



UPPER NEW YORK UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE

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Being God's love with our neighbors in all places

A PUBLICATION OF THE UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 2, Issue 6 - June 2011

Annual Conference Guide 2011 Moving with the Spirit 2011

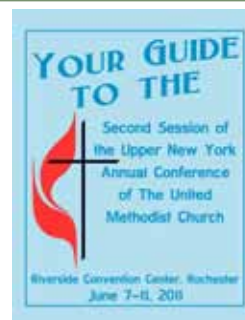


Archive photo

Resident Bishop Marcus Matthews gives the benediction at the 2010 Special Adjoined Session in Albany. When Bishop Matthews bangs the gavel in Rochester this year, he will open the Upper New York Annual Conference's first multi-day session.

Upper New York Resident Bishop Marcus Matthews prepares to welcome some 2,000 United Methodists from the Upper New York Annual Conference to its Second Annual Conference Session.

Along with this downloadable guide, this issue of the *Advocate* lets you know what's happening.



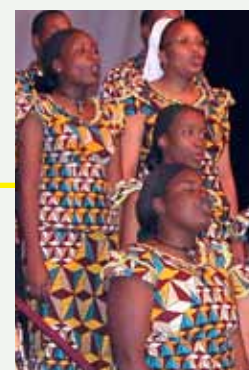
WHO:
More than 2,000 United Methodists from the Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

WHAT:
Gathering for the Second Session of the Annual Conference

WHERE:
Riverside Convention Center
Rochester

WHEN:
Tuesday to Saturday
June 7-11, 2011

Inside this issue



Africa University Choir

Entertainment
Meet those who are performing at the session
Page 4

Resolutions Recap
Some of the issues being considered at this Conference Session
Pages 6-7



Bishop (Ret.) J. Lawrence McCleskey

Special Honors
Dinners are planned to honor retirees and those in Extension Ministry

A memorial dinner is also planned

Page 5

Primer on Annual Conference Session & delegate election

What is the Annual Conference?

The term "annual conference," refers to any one of these three things: a regional body, an organizational unit, and a yearly meeting.

- As a regional body, the Upper New York Annual Conference (UNYAC) includes 937 churches strewn across 49 of the 62 counties in New York State.

- As an organizational unit, the UNYAC has a central office and professional staff based in Syracuse to coordinate and conduct ministry and the business of the conference. The four senior executives at the Conference office are director of connectional ministries, treasurer,

director of communications, and benefits officer.

- As a yearly meet-

ing (known as Annual Conference Session), the UNYAC meets each year, usually in May or June. All clergy members (active and retired), and an equal number of lay members selected from the local churches attend the conference's Annual Conference Session to worship, fellowship, and conduct the business of the



conference. During this year's sessions, members of the conference will hear reports of past and ongoing work; adopt future goals, programs and budgets; ordain clergy members as deacons and elders; and elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences.

Who attends the Annual Conference Session?

While everyone is welcome to come and watch the proceedings, only clergy members and laity selected

from local churches can vote on matters at the session. There are certain matters where only clergy are allowed to vote. And vice versa. For example, only lay members can vote to elect lay delegates to General or Jurisdictional Conferences. The business is conducted under the Holy Conferencing agreement, which puts value on Christian fellowship and conduct.

What is the most important aspect of the Conference Session?

There is no one aspect of the session that is more important than the other. Every issue that is on the confer-

Please see page 8

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STORY IDEAS?

The *Advocate* is always looking for news and story ideas.

If your church is doing something you would like to share with *Advocate* readers, send us an e-mail and let us know about it.

If you have a story idea for the *Advocate*, e-mail bethdicocco@unyumc.org and tell us about your idea. Please include a phone number so that we can follow up.

You also can call (315) 424-7878 ext. 319.

If you would like to submit photos, you can e-mail them to the same address. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at full size.



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We reserve the right to edit or decline any items submitted for publication.

Arrival ...

Below is some helpful information for our days together at the 2011 Annual Conference.

LOCATIONS

Convention Center, Rochester, N.Y., <http://www.rrcc.com/>

Clergy Session: Radisson
Laity Session: Asbury First UMC

Laity Session Transportation: Buses will be available for transportation to/from Laity Session, and will be looping from Main Street, in front of the Radisson, between 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. and between 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Memorial Service Transportation: Commercial buses from the Plaza and the Radisson will assist with transportation to Asbury First UMC between 5:30 and 6:45 p.m. and from Asbury First UMC between 8:30 and 10 p.m.

HOTELS

The Hyatt: <http://www.rochester.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp> (closest to the Convention Center)

The Plaza: <http://www.rochesterplaza.com/> (has a scenic walkway over the river)

The Radisson: <http://www.radisson.com/rochester-hotel-ny-14604/nyroches> (meals will be served here)

The Convention Center: <http://www.rrcc.com/>

Parking: Upon arrival please park in one of the hotels' or the Convention Center's parking garages.

