmons of Tindley Temple UMC (right). *John Coleman photos.*



Army chaplain inspires men with stories of faith and courage



United Methodist Men attending a breakfast event at Janes Memorial UMC in Philadelphia, June 28, applaud the keynote speaker, General Charles Bailey (right), Deputy Chief of U.S. Army Chaplains. Bailey, a United Methodist chaplain and 30-year Army veteran from Central Texas, is stationed at the Pentagon. He shared testimonies of courageous chaplains rendering selfless service and soldiers uniting as comrades in prayer and worship during respite from battle. "No one hates war more than a soldier," he said, "because we know what it feels and smells like."

Bailey also threw out the ceremonial first pitch to celebrate UM Day at the Phillies baseball game that afternoon and preached at West Lawn UMC in Reading on Sunday, June 29. Ross Brightwell, President of EPA UM Men and Bailey's host for the weekend, said he has invited chaplains to throw out the first pitch for annual UM Day at the Phillies game for the past three years. *John Coleman photos.*

Churches to learn new Safe Sanctuary laws



The EPA Conference's new Safe Sanctuaries Committee wants to be sure every church knows that new changes in state law will require them to modify their church policies and practices. Churches need to be sure they have leaders or teams present at the various district trainings on Safe Sanctuaries, Oct. 25, to ensure they comply with new laws.

There has been a great deal of child abuse prevention legislation working its way through the state legislature and the governor's office this year, reports the Rev. James H. Wilkin, Safe Sanctuaries Committee chair and a pastor in Philadelphia. Some bills have already been passed and signed into law.

"A resolution to amend our conference policy to bring it into conformance with the new laws will be on next year's Annual Conference agenda," Wilkin writes. However, churches will be need to meet the requirements of new laws sooner, when they go into effect at the end of December.

To help ensure broad compliance, the Safe Sanctuaries committee is reviewing all relevant legislation and preparing training materials for the Oct 25 training events in all six districts. Check your district's e-newsletter for the location and time of its training event.

The new laws broaden the definition of who is a "mandated reporter" to include anyone who supervises children or youth, including clergy, teachers, day care and social service workers, school administrators and other child care workers. Mandated reporters must get additional training on recognizing and reporting child abuse; and they must report suspected abuse directly to authorities, not just to a supervisor. There are stronger consequences for anyone who fails to comply.

Willful failure to report suspected child abuse can result in misdemeanor or felony charges, depending on the severity of the alleged abuse. This law went into effect on June 15. The law has not changed with respect to confidential communications to clergy.

"The Safe Sanctuaries committee is working hard to assist you as these new requirements come into effect," writes Wilkin. "But it is essential that every church is fully aware of the details of the new laws so that the church, its staff, and its volunteers are in compliance. Please be sure to attend the October 25 training."

Living Waters now a chartered UM church



BY JOHN W. COLEMAN,
EPA CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

LANCASTER, PA--Seeing the simple Sunday morning makeover of Lancaster County Christian School's gymnasium into a temporary sanctuary, one might be tempted to tell the leaders of the Living Waters Christian Fellowship, "I love what you've done to the place."

Neatly facing rows of blue chairs are a small lectern and a side table with a Bible, band instruments, a screen for PowerPoint visuals and six vivid banners. All of it is portable and quickly packed up and loaded onto a truck each Sunday at the end of worship. Adorning one banner is a thin wooden cross with a vision statement: "To know Jesus and make him known." The other five proclaim individually the ways that vision is achieved: "Worship," "Connect," "Grow," "Serve" and "Share."

This 14-year-old congregation with a new-church feel took the "Connect" part of its mission a big step further on Father's Day, June 15, when it fully joined the United Methodist connectional family as a chartered church with 85 new--but not so new--members.

Fifteen charter members gathered in the Rev. Jody Sambrick's home basement in 2000, along with his wife Laura and their two children. That fledgling start began the fulfillment of what he considered his prophetic calling to plant a new church. Indeed, it was also a dream he had heard then-Bishop Peter Weaver announce to the annual conference.

On this special Sunday those 15 members and many more of all ages quietly stood to be "read in" by Sambrick as members of the newly chartered church, some joining the denomination for the first time. Making the day even more special, it was Bishop Peggy Johnson's first church chartering in her six years as bishop; and it was the Rev. James Todd's last significant act as outgoing Superintendent of the Southwest District. New Superintendent Bum Koo ("BK") Chung was also there.

Todd preached on "Rivers of Living Water," from John's Gospel, recalling miraculous moments that revealed water as a precious life-sustaining resource in both scripture and during his recent visit to Sierra Leone, where fresh water is hard to come by. He taught that for water to be alive and healthy it must be deep and flowing, not shallow or standing still. Then he noted that Living Waters is living up to its name by supporting clean-water projects around the world, among other mission efforts.

