



Transitions

June/July 2010

Upper New York Annual Conference officially formed

by the
Rev. Maidstone Mulenga

At 10:59 a.m. on June 19, 2010, the Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, Resident Bishop of the Upper New York Area of the United Methodist Church, called to order the first session of the Upper New York Uniting Conference at the OnCenter in Syracuse.

Several motions later, the nearly 2,000 United Methodists in attendance voted to approve the creation of the new conference and to officially name it, Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

940 churches. 12 districts. 48,000 square miles. 184,900 members. That is the new Upper New York Annual Conference.

The journey took more than six years to bring to fruition. After discussions between six annual conferences in North-eastern Jurisdiction, the first major step was taken on Oct. 6, 2007. Clergy and lay members of the North Central New York, Western New York, Troy and Wyoming Annual Conferences voted in simultaneous Special Sessions--later in separate annual conference sessions--to approve the unification and realignment to create one Annual Conference across Upstate New York.

On July 16, 2008, the North-eastern Jurisdictional Conference adopted a resolution re-configuring the boundaries of the Annual Conferences and Episcopal Areas in and around Upstate New York.

Following that decision, the four Conferences created a joint New Area/Conference Team (New ACT) to lead the unification process with the purpose of developing the new Conference; not by combination, but through unification.

The process was under the supervision of Bishops Peter Weaver (New England Conference), Jane Middleton (Central Pennsylvania Conference), Susan Hassinger (Albany Episcopal Area) and Marcus Matthews (New York West Episcopal Area), who agreed to the transfer of memberships and relationships as agreed in the unification and realignment.

The process had been started earlier by Bishops Violet

Fisher and Susan Morrison, now both retired.

With most of the pieces in place, the four conferences in the Upper New York Area considered and approved a Plan of Union presented by New ACT at their closing sessions in May and June 2009.

The Plan of Union presented by New ACT includes provisions for:

- the transfer of 30 percent of Troy Conference's assets to the New England Annual Conference and 70 percent to the Upper New York Conference;
- the consolidation of the North Central New York, Western New York and Troy Annual conferences into the Upper New York Annual Conference;
- the transfer of all assets from the Wyoming Conference to the Upper New York and Susquehanna Annual Conferences; and
- the discontinuance of the Wyoming Annual Conference.

At the June 19 Uniting Conference, members from the four conferences --among other decisions--approved the election of Conference Secretary Rev. Jeffrey Hodge and Trustees. Members also approved the

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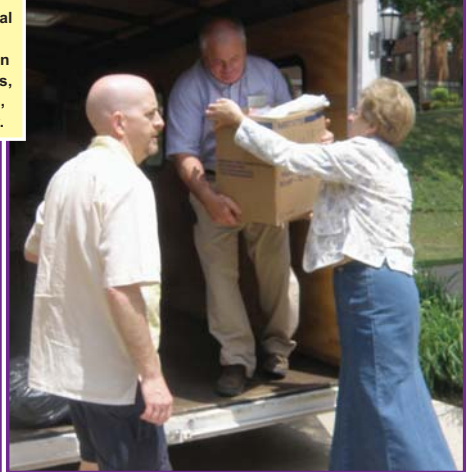
Photos by Ken Kasparek

UNITING CONFERENCE - Members of the Upper New York Annual Conference encircled the OnCenter, in Syracuse with prayer, preparing for Holy Conferencing on June 19. (lower photos) Bishop Marcus Matthews and Lay Leader Scott Johnson thank Bishops Violet Fisher and Susan Hassinger. (top)

Wyoming Conference closing moments look toward future



Photos of Wyoming Annual Conference closing session by Matt Williams, Nancy Conklin, and Don Perry.



Readers, please note permits are in transition and this information will reflect Upper New York Annual Conference when that transition is complete

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Wyoming Annual Conference surrounded by cloud of witnesses as final session held

by Don Perry
 Director of
 Communications
 Wyoming
 Annual Conference

The 159th and final session of the Wyoming Annual Conference opened Friday, June 4, at the University of Scranton and Elm Park United Methodist Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Bishop Susan W. Hassinger called the gathering to order under the theme, "So Great a Cloud of Witnesses."

Most business conducted by the conference dealt with matters involved in preparing for the conference to be split along the New York-Pennsylvania border and to become part of two new conferences effective July 1, the Susquehanna Conference in Pennsylvania and the Upper New York Conference.

