



## Bishop Matthews ordains, commissions new Upper NY clergy

17 ordained and 12 commissioned

by the  
**Rev. Maidstone Mulenga**  
In a ceremony filled with celebration of the old and the new, 35 clergy members were commissioned, recognized or ordained during the first such service of the Upper New York Annual Conference at Crouse Hinds Theater in Syracuse, N.Y., on June 19.

With the Resident Bishop Marcus Matthews presiding and Bishops Susan Hassinger and Violet Fisher participating, the Service of Commissioning, Recognition and Ordination was a culmination of a joyous day, which marked the birth of the new Annual Conference in the United Methodist Church.

During the service, Bishop Matthews reminded those in attendance that ministry is the work of God, done by the people of God. "Through baptism all Christians are made part of the priesthood of all believers, the church, Christ's body, made visible in the world. We all share in Christ's ministry of love and service for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation."

Bishop Hassinger, preaching from the title Weaving Together Our Vision, urged the clergy and laity to appreciate that Christians are woven together by the Scriptures for the ministry of God.

Those commissioned to perform the duties of the

Ministry of Deacon were Patricia Anne Cardin and Linda M. Clemow

Commissioned as Provisional Elders were Jennifer Lynn Castle Eleanor G. Collinsworth, Robert A. Dean, Diane E. DiLuzio, Douglas E. Hess, Kimberly Susan Hines, Youngjae Jee, Margaret Annesley Moore, Phillip W. Phaneuf, Nancy J. Stanley, Rebecca J. Ward and Christopher Robert Wylie.

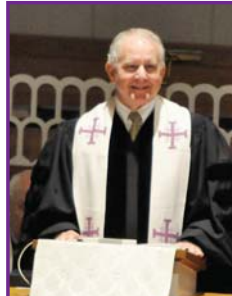
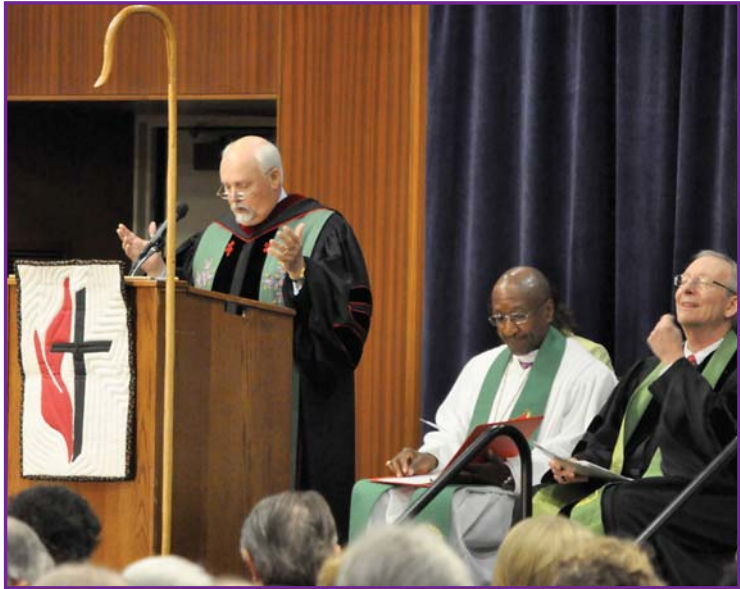
The Rev. Dong Ki Kim and The Rev. Sundar Raj Samuel were recognized as Provisional Elders.

Ordained to the Order of Deacon were the Rev. Jeffrey John Hodge and The Rev. Amy Beth W. Jones.

The 17 ministers ordained as Full Elders are: the Rev. Helen M. Beck, the Rev. Thomas James Blake, the Rev. Michael Francis Breunig, the Rev. Martin Platt Brooks, the Rev. Brian Clark Fellows, the Rev. Vonda Janine Fossitt, the Rev. Nancy Jill Hale, the Rev. Ann Catherine Kemper, the Rev. Pamela Straight Klotzbach, the Rev. James E. Knapp, the Rev. Esther Eunkyung Lee, the Rev. Richard Allan LaDue, the Rev. Marian Florence Luce, the Rev. John Alden Martin, the Rev. Caroline E. Simmons, the Rev. Karen Lorraine DeWaele Smith and the Rev. Terry Sue Williford.