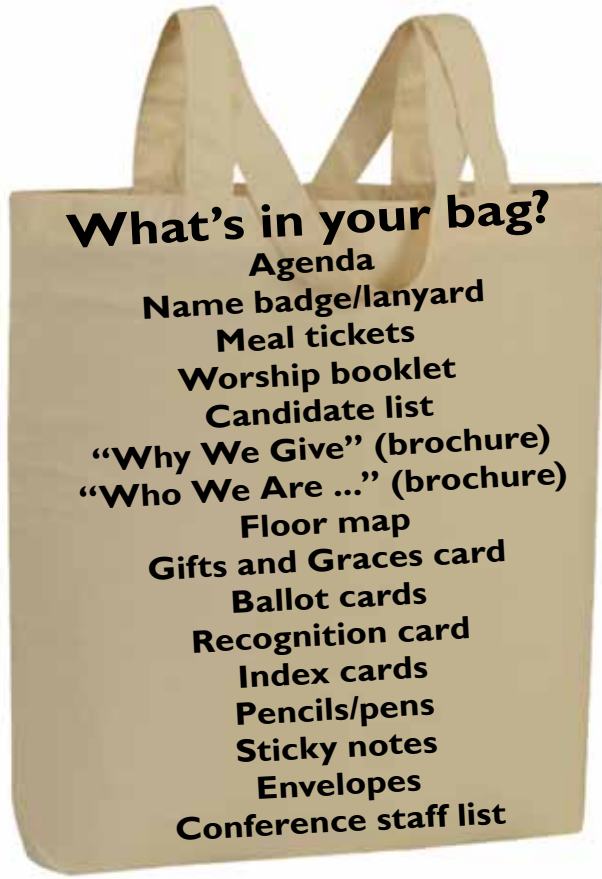
Rooms: Are assigned by a Housing Bureau on a first come/first serve basis. You will be informed of your room assignment via e-mail.

All hotels require a credit card at check-in for incidentals, even if the room has been pre-paid.

Check in is after 3 p.m./
Check out is 11 a.m.

REGISTRATION

Tuesday, June 7, from 8 to 10 p.m. (the Convention Center is not accessible until after



Here are a couple of things you will **NOT** get: A copy of the **Pre-Conference Booklet** and of **Your Guide to the Second Session of the Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church**.

Both can be printed out from our website: www.unyumc.org.

7 p.m. Tuesday, June 7) and Wednesday, June 8, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please anticipate signing for your conference packet.

Greeters will be in the parking areas and in the entrance to the convention center. A limited number of wheelchairs will be available early Wednesday morning.

MEALS

Meals are included; there are no restaurants in the immediate area.

- Wednesday's breakfast is the first meal in the packages
- Foods on the buffet will be labeled for allergens.
- There will be two seatings for each meal (each limited to 750); meal tickets designate a seating time, and tickets will be checked by hotel staff.

ASSISTANCE/SPECIAL NEEDS REQUESTS:

If you noted mobility restrictions on your registration, you can expect a follow-up letter regarding arrangements accommodating those needs. If you noted any special needs regarding food allergies or other meal accommodations, you can expect a follow-up letter regarding arrangements accommodating those needs. Assistance is available for getting meals.

CHILD CARE: Provided by Children's Disaster Services will be available for \$25 a day (advance registration required). A representative from CDS will contact those who registered.

EMTs: Will be onsite.

What you need to bring

When Resident Bishop Marcus Matthews toured the episcopal area last year, he challenged United Methodists to bring one person to Jesus Christ. Now he wants those names given to God as a praise offering.

The names will be placed in the offering plate during the opening worship at 9 a.m. June 8.

The United Methodists will also be putting into practice their mission statement of being good neighbors by contributing thousands of items to the Open Door Mission, a Rochester-based homeless shelter. Open Door Mission Inc. is a not-for-profit Christian ministry that provides food, emergency housing, addiction-recovery programs,

What to bring

1. Names of people who have come to Jesus Christ. (One name on each 3 x 5 index card)
2. Donations to give to the Open Door Mission in Rochester
3. Offerings to support Bishop's Discretionary Fund, Mission of Peace and clergy care

clothing and medical assistance to thousands of people.

The following items will be collected in receptacles at the conference site: mayonnaise, assorted half-gallons of juice, coffee, creamer, sugar, coffee filters, large disposable gloves, Dawn dish soap, bleach, 55-gallon garbage bags, 4"

Styrofoam salad bowls, 6" Styrofoam dessert plates, plastic forks, spoons, knives, paper towels, paper napkins and bathroom tissue.

There are three opportunities to donate financial gifts:

- Clergy Session on at 1:30 p.m. June 7: An offering will be taken to support the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.
- Mission Celebration in the evening of June 8: An offering will be taken to support the Mission of Peace (MOP) ministries.
- Ordination ceremony on June 11: An offering will be taken to support clergy care.

Checks may be made payable to UNYAC, with respective missions in the memo fields.

AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

1:30 – 5 pm Clergy Session/Radisson Ballroom
1:30 – 5 pm Laity Session/Asbury First UMC
5:30 – 8:30 pm Retirement Dinner/Radisson Ballroom (social hour 5:30/dinner 6:30 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

8 am Prayer Time
8:15 am Ballot Testing
9 am Opening Worship w/Bishop Matthews
10:15 am Holy Conferencing
Noon Lunch Break
1:45 – 2:15 pm Music for Gathering
2:15 – 5pm Holy Conferencing Continues
5 – 7 pm Dinner Break
7 – 9 pm Mission Celebration with AU Choir

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

8:15 am Music for Gathering
8:30 – 9:30 am Bible Study w/Bishop McCleskey
9:30 – 10 am Laity Address
10 am – Noon Table Talk
Noon Lunch Break
1:45 – 2:15 pm Music for Gathering
2:15 – 5 pm Holy Conferencing Continues
5 pm Dinner Break
7 – 8:30 pm Holy Conferencing Continues
9 pm Ordination Rehearsal

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

8:15 am Music for Gathering
8:30 – 9:30 am Bible Study w/Bishop McCleskey
9:30 am Holy Conferencing Continues
Noon Lunch Break
1:45 – 2:15 pm Music for Gathering
2:15 – 4:30 pm Holy Conferencing Continues
4:30 pm Dinner Break
7 pm Memorial Service w/Bishop McCleskey

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

8:15 am Music for Gathering
8:30 am Worship and Reading of Appointments
10 am Ordination/Commissioning Service

NOTE: Agenda is tentative and exact times may change.



Follow the Session live

Live streaming of the Second Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will be available during the June 7-11 gathering in Rochester.

