

III. Daily Proceedings

A. Special Session

North and South Indiana Conferences
Saturday, October 4, 2008
Toyota Blue Ribbon Pavilion, Indiana State Fairgrounds
Indianapolis, Indiana

Gathering

Under the directorship of Chuck Scott, attendees participated in a time of music and praise featuring singers and musicians from both conferences.

Welcome & Greetings

Bishop Michael Coyner convened the Special Session at 1:04 pm welcoming the assembled 680 members of North Conference, 608 members of South Conference, and 315 guests. He shared greetings from United States Senators Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar and noted the considerable number of greetings received from bishops and annual conferences. Issac Randolph, executive director of the Indiana Office of Faith Based and Community brought greetings on behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels. Mr. Randolph, expressed appreciation to the Indiana Conferences for their valuable contributions to the State, most recently in the area of flood and disaster relief.

A Time of Remembering

The special session conducted its business in an atmosphere of worship, which included “*A Time of Remembering*”, featuring a montage of photographs from the histories of both conferences. Richard Hamilton offered an historical and personal remembrance of people and events of the South Conference. Bishop Coyner asked all South members to stand to receive the thanks and applause of the gathered body. For the North Conference, Phil Klinger offered his historical and personal remembrances, after which all North members stood to acknowledge thanks and applause.

Business Session

Bishop Coyner called the business session to order and introduced Cindy Reynolds, chair of the Transition Team to make its report.

Transition Team Report

Cindy Reynolds introduced members of the Imagine Indiana Transition Team. She expressed gratitude for the vision and encouragement of Bishop Woodie W. White that led to this day. Cindy Reynolds described the next steps in the process that lay ahead. She moved for the adoption, as a whole, of recommendations 1 through 6 that reconciled amendments that had been put forth by each of the conferences. Members of North Conference voted first and adopted the six recommendations. Members of South Conference voted next and likewise adopted the recommendations

United Methodist Foundation of South Indiana Incorporated

Rick Childs, president of the United Methodist Foundation of South Indiana Inc., reconvened the annual meeting that had been prorogued from June 2008. He moved the adoption of the amended Articles of Incorporation; they were adopted. Rick Childs moved to extend the terms of the current Board of Directors to June 2012; motion carried. The annual meeting of the Foundation was adjourned

Transition Team Report - Continued

Cindy Reynolds moved the adoption of the resolution “that the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church be established.” Voting as a single entity, members of both conferences adopted the resolution—and the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church was officially created.
Recess

Gathering as the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church

Business of the New Indiana Annual Conference

Bishop Coyner re-convened the session to vote on the nine printed Transition Team recommendations and the additional recommendation establishing the office of conference secretary.

1. We recommend the new conference created in Indiana be known as the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church effective October 4, 2008, and be the legal successor of the North Indiana Conference and the South Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. **Adopted**
2. We recommend the election of the following slate of officers to serve as the Council on Finance and Administration and the Board of Trustees for the Indiana Conference

Conference Trustees

Al Brothers, William Clippinger, Rev. Mark Dicken, Patricia Klockow, Nancy Leonard, Rev. L. Wayne Smith, Stacy Stevens, Rev. Vickie Van Nevel, Brian Williams, John York, *amended to add Susan Kirkpatrick and Rev. Tom Ream.*

Council on Finance and Administration

Rev. Kent Millard (chair), Rev Dennis Alstott, Rev. Paul Arnold, Rev. Brian Beeks, Rev Dave Byrum, Jack

Dwiggins, Ronald Frieden, Jane Harper-Alport, Donna Howell, Rev. Jared Jennette, April Largent, Rev. Karen Ottjes, Rev. Beverly Perry, Robert Pimlott, Rev. George Purnell, Larna Spearman, Don Spence, Roger Summers, Ethelenor Washum

Adopted as amended

3. We name the following slate of officers to serve as the interim committees to facilitate the work and prepare for the 2009 Indiana Annual Conference Session:

Annual Conference Sessions

Rev. Karen Devaisher (co-chair), Rev. Mary Hubbard (co-chair), Rev. Karen Altergott, Rev. James Bushfield, Rev. Betty Ann Garrett, Rev. Mark Gough, Elsie Miller, Kayc Mykrantz, Ruth Ellen Needler, Rev. Jennifer Pollard, Rev. Lynn Renne, Charles (Chuck) Scott, Ike Williams.

Nominations

Rev. Curtis Hurley, Brian Jarman, Rev. Karen Koelsch, Kayc Mykrantz, Vickie Newkirk, Jeanie Park, Rev. Rob Seewald, Rev. Lisa Schubert, Martha Scott, James Shaw, Rev. Bob Vale, Ike Williams, Rev. Jean Wilson.

Rules and Structure

Rev. LaMont Bonath, Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, Rev. Greig Crowder, Rosie Jordan, Rev. Robert Land, Carolyn Marshall.

Human Resources

Sam Odle (chair), Jacqueline Blackwell, Jerry Moore, Greg Morgan, Ambry Morley, Rev. David Schrader, Penny Siefert, Rev. Jeff Smith, Charles Young and Joseph Easley.

Affirmed as Presented

4. We recommend five (5) Directors be established for the Indiana Conference and that Bishop Coyner name these directors;

Director of Financial Services and Conference Treasurer—Jennifer Gallagher* (elected)

Director of Administrative Services- Brent Williams *(elected)

Director of Connectional Ministries- Jim Bushfield

Director of Communications- Dan Gangler

Director of Church Development- Mark Gough

Adopted (* note positions that required election)

Additional Recommendation

We recommend creation of the Office of Conference Secretary and that the secretary be empowered to select staff. Bishop Coyner nominated Carolyn Johnson She was elected

Adopted

5. We make the following implementing resolutions;

Whereas, on October 4, 2008, the Indiana Conference was created and properly elected a Board of Trustees, Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church be authorized to incorporate the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., as the legal successor of the North Indiana Conference and the South Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be authorized to sell any and all Conference property and to purchase any and all property to be consistent with the goals of the Imagine Indiana Plan.

