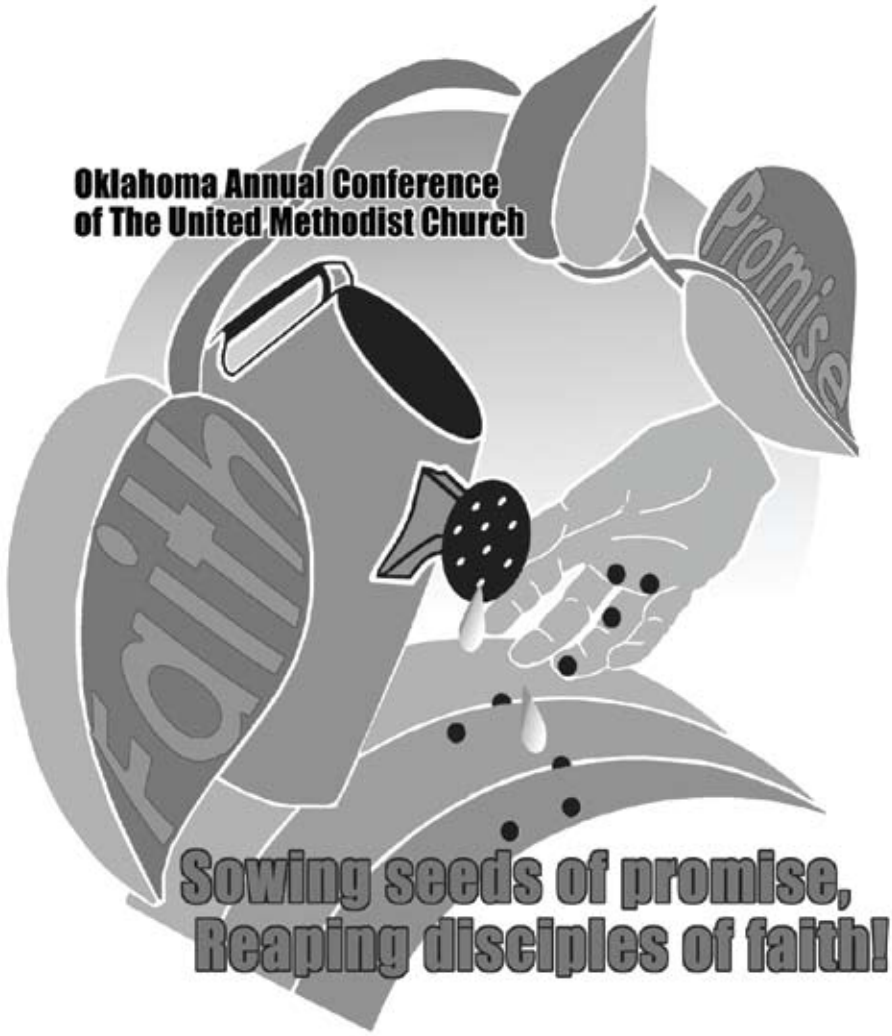


2008 Journal

Oklahoma Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church



**Sowing seeds of promise,
Reaping disciples of faith!**

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

SECTION E

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
The Forty-First Session of
The Oklahoma Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church
May 25-May 29, 2008

FIRST DAY – SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

Under the leadership of Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr., the 2008 Oklahoma Annual Conference began with an opening worship celebration at First United Methodist Church in Tulsa. The pre-worship concert was performed by the choir of First UMC, and the sermon was given by Jim Moore, guest preacher. Following the evening worship service, a reception honored Bishop and Mrs. Hayes and Rev. and Mrs. Moore.

SECOND DAY – MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008

Executive Sessions

Lay members met in the sanctuary at Boston Avenue UMC at 9:30 a.m., while clergy members met in the sanctuary at First UMC at 10 a.m. 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 Service and Holy Communion – 1:30 p.m.

With Bishop Hayes presiding in the worship service, at Boston Avenue UMC, 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 Alfred Norris of North Texas Conference preached the sermon, and the anthem was performed by the Tulsa District Choir. (See Section J—Record of Remembrance.)

General Session – 3:15 p.m.

Bishop Hayes officially opened the business meeting in the sanctuary of Boston Avenue UMC. Craig Stinson nominated Joe Harris as conference secretary. It was approved. Craig Stinson nominated Brian Bakeman as conference treasurer. It was approved. Craig Stinson nominated Ken Smith as conference statistician. It 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 2008 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 shall be restricted to the main floor, without any seating division between laity and clergy.
4. That all materials included in the packets and materials so related and distributed at registration shall 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 shall be elected as assistant secretaries: Jan Polson, Sharri Hiller, Ricky Huggins, Kelley Segler, Larry Gaston, Marsha Purtell, Valerie Jones Steele, and alternate Carolyn Higdon.