The live streaming will begin each day at 8 a.m., giving those unable to attend an opportunity to watch from home or with a group at your church.

To view the live streaming, visit the conference website at unyumc.org.

A good Internet connec-

tion is recommended, and you will need audio capability.

Special events you may want to watch include:

- **Opening Worship** with Bishop Matthews – 9 a.m. Wednesday
- **Mission Celebration** with Africa University Choir – 7 p.m. Wednesday
- **Memorial Service** with Bishop McCleskey – 7 p.m. Friday
- **Ordination Service** – 10 a.m. Saturday

Session performers



Submitted photo

The Africa University Choir will give several performances throughout the Conference Session. This 16-member vocal ensemble performs a repertoire of sacred and secular choral music – both Western and African. The choir has been nominated for a National Arts Merit Award by the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe. Africa University is a United Methodist-related institution located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe; it opened in 1992. Today, the university has an undergraduate enrollment of 1,300 students from 28 countries.



Submitted photo

Gap (Gaspere) Mangione and his New Blues Band will perform at the retirement dinner June 7 (see Page 5 for more on the retirees). Rochester native Mangione and his brother Chuck (best known for his hit “Feels So Good”), formed their first band as teenagers. The Jazz Brothers released their first album in 1960. Gap has recorded four albums for A&M, and performs with his big band, his New Blues Band and as a solo artist. The Lodge at Woodcliff in Rochester is the new home for Gap’s solo piano and group performances.

Mark Miller to perform

Mark Miller, who will perform at this Annual Conference Session, is well known throughout the United Methodist Church as a worship leader, teacher and performer of sacred music.

Since 1997, Miller has performed concerts and directed conferences at churches both across the United States and internationally. Abingdon Press has written that Miller is a “rising star in the field of Protestant music.”

His music reflects elements of classical, gospel, jazz and folk, and he has more than 25 works published with Abingdon Press, Choirsters Guild and Hope Publishing.

Miller, a graduate of Yale University and Julliard, is lecturer in the practice of sacred music at Yale. He is also director of music and composer-in-residence at the Drew Theological School in Madison, N.J.

He is minister of music of covenant at United Methodist



Church in Plainfield, N.J. From 2002 to 2007 he was director of Contemporary Worship at Marble Collegiate Church, and from 1999 to 2001 was music associate and assistant organist of the Riverside Church in New York City.

As an undergraduate he earned the Yale Bach Society Prize and, in 1989, won first prize in the National Association of Negro Musicians National Organ Competition.

Guest speakers

McCleskey to lead memorial

As a guest at the Conference Session, Bishop (Ret.) J. Lawrence McCleskey will lead a memorial service June 10 and a number of Bible studies.

In 2010, McCleskey said his new position as executive vice president for development of Africa University sounded like a perfect fit.

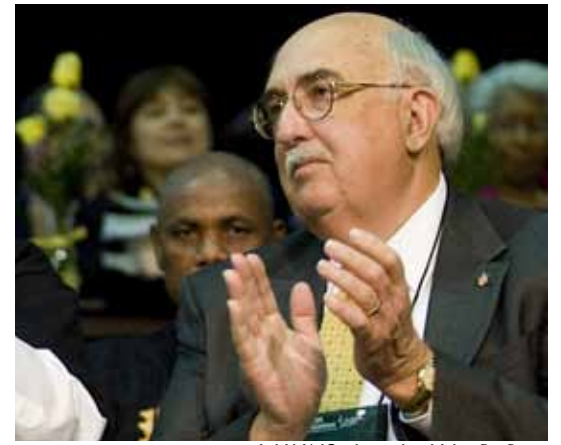
“I love finding United Methodists with means and helping them to find something to do with it,” he said, adding that he “(works) with bishops and annual conferences that want to do campaigns for Africa University and call on individual donors, focusing on building endowment for scholarships and capital projects.”

McCleskey currently serves as chair of the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He also is a trustee of Duke University.

He was elected to the episcopacy in July 1996 and assigned to the Columbia Area (South Carolina Conference). He served for 33 years as a member of the Western North Carolina Conference, where he was appointed to churches with memberships from 35 to 3,700 members. He served six years as superintendent of the Winston-Salem District.

In 2004, he was assigned to the Charlotte Area (Western North Carolina Conference) where he served until his retirement in 2008.

He was a delegate to both the South-



A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Bishop (Ret.) J. Lawrence McCleskey at a presentation on Africa University at the 2008 General Conference. McCleskey is executive VP for development for AU.

eastern Jurisdictional and the General Conferences in 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1996. He served from 1988-1996 as a member of the Division of Ordained Ministry of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and he chaired the Division of Ordained Ministry from 1992-1996.

Born in Atlanta, and raised there and in Tampa, Fla., McCleskey is a graduate of Duke University, Duke Divinity School and Princeton Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Margaret Fowler McCleskey, have three children: James, Sarah and Matthew. The couple lives in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Student ambassador wants to give back to Black College Fund

By Christian Vischi
Advocate Writer

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused more than \$100 billion in damage, making it the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history, according to *The Boston Globe*.

For one Lina H. McCord summer intern, that disaster nearly meant the closure of his school.

Charlie Coleman III, a student at Dillard University in New Orleans, learned that money from the Black College Fund was used to construct two new buildings on the Dillard campus, replacing a pair of the 43 buildings on the campus that were damaged or destroyed by Katrina.

“Seeing what it has done for my school makes me want to give just as much as I can back to The United Methodist Church and the Black College Fund as they have given to me,” Coleman said.

Coleman is one of nine 2011 Lina H. McCord summer interns.

Each year, students from the 11 colleges and universities are selected at the recommendation of their college presidents to serve as goodwill ambassadors for the Black

College Fund.