(photos in alphabetical order)  
Photos by Ken Kasperpek





**MUSIC SET THE TONE AND STONES THE SPIRITUAL CENTER** as members of the North Central New York Annual Conference came together to celebrate what has been, to share tears, laughter, challenging messages, and look toward the future which awaits, during their closing session June 17 and 18. Bishop Marcus Matthews and Barbara Matthews lit candles in remembrance of bishops and the wives of bishops who died during the last year during the memorial service Thursday evening. (bottom left corner) The Reverends Darryl Barrow, Thomas Wolfe, Richard Barton, and Stephen Deckard all participated in worship services. Mary Deveny and the Rev. Elizabeth Quick joined the Conference Council on Youth Ministries for their report, bringing smiles to all in the room.  
*photos by Ken Kasperck*

More photos and stories from NCNY Conference's closing session can be found at [ncnyumc.org](http://ncnyumc.org). All stories relating to the Upper New York Uniting Conference and all future stories will be found at [anyumc.org](http://anyumc.org)

## Forward looking messages, resolutions shared at North Central New York Annual Conference closing session

The Rev. Dale E. Austin, North Central New York Annual Conference Secretary for nineteen years offered the closing motion as the North Central New York Conference ended its final Annual Conference in preparation for their future ministry as part of the Upper New York Annual Conference:

"Today we stand just a little more than a month from the 200th anniversary of Methodism in this region. It was on July 20, 1810 that the Genesee Conference was originally created, with bishops Asbury and McKendree presiding," Rev. Austin noted. "During the two centuries since that time we have seen many changes, and the present time is no exception. So it is with gratitude to God for all that has been, for the rich heritage that is already ours, and for the hope that leads us into the future

that," Rev. Austin moved to close the 202nd session of the NCNY Annual Conference and transfer all records and reports to the Upper New York Area and authorize all remaining business be completed by the new conference.

A service of appointment and closing celebration concluded with a benediction by Bishop Matthews encouraging all to make a difference in a hurting and broken world and living as people who are different today than we were yesterday because of meeting Jesus.

"Because of that we are not the same today as yesterday," Bishop Matthews said. "May the peace and love of God go with you always."

The closing motion followed a day in which members of the final North Central New York Annual Conference worshipped together, affirmed a



The Rev. Dale E. Austin

number of resolutions including those necessary to make possible their becoming part of the Upper New York Annual Conference, the discontinuation of three churches, and affirmation of the Cortland United Methodist congregation assuming ownership of a church building left vacant by discontinuation of another UMC, for developing community oriented ministry.

The Mutambara Mission Centre Water Project will receive \$14,000 in funding from The North Central New York Annual Conference the 2010 Love Offering brought to the annual conference session. An offering for Mission of Peace participants totaled \$4,784.32.

The Rev. Stephen Deckard brought a message of "threshold moments" as he shared during the opening worship of the closing session.

"This is a historical day. This is the last time that the NCNY Annual Conference will meet in session," Rev. Deckard said. "Our foremothers and forefathers have prayed taught, sung, and preached and in lots of other ways as well have been faithful church people. Those who have gone before have walked with God. They have known, felt, and sensed the power of God. We

celebrate their faithfulness. Today we pause on the threshold of a new Creation - the next leg of the journey for United Methodists in these parts of God's world.

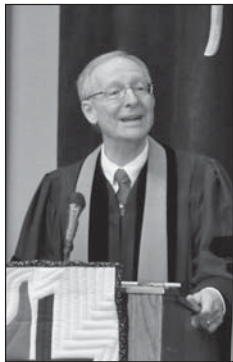
"Lord, have mercy when we chose to leave out, or limit, the Holy blessings for our community.

"As we close the door on the NCNY Annual Conference and open a new door to God's future may we open our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit. I have great appreciation and joy for these years of ministry together. Thanks to you for your leadership and faithful Christian service.