Episcopal Address—By Bishop Hayes. (See Episcopal Address in Section H—Reports.)

Laity Address—By Judy Benson, Oklahoma Conference lay leader. Benson expressed the desire that Oklahoma United Methodist churches be recognized around the world as outstanding for seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ. She encouraged congregations to sow seeds of promise, thus reaping disciples of faith. She invited participants in the Annual Conference to participate Tuesday evening in the Roundtable Conversation about the proposed Strategic Plan for Oklahoma Conference.

Strategic Plan Report—By Craig Stinson. He emphasized the Church needs to reach out in each community to unchurched people, who hunger for a relationship with Jesus Christ. Because the members of Oklahoma Conference desire to bear fruit for Christ, the Strategic Planning Team explored implementing an effective plan to increase fruitful ministries. The team focused on three areas:

1. Grow fruitful congregations;
2. Recruit, assess, equip, and send spiritual leaders; and
3. Promote ministry partnerships.

The goal is for each congregation to use the Strategic Plan as the framework for effective ministry. (See Section H—Reports.) Stinson announced the Plan will be discussed in detail at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at First UMC, and all delegates were urged to attend that gathering.

As part of the report, the song “It’s All About God!” was performed by Heather Martin, age 7, from Cache UMC.

General Conference Report—By Bob Long and Judy Benson. Almost 1,000 delegates from around the globe spent 10 long days working through more than 1,500 pieces of proposed legislation at the 2008 General Conference, in April at Fort Worth, Texas. Benson described four priorities endorsed by the denomination’s bishops: addressing poverty, new and renewed congregations, global health, and Christian leadership. The General Conference also marked the 40th anniversary of The United Methodist Church.

Long and Benson highlighted several proposed changes to the Church constitution that now advance to balloting at all annual conferences in 2009. Also, a committee was created to present a proposed new United Methodist hymnal at the 2012 General Conference.

An increase in the mandatory retirement age for clergy, from age 70 to age 72, was approved by the General Conference.

Long announced Bishop Hayes was elected as secretary of the Executive Committee for the denomination’s Council of Bishops. Long also introduced the members of the Oklahoma delegation to General Conference.

Board of Ordained Ministry Report—Led by Grayson Lucky. Suzanne Davis and Greg Tener read the names of clergy approved to be commissioned/ordained during the 2008 Annual Conference. (See Certificate of Ordination—Section E). Davis presented Kimberly Van Gundy, who earned Camps certification, and Ed Davis, who earned certification in Music Ministry. On behalf of the board, Sam Powers presented Lucky with a Communion set in appreciation of his service as board chairperson.

Service of Commissioning — 7 p.m.

The pre-worship concert at Boston Avenue UMC was performed by the Bartlesville District Choir. Bishop Alfred Norris was guest preacher for the Service of Commissioning. Afterward, a reception honored Bishop and Mrs. Norris, those newly commissioned, and their families.

THIRD DAY – TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008

Service of Word and Table – 7 a.m.

Charles King, Preaching

Morning Devotion – 8 a.m.

Homily: Tino Espinoza

General Session – 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Hayes introduced Bryan Wilkes, outgoing co-chair of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, as his session assistant.

Annual Conference Council Report—By Sarah Hardimon and Bob Younts. Hardimon highlighted the successes of Project Transformation at OKC-Quayle, where she is a member. Younts praised the cooperation between Conference leaders that he observed during his eight years in the ACC post.

Mission and Service Ministry Team Report—By Darrell Cates. (See Section H—Reports.) Cates said the team’s goal is to be a resource for local churches, and its vision is to develop missional churches. He reported 90 percent of Oklahoma’s churches give funds to Advance specials, which is the leading percentage in the denomination.

Volunteers In Mission Report—Led by Jeremy Basset. (See Section H—Reports.) He announced VIM was entering its 20th ministry year. In November, Bishop and Mrs. Hayes will be members of a VIM mission team serving in Africa.

Missionary Marsha Alexander, director of Manos Juntas Mexico, reported work was almost completed on a community park and Bishop Hayes was scheduled to dedicate it. Mike Chaffin, dean of the Cabinet, told about that group's VIM team ministry in Louisiana. The members of the Extended Cabinet helped rebuild homes at Dulac, La.; viewed storm-ravaged neighborhoods in New Orleans; and toured the UMCOR Sager Brown distribution depot at Baldwin, La.

Volunteers are being recruited for a 2009 VIM project in Vietnam. One of the leaders will be George Gilland, a Vietnam War veteran who is pastor at Yukon-First UMC.

Richard Norman urged local churches to develop disaster plans. Becky Roman was introduced as a new VIM staff member.

The VIM Warm Hart Award went to Bob and Aimee Montgomery, from St. Paul UMC, Muskogee. Ira Hart, for whom the award is named, presented it to the couple.