Four women were introduced as candidates for Provisional Membership, two, Patricia Cardin and Linda Clemow on the Deacon Track and two, Maggie Moore and Nancy Stanley on the Elder Track. Bishop Hassinger asked Wesley's historic questions of four candidates for the Order of Elders, Jean Blackie, Martin P. Brooks, Nancy Hale and John Martin. Commissioning and ordination will take place in the Susquehanna Conference on June 12 or the Upper New York Conference on June 19.

The retirement of nine pastors, Richard Breuninger, Cordella Brown, Barbara Green, Horace King, Chuck Naugle, Catherine Parsons, Alice Pedone, Bette Poe and Roger Richards, was recognized during a special service on the first evening of the two day session. That service also honored clergy, clergy spouses and lay members who had

died in the previous year.

Honored

A number of clergy and laity were honored for the work they had done in a variety of areas. Harry Denman Evangelism Awards were presented to a pastor, layperson and youth from the conference. Laity - David M Burge of the Stewart Memorial United Methodist Church in Old Forge, PA had enriched the lives of many as a church school leader, confirmation class leader and in many other ways in his local church. In his work, he is known as the work preacher, touching the lives of coworkers and others he's come in contact with. He is intentional about sharing God's unconditional love. Clergy - Susan Shields, Pastor of the Harpursville and Oquagua, NY United Methodist Churches, left a successful secular career to follow God's call to ministry. She had helped many, whether church or unchurched, in times of need. Her vision of the church is all inclusive and she champions the needs of the least and the lost. Youth - Marissa Mach of the Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church in Binghamton, NY attended 2008 Mission of Peace in South Africa. Her speaking about the experience has led others to engage in mission opportunities. She has taken part in two other mission trips. She is an active leader in her local church.

The Kim Jefferson Award for significant and effective urban ministry was presented to Field of Grace United Methodist Church and its pastor, Marcelle Dotson. Field of Grace is a newly formed congregation in the city of Wilkes-Barre reaching out to people not served by other churches.

The Guy Leinthal Award for Social Justice Ministry was presented to Dr. Blenda Smith for her work in developing and offering educational opportunities in the area of white privilege and to Rev. Mark Terwilliger and the Beach Lake, PA United Methodist Church for their work in the arena of environmental justice.

The Akers Award for Excellence in Rural Ministry was presented to Rev. Alice Pedone for her work as pastor of the five churches of the Equinunk Charge in northern Wayne County, PA and her addition of a Cowboy Church worship service near one of those churches.

Offerings

A report was made on special offerings taken during the session. The Master's Call Offering raised \$2,311 to help provide funds for ministerial education. The Great 50 Days Offering brought in \$22,120 for work in Haiti and Zimbabwe. This is in addition to more than \$194,000 previously donated to Haiti Earthquake Relief.

The Episcopacy Committee offered thanks to Bishop Susan Hassinger and to Jane E. Schweikert, Administrative Assistant to Bishops Hassinger, Susan Morrison and William Boyd Grove, for their service to the conference and the Albany Area. Each was given a memory album, a prayer quilt and a monetary gift to mission projects chosen by them. Jane's chosen project is the Sky Lake Campership program. Bishop Hassinger selected the Central Conference Pastoral Pension Initiative, the Friends of Zimbabwe and the Haiti Partnership.

Closing worship


The closing worship provid-



ed witness to the actions taken during the past several years to move toward God's new thing for the churches of the Wyoming Conference. Bishop Hassinger then charged those gathered to move out along separate paths, with those going to the Susquehanna Conference leaving the building by one set of doors and those

going to the Upper New York Conference to leave by a different exit, but to come together again, outside as members of The United Methodist Connection for the benediction. In it, she reminded all that as beloved children of God, we should not fear for God has redeemed us.





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Contact information available for those needing benefits assistance

Ending ... Beginning ... Transitioning ... Planning ... Doing ... Teaching ... Assuring. All these things and many more are my tasks approaching July 1 as your Benefits Officer for the Upper New York Conference. It is my pleasure to serve the people called United Methodist in this region of the world!

On the last day of the North Central New York Conference, my "former" conference, came also the death of one of the dear saints who brought me into the circle of United Methodism, Irving Hill. He – along with Vernon Lee and Bob McCune – will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you, gentlemen! And now I am starting to learn of more dear saints in other regions of our state, with whom I am already building relationships. Praise be to God!

Checking and reconciling clergy data and benefit plan enrollments is high on the priority list; along with goal-setting for the benefits office and officer, and preparing information to help the new Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits formulate recommendations to be presented at the September

11 conference.