"I also have great anticipation for all that God is doing in my life and the life of laity, clergy, and local churches. May you know all the Holy Blessings of God and share them with others," the Rev. Deckard concluded.

## Opening Worship of North Central NY Closing Session begins with threshold moment

The Rev. Stephen Deckard brought a message of "threshold moments" as he shared during the Opening Worship of the North Central New York Closing Session in the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, New York.



The Rev. Stephen Deckard

"This is a historical day. This is the last time that the NCNY Annual Conference will meet in session," Rev. Deckard said. "Our foremothers and forefathers have prayed taught, sung, and preached and in lots of other ways as well have been faithful church people. Those who have gone before have walked with God. They have known, felt, and sensed the power of God. We celebrate their faithfulness. Today we pause on the threshold of a new Creation - the next leg of the journey for United Methodists in these parts of God's world.

"We thank God for the Saints who have laid the foundations, and for those who

have blessed us as we have walked together in ministry. We have been richly blessed. The NCNY annual conference has been an important leg of the journey lasting some 24 years. Bishops - Stith, Kim, Fisher, and Matthews have led us during these years. The names of the laity and clergy who have touched our lives are way too many to list today, but each of us can reflect on the names, faces, and shared stories of faith, built camp fires, prepared dinners, celebrated worship, broken communion bread, and done mission work.

"Each of you has been part of the journey of the Saints. I pray that God will give you humble satisfaction for your discipleship in the local church, district, special ministry, and the NCNY annual conference.

Rev. Deckard invited all to pause on the threshold.

"We are all Saints created in the Holy image of God, and so very differ in looks, in thought and perspective," Rev. Deckard noted. "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; God is in the chaos and darkness of our Threshold Times.

"In these threshold experiences the Holy One leads us into the greater light of the

"way, truth, and light" of the Risen Christ."

Twelve Stones were set in the worship center during the opening procession. Rev. Deckard noted that they remind us to remember God's presence and God's love.

"What meanings will these stones hold as we move on from this threshold day?" Rev. Deckard said. "What will you see in each stone, what memories, values?"

***"This is a historical day. This is the last time that the NCNY Annual Conference will meet in session,"***  
The Rev. Deckard

Rev. Deckard highlighted a few memorial points along these journeys:

The Bishop's office and residence moved to the Rochester region;

The conference office moved from the Church Center to First UM Church, Syracuse, to the Cicero UMC campus;

Both Aldersgate and Casowasco have had major upgrades to the dining, lodging and conferencing facilities; these camp, conference, and retreat ministries flourish at both sites - Casowasco and Aldersgate.

Rev. Deckard noted NCNY has been able to overcome about a million dollar debt and today has a very stable financial position and support

structure; The program staff and ministry of NCNY had staff persons who focused on Spiritual Leadership and Congregational Development. Laity and Clergy in our churches have benefited and have developed awareness and leadership skills.

"The stones remind us that God has led the way," Rev. Deckard noted.

Ministry Teams and special programs have addressed critical and vital topics, including:

- Sexual abuse,
- Racial justice and equality,
- Native American ministries,
- Disability issues, and inclusion of all God's people,
- Missional churches
- Older adult ministries,
- Christian education and nurture
- Safe Sanctuary for all in our churches and ministries; and many, many more:

"The stones remind us of ways we have responded to God moving in and through us to be God's love with our neighbors," Rev. Deckard said.

"And yet, And yet dear friends. As we pause at the threshold of the creation of the New Conference, it would be wise to acknowledge the significant loss within the NCNY over these few 24 years.

Membership declined by over 30,000 and is now 71% of what it was.

He invited all to turn to Acts for new hope:

ACTS 2 - God prepares the way for greater faith and new signs and wonders. Acts 2: 1-4, 43 - 47

"My prayer is that the New Conference will work together in smooth alignment to reach out with God's love to all our neighbors," Rev. Deckard said.

He noted that Saints, past and present lead to the future

We all stand in the present because of the past. We stand on the shoulders of the Saints who have gone before.