Todd began the chartering service, joined by Bishop Johnson, Sambrick and Genice Wade, the new church's Staff Parish Relations Committee chairwoman.



The Rev. James Todd leads the June 15 ceremony to charter Living Waters UMC in Lancaster, along with (from left) SPRC Chair Genice Wade, the Rev. Jody Sambrick, pastor, and Bishop Peggy Johnson. John Coleman photo.

"Don't stop here," Bishop Johnson challenged leaders. "Start another church--Living Waters South, or East or West. Reach out with the love of Jesus Christ into this world, where there are a lot of people who don't know what true love is."

Her words must have touched a chord in Jody Sambrick, who in a later interview said his personal guiding scripture is Acts 1:8, where Jesus promised the disciples just before his ascension that the Holy Spirit would bring them power to be his witnesses "to the ends of the earth."

After several years of alcohol and drug addiction, he confessed, he had "hit rock-bottom" when he clearly heard a voice tell him, "Go to church." He went and fell on his knees at the altar, asking God what to do next. The answer led him to join church, become an active member, enter seminary, and become a youth pastor, associate pastor and part-time pastor at several churches--all providing a training ground for starting a new church.

Living Waters has moved several times, too, before landing at Lancaster County Christian School, a location ideally adorned with Christian signs and decorations, but still a temporary location for this mobile "church in a box," as Sambrick calls it. A recent capital stewardship campaign yielded \$194,000 in commitment pledges by Easter Sunday.

"We hope to either renovate an existing building for our new home or buy land to build," said the former teacher and part-time tennis coach and instructor. Either way, he added, the choice will be a frugal one.

When asked how this self-described "seeker-sensitive" congregation has grown and attracted so many young families, Sambrick's answer was simple. "Like many new churches we're so desperate for people, we will actually go out and do the Great Commission."

In Memoriam

Full obituaries are available on our website at www.epaumc.org/news/obituaries.

Rev. William (Bill) Hahn Blose

The Rev. William (Bill) Hahn Blose, 74, died July 1, 2014, at home in Media, PA, after a long illness.

Born in Bethlehem, PA, he earned a bachelor's degree from Yale University and Master of Divinity and Philosophy degrees from Drew University. After retirement in 1998, he served at Parkside UMC and was an adjunct professor of theology, philosophy, and ethics at Alvernia College's Philadelphia campus in 1998-2010.

Rev. Blose is survived by his wife of nearly 30 years, the Rev. Janet K. Hess, of Media, his son David A. Blose, of Columbus, Ohio, and his daughter, Karin E. Blose, of Reading, along with several cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CC Hancock UMC (542 Wesley Rd., Springfield, PA 19064), Heartland Hospice (5 Christy Dr, Ste 103, Chadds Ford, PA 19317) or Riddle Village (1048 W Baltimore Pk., Media, PA 19063) or RR4 Box 4166E or 290 McIlhane Road, Saylorsburg, PA 18353.

Usha S. Ramnit

Usha S. Ramnit, wife of the Rev. Samuel Ramnit, Retired Elder, passed away on July 1, 2014.

Mrs. Ramnit is survived by her children: Ferhat Daniel, Shafquat Ramnit and Seerat Matson.

Memorial contributions may be made to the following: Cherry Valley UMC, Poplar Valley UMC or Springtown: Salem UMC.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family in care of her surviving spouse, the Rev. Samuel Ramnit, at ramnit@ptd.net

Mrs. Darlene Stroud

Mrs. Darlene Stroud of Mount Joy, Pa., wife of the Rev. Reid W. Stroud (retired), passed away on June 28, 2014 at the age of 85.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three daughters: Doretta Beisel of Bensalem; Rebecca Hansell of Ambler; and Rachael, wife of Hyun Kang, of Horsham. Also a son-in-law, Algernon R. Hansell, IV; eight grandchildren; a great-grandson and a second great-grandson expected to be born in November. She was preceded in death by a sister, Delmaya Judkins.

Memorial contributions may be made to: the Alzheimer's Association, 3544 North Progress Avenue, Suite 205, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9638; the American Breast Cancer Foundation, 1220 B East Joppa Road, Suite 332, Towson, MD 21286; or the American Diabetes Association, 3544 North Progress Avenue, Suite 101, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

The Rev. Thomas William Ross

The Rev. Thomas William Ross, aged 68, of Wyomissing, a retired elder of the EPA Conference, died June 10, 2014.

Born in Scranton, Pa., Thomas was a graduate of Mansfield State University, Trenton State University and Lancaster Theological Seminary. From 1979 to 2003 he served Tremont First, Lancaster First, Wyomissing: Calvary, and Willow Street: Boehm's UMC churches. After an 8-year leave he retired in 2011.