As ambassadors for the Black College Fund, they will travel to annual conference meetings and other church events to speak about the importance of supporting the fund.

Coleman will be a guest speaker at the Second Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference in Rochester’s Riverside Convention Center.

The son of Charlie and Venice, two United Methodist pastors, he is actively involved in the Student Government Association, and was the first freshman in the school’s history to be elected the body’s vice-president.

A member of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Coleman has maintained a 3.8 GPA.

Following graduation, he plans to attend Boston University or the University of Texas Law School. His goal is to work for the Central Intelligence Agency as an intelligence collection analyst.

Established in 1972, the Black College Fund supports the operations, programs and capital improvements at United Methodist-related historically black colleges. For more information about the Black College Fund, visit www.gbhem.org/bcfl.

Joey Butler, editor of young adult content for *United Methodist Communications in Nashville, Tenn.*, contributed to this story.



The United Methodist Church

About the Black College Fund

- The United Methodist Church supports the largest number of black colleges and universities of any church body in the United States.
- The 11 historically black colleges are located in the Southeastern and South Central Jurisdictions.
- There are approximately 16,000 students enrolled in our schools; 90 percent of the students qualify for financial aid.
- In 2006, United Methodists gave \$9,850,753 which was 87 percent of the apportionment.

Source: www.gbhem.org/bcfl

Retirees by the numbers ...

Here's a look at how the retirees add up

Those attending the Conference Session are invited to celebrate the service of the clergy who are transitioning into retirement this year.

The *Advocate* decided to take a "by the numbers" look at the retirees being honored at this Conference Session.

This impressive group will be honored at a dinner from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, in the Radisson Hotel ballroom.

Here's what we found:

- 138 total appointments**
- 33 retirees**
- 21 full elders**
- 17 men**
- 16 women**
- 6 part-time pastors**
- 3 associate members**
- 1 full-time pastor**
- 1 missionary**
- 1 other denomination/conference**

Honored retirees

Richard D. Anderson
 Kenneth Babcock
 Joyce Bryson
 Stephan J. Calos
 Richard Capron
 Dana J. Carroll
 Virginia (Ginny) Cross
 Rebecca W. Dolch
 Edward A. Golden
 Paul D. Gongloff
 Mary Guy
 James Hankey
 Roy Hansen
 Ann Hicks
 Thana M. Kibbe
 Douglas M. Knopp

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 Judith A. Thistle
 Genett Timlin
 D. Gregory Van Dussen
 Jerome Ward
 Sarah C. White

Joan Zimmerman

Mission Celebration 'Being God's love to our neighbors in all places'



The Mission Celebration, to be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, is an opportunity to celebrate how the Spirit is empowering ministry through our annual conference.

Using the bold mandate of Acts 1:8 to be Christ's witnesses "in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," we'll give witness to the many ways Upper New York United Methodists "living the Gospel of Jesus Christ and being God's love to our neighbors in all places."

Using multimedia and personal testimony, witnesses from several UNYAC local churches, conference ministries and General Church organizations will offer inspirational stories of how

real people are making a real difference in the lives of their neighbors.

Mark Miller and the band will be on hand to keep things rocking and the Africa University Choir will take the stage during the final hour to bless everyone with their ministry of music.

It's going to be an incredible evening of celebration!

The program may vary, but among those who may be presenters at the Mission Celebration are:

- Camp and Retreat Ministries
- Conference Council on Youth Ministries
- Haiti Network
- General Board of Global Ministries Advance and Ministry with Poor



TOP: Camp staff and volunteers strive to be Christian role models for youth. *Archive photo*
ABOVE: United Methodist Volunteer in Mission team members help lead a game for children outside the Methodist Church in Furcy, Haiti. *UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.*

Memorial Service: Many will be missed

The Annual Conference Session includes a memorial service, at 7 p.m. Friday, June 10, remembering those who have passed in the last year.

Among those being honored are clergy; since they are not members of a local church but of the Annual Conference, this is their church memorial service. The service also honors bishops whose membership is in the Council of Bishops. Finally, the service honors extension ministers.

The spouses of clergy and bishops are honored for their support in the ministry of their clergy spouse.

Those being remembered:

COUNCIL OF BISHOPS AND SPOUSES

March 15, 2010 Mrs. Alice Kearns
 April 8, 2010 Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa
 April 14, 2010 Mrs. Marion Clark
 May 3, 2010 Mrs. Geneva Harris
 May 15, 2010 Bishop Ray Owen
 July 7, 2010 Mrs. Louise Duffey
 July 13, 2010 Mrs. Alegria Toquero
 July 14, 2010 Bishop William Dew
 Aug. 14, 2010 Mrs. Annamary DeWitt
 Sept. 8, 2010 Bishop James K. Mathews
 Oct. 10, 2010 Bishop James S. Thomas
 Oct. 23, 2010 Mrs. Sarah Allen
 Nov. 1, 2010 Mrs. Catherine Copeland
 Dec. 24, 2010 Bishop Edsel A. Ammons
 Jan. 23, 2011 Bishop Marion M. Edwards

EXTENSION MINISTERS AND SPOUSES

May 10, 2010 Gordon H. Russell, husband of Rev. Adrienne Russell
 May 14, 2010 Rev. Robert Bromfield, retired clergy
 June 18, 2010 Howard W. Bacon, retired elder
 June 18, 2010 Irving G. Hill, retired elder
 June 26, 2010 Dawn L. Carr, wife of Rev. James Carr
 June 28, 2010 Rev. Donna Kytte, retired local pastor
 June 30, 2010 Eva Grover, surviving spouse
 July 4, 2010 David Quick, retired elder
 July 8, 2010 Sandra A. Gray Long, wife of Rev. Robert F. Long
 July 11, 2010 Barbara Curtis, surviving spouse
 July 15, 2010 Angela Excell, wife of Rev. Charles V. Excell
 July 20, 2010 Veronica Bohea, surviving spouse
 July 22, 2010 Helen Whetstone, wife of Rev. Ross Whetstone
 July 29, 2010 Alice Hinman Robinson Lord Munger, surviving spouse
 Aug. 10, 2010 Sylvia Bouton, surviving spouse
 Aug. 20, 2010 Rev. Frank B. Brandon Jr., retired clergy
 Aug. 28, 2010 Verla Voght, surviving spouse
 Aug. 28, 2010 Richard G. Mueller, husband of

