

2007 Journal

Oklahoma Annual Conference



Disciples:

Called to Serve, Set Apart in Truth, Sent in Love

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

SECTION E

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
The Fortieth Session of
The Oklahoma Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
May 27 – May 31, 2007

FIRST DAY – SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2007

Under the leadership of Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr., the 2007 Oklahoma Annual Conference began with an opening worship celebration at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. The pre-worship concert was performed by the Africa University Choir, and the sermon was given by Bishop Gregory Palmer.

Following the worship service, a reception honored Bishop and Mrs. Robert Hayes and Bishop and Mrs. Gregory Palmer.

SECOND DAY – MONDAY, MAY 28, 2007

Executive Sessions – 8:30 a.m.

Lay members met in St. Luke's Christian Life Center, while clergy members met in St. Luke's Sanctuary. The report of the Board of Ordained Ministry was presented and approved at the clergy session. (See Section F-The Business of the Annual Conference.)

Memorial Worship and Holy Communion – 10:30 a.m.

With Bishop Hayes presiding, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was shared, and the Memorial Service celebrated the lives of clergy and their spouses who died during the past year. Bishop Palmer preached the sermon, titled "Never Alone." The anthem was performed by the Africa University Choir. (See Section J-Record of Remembrance)

General Session – 2 p.m.

Bishop Hayes opened the session, at the Freede Center, Oklahoma City University, with the introduction of Allen Johnson, son of North OKC District Superintendent Frankye Johnson. Allen Johnson led the congregational singing of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior." Piano accompaniment was by Sandra Thomsson.

Craig Stinson nominated Joe Harris as conference secretary. The motion was approved.

Organization of the Annual Conference – Secretary Harris made the following motions, and they were adopted.

1. That the printed program shall be the official program of the 2007 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 of the Freede Center, including the stage area, 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 the 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 elected as assistant secretaries: Jan Polson, Chuck Rettig, Tony Caro, Larry Gaston, Karen Clewell, and Ricky Huggins; and Amanda Lockwood as alternate.

Bishop Hayes extended his welcome and thanks to Bishop Gregory and Cynthia Palmer for their presence at the conference.

Episcopal Address—Bishop Hayes gave the Episcopal Address. (See Episcopal Address in Section H-Reports.)

Lay Address—Judy Benson, Oklahoma Conference lay leader, presented a video highlighting the accomplishments of 100 years of Methodism in Oklahoma, including the impact of ministry in the state’s development. In 2007, the state’s centennial year, United Methodist churches number 543 and congregations are more than 240,000 members strong. Benson read “Being a Methodist in 1907,” written by historian Ted Agnew of Stillwater shortly before his death earlier this year. Benson noted the culture has changed since 1907, but the fundamental values of the faith have not. She challenged members of the conference to work toward God’s vision for all people.

Strategic Plan Report—Benson introduced a thought-provoking video of street interviews asking people their opinions about Jesus Christ and the Church. The denomination’s mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Local churches are the most significant areas where that occurs, Benson emphasized. After a year of “holy conferencing” by Oklahoma United Methodists, a visioning project launched at the 2006 Annual Conference, four core themes emerged. Benson listed them:

1. How do we relate to our community?
2. How do we relate to one another?
3. How do we help people relate to God?
4. How do we serve God’s mission?

B. Craig Stinson reported the “holy conferencing” results and ongoing planning by the visioning team. He encouraged congregations to report future conferencing sessions and described ministry audit plans for Conference ministries. On behalf of the visioning team, Stinson asked individuals and groups to read and study “Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit,” by Lovett Weems. In Fall 2007, Weems will speak twice in Oklahoma. The team also asked churches to pray for one another and for the Oklahoma Conference.

Standing Rules Report—Herschel Beard presented the Standing Rules and read the recommended changes. He moved acceptance of the changes by the conference. They were approved. (See Standing Rules-Section K). The entire report, including minor editorial changes, was also adopted.

Ballot No. 1—The first vote was taken to elect clergy and lay delegates to General Conference. Handheld, wireless electronic machines were used for the balloting.

Board of Ordained Ministry—Grayson Lucky announced the number of clergy being ordained or commissioned as elders and deacons. Greg Tener introduced those being commissioned or ordained as elders and a new associate member. Suzanne Davis introduced those being commissioned or ordained as deacons. (See Certification of Ordination, page 196).

The United Methodist Foundation—Allen Evans, chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees, announced assets totaling almost \$177 million and reported the Foundation distributed \$12.5 million for mission ministry. He thanked John Crooch, recently retired,

for his years of service as president of the Foundation and also welcomed Bill Junk as new president. Evans encouraged delegates to read the Woodworth Estate report. President Junk presented the Jim Egan Legacy Award to Elliott and Lu Fenton. Evans introduced the amended Certificate of Incorporation, and it was approved. (See Resolutions-Section I)

After general announcements, a media presentation spotlighted Conference apportionments. The new DVD was introduced by Bishop Hayes. The resource was created by the Conference Department of Communications and made available to each local church. Its purpose is to help educate United Methodists about the ministry of the Apportionment within Oklahoma and around the world.

The session closed with the singing of a hymn.

Commissioning Service – 7 p.m.

Bishop Gregory Palmer was guest preacher for the commissioning service, at St. Luke's UMC. Afterward, a reception honored all those newly commissioned.

THIRD DAY – TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007

Service of Word and Table in the Taize style – 7 a.m.

Kathy Leithner, Jeni Markham-Clewell, Janice Meese, Lisa Wiens

Morning Devotion – 8 a.m.

Homily: Dub Ambrose

Session – 8:30 a.m.

Ballot report—Bishop Hayes declared Ballot No. 1 was invalid due to human error and technical error. A new vote was taken for Ballot No. 1.

Pension and Health Benefits—Bob Long presented the report and a video highlighting the Conference benefit programs. Long applauded the work of Brian Bakeman, Conference Benefits officer; Tiara Dalton, director of Pensions; Jan Tofani, director of Healthcare Benefits; and Conference liason Paula Whitbeck.