As well, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is working diligently to get the Upper New York Conference up and running from a benefits standpoint. They are in daily contact to provide information and clarify relationships/memberships.

Below is some contact information should any church or participant need assistance related to benefits:

Health Insurance Benefits (HealthFlex): 866-804-0976

what is covered, what are co-payments, how to use your benefits, participating doctors

Health Insurance Enrollment for July 1: 800-699-8715 ext. 306



Vicki Putney
UNY Benefits Officer
800-699-8715, ext. 317
VickiPutney@unyumc.org

enrollment verification if ID cards have not been received

HealthFlex Election Process: 800-851-2201, opt. 1 then opt. 0 help in logging into WebMD or electing to have a flexible spending account

Pension Benefit Questions (participant specific): 800-851-2201 pension projections, lost PIN for access to "Oasis" online program

Benefit Invoices: 800-699-8715 ext 311 amount being invoiced for benefits, corrections to invoices

Email addresses, other address changes noted

A number of email addresses have been changed to reflect the creation of the Upper New York Annual Conference. Please note the following changes, and please watch for updates in emails and on unyumc.org.

Bishop Marcus Matthews is Bishop Matthews@unyumc.org

Executive Assistant Chris Doran is ExecutiveAssistant@unyumc.org

Upper New York General area office is UpperNY@umc.org

Director of Transitional Ministries is DeborahOCS@unyumc.org

Director of Connectional Ministries is BillG-F@unyumc.org

Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer is Sherry-Mackey@unyumc.org

Director of Communications is MaidstoneMulenga@unyumc.org

Benefits Officer is VickiPutney@unyumc.org

information hotline is info@unyumc.org

news article submission is news@unyumc.org

Adirondack District - HenryFrueh@unyumc.org; AdirondackDistrict@unyumc.org

Albany District - James-Fenimore@unyumc.org, AlbanyDistrict@unyumc.org

Binghamton District - DavidMasland@unyumc.org, BinghamtonDistrict@unyumc.org

Crossroads District - DarrylBarrow@unyumc.org, CrossroadsDistrict@unyumc.org

Finger Lakes District - DickBarton@unyumc.org, FingerLakeDistrict@unyumc.org

Mohawk District - Sung-Ho@unyumc.org, Mohawk-District@unyumc.org

Cornerstone District - Larry Baird@unyumc.org; CornerstoneDistrict@unyumc.org

Mountain View District - CathyHallStengel@unyumc.org, MountainViewDistrict@unyumc.org

Niagara Frontier District - NatalieHanson@unyumc.org, NiagaraFrontierDistrict@unyumc.org

Northern Flow - BethBennham@unyumc.org, NorthernFlow@unyumc.org

Director of Computer Services Shirley Stevens - shirley@unyumc.org 315-699-8715 ext 320

Please also note the following address change: Niagara Frontier District Office - Upper New York Conference, The United Methodist Church, 131 John Muir Drive, West Amherst, NY 14228. (716) 564-2316 (voice) (716) 564-2365 (fax).

200th Anniversary celebration planned for Genesee Conference and Methodist Churches

On July 20, 1810, a significant event occurred in Lyons, NY. Methodists from upstate New York and points west and south, including a portion of Canada, gathered in Dorsey's warehouse, south of the village, to organize the Genesee Conference.

The Lyons United Methodist Church has plans to remember this event, commemorated by the marker located on the east side of Route 14, across from the Lyons VFW. Former pastors were invited back to the pulpit for a Sunday worship service during the months of May and June. Rev. David Geer, Rev. Jack Kissell, Pastor Jim Carroll, Rev. Roland Ryan and Pastor Carl Johnson blessed those in attendance with participation in a weekly Sunday service.

Lyons has an annual celebration celebrating its local historical Peppermint factory. These festivities will be July 9 and 10, 2010. "This year, on Saturday, July 9, we will be involved with a special booth in the Lyons Town Square and by the marker on Rt. 14, along with a float in the large parade, featuring a model of the Lyons United Methodist Church com-

plete with functioning clocks," a church spokesperson notes. The Grand Parade begins at 7:00 p.m., also on July 9. Tours of the historic Methodist Church building will be given on Sunday, July 11 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The celebration continues on July 18 with a Tent Revival at the Lyons VFW beginning at 10:30 a.m., complete with a circuit rider preacher, worship and music. There will be a chicken barbecue lunch available to purchase and continue the nostalgia of older days. All are welcome to bring a blanket or sit under the pavilion. From 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be activities for families and children to participate in...crafts, games, stories, etc.