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be authorized to enter into lease arrangements to be consistent with the goals of the Imagine Indian Plan.

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the North Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be authorized to sell any and all Conference property to meet the goals of the Imagine Indiana Plan with the approval and authority of the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the South Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be authorized to sell any and all Conference property to be consistent with the goals of the Imagine Indian Plan with the approval and authority of the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

Adopted

6. We recommend the chairs of Ethnic Ministry and Social Advocacy and Justice become one chair on the Conference Leadership Team.

Adopted

7. We recommend the Director of Human Resources on the Conference Leadership Team be renamed Director of Administrative Services

Adopted

8. We recommend the parallel programming and administrative bodies of the former North Indiana Conference and the former South Indiana Conference work together until such time as successor organizations are put in place at

the 2009 Indiana Annual Conference session. In addition, the current personnel policies related to staffing are continued until such time as the new Human Resources committee establishes new policies and procedures. We further recommend that only essential programming be initiated during this time of transition.

Adopted

9. We recommend that the members of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church begin their life together in a covenant of prayer.

Adopted

Indiana Area Foundation Report

Gene Robbins, president of the Indiana Area Foundation of The United Methodist Church Inc., presented its report. Russ Abel announced the creation of an endowment with a goal of \$20 million to support the Central Conference Pension Initiative. "As a new community of clergy, how will we be known?" he asked, and then gave the answer: "As a people who live beyond themselves."

Inaugural Annual Conference Preview

Karen Devaisher and Mary Hubbard, co-chairs of the interim Committee on Annual Conference Sessions, announced the first session for June 25-28, 2009, on the campus of Ball State University, Muncie. Adam Hamilton, pastor of Church of the Resurrection UMC, Leawood, Kansas, will teach; Saturday will be a day of outreach, witness, and service; and Sunday will include worship and ministerial ordination.

A Time of Praise, Worship, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Youth from the two former conferences sang, followed by the singing of hymns by the entire gathering. Bishop Coyner preached on Ezekiel 37:1-14, "Can These Bones Live?" "That's not an organizational question," he said, "it's a spiritual question. Can this new Indiana Conference be alive, and not just a bag of bones? The answer is 'Yes, by God's Spirit.'" The body voiced that affirmation repeatedly throughout the sermon. Quoting Jim Wallis, Bishop Coyner said, "We are the ones we've been waiting for."

The bishop presided over Holy Communion. Following more singing, Bishop Coyner asked everyone to join hands as he pronounced the Aaronic Blessing, Numbers 6:24-26. The organizing session of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church was adjourned at 4:15.

The Special Session adjourned at 4:15 pm

Submitted by

Carolyn Johnson, Conference Secretary

Jan Dimmick, Conference Secretary Former North Indiana Annual Conference

Curtis Hurley, Conference secretary Former South Indiana Annual Conference

We recommend all editorial changes accepted by the Imagine Indiana Design Team be adopted by the South Indiana and North Indiana Conferences sessions and be incorporated into the Imagine Indiana Document.

We recommend that the Mission Resolution approved by the South Indiana Conference session be referred to the Conference Leadership Team of the Indiana Conference and be a part of its work as the team sets priorities and core values for the new conference. (SIC Amendment #3)

We recommend that a position be created on the Conference Leadership Team for a youth and young adult ministry leader. (NIC Amendment #1 and SIC Amendment #1)

We recommend that the CONFERENCE staffing model include a position with primary responsibility to provide resources for local church ministries for youth ministry, under the responsibility of the Director of Connectional Ministries, and that this area of ministry include coordination of and resources for youth, young adults, and higher education and campus ministry. (NIC Amendment #2)

We recommend that Brian Durand and Ashley Moreland, members of the Indiana Transition Team, work with the youth and young adult leaders of both annual conferences to deal specially with issues related to youth ministry. (SIC Amendment#2)

B. First Annual Session of the Indiana Conference

June 25-28, 2009

Ball State University

Muncie, Indiana

Introduction

The new Indiana Annual Conference convened under the programmatic theme RETHINK CHURCH and included within the format of its meeting, opportunities to learn, explore, and experience what it means to RETHINK CHURCH in light of the

Conference scripture “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new!” (II Corinthians 5:17 NRSV) , and its mission to “join together in mutual support and assistance to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.

RETHINK CHURCH is a connectional emphasis developed by United Methodist Communications to assist United Methodists in responding to the challenge of rethinking what it means to be church and to do church. As successor to the “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors” campaign, RETHINK CHURCH is an opportunity to explore deeply about the meaning and purpose of church and “inspire church leaders to find creative ways to do church in different, more relevant ways”. To that end, the Indiana Annual Conference partnered with United Methodist Communications in purchasing billboards, radio spots, newspaper ads, banners and T-shirts to promote the Conference’s presence city-wide.

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions of the Conference were held in Emens Auditorium on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana; and all page numbers refer to the booklet of Pre-Conference Reports adopted as the Conference Workbook. Prior to the Call to Order of each session, the Conference had a time of worship and singing with the Conference Praise Team under the direction of Rev. Chuck Scott.

Thursday, June 25, 2009 – 8:30 AM
Rethink Church: A Day of Teaching
Welcome and Introduction of Speaker

The Day of Teaching opened with prayer by Bishop Michael Coyner. Welcoming greetings were given to the Conference by Indiana State Senator Sue Errington of District 26 covering the Muncie area and Rev. Gregg Parris, 28-year resident of Muncie, who also introduced Adam Hamilton, guest presenter for the Day of Teaching. Dr. Hamilton is senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas and author of several books including *Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity*, which was distributed to all members of the Conference. His presentations “Effective Church Leadership” and “Ideas for Preaching and Worship” were given during the morning session. The Conference recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 pm for Adam Hamilton’s concluding presentation, “*Strategies for Reaching the Unchurched.*”

Thursday, June 25, 2009 – 3:00 PM
PLENARY
Call to Order & Conference Overview

Bishop Coyner called to order the first session of the new Indiana Annual Conference using a gavel crafted of wood from the Robertson Meeting House , the oldest surviving building of Indiana Methodism. The gavel was made available by the Indiana Historical Society to commemorate the historic moment of the occasion. Bishop Coyner began the session with “The Catholic Spirit”, a prayer from Paul Chilcote’s book *Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit: 52 Prayers for Today*. Dr. Chilcote, a clergy member of the Conference, modeled each prayer is from a sermon of John Wesley.

