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DAILY PROCEEDINGS
The Thirty-Sixth Session of
The Oklahoma Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
May 31 - June 3, 2004

First Day – Monday, May 31, 2004

Clergy Executive Session – 4:00 p.m.

Annual Conference Clergy Members met at the First United Methodist Church, Tulsa, while Lay Members met in the Boston Avenue Sanctuary. The Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry was presented at the Clergy session and approved.

Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Under the leadership of Bishop Bruce P. Blake, the 2004 Session on the Oklahoma Annual Conference began with the Holy Communion and Memorial Service at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, Tulsa, celebrating the lives of clergy and spouses who died during the past year. The Asbury Singing Ambassadors presented a concert prior to the service. Rev. Margaret Ball, Superintendent of the Bartlesville District, preached the memorial service entitled, “The Rim of Shadow is the Line of the Light.” Following the service a reception honoring the families of the persons memorialized was held in Jubilee Hall.

Second Day – Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Session – 8:00 a.m.

In the Bishop’s Study – Bruce Blake delivered a lecture entitled “Our Idolatrous Isms: The Twin Children of Fear – Privatism and Congregationalism”.

Session – 8:45 a.m.

Organization of the Annual Conference – Conference Secretary Charles Rettig made the following motions that were adopted.

1. That the printed program shall be the official program of the 2004 session of The Oklahoma Annual Conference, subject to necessary additions and adjustments.

2. That the minutes of the daily sessions as prepared by the secretarial staff, examined by the Committee on the Journal, and approved by the Annual Conference, shall be the official record of the Conference.

3. That the bar of the Conference for voting, debate, discussion, and other official business of the Annual Conference session be restricted to the main floor, including window seats and choir of sanctuary, as necessary, without any seating division between lay and clergy.

4. That all materials included in the packets, and materials so related and distributed at registration be considered in the hands of conference members at this opening session so that action concerning them may be taken after 24 hours have passed in any cases where such time interval is required.

5. That the following be assistant secretaries: Mark Jardine, P.J. Stewart, Rich Redinger, Donna Dodson, Carole Minter, Katie Brown, Don Scott, and Jan Polson.

Standing Rules Report – Jessica Moffatt presented the changes to Standing Rules that were compiled by the Standing Rules Committee. The complete Report submitted by the Committee was approved (page 218).

Election of Quadrennial Officers – Motions to nominate officers for the 2005-2008 Quadrennium were presented as follows: Chuck Rettig as Conference Secretary, Kenneth Smith as Conference Statistician, Mark Ashton as Conference Chancellor. A motion was also brought forth to nominate Judy Benson as Conference Lay Leader.

Motions passed.

Greetings from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference – David Wilson brought greetings from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. He thanked the Conference for their support and commitment throughout the year. David was pleased about two historical events that took place this past year. The cabinets of the two conferences met for the first time this year to discuss the needs and concerns of the OIMC. And the two Episcopal Committees also met for the first time on at least four occasions. The Oklahoma Conference gave through their apportionments over \$119,000 to the OIMC in 2003.

DEPARTMENT OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Bob Pierson presented their report (page 200) and introduced the committee chairs of the department.

Racial Ethnic Coordinating Committee – Ernest Jackson, Jr. greeted the Conference on behalf of the Racial Ethnic Coordinating Committee and thanked the Conference for their support. Their report can be found on page 203.

Small Membership Church – James Hollifield discussed the commitment and struggles for growth in a small church. The report can be found on page 203. James

shared that the Dacoma Church had 37.5% Professions of Faith in relation to church membership. There were 10 churches with 20-30% Professions of faith, they were:

Gene Autry, Ardmore	Haskell, Muskogee
Maud, Ardmore	Piedmont, NOKC
Dacoma, Enid - 37.5%	Bridgeview, SOKC
Renfrow, Enid	Purcell, Bowman Chapel, SOKC
Chouteau, Muskogee	Morrison, Stillwater

The Rocky Point church had 105% of the Sunday School attendance in relation to worship attendance. There were 10 churches with 100% in this category, they were:

Loco, Ardmore	Wanette, Ardmore
Burns Flat, Clinton	Chapel Hill, Clinton
Rocky, Clinton	Roosevelt, Clinton
Taloga, Clinton	Enid Korean, Enid
Gerty, McAlester	Abiding Harvest, Tulsa

James brought forth a motion to accept the resolution that the 2005 Annual Conference celebrate in session the Rural Life Sunday theme for that year.

Motion carried.

Black Church Commission - Cecilia Brooks spoke on the importance of reporting the happenings of conference to the local churches. Their report can be found on page 201. Nicole Benson was introduced as the new appointee of Hugo, Paul's Chapel. Icaac Darko was introduced as an intern in Washington, D.C. this year working with the NAACP and Social Justice issues for the Oklahoma Conference. Earl Mitchell remembered and thanked those African Americans who worked for inclusiveness for the churches in our conference. The ten recognized for commitment to inclusiveness were:

Idella Willhort	Lucille Van Zant
Inez Harris	Ernestine Craig
Willie Mae Robbins	Lora Scales
Barbara Thomas	MaBelle Thomas
Coyle Cook	Bozie Walker

Hispanic Ministries – Michael Burkett expressed his pleasure at being involved with Hispanic Ministries and reported on the growth of Hispanics in our area and churches and the number of ministries developing as a result of that growth. Eric Peunte spoke of the opportunities and challenges of developing his mission. He gave thanks for the support of this ministry. Diana Northcutt discussed the opportunities, challenges and blessings from an Anglo perspective and challenged the conference to support and become more involved in the Hispanic Ministry. They have given over 20 cases of Bibles to Hispanics in the Laverne area. Their report can be found on page 201.

Session – 10:30 a.m.