Mouzon Biggs Jr. reported on the Pension plan, including changes. Biggs moved for adoption of the report, with the addition of “7 D. Add 3.5 years of service for Frankye Anthea Johnson, which she earned between 01/01/92 through 05/31/95.” (See Section H-Reports.) It was approved.

Long announced a 2 percent increase in healthcare premiums for participants who earn more than \$30,000 per year, and no increase for participants who earn less than \$30,000.

He presented the following recommendations for approval:

1. Rates;
2. Continuation of Cafeteria Plan;
3. Continuation for Health Reimbursement Arrangement; and
4. Health Insurance Plan.

They were approved.

Mona Mae Waymire gave credit to the Health Insurance Committee for providing an improved group health plan. She expressed excitement about the new Wellness plan for the Conference and urged people to undergo regular health screenings and practice good health habits. She encouraged delegates to participate in the Walk for Health and Wholeness on Tuesday afternoon of the conference.

Treasurer's Report—Brian Bakeman presented the report. (See Section H-Reports) Bakeman expressed his appreciation to the Treasurer's Office staff for their help during his first year as treasurer. He also thanked the former treasurer, Jo Ann McNaught, for her help in the transition. He announced that the Oklahoma Conference has the highest percentage of paid Apportionments in the South Central Jurisdiction (15 annual conferences).

Annual Conference Council—Sarah Hardimon, co-chair, greeted the delegates on behalf of the Annual Conference Council. She commended the connectional ministries under the ACC umbrella who do great work in disciple-making.

Robert Younts, co-chair, listed the audit criteria for every ministry's evaluation:

- Mission and vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ;
- Connection to local church;
- Conference-wide impact;
- Faithfulness and fruit;
- Inclusiveness; and
- Sound stewardship.

Mission and Service Ministry Team—Conference Mission Secretary Darrell Cates emphasized the dual purpose of the conference offering, supporting Africa University and Nothing But Nets, and encouraged continuing support for both. Cates introduced a video highlighting the Nothing But Nets campaign. Malaria, spread by mosquitoes, kills more than 1 million people each year in Africa; 75 percent of them are children. The campaign seeks to provide insecticide-repellent sleeping nets to families. Find online information at www.nothingbutnets.net. Dee Hayes and Brenda McDaniel presented their donations to the week's offering.

Cates announced a total of 54 churches received the Five-Star Church Award for mission outreach. He urged more churches to strive to become Five-Star honorees.

Volunteers In Mission—Director Jeremy Basset introduced the VIM staff and thanked them for their work. He announced the VIM organization is financially sound and has recruited more volunteers. He encouraged more Oklahoma congregations to participate and noted VIM is connected with missions around the world.

VIM has been in partnership with Methodists in Bolivia for more than 20 years, he said, sending 62 teams--more than 900 United Methodists--to serve there. Bishop Hayes soon will travel to Bolivia to renew the partnership. Bolivia is celebrating 100 years of Methodism this year.

Oklahoma VIM's second-longest partnership is with Manos Juntas Mexico in Rio Bravo. United Methodist Missionary Marsha Alexander, the program's director, reported the medical missions are expanding. Twenty-nine medical teams treated 5,252 patients in the most recent year. Plans include hiring a Mexican doctor for the clinic. Reporting on construction missions, 99 teams have built 164 casitas. Bigger casitas, with sleeping lofts, are now being built. One of the newest construction projects is a community play park adjoining the Manos Juntas Mexico complex. Another mission effort collected 174 bicycles for area children. Manos Juntas Mexico provided health kits, bedding kits, and medicine to residents after a major flood and blankets after temperatures dropped below freezing. Oklahoma VIM leaders have been invited to speak at the Eastern Conference of the Mexican Methodist Church.

Coordinator Mary Beth Foye spoke of the growing ministry of VIM Disaster Response. A total of 10 Disaster Early Response Team (DERT) training sessions had been conducted, and seven DERT teams had formed within Oklahoma Conference. A Care Ministry Team and Medical Ministry Team were established. Foye restated the goal to set up a DERT team and stock a DERT supply trailer in each district.

Basset presented the 2007 VIM Warm Hart Award to Darrell Cates.

Retirement Service – 10:45 a.m.

The retirement service was directed by Bill Moorer, with Bishop Hayes leading the Litany of Thanksgiving and Passing of the Mantle. Ginger Howl directed the Clergy/Spouse Retiree Choir.

Session – 2 p.m.

Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (CJAMM)—Stan Basler introduced a series of speakers, inmates and people formerly incarcerated, who talked about their love of God and their life-changing experiences through CJAMM, Redemption Churches, and Exodus Houses.

Dr. Basler expressed thanks to his assistant director, Lesa Rhoads, for her work.

Basler presented the Resolution in Support of Removing the Governor of Oklahoma from the Parole Process. (See Resolutions-Section I.) It was approved.

He presented the Resolution to the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church—Admission into the Church Exhibit A—Section No. 222 Non-Local Church Settings. (See Resolutions-Section I.) It was approved.

Ballot report—Results of Clergy Ballot No. 1 were: total ballots cast, 278; number of valid ballots, 242; invalid ballots, 36; number needed for election, 122. Robert Long was elected, with 128 votes.

Results of Laity Ballot No. 1 were: total ballots cast, 410; number of valid ballots, 345; invalid ballots, 65; number needed for election, 174. Judy Benson was elected, with 227 votes.

Ballot No. 2 was taken for clergy and laity.

Introduction of legislation not in the packets—Craig Stinson introduced changes to the Nominations Report, the Oklahoma Methodist Manor report, a resolution from the Commission on Archives and History, and a resolution for discontinuance of the Maud church. These items were accepted.

Circle of Care—Lissa Wright, new chairperson of the Circle of Care Board of Directors, introduced Merle Griffith, president of United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA). Dr. Griffith honored Tulsa-Asbury UMC as the UMA Local Congregation Partner of the Year. He presented a plaque to Asbury Senior Pastor Tom Harrison.