Basset announced formation of a covenant agreement between Oklahoma VIM and Upper Room Ministries for ministry in South Africa. He introduced Stephen Bryant of Upper Room Ministries, who joined Bishop Hayes for an official signing ceremony. Bryant spoke about the development in Johannesburg of a center for prayer and spiritual transformation.

Project Transformation—Cindy Mayes reported on behalf of Ashleigh Sorrell, director of Project Transformation. Mayes expressed thanks for the contributions and grants that continue the summertime literacy camps for elementary students. Guest Kayla Robinson, principal of Marshall Elementary School in Tulsa, told of the school's involvement in the project and the positive changes seen in the lives of her students.

Cookson Hills Center—Director Meri Whitaker displayed architectural drawings for a new ministry building on the mission's campus in eastern Oklahoma and expressed the need for funding to complete it. Cookson Hills Center celebrates 60 years of ministry in 2008; it is the oldest project in the denomination's Advance giving program. Rev. Whitaker also said the new Health Resource Center was scheduled for immediate opening. She introduced the center's staff, which has increased to 21 people. She noted growth in the day-care program and numerous other ministries, and she reported several staff members are candidates for ministry.

Restore Hope Ministries Report—By Lawrence Johnson. (See Section H—Reports.) For 30 years, Restore Hope has been providing urban outreach in Tulsa County. Volunteers provided more than 21,000 hours of service in 2007. On a daily basis, the agency's Chapel Ministry celebrates confessions of faith, Johnson said.

Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries Report—Led by Stan Basler. (See Section H—Reports.) Several Kairos participants who are incarcerated gave inspiring testimonies, including sharing stories of the supportive ministry of UM Redemption churches in Oklahoma City, Lawton, Ardmore, and Tulsa. Basler also announced more volunteers were needed for New Day Camp, designed for children whose parents are incarcerated.

Retirement Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Bishop Hayes led the Litany of Thanksgiving and Passing of the Mantle. The anthem was sung by the Clergy/Spouse Retiree Choir.

General Session – 2 p.m.

Bishop Hayes introduced Adam Hull, incoming co-chair of CCYM, as his session assistant.

Lauren Nelson welcomed—Bill Todd introduced Lauren Nelson, Miss America 2007, and the Nelson family, longtime members of Centenary UMC, Lawton. The former Miss America talked about her reign and her focus issue of Internet safety. She assisted law enforcement officers in a successful Internet sting to catch child predators. Nelson encouraged parents to talk with their children about Internet behavior; to limit computer locations to high-traffic areas in the home, rather than a child's bedroom; and to download effective software that blocks access to inappropriate sites. She also sang "I Can Only Imagine" for the sanctuary audience.

Circle of Care Report—Led by Lissa Wright, board chairperson. President/CEO Don Batson presented awards to Circle of Care's top five supporting congregations: Asbury, First, and Boston

Avenue, all in Tulsa; Church of the Servant, Oklahoma City; and Broken Arrow-First. Also receiving awards for their contributions were Rosston, Allen, Seiling, Ada-First, and Chickasha-Epworth churches.

The young residents of Circle of Care's facilities interwove dance, banners, and sign language to perform "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

Mary Buresh, director of Child S.H.A.R.E., introduced Barbara Laughy, Child S.H.A.R.E. volunteer liaison in Lawton District. Centenary, Lawton-Redemption, Walters, Apache, and Aldersgate are among the churches that support the co-op in southwestern Oklahoma.

David Beal was named winner of the CoC Philanthropist of the Year Award. Beal is a former resident of the Children's Home at Tahlequah. On his behalf, Christy Rowland accepted the award, presented by Batson.

Chemical Dependency Ministries Report—By Annette Harper. (See Section H—Reports.) She described Faith Partners, a lay-led ministry focused on substance abuse within a congregation. A related video was shown. Harper said 14 Faith Partners teams are ministering in Oklahoma, and leadership training is offered each fall.

Church and Society Report—Led by Allen Buck.

Roger Parker, who chairs the Peace With Justice Task Force, urged congregations to study the issue of torture. He referred to the Resolution Regarding Torture, approved by the 2007 Oklahoma Conference, and distributed the document "Torture is a Moral Issue."

The Environmental Coalition distributed 1,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs. Coalition member Mark Davies noted the bulbs use 55 percent less energy than traditional light bulbs and their purchase price is recouped in about four months. The coalition also passed out tree seedlings at the conference, to boost interest in replanting trees damaged or destroyed by winter ice storms in the state.

Kirt Moelling spoke on behalf of the Immigration Task Force, which formed to address issues related to state House Bill 1804.