Visionaries for God's Church – David Severe expressed his appreciation for the work Bob Pierson has done. David and Judy Benson talked about the new Visionaries program.

Motion to receive the Department of Congregational Development report was approved.

Mouzon Biggs, on behalf of the Council of Finance and Administration, nominated Jo Ann McNaught for Conference Treasurer.

Motion approved.

Department of Communications – Ed Light reported on the growth, new developments and importance in communications and technology, including email and websites for Evangelism and training materials. Ed thanked Boyce Bowdon for his work and expertise in Communications.

Motion was brought forth to approve the addition to the description for the District Communications position on page 198.

Motion carried.

Report was received.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM – Roger Wood, Janet Boone

Listening Post Report – Mary Lue Eastmond discussed the twenty-one Listening Posts being held across Oklahoma. Facilitators were selected from across the state and were trained to solicit input from local churches as to how the Conference is doing its job of serving and facilitating those churches in their ministries. Data will then be compiled and made available to local churches and Conference leaders as plans are being made for the upcoming quadrennium.

Mary Schillings spoke on her experiences as facilitator at listening posts.

Oklahoma City University – Mark Davies, Dean, Wimberly School of Religion, spoke of Oklahoma City University's commitment to ministry with the United Methodist Church through scholarships to United Methodist students; by providing continuing education to clergy and laity; through student's community service outreach; and their commitment to the education of future ministers and leaders of the church. Mark introduced two servant leaders, Adam Ricks from Mustang, and Christina Mallory from Blackburn, who spoke of their experiences at OCU and as Bishop Scholars.

Mark introduced President Tom McDaniel who expressed his thanks, on behalf of OCU, to the Conference and Cabinet for sending Leroy Thompson to serve as Vice -

President, University/Church Relations. He also thanked Bishop and Karen Blake for their support. OCU is celebrating its Centennial this year, continuing the dream of Methodists to combine education and religion. It is their goal to ensure that every young man and woman in the Methodist church will have the opportunity to receive a quality faith-based education.

The new Bishops scholars for next year are: Tina Dean, Michael Slack, and Blake Huggins.

There are 20 new religion majors for next year at OCU—the largest class in many years.

OCU's Centennial Celebration is September 24-26.

Campus Ministry Report –Sigrid Krause acknowledged all Campus Ministers from across the state. Derrick Hurst, chair of Oklahoma United Methodist Student Movement, spoke of the goals of the UMSM, his experiences and the direction he received through Campus Ministry. Brad Humphrey thanked the committees, Campus Ministers, youth and many others who serve and support the ministry. Scott Beach from Ada, East Central University, spoke of the many blessings he received through Campus Ministry. Trevor Smith stressed the importance and significance of Campus Ministry in the lives of our college students.

Brook Phillips, from OSU Wesley Foundation attributed Campus Ministry for her involvement in The United Methodist Church and her service to The Lord and allowed her the opportunities to witness to other students.

Luther Felder brought greetings from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He thanked the Campus Ministers of the Oklahoma Conference and spoke of the importance of preparing a new generation of future leaders, and invited the Conference to partner with the youth of our congregations to ensure the future of the United Methodist Church.

Awards: Lamplighter – Beaver, Blackburn, Bristow, Calera, Capron, Fitzhugh, Glencoe, Hominy, Lawton Centenary, Lawton Heights, Morris, Okemah St. Paul's, Pawnee, Piedmont, Ponca City Albright, Stillwater First, Stillwater Highland Park, Stratford, Tulsa Sheridan Avenue, Turpin, Weatherford.

Annual Conference Scholarship – Linda Pazini, Weatherford - \$1,000
 Annual Conference Merit Scholarship - Blake Huggins, Carnegie - \$500
 Standing Committee on Campus Ministry Scholarship - Andy Moore, Putnam City - \$500

Asbury Award – Udell H. Wolff

Human Relations Award – Community Youth Outreach Program, Quayle UMC, OKC

Rural Fellowship Award– Larry Hodges received the Honorary Life Membership

Session – 2:00 p.m.

Archives and History – Joy Ansley introduced Christina Wolf, Archivist, who cares for our Oklahoma United Methodist Collection on the OCU campus. This past year there were 362 requests, of which 168 were for research on such subjects as local church and Methodist histories and genealogy of Methodist ministers in our collection, referrals to other repositories, and advice on local church archives.

The space on the fifth floor of the OCU library will double the size of our archive facilities.

Jurisdictional Archivist meeting will be July 9-10.

Joy presented a resolution (page 224) relating to the designation of Epworth United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma as a United Methodist Historic Site.

It was approved.

Children's Ministry – Mary Lue Eastmond reported on the changes that have been made due to the resolution of the Safety for Children, Youth and Adults. She thanked the conference for their cooperation, participation and enthusiasm and stressed the importance in following through with the safety policies and procedures in each local church. Their report can be found on page 171.

2/3's of the churches have audited and adopted the Safe Sanctuary resolution at their Charge conferences in 2003. There will be a safety support team developed for the purpose of follow up with the churches who are noncompliant. At the 2004 charge conferences churches will submit a new audit and a Safe Sanctuary policy.

Academy for Spiritual Formation – Ginger Howl reported that the Academy for Spiritual Formation last fall was very successful. Ginger encouraged everyone to participate in an Academy for Spiritual Formation.

Scott Keneda reported on the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. They will have a workshop July 8-10 at Wesley UMC, OKC.

Adult Ministry – Mary Lue Eastmond spoke about putting together task forces that will establish ministries for senior adults, especially in rural areas (page 158). They will be addressing concerns and needs for senior adults in each local church, and other areas of concern for young adults and their particular needs.