David V.W. Owen, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and Carolyn E. Johnson, Conference Secretary, were introduced as assistants to the presiding officer. Dr. Johnson, gave procedural instructions regarding the bar of the conference, motions, and use of voting cards. Karen Devaisher and Mary Hubbard, co-chairs of the Sessions Committee provided announcements, facility logistics, overview of the Conference activities. In addition, the Pre-Conference Reports booklet was presented and adopted as the official Conference Workbook. The Conference was reminded that only reports requiring Conference action would be presented during the sessions. The Conference website has all other reports. Non-action reports are found in the endnotes to the Daily Proceedings.

Report -- Rules and Structure

James “Jim” Bushfield, Director of Connectional Ministries, presented the Report of the Rules and Structure Committee and moved its adoption.

Action : Report Adopted

Report -- Council on Finance & Administration –Initial Presentation

Kent Millard presented the initial report of the Council on Finance and Administration and reviewed philosophy undergirding the budget proposal including streamlined administration; reductions in staff and property ownership; increased General Church support; and leaving more funding and decision making with the local congregation.

Motion

On behalf of CFA, Kent Millard moved adoption of Recommendation I – the Conference Financial Policies. General discussion included questions about the alignment of the budget proposal with Disciplinary mandates; year-end reallocations; and determination of funding priorities and recommended line item amounts.

Action: Adopted

Special Presentation -- Cokesbury

A Wesley Study Bible and a stole bearing the new Indiana Annual Conference logo were presented to the Bishop. A current user of the Wesley Study Bible, Bishop Mike offered the presented copy to the youngest clergy present.

Report – Joint Cabinet Report & Resolutions

Superintendents Dale Mendenhall and Judi Purvis presented the Cabinet Report and Resolutions and made the following correction to the distributed report: from the North Cabinet *delete* Item 8 (Page 1, line 18) “*Rome City & Wolcottville (WA) to become a charge effective July 1, 2009*” –*Explanation*: the two will keep their current status as separate churches.

Highlighted were a new policy section on Unusual Damages to Local Church Parsonages and significant discussion centered on the Standards for an Adequate Parsonage especially, placement, scope, and intent of cell phone service for each pastor.

Action Editorial Changes and/or “Friendly” Amendments Accepted by the Cabinet

- Mark Dicken suggested correcting the report to reflect consistency and accuracy in the lettering and numbering sequence. Cabinet accepted recommendation to make the necessary editorial corrections, specifically changing current parenthetical letter references to numerical designations.
- Insert **South** to item #12 (Page 5, line 28) “Any pastor or church operating under arrangements established prior to **South** [Indiana] Annual Conference 1991, may follow the housing allowance guidelines in the 1990 South Indiana Conference Journal (page 377)”.
- Change Utilities and Appliances item #8 (Page 7 line 28) as follows: “basic cable or basic ~~direct~~ satellite TV; *Explanation*: “direct” could be understood as relating to a specific brand named service provider. Discussion regarding Utilities and Appliances item #13 regarding smoke detectors et al (Page 7 line 22).
- Cabinet accepted suggested recommendation to delete ~~where needed~~, and add “*as required by state fire code for rental property*” Subsequent discussion raised concerns on the existence, scope, etc of state regulations. Bishop Coyner requested the issues be examined more thoroughly and asked Steve and Brent Williams to work with the Cabinet toward that end.

Motion to Amend

Taylor Burton-Edwards moved to amend the vacation policy by “deleting lines 8 and 9 on page 10 and replacing with “less than 5 years, 3 weeks including 3 Sundays” changing the policy from a three to two tier framework. (seconded)

Action: Vacation Policy Amendment Adopted

Action: (Cabinet Report): Full Report Adopted as Amended

Laity Address

“What we’ve been up to this year,” a photographic essay narrated by conference lay leaders Kayc Mykrantz and Ike Williams, highlighted the many and varied ways local congregations, through the leadership and participation of their laity, are involved in witness, outreach, and nurture ministries and a wide spectrum of mission and service projects in local communities and around the world. “All God’s people in all places and at all times are called to love and to serve – we are Indiana United Methodists.”

Prayer Requests

Bishop Coyner led the conference in prayer for the members of Bethel UMC, near Anderson Indiana and the staff of the Rushville District Office. Both locations have sustained damage due to fire. Also lifted in prayer was the celebration of the life and witness of Chuck Hefley, layman and active leader in the former North Conference.

Dinner Recess

Thursday, June 25, 2009 – 7:00PM

Laity Session

Co-lay leaders Kayc Mykrantz and Ike Williams presided over the Laity Session. Jim Bushfield provided an implementation update on Imagine Indiana and Michelle Cobb provided an overview of the Conference’s new Well Lived Life Project. Ken Adams, director of lay speaking, introduced the district lay leaders.

Roger Summers introduced Alan Riendeau as recipient of the Bread and Basin Award. Bob Pimlott, presented Bob Ice of Evansville as the recipient of the Laity Manuscript Award. Nominations for both awards were received from throughout the state.

Another highlight of the session were selections presented by The Magic City Music Men, a men’s chorus from east central Indiana.

A time of remembrance was held to commemorate the two outstanding lay leaders who had died this year, Carnell Scott and Chuck Hefley.

An ice-cream social followed the session.

