

THE VISION



The
Prophetic
Church
Pray about it.
Talk about it.
Be about it.

Saturday Update
June 7, 2014

Election Of Delegates

The following clergy and laypersons will represent the conference at the 2016 conferences.

General Conference

May 10-20, Portland, Oregon

CLERGY

Tim Riss
William Shillady
Noel Chin
Denise Smartt Sears

LAITY

Fred Brewington
Dorothee Benz
Dorlimar Lebròn Malavé
Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt

Jurisdictional Conference

July 11-15, Lancaster, Penn.

Delegation includes the eight persons selected for General Conference.

CLERGY

Vicki Flippin
Kun Sam Cho
Sara Thompson Tweedy
Milca Plaud

CLERGY RESERVE

Constance Pak
Ken Kieffer
Adrienne Brewington
Paul Fleck
David Henry
Ed Horne

LAITY

Roena Littlejohn
Ximena Varas
Rashid Warner
Ross Williams

LAITY RESERVE

Steve Allen
Derek P. Miller
Jaewon Kim
Omar Hall
Yolanda Evelyn
Daisy Tavarez



MISSIONARIES COMMISSIONED: Bishop Alfred Johnson, left, congratulates Pastor Susanna Cho and Rev. Young-Cheul Cho after the couple was commissioned as missionaries for the General Board of Global Ministries. The Cho's will be serving with the UMC in Moscow. Rev. Cho has been pastoring the New Hyde Park Korean Church. Their son, Daniel, is also a pastor in the NYAC.

Love Before Prophecy

"The church cannot be prophetic if it does not speak what God has given it to speak . . . the church will be uncomfortable if it does not speak," said Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey. "I think the church is in an uncomfortable place and I wonder if it will speak."

Dr. Lightsey, an associate dean and assistant professor at Boston University School of Theology, challenged those gathered early Friday morning to first be caring, and then prophetic.

"We must be prophetically loving if we are to be the church," she said. "Only when you love the whole person can you look beyond their faults and think of them as member in Body of Christ." Lightsey was invited to speak to inaugurate the Dr. Bill Perkins Lecture Series. Perkins, an elder in the NYAC, helped establish the con-

ference learning center, which is named in his memory.

Lightsey noted that biblical prophets were often ostracized. "They are the minority within the minority." Yet they delivered God's messages not just to the people, but to the king as well.