Rev. Jacqueline Mueller
 Sept. 26, 2010 Richard Deitzler, former lay member
 Sept. 29, 2010 Rev. Robert F. Shippee, retired clergy
 Oct. 8, 2010 Edwin A. Simmons, retired clergy
 Oct. 12, 2010 Jeanne E. Waters, wife of Rev. Raoul Waters
 Oct. 12, 2010 Sandra Bitler, wife of Rev. Kenneth Bitler
 Oct. 13, 2010 Blance Burwell, surviving spouse
 Oct. 17, 2010 Norman Tauscher, retired clergy
 Oct. 21, 2010 Rev. Robert F. Trost, retired clergy
 Oct. 22, 2010 Thelma Gotjen, surviving spouse
 Nov. 9, 2010 Rev. Robert J. Pascoe, retired clergy
 Nov. 13, 2010 Rev. Jerald Lipsius, retired clergy
 Nov. 17, 2010 Phyllis Covell, wife of Rev. Warren Covell
 Nov. 21, 2010 Rev. Kenneth N. Snyder, retired clergy
 Nov. 21, 2010 Elizabeth Ireson, surviving spouse
 Nov. 24, 2010 Rev. Nancye Halm, retired clergy
 Nov. 25, 2010 Alice Alsobrook, surviving spouse
 Dec. 5, 2010 Rev. Melvin R. McGaughey, retired clergy
 Dec. 21, 2010 Audrey Martin, wife of Rev. John Martin
 Dec. 22, 2010 Rev. William Barney, retired clergy
 Dec. 24, 2010 Rev. William Dobson, retired clergy
 Dec. 31, 2010 Phyllis Skiff, surviving spouse
 Jan. 1, 2011 Rev. Roger U. Day, retired clergy
 Jan. 6, 2011 Rev. Kevin Stockwell, clergy
 Jan. 10, 2011 Rev. Franklyn Cism, retired clergy
 Jan. 11, 2011 Barbara Steinkraus, surviving spouse
 Jan. 14, 2011 Rev. Alan Barnes, retired clergy
 Jan. 18, 2011 James Blance, lay member to conference
 Jan. 23, 2011 Leah M. Webb, wife of Rev. Willis Webb
 Jan. 29, 2011 Cora Ridsen, surviving spouse
 Feb. 10, 2011 Rev. Virgil Versteeg, retired clergy
 Feb. 10, 2011 Kay Owen, surviving spouse
 Feb. 20, 2011 Rev. Kathryn G. Austin, clergy
 March 3, 2011 Rev. James Snedeker Jr., retired clergy
 March 9, 2011 Rev. John E. Martin, retired clergy
 March 15, 2011 Edwin White, husband of Rev. Judy White
 March 20, 2011 Rev. Melba Meyer, retired clergy
 March 25, 2011 Donald H. Bishop, retired clergy
 March 28, 2011 Ada Ruth Young, surviving spouse
 April 12, 2011 Esther Hubbard, surviving spouse
 April 15, 2011 Betsy P. Fisher, surviving spouse
 April 27, 2011 Rev. Robert Bird, retired clergy

Highlights from the proposed resolutions

Among the items on the agenda for the Annual Conference Session in Rochester are a series of resolutions and petitions proposed by conference committees and task forces.

Below is a quick outline of the resolutions; it is by no means inclusive.

The full text can be found in the Pre-Conference Booklet (beginning page references are provided). Download and print it from the conference website at www.unyumc.org.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION & HEALTH BENEFITS (CBOPHB)

Page 39

The CBOPHB, which supervises and administers retirement plans, investment funds, and health and welfare benefit plans for active and retired clergy, surviving spouses, and lay employees of the church, is seeking conference approval for the responsibility of redistributing funds collected by the Golden Cross Offering within the conference.

The Golden Cross Offering already supports chaplaincy programs within the conference, and the hope is to fund these and other ministries.

Other CBOPHB recommendations:

PAST SERVICE ANNUITY RATE: The Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits recommends that the Past Service Annuity Rate for Pre-82 pension payments to retired clergy of the Upper New York Annual Conference be set at \$564 per service year for 2012. This represents a 2.2 percent increase over the 2011 rate and is 1.02 percent of the Denominational Average Compensation.

REVISION TO PRE-JULY 1, 2010 RETIREE PREMIUM: Clergy who retired prior to July 1, 2010 will pay on the same scale as previously approved for those who retire on or after July 1, 2010. Conference obligation is based on years of service at 3 percent of actual premium per full-time equivalent years of service up to 30 years and five years vesting.

REVISION TO RETIREE CONTRIBUTION POLICY for under age 65 retirees: Conference obligation is based on years of service at 3 percent of actual premium per full-time equivalent years of service up to 30 years and 5 years vesting. In

Definition: "Resolution". A "resolution" is a document that states something that the Upper New York Annual Conference, itself, resolves to be a Conference position or statement

addition, the clergyperson will pay 5 percent of premium for each year the clergyperson is under age 65. At age 65, the retiree will pay the years-of-service formula only.

REPLACE RETIREE HEALTH SUBSIDY (non-conference plan) WITH RETIREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM to provide financial assistance to retirees for any purpose, including health insurance, when total income from all sources is less than the conference minimum salary for local pastors, up to \$5,000 annually. (Read more below).