Clergy Executive Session Actions for Report

The Clergy Executive Session was held at Union Chapel UMC in Muncie. The following actions were reported to the Annual Conference through the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Retirement Status and Service Years

Granted retirement status were: Forrest L. Bowers 15, Neil D. Butcher 40, Mary Beth Byrne 38, Terry D. Campbell 37, Cheryl A. Jones Cumbee 25, David C. Cummings 25, Kent E. Dale 26, James A. Dance 38, Roger Domingo 6, Wendell L. Emerson 14, Ann. L. Glass 31, Saundra Hamm 17, Darrell Harris 11, Ernest M. Howard Jr. 30, S. John Hrynck 20, Steven G. Kaetzel 40, Barbara Jean Kinsler 14, Ronald L. Lawhead 39, Andrea L. Leininger 21, Gloria J.

Nelson 20, Ella Myers Nickles 25, Nancy Schoff 23, Stephen R. Seitz 26, Nancy E. Stimson 18, Cheryl E. Stratton 11, Jerry Wibert 49, J. Scott Wood 44 and John K. Wortinger 39.

Provisional Membership and Commissioning

The following were introduced as recommended for Provisional Membership and Commissioning: Andrea Ruth Bremmer, Dirk Alan Caldwell, Andrew Clyde Chanstrom, Devin Russell Cook, Colin Christopher Cress, Peter Hoyt Curts, Taylor Walters Denyer, Edward C. Fisher, Jr., Brenda Hacker Freije, James Hiram Higdon, Sean Litherland Johnson, Charles Frederic Kersey, Steven Paul Rundel, Christopher Stahlman, Ruth Irene Waite, and Brian Keith Williams.

Associate Clergy Membership

Brian Clarence White was recommended for recognition as an associate clergy membership

Full Membership and Ordination as Elder

Michael David Alexander, Charlene Ann Harris Allen, Michael Scott Brockway, Brian Dwain Campbell, Clarinda Ellen Crawford, Benjamin Keith Dilworth, Brian Lee Durand, Stacey Fischer Gehring, Marsha Kay Hutchinson, Brian Felker Jones, Kathy J. Newton, Frank Charles Oakman, Shannon Colleen Stringer, Zachary Kyle Washler and Doris Cockerham Winford.

Full Membership and Ordination as Deacon

Diane Menke Pence by the clergy session for full membership and ordination as deacon

Friday, June 26, 2009 – 8:30 am

Welcome and Introduction of Speaker

Bishop Coyner opened the conference with prayer and called upon Michelle Cobb, executive director of the conference's Well-Lived Life Program to introduce David Bell as the Bible Study leader. Dr. Bell, author and noted leader in stewardship is an ordained elder in the East Ohio Conference and currently serves as vice-president of stewardship for the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. His presentation, "*Extravagant Generosity: Give All You Have ... Really?*", centered on Mark 12:41-44 and focused on stewardship as an essential element of rethinking church.

Plenary

Call to Order and Courtesies

Bishop Coyner called the session to order and reported Conference registration as 992 clergy, 1,012 laity totaling 2004 members. Jim Bushfield reported on courtesies and hospitality concerns.

Report -- Transition Team

Framed by a background visual projecting "*What if Church was Thousands of Doors*", Dr. Cynthia Reynolds opened the Transition Team's report stating "We are rethinking church as doors, not just the doors of our churches, but the thousands of doors we need to enter across the state to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. She reiterated the overarching principles of resourcing congregations and streamlining structure and reviewed major transitional highlights including the October 4th celebration officially creating the new Conference; tip-off events in each new District, development of ministry clusters, and scheduling cluster leader training; "*Our Life Together*" clergy retreat; and convening summits on mission and advocacy and our relationship with historically UMC related institutions. Further, she called attention to pages 61 and 62 outlining the significant differences between the proposed current recommendations and the original plan.

Motion

On behalf of the Transition Team, Cindy moved adoption of the Transition Report seven(7) recommendations, inclusive the following recommendation (not printed in the Conference Workbook) "*That Bishop Coyner instruct the District Superintendents appointed to the ten new districts to proceed to organize the District to which they will be assigned in such a way that the new District will be functioning effectively on January 1, 2010. This includes, but is not limited to, convening a District Conference to elect a District nominating committee, lay leader, and other committees to conduct the business of the District consistent with the Imagine Indiana Plan, policies of the Indiana Annual Conference, and the Book of Discipline, prepare a district center, secure staff, and have a financial plan.*"

Discussion

Questions and discussion focused on adequacy of District funding, alignment of clusters with District lines, and establishment of District Conferences.

Action (Transition Team Report): Motion Adopted

Report -- Connectional Ministries Update

Jim Bushfield expressed appreciation to the Upper Room for providing complimentary copies of the May/June 2009 special edition of *Alive Now* developed in recognition of our new Conference and featuring all Indiana authors. He provided information

on the priorities of connectional ministries in the context of fiscal realities and the guiding principles of the new structure; and, identified budgetary items with significant programmatic funding reductions.

Dr. Bushfield introduced and asked the Conference to welcome new staff members LeKisha Reed, associate director for missions and social advocacy, and Brian Durand, associate director for youth, young adults, and campus ministries.

Report --Congregational Development

Mark Gough, Director of Church Development and Ed Fenstermacher, associate director, presented the report.

The Church Development Team will administer a grants program designed to encourage outreach by local churches. Available are new church grants (\$250,000), multi-site grants(\$100,000), worship grants(\$5,000), and relocation grants(\$50,000). In addition, A *Sending of the Saints Tool Box* including on-line resources; training for best practices, demographic information, coaching, and assessment has been developed to facilitate church development.

Motion

Ed Fenstermacher moved adoption of the Congregational Development recommendation “that every church-working alone or in cooperation with other churches – strive to start one new faith community that is specifically targeting persons outside their church’s constituency over the next two years.

