



The ordination class of 2011 basks in the love of the audience after receiving their charge from Bishop Park.

Bishop Fisher: 'Turn the Page!'

By Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

Four bishops graced the stage last night for the ordination and commissioning service, but one bishop especially set our hearts on fire with her passion for the Word. Bishop Violet L. Fisher, preacher for the service, pounded the pulpit as she proclaimed, "Turn the page!"

That phrase peppered her sermon and was inspired by the Gospel reading from Luke 4 in which Jesus fulfills the scripture by reading from the book of Isaiah in the synagogue.

"It didn't just start here," Bishop Fisher told the transfixed group on the stage. "The bishop gives you the authority, but God gives you the anointing!"

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me," she exclaimed. "God has sent us here to heal the brokenhearted. They need the church to be the church!" The congregation jumped to their feet with shouts of "Hallelujah" and "Amen."

The celebration included the ordination of nine elders, the commissioning of seven



Bishop Violet L. Fisher

provisional elders, the recognition of two associate members and one full elder, and the licensing of four local pastors. Bishop Park opened the service by introducing the special guests in attendance. Bishops F. Herbert Skeete and Alfred Johnson offered remarks of love, gratitude and encouragement, followed by Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffery Kuan, dean of Drew Theological School, and Rev. Dr. Hongki

Kim from the first Methodist seminary in Korea, Methodist Theological University.

Dean Kim brought a 30-voice choir from Methodist Theological Seminary that has been performing in cities across the United States. They filled the arena with beautiful harmonies, singing two anthems that praised God and lifted the human spirit.

During the presentation of licensing for the local pastors, Rev. Eileen Daunt presented Michael H. Barry, Jr., John Q. LeCain, Paul R. Meador and Susan Woodworth.

"You are hereby authorized to serve as a local pastor in the congregation," Bishop Park proclaimed, and the entire arena responded with prayer, and sang, "Gracias, Señor," a hymn composed by Jorge A. Lockward.

Then Conference Lay Leader Renata Smith and Rev. Kun Sam Cho, presented Jennifer Tiernan Nunno for commissioning as a provisional deacon, and, as provisional elders, Sheila Michale

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Digital Age Should Not Deter Church's Mission

By Tom Coddington

The electronic invasion referred to as the "digital age" must not be allowed to get in the way of the mission of the church. That was the primary thought expressed by Rev. Dr. Randolph Nugent, who led Friday morning's Bible study.

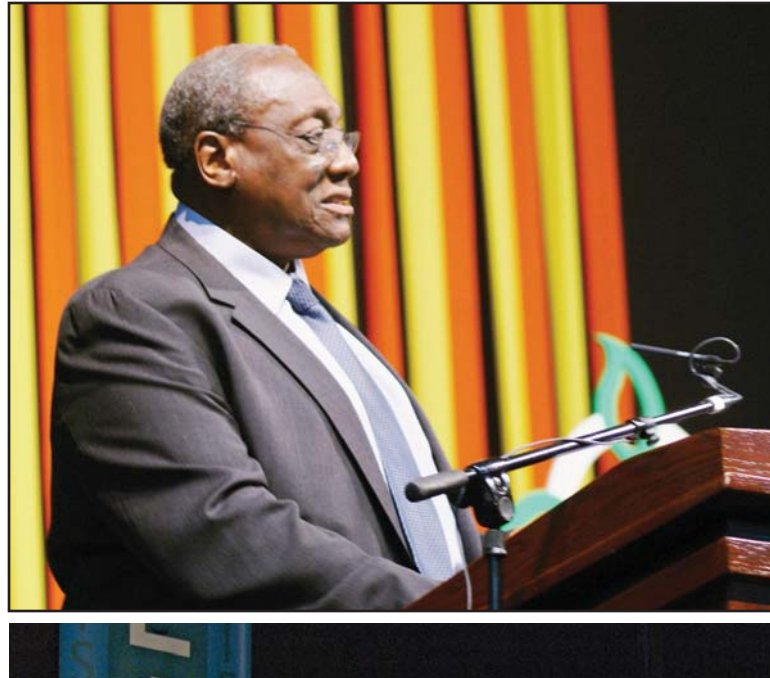
Nugent, who is senior pastor at Vandevener Park UMC and former top staff executive of the General Board of Global Ministries, first focused on the fact that commercialized "missionary tools," being used electronically, can cause damage to the church.

"They are words in space," he said. "People will listen to any interpretation of biblical texts by the personality of the day."

With Matthew 28:16-20 – Jesus' commissioning of the disciples to spread the Word throughout the world – as his text, Dr. Nugent noted the role of the women to whom the resurrected Jesus appeared.

"It proved to be crucial, and it provides a clue to our mission. It also serves as an insight to our call to be with Jesus in disciple-making, bringing reconciliation and redemption to the world," he said.