Don Baston presented delegates with prayer-bead keychains, gifts made and passed out by the children who are served by CoC agencies.

Mark Howard, director of CoC Boy's Ranch, spoke about recent storm damage to the ranch's landscaping and structures. He encouraged planting trees and, symbolically, United Methodists planting for the future.

Deidre Self, a participant in the CoC Independent Living Program, said CoC support has enabled her to enroll in college. She introduced David Beal, a member of the CoC Board of Directors and former resident of CoC Children's Home in Tahlequah. He spoke about graduating from high school with nowhere to go because support programs for at-risk youths concluded at that point. Because of his experience, Beal helped establish the Independent Living Program, to help youth transition from high school into college and society.

Foster parent Audre'e Reutlinger spoke. In her 50s, she was disheartened and discouraged with her life. She went to church and experienced God's transforming love. She turned her life around and made the decision to become a foster parent. She told of the blessings she has received by being a foster parent to more than 25 children, and she also became an adoptive parent. CoC Child S.H.A.R.E. has provided the emotional support and supplies needed to provide for her to provide a loving home for the children.

President/CEO Batson thanked the Conference for fully supporting the CoC Apportionment, which allows the ministry to serve "at-promise" children and youths.

Oklahoma City University—Maggie Ball, OCU vice president of University/Church Relations and an OCU alumna, reported Oklahoma City University receives more support from its annual conference than any of the 123 United Methodist Universities.

Joel Durham, a graduating OCU senior whose degree is in World Religions, spoke about his college experiences. Angie Ward, a senior Religion student, also spoke. She recently became youth minister at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. They thanked the Conference for its support.

OCU President Tom McDaniel also thanked the Conference for supporting the university. He announced the dedication of the Wanda L. Bass Music Center and updated delegates on other campus construction projects. He invited delegates to attend the free barbecue meal served by OCU for them during the Annual Conference. He said representatives from the OCU Performing Arts School promoted the state's Centennial Celebration by participating in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day 2007.

Saint Paul School of Theology—President Myron McCoy shared some of the history of that United Methodist seminary in Kansas City. He emphasized the importance of providing theological education in more areas of the country. He introduced a video presentation about establishing an extension of Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University. The goal is to offer a fully developed program within five years. McDaniel thanked the seminary and Conference for bringing to fruition the dream of a seminary education at OCU.

Project Transformation—Brooke Glass, director, explained the summertime Project Transformation program. A major component is one-on-one reading time between volunteers and the elementary-age children enrolled in the eight-week program. Ashleigh Sorrell, assistant director, talked about the 50 college interns who complete 450 hours of training by serving in the program during their summer vacations.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 2 were: total ballots cast, 390; number of valid ballots, 336; invalid ballots, 54; number needed for election, 169. Frank Denney was elected with 179 votes, and Bill Junk was elected with 172 votes.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 2 were: total ballots cast, 276; number of valid ballots, 250; invalid ballots, 26; number needed for election, 126. Guy Ames III was elected with 276 votes, Brian Bakeman was elected with 145 votes, Margaret Ball was elected with 144 votes, Linda Harker was elected with 137 votes, Frankye Johnson was elected with 137 votes, and Darrell Cates was elected with 127 votes.

Ballot No. 3 was taken for clergy and laity.

Pre-Worship Concert – 7 p.m.
Oklahoma Conference Youth Choir

Service of Worship – 7:30 p.m.
Led by Oklahoma Conference Youth Members

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2007
Service of Word and Table for Healing - 7 a.m.

Greg Tolle, Janice Meese, Judith Eichling, Margo Vestal

Morning Devotion – 8 a.m.

Homily: Victor McCullough

Session – 8:30 a.m.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 3 were: total ballots cast, 412; number of valid ballots, 355; invalid ballots, 57; number needed for election, 179. No one was elected.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 3 were: total ballots cast, 293; number of valid ballots, 260; invalid ballots, 33; number needed for election, 131. No one was elected.

Ballot No. 4 was taken for clergy and laity.

Cookson Hills—Meri Whitaker introduced volunteers from Cookson Hills Center. The mission site's theme this year is "Sew What." Bishop Hayes was presented with a shirt imprinted with the words "Bishop, Sew What?" A new cottage industry at the center has been launched. Using a commercial embroidery machine, workers sew logos on clothing items for churches, schools, and other groups. The program raises funds and provides jobs. Rev. Whitaker said a second machine will be needed due to the growth of the business. She said the center is fighting poverty by helping area residents find employment. Another new program started with the help of Oklahoma United Methodist Women. Called "Pack-N-Snack," it provides food to children on weekends during the school year.

Bishop Hayes thanked Whitaker for her 20 years of service at Cookson Hills Center.

Chemical Dependency Ministries—Annette Harper, director, introduced an educational video on the symptoms and problems associated with the disease of chemical dependency. Chemical Dependency Ministries seeks to educate and train clergy and laity to recognize and minister to people with this disease. Harper encouraged local churches to participate in the many programs offered, including Faith Partners. She announced the June 2007 sessions of the annual Summer School on Chemical Dependency, at OCU. Chemical Dependency Ministries is celebrating its 25th year in Oklahoma. In recognition of that milestone, the ministry provided free bottled water and free chair massages to delegates.

Skyline Urban Ministry—Dale Tremper, director, introduced a new video about this Conference outreach to low-income and homeless people in Oklahoma City. Among its program, "Clothes for Kids" provides new clothes to 1,500 children at the beginning of the school year. "Jets" is an after-school program that also serves children. Skyline also hosts a feeding program for senior citizens and operates a food pantry and an eye clinic. Skyline staff and volunteers coordinate a Saturday night community worship service and free meal. Rev. Tremper also reported on Restore Hope, a similar Conference ministry in Tulsa. Tremper also described his vision to certify the Saturday worship community as a missional church, to extend the goal of making disciples.