Action (Congregation Development): Adopted

Recognition: Chartering of Faithpoint United Methodist Church

Mark Gough introduced George Wasson, pastor of Faithpoint who shared key moments in the growth and development of the Faithpoint congregation. District Superintendent Charlie Wilfong and Mark Gough certified that Faithpoint had met the standards to become a United Methodist Church. Bishop Coyner asked the Conference “***Do you approve Faithpoint as a chartered United Methodist Church in the Indiana Annual Conference?***” The response was accompanied with a standing ovation.

Institutional partners were asked to stand for recognition by the Conference.

The conference recessed for lunch at 11:32 am

Friday, June 26, 2009 – 1:30 pm

Call to Order and Recognition of Institutional Partners

Bishop Coyner called the conference to order and received greetings from Dr. Beverly Pitts, president of the University of Indianapolis.

Report of the Joint Board of Pension and Insurance

Brent Williams introduced JBP&I chairperson Greg Rittenhouse to present the report overview.

Motion

On behalf of the committee, Greg Rittenhouse moved adoption of the pension recommendations - sections A-E (page 33-37), covering (A) Funding Policy; (B) Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP); (C) Funding pre-1982 Service Years; (D) Comprehensive Protection Plan(CPP), and (E) Basic Protection Plan(BPP).

Action (Pension Report A-E): Motion Adopted

Motion

On behalf of the committee, Greg Rittenhouse moved the adoption of health insurance recommendations focused on active clergy, specifically section F (pages 36-37) and including section G-Adoption Benefit (pages 38-39).

Action: Motion Adopted as Amended (Motion was amended to include Gentry, Cook, and Griffith (part 2 of 2) amendments. Summarized as selecting the option presented by the committee on distributed handout “Retiree Health Benefits Proposal” (Gentry), grandfathering in those who have not yet reached 65 and elected for retirement (Cook), and counting up to 25 years of non-Indiana United Methodist pension plan service years.)

Motion to Amend (a.k.a. Griffith Amendment)

Donald Griffith moved to amend the report as follows:“Eligible retirees will receive a subsidy of 2% of the insured premium per service year up to 30 years. The 5 years immediately preceding retirement must be in the Indiana Conferences and in the health insurance program. The remaining 25 years must be service years with pension credit in the United Methodist Pension Plan.” (seconded)

Motion to Substitute (a.k.a. Huntsinger Amendment)

George Huntsinger moved as a substitute for the Griffith amendment “Strike lines 7-20 on Page 38 and add the Bishop shall appoint a committee with a minimum of 7 members consisting of retirees or surviving spouses. This committee shall prepare a plan for the distribution of the 1.5 million retiree health insurance subsidy subject to approval by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.”(seconded). **Action: Motion Defeated**

Discussion

The discussion of Griffith and Huntsinger motions included questions regarding disciplinary authority of the conference to set budgets, local church authority to set salary, implications for those in extension ministries, mandatory participation restrictions, situational specific concerns needing personalized information, and concerns for resourcing and training local church treasurers.

Division of the Question

On the request of Leonard Sjogren, and without objection, the question [Griffith Amendment] was divided into two parts. The first pertaining to the 2% subsidy and the second concerning eligibility of non-Indiana service years.

Action: Question Divided

Question- Adoption of the Griffith Amendment part 1 of 2 (service years)

“Eligible retirees will receive a subsidy of 2% of the insured premium per service year up to 30 years was placed before house.

Action (subsidy/service years): Motion Defeated

The Report was suspended until after the Order of the Day

Order of the Day – Constitutional Amendments

Bishop Coyner provided an overview of the Constitutional Amendment process and offered opening prayer. Carolyn Johnson reviewed the discussion and voting procedures. An overview of the amendments was given by Kayc Mykrantz and Ike Williams in their roles as members of the delegations. Other delegation members participating were Ann Glass and Frank Beard, chairs of their respective delegations.

Thirty two amendments to the Constitution were proposed by General Conference, 23 of which focus on the Worldwide Nature of the Church and the remaining nine on a variety of topics.

Prior to the discussion it was moved by Shawn Curtis and seconded to limit debate to two speeches for/against. Motion carried. Gary Schaar moved to close debate; motion carried. Balloting commenced and was concluded. It was noted that results of the ballot would be posted on the Conference website.

Report of the Joint Board of Pension and Insurance - Continued

The Pension and Insurance resumed with action on part 2 of 2 of the Griffith amendment. “The 5 years immediately preceding retirement must be in the Indiana Conference and in the health insurance program. The remaining 25 years must be service years with pension credit in the United Methodist Pension Plan.” **Action: Motion Adopted**

Motion to Amend (a.k.a. Klinger Amendment)

J. Phillip Klinger moved “That when the Reserve Fund for the Pre-82 Pension claims return to an overfunded position, and all claims are protected based on actuarial projections, the Annual Conference will return fifty per cent of the Reserve Fund each year to the Conference budget for Conference pension liability freeing up the same amount for a supplement to retired pastors and spouses based on years of service to be allocated for Health Insurance. (seconded) .

Action: Motion Defeated

Motion to Amend (a.k.a. Gentry Amendment)

Jim Gentry moved adoption of the committee’s suggested alternative proposal (See Text of Alternative Proposal) as detailed on the handout distributed on-site to the members of the annual conference and “that the amount given by the United Methodist Foundation of South Indiana and the earnings from the sale of the Shera Farm be placed in a compassionate/hardship fund for retirees from the former South Indiana Conference.” (seconded).

Text of Alternative Proposal

That we proceed with changing from a HealthFlex supplemental insurance plan for retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses due to increasing costs (estimated to cost \$525 per person in 2010), and in place of it, move to a health insurance subsidy based upon years of service in the Indiana conferences, set as \$5-per-service-year per-month, with a maximum of 30 years or \$150 for each retiree and spouse, and with a \$250 per month for each surviving spouse.

AND

That we have our retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses enroll in one of the two plans our benefits consultant recommends. These are:

Plan A – a plan similar to HealthFlex but without some of the extras that Health Flex brings, such as mental and nervous, Optum NurseLine, Wellness, WebMD. The estimated cost for this plan is \$434 per month, because this plan includes a richer pharmacy benefit with Medco.

Plan B – a lesser plan with less pharmacy benefits, but one that still exceeds what conference retirees could purchase on their own. The estimated cost of this plan is \$313 per month.

Action: Motion Adopted as Amended (*Amended by the Cook Amendment grandfathering those under 65 who have elected early retirement.*)

Motion to Amend the Amendment (a.k.a. Cook Amendment)

Beth Ann Cook moved to amend the report by adding “Retirees under 65 who have already elected early retirement (i.e. grandfathering them in) receive the same monthly subsidy that we set for other retirees.

Action: Motion Adopted

Discussion

Suggested including an editorial correction to the report regarding those persons over 65 who are not on Medicare; concerns raised about funds distribution based on former geographic status.

Jim Gentry, with consent and without objection, withdrew the compassionate/hardship fund and its designated funding source from the motion.

Action: Motion Adopted

Action (Pension and Insurance): Total Report Adopted as Amended

Order of the Day – Board of Ordained Ministry

John Groves co-chair of the Joint Task Force on Ordained Ministry introduced the report and expressed appreciation to Task Force members for their diligent work. He called on Sandy Harlan and Dan Snyder to introduce those completing the Course of Study and those recommended for provisional membership and commissioning and those recommended for full membership and ordination. Those introduced are listed below by category.

Course of Study

The following were recognized as Course of Study graduates and Bishop Coyner presented each with a *Book of Worship*: James W. Abbott, Robert D. Kirts, Dale E. Erwin, Philip E. Mitchell, Duane A. Ginder, Glenda K. Riggs, Randall Webb, James E. Roach, Pat Sleeth, and Mark Sanders.

Provisional Membership and Commissioning

The following were introduced as recommended for Provisional Membership and Commissioning: Andrea Ruth Bremmer, Dirk Alan Caldwell, Andrew Clyde Charnstrom, Devin Russell Cook, Colin Christopher Cress, Peter Hoyt Curts, Taylor Walters Denyer, Edward C. Fisher, Jr., Brenda Hacker Freije, James Hiram Higdon, Sean Litherland Johnson, Charles Frederic Kersey, Steven Paul Rundel, Christopher Stahlman, Ruth Irene Waite, and Brian Keith Williams.

Associate Clergy Membership

Brian Clarence White was recommended for recognition as an associate clergy membership

Full Membership and Ordination as Elder

Michael David Alexander, Charlene Ann Harris Allen, Michael Scott Brockway, Brian Dwain Campbell, Clarinda Ellen Crawford, Benjamin Keith Dilworth, Brian Lee Durand, Stacey Fischer Gehring, Marsha Kay Hutchinson, Brian Felker Jones, Kathy J. Newton, Frank Charles Oakman, Shannon Colleen Stringer, Zachary Kyle Washler and Doris Cockerham Winford.

Full Membership and Ordination as Deacon

Diane Menke Pence by the clergy session for full membership and ordination as deacon

In accordance with the Book of Discipline, in the presence of the annual conference, Bishop Coyner asked the historical questions to those recommended for full membership and ordination. The Bishop concluded with prayer.

Jack Hartman, co-chair of the Task Force, continued the report, shifting the focus from those entering ministry to those moving into retired status. He shared that the 30 persons retiring represented 742 years of ministry. Those present were asked to stand and receive appreciation from the Conference.

Trustees-Annual Meetings of the Corporations

Mark Dicken, chair of the Indiana Annual Conference Board of Trustees, reminded the Conference that during this time of transition we have three separate corporations and therefore, each must have its respective annual meeting.

Annual Meeting of the North Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated

Susan Kirkpatrick, president of the Corporation called the meeting to order and stated there were no action items before the Corporation and a report of Corporation activities found on pages 31-32 of the Conference Workbook. Brent Williams presented an update on activities related to the sale of Oakwood Park, including pending litigation.

Declaring no further business before the Corporation, the meeting was adjourned.

Annual Meeting of the South Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated

The annual meeting was called to order by Brian Williams, president of the Corporation. He stated there were no action items before the Corporation and reported on the successful auction sale of the Shera Farm for \$2, 275,000 (net proceeds \$2,197,688.38). Marie Lang, executive director of the United Methodist Foundation of South Indiana, on behalf of the Minister Retirement Fund, requested, “*that the trustees enter into open discussion with the Indiana United Methodist Foundation about the Shera gift ... and that representatives of the Ministers Retirement Fund be part of the conversation about resolution of the use of that Fund.*”

With no further business to come before the Corporation, the meeting was adjourned.

Annual Meeting of the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated

Mark Dicken introduced members of the Corporation and reported on accomplishments of the Corporation since its inception. The report of the Corporation is found on page 30-31 of the Conference Workbook. Three action items are before the Corporation.

Motion

On behalf of the Trustees, Mark Dicken moved recommendation # 1: “*That the Indiana Conference authorize the Board to research the potential for a conference-wide property and casualty insurance program to insure adequate and complete coverage for all churches and conference-owned property within the bounds of the annual conference and to return with a recommended plan regarding same to the 2010 Annual Conference.*”

Action: Motion Adopted

Motion

On behalf of the Trustees, Mark Dicken moved recommendation # 2 “*That the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church provide an adequate housing allowance in order to allow district superintendents and other appropriate employees of the annual conference to provide their own housing instead of providing conference-owned or district-owned parsonages, subject to the annual conference policy on housing allowances and in amounts determined to be sufficient by the annual conference. The Indiana Conference Board of Trustees further recommends that any parsonages or other housing owned by the former North Indiana Conference or the former South Indiana Conference or any district thereof be sold as soon as practicable and that the net proceeds of said sales be deposited with the annual conference for appropriate investment in order to provide a funding source for annual conference housing allowances.*”

Discussion

Discussion and questions focused on long-term cost either benefit or lack of benefit for using a housing subsidy; stewardship implication concerns if the conference moves from a parsonage model to a housing allowance model; other expense and/or appointment concerns; implications related to debt and debt management; exploration of options such as renting and leasing; freeing up time associated with property management.