"We cannot let things get in the way of our passion for mission. We cannot



let decisions be made by machines, rather than people. We cannot let people be victims of the numbers," he further intoned.

Dr. Nugent said, "We are called to be representatives of God and of Christ. It requires a holy people to carry that out.

We have to intensify human contact in this digital age.

"We have to find ways to engage the younger people; global youth interaction is crucial to our mission. We cannot eschew this commission. Nothing should deter us from carrying it out," he concluded.

Churches Challenged to Make A Difference for the Poor

By Tom Coddington

"What would Jesus cut?" asked Rev. Neal Christie in his presentation to the Board of Church and Society at its conference dinner on Friday.

Christie, assistant general secretary with the General Board of Church and Society, pointed out that, because of the national debt and the budget problems it has caused, many programs and services will see their budgets cut.

These include Headstart and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, both of which are geared toward families with small children.

"In WIC alone, as many as 325,000 children will be affected," he said.

He also said that as many as eight million people will lose the benefits they receive from all of the programs that are seeing their budgets cut. "We need to challenge the church to make a

difference. This budget hurts children, and we cannot leave them in lives of debt and poverty," he said.

Christie also spoke of a situation in Alabama, where people have been arrested for being homeless. "Immigrants and the poor are being criminalized in many states," he said.

He also indicated that, in many areas, women are disproportionately employed. "Millions of women have lost their jobs. These are not family-friendly policies," he said.

Medicaid cuts will also put a burden on states that are also struggling financially. Programs for energy efficiency are also taking a hit, as they are underfunded.

"We need to help people keep their dignity, and we need to work to mend the broken economy. As Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me," Christie concluded.

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Beckford, Paul Andrew Fleck, Wongee Joh, Bernadette Logan, Jennifer Lynne Pick, Hwan Chris Yi and Hyo Jung Dawn Yoon. Carol A. Downs and Thomas S. MacLeod were also recognized as associate members of the annual conference.

Rev. Vicky A. Fleming read the names of the candidates for ordination as they each came forward to kneel before God.

"Take authority as an elder to preach the Word of God, to administer the Holy Sacraments, and to order the life of the Church," Bishop Park instructed. "In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Ebenezer Aduku, Jessica Lynn Anschutz, David R. Czeisel, Vicki I. Flippin, Roger Jackson, Gertude Victoria Nation, Kwangwon Jung, Narcisse Cherie Philips and Carmen Denise Pickett, all draped in red stoles, heard the affirmations from the crowd, "Amen!"

In the final act of recognition for the evening, Rev. Cathy S. Gilliard was welcomed as a full member of the New York Annual Conference, and the arena filled with song, "To God Be the Glory."



The seven provisional elders are all smiles after being commissioned.



Bishop Park recognizes associate members Carol A. Downs and Tom MacLeod.

General Conference Delegation

Clergy: Bill Shillady, Adrienne Brewington, Tim Riss, Constance Pak and Noel Chin.

Laity: Fred Brewington, Jorge Lockward, Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Marva Usher-Kerr and Rashid Warner.

Jurisdictional Conference Delegation

The members of the GC delegation in addition to those listed below:

Clergy: Ed Horne, Kun Sam Cho, Ken Kieffer, Evelyn McDonald and Luisa Martinez-Buck

Laity: Roena Littlejohn, Kevin Nelson, Natassia Velez, Chan Gilliam, and Bob Hunsinger.

Clergy alternates: David Henry, Judith Stevens and Stephen Bauman.

Laity alternates: Maria Maine, Richard Nicodemus, and Darlene DiDomenick.

Delegation leaders: As the first delegates elected by clergy and laity, Rev. Shillady and Fred Brewington, respectively, will head up the NYAC team.

General Conference is April 24-May 4, 2012, in Tampa, and the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference is July 18-20, 2012, in Charleston, W. Va.

God Bless You!

A colossal heart-warmed thank-you to all who helped get the word out about the events here at the 212nd annual conference through words, photos, tweets and technical assistance: Stephanie Parsons, Tom Coddington, Rev. Darlene Kelley, Melissa Hinnen, Jennifer Harmer, Rev. Kent Jackson, Ed Dayton, Elizabeth Christie, Barbara Eastman, Jean Strong and Lynda Gomi.

Remembering Ford And Parrish

A resolution honoring former conference lay leader Shirley Parrish was adopted during the plenary session on Friday. Parrish, who was an active member of the Union UMC in Brooklyn for more than 40 years, died in June 2010.

She also served as lay leader for the Long Island West District and was a lay delegate to General Conference six times.

A related motion was made by Gennifer Brooks to include Parrish and Thomas Ford in the official record of the 2011 conference. Ford, the son of Rev. Sarah Diane Ford, died earlier in the week.