In addition to his wife, Vanessa Lynn (Workman) Ross, he is survived by two sons, Jon A., husband of Alexis, of Collegeville, and Corey D., husband of Mindy, of Downingtown. He is also survived by two grandchildren, Brewer Ross and Zane Ross.

Contributions may be made to the Special Olympics, 2570 Blvd., Suite 124, Norristown, PA 19403.

The Rev. Clarence Robert Landis

The Rev. Clarence Robert Landis of Harlan, KY, passed away on May 26, 2014. He was 78. A retired clergy member of the Eastern PA Conference, he served in extension ministry in other United Methodist conferences from 1961 to 2003, until retirement.

Landis is survived by his wife of 48 years, Elaine Groff Landis; his three children, Michael and Michelle Landis of Harlan; David and Leah Landis of Calvert City, KY; and Susan and Brian Pennington of Morehead, KY. He is also survived by seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Mary Helen and Cranks United Methodist churches, 85 Circle Pine Drive, Coalgood, KY 40818, or to Red Bird Christian School, 70 Queendale Center, Beverly, KY 40913.

Condolences may be sent to his widow, Mrs. Ruth E. Landis at 313 Walnut Lane, Harlan, KY 40831-7233.

Mrs. Jennie Edmonds

Mrs. Jennie Edmonds passed away on May 31, 2014. A longtime member of Camphor Memorial UMC in Philadelphia, Pa., she was the widow of The Rev. Dr. Claude A. Edmonds, who retired in 1998 as a clergy member of the Eastern PA Conference.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family in care of her son, Mr. Craig Edmonds, 127 Lincoln Road, Collegeville, PA 19426.

The Rev. Robert W. Capwell Sr.

The Rev. Robert W. Capwell Sr., a retired clergy member of the EPA Conference, died May 31, at the age of 87.

Born in Scranton, Pa., Capwell was a World War II veteran. He was a longtime minister of the Wilkinson United Methodist Church in Croydon. Rev. Capwell retired in 1997.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edna (Martin) Capwell; his parents, Dana and Florence (Ludwick) Capwell; and a sister, Elizabeth Gerrity. He is survived by his children, Jayne Capwell-Gibbs (Frank) of Croydon, Wendy Headman (Thomas) of Ohio, and Robert W. Capwell Jr. (Lisa) of Philadelphia; ten grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family would appreciate donations to the Wilkinson UMC. Please send condolences in care of his surviving daughter, Mrs. Jayne M. Capwell-Gibbs at 1405 Miller Avenue, Croydon, PA 19021.

Mrs. Elsa Ramsden

Mrs. Elsa Ramsden passed away on May 21, 2014. She was married to the Rev. William Ramsden, a retired member of the Eastern PA Conference.

Donations in her memory may be sent to Zion U.C.C. for its tower repair fund or to the Arthritis Foundation, P.O. Box 96280, Washington, DC 20090-6280.

Mrs. Ramsden is survived by her husband, three children, four grandchildren and a brother. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family in care of the Rev. William Ramsden, Sunrise Village #52, PO Box 507, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356-0507.

The Rev. Robert Klenck

The Rev. Robert Klenck, 93, passed away on May 15, 2014. He retired from the Eastern PA Conference and also served the New York, Greater New Jersey and Western New York Conferences. At Eastern PA he served: Philadelphia: St. Paul's, Lincoln Park: Community, Swarthmore Park, and Valley Forge; St. Matthews.

Rev. Klenck is survived by his daughter, Margaret Klenck, an adopted son, John Klenck, and a grandson, Nicholas Hurwitz.

Condolences to Robert Klenck's family can be sent to Margaret Klenck at 165 West End Avenue, Suite 1-M New York, NY 10023. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Simpson House.

The Rev. Margaret L. Marshman

The Rev. Margaret L. Marshman, 73, of Hazle Township, passed away on May 8, 2014. She served the EPA Conference for 18 years, including 8 years as a licensed local pastor.

Rev. Marshman was the daughter of the late James and Margaret (Marshall) Marshman. She belonged to the Mountain City Lions Club in Hazleton and the Welsh Congregational Church in Hazle Village.

Preceding her in death, in addition to her parents, were her twin brother, James Marshman, and sister, Gladys Youngcourt. Surviving are her daughter, Kathy Reynolds, McAdoo; son, F. Keith Reynolds and wife, Sally, McAdoo; grandchildren, Rebecca McHugh and P.J. Matweecha, and Tabitha and Bradford Reynolds; great-grandchildren, Aliyah and Thomas McHugh; and nieces and nephews.

Condolences for may be sent to Kathy Reynolds, at 26 E Garfield St., McAdoo PA 18237.

Dorothy F. Mark

Dorothy F. Mark, 98, passed away on May 5, 2014. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, she was the wife of the late Rev. Harry C. Mark and the daughter of the late William R. and Eva Minerva Peifer Leshner. Mrs. Mark was a resident of Lancaster County since 1952.