Discipleship Ministry Team Report—Led by Bob Pierson. Bob Fiest and Mark McAdow presented the 2008 Harry Denman Evangelism Award to lay member Buddy Moore of Lost Creek UMC, Stillwater District, and to clergy member Jose Estrada, senior pastor at Vida en Abundancia and associate pastor at New Horizon UMC, Woodward District.

Director Mary Lue Eastmond reported on Christian Education Ministries. Reflecting John Wesley's advice, she reminded congregations to "do no harm" by implementing the Safe Sanctuaries program. She stressed the importance of yearly safety audits.

Camps Report—By Randy McGuire and Ed Coy Light. (See Section H—Reports.) McGuire announced Camps ministry has recovered fully after flooding caused damages last year. Light said more than \$1 million has been raised for the "Lighting the Way, Warming the Heart" capital funding campaign, and the effort is ready to move into local church phase.

Young Adult Council Report—By Nathan Mattox and Sarah Nichols. (See Section H—Reports.) Nichols spoke about issues important to young adults that were addressed at the 2008 General Conference. For the first time, a Young Adult Address was part of a General Conference.

Also, four young adults from Oklahoma attended the denomination's Young Adult leadership conference. Mattox also reported the council participated in Local Church Leader Workshops. He led a prayer for young adults in Oklahoma communities.

Youth Ministries—Greg Tener spoke about the worthwhile educational experiences available through The Academy for Youth Workers, open to adults who work with youths. Bryan Wilkes announced that poverty is the focus topic for the 2008 Youth Summit, in the fall, and that St. Yootz Day was set for Aug. 16 at Frontier City.

Diana Northcutt announced a new scholarship program, starting in 2008, for high school seniors. Students who participate four times in CYME, the Conference youth leadership camp, will be eligible to receive half-tuition scholarships if they attend Oklahoma City University. The award can be stacked with the existing clergy dependent scholarship, she reported.

Children's Ministries—Mary Lue Eastmond introduced Perla Martinez-Goody, who serves San Mateo Fellowship at Pauls Valley. She talked about the success of a Christmas gift program for children in the community, including children of deployed military personnel. The program was spawned by Project Noel.

Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation—Kirt Moelling encouraged clergy and laity to attend the academy, at Canyon Camp on Nov. 9-11. Also, a two-day clergy retreat will be held in May 2009 at St Crispin's Episcopal Conference Center in Seminole.

Oklahoma City University Report—Led by Maggie Ball. (See Section H—Reports.) She displayed a recruiting poster that went out to all churches. She said a recent survey listed OCU as one of the best places to work in Oklahoma, and the school was the only university on that list. OCU student Adam Shahan spoke about the support he receives as he prepares for a UM ministry career. He especially thanked The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation. OCU senior Sarah Nichols said she began dreaming of studying at the university when, at age 6, she saw an OCU stage production.

OCU President Tom McDaniel presented highlights of the past year. He said OCU has become the second largest private school in Oklahoma, and student retention has risen to 80 percent. “Cradle of Dreams” is theme for a recently launched \$5 million capital campaign. Repairs are planned for the Bishop Angie Smith Chapel, after high winds blew off its steeple. Building plans include a new science building and expansion of Kramer School of Nursing. OCU has become a smoke-free, tobacco-free campus. The incoming freshman class includes 10 National Merit Scholars. On Oct. 24-26, OCU will be the host site for reenactment of a historic 1931 debate between student teams from OCU and Wiley College, Marshall, Texas.

Saint Paul School of Theology at OCU—Mark Davies spoke about plans for the new ongoing course-offering site. Beginning in fall, two-thirds of courses for a Master of Divinity degree can be completed at OCU, with the remaining one-third offered at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo. Saint Paul School President Myron McCoy celebrated the progress for the new site and announced Bishop Hayes was named a trustee for Saint Paul School. Elaine Robinson was introduced as new dean of Saint Paul School at OCU.

Walk for Health and Wholeness – 5 p.m.

The 1-mile walk from Boston Avenue to First UMC was led by Bishop Hayes and Jan Tofani.

Roundtable Conversation around Strategic Plan – 6:30 p.m.

The Roundtable Conversation was held at First UMC and led by Craig Stinson. The Strategic Plan was approved.

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

Healing Service of Word and Table – 7 a.m.

Barbara Brown, Preaching

Morning Devotion – 8 a.m.

Homily: Fuxia Wang

General Session – 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Hayes introduced Chuck Stewart, Ardmore District lay leader, as his assistant for the session.

Older Adult Council Report—By David Thomas. (See Section H—Reports). Thomas encouraged congregations to fill out a related needs-assessment survey and to take part in the retreats and other events planned by the council for older adults. A DVD resource now is available that offers training for Older Adult Ministry.