Mary Schillings and David Thomas would lead the task force on Older Adult Ministry. Amy Venable Johnson will lead a task force for young adult ministries.

Camps and Conferences – Judy Benson acknowledged those who had a call to ministry during a church camp experience. Judy introduced Camps & Retreat Ministries Executive Director, Randy McGuire, who announced that in 2003 over 22,000 campers

which accomplished 40,000 camper days (a decrease from 2002) attended Oklahoma United Methodist Camps. He addressed concerns over the rising costs of our camps, which he assured is lower than other states. He encouraged the Conference's help in persuading their youth to attend an Oklahoma camp. Jacob Burton, Stilwell, shared the wonderful experiences he enjoyed while attending Camp Egan for many years. He was inspired to become a camp counselor and also worked as a handy man. Canyon Camp is celebrating their 50th Anniversary on September 18th.

Several improvements are being made to all three facilities. Judy announced that Phase 1 is completed, and that fund raising is beginning for Phase 2. Phase 2 will be a \$4 million project which will include lodges at Cross Point and Egan and a new dining hall, and greeting facility at Canyon. Randy introduced Andrew Rose, the new Dean's assistant at Camp Egan. Randy thanked his staff, the Camps Board of Trustees and Bishop Blake for his leadership and support over the years. Their report can be found on page 159.

Conference Council on Youth Ministries - Scott Spencer introduced the chair for CCYM, Sarah Nichols. She thanked the pastors, volunteers, and adults in the churches for all their support and contributions. She introduced and thanked Randy McGuire. The youth have been needing, and asking the conference for a director of youth ministries, and they are pleased that the position will be filled by Diana Northcutt. She thanked Bishop Blake for his support and love and for their lunches during conference each year. CCYM presented him with a special gift of toys to share with his grandchildren.

United Methodist Seminaries – Myron McCoy, President of Saint Paul School of Theology, thanked God for the opportunity to share the seminary with the Oklahoma Conference, along with Perkins Theological Seminary. He stressed the importance of the relationship between our seminaries and colleges. He thanked the conference for our support and asked that we continue to give.

United Methodist Women – Mona Mae Waymire expressed to Bishop Blake the joy of his presence and leadership at the 2004 General Conference. She recognized Carl Young as Conference Lay Leader and thanked him for his support. He was the first conference lay leader to attend the annual meeting of the UMW. Mona recognized the UMW for 135 years of being in mission, with the theme of "Building Our Heritage: Sisters In Mission." They also have a conference goal of increasing their membership by 135 new members. She urged every woman to become involved with UMW.

Session – 3:50 p.m.

Delegation Nominees for Jurisdictional Conference – Carl Young thanked Bishop Blake and the delegates for their presence at 2004 General Conference. Carl presented the list of nominations for Jurisdictional Nominating Committee, and asked for approval by the conference to be considered for election at Jurisdictional Conference.

Motion was approved.

United Methodist Foundation – John Crooch reported on the year’s events. He reported that the Board was saddened by the loss of trustees Byron Wolfe, of Watonga, and Robert S. Kerr, Jr., of Oklahoma City. He thanked Rev. Paul Bowles and Marion Bauman who rotated off the board, and welcomed to the board Jono Helemrich, of Tulsa, and Tom Jones, of Duncan. He announced the move of the Tulsa office to 2021 S. Lewis, Suite 725 and invited everyone to visit. Bill Junk referred to the annual report, and then talked about the variety of services provided to the local churches and individuals.

The first Jim Egan Award was presented to Jim Egan. The second award will be presented at the 2005 Cross and Flame Legacy Banquet. The foundation will be sponsoring, on August 27, Stewardship Focus Day at Church of the Servant.

Episcopacy Committee – Diana Cox Crawford reported on the eight year journey the Episcopacy Committee has been on with Bishop Blake. She appreciated Bishop Blake’s push to start a dialogue with the OIMC Episcopacy Committee.

A resolution was brought forth as stated on page 217, with the added word of “committee” after the words “episcopal residence”.

Motion carried.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – Judy Benson, Bill Todd, Marvin Hudson and Michael Fletcher-Taylor presented their report located on page 176.

Board of Ordained Ministry – Grayson Lucky referred to the 2005 Ministerial Education Funds Proposed Budget (page 156). He moved the amount of \$128,500.00 be approved by the Conference. Kyle Kiner showed appreciation for MEF support during his seminary years.

The budget was approved.

Donna Dodson brought forth a report to approve continuation of those diaconal ministers on Leave of Absence.

Motion carried.

Commission on Religion and Race – Jim Hill expressed his pleasure over the growth and development of ethnic minority ministries, and encourages continued efforts to monitor race relations in the Conference and our state.

Leonard Benton of the Quayle Community Youth Outreach spoke about the program and its ministry to young people (page 179).

Local Church Leader’s Workshops – Michael Fletcher-Taylor and JoAnn Robinson encouraged people within the local church to attend LCLW’s.

Introduction of Legislation not in packet – David Severe presented one page of legislation.

Introduction of Active and Reserve Chaplains – Chaplains in the Oklahoma Conference introduced themselves to the conference.

Jim Parrish, Air Force Chaplain, Omaha, NE
 Lowrie Welton, Air Force Reserve Chaplain, Robins AFB, Ga.
 Marcus Lawrence, Navy Chaplain, Great Lake, Il.
 Steve Dickie, Oklahoma Methodist Manor, Executive director
 John Gober, Hospice Chaplain and Air Force Reserve Chaplain, Vance AFB
 Mike Hardgrove, Tulsa County Sheriff's Office
 Hardie Higgins, US Army Chaplain, Seoul, South Korea

Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Bishop Blake delivered a sermon entitled “Remember Your Baptism” at the Ordination, Consecration and Retirement Service. Afterwards, a reception was held in Jubilee Hall for Ordinands, Consecrands, Retirees, and their families.

Third Day – Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Session – 8:00 a.m.

In the Bishop's Study – Bruce Blake delivered a lecture entitled “Our Idolatrous Isms: The Twin Children of Arrogance – Individualism and Parochialism”.

Session – 8:45 a.m.

Hymnal and Journal Report – Pam Shirk reported that the minutes had been reviewed by the Journal Committee and recommended that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM (continued) –

Leadership Oklahoma First Class – Carl Young referred to Board of Laity report (page 178) and brought forth the resolution on gambling and moved for approval. Motion carried.

Carl introduced the members of the Leadership Oklahoma First Class. There are 20 members in the initial class and those present were Karen Distefano, Chuck Stewart, Flo Conklin, Darrell Johnson, Kristin Burris, Joyce Teghtmeyer.

Carl recognized the Board of Laity and thanked them for their dedication to the church, and expressed his joy of serving as the Conference Lay Leader.

Youth Director's Training Ministry – Sherry Collier shared her experiences as a youth minister in Perry, and with Pathways, an educational tool to guide youth ministers in their journey as a leader of the youth in the church.

From Nominations to Leadership Development – Ann Needham introduced new training resource “Moving From Nominations to the Development of Leadership Development”. The resources will be available in district offices and the conference media center.

Ministerial Recruitment – Jack Terrell-Wilkes expressed his joy of working with ministerial recruitment, and reported on the events involving seminary students. He encouraged everyone to participate in the “Adopt a Seminary Student” program. On November 6th there will be an event for second career people choosing ministry as a career.

Commission on Status and Role of Women – Dianna Izquierdo referred to the mission statement of COSROW (page 179) and awarded scholarships this year to Debra Marlett Campbell, Valerie Jones Steele, and Fuxia Wang.

MISSION AND SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM – David Burris introduced and thanked the officers and members of the Mission Service Ministry Team. David referred to the report of Cooperative Schools of Mission (page 182) whose theme for the year is “Prayer, Policy and Politics”.

Environmental Coalition Report – Denny Hook spoke of the critical environmental issues facing our state and the world today. Denny encouraged all churches to implement their own recycling program. Denny introduced Rebecca Jim who spoke of the challenges facing the people living near the Tar Creek Superfund Site. She announced that Gov. Henry is touring the site and will be signing a relocation agreement today at 2:00 p.m. She thanked the conference for passing the Tar Creek Superfund resolution and making a difference in their lives, and asked for continued help in the future.

Denny explained the advantages of Wind Power as an alternative energy source. And a resolution will be acted on tomorrow afternoon.

October 8th – 10th there will be an environmental family camp. Activities will be available for all family members to raise consciousness on environmental issues.

Restore Hope Ministries – Lawrence Johnson discussed the numerous services provided to the people in their area who are in need. He thanked the conference for their support, which allows them to provide those services. Their report can be found on page 192.

Session 10:25 a.m.

Skyline and Truman Project – (page 193) Dale Tremper reported that Skyline Urban Ministries is now 30 years old, and has given birth to Skyline Urban Development, Inc., which is a separate entity and is also separate from the conference. Dale introduced Gregory Pringle, Director of Planning and Development for Skyline Urban Development, Inc. He spoke of the work they are planning in collaboration with over 40 other organizations in the Oklahoma City area. They are involved in building new homes and rehabilitating older homes, providing ownership opportunities for residents of the Northeast side of OKC. This program is called the Truman Project.

Chester Phyffer, Christ Church, OKC, spoke of his experiences of serving churches in the inner city and the contacts he made with people of the conference.

Lydia Patterson Institute – Socorro De Anda, President, invited the conference to read the report of Lydia Patterson Institute (page 205) and to rejoice in the success of the students. Out of the 89 graduating students 69 of them have already been accepted into college next fall. Scholarships for United Methodist colleges have given these students the amount of \$729,000. The Student Lay Ministry Program, requires that students serve as interns in local churches around the country. There are currently 490 students at LPI.

Socorro thanked the conference for giving their students a chance at a better life. She shared a success story of one their students who earned \$27,000 in scholarships from Simpson College and who recently spent time in France as an exchange student.

Karen Blake, a member of the Board of Trustees, asked for the conference's continued support, love and prayers for the Lydia Patterson Institute.

Cookson Hills Mission – Meri Whitaker brought greetings from Cookson Hills Mission, and introduced participants of the Cookson Hills Mission children's and senior adult's programs who performed songs in their Native American tongue. Meri reported on the growth of Cookson Hills programs and announced the opening of their new Senior Citizen's Center. The grand opening will be held on September 11, 2004, and everyone was invited to attend. Their theme for this year is "Catch the Dream." Their report is found on page 181.

Circle of Care: Children, Youth and Family – Tom Campbell reported that for the first time 100% of apportionments were paid this year, actually 106%, and the staff finished 8% under budget. Also, groups and individuals provided over 32,500 volunteers hours. Their report can be found on page 189.

The Frances Williard Ministry is being relocated to the Children's Home in Tahlequah. This will allow them to expand child care and decrease the budget \$250,000. In the past two years the over all budget has decreased by \$1.2 million.

Two alumni from the Children's Home spoke on the impact of this ministry on their lives. They were David Beal and Jim Wagner.

Three members of the board of directors will be leaving and were presented with plaques. They were Joy Ansley, who served for over 15 years; Ernest Jackson, Jr., who served on the board for 8 years; and Don Johnson, who served for over 35 years.

The sustaining fund received \$350,000 last year and have set a goal for this coming year of \$1.4 million to be raised through cluster groups throughout the conference. The Woodward district golf tournament raised \$2000, and \$500 so far has come in from the UM pastors golf association, with a presentation made by Randy Scrapper of the funds raised.

The Statement of Relationship (page 220) was presented for adoption, and was approved.

Awards:

Carl Young presented Larry Hodges with an award for his years of service on the Board of Laity. He presented Judy Benson the lay leaders pin given to him from General Conference.

Five-Star Churches: Stan Crosby presented the Five-Star Church award to 64 churches. They are as follows: Albright; Aline; Barnsdall; Blackburn; Beaver; Calera; Canadian; Capron; Centenary, Tulsa; Cheyenne Valley; Church of the Good Shepherd, Yukon; Dewey; East Cross, Bartlesville; Elk City; Eufala; Faith, Tulsa; First, Ardmore; First, Broken Arrow; First, Carnegie; First, Checotah; First, Claremore; First, Gould; First, Grove; First, Guthrie; First, Hennessey; First, Kingfisher; First, Marlow; First, Muskogee; First, Owasso; First, Pawhuska; First, Piedmont; First, Stroud; First, Tahlequah; First, Weatherford; First, Woodward; Foyil; Goodrich, Norman; Gore; Grand Ave, McAlester; Lakeside, OKC; Lamont; Lindsay; Maramec; McFarlin Memorial, Norman; Newcastle; New Horizon, Woodward; Nichols Hills, OKC; Oktaha; Otterbein; Quail Springs, OKC; Rose Hill, Tulsa; Salem; Sentinel; Sheridan Ave, Tulsa; Stigler; St. Mark's, Shawnee; St. Matthew's, Tulsa; St. Paul's, Muskogee; St. Paul's, Okemah; St. Paul's, Tulsa; St. Stephen's, Broken Arrow; Victory Memorial, Guymon; Wesley, El Reno; Wickline, Midwest City.

Scouting – Joe Harris recently received the highest award achieved in scouting, the Silver Buffalo. A Torch Award was presented to Bishop Blake from the Scouts of Oklahoma Conference.

Heartland Network – presented by Judith Heffernan

Easter Morning Award was presented to Foraker UMC, Bartlesville District

Founding Purpose Award was presented Guymon, Victory Memorial, Woodward District

Margaret Ball introduced Elijah W. Nagbe, from Liberia, who will be appointed to Owasso, Bartlesville District, and welcomed him to the Oklahoma Conference.

Session 2:00 p.m.

Chemical Dependency Ministries – Mary Buresh reported on the prevention and educational programs that have been beneficial to more than 1,250 young people, 925 adults, 66 churches, 13 schools and universities, and five civic organizations. Mary Buresh introduced Cindy and Mike Melton.

Denny Hook proposed a motion to suspend the rule of the conference which states any resolution must be presented 24 hours in advance. The call was to continue action on Tar Creek Superfund Site (page 223).

Motion was seconded. Rules were suspended.

Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries – Stan Basler introduced Estelle Turbyfill, conference staff member, who is an Exodus House graduate. Estelle gave her testimony and thanked Stan for believing in her, and thanked the conference for their support of the Exodus House. Stan also introduced Sandi Baker who spoke of her experience of attending Redemption Church in Oklahoma City while incarcerated. She gave her thanks to Eldon Moelling and Redemption Church for their help. Shane Vaughn, a member and graduate of Kairos and Exodus House spoke of his experiences and thanked Stan, Eldon and the conference for their support. Tommy Crumbley, a graduate of Kairos and an Exodus House member, gave his testimony and expressed his joy at receiving custody of his four children.

Stan recognized Tony Zahn, Director of Exodus House, Tulsa, who thanked his staff. Jeannine Bezotle conveyed her appreciation to Exodus House and Redemption Church, Tulsa for helping her after being incarcerated. Carole Bailey also shared how blessed she feels by being able to stay at Exodus House, Tulsa and by the love she receives from the staff, volunteers and fellow residents. Stan acknowledged Eldon Moelling and all the staff of Redemption Church for all their efforts. Bill Gibson, incarcerated for 18 years expressed appreciation for Kairos, Exodus House, Redemption Church and all the support of the UM church.

Eldon Moelling spoke about New Day Camp for children whose parents are in prison, and other ministries of CJAMM, and asked for prayers, volunteers and financial support.

Session 3:25 p.m.

Volunteers in Mission – Tish Malloy presented her report (page 195) and introduced the VIM staff, Ira Hart, Janet Shepard, Danny Vaughan and Shirley Jackson. Tish presented Jeremy Bassett, OK VIM Steering Committee Chair, with a Certificate of Appreciation. Jeremy expressed his joy in working with the VIM staff and volunteers. Jeremy presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Burton and Norma Casad for their leadership in the building of the Larry Acton Retreat Center (LARC) in Rio Bravo, Mexico, which is now open and will be dedicated on June 18th, 2004.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Don Horton for his work with Keenagers in Christian Service. A Certificate of Appreciation was given to the Mexico Methodist Church (two pastors—Willie Berman and Jorge Chacon). Also Certificates of Recognition were given to David Wilson and Chebon Kernell, both of OIMC. And a certificate was given to Bishop Blake for his support of VIM. Jeremy Basset encouraged members of the Annual Conference to develop their own stories to share by serving on missions. Bishop Blake commended Bishop Solomon for his vision concerning missions.

Pensions and Health Benefits – Bob Bunce expressed his pleasure of being Chair of BOPHB for the last four years and dealing with issues of health benefits. He recognized the officers Robert Long, Vice-Chair; Randy Mitchell, Secretary; Cindy Jones, Chair Insurance Committee Carl Young, and Rev. J. D. Ward and the board members. Bob introduced Jo Ann McNaught, Conference Treasurer and Benefits Officer who presented the report (page 142).

Jo Ann presented a motion to approve Item #2 A in Report No. 1 (page 142).

Motion approved.

Report No. 1 was presented for approval.

Motion approved.

Motion to receive Report No. 2 (page 146).

Motion approved.

Motion to approve Report No. 3 (page 155).

Motion approved.

November 4-5 is the Conference Pre-retirement Pensions Workshop at Camp Canyon. November 8-10 the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits is presenting a workshop in Oklahoma City.

Trustees – Harold Leveridge presented Board of Trustees report (page 214) for approval.

Motion approved.

Harold presented a resolution for the Group Property, Liability, and Workers Compensation Insurance Program (page 216) to be continued in 2004-2005.

Motion approved.

Harold introduced from the Group Property Insurance Program Cathy Steinhof, Bob McKown, and Rick Carlin.

Grayson Lucky, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, brought forth the recommendation that Nancy Mumma be placed on honorable location beginning June 1, 2004 (Para 357.1).

Motion carried by clergy vote.

Board of Ordained Ministry report will be changed to reflect the motion.

Tom McDaniel, OCU President, and Robert Long, Senior Pastor of St. Luke's UMC offered to co-host the Annual Conference session at OCU and St. Luke's in 2005.

Motion approved.

Closing prayer was given by Ron Gilbert.

Celebration of Bishop Blake's Ministry 6:00 p.m.

A reception was held at First United Methodist Church, in the Youth and Family Center, for Bishop and Mrs. Blake.

Fourth Day – Thursday, June 3, 2004

Session 8:00 a.m.

In the Bishop's Study – Bruce Blake delivered a lecture entitled "Our Idolatrous Isms: The Twin Children of Greed – Consumerism and Clericalism".

Session 8:45 a.m.

Hymnal and Journal Report – Pam Shirk made a motion to adopt Wednesday's minutes as amended. The motion was approved. Pam then moved that the Secretary and his staff have the authority to read, correct and approve Thursday's session minutes. Motion was approved.

Phillips Theological Seminary – William Tabbernee brought greetings from Phillips Graduate School, presented statistics on UM clergy who are alumni and presented his report.

Environmental Committee Resolution - Denny Hook presented the Resolution for Improved Environmental Stewardship (page 217) for approval.

Sam Powers made a motion to amend the resolution to include the words "where available" after the phrase "or other renewable sources of energy." Seconded by Stan Warfield.

Motion to amend carried.

Motion to adopt the amended Resolution was brought forth by the committee.

Motion carried.

Publishing House – Bryan Green-Young presented the report for Cokesbury and the United Methodist Publishing House. He announced that they are giving over \$1,000,000 to the General Pension Fund of the United Methodist Church this year. He presented Bishop Blake a check for the Oklahoma Conference pension fund an amount of \$12,363.00.

Robert Rose, Ardmore District Superintendent, made a motion that the funds received from the UM Publishing House for clergy pension be given to the Global Pension Fund for clergy outside the US. Seconded by Scott Keneda.

Motion carried.

Conference Benefits Officer – Jo Ann McNaught presented the working plans from the alternative funding task force on health insurance. The plan will be mailed to pastors and lay leaders at a later date with possible implementation by 2006.

Equitable Compensation – Don Griffin presented the Commission on Equitable Compensation report (page 131).

Alan McIntyre explained the need to achieve the Parsonage Standards and expressed concerns regarding issues with renters insurance.

The committee brought the motion to accept the report.

Motion carried.

Statistician's Report – Kenneth Smith thanked the conference for electing him as Conference Statistician for 2005-2008. He submitted the report (page 130) for approval. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jo Ann McNaught presented the Treasurer's report (page 137) and reported that the audit for 2003 is completed. Jo Ann commended the conference for paying 95.7 % of apportionments in 2003. The report was submitted for approval.

The motion carried.

Finance and Administration – Mouzon Biggs presented the Council on Finance and Administration report (page 119).

Mouzon presented a motion that Project Transformation be an advance special.

Motion carried.

Mouzon made a motion to invite the Jurisdictional conference to meet in Oklahoma in 2012.

Motion carried.

Mouzon presented Sections I – XIV (excluding Section III) for approval.

Motion carried.

Mouzon moved for adoption of the recommended budget of \$14,799,515, which is a 4.69% increase.

Motion carried.

Session – 10:35 a.m.

Quadrennial Leadership Nominations – Danny Moss presented the report of the Nominating Committee for approval (page 35). Danny also recommended that the Nominating Committee be authorized to make any changes that are necessary during the year.

Motions were approved.

Danny also brought a second Resolution: Be it resolved that the Annual Conference Secretary be authorized to publish the membership of Annual Conference Boards of Trustees, Advisory committees for those groups not nominated by the Annual Conference Nominating Committee not included in this report (i.e.: Camp Advisory Committees, Campus Ministry Boards, Healthcare Boards, etc.)

Motion carried.

Pending Legislation – Margaret Ball presented Resolutions for the Abandonment of the Leon Methodist Church for approval (page 225).

Motion carried.

Maggie presented for approval the Resolution for the Abandonment of Shady Grove Methodist Church (page 225).

Motion carried.

Maggie presented for approval the Resolution for the Discontinuance of Wewoka Park Methodist Church (page 226).

Motion carried.

Maggie presented for approval the Resolution for the Abandonment of Wewoka Park (page 226).

Motion Carried

Maggie presented for approval the Resolution for the Discontinuance of Criner Methodist Church (page 227).

Motion carried.

Maggie presented for approval the Resolution for the Abandonment of Criner Methodist Church (page 227).

Motion carried.

Denny Hook brought forth the Resolution For Continued Action Regarding the Tar Creek Superfund Site (page 223).

Motion carried.

Motion to receive printed reports – David Severe made a motion to approve the printed reports.

Motion carried.

Courtesies and Resolutions Committee – Dale Dyer presented the report of the Courtesies and Resolutions Committee (page 211). It was approved.

Celebration of Appointments – Bishop Blake led the service, recognizing all those appointed.

Bishop Blake read the sending forth – Go Forth For God.

The session ended at 11:45 a.m.

The conference was adjourned.

CERTIFICATION OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that at Tulsa, Oklahoma, on the first day of June, 2004, I commissioned under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Deacons: Todd Miller Craig, Brian Lee Matthews, Beverly Renee Powell, Donald Mark Vaught.

This is to certify that at Tulsa, Oklahoma, on the first day of June, 2004, I commissioned under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Elders: Lisa Renee Beavers, Glenda Kay Bean Buchanan, Scott Elliott Heusel, Wendy Mae Lambert, Jennifer Joann Long, Margaret Susanne Lykins.

This is to certify that at Tulsa, Oklahoma, on the first day of June, 2004, I recognized Jimmy Lee Shepherd as a Probationary Elder of The United Methodist Church.

This is to certify that at Tulsa, Oklahoma, on the first day of June, 2004, I recognized David William George, Donald Gene Keesee and Ronald Warren King as Elders in Full Connection of The United Methodist Church.

On the first day of June 2004, I ordained under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Deacons: Glen Lee Biggs-Scribner, Jennifer Beth Scott, Bisby Hodges Wierick III.

On the first day of June 2004, I ordained under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Elders: Sara Marie Bodenstein, James BeDelle Graham III, Terrill Lewis Parvin.



A Bishop of The United Methodist Church

OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

The foregoing proceeding with reports herein published, were adopted by the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church at its thirty-seventh Annual Session, held at Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 31 - June 3, 2004, as its official record, and we hereby certify that they are correct.



A Bishop of The United Methodist Church



Secretary of the Annual Conference

THE BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Minutes of the Oklahoma Annual Conference
Held in Tulsa, Oklahoma at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church
From May 31, 2004 through June 3, 2004
Bishop Bruce P. Blake, Presiding
Date When Organized: 1844
Number of This Session: 161

PART I ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Who are elected for the quadrennium (§§603.7, 617):

Secretary? Charles R. Rettig

Mailing Address: 7903 E. 15th, Tulsa, OK 74112

Telephone: (918) 835-8426

Statistician? Kenneth Smith

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 297, Canton, OK 73724

Telephone: (580) 886-3311

Treasurer? JoAnn McNaught

Mailing Address: 1501 N.W. 24th, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Telephone: (405) 530-2067

2. Is the Annual Conference incorporated (§603.1)?

No, the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is incorporated.

3. Bonding and auditing:

a) What officers handling funds of the conference have been bonded, and in what amounts (§§616, 2511)?

Conference Treasurer has \$1,000,000 commercial bond. All other employees of the Conference and of its several entities are covered by a blanket position bond in the amount of \$50,000 each.

b) Have the books of said officers or persons been audited (§§615, 2511)?

Yes, (see report in Conference Journal.)

4. What agencies have been appointed or elected?

a) Answer Yes or No for each of the councils, boards, commissions, or committees listed:

- (1) Board of Ordained Ministry (§632)? yes
(2) Board of Pensions (§636)? yes
(3) Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference (§2512)? yes
(4) Committee on Episcopacy (§634)? yes
(5) Committees on Investigation (§2703.2, .3)? yes
(6) Administrative Review Committee (§633)? yes

b) Indicate the name of the agency (or agencies) in your annual conference which is (are) responsible for the functions related to each of the following general church agencies (§608.1):

- (1) General Council on Finance and Administration?
Council on Finance & Administration
- (2) General Council on Ministries?
Annual Conference Council
- (3) General Board of Church and Society?
Mission and Service Ministry Team
- (4) General Board of Discipleship?
Discipleship Ministry Team
- (5) General Board of Global Ministries?
Mission and Service Ministry Team
- (6) Higher Education and Campus Ministry?
Discipleship Ministry Team
- (7) General Commission on Archives and History?
Discipleship Ministry Team
- (8) General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns?
Mission and Service Ministry Team
- (9) General Commission on Religion and Race?
Leadership Development Ministry Team
- (10) General Commission on the Status and Role of Women?
Leadership Development Ministry Team
- (11) United Methodist Communications?
Department of Communications

c) Indicate the conference agencies which have responsibilities for the following functions:

- (1) Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (§652)?
Mission and Service Ministry Team
- (2) Disability Concerns (§649)?
Mission and Service Ministry Team
- (3) Equitable Compensation (§623)?
Commission on Equitable Compensation
- (4) Laity (§629)?
Leadership Development Ministry Team
- (5) Native American Ministry (§650)?
Mission and Service Ministry Team
- (6) Small Membership Church (§642)?
Department of Congregational Development

d) Answer Yes or No for each of the following conference or district organizations:

- (1) Conference United Methodist Women (§644)? yes
- (2) Conference United Methodist Men (§645)? yes
- (3) Conference Council on Youth Ministry (§646)? yes
- (4) Conference Council on Young Adult Ministry (§647)? no
- (5) District Boards of Church Location & Building (§2518)? yes
- (6) Committees on District Superintendency (§663)? yes
- (7) District Committees on Ordained Ministry (§660)? yes

e) What other councils, boards, commissions, or committees have been appointed or elected in the annual conference? (See report in Conference Journal)

5. Have the secretaries, treasurers, and statisticians kept their respective records according to the prescribed forms (§606.8)? Yes

6. What is the report of the statistician? (See report in Conference Journal.)

7. What is the report of the treasurer? (See report in Conference Journal.)

8. What are the reports of the district superintendents as to the status of the work within their districts? None were given.

9. What is the schedule of minimum base compensation for pastors for the ensuing year (§333, 623.3)? (See report in Conference Journal under Commission on Equitable Compensation.)

10. What amount has been apportioned to the pastoral charges within the conference to be raised for the support of the district superintendents for the ensuing year (§612.1a)
\$1,261,500

11. What amount has been apportioned to the pastoral charges within the conference to be raised for the support of the pension and benefit programs of the conference for the ensuing year (§612.1d, 1507) \$4,186,000

12. What are the apportionments to this conference for the ensuing year:

a)For the World Service Fund?	\$1,503,849
b)For the Ministerial Education Fund?	\$559,585
c)For the Black College Fund?	\$224,032
d)For the Africa University Fund?	\$51,455
e)For the Episcopal Fund?	\$389,419
f)For the General Administration Fund?	\$131,956
g)For the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund?	\$44,048

13. If the annual conference apportions to the local church a fund that combines two or more general apportioned funds with one another, or that combines one or more general apportioned funds with funds other than a general apportioned fund, list below for each combined fund: a) the name and amount of each general fund included in the apportionment; b) the percentage of the combined fund total that corresponds to each general fund apportionment (§612.3d, 613.4).

World Service and Conference Benevolences: 62.51%

Episcopal Fund and Housing 99.47%

14. Conference and district lay leaders (§603.9, 655):

- a) Conference lay leader: Judy Benson
Mailing Address: 1000 Wall St, Frederick OK 73542

- b) Associate conference lay leaders: Herschel Beard, Flo Conklin, Vicki Coulter, Debra Davis, Kenton Fulton, Joanne Kurklin, Bret Magbee, David Nixon, Pat Parvin, Mary Ann Smith, Mark Springer, Rob Walton, Mona Mae Waymire, Sam Welch
- c) District and associate district lay leaders: Ardmore: Chuck Stewart; Bartlesville: Donna Helderman; Clinton: Harold Wright; Enid: Paul Babiak; Lawton: Howard Kuchta; McAlester: Linda DeBerry; Muskogee: Fred Sordahl; OKC North: Bill A. Junk; OKC South: Tom Miller; Stillwater: Frank Denney; Tulsa: Kurt Glassco; Woodward: David Terry

15. What local churches have been:

- a) Organized (§259)?
Edmond Chinese Fellowship became Edmond Chinese International United Methodist Church
- b) Merged (§2545, 2546)?
- (1) United Methodist with United Methodist
- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Name of 1st church | Name of 2nd church | Name of merged church |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
- (2) Other mergers
- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Name of 1st church | Name of 2nd church | Name of merged church |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
- c) Discontinued or abandoned (§228, 332.2, 2548)? (State which for each church listed.)
- Discontinued: Criner - effective 5/31/04 (Ardmore District)
- Abandoned: Leon - effective 5/31/04 (Ardmore District - has been closed for many years, but was declared abandoned at this Annual Conference.)
- Abandoned: Shady Grove - effective 5/31/04 (Ardmore District - has been closed for many years, but was declared abandoned at this Annual Conference.)
- Abandoned: Wewoka Park - effective 5/31/04 (McAlester District)
- d) Relocated and to what address?
- Nueva Esperanza relocated to: 748 N Louisville, Tulsa OK 74115
- Edmond, New Covenant relocated to: 2700 S Boulevard, Edmond OK 73013
- e) Changed name of church?
- Collinsville First UMC changed to Collinsville, Meadowcreek
- Britton New Fellowship became Hope Community United Methodist Fellowship
- f) Transferred this year into this conference from other United Methodist conference(s) and with what membership (§39, 260)?
- | | | |
|------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name | Membership | Conference from which transferred |
|------|------------|-----------------------------------|
- g) What other changes have taken place in the list of churches?
- Durant, Assistant - position closed.

16. What changes have been made in district and charge lines?

District Lines:

Mountain View UMC moved from Clinton District to Lawton District

Mounds UMC moved from Stillwater District to Muskogee District

Charge Lines:

Ardmore District:

Elmore City (one-point charge) became Elmore City/Redemption (two-point charge) effective 1/1/04

Lindsay/Criner (two-point charge) is now Lindsay (one-point charge) and Criner (Discontinued)

Stratford/Fitzhugh (two-point charge) is now Stratford and Fitzhugh (one-point charges)

Wynnewood and Springer (one-point charges) are now Wynnewood/Springer (two-point charge)

Bartlesville District:

Welch/Afton (two point charge) became Welch and Afton (one-point charges) effective 1/1/04

Clinton District:

Mountain View/Cloud Chief (two-point charge) is now Carnegie/Mountain View (two-point charge) effective 6/1/04

Cloud Chief became a one-point charge effective 6/1/04

Altus, Grace (one point charge) became Altus, Grace/Blair (two point charge) effective 6/1/04

Calumet (one point charge) became Calumet/Red Rock (two point charge) effective 1/1/04

Lone Wolf/Blair (two point charge) became Lone Wolf/Granite (two point charge) effective 6/1/04

Mangum (one point charge) became Mangum/Carter (two point charge) effective 6/1/04

Willow became a one point part time charge effective 6/1/04

Enid District:

Covington/Billings (two-point charge) became Covington and Billings, two one-point charges

Lucien and Covington (two one-point charges) became Lucien/Covington (two-point charge)

Billings became a one-point charge

Lawton District:

Wesley Chapel and Indianhoma (two one-point charges) became a two-point charge

Carnegie First (one-point charge) and Mountain View (two-point charge with Cloud Chief in the Clinton District) became a two-point charge

Waurika First and Temple First (one-point charges) became a two-point charge