"Even now, the present, this day is the threshold of the future. It is our youth who lead the way -

- teaching us new music, setting up our computers, TVs, cell phones,
- showing deep faith in God, leading us to our global and local neighbors, and
- ask the questions that lead to mission and evangelism.

"We stand on Holy Ground - each of us, whatever generation whatever gender. Jesus was always welcoming inviting of neighbors & outsiders to experience God's Love, even people like you and me. People we don't like, but God loves. God is present with you even now, deep inside, in this a holy moment, a holy threshold, deep inside God calling us to a new day, new tomorrow.

## Upper New York Conference congregations living the gospel of Jesus Christ and being God's love with our neighbors in all places



**THE BETTER COMMUNITY – A Kidney Walk Mission Outreach 2006 registration started as the result of an evening Bible Study “The Better Community”. This walk by the Gerry UNC was held at the Town Park in Gerry, New York. It has now expanded and was held June 13 at the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena in Jamestown, New York. The beginning result was about \$3,000 for dialysis and has now expanded to many more walkers and proceeds nearing \$20,000.**

### Volunteer in Mission team makes difference in Nicaragua

Twenty volunteers from New England and Upper New York were part of a Volunteer in Mission trip to Nicaragua in February.

The team included four people from Vermont, two from the North Central New York, and ten from the Capital district.

“We worked with CEPAD, and ecumenical agency which works to empower communities, and Acción Médica Cristiana (AMC), an ecumenical Christian agency which works to promote health through medical and dental care, health education, and basic measures such as good water and latrines,” Janet Huston notes. “Our contact at AMC is Dr. Belinda Forbes, a United Methodist missionary dentist. Several churches in both the New England and Upper New York Conferences have covenant relationships with Belinda.”

#### An account of the visit

The following, with modifications, was written by Kathy Sen to a friend. Kathy is a supervising public health nurse in the Schenectady County Public Health Services.

Frank and I have returned from Nicaragua, safe and sound, although a bit weary from travel. We spent two weeks in Nicaragua. Fortunately, we worked with a terrific group of people from the First United Methodist Church in Schenectady, New York (although we are not members) who have a great affection for the people of Nicaragua.

Along with 14 others (ranging in age from 14 years to 70 something) we began our trip with an orientation to the goals and operations of CEPAD and AMC-Acción Médica Cristiana (the organizations that we affiliate and work with in Nicaragua). We continued our travel with a brief tour of Managua, Lake Nicaragua, the Masaya market and Volcan (volcano) Masaya. After a couple of days in Managua

and touring, we flew on a 12 passenger plane from Managua to the Miskito coast and landed in Puerto Cabezas (aka “Bilwi”) and proceeded 4 hours west on a typical local bus (old North American school bus) to Sahsa. We saw a semi-head-on collision of two taxis in Bilwi (thankfully no injuries) and had our bus break down en route.

The road was about the worst “main” road I have ever traveled on... not the most dangerous one, but if you tend toward motion sickness, take your Dramamine. The bus ride would qualify as a pretty exciting Disney ride! I think it was only about 80 miles to Sahsa but it took 4 plus hours to arrive.

When we finally arrived in Sahsa after dark, there was no light in the AMC headquarters’ main room where 9 of the 16 of us were sleeping.

So, a Nicaraguan hombre hooked up a light bulb over my sleeping mat and mosquito net and proclaimed his work to be “muy peligroso” - very dangerous. Thanks. Also, when the light bulb was on (intermittently due to the town generator only operating between 6 pm and 10 pm with frequent and unexpected black outs) the myriad of insects and bugs that hit the bulb fluttered onto my mosquito net, which had been sprayed with permethrin, and if they were dry and small enough, fell through onto my mat. Luckily, I am not too freaked out by small bugs. The giant, tan and hairy spiders were another story.

The North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) of Nicaragua is a land full of beauty (including the people) but has been devastated by natural disasters, political corruption and extreme poverty. In the RAAN, 70 of every 1000 children do not live past the age of 5 years. That kind of health statistic is just not acceptable.