Greetings from Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference—David Wilson, OIMC conference superintendent, announced the denomination's Native American Comprehensive Plan was approved by the 2008 General Conference. At Glenpool, a new OIMC fellowship was formed, a pastor was appointed, and attendance has reached more than 60 people. A \$1 million grant from the Woodworth Estate has established an endowment through The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation to boost salaries for OIMC pastors. The increase will average \$2,000 per person.

Lydia Patterson Institute Report—By David Burris. (See Section H—Reports.) He introduced Socorro de Anda, president of the UM-affiliated institute at El Paso, Texas. She said 90 of the 92 graduates from the Class of 2008 have enrolled in a college or university.

Campus Ministries Report—Led by Deb Corr. She announced the Oklahoma CAMMINET Awards were given to Amy Elizabeth Crow and Derrick Milligan. The Lamplighter Church Awards were given to 124 churches. The Asbury Award was given to Patrick McPherson.

Leslie Long and Kristen Brown described the work and impact of campus ministry. They urged congregations to send them contact information for new college students. Jim Key, a member of the OSU Wesley Foundation board, summarized his 34 years of service on the board. Sam Powers expressed his thanks to the OSU Wesley Foundation, part of his college experience. Fuxia Wang presented her testimony of transformation from being an atheist in China to a United Methodist campus minister at OU. Crucial in her story was the Christian connection made through the UCO Wesley Foundation's Chinese fellowship. Keegan Long-Wheeler, a 2008 graduate at Norman High School, spoke about his choice to be a part of a Wesley Foundation as he enters college.

Archives and History—Charles Watson presented the report and recognized Joy Ansley's contributions. (See Section H—Reports.) Oklahoma Conference archivist Christina Wolf invited people to tour and carry out research using the archives, which are housed in the library on the OCU campus. Wolf and her staff are available to undertake research for local churches and to train church historians and archives committees.

Watson encouraged churches to join the United Methodist Historical Society.

Department of Congregational Development Report—Led by David Burris and Craig Stinson. (See Section H—Reports.) Burris thanked annual conference delegates for approving the Strategic Plan. Stinson gave an update on four new charter churches: Acts II in Edmond, average worship attendance 368; Abiding Harvest in Tulsa, average worship attendance 250; Bridgeview in Norman, where attendance has increased 15 percent; and Chinese International in Edmond, average worship attendance 138.

Rural/Smaller Membership Church Report—Led by Lyle Shipley. (See Section H—Reports.) The committee has provided 25 CD sets of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* to qualifying churches that requested those resources. Amanda Lockwood presented plaques to Mary Lue Eastmond and Joe Tilton for their work with Project Noel.

Commission on the Black Church Report—Wannie DeBouse shared highlights of the past year. (See Section H—Reports.) The commission encouraged each African-American ethnic church to host a celebration that includes banners, T-shirts, food and fun. DeBouse told about the Christian encouragement she received from Cecelia Brooks of the Wesley Foundation at Langston University.

Hispanic Ministries Report—Tino Espinoza presented the report. (See Section H—Reports.)

Racial Ethnic Coordinating Committee Report—By Ernest Jackson Jr. (See Section H—Reports.) He invited all people to the Service of Pentecost Preaching and Praise, set for 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday in June, at OKC-Christ UMC.

General Session – 10:35 a.m.

Leadership Development Ministry Team Report—By Bill Todd. (See Section H—Reports.) He stressed the importance of sharing the mantle of service.

Committee on the Status and Role of Women Report—By Carole Minter. (See Section H—Reports.)

Board of Laity Report—Led by Judy Benson. (See Section H—Reports.) Chuck Stewart thanked Kathy Leithner and Chuck Horton for developing a Lay Leader Handbook in English and Spanish. Jack Terrell-Wilkes spoke of the emerging church and the digital resources available for ministry. A DVD resource on “Emerging Worship” is available to local churches through district superintendents and district lay leaders.

Board of Laity members and 17 other volunteers carried out a one-day mission project at Soper UMC. They cleaned, removed mold, painted, and put up a basketball goal. Some of the volunteers also worked at Paul's Chapel in Hugo.

Bruce Brotherton, on behalf of both the Commission on Equitable Compensation and the Board of Laity, presented “A Resolution Concerning the Celebration of Ministry Sunday.” It was approved and takes effect in 2009. (See Section I—Resolutions.)

Lay Speakers—Pat Parvin announced the number of certified lay speakers totaled 906 people as of Jan. 1, 2008. She said that total exceeded 1,000 after the April 2008 training events. She also reported 53 people in Liberia were certified as lay speakers after she and her husband taught a course there in February and thanked the Oklahoma Conference for supporting the project. She introduced the district lay speakers, and she acknowledged the youth lay speakers. Basic and advanced courses have been offered four times and twice, respectively, for CYME youth campers. Lay Speaking conference was set for Aug. 23 at Canyon Camp. (See Section H—Reports.)

