



Daily Journal

A Summary of the West Virginia Annual Conference Session - wvumc.org

Vol. 25, No. 3

Buckhannon, West Virginia

June 14, 2009

Joy of Evangelism Felt in Conference

Denman Award High Point of Saturday Session

The Harry Denman Award for Evangelism was the highlight of Saturday's Annual Conference session. Marieta Reel, a trained obstetric nurse from Peru, received the layperson's award because of her work at Asbury UMC in Moorefield, WV.

She has been ministering to Hispanic workers and their children impacted by last April's Immigration Customs Enforcement raids of the Pilgrim's Pride poultry manufacturing plant in Moorefield.

Those raids left several citizen children and their parents stranded in the U.S. without the ability to work under current federal law.

"I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me to minister to the children," she told the Conference floor in Spanish. Judith Feaster provided translation for her.

Rev. Judy Vetter, pastor of Open Door Ministries, which includes the Asbury and Baker's Chapel United Methodist Churches, was the clergy Denman winner.

Since the raids, she has worked hard to provide housing, food, and a sense of community for the people affected by them.

"To me this is all about the Gospel of Matthew 25:35," she said. "When I was hungry, you fed me, when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink, when I was a



Joy was the word of the morning at the Harry Denman Evangelism Award Presentation. Rev. Dr. Chuck Pullins applauds as Marieta Reel receives the award yesterday (Saturday) morning.

stranger, you welcomed me."

Other Conference Business

Members of the West Virginia Annual Conference voted on 32 proposed constitutional amendments yesterday. Most of the discussion was about amendment one, which addresses inclusiveness in the church. If passed by a two-thirds majority of individual voting members worldwide, the amendment would change the current language in the Book of Discipline under article IV to "The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth and that we are in ministry to all."

Justin Hull, Calvary &

Simpson United Methodist Church in Moundsville, said his church knows he is a gay man and is treated like family. He said he knows the love of Jesus, and would hate to see anyone denied membership.

Mark Flynn, District Superintendent in the Greenbrier District, said voting for amendment one would be like writing a blank check as the Judicial Council and later General Conference would have to interpret its meaning.

Before the vote Bishop Lyght called for prayer. "Help us to know

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your will, in order that we might do it," he said. Complete tally results are on page three.

Conference approved a budget of \$11,984,041 for 2010, an increase of 4.45% over 2009. Apportionment payouts are up 5% over the past five years, according to chair Rev. Ellis Conley.

Fred Jackson, Heaston UMC, Hodgesville, and Ed Evans, First UMC Welch, were honored with the Torch Award for their contributions to scouting.

The Bishop's Award of Excellence in Scouting recipients were: Pack 295 and Troop 295 from Perry Memorial UMC, Southern District; Troop 81 from Wesley Kingwood UMC, Potomac Highlands District; Pack 12, Stout Memorial UMC, Little Kanawha District; and Pack and Troop 47 from Crossroads UMC, Little Kanawha District.

Dr. J.F. Lacaria reported on the Bishop's Bike Ride, which has raised \$11,700 for economic relief for people living within the WV Conference. The money will be given to the Conference's 7 mission projects.

He said 26 riders participated, the highest number in the event's history.

'Go and Tell' urges Bishop Nhiwatiwa

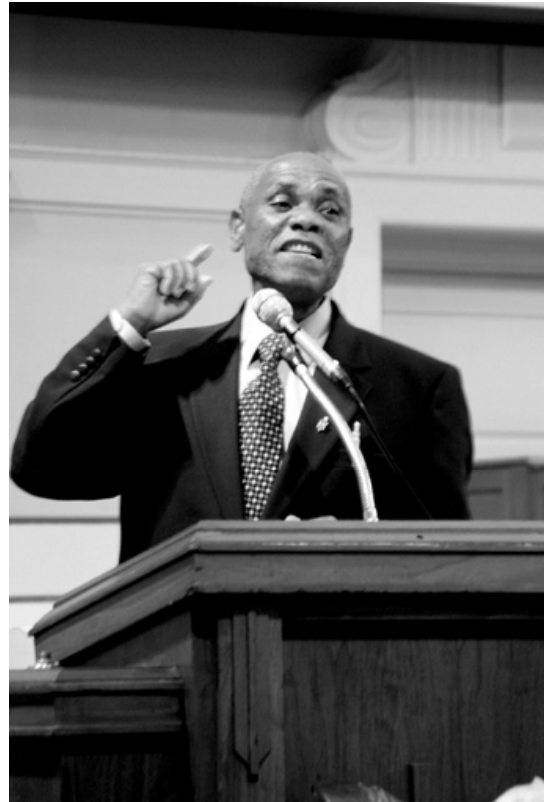
"Are we the church or must we wait for another?" This was a powerful question posed to the worshipping body by Eben Nhiwatiwa, resident Bishop of Zimbabwe, during Friday night's sermon. His sermon, based on the text from Matthew 11: 1-6 was a challenging invitation to be the church in our community.

John the Baptist dispatched his disciples from prison to ask Jesus a similar question.

Nhiwatiwa wondered aloud, "Wasn't John there when Jesus was baptized? Didn't John see the Holy Spirit descend from heaven like a dove? Didn't he hear the voice that said, 'This is my Son in whom I am well pleased?'" He likened this to the times in worship when some are having a holy experience, while others are merely observers.

