

"Write the vision clearly on the tablets, that one may read it on the run." – Habakkuk

THE VISION

The Newspaper
of the New York
Annual Conference
of The United
Methodist Church

June 24, 2011



Wrapup from the 212th Annual Conference

News You May Have Missed

Scholarships and Awards

Conference Merit Awards were presented to the following students: Emma Rose Sanborn, Dickinson College; Emily Peck-McClain, Duke Divinity School; and Betty Lynn Gannon, Drew University.

New York Education Society scholarships were presented to:

NYSE Fellows: Julia Madden, Rachel Elizabeth Barber, Kimberly Elizabeth Brown, Leah Miranda DeLeon, Carla Esther Phillips, Samuel Rodney Phillips, and Amanda Yau.

NYES Scholars: David Irons, Victoria Kittoe, Preet Korani, Justin Cecil Thompson-Ghee, and Roy Joseph Grubbs.

NYES book grants were awarded to Marci Dillion, Deonne Beverly John, Jelani Magloire, and Andrew Yau.

Denman Evangelism Awards

The first youth award for the conference went to Julian Ashong, a native of Ghana and member of Summerfield UMC in Bridgeport, Conn., who uses technology to reach people for Christ. Paul Bernabe, Jr., who evangelizes through Bikers for Christ, took the laity award. He is member of Christ Church in Beacon, N.Y. The pastors, Rev. Zhaodeng Peng and Rev. Qi Bi She were given the award for clergy. The couple leads Tian Fu UMC in Brooklyn, where some 500 were baptized last year.

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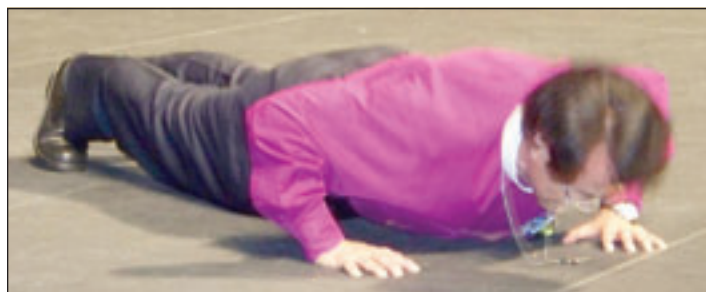
VIM teams filled the stage during the celebration and showed off their allegiance to countries like Costa Rica and Ghana.

Finale: A Celebration of Mission

Although June 11 was the final day of the New York Annual Conference, it was certainly not a quiet one with an additional 1,500 people gathered for the Celebration of Mission Festival.

The celebration got off to a jubilant start with singing and dancing under brightly-colored banners paraded into the Hofstra arena. Each church was asked to highlight their mission work; the banners displays ranged from soup kitchens and food pantries to VIM trips and Habitat for Humanity. The banner carriers circled the arena, and then took their seats across the aisle from hundreds of Volunteers in Mission team members.

Thomas Kemper, general secretary of the General Board of Global ministries, began his remarks by noting the NYAC's "very impressive record in emergency relief"—especially the efforts to



Yes, he did it again! Despite a grueling week, Bishop Park pleased the crowd with 10 more pushups than last year—130 total.

help in Haiti through UMCOR.

He urged the gathering to embrace the UMC's focus on being in ministry "with" the poor, stressing the word "with." He said that John Wesley worked to move families away from the idea of simple charity to a place where they could become empowered to become self-sustaining. A short video he showed from www.ministryWITH.org made the point

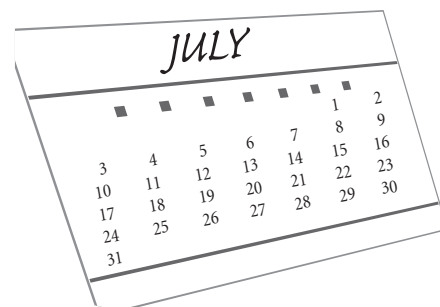
abundantly clear.

He shared stories of the GBGM's work with the Roma people in Hungary, the Nothing But Nets campaign in Africa, and ministries that have been built on trust in the neighborhoods of Sierra Leone, Laos and Mongolia.