By the Numbers

Member attendance

447: Clergy

516: Laity

85: Spouses and guests

Health kits

6,055 shipped on Thursday

Offerings

\$5,166: Anchor House

\$4019: Black College Fund

\$4,985: Ministerial Education Fund

5 Corporate Resolutions Are Adopted

During the corporate session on Wednesday, the following actions were taken:

Journal addition: Approved a request to include the resolution on the merger of Christ and St. Luke's UMCs in New Rochelle in the 2011 conference journal. The resolution was approved in 2010, but the information was omitted in that year's journal.

Revision of conference center authorizing resolution: A language change was approved to drop reference to the conference center's previous Bryant Avenue location. The generic language will offer more flexibility.

Refinancing the conference center: Resolution was adopted to allow the conference trustees to refinance the original \$1 million mortgage, at a potential interest savings of \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year.

Capital improvement fund reimbursement: Resolution was approved allowing the trustees to seek a \$1.1 million mortgage on the lands and buildings of Quinipet Camp and Retreat Center. The resolution was put forth by the Bishop's Camping Task Force that has been working diligently to keep the camping program alive and self-sustaining. The mortgage will allow funds provided by the conference to be repaid.

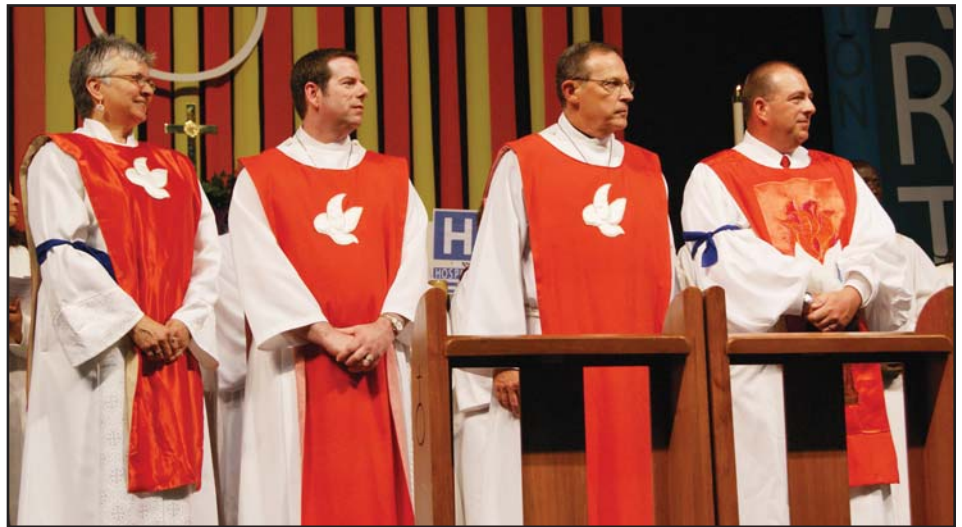
Epworth Center resolution: After much debate, a resolution allowing the trustees to take action on the future of Epworth was adopted. The resolution allows for leasing, or using the property in non-traditional incoming producing, and a sale of the property in whole or part.

Conference insurance program: A resolution was approved after much discussion to allow the conference treasurer to modify or possibly terminate the voluntary property and casualty insurance currently offered by the conference. About ¼ of the conference churches use the program. When churches fail to pay the premiums, the conference fills the gap. Treasurer Ross Williams has already begun work with several churches to move them to other insurance programs. Churches unable to afford the insurance premiums will be able to request relief from the conference.

Trustee vote: Mervyn H. Richards,



Barely missing a beat after knocking over a font, Bishop Park laughs with the audience about the power of baptismal water at the ordination service.



Susan Woodworth, from left, Paul R. Meador, John Q. LeCain, and Michael H. Barry, Jr., received their licenses as local pastors during the Friday night service.

a member of the St. John's UMC of Elmont, was elected by paper ballot to serve on the NYAC Board of Trustees. Richards, a lifelong Methodist, serves as vice president of the trustees at his home church.

Chartering of two new congregations: Metropolitan District Superintendent Noel Chin brought resolutions to charter the Broken Builders UMC and Morningside UMC. Both were approved by hands raised in the air accompanied by shouts of "Hallelujah!"

Use of church sale proceeds: Chin also presented a resolution from New Rochelle UMC seeking to use \$200,000 from a property sale for ministry. New

Rochelle UMC was formed in 2010 by a merger of Christ UMC and St. Luke's UMC. The St. Luke's property is currently for sale and is expected to bring upwards of \$1 million dollars. The funds would be used to pay off a Parish Development loan, ecclesiastical loan and a children's program called, A Place of Peace. The resolution was adopted.

Discontinuation of church: The Tomkins Corners UMC in Putnam County has voted to discontinue the congregation effective June 30, 2011. A resolution to allow the proceeds of a sale to benefit the conference's new church and development funds was adopted.