Perhaps, Bishop Nhiwatiwa mused, John really wondered from his prison cell why the Messiah didn't come and free him. Or why Jesus never referred to John's foretelling.

In typical unexpected fashion, Jesus doesn't respond to the content of John's disciples' question. Instead Jesus points to his actions – that the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the good news is preached. Jesus told John's disciples what

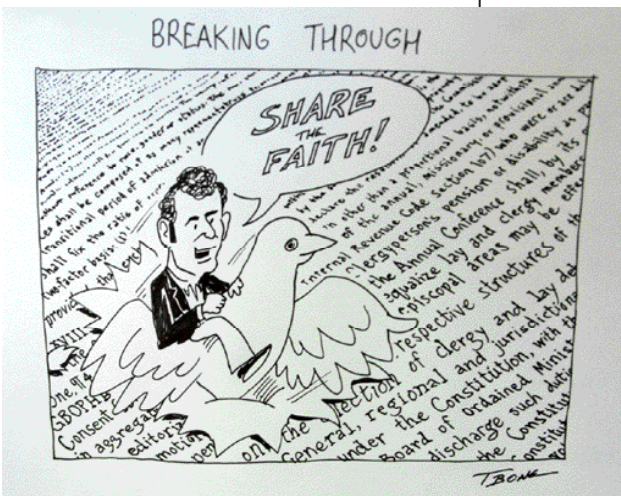


Above: Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa preaching Friday night at Conference

people were experiencing and that they should witness to what they had seen.

Bishop Nhiwatiwa then witnessed to what he had experienced in the WV Annual Conference – "that there is a warmth that flows through you. I have felt the warmth."

The question he then posed was, "Are the people in the communities of the WV Annual Conference experiencing that warmth? Do they say, 'Are you a United Methodist Church in your community, or do we wait for another?'" We must go and tell the story. We are the church. "Go and tell the people who used to live in loneliness. Go and tell them that love flows like water in a river. Go and tell."



Constitutional Amendment Vote Totals

Voting results follow below for the 32 proposed Constitutional Amendments of the United Methodist Church. Please note that ballots were re-counted, what follows is the certified total:

Amendment one, Inclusion: 281 yes; 411 no. Amendment two, Ethics and Conflict of Interest: 439 yes; 248 no. Worldwide Nature of the UMC (Amendments 3-5): Amendment three: 294, yes; 379, no. Amendment four: 291, yes; 381, no. Amendment five: 291, yes; 379, no.

Amendment six: Paragraph 15, Representation of New Conferences at General Conference: 289 yes; 392 no. Amendment seven, Worldwide Nature of the UMC: 249 yes; 418, no. Amendment eight, paragraph 16, Gender: 424 yes; 261, no.

Minimum membership for Jurisdictional Conference (Amendment nine): 404 yes; 257, no.

Worldwide Nature of the UMC (Amendments 10 - 14). Amendment ten: 257 yes; 443, no. Eleven: 260 yes; 440, no. Twelve: 258 yes; 442 no. Thirteen: 258 yes; 442, no. Fourteen: 262 yes; 435, no.

Amendment 15, Definition of Annual Conference Membership determined by General Conference: 189 yes; 498 no.

Amendment 16, Worldwide Nature of the UMC: 259 yes; 439 no. Amendment 17, paragraph 33, Lay Members of Committee on Investigation Voting Privileges: 362 yes; 322 no.

Amendment 18, Worldwide Nature of the UMC: 264, yes; 434, no. Amendment 19, paragraph 35, election of delegates: 475 yes; 206, no.

Worldwide Nature of UMC (Amendments 20-21): Amendment 20, 234 yes; 397 no. Amendment 21, 229 yes; 400 no. Amendment 22,

Make Music Fit Context says Conference Music Director

David Donathan has brought different styles and approaches to music over the course of the past three days. For him, it's all about what fits the situation.

"I'm a classically trained musician, and that is my first love, but over the past few years I have come to enjoy praise music styles," he said. "For me, it's not so much about categorizing music as it is about using what fits the situation. My goal as a Music Director is to make music relevant to the worship context."

Donathan also believes part of his calling is to teach. "Most music schools in the country don't teach a broad spectrum of music – they focus largely on classical training, but in today's church, musicians have to know and accomplish many styles of music."

He also admits a philosophical shift over the past year or so.

"I went to a worship workshop where the presenter kept talking about how it didn't matter what kind of music is used in worship – it's about what works," he said. "That's the philosophy I carry with me now."



Above: David Donathan leading music in yesterday's Commissioning Service in Wesley Chapel.

Bermuda: 402 yes; 287 no. Worldwide Nature of UMC (Amendments 23-32): Amendment 23, 232 yes; 397 no. Amendment 24, 235 yes; 397 no. Amendment 25, 233 yes; 399 no. Amendment 26, 233 yes; 399 no. Amendment 27, 233 yes; 396 no. Amendment 28, 236 yes; 398 no. Amendment 29, 233 yes; 396 no. Amendment 30, 235 yes; 395 no. Amendment 31, 232 yes; 398 no. Amendment 32, 235 yes; 395 no.

Daily Journal Team

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Above: The Africa University Choir in action on Saturday night. The choir begins a 10 concert tour of the state today, performing in all seven Districts. Below left: Marieta Reel accepts the Harry Denman Evangelism Laity Award Saturday morning. Below right: Dr. Ken Ramsey's Faith Sharing presentation was well-received by many at Conference this year.