The celebration will conclude on Saturday, July 24 with a catered dinner at the Lyons UMC. A program of praise and music will follow the dinner.

Reservations or questions can be directed to Pastor Ellen Knight at 315-398-4081 or eknight2@rochester.rr.com OR to Jennifer Lake at the church office at 315-946-6035 or LUMC@rochester.rr.com.

Help line announced

Questions?
Call the Upper New York Conference Help Line at
(315) 699-8715, ext. 311
or e-mail
info@unyumc.org

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designation of Scott DelConte as Chancellor to the Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Those elected trustees are Rev. Thomas Clemow; Rev. Stephen Butler; Ms. Deborah Byers; Rev. Wendy Deichmann-Edwards; Rev. Thomas Wolfe; Lee Mount; Rev. Teresa Sivers; Ms. Essie Harding; Rev. Dean Flemming; Mr. John Jackson; Ms Brooke Conklin; and Mr. Robert Rood.

Mrs. Sherri Mackey was nominated and elected as Treasurer/ Director of Administrative Services and Statisti-

cian for the Upper New York Conference for the remainder of the Quadrennium.

Other items approved include:

the transfer of voting rights and privileges for clergy members whose appointments have been announced effective beginning July 1,

the transfer of voting rights for the lay members and equalization members of the North Central New York, Western New York, Troy and Wyoming Annual Conferences to the Upper New York Annual Conference.

the proposed name, The Upper New York Annual Conference; and

the repeal of all standing resolutions of the North Central New York, Troy, Western New York and Wyoming Annual Conferences.

The Uniting Conference also approved a resolution assuring that the minimum salary for each clergy member in the former North Central New York, Western New York, Troy and Wyoming conferences will continue at that individual's current level until July 1, 2011.

DEADLINE

Please submit all news to news@unyumc.org

An issue is tentatively planned for August
All information received by July 16 will be considered for that or future issues.
Please watch Upper New York email blasts and unyumc.org for more information on future editions, content guidelines, editorial policies, and deadlines.

UNY Milestones: a collection of special celebrations, achievements, and honors



Thanked
Rev. Rhonda Kouterick, left, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Baldwinsville, chats with parishioner Shirley McMahon during a celebration of her 12 years of ministry.
Rev. Kouterick, who began serving there in 1998, had one of the longest tenures in the church's long history. July 1 she becomes the pastor at Horseheads First United Methodist Church.
More than 130 people attended the farewell dinner June 14 at The Red Mill Inn, in Baldwinsville. Rev. Kouterick and her husband, Lon Kouterick, were presented with a

number of gifts, including a \$3,500 check from the congregation, family and friends.

Celebration of Ministry
A Celebration of 50 years of ministry of the Rev. Frederick Bailey is planned July 10 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Chittenango, NY American Legion, Legion Drive, Chittenango.

A program of remembrances, buffet lunch, fun and music begin at 1 p.m. Memories are appreciated and will be placed in a scrapbook for Rev. Bailey. RSVP's and memories can be sent to 101 Lou St., Chittenango, NY 13037.

50 Year members
by Rev. Eldon Snyder

Pentecost Sunday marked a special observance at Kenmore United Methodist Church, in the Niagara Frontier District.
The occasion was a recognition of those persons who had been members of the local church for 50 or more years. Approximately 60 individuals were present to be honored at the Early Worship Service. A special anthem was offered by the Chancel Choir in honor of all who offered their gifts in building up the body of Christ

at Kenmore United Methodist Church.
The Rev. Dr. Peter LeValley acknowledged their years of ministry and service, offered prayer for them and asked them to stand to be recognized by the congregation. New Members were also received into the church family on this day and were asked to carry on this grand legacy of faithbuilders.
Following the Worship Service the entire congregation was invited to attend a brunch in the gym to pay tribute to the honorees. Each of the 50+

members was presented an attractive Certificate and a specially designed cup containing the church's logo. There were many reminiscences as people joined in fellowship around the tables. Certificates and cups were delivered to those honorees unable to be present for the celebration.
Kenmore UMC is proud of its heritage in the Kenmore Community and the Western New York area. Members continue to seek ways to meet the needs of our neighbors by reaching out in Christian love.



EIGHTEEN CONFIRMED - Clifton Springs UMC welcomes 18 new members after weeks of confirmation classes.