RETIRED PASTORS' EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE is an emergency grant program to provide financial assistance to income-eligible retired pastors and their surviving spouses facing unexpected financial needs. In addition, this program will "fold in" financial assistance with health insurance costs (premiums and/or other out-of-pocket expenses).

The total amount available for grants each year would be determined by the CBOPHB. Funding would come from reserves, a special offering received in the local churches, or a combination. The actual amount of individual grants would be determined by the number of eligible requests and the funds available. The recommendation includes a total income eligibility minimum and a maximum grant of \$5,000.

PENSION BILLING: The board's recommendations to the 2011 session include the establishment of the 2012 Past Service Rate (for pre-1982 years of service) and the required Pre-82 Pension Funding Plan. Also, there is the annual resolution designating all UMC pension and disability payments in 2012 as a housing/rental allowance.

MOVING CLERGY: The CBOPHB proposes creating a uniform policy for covering moving expenses and handling arrangements for moving retired clergy.

For each year of service in the Upper New York Annual Conference (and four former conferences), 3 percent of the following amounts will be paid toward the retirement move:

- Full-time (at time of retirement) \$3,000 (\$90 per year of service)
- Three-quarter time

\$2,250 (\$67.50 per year of service)

- Half-time \$1,500 (\$45 per

year of service)

CLERGY COMPENSATION TASK FORCE

Page 66

The Clergy Compensation Task Force was composed of individuals assigned by the Bishop, related to the Conference Leadership Team, and including representatives of the cabinet, clergy (both ordained and licensed) and laity.

The task force was charged with discerning, deliberating and determining the following:

- A plan for standardizing minimum compensation across the new conference;
- Recommendations regarding what elements should constitute a complete clergy compensation package;
- Consideration of what constitutes a missional full-time appointment;
- Recommendations regarding compensation levels with respect to years of service;
- Recommendations regarding benefits and reimbursable matters;
- Consideration of pre-tax contributions by clergy to health insurance and other benefits; and a plan of interpretation for clergy and laity.

MINIMUM BASE SALARY: A standardized minimum base compensation will be established for the Upper New York Annual Conference that includes a base salary of \$35,000 for all full-time clergy persons.

Credential increment based on status is recommended as follows:

- Full connection: 10 percent (\$3,500) or \$38,500
- Provisional: 8 percent (\$2,800) or \$37,800
- Associate: 6 percent (\$2,100) or \$37,100
- FT LP completed Course of Study: 4 percent (\$1,400) or \$36,400

Additional increases:

- Time in Grade (i.e., number of years in credential level): \$200 per year up to 15 years.

- Number of churches on pastoral charge: An additional \$500 for each church over one.

PHASE-IN: The task force is aware that for some

churches, providing the 2012 minimum base compensation will be difficult and is providing a phase-in recommendation for churches/charges where the 2011 level is lower than the 2012 Minimum Base Compensation.

ARP: All pastors appointed within the Upper New York Annual Conference are entitled to an Accountable Reimbursement Plan (ARP) for professional expenses incurred while performing pastoral duties.

A minimum annual ARP budget for a full-time pastor would be \$3,500 for a single church appointment and \$4,500 for a multi-church appointment under this proposal. Churches with pastoral appointments of ¾ time, ½ time or ¼ time would budget and pay an ARP proportional to this standard for full-time appointments. Additionally, congregations are encouraged to budget ARP above the required minimum in consideration of location-specific mileage needs and other factors.

TIME OFF POLICY:

Clergy Vacation Policy – four weeks for all clergy with five weeks for those with more than 20 years of service. Full time pastors are encouraged to give a week annually to a Conference camping ministry. There will be no prescribed sick leave for clergy. Short- and long-term disability will be in place as needed.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Page 46

The Conference Committee on Communications is encouraging the body of the Upper New York Annual Conference (UNYAC) to adopt a resolution to further communication technology in the conference.

The communications committee is asking for a resolution assuring three key communications tools:

- Churches in the conference who have the resources should provide the church office and the pastor access to Internet services at an affordable price;

- Each church should have an email address to use for electronic communication; and

- Each church should name a person to serve as a communications coordinator to help in guiding the communication strategy of that individual church.

DISTRICTING TASK FORCE

Page 56

The Districting Task Force recommends the following actions for this session of the annual conference:

- The Upper New York Annual Conference empower each district lay leader, in consultation with their district superintendent, to form a District Lay Leadership team to enact the provisions outlined in Paragraph 660 of *The Book of Discipline*. This will ensure cohesive and consistent lay leadership across the conference and facilitate effective communication between the laity, local church, district superintendents, and the conference leadership structure.

- The Upper New York Annual Conference authorize the continued work of the Districting Task Force under the direction of the bishop and the Conference Leadership Team, with funding provided by the Conference Leadership Team.

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Page 59

The Safe Sanctuaries Task Force of the Upper New York Annual Conference has the goal of establishing the UNYAC as a Safe Sanctuaries Conference by Dec. 31, 2012.

The Safe Sanctuaries Task Force's resolution identifies five areas that the UNYAC intends to keep:

- Follow reasonable safety measures in the selection and recruitment of workers;
- Implement prudent operational procedures in all program and events;
- Educate all of our workers with children, youth and vulnerable adults regarding the use of appropriate policies and methods;
- Have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse that conforms to the requirements of state law; and
- Provide for crisis response, crisis intervention and media inquiries should an incident occur.

The resolution also calls for the creation of Safe Sanctuaries Committees at the local level; having a copy of each group's Safe Sanctuaries policy on file in the Office of the Director of Connectional Ministries; and mandating that the minimum standards and procedures are implemented by Dec. 31, 2012 and reviewed annually.