Harriett Jane Olson, deputy general secretary of the Women's Division of GBGM, spoke of work

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SAVE THE DATE



Summer Day in the Woods

July 12 or August 17: In the quiet, relax with other women to explore intricacies of creation and to “just be” in a safe and hallowed space. Rev. Dr. Karen Monk, pastor of the Kaaterskill Charge, and daughter of an environmental educator, will lead the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. program at Kingswood Campsite, 1500 Hathaway Pond Rd., Hancock, NY 13783. It is sponsored by the Catskill Hudson District UMW. The cost is \$20, and includes coffee hour and hot lunch. Overnight accommodations, if desired, are available at the nearby Capra Motel, by calling 607-637-1600 for Kingswood rate. Please register before July 6 or August 10, depending on which date you choose. Contact Sharon Snider at 518-756-2334 with any questions.

Cooperative School of Mission

July 28–30: “All Things Made New,” is the focus for the conference Cooperative School of Christian Mission at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury. Housing is available at the Ethan Allen Hotel. The three studies available are: “The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation,” “Haiti: Challenges and Hope,” and “Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity.” The school is open to clergy and laity, with special classes for children, youth and young adults. Registration info is available at <http://nyac.com/events/detail/3395>. Rev. Sonia A. Jermin serves as dean.

Health Screening Deadline

July 31: The last day to take the Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness screening offered at no out-of-pocket cost through HealthFlex. To register online and find a local Quest laboratory, go to: www.gbophb.org. Log into HealthFlex/WebMD. Under the HealthFlex vendor links, select Quest Diagnostics. Use the registration key: umc2011. Those taking the screening can earn \$100 in Health Cash.

Baseball Benefit for Habitat

August 4: Bridgeport Bluefish 2011 UMC Night to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County. Game time is 7:05 p.m. at the Ballpark at Harbor Yard; tickets are \$15, with \$5 of each one sold going directly to Habitat. To reserve your tickets by June 30, please contact Stacy Kweder via email: stoy@sbcglobal.net, or by phone at 203-881-1588 (home) or 860-681-5793 (cell).

Biblical Story-Telling Gathering

August 8–13: The 24th Annual Festival of the Network of Biblical Storytellers will gather at the Ridgcrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C., with the theme, “How Many Times? Stories of Forgiveness.” Keynote speaker is Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey; featured storyteller is Mei-Lin Po. For more info on this immersion experience in biblical story-telling in the Blue

Ridge Mountains, go to www.nbsint.org, or call 1-800-355-6627.

General Conference Petitions Due

September 27: The final day to submit petitions to the Petitions Secretary for consideration at the UMC’s 2012 General Conference in Tampa, April 24–May 4. Detailed instructions for submitting a petition are available on the General Conference website at www.gc2012.umc.org.

Evangelism Explosion

September 28–October 2: St. John’s UMC of Elmont is sponsoring this event with biblical storyteller Dennis Dewey. Activities included revival preaching at 7 p.m. on Wednesday-Friday; Dewey will preach Friday. On Saturday is a \$40 biblical story-telling workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and worship again at 7 p.m. Two worship services are planned for Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The church is at 2105 Stuart Ave., Valley Stream, NY. For more info call the church at 516-285-6003, email stjohnumc@optonline.net, or check the web site: www.stjohnumc.org.

HealthQuotient Deadline

September 30: The last day to take the online HealthQuotient without paying a higher deductible for 2012. Deductibles for individuals/families who take the HQ will be \$250/\$500; for those who don’t the amount is doubled to \$500/\$1000. If your spouse is covered by HealthFlex, they must also take the HQ to get the lower deductible. Go to: www.gbophb.org, and click on the HealthFlex/WebMD link.

UMW 39th Annual Meeting

November 5: With the theme, “Building an Inclusive, Supportive Community of Women in Mission,” the gathering will welcome Harriett Jane Olson, deputy general secretary of the Women’s Division, as guest speaker. The New York/Connecticut District will host at Jesse Lee Memorial UMC in Ridgefield, Conn.




The News of the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church

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Wrapup of the 212th Annual Conference

14 Petitions Moved On to GC Consideration

Of the approximately 90 petitions and reports for consideration in the legislative sessions, just 17 of them came before the plenary for action. Items with a less than 90 percent concurrence rate are brought before the entire body for consideration.