She is survived by her daughter, Annetta M. Elmer of Lancaster, PA; a sister, Loretta Boyles of Honea Path, SC; two grandchildren, Mark A., husband of Melinda S. Elmer, and Gary E., husband of Peggy A. Elmer, all of Lititz; nine great grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, her sister, Edna Leland, and her brother, Earl Leshner.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to United Zion Retirement Home, Attn: Caring Fund, 722 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543. To share a fond memory of Dorothy, please go to: www.lifecelebration.com.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Annetta M. Elmer, 57 Buch Avenue, Lancaster PA 17601.

The Rev. Howard W. Milton, Jr.

The Rev. Howard W. Milton, Jr. died April 23, 2014. He was 67, a former pastor in the EPA Conference for 25 years and the husband of Joyce A. (Wolff) Milton for nearly 44 years. Born in Philadelphia, PA, he was the son of the late Howard W. Sr. and Matilda Ida (Mackley) Milton.

He is survived by: his wife; a daughter--Hope Benson, and her husband Jeffrey, of Monroeville, PA; two sons--H. William Milton III and his companion Megan Weir, of Hatfield, PA; and G. Brian Milton and his wife Melissa, of Dallas, TX; four grandchildren; a step grandchild; and a sister-- Arlene Calabretti and her husband Frank, of Telford, PA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association of SE Penna., 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19103, or to the American Diabetes Association, 150 Monument Road, Suite 100, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

Condolences may be sent to Joyce A. Milton at 123 Ridge Avenue, Perkasio, PA, 18944.



Get Real—Finding Your True Self in Jesus

-- 2014 Summer Camp theme --

“To fall in love with nature, you have to be out in nature,” says Gretna Glen Camp Director Apryl Miller. “and we know that kids are staying inside more and more each day. So it’s our responsibility to make sure they have opportunities to fall in love with God’s creation, so they can really learn about themselves but also learn why we need to care for our earth.”

Camp Innabah

Innabah Camp & Retreat Center
712 Pughtown Rd.
Spring City, PA 19475.
610-469-6111

Gretna Glen

Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center
87 Old Mine Road,
Lebanon, Pa 17042.
717-273-6525

Pocono Plateau

Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center
304 Pocono Plateau Road
Cresco, PA 18326.
570-676-3665

Carson-Simpson Farm

Carson-Simpson Farm:
3405 Davisville Road
Hatboro, PA 19040.
215-659-0232



Camper Scholarships Needed!

The need for camper scholarships is greater than ever! Many families have difficulty saving money to send their children to summer camp. Every child deserves a chance to experience God’s love and grace in the caring Christian community of summer camp.

Without needed assistance, children are missing out on the life-changing experiences of camp. Please prayerfully consider donating to the Camper Scholarship Fund and help send a child to camp. You can donate online through camp websites, or by mailing a check. Thank you for making a difference in children’s lives!

Note: You may send general donations to the EPA Conference Office, addressed to the Conference Treasurer and specified as “For Camperships.” Your gifts will be divided among the four camps. You may also donate funds for camperships to individual camps. Camperships for day camps average about \$200 and for overnight camps, about \$400. Any amount is helpful and appreciated. Check the individual camps’ Web sites for more details.

How fun is Summer Camp?

Read what Ron Shane, Director of Pocono Plateau, has to say.

Summer camp is off to a great start! With temperatures ranging from the low 80s in the afternoons to mid-60s at night, campers are enjoying an abundance of fun activities, including archery, sling shot, crafts, boating, canoeing & kayaking, swimming, fishing, peddle carts, zip line, climbing tower and high ropes. Last year the waterfront saw the addition of floating “gaga” (dodge ball).

New this year is “Wibit,” a series of inflatable obstacles to maneuver without falling into the water. Of course, each week also brings campfires with singing and s’mores, star-gazing and Bible lessons, all surrounded by God’s amazing creation!

Summer camp is a lot of fun, but most importantly, it

provides campers the opportunity to experience God’s love in a caring Christian community as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Yep, all four of our EPA Conference Summer Camps are fantastic fun! Not to mention, belly-filling with delicious meals and snacks, friend-making with new encounters each day, and faith-inspiring with Bible study, prayer, songs and life-lessons that can last... well, a lifetime.

Summer is half-over, but it’s not too late to get in on the fun, the fellowship, the faith that overflows at all our Summer Camps. Contact them today.

Visit their Web sites at:
innabah.org, gretnaglen.org,
poconoplateau.org and csfarm.org.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | |
| | | <p>Keep up! Keep up with the latest EPA-UMC news, photos, events, video and social media at all times. Use our Church and Clergy Locators too.</p> |
| | | |
| | | <p>Download! Download our upgraded mobile app today via your iPhone or Google Play (Android) online app stores.</p> |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |