



Daily Digest

Number 1
Events of Monday, June 15, 2009

Departed Saints Remembered in Sunday Worship

Arday K. Anderson
Robert G. "Rob" Bailey
Katherine Barger
Virgil C. Bell
Paul M. Bumpers
Maurice Burroughs
Mildred Cleary
Janet T. Canada
Julia Frances Dodson
Barbara Dorman
Julia Ernest
Cagle Eugene Fair
Linda C. Fox
Joe Grambling
Glen Keeley Green
Mildred L. McKelvey
JoAnn Miles
Lovella H. Miller
Jeanene Nipper
Doris Norman
Gerald David Pierce
William "Bert" Powell
Sarah Rodena Richardson
Bettie Riggin
Robert W. Robertson
Penny Sherman
Bernice A. Smith
Robert Turner
Hazel Vanlandingham

Ministry is not about the past; it is about the future

Arkansas United Methodists have done a great deal, including sending 11,054 people on VIM missions, employing hundreds around storm-ravaged areas of the state, raising funds for Russia and the Congo, and starting new churches every year (including five in 2008.)

But it has not been enough. Even with local church expenditures increasing, in 2008, The UMC in Arkansas lost 839 in membership and 1353 in average attendance, and had 78 fewer professions of faith and 132 fewer baptisms than the year before. Current economic conditions have forced local churches to cut back on staff and temper salaries. Apportionment collections, which support state- and world-wide missions and evangelism, have dropped from 96% to 90%. We have proven that just spending money is not enough to keep from losing members. Stewardship is a critical spiritual issue, but the real issue is how we do church. "Are we doing church the best way that we can in Arkansas?"

Our mission is "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We need to rethink church in order to redo church. Therefore, the bishop will form a steering committee composed of seven to nine clergy and laity to examine what we need to do to be the church in Arkansas. How should we position ourselves for tomorrow to be good stewards and to stay focused on our mission.

The committee will report back to the 2010 Annual Conference. For discussion and our response prior to 2011. "I have no preconceptions about where will we end up." This is too serious—this is Kingdom business—so that we can be the 21st century church that we must be. Please pray for us.

Retirees and Their Ministries Honored

The Annual Conference expressed gratitude for the ministries of 11 clergy members, their spouses, and their families upon retirement.

Combined, they are credited with 275 years of service to The United Methodist Church.

Five are Local Pastors and the other six are Elders.

They join 265 previously retired members of the Annual Conference, some of whom are serving under appointment while in retirement.

We wish them Godspeed.

Sam Albright	39 years
Kit L. Carson, Sr.	3
N. Wayne Clark	45
Roger E. Glover	38
Robert L. Hager	29.75
Linda Anne Horton	5.5
H.E. "Eddy" Howell, Jr.	8.5
James Lann	15
Dana A. Thomason	31.25
Charles T. Thompson, Jr.	29.25
William Paul Woolley	30.75

New Clergy Introduced

New Provisional Members, Deacons, and Elders were introduced to the Conference Monday morning. They were elected Monday afternoon at the clergy session. They will be commissioned, received, or ordained Tuesday night.

They are:

Provisional Members

Gail Cole Baldwin
Candace Barron
Heath Bradley
Teresa E. Cahpman
Robert Cloninger, II
Greg Comer
Roger Allen Crum
Carter Ferguson
Joe Head
David Hoffman
Ben Johnson
Lynn Kilbourne
Nathan Kilbourne
Robert Lyons
Brittany Richardson
Dawn Spragg
Melissa Thomas
Health Williams
Jeanne Williams

Deacons in Full Connection

Helen Stegall
Janice Sudbrink

Elders

Brad Elrod
Angie Gage
J.J. Galloway
Charles Harper
Sue Howe
Randy Ludwig
Ronnie Miller-Yow
Carl Ownbey, Jr.
Beth Perdue
Belinda Price
Zach Roberts
Brian Timmons

Vision Team Report

Churches that grew in worship attendance, received members by profession of faith, and paid their apportionments in full were recognized. There were so many that the names were not read, but scrolled on the large screens by the platform.

Information on those churches, plus the churches that had the highest increases in worship attendance, most professions of faith, and highest percentages of apportionment paid was distributed in registration packets.

A communications guide, as well as Childcare Liaison information, is available for pick up during the Conference.

Customizable demographic information is now available at www.missioninsite.com. An access code is available from Leon Gray at the Conference office.

A resolution was passed in 2008 instructing the Conference to reexamine its Vision and Mission. As a result, the Conference has presented three goals:

- To provide resources to help develop vital local congregations and mission fields in which persons can enter and develop a life of discipleship,
- To offer resources and connectional ministry opportunities to equip local churches to be more faithful and effective in making disciples and transforming the world,
- To address the strategic needs of the conference including 1) starting new places for new people, 2) identify and develop a new generation of leaders, and 3) modeling and serving as a catalyst for ministries which transform the world by seeking to eliminate poverty, seeking wholeness, and seeking justice.

These goals will be measured by number of baptisms, number of persons making professions of faith, worship attendance, membership, apportionments paid, and number of volunteers involved in hands-on ministry.

Motion Picture Screening

There was a private screening of The River Within, a new movie written and directed by a native of Paragould who is a United Methodist.

The movie will be released in Malco theaters this August or September.

Confessing Movement Award

Rev. Norman Carter was awarded the 6th annual Defender of the Faith Award by the Confessing Movement of Arkansas at its breakfast.

The Daily Digest is a daily summary of conference activities. It is provided to help summarize the major events of the day to assist delegates in communicating those events in the local church.

The Daily Digest will be posted on the e-mail network and posted on the Conference website.

The Daily Digest will not be mailed unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is given to the Digest editor during the conference.