Five petitions slated for General Conference were approved in the legislative sessions, and an additional nine were moved forward in the plenary. Many of these petitions are seeking changes in the UMC's policies on homosexuality, including the right for practicing homosexuals to be ordained, and for UMC clergy to perform same-sex unions. Some of the petitions are also asking that references in the Discipline to marriage between a man and a woman be changed.

The following annual conference petitions were adopted in plenary:

- AC301—Support of the retired UMC bishops' statement seeking to amend the Discipline statement on the "incompatibility" of homosexuality to Christian teaching.
- AC308—Resolution that the NYAC place print ads welcoming the LGBT population and apologizing for the UMC's "prejudiced policies" against the community.
- AC302—Aligning UMC investments with resolutions on Israel/Palestine.
- AC305—Ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines
- AC310—Solidarity with working people and their unions

Petition the GC

Although the New York annual conference has concluded, you may still petition the 2012 General Conference: According to church law, "Any organization, clergy member, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference ...". All the info can be found at: <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/lnet/content3.aspx?c=lwL4KnN1LtH&b=2454759&ct=9312939>.

In plenary, it was agreed to send the following petitions on to General Conference:

- GC311—General Church Ethics: Amendment to the constitution seeking a code of ethics and conflict of interest policy for general church organizations, councils, boards and agencies, their members and employees.
- GC305, 306, 308, 309, and 310—Five different "Marriage Equality" resolutions seeking amendments to the Discipline to strike language referring to heterosexual marriage and to marriage between a man and woman, and to permit clergy to perform same-sex unions.
- GC302—Amendment to the Discipline permitting the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

- GC301 and 303—Two separate amendments to the Discipline permitting clergy to perform same-sex unions without fear of reprisals.

The following General Conference petitions were adopted in legislative sessions:

- GC307—Marriage Equality: Amending Discipline paragraph 162J to include the words "civil marriage, civil unions."
- GC304—General Church Ethics Policies: Amending Discipline paragraph 702 seeking a code of ethics and conflict of interest policy for general church organizations, councils, boards and agencies, their members and employees.
- GC201—Restructuring of General Agencies/Boards/Commissions during changing times
- GC313—A call for peace march to end the Korean War

One General Conference petition—GC312: Expand the Mandate of GCORR—was voted down in plenary because the commission was understood to already have a global mandate.

On Friday night, a late resolution was adopted giving support to the UMW in Sierra Leone who wrote a declaration condemning "the unjust and divisive nature of tribalism in their country."

The pre-conference listing of reports and petitions can be found online under the heading "2011 Reports" at: <http://nyac.com/pages/detail/1641>.



Bishop Violet L. Fisher sweeps across the stage as she preaches to ordination class of 2011.

Roll the Video...

Recordings of the following events at annual conference are available on video DVD or audio CD from GNTV Media Ministry:

- **Opening Worship:** Bishop Park
- **Bible Studies:** Jerry Eyster, and Rev. Randy Nugent
- **Memorial Service:** Rev. Adrienne Brewington
- **Retirement Service**
- **Episcopal Address:** Bishop Park
- **Ordination Service:** Bishop Violet L. Fisher
- **Mission Celebration:** Bishop Violet L. Fisher

To order recordings of individual events or the complete set:

1. Go to http://www.gntv.info/online_store/

[store5/agora.cgi](http://www.gntv.info/online_store/store5/agora.cgi)

2. In the left-hand menu under Categories, scroll down and click on "New York AC."
3. Choose your selections and place your order.

You may also request downloadable files to listen to on your favorite MP3 player. You may choose to purchase the services separately, or as one package. Please note that most music and videos played during sessions will not be included for copyright law compliance. This resource is available in exchange for your donation to cover the costs of making the resource and providing it to you. This item will ship approximately 4–6 weeks after the conference ends.

Wrapup of the 212th Annual Conference

Mission Celebration, Pushups Cap Conference

Continued from front page

being done around the world to help women in places like Pakistan and India. She asked the members of the United Methodist Women to stand and applauded their dedication to wide range of ministries. She also credited the work of the deaconesses and home missionaries in the conference.

Olson thanked the body for adopting a resolution in support of UMW woman in Sierra Leone, who wrote and signed the Brookfields Declaration calling for an end to tribal violence.

Midway through the celebration, Bishop Jeremiah J. Park walked to center stage, and said, "This is the moment you've been waiting for!" The more than 2,500 people in the arena roared because they knew that meant one thing: the bishop's pushup challenge was about to begin.