Motion

Bert Kite moved “a call of the question for all that is before us” (seconded)

Action (for the Call for the Question): Motion Adopted (Subsequent vote on the motion did not take place.)

Handout on Action on Articles of Incorporation of the Bashor Home

Recommendation:

That the members of the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, vote to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Bashor Home of the United Methodist Church, Inc. to delete the requirement that the Corporation has members, and that the members of the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, vote to approve the Articles of Incorporation as now stated and approved by the Board of Directors of the Bashor Home of the United Methodist Church, Inc. on March 25, 2009.

Motion

On behalf of the Trustees moved recommendation # 3 as printed on the ballot/handout “Action on Articles of Incorporation of the Bashor Home.” That the members of the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, vote to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Bashor Home of the United Methodist Church, Inc. to delete the requirement that the Corporation has members, and that the members of the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, vote to approve the Articles of Incorporation as now stated and approved by the Board of Directors of the Bashor Home of the United Methodist Church, Inc. on March 25, 2009.

Discussion

Questions regarding definition of “substantial “ as related to United Methodist representation on the Board of Directors. Members were asked to mark their ballots. Ballots were collected.

Action (Bashor Home): Adopted by Written Ballot 344 Yes/ 39 No = 383 Total Ballots

Several parliamentary inquiries were made of the Chair [Dicken] regarding the earlier vote on the motion “calling for the question on all that is before us.”

Motion

It was moved and seconded to not sustain the chair’s ruling regarding the sufficiency of the count of the earlier call for the question motion.

Action: Motion defeated *(The chair ruling on the call is sustained. Note: The Call for the Question on all that is Before Us requires the vote to proceed without debate. The actual vote on the motion did not take place; however, the chair did declare it as adopted and no objection from the House was raised on the issue.)*

Jim Davidson raised before the Corporation a property insurance inquiry regarding Coalbush UMC Michiana/North District. Specifically, Rev. Davidson was seeking answer to what actions are being taken to resolve issues associated with the former insurance administrator and what is currently being done to redress overcharging. Brent Williams offered to arrange for a meeting of Rev. Davidson with the Program Administrator.

With no other business before the Corporation, the meeting was adjourned
Following adjournment of the Corporate meeting, Bishop Coyner declared the Conference in Dinner Recess.

Friday, June 26, 2009 – 7:00 pm
Friday Service of Remembrance

Saturday, June 27, 2009 – 8:30 AM
RETHINK CHURCH: A DAY OF OUTREACH & MISSION

Bible Study
Day of Outreach and Mission

David W.V. Owen, executive assistant to Bishop Coyner, introduced David Bell, the morning's Bible Study leader. Continuing with his "nudge-a neighbor" audience discussion method, Dr. Bell asked the audience to discuss whether our choices in earning, giving, saving, and spending money are either faith-filled or faith-less decisions. Most often they are faith decisions – but faith in what? Extravagant generosity is impacted more by our spiritual journey than by our financial assets. Romans Mark 1:16-22 - around the calling of the first discipleship and Romans 12:6-8 - generosity

Plenary

Call to Order & "Learning About Indiana Together"

Bishop Coyner invited the conference to participate in "*Learning About Indiana Together*" an interactive quiz about Indiana and United Methodism. The experience provided an opportunity both to test knowledge and celebrate accomplishments of United Methodism in Indiana. Of special note were the questions "*how many new Christians (professions of faith, not counting transfers into our churches) have joined our United Methodist congregations in Indiana since the 1968 merger that created the UMC in Indiana?*" (Answer: over 280,000) ; *and which annual conference has led the North Central Jurisdiction in mission giving the past two years?* (Answer: north and south have been #1 and #2 or #2 and #1 for several years.)

Courtesies and Special Presentation

Mary Hubbard and Karen Devaisher. Presentation of the youth using Romans 8:31, "If God is for us who can be against us."

Report – Joint Task Force on Foundations

Marie Lang, Manet Shuttle, and Jim Gentry, executive directors respectively of the United Methodist Foundation of South Indiana, North Indiana United Methodist Foundation, and the Indiana Area Foundation presented a progress report toward creation of a single United Methodist Foundation to serve Indiana. Projection timelines include bringing a final report and recommendations to the annual meetings of the Foundations during the 2010 IAC session and, if approved, legal consolidation of the existing entities by January 2011.

The Conference was asked to receive \$283, 800, the annual distribution from the Ministers' Retirement Fund Endowment to support the costs of health insurance for clergy, spouses, widows and widowers in retired status from the former South Indiana Conference.

Report – Council on Finance and Administration – Final Presentation

Kent Millard reviewed and clarified earlier Conference actions related to the CFA report, including the special offering/compassion fund for retired ministers and spouses. He reiterated the principle of a streamlined structure designed to enable accountability and transparency. Key in the structure is the alignment of budget categories and staff portfolios. He then introduced the following directors and the budget categories for which they are responsible:

- Administrative Services, Brent Williams
- Church/Congregational Development, Mark Gough
- Communication, Dan Gangler
- Connectional Ministries, James Bushfield
- Episcopal Office , David V.W. Owen
- Financial Services, Jennifer Gallager

Personal Privilege

Bishop Mike and Marsha Coyner pledged \$500 as the first gift to the compassion fund and hope the first gift will serve as an encouragement and/or challenge for others to give.

Motion

On behalf of CFA, Kent Millard moved adoption of Recommendation II which includes an income/expense budget of \$15,180,000/\$15,166,718.

Motion to Amend

Jim Gentry suggested adding the phrase "in the context of extravagant generosity for all God's gifts" to the end of line 6 in the Purpose statement.

Action: Accepted as a "friendly amendment".