Other business—Herschel Beard presented the proposed Standing Rules, and copies were distributed. Voting was set for Thursday’s session, during the Standing Rules report time.

Ministerial Recruitment Report—By Jack Terrell-Wilkes. (See Section H—Reports.) He encouraged churches to lift up young people considering calls to ministry through correspondence, care packages, and other nurturing during their educational pursuits. A new matching grant program will award funds for internships and projects related to Ministerial Formation. He also encouraged all pastors to share their call stories in the coming year.

Religion and Race Report—By Renee Hoover. (See Section H—Reports.) The commission has focused on growing and becoming more diverse, to facilitate healing and reconciliation as a resource for pastors and congregations.

United Methodist Women—Led by Donna Roberts. (See Section H—Reports.) UMW supports 103 missional institutions, including Neighborhood Services Organization, which serves the homeless population in Oklahoma City. Stacy Ninness, NSO director, said homelessness in Oklahoma increased by 24 percent from 2005 to 2007. She asked for prayers and for volunteers.

The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation Report—Led by Bob Long. He spoke of the blessings that the Foundation generates through endowment formation, management of funds and assets, fostering planned giving, and encouraging stewardship. (See Section H—Reports.)

Foundation President Bill Junk reflected on his mentors, who include a campus minister, the pastor of his church, and Bishop Hayes. Junk encouraged contributions to the Bishop Hayes Centennial Scholarship Fund. He presented the Jim Egan Legacy Award to Jean and Joe Holliman, members of Boston Avenue UMC.

Announcements—Bishop Hayes introduced his assistant for the session, Cheryl Pittman, Young Adults lay leader at Putnam City UMC.

General Session – 2 p.m.

Bishop Hayes introduced Brian Kurklin, a young-adult member of Moore-New Life UMC, as his assistant for this session.

United Methodist Men—A video presentation highlighted ministries that are funded through UMM charter fees.

Department of Communications—Chairman Howard Kuchta summarized the major changes in the department during his term: the Brick River database, Internet/e-mail capabilities, and the Conference Web site, among others. He credited the insight of Jo Ann McNaught and Joe Harris.

Harris, director of Communications, presented the report. (See Section H—Reports.) He described new Web conferencing software, called Adobe Connect, for Oklahoma Conference entities. The technology enables people in multiple locations to “meet” in cyberspace, using computers with Internet access and telephones. The department held a *virtual meeting* early in 2008, and Harris reported the format reduced expenses and increased attendance.

The *Contact* newspaper is available in print, as an electronic newsletter (*Contact Digest*), and online in PDF format at www.okumc.org (Click the icon on the left side of the homepage).

Beginning with the 2008 edition, the Oklahoma Annual Conference *Journal* will be distributed on CD instead of a paper version. However, some copies in print will be available, at a cost of \$15 per copy, upon request.

Treasurer’s Report—By Brian Bakeman. (See Section H—Reports.) Financial reports are being provided quarterly to CF&A members. Total income for 2007 was \$32,615,860, with total expenses of \$32,546,105. Among various special campaigns, a total of \$105,730 was contributed for Africa

University and Nothing But Nets.

Churches in Oklahoma Conference gave \$15,129,078, or 97.36 percent, toward the 2007 Apportionment.

The treasurer's office held six summertime workshops for churches' pastors, treasurers, financial secretaries, and finance chairpersons. Other training was conducted through the Local Church Leader Workshops. Bakeman stressed all churches need to comply with federal government rules by correctly issuing W-2 forms, maintaining an active EIN (Employer's Identification Number), and maintaining accurate financial records.

Pension and Health Benefits Report—Led by Bob Long. (See Section H—Reports.) A weight-loss challenge, initiated by Brian Bakeman, resulted in 115 total pounds lost by United Methodist Ministry Center staff and 130 total pounds lost by Cabinet members. Tony Caro reported on the Health Screening and Wellness Walk events. He invited those interested to join the Health and Wellness Committee. Long announced the elimination of the Pension Apportionment and thanked Mouzon Biggs Jr. for careful management of those funds.

Biggs presented the board's resolutions. (See Section I—Resolutions.) He explained the recommendations, including the section regarding Jerry Don Turner, who waived Oklahoma Conference benefits for 1988-89 and will be eligible for retirement from the Texas Conference. Mouzon moved adoption of the items requiring action; they were approved.

Long explained the General Conference request for a pledge of \$50,000 per year for five years from the Oklahoma Conference Pension Fund to the Central Conference Pension Initiative. The Woodworth Estate representatives agreed to match that amount. The annual conference delegates approved.

Mona Mae Waymire applauded the work of the Wellness Committee and the dental/vision insurance coverage for eligible Conference members. She presented the Healthcare Benefit Plan Report; it was approved.

The Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) was approved.

The Flexible Benefit Plan was approved.

An increase of 2 percent was approved in the health insurance premium for active plan participants.

Council on Finance and Administration Report—By Chuck Dollarhide. (See Section H—Reports.) He announced Bishop Hayes has requested 100 percent participation by local churches in contributions to the General Church Apportionments. In the United States, 21 annual conferences currently achieve this benchmark. OIMC has been a 100 percent participant for many years.

Dollarhide presented the Oklahoma Annual Conference Budget for 2009, which represents an increase of 1.67 percent from 2008. The budget was approved.

The conference decimal plan was approved.

The overall CF&A report was approved.

Conference Board of Trustees Report—Led by Kurt Glassco. (See Section H—Reports.) Joel Betow presented three items requiring action. (See Section I—Resolutions.)

Item one was approved.

Item two was approved.

Item three was approved.

Charles Hull announced Oklahoma Conference Insurance Committee has been renamed as the Ministry Protection Committee. He thanked Bob McKown and Rick Carlin from Cole, Paine and Carlin Inc. for their guidance on property insurance. He encouraged all churches to join PACT.

Glassco presented three resolutions. (See Section I—Resolutions.)

The "Resolution for Discontinuance and Abandonment of Cloud Chief UMC" was approved.

The "Resolution for Discontinuance and Abandonment of Reydon UMC" was approved.

The "Resolution for Discontinuance and Abandonment of Otterbein UMC" was approved.

Bishop Hayes led a prayer for the congregations of the churches that closed. He said he hopes implementation of the Strategic Plan will deter other churches from abandonment.

Glassco announced the incorporation of the Oklahoma Annual Conference. He also said churches should plan for a 5 to 10 percent increase in property insurance rates in the next year.

Other business—Bishop Hayes introduced Rev. W.R. Casey, who announced the bishop was to be honored June 13 at an ecumenical fund-raising event at Tulsa Country Club.

A list was distributed of the 2008 General/Jurisdictional Conference delegates from Oklahoma who were eligible to be nominees for board membership on general church agencies. Joe Harris instructed annual conference delegates on making additional nominations to the list, and time was allotted for writing those names. The tellers then collected the lists with additional nominations.

Service of Ordination – 7 p.m.

The pre-service concert was performed by Boston Avenue's Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble. The service was led by Bishop Hayes, and a reception followed, honoring the ordinands and their families.

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2008

Service of Word and Table in an Emergent Worship Style – 7 a.m.

Led by Jeff Jaynes, Shelly Coulter, Trina Bose North, Donna Heldermon, Scott Spencer, and Jack Terrell-Wilkes.

Morning Devotion – 8 a.m.

Homily: Ernest Jackson Jr.

General Session – 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Hayes opened the session with announcements.

Oklahoma Federal Credit Union—Tim DeLisa, president/CEO of the credit union, spoke about that entity's connection to The United Methodist Church.

Introduction of Active and Reserve Chaplains under Appointment—Beverly Powell shared her experience of ministering as a hospital chaplain and, on behalf of all those serving in chaplaincy, thanked the conference members for their prayers and support. The chaplains in attendance at the conference introduced themselves. Bishop Hayes led a prayer for those military chaplains deployed outside the United States.

Africa University—A video presentation celebrated the report that more than 2,500 students, from 22 African nations, have graduated from AU, the only United Methodist university on that continent.

United Methodist Publishing House Presentation—Brian Green-Young, manager of the Cokesbury store in Tulsa, highlighted new curriculum, including materials related to the Strategic Plan. He presented a check totaling more than \$12,000 to the Oklahoma Conference. Bishop Hayes moved that the funds be given to the Central Conference Pension Fund. The motion was approved.

Report of the Committee on Nominations—By Sandy Wylie Jr. The names of nominees for the districts' Committees on Ministry were presented. Each district slate was considered individually, and all were approved.

Changes were announced to the version of the report as printed in the Pre-Conference Workbook. The report, with corrections, was approved. The corrected copy is printed in the 2008 Conference *Journal*. (See Section C—Boards.)

Commission on Equitable Compensation—Bruce Brotherton gave the report. (See Section H—Reports.) Bruce noted any approved changes to the Schedule of Minimum Compensation are effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Item 1 was approved.

Item 2 was approved.

Item 3 was approved.

Item 5 was approved.

Brotherton presented a proposed change in point No. 3 of the Ministers' Moving Expense Fund. The conference approved removal of the sentence "No payment shall be made unless there is a change of residence."

The remainder of that section was approved.