Basically our mission was twofold: 1. the initial construction phase of a small commu-

nity pharmacy in Las Brenas that will provide sustainable, safe and low cost medications to the local population, under the supervision of AMC and 2. the provision of acute, non-complex health care to about 1000 Nicaraguans in several communities near Danto Dos, Kukalaya and Ujimbila.

We have a terrific working relationship with Dr. Belinda Forbes (a United Methodist missionary) who is assigned to work with AMC, a Nicaraguan Christian ecumenical organization specializing in community health and development in impoverished, rural communities, many of which are indigenous. Belinda grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts and was educated at Tufts Dental School. She married a Nicaraguan physician and resides with her husband (who also works for AMC) and 2 children in Managua. She is quite remarkable.

AMC is a Christian, medically based organization that implements community health and development in poor communities of Nicaragua, with an emphasis on women, children and adolescents. Accion Medica Cristiana’s vision is to be an agent for essential social change so that communities and municipalities can implement a health and development model that improves quality of life.

The health team had 3 “stations” where we saw patients. After patients were assessed and educated (briefly, unfortunately) they received their medications at a pharmacy station that was established on a couple of tables. A Nicaraguan physician named Gabriel Soto was one health station, a Family Nurse Practitioner and RN/Public Health Nurse worked in the second station and a Physician’s Assistant and I (RN/Public Health Nurse) staffed station 3.

It was pretty grueling but we pretty much treated everyone for parasites that we could,

continued page 13

### Brainardsville United Methodist Church meeting needs in Haiti

Brainardsville United Methodist Church recently sent a check for \$4,000.00 for 3 shelters and 3 water filters, with the remaining money for mosquito nets and blankets for the people of Haiti, to Samaritan’s Purse.

“When this project was brought to the church’s attention, it was suggested that a collection be taken and that we hopefully (and I might add skeptically) would take in \$600.00 and the church would match it,” Brenda Wilcox, Treasurer notes.

“You see we are a small rural church in the northern most part of New York State with around 20-25 attendees each week. We not only took

a collection in church for four weeks, we sent a letter to those who are unable to attend for whatever reason,” Pastor Al Johnson writes. “We were overwhelmed with donations and letters of thanks for the opportunity to give.

Brainardsville has also donated shoe boxes to Samaritan’s Purse at Christmas time along with monetary donations to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

“God is working in our community and we, and I am sure the people of Haiti are grateful for your continued work for the downtrodden in the world,” Pastor Johnson’s letter accompanying the check noted.



**VIDEO SHOT FOR UPCOMING MUSICAL - Actors take a break while filming the ‘Civil War’ Video for ‘Legacy of Truth’**

### Walk in the Light Productions to premiere original musical

Walk in the Light Productions’ Christian Youth Theater will present a full-length, Broadway style musical “Legacy of Truth” July 16 and 17 at 7 p.m.

This original story is created and directed by Jennifer Martin, the drama director of the North Rose United Methodist Church and artistic director of WITL. “Legacy of Truth” features all original music written by Eric D. Martin and arranged by Jayson Keeton. The musical team also includes Teri Martin, North Rose’s co-music director. The creative team also includes co-writer Jillian Sherwin.

This is WITL’s third production.. “Legacy of Truth” is a heartfelt dramatic musical about real life issues presented in a multi-media context including original photographs and videos illustrating various story concepts and character development.

“Legacy of Truth” is a

story about two teenagers who are facing difficult situations in their lives. One has faith, the other is searching for some kind of solid ground. In the context of their own lives, both Tom and Lily are trying to understand what Truth and faith really is. Through glimpses into their respective family heritage - missing pieces are revealed, Truth is clarified, and hope is restored.

Walk in the Light Productions was founded as a way to give youth a chance to develop their God-given talents and discover a way to use their gifts to minister to others and honor Him. As a result, many of the youth have drawn closer to God and strengthened their faith.

All are invited to come and enjoy an evening of family-friendly theater where you will be moved and inspired.

Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. Performances will be held at the

continued page 13

## Outreach important at Auburn United Methodist Church

by Sue Hemingway

Auburn United Methodist is a mission church that believes it can help Change the World --- or at least help make parts of it a little bit better.