Rule of Law Request

Charles Roth requested the following Rule of Law request “pursuant to our discussion in the first session of this annual conference, I respectfully request a rule of law as to the question of whether this budget is properly before us under paragraph 615.1, 634.4.b.1, and 811.4 of the 2008 Book of Discipline”

Response: Bishop Coyner stated his initial ruling is that the budget “is properly before us because by Discipline all budgets must be brought to the annual conference directly by CFA and how they [CFA] choose to collect those recommendation is by their processes.” Final ruling will be made and reviewed as specified in the Book of Discipline.

Motion to Amend (aka May Amendment)

Richard May moved “that CFA, in cooperation with campus ministries approve that on[or near] October 4, 2009, or such other date as may be appropriate, all churches in the Indiana Conference shall take a special offering for such ministries. The funds given shall be divided among the campus ministries previously supported by the South and North Conferences; the division will be in proportion to the monies provided to such groups by the North and South Conferences in 2008 or other appropriate means determined. All district offices, the conference office, and HUM will to the extent feasible by each, encourage, promote, and support this offering.” (seconded)

Discussion

Concerns raised focused on the specified offering date and its proximity to other designated offerings; disbursement criteria and formula; evaluation of campus ministry effectiveness.

Motion to Amend the Amendment

Bert Talbott moved to support a one-time offering and establish a committee to evaluate how to support these ministries in the next 18 months of the transition”. (seconded)

Action: Not Adopted

Motion to Amend the Amendment

Mary Cooper recommended having the group charged with campus ministry responsibility as the determiner of fund disbursement, thereby replacing the pre-set formula.

Action: Accepted as a “friendly amendment”

The changed text is as follows: *The funds would be determined for disbursement by the group elected with responsibility for campus ministry...*

Action (May Amendment/Final): Adopted as amended

Budgetary Prayer Request

Beth Ann Cook offered a prayer request regarding surviving spouses, that we provide generously through the special offering so that no one is priced out of insurance because of the “until they turn 65” stipulation. Kent Millard reminded everyone that there is an emergency fund for special cases. Brent Williams informed the body that the premium rate for surviving spouses has not yet been set and it is the intent to take special interest in assisting those that fall into that category.

Special Recognition

Jack Leonard asked for a moment of personal privilege to notify the Conference that United Campus Ministry(UCM) in Terre Haute has been named as the 2009 Campus Ministry of the Year by The National Campus Ministry Association.; and that UCM’s director Rev. Jack Diel, was recognized with NCMA’s GNOME Award for his outstanding contribution to working ecumenically in campus.

Motion

On request of Jack Leonard, the Bishop tested the House regarding willingness to suspend the rules in order to consider a resolution regarding the funding restoration.

Action: Not Carried

Motion

Ken Burchill moved the call for the question on all that is before us. (seconded)

Action (CFA/Final): Adopted as Amended

Rule of Law Request

“I respectfully request a rule of law concerning whether the action of this annual conference has just passed a budget that is correct with regard to 615.1 and 811.4 of the 2008 *Book of Discipline*.”

Motion

Tom Ream moved “that the Indiana Conference direct the Connectional Ministries director and team to work with representatives of the Conference related ministries to develop a collaborative plan for disseminating information to local

congregations for the purpose of funding their ministries. Further, they will present this to the next annual conference.
(seconded)

Action: Motion Adopted

Special Introduction

James Bushfield introduced LeKisha Reed, newest member of the Connectional Ministries Staff.

Report -- Committee on Nominations

Jim Bushfield reported that the on-line survey generated over 300 names of persons willing to serve on Conference teams. The resulting database will be available to Conference teams as they create working groups on emerging and continuing needs. Corrections and editorial changes to the report were made by both Jim and from the floor. All corrections will appear in the final report.

Motion to Amend

Jeanne Park moved that the United Methodist Women's Mission Coordinator of Membership, Nurture, and Outreach be added to the Congregational Revitalization and New Congregation Team(seconded)

Action: Adopted

Motion

Jack Hartman moved that we accept the report as presented/amended and authorize the Nomination Committee to make changes during the year.

Action (Nominations/Final): Adopted

Report – Bylaw Changes Operation Classroom

(Following is the Operation Classroom handout referenced in the action below:)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors propose that Paragraph E, of Article VIII, of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation be amended to read as follows, to-wit:

“E. The power to make, alter, amend and repeal the corporation's Articles of Incorporation or By-laws shall be vested in the Board of Directors of the corporation.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors submit to the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, as the successor to both the North Indiana Annual Conference and the South Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the above-proposed amendment and recommend approval of the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval of such amendment by said Indiana Annual Conference, the President and the Secretary, or either of them, are hereby authorized to file articles of amendment with the Secretary of State of Indiana, and to take such other actions as are necessary to put such amendment into effect.

Motion

On behalf of the Board of Operation Classroom, David V. W. Owen moved the approval of the Operation Classroom Bylaw revision resolution as written on the distributed handout (see below). The revision vests “the power to make, alter, amend, and repeal the corporation's Articles of Incorporation or By-laws” with the Board of Directors of the corporation.

Action: Adopted

Motion

All requests to adjust the by-laws of conference related agencies to comply with the new Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church be referred to the trustees for review and action with report back to the following annual conference session. (seconded)

Action): Adopted

David announced that Kissy United Methodist Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone, an Operation Classroom/Operation Doctor project, has received a \$450,000 grant to double the capacity of its Maternal and Child Health unit. The grant was awarded to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) by USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Program.

Sessions Committee

Karen Devaisher and Mary Hubbard made the final report of the Session Committee which included leading the Conference in expressing appreciation to Ruth Ellen Needler, Chuck Scott and the Praise Team, and all the staff and administrative assistants in the district offices. Bishop Mike set the next Conference date for June 10-13 at Ball State University, Muncie Indiana.

Bishop Mike thanked the Conference for its kindness and courtesy.

Dale Mendenhall reviewed the purpose of the Afternoon's activity as time to get acquainted and be a presence in the Muncie community. Conference members were dismissed to participate in community outreach projects.