Budget highlights

See the Pre-Conference Booklet, pages 27-38
Details on funded conference committees appear on pages 17-26
Details on funding allocations over \$100,000 appear on pages 33-37

Main points of the 2012 budget:

- The total budget is the same for 2012 as it was 2011: \$10,718,402.
- The ministry shares are the same as well, and there is a new ministry share formula.
- No ministry share will change more than 10 percent, up or down, from 2011 to the proposed 2012 level.

- Apportionment calculation is 15 percent of your church's operating budget; that's the only element of determining the formula, it is without regard to expenses or attendance.
- There are no new positions added in this budget; in other words, no change in the number of positions being funded between 2011 to 2012.

Also available at this Conference Session ... 'Blueprint for Wellness'

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits has teamed up with Quest Diagnostics to offer "Blueprint for Wellness," a free health screening program for eligible participants in the conference.

Quest Diagnostics will be at the Annual Conference Session (in the Lilac Room, Radisson Hotel, second floor).

Screenings will be from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. on June 8-10 (Walk-ins will be allowed if time permits). Participants are urged to fast for 8-12 hours before for best results.

You may instead have a screening done at a Quest Laboratory.

This is an opportunity to obtain a comprehensive "biometric" screening that provides information about your heart, liver and kidney function, diabetes risk and blood sugar, calcium and iron – plus PSA screening for men.

In addition to obtaining information to help implement a wellness plan, individuals can earn \$100 in Virgin Miles Health Cash.

The screening is available to all participants and spouses covered by a HealthFlex Active or Medicare Companion Plan. To receive the \$100 HealthCash incentive, you and your spouse must be participants in the Active HealthFlex Plan and enrolled in Virgin Health Miles.

The screening must be completed by July 31.

Additional information on the HealthFlex 2011 Incentives can be found on the conference website or at webmdhealth.com/gbophb.



Cokesbury booksellers

Although the last brick and mortar location of Cokesbury in Central New York has been shuttered (the Syracuse store was one of five that closed last fall), a company representative has reassured us that the Christian bookseller will continue to serve churches of the Upper New York Annual Conference – and that includes having a presence at the Annual Conference Session.

Kathryn Hackney, a Cokesbury sales representative to the Upper New York Annual Conference based in Albany, said, "Cokesbury will have a large display at the 2011 Annual Conference."

The Cokesbury display will provide a variety of supplies, gifts, official United Methodist Resources, and a large selection of books and clergy apparel.

Cokesbury is the retail division of The United Methodist Publishing House. Products range from curricula, books, consumable supplies, apparel for clergy and choir, church furnishings, altarware, seating for sanctuaries and fellowship halls, and classroom furnishings.

For more information about Cokesbury's offerings, Hackney can be reached via phone at (518) 266-9108 or e-mail at khackney@cokebury.com or visit www.Cokesbury.com.

Palestinian dinner

Relationship building, education and some great food are on the menu for the first UNY Palestinian Dinner hosted by the newly-forming Task Force on Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel of Upper New York.

The dinner will be Thursday, June 9, following the Annual Conference afternoon session. The buffet will begin at 5:15 p.m. The goal of the dinner, said organizers, is to build relationships among delegates, offer information about Palestine/Israel and raise funds for Palestinian mission schools and for the Gary Bergh Scholarship, which enables young adults to travel to Palestine/Israel.

Dinner is \$15, and 150 reservations will be taken; contact Linda Bergh at (315) 492-8507 or Karen Peterson at (607) 739-3141. Donations to the Bergh Scholarship will be accepted as well.



More than 80 seek to be delegates

More than 80 candidates from the Upper New York Area have indicated their prayerful desire to be elected as delegates to the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church.

According to the Conference Committee on Petitions and Resolutions, 31 lay members and 52 clergy members have successfully submitted their candidacy information.

Sixteen delegates – eight clergy and eight lay – will be elected to the General and Jurisdictional conferences during the Annual Conference Session. The session will also elect eight additional delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference, for a total of 24 delegates to that conference.

According to the constitution of the Church, the clergy delegates must be elected from the clergy members in full connection. The lay delegates must be elected, without regard to age and such delegates must have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their election. The lay delegates also must have been active participants in the church for at least four years preceding their election.

The number of delegates per annual conference is calculated based on the requirement of one lay and one clergy delegate for each annual conference, with additional delegates assigned proportionately according to the conferences' clergy and lay membership. The Upper New York Annual Conference has been assigned 16 delegates for the 2012 General Conference, the largest number in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.



Those who wished to be considered as candidates for election as delegates were asked to submit their information online. For the list, see the conference website at www.unyumc.org.

Eligible candidates who did not submit information online by May 1 are not included in this list; they are, however, still eligible for election.

The Committee on Petitions and Resolutions has asked that prior to and during the elections the will of the Spirit will be sought, and there will be no "campaigning" – by any means, including: mailings, buttons and other promotional efforts – by, for or against any candidate.

The lay candidates will be introduced at the laity session of the annual conference session, while the clergy candidates will be at the clergy portion of the annual conference session, both at 1:30 p.m. on June 7.

The delegation leader for 2012-2016 will be the first lay person elected. The delegation's vice-leader for 2012-2016 will be the first clergy person elected.

Several petitions to be considered

There are several petitions proposed for consideration at the 2011 Annual Conference.

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH

Most of the petitions submitted to the Upper New York Annual Conference for General Conference approval are seeking changes in the church law regarding homosexuality as contained in *The Book of Discipline* (2008).

The petitions reveal that several members of the church are seeking to repeal laws that prohibit same-sex marriages in The United Methodist Church.

One petition is calling for the removal of language regarding how marriage is defined in civil society.