With the enthusiasm of the Outreach team, Auburn United Methodist has underway many involved mission projects helping others near and far away.

Women from AUMC recently made trays of homemade cherry and blueberry cobbler for the St. Peter and John's Church Soup Kitchen. Every third Saturday of each month volunteers from AubUMC help cook and serve a lunch meal to about 100 people at the local Soup Kitchen held at St. Peter and John's Church.

Do you know how long it takes and how many stitches must be crocheted to make a shawl? Week after week a dedicated group of AUMC women have spent many hours sewing more than 100 hand-made prayer shawls. The entire congregation helps to bless the shawls hoping that those who receive them feel the comfort and love of God.

Another sewing crew has been sewing clothes for a mission called "Clothe Our People" to help clothe people all over the world -- including the people of Haiti whose possessions were destroyed by the recent earthquake.

Many donations were collected for Matthew House in the last few weeks. An ongoing mission of the church is supporting Calvary Food Pantry with food and money donations throughout the year.

The church also collected donations for blankets through Church World Service on Mother's Day. More than 30

blankets were donated in honor or memory of loved women.

On the third weekend this May, a dozen from AUMC's Youth Group raised awareness about the hungry and homeless. They fasted for 24 hours and slept overnight in cardboard boxes outside on the lawn in front of the church on South Street.

Then, having had no dinner the day before nor breakfast that morning, they arrived at Chapel House (homeless shelter on Franklin Street) at 6:30a.m. to fix breakfast for their neighbors. They then prayed for the community as they walked back to the church. More than \$500 was raised from their efforts of B-1 (One being, Being One). This money will go to Chapel house, Haiti, and Chile.

AUMC's people know that charity and justice has to extend to those in need outside of Auburn as well. They are now generating enthusiasm, planning logistics, recruiting volunteers and raising funds for the church's Mission Trip to Mechanicsburg, PA. In July, two dozen mission-minded United Methodists are going there for four days to help at Mission Central which is home to many missions, including organizing health kits, flood kits, and birthing kits that are sent out around the world.

Members from AUMC also generously donated more than \$2,100 to enable many young people to enjoy a week at Camp Casowasco this summer. "Camp is where lives are changed!" one member notes. "It sounds as if the Auburn United Methodists are reaching out to help make the world a better place, doesn't it?"



## VIM Nicaragua from page 12

gave short term supplies of multivitamins and iron, treated for acute respiratory illness and wheezing (lots of wheezing and coughing--the air is filled with smoke from cooking over wood fired stoves without chimneys and from burning garbage and slash and burn agriculture), doled out ibuprofen and acetaminophen for pain and fever, treated bacterial and fungal infections, head lice and scabies, etc.

We did have antibiotics, etc. but could only do what we could do on a limited, non-sustainable basis... a big frustration for a public health nurse! If you live where we were, you are guaranteed to be poor, have little or no access to health and dental care unless you can afford the time and bus ride to Sahsa's MINSA (Ministry of Health Post), most likely have little or no formal education, probably are illiterate, may speak Spanish and/or Miskito, have more parasitic infections than we can imagine and not live very long.

The construction team was able to do quite a bit of rebar work and get the footings in for the small pharmacy building. It was 107 degrees in the sun and 103 in the shade when they were working one day. Humidity was high as well. That part of our team played with the children and shared their lunches with them as much as they were able. The thing that seems to have kept us going was the fact that we were only there for a short time but knew that the people we served were there for a lifetime (and some walked up to 4 hours each way to get the little care that we were able to provide!).

No electricity, no consistent source of water (non-potable at that) or food, substandard housing, malnutrition, etc. The amazing thing is that the Miskitos and Mestizos (Spanish and Miskito mixed ethnicity) have an amazing faith in God and treasure their culture and children.

## Over 150 participate in Cicero UMC's 'Be the Church' Sunday

More than 150 people participated in Cicero United Methodist Church's efforts to "Be the Church" out in the community on Sunday, April 25.