Church & Society—Allen Buck reported the group made large strides during the 2006-07 year toward the goal of making disciples for Christ. Church & Society hosted a fall retreat, where more than 170 people studied social justice, the *UM Social Principles*, and ways to be difference-makers in the world. Rev. Buck encouraged local congregations to hold study sessions on the *Social Principles*. He announced more information on the Web site www.okumcs.org.

Roger Parker spoke on the work of the Peace With Justice Task Force, a C&S subcommittee. The task force sponsored two recent events at OCU. The group urges more local churches to observe Peace With Justice Sunday, which includes a special offering.

Denny Hook, with the Environmental Coalition, spoke about global warming and increased levels of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere. He encouraged people to practice living simply.

Greetings from Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC)—David Wilson, OIMC Conference superintendent, shared greetings from the 89 churches of that annual conference. OIMC leaders plan to advocate for the reappointment of Bishop Hayes during the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference. Rev. Wilson talked about the OIMC-Oklahoma Conference joint effort to create a new OIMC fellowship at Glenpool. He announced OIMC is working with the Woodworth Estate committee toward the goal of increasing OIMC clergy salaries. A \$50,000 endowment fund is planned. Wilson also thanked Bishop Hayes for help securing free education for Native American students at Saint Paul School of Theology at OCU.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 4 were: total ballots cast, 394; number of valid ballots, 342; invalid ballots, 52; number needed for election, 172. Donna Roberts was elected with 181 votes, and Bob Anthony was elected with 177 votes.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 4 were: total ballots cast, 259; number of valid ballots, 228; invalid ballots, 31; number needed for election, 115. No one was elected.

Ballot No. 5 was taken for clergy and laity.

Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI)—David Burris reported on behalf of Socorro de Anda, institute president. Lydia Patterson Institute served 450 students in 2006-07, with 81 seniors. Scholarships totaling \$1.3 million dollars were awarded to them by United Methodist schools nationwide. Of all LIP graduates, 95 percent attend college.

Board of Ordained Ministry—Grayson Lucky announced two changes to the report. Greg Tener moved that Bisby Wierick be granted Honorable Location. It was approved. Rev. Tener also moved that Brian Anderson be granted Honorable Location. It was approved.

Session – 10:45 a.m.

Discipleship Ministry Team—Bob Pierson, chairman, presented the report. (See Reports-Section H.) Ministries “in support” and “on behalf” of local churches comprise the work of this team. Leaders pledged to help the Conference develop “Disciples Called to Serve, Set Apart in Truth, and Sent in Love.”

Mark McAdow presented the Harry Denman Evangelism Award to lay member Sharon Bycroft, a member of OKC-Epworth UMC and to clergy member Randy Hamill, pastor of Grove UMC.

Mary Lue Eastmond emphasized the importance of children's ministry. She introduced Tim Bodenstein, chairman of the CAN DO (Children's Action Network Dream Organizers) Committee. Bodenstein presented CAN DO awards to: OKC-Quail Springs, for large-church children's ministry; OKC-Nichols Hills, medium-church ministry; and Enid-Christ UMC, small-church ministry. Special recognition also went to Kremlin Community UMC.

Camp and Retreat Ministries—Randy McGuire, director, quoted radio personality/author Garrison Keillor, who said Methodists “love to sing, expect miracles, provide friendship, and give comfort to those in need.” Rev. McGuire introduced a video that highlighted the “Lighting the Way, Warming the Heart” capital campaign. The campaign will fund new lodges at Camp Egan and Crosspoint Camp and a new dining hall/welcome center at Canyon Camp. McGuire announced the campaign was one-third complete as of the annual conference week, and the goal is \$4 million.

A children's campaign was also under way to help with the fund drive. Young Brianna Tobey initiated the Peace by Piece project. Each child at summer camp will make a quilt block and volunteers with sewing skills will piece together the blocks to make quilts. The quilts will be auctioned, and the proceeds will go toward the "Lighting the Way, Warming the Heart" campaign.

McGuire reported 72 percent of Oklahoma Conference churches use the camp facilities, and 42 percent of camp usage is by people other than United Methodists.

Ed Coy Light highlighted changes at the camps in the past year, including a bridge at Crosspoint and a new challenge added to the ropes course. He noted a new item in the proposed 2008 Camps budget: \$20,000 to pay 100 percent of the health insurance premiums for full-time lay employees. (See Reports-Section H.)

McGuire thanked Conference staff who help with camps and introduced members of the Camps staff.

Youth Ministries—Ryan George, who co-chairs the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, reported on the year's many activities, including St. Yootz Day. The UN/DC Seminar participants studied on "Abuse: It's more than physical." Co-chair Brian Wilkes announced upcoming events, including the next UN/DC Seminar in 2009.

Diana Northcutt, director of Local Church Youth Ministry, reported plans for the year-long Youth Worker's Academy. She also spoke about youth members' commitment to Nothing But Nets. On behalf of the youth members, she thanked the bishop and annual conference planners for the opportunity to present a youth-led worship service during the week of Annual Conference. (See Reports-Section H.)

Ballot report—Bishop Hayes expressed concern about the number of invalid ballots. Election officials agreed to post the numerical list of keypad machines indicating malfunctions and to continue to improve the balloting process. It was moved that these issues be resolved before the next ballot. The motion was approved.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 5 were: total ballots cast, 280; number of valid ballots, 245; invalid ballots, 35; number needed for election, 124. Mouzon Biggs Jr. was elected with 133 votes, and Joseph Harris was elected with 133 votes.

Results of Laity Ballot No. 5 were: total ballots cast, 412; number of valid ballots, 353; invalid ballots, 59; number needed for election, 178. No one was elected.

Session – 2 p.m.

Africa University Choir opened the session with the song "Trading My Sorrows."

Ballot No. 6 for clergy and laity was taken.

Campus Ministry—Bob Pierson reported 17 UM campus ministries operate in Oklahoma. Brad Humphrey thanked the Conference for supporting the apportionments that undergird those ministries. He introduced Sigrid Krause, who co-chairs the Standing Committee on Campus Ministry. She presented a scholarship merit award to Stephen Zeigler. The Standing Committee Award was presented to Brittney Taylor. The Francis Asbury Award was presented to Judy Nelson.