Two petitions are seeking the removal of "exclusive" and "condemnatory" language on homosexuality in Paragraph 161F of *The Book of Discipline* because "this judgmental, condemnatory language is in conflict with the present state of scientific knowledge."

Another petition wants to "end discrimination against homosexual clergy," by challenging Paragraph 304.3, which prohibits self-avowed practicing homosexuals from becoming certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.

Another petition calls on The United Methodist Church to offer the blessings of Christian marriage to homosexual couples, challenging Paragraph 341.6, which forbids ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions from being conducted by United Methodist ministers and from being conducted in United Methodist churches.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A petition submitted by the Africa University Task Force asks the conference to create the Upper New York Annual Conference Scholarship Fund for Africa University initiated through a \$1 million campaign that would begin immediately upon passage

Definition: "Petition": A "petition" is a document that is to be sent to the General Conference (or to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference) that requests a specific action of the General Conference and may be a modification of *The Book of Discipline*, or of *The Book of Resolutions*, or of General Conference rules or a modification to Northeastern Jurisdictional rules, policies, or procedures.

A "modification" is an addition, or a deletion, or other change.

of the resolution in June.

The fund would be invested through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Investment Committee as part of the Africa University Endowment Fund, with a prudent and appropriate amount used annually to provide scholarships to AU students.

Under this proposal, Africa University would provide an annual report to the Upper New York Annual Conference on the students assisted by this fund and the performance of the endowment.

The conference would encourage scholarship recipients to contact the conference in order to foster mutual communication and support.

The campaign would be initiated and managed by the Bishop's Special Task Force for Africa University.



Submitted photo
The chapel at Africa University.



Alice I. Rose, the artist who created the Annual Conference Session image, had this to say about the creation of the image and its meaning: Micah, Brian and Andrew are not models. They are real and active members of a United Methodist congregation in upstate New York. They don't look like the majority of that congregation, but they do represent the congregation's growing edge. What would it mean for our church if we looked at our "growing edge" as the people who hold our promise, our power and our witness? What would it mean to fully support youth with all their hopes and fears and invite them to lead? What would it mean to fully empower the developmentally challenged adults in our midst, to try to understand their different wisdom? What would it mean to fully draw in all the young professionals who stand back in witness, waiting for an invitation that speaks to them?

Primer on Annual Conference Session & delegate election

Continued from page 1

-ence session floor is cardinal and must be treated as such. Connecting with each other in fellowship and learning about each other help promote United Methodist connectionalism. The informational booths will feature general church agencies and annual conference ministries, providing further links of the connectionalism.

What is the role of the resident bishop at the Annual Conference Session?

Bishop Marcus Matthews is the president of the conference and chairs the proceedings. As the episcopal leader, he is also charged with enforcing rules of order and upholding the Book of Discipline regulations. The decisions are made by the members but the bishop is there to run the agenda and to officiate.

What happens at the Laity Session?

During the Laity Session set for Tuesday afternoon at Asbury First UMC, the Laity will decide how best to promote the development of leadership and create programs to help the laity understand and become better ministers within the church.

Candidates for election as lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences will be introduced. The conference lay leader presides over the Laity Session.

What happens at the Clergy Session?

The Clergy Session, which is closed to the public, decides on matters of clergy. It includes voting on new ministers to be ordained or commissioned. During this year's session set for Tuesday afternoon at Radisson Hotel Ballroom, the clergy candidates for election as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences will be introduced. The resident bishop presides over the Clergy Session.

Why aren't the names of those being ordained or commissioned announced in advance?

Clergy members of the Annual Conference need to approve the list in Clergy Session before the list is presented to the Annual Conference Session as a whole.

How many people will be elected as delegates to General Conference?

This year's session will elect eight (8) lay persons as

delegates to the 2012 General Conference and the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. Eight (8) lay persons will be elected delegates to the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference, and four (4) alternate lay persons to the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. The numbers are the same for clergy.

Who is eligible to be vote for delegates to General Conference?

All lay members of this year Annual Conference session are eligible cast vote for lay delegates to General and Northeast Jurisdictional Conference. As for clergy, those eligible to cast ballots as electors in choosing the clergy delegates are:

- (a) the persons who are eligible for election (members in full connection)
- (b) associate members
- (c) provisional members who have been judged by the annual conference to have completed the educational requirements and have been elected to provisional membership
- (d) the local pastors who have met BOTH of the following criteria:
 - they have completed

course of study or received their M.Div. AND

- they have been serving under continuous appointment since July 1, 2008.

When will the results of the elections be known?

As soon as the tellers have finished counting. Since a majority of the valid ballots cast is required for a person to be elected, it is likely that it would take up to 20 ballots before all the candidates are elected. For example, if Candidate A has 320 votes of 800 cast for clergy, she won't be deemed elected even she may have the highest votes for that particular vote. She would need at least 401 to be elected.

Won't that take forever and what if by Friday we have not elected all the delegates, what happens?

According to the Book of Discipline and conference regulations, if the scheduled time for the final adjournment is within one hour without the necessary delegates having been elected, a final ballot will be taken and those receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, in order as delegates and alternates according to the number received.

What about the petitions to General Conference?

A resolution to General Conference can be supported or not supported by the Annual Conference Session. Regardless of the result at the Annual Conference, the petition can still be forwarded to General Conference by the sponsor.

So why are petitions to General Conference brought before Annual Conference Session?

For sponsors of the petitions, having the support of the Annual Conference gives more credence to the petition, and may lend some weight to it at the General Conference.

What happens after the Annual Conference Session?

Action items that are approved become policy of the Annual Conference as an organizational body. These policies are then implemented in the various areas and levels that in charge of them. The new policies usually become effective July 1 unless otherwise specified.

Compiled by Advocate Editor the Rev. Maidstone Mulenga.