Camp Asbury looks towards the future

Camp Asbury is looking towards the future and working to gather together a group of people who have a special interest in and a passion for seeing Camp Asbury develop into a first class facility. This

will be a group of volunteers who care about improving Camp Asbury.
"We are looking for carpenters, electricians, painters, flower planters, leaf rakers, dirt shovelers, kitchen help,

dish washers, seamstresses, window washers, tree cutters, wood splitters, and more," the Rev. Larry Wiliford notes "Over the past 5 years much has been done to improve the camp, but much more can and

needs to be done."

This group of people, who are for now called "The Awesome Asbury Associates" (the AAAs), will gather at Camp Asbury two weekends a year to work at the camp, once in the fall and once in the spring. Those available will gather on Friday evening for songs, fellowship and food; and we will all begin work on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m., going until about 4:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Overnight accommodations and food will be provided.

Upcoming dates are: Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16, 2010 and Friday, May 6 and Saturday,

May 7, 2011.
"We hope that you feel that the future of Camp Asbury is important and will want to be a part of this new group," Rev. Wiliford notes. "If you would like to be a part of this special support group for Camp Asbury (even if you are not able to help on one of the weekends), please fill out the form below or contact the Camp Asbury Director at asburysupport@rochester.rr.com, or call 585-237-5262 for more information. This way we can keep you informed. Mail the form to: Camp Asbury, P.O. Box 218, Silver Lake, NY 14549."

"The Awesome Asbury Associates"

Name:
Address:
City: Zip:
Telephone Number:
E-Mail:
Local Church:

District:
Particular skills you have (this will just help us know what skill sets are available in this group): (on separate paper)


(please fill out one form per person)

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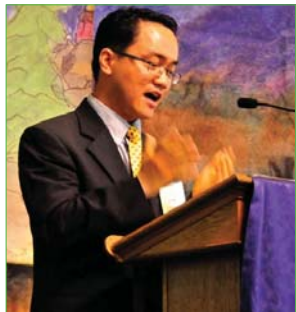
Tears, hope surround closing of Troy Conference



*Bishop Susan W. Hassinger preaches on *Songs are We Singing* at the Memorial worship, as the conference remembered individuals who have died over the last year, and laid to rest Troy Conference.*

By Sandra Brands

The gavel came down, and with a few words, the Rev. Greg Smith, Conference Secretary, ended the 178th Troy Annual Conference Session. Instead of announcing a next annual session, the Secretary stated that members in Vermont will convene June 17 with the New England Annual Conference, and members from New York will meet June 19 for the uniting of a new Annual Conference in Upper New York.



*The Rev. Yohang Chun, associate pastor of Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, N.Y., led the congregation in "Calling Our Memories Out to God" using *Tongsung Kido*, a Korean way of praying, during Opening Worship.*

Troy Conference closed permanently June 30 and divided along state lines with the Vermont churches becoming part of the New England Annual Conference and the New York churches becoming part of a new conference in the Upper New York area.

The Session opened with a memorial worship, with candles lit in memories of those in conference leadership who have died since last year's annual conference session. Lamentations were also sung for the laying to rest of Troy Conference.

"A lament gives us permission to be honest with God and with each other," said Bishop Susan W. Hassinger, Episcopal leader of the Albany Area, in the morning sermon. "This morning, there's a strong possibility that there are

multiple laments in our midst. There are laments about the closing days of Troy Conference. When we gather together [to mourn] we are joined together in a communal thanksgiving for [the lives of those being remembered]."

Bishop Hassinger said that the values, passion and mission of Troy Conference have shaped clergy and laity and shaped their ministries.

"Naming and claiming what you celebrate [about the conference] and what you will miss are essential for moving forward," she said. Referencing Psalm 137:1, Bishop Hassinger said that by the rivers of the Mohawk, the Connecticut, the Hudson, "we sat and wept when we remembered Troy Conference."

She reminded those gathered that though Troy Conference will be separated, nothing will separate "us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. That is the thread that runs through all of us—through New England or through Upper New York."

As part of the worship, a prayer, laying Troy Conference to rest, was read, with parts written for those going to New England, those going to New York and for all voices together.

The primary work of the conference was to review and vote on assignment of clergy and lay membership, a Plan of Union and Assets Allocations. The three components were:

- A Plan of Union, outlining that the assets, property and pension funds of Troy Conference would be divided, with 30 percent going to the New England Conference and 70 percent going to the Upper New York area conference.

- The transfer of clergy and lay membership based on where clergy will serve as of July 1 and lay members' home churches.