"Now if I had my choice, I would not do this on the last day of conference," he said, but then quickly removed his jacket and microphone. "Will you count for me?" he asked. "I'm going to move very quickly."

A resounding "yes" came from the crowd.

The praise band provided a drum roll as the 60-year-old bishop dropped to the stage and—with an incredible economy of motion—completed not 120 pushups, but 130!



Church banners depicted the many forms of mission outreach in their communities and across the globe.

As he rose to his feet amid the chanting and cheers, he told the crowd, with a smile, "Here are two things. The good news is that I did it; the bad news is that next year, you owe me 10 more dollars!"

While the praise band played, "We are Marching/Siyahamba," laity, clergy and guests alike, sang and danced to the stage to deliver

their offerings to the ushers' baskets. The collection will go to the Bishop's Partner in Mission Fund.

And then Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, NYAC mission coordinator, called all the VIM teams to the stage. As a young man played the mission theme song, "Halle, Halle, Halleluja," on a steelpan, hundreds of VIM team members came forward, many wearing t-shirts emblazoned with the name of the country where they worked. The entourage included members of the Youth Ambassadors in Mission team, who traveled to Cambodia for their mission work.

Una Jones, assistant general secretary at GBGM for Mission Volunteers and Conference Relations and wife of the NYAC Rev. Edwin Jones, thanked the volunteers for their spirit and dedication, and especially for the work that is being done in Haiti. Many people in Haiti have a reason for hope because of you, she said. Jones is part of the GBGM team helping to coordinate the UMC efforts in Haiti.

The festival also included recognition of the 137 churches that earned "Go for the Gold" awards by paying their full apportionments, and participating in anywhere from two to 10 mission categories. Of that number, 58 were first time winners.

10 New Ministries for Young Adults, Immigrants

On Saturday morning, Bishop Jeremiah Park consecrated 10 Vision Bearers, who will be starting new ministries throughout the conference. Long Island West District Superintendent Rev. Kenny Yi, who leads the program, introduced the group to the gathered body.

The 10 and their ministries are:

- **Millie Rivera-Velez:** St Paul Hispanic ministry, Middletown and Goshen UMC.
- **Oscar Destruge:** La Gracia (Hispanic ministry) at Bridgeport
- **Joseph Lalanne:** Haitian ministries, Summerfield UMC in Bridgeport, and Springdale UMC in Stamford
- **Maria Maine:** South Bronx Hispanic ministry, La Resurreccion UMC
- **Ilsoo John Chung:** Chinese Korean Ministry at Flushing
- **Aslam Daniel:** Indo-Pakistani UMC at First Jamaica UMC
- **Susanna Kuntour:** Ghanaian Ministry at Far Rockaway
- **Donglong John Young:** Flushing Chinese Mission UMC
- **Andrea Smith:** Children and young adult ministry, Grace UMC of Brooklyn
- **Jason Harewood:** Young adult ministry at Hempstead and Uniondale UMCs

The Vision Bearer program is focused on starting new churches and revitalizing existing ones as part of a denominational movement focused on re-evangelizing the United States. Last year, six new ministries were begun



Bishop Park leads a blessing for the 10 new Vision Bearers, whose ministries were consecrated during annual conference.

by the first group of Vision Bearers. The group, made up of both clergy and laity, has participated in a seven-month training period, and

each works with a mentor. Further info about the program can be found at <http://www.nyac.com/news/detail/148>.

Wrapup of the 212th Annual Conference

Park: Change is the New Constant for UMC

Echoing a theme that he struck during the opening worship on Wednesday, Bishop Jeremiah J. Park reiterated the urgent need to change the culture of our churches in his episcopal address Friday morning. He encouraged the body to redirect the flow of its attention, energy and resources to making vital congregations by reaching out into the world for Christ.

“Transformation comes when the culture of the church changes,” he said. “Transformation comes when we make disciples for Christ.”

While the church must deal with the reality of older members and aging clergy, it also needs to reorder its priorities to foster and sustain vitality. The recently released Call to Action report stresses the need for greater accountability in the church, beginning with the Council of Bishops.

“As vital Christians, we need to love numbers. There’s a book of the Bible called Numbers; God loves numbers!” the bishop exhorted. He admitted that while numbers may tell only some of the story, “what we measure does receive our attention.” The bishop urged the gathering to make reaching young people their number one objective, and received a hearty “Amen” when he asked for agreement.

The bishop stated that the mission festival on Saturday is meant to show the young people that there are indeed places for them to serve in UMC. Leadership need not be dependent on the years in the church, but the ability to handle

responsibility, he added.

Park urged the gathering to ratchet up their expectations.

“We get much when much is expected,” he said. Jesus Christ expected to get whole world from his disciples! Make your expectations clear.”

The bishop questioned whether many people would find our churches as advertised: “Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors?” He offered the reminder that pastors are appointed to a local community not just the church.

“We can’t afford take it or leave it hospitality,” he said. “We must have an outward focus of radical hospitality. Hospitality to those who are not like us, those who are not in church yet.”

He offered a witness of churches that have been able to turn themselves around, and noted that more congregations are being formed in the NYAC than even before. Ten more Vision Bearers ministries are beginning this year and two new congregations will be chartered.

The bishop made special mention of a church in New York that was set to close, but asked for a second chance. Through the use of supply lay pastors, they were able to begin a journey back to vitality and now have a half-time pastor. They continue to grow and their offerings have enabled them to address the physical needs of their building.

“We should be asking our churches for more . . . to see what is possible,” he said. Church can be better than this because more people are finally



Bishop Park, assisted by Rev. John Simmons, ordains Rev. Jessica Anschutz—one of three members of the ordination class under the age of 35.

getting it—change is not an option. “Look at the exciting things God is doing thru us. Vital churches will be the rule not the exception in NYAC!”

“When we are with God the victory is already won!” Park exclaimed. “Shout for victory now. God will continue to build up heart warmed people for a time like this.”

Reclaiming Happiness As Part of UMC Tradition



Wesley scholar Jerry Eyster said to be heart warmed, Methodists must understand a happiness borne out of deep faith.

Jerry Eyster brought the conference a wealth of knowledge about John Wesley’s understanding of the happy life of a Christian. Eyster, a Wesley scholar and lay leader of the Westport (Conn.) UMC, shared his understanding of what it means to be “Heart Warmed United Methodists,” during the Thursday morning Bible study.

Wesley’s brand of happiness had nothing to do with “smiley faces,” but was the outcome of living an authentic life in God. Eyster urged the gathering to reclaim the happiness that is embedded in our tradition as Methodists. An authentic life is one lived in connection to the needs of other people, and in witness to the work of the Holy Spirit. By definition, the UM church is in mission.

“Faith leads to love, and to be loving or holy,

is to be truly happy,” he said.

Eyster began his study of Wesley because he “needed to know more about my roots.” Even as a UM pastor’s son growing up in Ohio, he didn’t understand what true religion was all about.

He noted that science was finally trying to confirm what “we’ve known for a long time.” Regular church attendees are healthier, and live longer than their non-churchgoing counterparts. And Eyster credits the difference with the desire to create a meaningful live through faith.

“People are searching for happiness . . . the church has much to offer by offering Christ,” he said.

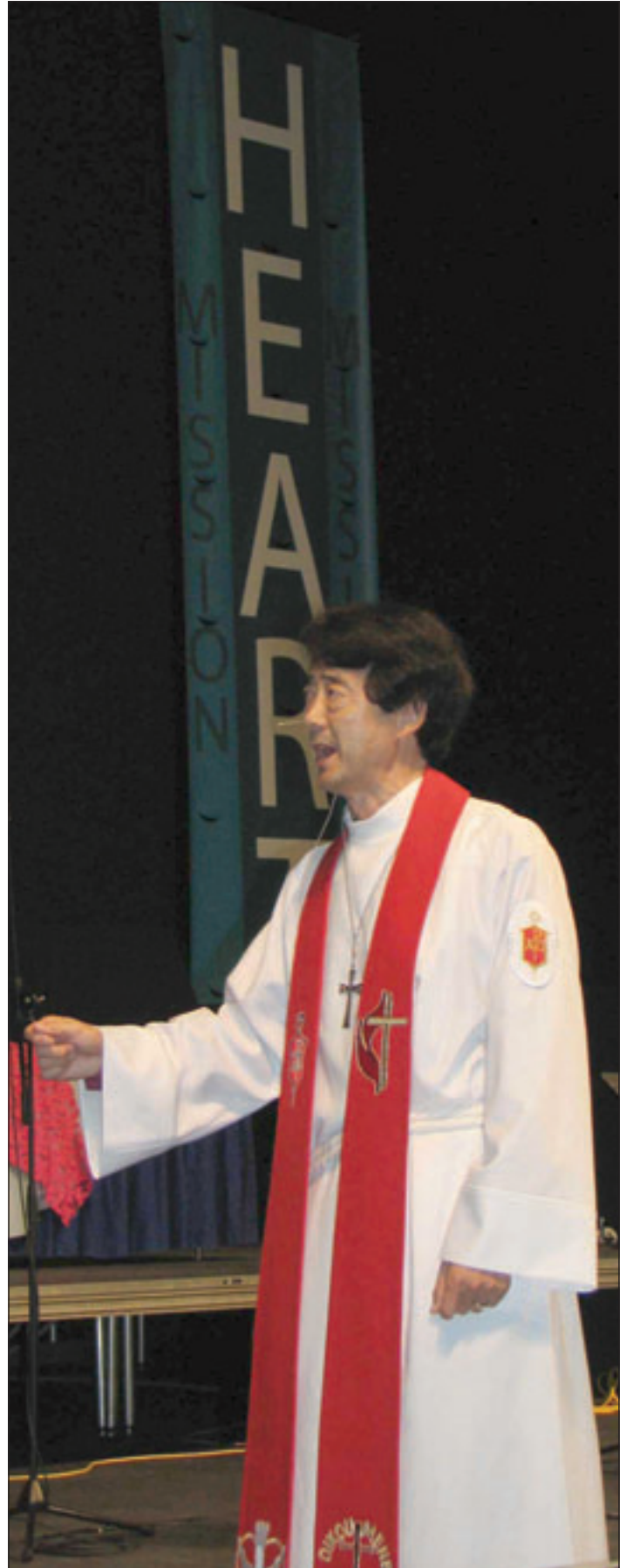
In closing he added, “Being heart-warmed goes without saying . . . God is with us. So don’t be an ‘almost’ Methodist, be a United Methodist.”

Wrapup of the 212th Annual Conference



WEDNESDAY

While the day began in separate clergy and laity sessions, everyone come together for the opening and worship service. Bob Miller, above, was honored for his service as conference secretary. Conference Coordinator Rosemarie Walker, right, set us straight on "holy conferencing." Bishop Park, far right, and the praise band, led by Jorge Lockward, below, got our hearts warmed for the music and messages to come throughout the four days. And thus began the 212th gathering of the NYAC at Hofstra University.

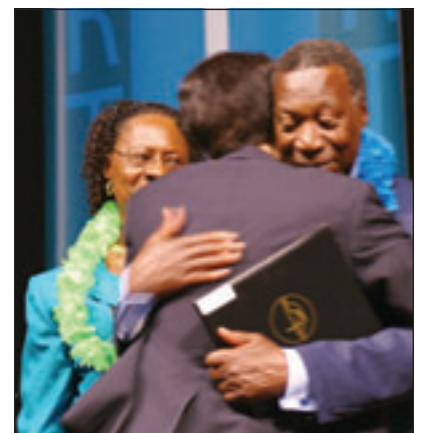


Wrapup of the 212th Annual Conference



THURSDAY

The day was framed by the morning memorial service with Holy Communion and the evening celebration of retirement. Rev. Adrienne Brewington, left, brought a griot statue to help us remember who we are, and to honor those lost in the last year. The Jubilee celebration, below, was filled with much laughter and hugs, and even a few tears. But in between those services much work was accomplished in the legislative sessions, and we inched ever closer to electing clergy and laity delegates to the 2012 conferences.



Wrapup of the 212th Annual Conference



FRIDAY

The clergy spouses, above right, lifted up a song of praise just before dinner. Wendoly Marte, above left, of New Day UMC, read from Isaiah 61 during the ordination service. His smile says it all for Chris Yi, left, as he hugs his dad, Rev. Kenny Yi, after the younger Yi's commissioning as a provisional elder. The mission booths offered an array of toys and clothing for sale, below left. The offering at the evening's service would go to benefit the Ministerial Education Fund.



Most of the photos in this edition are by Stephanie Parsons, with some help from Tom Coddington and Rev. Joanne Utley.

Wrapup of the 212th Annual Conference



SATURDAY

The final day brought the introductions of—and prayers for—our elected delegates for the 2012 General and Jurisdictional conferences, above. Rev. Sandra Mantz, center at right, presents the Denman Evangelism Award for clergy to Rev. Qi Bi She and Rev. Zhaodeng Peng. The clergy couple leads Tian Fu UMC in



Brooklyn. God's creative gifts were on display, far right, in many of the handmade banners paraded through the arena at the start of the mission celebration. Members of the 2011 Youth Ambassadors in Mission team, below, were applauded for their efforts during their trip to Cambodia.



Wrapup of the 212th Annual Conference

Things You May Have Missed

Conference highlights included:

- The welcoming of new ministers: Four persons were presented with the license for pastoral ministry, seven were commissioned as provisional elders and one as a provisional deacon, two were recognized as associate members, nine were ordained as elders in full connection, and one elder from another denomination was received as a full member. The average age of the ordination class is 45, and for the commissioning class, 42.
- The naming of 10 new Vision Bearers who will begin ministries with those ranging from young adults to recent immigrants.
- The honoring of 18 retiring clergy members who have served for a total of 503 years.
- Chartering of two congregations in Manhattan: Broken Builders UMC led by Rev. Paul Moon, and Morningside UMC led by Rev. Mark Kim.
- A rousing message from Bishop Violet L. Fisher, retired episcopal leader of the Northern and Western New York conferences, during the ordination/commissioning service.
- A memorial service honoring the passing of 44 members of the clergy, clergy spouses and children, and special friends of the conference. Long Island East District Superintendent Adrienne Brewington delivered an inspiring sermon about the need to remember who we are.
- A witty Report of the Cabinet from Connecticut DS Ken Kieffer in which he spelled out the importance of UMC acronyms like SPRC, ERT, NAP and BOOM.
- The recognition of Debbie Kolacki, who received her UMC certification in Christian education.
- Approval of a 2012 conference budget of \$8,968,709—.4 percent increase over 2011. Due to certain revenue sources, the apportionment budget will be based on the amount of \$8,627,709.
- Offerings totaling more than \$14,000 for Anchor House, the Black College Fund, and Ministerial Education Fund.

Clergy Health Insurance

HealthFlex premium costs are expected to increase to \$14,448 for 2012, an increase of 7.5 percent over 2011. Churches will pay \$13,008, or 90 percent; while pastors pay \$1,440, or 10 percent, of the cost. Pastors will also faced an



Rev. Mark Kim, far left, and members of Morningside UMC in Manhattan celebrated the chartering of their church Saturday morning.



Pastor Gia Hall and members of Trinity UMC in Coram were prepared for Saturday's mission festival in their red shirts.

increased deductible, and prescription prices.

Deductibles for individuals/families who complete the online HealthQuotient questionnaire will be \$250/\$500; for those who don't, the amount is doubled to \$500/\$1000. The last day to take the HQ without incurring the higher deductible for 2012 is September 30. If your spouse is covered by HealthFlex, they must also take the HQ to get the lower deductible. Go to: www.gbophb.org, and click on the HealthFlex/WebMD link.

Appointment List

To see who has been newly appointed, and reappointed, go to the NYAC web site at <http://nyac.com/pages/detail/1769>.

2012 Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for June 6–9, 2012, at Hofstra University. See you then!

Lockward Receives Spirituality & Justice Award

Jorge Lockward, director of the Global Praise division at the General Board of Global Ministries and worship coordinator for the New York Annual Conference, was honored recently with the George McClain and Tilda Norberg Award for Spirituality and Justice.

The award, initiated in 2008 by the New York Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, recognizes persons who make exemplary contributions to ministries of spirituality, and to speaking truth to power with the love and courage of Christ's spirit. The award is given periodically; Lockward is only the second recipient.

In her presentation speech on May 7, Rev. Luisa Martinez-Buck spoke fondly of Lockward, first as a friend and adopted family member, and then as one who is known for speaking with the compassion of Christ, and is fearless in representing



Jorge Lockward receives the award from Rev. Luisa Martinez-Buck.

the presence of Christ to those around him.