Worship services were cancelled that day as parishioners of all ages helped to do the Lord's work at local sites: Making thank you cards for soldiers; Constructing an accessibility ramp for a local family; Worship service and visiting senior citizens at Malta Manor; Singing at the

Veteran's Hospital; Baking cookies for the CanTeen Center; Preparing gifts for the Church's Golden Christians; Cleaning projects at the Cicero Town Hall; Taking phone donations for WCNY's TelAuc; Creating posters for the upcoming Stroke Walk; Assembling appreciation bags for Staff at Cicero Elementary School; Outside clean-up at NAVAC ambulance garage; Painting at Brown Memorial Church; Adopt-a-highway trash pick-up; Re-shelving

books at the Cicero Library; House and yard work for a local family; Lunch preparation committee for the returning workers.

Workers returned to share lunch and stories of how this day of mission made a difference in their lives. The Rev. Everett Bassett, senior pastor, was excited about the response from volunteers and said the Church plans to continue this churchwide event at least once a year.

## Musical from page 12

North Rose-Wolcott High School located at 11631 SALTER-Colvin Rd. Wolcott, NY 14590

For more information on WITL or "Legacy of Truth", please check out the church's website under 'ministries' at

[www.northrosenymethodist.com](http://www.northrosenymethodist.com), or contact Jennifer Martin at 315-587-4844 or [jenniferlind\\_m@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferlind_m@yahoo.com)

# Western New York Annual Conference closes - remembering what has been and looking forward to what will be

by Marilyn J. Kasperek

With a closing motion presented by Western New York Annual Conference Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Gregory Crispell, on the afternoon of June 5, 2010, and a benediction by the Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews resident bishop, the Western New York Annual Conference closed for the last time, planting the seed for new ministry within the Upper New York Annual Conference.

Opening worship of the final Annual Conference session of the Western New York Conference began with voices lifting up "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah", prayer and the reading of Psalm 122. Scripture Acts 20: 22-24 "If only I may finish my course to testify to the good news of God's grace." The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Lundgren brought the message which focused on moving forward knowing God is in charge.

Rev. Lundgren shared inspiring encouragement as he lifted up answering a call to go where we do not know the people.

"I have no clear picture what this new Annual Conference will look like. We see only the basis of a structure before us. But we know that the architect and builder is God. How do we know this? It comes from our covenant. We know that when we gather together in Holy Conferenc-

ing, God is in our midst."

"The journey of faith begins with the realization that we are not in charge, and from there we can proceed to align ourselves to the One who is in charge. Jesus is declaring to the disciples, Go into the world knowing who is in charge and what it will mean to act upon that knowledge!

"Jesus is clear, however, that to act on that knowledge is not always easy.

The Lord declares I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you; hope and a future. If you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me if you seek me with all your heart Jeremiah 29:11-13.

176 Years of service were noted as Conference members recognized retirees. Those to be commissioned, ordained, and those certified were recognized, as well as Board of Ordained Ministry members on the Conference and District level.

Conference Lay Leader Dr. Scott Johnson brought a challenging message to the laity. "Who might we be if truly connected," Dr. Johnson asked. "So as you consider what might be possible, if we can revitalize the connection, if we could make it really about Christ."

CCYM members shared an enthusiastic report sharing

many plans and activities with their counterparts throughout Upper New York, noting that, as always, they are leading the way. "Looking forward, I can say with full confidence

CCYM. There is only the Upper New York CCYM, and we look forward to working with the new conference."

Denman Awards for Evangelism were presented to the

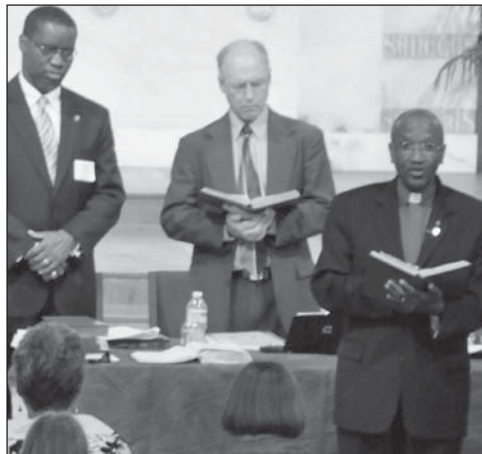


Photo by Ken Kasperek

that youth ministry is stronger than ever," Ian Urriola CCYM president said. "With a heavy heart, we had to say good bye to our friends from Vermont and Pennsylvania as they join new CCYMs. But it is with eager excitement that I can say to you, that the four CCYMs are a thing of the past. There is no more Troy CCYM. There is no more North Central New York CCYM. There is no more Wyoming CCYM. There is no more Western New York

Rev. Paul Gongloff of Covenant UMC, Rochester and Marvin and Lisa Ohlson of Clarence UMC.