Trevor Smith spoke about the importance of campus ministry in making a significant difference in the lives of college students. He urged local churches to help their student members stay connected by introducing them to the campus ministry network.

Rev. Humphrey recognized Ann Browning, Campus Ministry administrative assistant at the Conference office. Humphrey introduced Katie Brown, campus minister at Panhandle State University. Rev. Brown told her story of growing up Methodist. As a college student, she participated in the campus ministry at East Central University, where D.A. Bennett helped her realize her call to ministry. She said her goal is to help students hear God's voice.

Humphrey also introduced Michael Bartley, who spoke on how disciple-making is carried out in campus ministries. Humphrey urged the conference to pray for these ministries.

Ballot report—Results of Clergy Ballot No. 6 were: total ballots cast, 255; number of valid ballots, 231; invalid ballots, 24; number needed for election, 117. No one was elected.

Results of Laity Ballot No. 6 were: total ballots cast, 402; number of valid ballots, 356; invalid ballots, 46; number needed for election, 178. Harold Wright was elected with 181 votes.

Ballot No. 7 was taken for clergy and laity.

United Methodist Men—Rob Walton presented the Bishop's Award of Excellence to Boy Scout Troop 88 of Claremore. Walton reported UMM membership is up by 281. He described two UMM projects. One is a hunger initiative. Another, in partnership with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and CJAMM, is Amechi, which ministers to children whose parents are incarcerated. The annual men's retreat was set for Aug. 17-19 at Canyon Camp. Walton presented Bishop Hayes with the John Wesley Fellowship Award.

Young Adult Council—Co-chairs Nathan Mattox and Sarah Nichols spoke of the importance of this new council. Mattox described the dynamics of the group and the plans to send an Oklahoma delegation to a Young Adult conference in Nashville. Council members hope the delegation will provide valuable perspective for the new council. A jurisdictional meeting called The Gathering was held recently. Think Tank/Dream Team groups now meet on a consistent basis.

Older Adult Council—David Thomas spoke of the importance of remembering the older adults within the Church. This council, a 3-year-old ministry, focuses on five areas. (See Reports-Section H.) Rev. Thomas commended the Sulphur church for its accommodation for those who are elderly or disabled, including a Sunday morning valet program.

Academy for Spiritual Formation—Ginger Howl described spiritual formation as essential in the life of the Church. She announced a Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation is scheduled for Nov 9-14, 2008.

Archives and History—Charles Watson gave the report for Joy Ansley. (See Reports-Section H.) OIMC has designated the Archives/Special Collection Department at OCU as that conference's depository.

Rev. Watson presented the Resolution to Host 2011 Annual Meeting of the National United Methodist Historical Society and the National Commission on Archives and History. (See Resolutions-Section I.) It was approved.

Watson also told about the dedicated work of Christina Wolf, Conference archivist.

Ballot report—Results of Clergy Ballot No. 7 were: total ballots cast, 281; number of valid ballots, 253; invalid ballots, 28; number needed for election, 128. Jessica Moffatt Seay was elected with 137 votes. This ended General Conference balloting for clergy.

Results of Laity Ballot No. 7 were: total ballots cast, 423; number of valid ballots, 374; invalid ballots, 49; number needed for election, 188. Herschel Beard was elected with 199 votes.

General Conference Ballot No. 8 for laity was taken.

Jurisdictional Conference Ballot No. 1 for clergy was taken.

Africa University—Jim Sallee expressed appreciation to Dee Hayes and Joe Harris for hosting the choir. He acknowledged the support of Tal Oden and Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker. Africa University, established in 1992, has 2,486 graduates and a current enrollment of 1,300 students. The campus encompasses 32 buildings. An audit this year was fully favorable, and the university reported no debt.

Elaine, a student from South Africa, said the AU education has changed her life. She plans to work as an educator in her home country after graduation. Another speaker, a third-year student from Zimbabwe, said he developed a deep love for God when he began attending AU. He plans to use his degree in agriculture to help feed his community.

Sallee challenged the Oklahoma Conference to pay 100 percent of its AU apportionment. He and the other speakers thanked the Conference for giving students hope for the future through access to higher education.

Ministerial Recruitment—Jack Terrell-Wilkes reported 88 students enrolled in seminaries and 50 listed as certified candidates for ministry. Rev. Terrell-Wilkes encouraged all church members to form supportive connections with these students.

Conference Board of Trustees—Kurt Glassco introduced the board's secretary, Joel Betow, who submitted the report for acceptance (See Reports-Section H.) It was approved.

Keith Cressman announced the board will continue to work toward the incorporation of the Oklahoma Annual Conference.

Charlie Hull recognized officials with Cole, Paine, and Carlin Insurance, the property insurance provider for the Conference. He encouraged all churches to join UMPACT.

Rev. Glassco presented the Resolution for Discontinuance and Abandonment of the Afton UMC for approval. (See Resolutions-Section I.) It was approved.

Glassco presented the Resolution for Discontinuance and Abandonment of the Picher UMC for approval. (See Resolutions-Section I.) It was approved.

Glassco presented the Resolution for Discontinuance and Abandonment of the Maud UMC for approval, with the change that Maud is in Pottawatomie County. (See Resolutions-Section I.) It was approved.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 8 were: total ballots cast, 403; number of valid ballots, 360; invalid ballots, 43; number needed for election, 181. Sarah Malloy-Nichols was elected with 193 votes, and Tom Junk was elected with 187 votes.

Results of Jurisdictional Clergy Ballot No. 1 were: total ballots cast, 262; number of valid ballots, 233; invalid ballots, 29; number needed for election, 118. Tom Harrison was elected with 128 votes.

Ballot No. 2 for clergy was taken.

Ballot No. 9 for laity was taken.

A motion was made to post the results of the most recent balloting, with the names and numbers of those elected. It was approved.