"He is real!" Martinez-Buck said. "With Lockward, the depth of his character is seen in all he does. Even when misunderstood or wounded, he does not retaliate, but seeks to find the good in each person, and strives for reconciliation."

Lockward, in accepting the award, spoke about true grace—the radiant attraction of beauty, the inner radiance of goodness, and the gifts which bear witness to this generosity, borrowing language from Archbishop Anastasios of Albania in the latter's address to the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 2006.

Lockward ended his remarks by asking all present to join him in singing "Kanisa Litajengua," an African folk hymn that asks, "Who will build the church?"

OBITUARIES

Rev. Thomas Irwin Vaughan

Rev. Thomas Irwin Vaughan died June 1 in Graham, N.C. He was 69. Rev. Vaughan served in Westhampton Beach, West Hempstead, and Franklin Square in New York, and in West Granby, Copper Hill, Waterbury and Norwalk, Connecticut. He retired in 2004.

Rev. Vaughan is survived by his wife, (Lois) Anne Vaughan of Graham, N.C., and two daughters, Jennifer (Nicholas) Bailey of Natick, Mass., and Pamela (Neil) Weathers of Andover, Conn. He is also survived by his twin brother, Jerry (Alice) Vaughan of Vancouver, Wash., a sister, Susan Vaughan of Crestone, Colo., and two grandchildren.

A celebration of death and resurrection was held June 5 at the Belmont UMC in Burlington, N.C. A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m., Saturday June 25, at Wesley UMC, 619 Fenworth Blvd., Franklin Square NY 11010

Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Anne Vaughan, 2627 Pepperstone Dr., Graham, NC 27253.

Magdalene Takaro Law

Magdalene Takaro Law, 95, the widow of the Rev. Ronald S. Law, died on May 13 in Chatham, Mass. Rev. Law, who died in 2005, served in Bethpage, Merrick and Manhattan in New York, and in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Mrs. Law is survived by a daughter, Kathleen (Stephen) Rhinesmith of Chatham, Mass.; two grandsons, Christopher (Sarah) Rhinesmith, also of Chatham; and Colin (Vanessa) Rhinesmith of Champaign, Ill.; and five great-grandchildren. Her sister, Melitta Booth, of Peoria, Ariz., and brother, Dr. Timothy Takaro, of Asheville, N.C., also survive.

A service in celebration of Law's life was held May 21 at the First Congregational Church of Chatham, Mass.

Expressions of concern may be sent to: Kathleen Rhinesmith, PO Box 748, Chatham, MA 02633. Gifts in Law's memory may be made to: Hospice and Palliative Care of Cape Cod, 765 Attucks Lane, Hyannis, MA 02601

Rev. Alfred Liberatore

Rev. Alfred Liberatore died May 23 in Catskill, N.Y., at the age of 82. He had served churches in the New York Conference in Malden, Quarryville, Palenville, Cold Spring, South Highland, Pine Plains, and Durham in New York, and in Seymour, Conn.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy (Winifred) Liberatore, and two daughters: Dorothy (Darrel) Brodhead of New Paltz, New York and Wendy (Clifford Mealy) Liberatore of Greenwich, New York.

A celebration of life and resurrection will be held this SUNDAY, May 29, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at the Pine Plains UMC, 3023 E. Church St., Pine Plains, New York 12567. Officiating will be Pastor Gregory Higgins, Pastor Camille Regholec, and Rev. Karen Burger.

Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Winifred Liberatore 30 Pine Creek Dr., Catskill, NY 12414. Memorial gifts may be given to the United Methodist Committee for Relief, using advance #3021326, which is designated for the U.S. spring storms, and sending a check to: UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087.

June H. Butler

The widow of the Rev. J. George Butler, June H. Butler, died in Halifax, Vt. on April 24, at age 89. Her husband served churches in New Haven and Hartford, Conn., and Albertson, N.Y. He retired in 1974.

The couple bought a farm and ran a maple sugaring operation that was featured on the television program, "On the Road with Charles Kuralt." The farm was run on hydroelectric power that they produced themselves. She is survived by a long-time family friend, Richard Gay.

A graveside funeral service was held April 29 in the family cemetery on their farm in Halifax.

Condolences may be sent to Richard Gay, 7225 Jacksonville Stage Rd., West Halifax, VT 05358. Memorial gifts may be made to: Windham County Humane Society, Route 30, Brattleboro, VT 05301.