- A set of resolutions to meet the legal and organizational requirements of *The United Methodist 2008 Book of Discipline* and New York State laws governing religious corporations. Technically, Troy Conference ap-

proved the dissolving of Troy Conference and the changes in New York and Vermont conference membership at a special session held in October 2007, and the Northeast Jurisdiction approved the plan in 2008. The new resolutions represent the completion of work authorized by that earlier action.

All resolutions were passed quickly and unanimously.

"These have been complex processes, and this has been engaged in prayerfully—not perfectly, but prayerfully," said Bishop Hassinger at the end of the vote.

In other business of the conference:

- The Board of Ordained Ministry presented two candidates for ordination as elders, Jim Knapp and Esther Lee, and one candidate for commissioning, Matthew Bowles. Knapp and Lee will both be ordained in the new Upper New York Area conference, and Bowles will be commissioned in New England.

- Resolutions designating the United Methodist Global AIDS fund as the recipient of the conference offering, and to contribute \$15,000 in reserves to the Central Conference Pension Fund were approved. During clergy session on May 21 at Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, over \$3,000 was collected and will be given to the Mozambique Area for clergy education.

- A petition recommending that the new conference in Upper New York give consideration to continuing ministry through the Albany United Methodist Society and Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus United Methodist Church (RISSE) was also approved.

- Five churches—Tomhannock, North Hoosick, Chilson and Brainard in New York, and MacKenzie Memorial United Methodist Church in Northfield, Vt.—were declared abandoned. A resolution dissolving the Embury District was also approved.

- Ted Vickery, chair of the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration, and Conference Treasurer Bob Heron presented a plaque from the General Council on Finance and Administration honoring Troy Conference for giving 100 percent of their share

of the church's World Service funds, which supports mission and ministry through the world.

- Julius Archibald, a member of Plattsburgh United Methodist Church, N.Y., received the CORRageous Award for Racial Justice from the Conference Committee on Religion and Race. Ilah Sisson Walsler, conference lay leader, received the Denman Evangelism Award for Laity. Sandra Brands, a member of the Queensbury United Methodist Church in New York, received the Stimmel Peace with Justice Award. Camping volunteer awards were presented to Richard Nason, and posthumously to the Rev. Oren Lane.

- Retiring clergy members were honored at a special worship service held on May 21. Retiring clergy of Troy Conference were Richard Hibbert, G. William Pattison, Eileen Deming, Pamela Pearson, Virginia Pierce, Jan Rathbun, Herman Benjamin, Cheryl Heater, Peter Kelly, William Sheldon, Denise Stringer, David Dempsey, Samuel Newton, Elizabeth Griffin, and Robert Zittel. Also retiring is the bishop's assistant Jane Schweikert.

Conference ended with worship and Communion and the conference closed at 3:30 p.m.



Ribbons etched with people's prayers adorn a cross made of string. The cross was part of last year's annual conference session and was brought back, along with worship elements from previous sessions, for the final gathering.



On the afternoon of May 22, Conference Secretary the Rev. Greg Smith closes, permanently, Troy Annual Conference.



Retiring clergy and the bishop's assistant, Jane Schweikert, were honored at a special worship service held on May 21.



Kerry Cameron, left, of New York, and Evie Doyon of Vermont, offered a prayer in dance.



Ted Vickery, chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, left, presents a plaque to Bishop Susan W. Hassinger, right, while Conference Minister Holly Nye looks on. The plaque thanks Troy Conference members for giving 100 percent of the conference's share of World Service Fund.



Members of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries lead the gathering in the traditional "I'm gonna be 500 miles!" dance.



Accompanied by Matthew Bowles, left, above, who was commissioned in the New England Conference, Bishop Susan W. Hassinger blesses the bread and juice for Communion. Rev. Jim Knapp, right, who was ordained an Elder on June 19, breaks and offers the bread of life to those gathered.



Guests at Troy Conferences Closing Session included representatives from New England, standing from left, Oscar Harrell, Conference Lay Leader, Alexx Wood, Director of Communications, Jim McPhee, Director of Connectional Ministries, and Rev. Michelle Grub.



Rev. Michelle Bogue-Trast, chair of the Sessions Team, left, and Rev. Meredith Vanderminden, both from New York, hug at the end of the historic vote.

ORDINATION



Upper New York Annual Conference holds first Commissioning and Ordination service shortly after completing business necessary to create the new conference. It was a celebration of the journey many have taken to get to this point and of the possibilities of ministry in our future together. Bishop Marcus Matthews presided with Bishops Susan W. Hasinger and Violet L. Fisher participating.