Department of Congregational Development—David Burris noted the department strives to be a resource for local churches in their growth development, in facilitating new church starts, and in providing resources and programs for revitalization. (See Reports-Section H.)

Rev. Burris introduced Craig Stinson, who spoke about three churches. Two of the congregations have moved into new buildings and are averaging more than 300 in attendance on Sunday mornings. They are Edmond-Acts 2 and Tulsa-Abiding Harvest. The third, Norman-Bridgeview is averaging 150 in attendance each Sunday.

In Edmond, the Chinese International UMC reports successful growth and is planting another Chinese congregation in Norman.

Small Membership Church—Jim Hollifield introduced Joe Tilton from Carter UMC. Tilton told about that church's mentoring relationship with children in a Hispanic family. The project expanded to welcome the family into the church's life. Tilton told how the

church family rallied to search for Marina, one of those children, when she was reported missing. Church members found her body; she had been murdered. Marina's death stirred Tilton to develop "Marina Mentoring," a program available to any local church. Contact the Commission on the Small Membership Church for the resource. Tilton stressed the importance of local churches caring for all the children in their communities.

Hispanic Ministries—Tino Espinoza spoke of the committee's plan to strengthen its ministries. He listed three strategic initiatives:

1. Empowering laity and clergy through education;
2. Becoming an agent of change; and
3. Developing connections within the local churches, Conference, and community.

Rev. Espinoza thanked the Conference for enabling the committee to be effective. The Hispanic Ministries leaders introduced themselves and expressed their thanks for the opportunity to introduce Jesus in their communities. The committee is seeking to secure a national grant of \$50,000.

Commission on the Black Church—Nicole Benson gave the report and presented a plaque honoring Chester Phyffer for faithful service. Benson thanked the Conference for its support in raising funds for a Wesley Foundation building at Langston.

She introduced a video highlighting the colleges supported by The Black College Fund and encouraging local churches to contribute 100 percent of that apportionment item.

Racial Ethnic Coordinating Committee—Ernest Jackson Jr. presented the report. (See Reports-Section H.) Rev. Jackson said the high point of the committee's year was "The Pentecostal Presentation of Preaching and Praise," a diverse ethnic worship service held in early June 2006. The Second Annual Pentecostal Presentation of Preaching and Praise was set for 3 p.m. June 10, 2007, at OKC Hillcrest-Fuente De Vida.

A motion was made to suspend the balloting rule that requires the bishop to read aloud the names of people receiving fewer than 12 votes. It was approved.

Ballot report—Results of Clergy Ballot No. 2 were: total ballots cast, 234; number of valid ballots, 209; invalid ballots, 25; number needed for election, 106. Grayson Lucky was elected with 112 votes, Samuel Powers was elected with 111 votes, and R. Wade Paschal was elected with 109 votes.

Pre-Worship Concert - 7 p.m.

St. Luke's UMC Choir

Service of Ordination -7:30 p.m.

Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr.
Reception honoring Ordinands

Service of Word and Table for the World – 7 a.m.

Ron Perceful, Becky Brown, Janice Meese, Kay Buchanan,
Madill-First UMC liturgical dancers,
Africa University Choir

Morning Devotion - 8 a.m.

Homily: Perla Martinez-Goody

Session – 8:30 a.m.

Ballot report—Laity Ballot No. 9 was declared invalid due to technical error. Laity Ballot No. 9 was taken again. Clergy Ballot No. 3 was taken.

Leadership Development Ministry Team—Michael Fletcher-Taylor spoke of the number of important ministries under the Leadership Development umbrella.

Board of Laity—Judy Benson presented the report. (See Reports-Section H.) Various lay members highlighted the many opportunities available to laity in local churches.

Lay Speakers—Pat Parvin announced a total of 905 Lay Speakers in Oklahoma Conference. She also reported completion of a Conference directory of Lay Speakers. More information can be found on the Web site www.okumc.org/laity.

United Methodist Women—Donna Roberts, Conference UMW president, presented the report and introduced a related video. (See Reports-Section H.)

Religion and Race—Renee Hoover spoke of the commission's perspective on its mission of inclusiveness. (See Reports-Section H.) She announced the 2007 Human Relations Award recipient was Tino Espinoza. She greeted the delegates on behalf of the president and staff of the General Commission of Religion and Race, in Washington, D.C. Patrick McPherson summarized monitoring work at the annual conference; a final report will be made available at a later date. The commission supports the racial diversity of the Cabinet and the inclusion of youth members in annual conference worship leadership, and the group reaffirms the Oklahoma Conference/OIMC relationship. The group expressed concern about racial and ethnic diversity within the balloting.

Committee on the Status and Role of Women—Carole Minter expressed her joy in the 2006 events that celebrated the 50th anniversary of full clergy rights for women in the Methodist church. Barriers to equality still remain, she said. She affirmed COSROW's dedication to ministering to all women of the Conference.

Greetings from Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center—Sheri Altland gave the report. She introduced the Mount Sequoyah trustees who are members of the Oklahoma Conference. She reported more than 12,000 guests in 2006 at the Fayetteville, Ark., center and 47 meetings hosted there during the past 18 months. In 2004, the center reported 2,200 registered visitors and hosted four meetings. Altland thanked the VIM and Keenagaer teams who volunteer to work at the center.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 9 were: total ballots cast, 364; number of valid ballots, 334; invalid ballots, 30; number needed for election, 168. No one was elected.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 3 were: total ballots cast, 256; number of valid ballots, 229; invalid ballots, 27; number needed for election 116. Tino Espinoza was elected with 127 votes, and Robert Feist was elected with 117 votes.

Laity Ballot No. 10 was taken. Clergy Ballot No. 4 was taken. A motion was made to

reduce the time allowed per vote from 45 seconds to 30 seconds. It was approved.

Phillips Theological Seminary—President William Tabbernee announced the seminary in Tulsa is celebrating its centennial. Almost 40 percent of the students are United Methodist. He said he is grateful for the partnership and hopes it will continue.

Bishop Hayes extended greetings on behalf of Darrell Tate of the Louisiana Conference. Due to inclement weather, Tate was unable to travel to Oklahoma for the conference.

Committee on Nominations—Sanford Wylie Jr. presented the report, with various changes, for approval. (See Boards, Commissions-Section C.) It was approved.

Rev. Wylie urged churches to follow four steps crucial to the Conference nominations process.

1. The local church Committee on Lay Leadership identifies people who would be good Conference officers.

2. The local church affirms these people at its annual Charge Conference.

3. The church secretary enters these names in the Conference database and also forwards them to the District Committee on Nominations.

4. The District Committee on Nominations meets to bring forward names from that district to the Conference Nominating Committee.

Wylie also requested any changes be submitted by the end of March each year.

Equitable Compensation—Alan McIntyre presented the report, with changes. (See Reports-Section H.) He moved for approval of salary adjustments for 2008. Motion was approved.

He proposed a change in the Ministers' Moving Expense Fund. He proposed that pastors moving appointments but not residences receive a stipend of \$200. It was approved.

He read changes in Section V regarding vacations and days off. They were approved.

Jurisdictional Director of Mission and Administration—David Severe presented his report and announced the Conference contributed 97 percent toward that apportionment. (See Reports-Section H.)

United Methodist Publishing House Presentation—Julie Wise, manager of the Oklahoma City Cokesbury store, presented a \$12,227 check to the Oklahoma Conference Pension Fund. Bishop Hayes requested the money go to the Central Conference Pension Fund. Delegates approved.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 10 were: total ballots cast, 352; number of valid ballots, 311; invalid ballots, 41; number needed for election, 157. Tal Oden was elected with 194 votes. This ended the General Conference balloting for laity.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 4 were: total ballots cast, 273; number of valid ballots, 245; invalid ballots, 28; number needed for election, 124. James Kim was elected with 132 votes.

Speakers on the conference floor noted a lack of racial/ethnic diversity among laity elected to the General/Jurisdictional delegation and a lack of rural church representation among clergy elected to the delegation.

Laity Ballot No. 1 for Jurisdictional Conference was taken.

Clergy Ballot No. 5 was taken.

Oklahoma Federal Credit Union—Tim DeLise reported to delegates that OKFCU

is the primary credit union for Oklahoma United Methodists. He announced there are two United Methodists on the credit union's board. He explained individuals are eligible for credit union membership by being members of a United Methodist church and by working for the Oklahoma Conference or OCU.

Session – 10:40 a.m.

Department of Communications—Shari Goodwin presented the report. A partnership began in January between *Contact* and the *United Methodist Reporter* (UMR), providing Oklahoma United Methodists with expanded news coverage about the denomination. On behalf of the department and UMR Communications, Goodwin presented Bishop Hayes with a gift of the press plate used to print the cover of the first joint issue. It featured a photo of Bishop and Mrs. Hayes with Gov. Brad Henry.

The inaugural issue of *Contact the Magazine* was published in December; two issues are planned for 2007. The department produced a DVD highlighting 22 of the Apportionment ministries. The DVD was distributed in the delegate packets. A video was shown summarizing the work of the department. In cooperation with Bishop Hayes, the department is producing a devotional book that will be available beginning in September. Proceeds from sales of the book will fund scholarships for United Methodists. Communications has entered a mentoring role; OCU communications major Aloise McCullough is a new intern. Staff received three awards in 2006 from the United Methodist Association of Communicators.

Ballot report—Results of Clergy Ballot No. were: total ballots cast, 268; number of valid ballots, 250; invalid ballots, 18; number needed for election, 126. No one was elected.

Results of Laity Ballot No. 1 for Jurisdictional Conference were: total ballots cast, 333; number of valid ballots, 295; invalid ballots, 38; number needed for election, 149. Kent Fulton was elected with 154 votes, Paula Severe was elected with 151 votes, and Coleman White was elected with 151 votes.

Bishop Hayes encouraged the Conference to consider young people in the balloting. Clergy Ballot No. 6 was taken. Laity Ballot No. 2 was taken.

Statistician's Report—Bishop Hayes moved for adoption of the statistician's report. (See Reports-Section H.) It was approved.

Bishop Hayes announced the 2006 Annual Conference offerings collected about \$20,000 to help meet the expenses of that conference. The 2007 Annual Conference offerings are designated to be divided evenly between Africa University and Nothing But Nets. At this point in the week, more than \$77,191 has been collected, he reported.

Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A)—Chuck Dollarhide presented the report. CF&A recommends following the decimal plan and also authorizing the treasurer's office to adopt a unified budget for the Oklahoma Conference.

Rev. Dollarhide presented Item 3 for approval. It was approved.

He presented Item 4 for approval. It was approved.

He presented Item 6 for approval. It was approved.

He presented Item 7 for approval. It was approved.

He presented the entire report for approval. It was approved.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 2 were: total ballots cast, 355; number of valid ballots, 315; invalid ballots, 40; number needed for election, 159. Aubrey Wells was elected with 188 votes.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 6 were: total ballots cast, 275; number of valid ballots, 253; invalid ballots, 22; number needed for election, 128. David Burriss was elected with 152 votes, and Stan Basler was elected with 135 votes.

Clergy Ballot No. 7 was taken. Laity Ballot No. 3 was taken.

Episcopacy Committee—Fred Sordahl reported the episcopal leadership in the

Oklahoma Conference is outstanding. He commended Bishop and Mrs. Hayes for their support and guidance, and he thanked Bishop Hayes for his humor and enthusiastic leadership.

Introduction of Chaplains—The active and reserve chaplains under appointment introduced themselves and thanked the Conference for supporting them and U.S. troops. Rob Walton asked the Conference to support the UMM drive to provide the devotional book “Strength for Service” to all U.S. military personnel.