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee" played by the Genesee Valley Brass opened the Covenant Council Report. Conference members rose to their feet and clapped as the brass group moved into upbeat version and "This is my Father's World" filled the sanctuary following scripture noting that we sow and others may reap. Vari-

ous voices from the Covenant Council shared scripture and images of planting and sowing as we look to a new time in a new Conference.

"Went the Saints go Marching Home" filled the sanctuary as all left the sanctuary for lunch and received gifts of seeds to plant and remember what has been and to look forward to what will be.

Director of Transitional Ministries, the Rev. Deborah O'Connor Slater, lifted up the motions necessary to close the Western New York Annual Conference and move us into the soon to be created Upper New York Annual Conference.

"We have voted." It is done, the Rev. Natalie Hanson said in the prayer following those actions.

Members referred to the Upper New York Annual Conference a request that a way be found to maintain the relationship with the North Katanga Annual Conference.

Also referred to the Upper New York Annual Conference was a request to maintain relationships with the health and welfare agencies of Gateway-Longview Inc., Beechwood Continuing Care, and the Wesley Group.

A service of appointments and celebration concluded this last session of the Western New York Annual Conference.



**CLOSING SESSION OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE was held in Asbury First United Methodist Church, Rochester, NY on June 4 and 5. The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Lundgren brought a message focused on moving forward during the opening worship and the Rev. Dr. Wendy Deichman-Edwards shared a message of remembering during the memorial service Friday evening. Youth led the body with song and enthusiasm and Bishop Marcus Matthews presided over the business at hand as resolutions closing the WNY Conference and those preparing for the Uniting Conference of Upper New York were passed. Lay-Leader Scott Johnson shared with laity during their session and with the entire body, challenging all into the future that is yet to come. The Rev. Dr. Gregory Crispell (center at the table) shared the closing motion. The Rev. Dr. Sherri Rood and Bishop Matthews discuss preparations for Clergy Session (lower right)**

(photo by Ken Kasperek)

## Check for 'Wings of the Morning' plane presented to Bishop Matthews

Among the moments of celebration at the closing Annual Conference session of the Western New York Annual Conference on June 5 was a special check presentation.

"Over the past several years our Conference has been in a working relationship with the North Katanga Annual Conference, located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. And during that time several churches in our Conference have supported the work and ministries there by sending money, supplies and mission teams as well; the most recent was from Baker Memorial UMC,"

the Rev. Keith Griswald said in making the presentation.

"If you were to go to the North Katanga Annual Conference's web site and browse some of the pages, you would see this verse from Psalm 139: 'If I took the wings of the morning and settled at the

furthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."

"Wings of the Morning" is a ministry of The United Methodist Church in North Katanga that provides quick medical evacuation for any person need; in short it is an ambulance, which is an airplane. The plane is flown by Gaston Ntambo, who is the son of the Bishop of North Katanga. However, as reported at the 2009 Annual Conference session there is a need for a larger plane, one which will allow for transporting more people and supplies; and that runs on easier to obtain and less expensive fuel.

"Over the past year some of our churches committed themselves to raising funds to help pay for that new airplane. Today the Fairport and Genesee churches would like to present Bishop Matthews with two checks totaling \$7,500 to go to the General Church's Advance for Wings of the Morning and the new plane," Rev. Griswald said.



**CLOSING SESSION OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE** took place in Asbury First United Methodist Church, Rochester, NY on June 5, 2010

It was a time of celebration and challenges as final preparations were made to become part of the Upper New York Annual Conference



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