Donna Dodson presented the Proposed Clergy Housing Standards Policy, noting the changes. A motion was made by Michael Brannon to delete No. 5 - Guidelines for Smoking. Patricia Piehota moved to substitute Brannon's motion by changing the second sentence to state: "Any use of tobacco

inside the parsonage is prohibited, but outside is allowed.” It was approved.

A motion was made to amend No. 7 by adding the sentence: “In the event that the utility allowance is part of the pastor’s compensation plan, the utilities shall be paid in a timely manner.” It was approved.

The amended Clergy Housing Standards Policy was approved.

Greetings from Phillips Theological Seminary—William Tabbernee announced that 17 of the seminary’s 38 graduates this year are United Methodists, and 12 of those United Methodists are from Oklahoma. Professor Ellen Blue was named to the post of Mouzon Biggs Jr. Chair of Church History. Grayson Lucky will be teaching at the seminary while Blue is working out of state.

Report from the South Central Jurisdiction—David Severe extended an invitation for all to attend the South Central Jurisdictional Conference on July 16-19 in Dallas.

Greetings from Mount Sequoyah—John Altland recognized Janice Meese, Ron Gilbert, David Severe, and Bishop Hayes for serving on the Mount Sequoyah board. Altland shared highlights and reported on programming changes and renovations on the campus at Fayetteville, Ark. (See Section H–Reports.)

Standing Rules Report—By Herschel Beard. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, the Board of Church & Society, the Hispanic Ministry Committee, and Project Transformation were added to the structure of the Oklahoma Annual Conference.

A motion was approved to amend page 366, section E.2., by adding the words “prior to annual conference or” after the word “presented.”

A motion was approved to amend page 373, by adding the Young Adult Ministry Council to those committees needing to provide a representative.

A motion was approved to amend page 376, by adding a representative from the Young Adult Ministry Council.

The Standing Rules report, as amended, was approved.

Episcopacy Committee Report—Diana Cox Crawford celebrated four years of leadership in Oklahoma Conference by Bishop and Mrs. Hayes, and she congratulated Bishop Hayes for being elected secretary of the Executive Committee for the Council of Bishops.

Other business—On behalf of the Environmental Committee, Denny Hook announced three species of tree saplings were to be distributed to delegates as they depart the conference. The gift trees are offered to help replace trees lost due to ice storms, tornadoes, and fires in the past year.

Statistician’s Report—By Ken Smith. (See Section H–Reports). It was approved.

Motion to Receive Printed Reports—Craig Stinson moved that the printed reports be accepted as official reports of the conference. It was approved.

Courtesies and Resolutions Report—John Curtis summarized the events of the week. (See Section H–Reports.)

Invitation to 2009 Annual Conference Site—Bob Long and Tom McDaniel offered to host the 2009 Annual Conference in Oklahoma City at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church and Oklahoma City University.

Bishop Hayes prayed at the conclusion of the Annual Conference business sessions.

Service of Sending Forth – 11:30 a.m.

The service was led by Katie Wonderly, Katie Mayes, Mike Slack, Wendi Neal, and Carlos Ramirez. Bishop Hayes delivered the message, and the Cabinet members read the new appointments. (See Section G–Appointments.)

The 2008 Annual Conference was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF ORDINATION

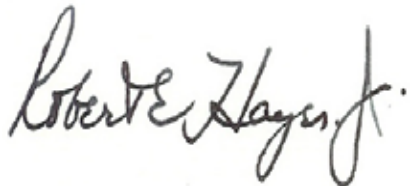
This is to certify that in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on the 26th day of May, 2008, I commissioned, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Deacons: Richard W. Norman, Jim Stillwell, Erica C. Thomas and Peter J. White.

On the 26th day of May, 2008, I commissioned, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Elders: Nelma Ruth Karns Atterberry, Les Bussell, Daniel Dennison, Jan Fletcher, Keith Douglas King, Sheri Smith Lashley, Patricia Marie McCall, Gloria Grace McGee-Denton, Marcia Shoemaker, and Bryan Patrick Tener.

On the 28th day of May, 2008, I recognized Jim Shepherd and David R Wheeler as Elders in Full Connection of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church.

On the 28th day of May, 2008, I ordained, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Deacons: Sharon B. Capron and Philip A. Greenwald.

On the 28th day of May, 2008, I ordained, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church, the following Elders: Trina Ann Bose North, Michelle Denise Coulter, William Christopher Dodson, Connie Jean Gibson, Cynthia L. Havlik, Matthew Blake Judkins, Kyle Winfield Kiner, Young Ko, Nathan Mattox, Kirtley E. Moelling, Diana J Pruitt, Randal Duane Shrauner, Tae Won Son, Kevin M. Watson, and Lisa Wiens Thompson.



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 forty-first Annual Session, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 25-29, 2008, as the official record, and we hereby certify that they are correct.



A Bishop of The United Methodist Church



Secretary of the Annual Conference