Pending legislation—On behalf of the Commission on Religion and Race, Renee Hoover presented for approval the Resolution to End the Usage of Native American People as Mascots. Delegates voted to amend the resolution by deleting the section: “sites such as Oyate.org are examples of Web sites that offer guidance in assessing cultural appropriateness.” (See Resolutions-Section I.) The amended resolution was approved.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 3 were: total ballots cast, 334; number of valid ballots, 295; invalid ballots, 39; number needed for election, 149. Carl Young was elected with 178 votes, Fred Sordahl was elected with 174 votes, Mona Mae Waymire was elected with 163 votes, Katie Mayes was elected with 160 votes, and Joanne Kurklin was elected with 149 votes.

A motion was made that the names of candidates receiving less than 50 votes would not be read aloud. It was approved.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 7 were: total ballots cast, 283; number of valid ballots, 255; invalid ballots, 28; number needed for election, 129. No one was elected.

Laity Ballot No. 4 was taken. Clergy Ballot No. 8 was taken.

Pending legislation continued—On behalf of Church and Society and the Peace With Justice Task Force, Roger Parker presented the Resolution on Torture.

An amendment was proposed to delete the words “including the government of the United States” and to change the wording within parentheses to read “or any party acting on behalf of those governments.” It was approved.

An amendment was proposed to insert the words “persons, political and religious authorities and organizations, and” between the words “all” and “governments” and also between the words “those” and “governments.” It was approved.

The amended resolution was presented for consideration. It was approved. (See Resolutions-Section I.)

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 4 were: total ballots cast, 348; number of valid ballots, 303; invalid ballots, 45; number needed for election, 153. No one was elected.

Results of Clergy Ballot No. 8 were: total ballots cast, 257; number of valid ballots, 243; invalid ballots, 14; number needed for election, 123. Patricia Malloy was elected with 127 votes. This ended the Jurisdictional Conference balloting for clergy.

A motion was made to elect as alternates the five nominees receiving the most votes on the next clergy ballot. It was approved.

A motion was made that, after the final laity Jurisdictional Conference ballot, the five nominees receiving the most votes on the next ballot be elected as alternates. It was approved.

Laity Ballot No. 5 was taken. Clergy Ballot for Alternate delegates was taken.

Pending legislation continued—Sam Powers presented the Resolution on Church Membership. (See Resolutions-Section I.) It was approved.

Nancy Van Antwerp presented the Resolution on Healthcare. (See Resolutions-Section

I.) It was approved.

Perla Martinez-Goody presented the Resolution in Support of Ministering to Immigrants and Marginalized Peoples. (See Resolutions-Section I.) It was approved.

Carl Compton presented the Resolution for Establishing a Federal Department of Peace and Nonviolence. It was not approved.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 5 were: total ballots cast, 286; number of valid ballots, 261; invalid ballots, 25; number needed for election, 132. No one was elected.

Results of the Clergy Ballot for Alternate delegates were: number of ballots cast, 240; number of valid ballots, 215; invalid ballots, 25; number needed for election, 0. D.A. Bennett was elected with 106 votes, Michael Chaffin was elected with 105 votes, Ray Crawford was elected with 96 votes, B. Craig Stinson was elected with 81 votes, and Twila Gibbens-Rickman was elected with 78 votes. This ended the clergy balloting.

Laity Ballot No. 6 was taken.

Craig Stinson made the motion to receive printed reports. It was approved.

Courtesies and Resolutions Committee—Summary report was presented. (See Reports-Section H.)

Invitation to Annual Conference Site 2008—Mouzon Biggs Jr. invited the conference to meet at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa.

Ballot report—Results of Laity Ballot No. 6 were: total ballots cast, 297; number of valid ballots, 256; invalid ballots, 41; number needed for election, 129. Mary Ann Smith was elected with 165 votes. This ended the Jurisdictional Conference balloting for laity.

Laity Ballot for Alternate delegates was taken.

Journal report—Pam Shirk reported the *Journal* Committee read the minutes for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and recommended their approval as amended. The committee further recommended the annual conference secretary and staff be empowered to read, correct, and approve the minutes for Thursday's session.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. It was approved.

Service of Sending Forth—The service was led by Sungsu Hwang, Marsha Purtell, David Player, Sharon Capron, and George Gilland. Bishop Hayes delivered the message.

Reading of Appointments—Bishop Hayes introduced the Cabinet members as they read the church appointment changes in their districts. (See Appointments-Section G.)

Ballot report—Results of the Laity Ballot for Alternate delegates were: total ballots cast, 262; number of valid ballots, 235; invalid ballots, 27; number of votes needed, 0. Sam Aguirre was elected with 143 votes, Janet Boone was elected with 121 votes, Kristin Terrell-Wilkes was elected with 103 votes, Myrtle Clingenpeel was elected with 86 votes, and Gloria Jean Fenn was elected with 67 votes. This ended the laity balloting.

The 2007 Annual Conference was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on the 28th day of May, 2007, I commissioned, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Deacons: Julie Diane Conrady, Thomas K. Howard, Harriette Leigh Kemp.

This is to certify that in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on the 28th day of May, 2007, I commissioned, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Elders: Derrek Don Belase, D. Taud Boatman, Pamela P. Cottrill, Elizabeth Renee Horton, Kathy Ann Morris, Wendi Neal, Rachel Anne Parrott, Jennifer Roush Pasco, Mark T. Whitley.

This is to certify that in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on the 28th day of May, 2007, I recognized Marvin Stuckey as an Associate Member of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church.

On the 30th day of May, 2007, I ordained, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Deacons: Todd Miller Craig, Beverly Renee Alford Powell, Donald Mark Vaught.

On the 30th day of May, 2007, I ordained, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church, the following Elders: Lisa Renee Beavers, Glenda Kay Bean Buchanan, Charles "Allen" Carson, Sr., Wendy Mae Lambert, Brian Lee Matthews, Amy Venable.



A Bishop of The United Methodist Church

OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

The foregoing proceedings, with reports herein published, were adopted by the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church at its fortieth Annual Session, held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 27-31, 2007, as the official record, and we hereby certify that they are correct.



A Bishop of The United Methodist Church



Secretary of the Annual Conference