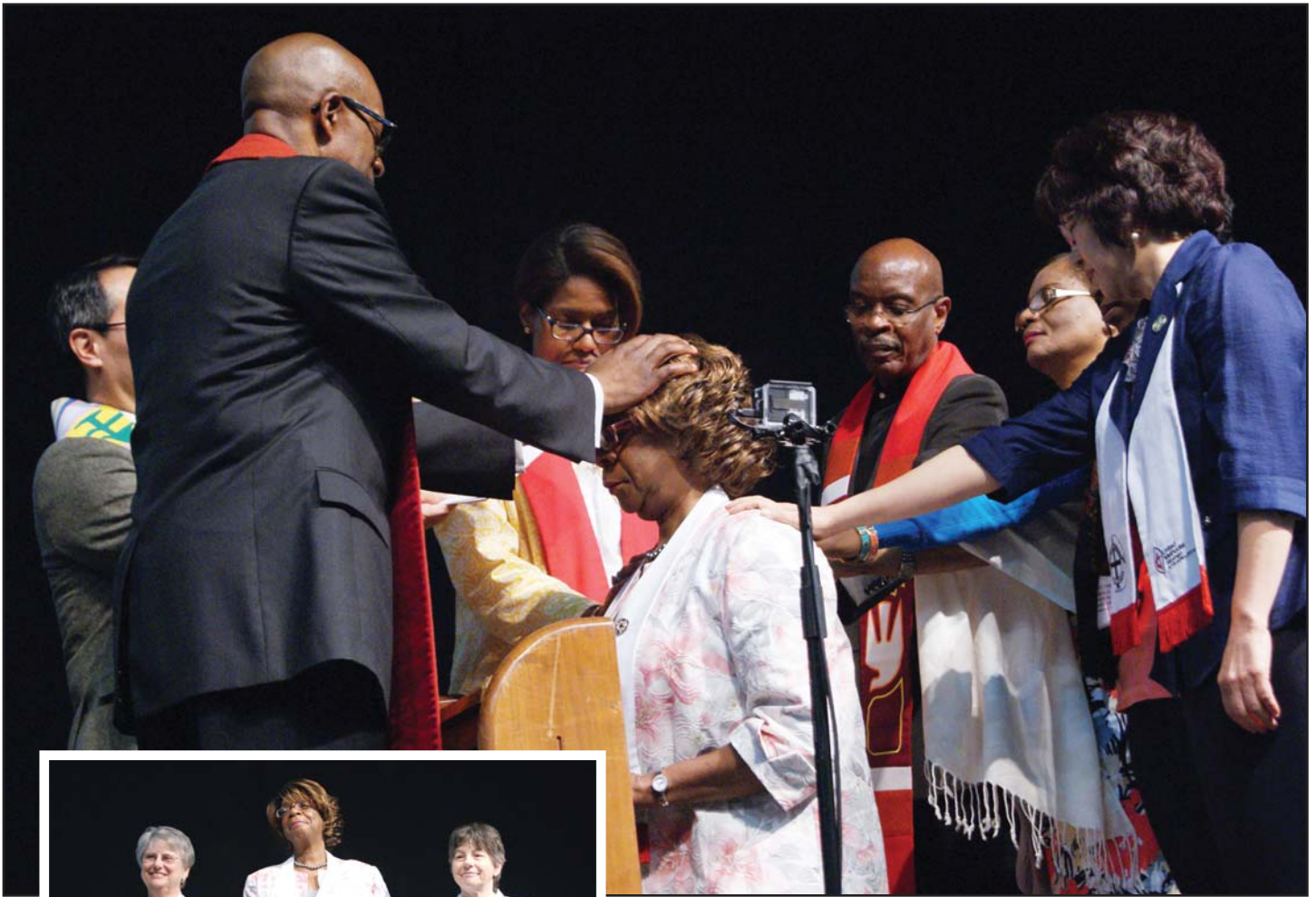
"We need the church connected to the government to be effective, she said. "When the Spirit of God rested upon prophets some did some very strange stuff

. . . The encounter with God's spirit, left prophet with a different perspective. How could that encounter not have an impact!"

Receiving the divine message also required the complete attention of the prophet.

"If the church is to be prophetic, it must be entirely engaged and open to the Holy Spirit," she said.





NEW DEACONESSES IN NYAC: Cecelia Elaine Williams Nelson, above center, is consecrated as a deaconess on Friday morning. She was one of three commissioned as a deaconess during the special service. The three, including Mary Ellen Kris, far right, and Jane H. Wakeman were celebrated for the work they have done and will be doing in their various assignments. *Photos by Stephanie Parsons*

Corporate Session Deals With Repair, Sale Issues

By Rev. Margaret A. Laemmel

The conference corporate session began by recognizing our military veterans and the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Veterans were asked to stand as the body acknowledged their service.

Business for the day then proceeded to management of Trustee funds. Monies were transferred recently into Wespath from Frontier Foundation to streamline the process of timely reports and accessibility of funds. It was revealed that the trustees were having difficulty receiving timely reports that would allow them to use funds as needed. It was raised from the floor the need to continue to support the Frontier Foundation, which manages the investment and retirement accounts of our clergy.

Plans are underway for major renovations at the Conference Center in White Plains. The trustees are trying to balance much-needed repairs with the amount allocated from apportionments. Energy efficiency and a user-friendly environment are prime considerations in this project.

This year the conference received a \$3.8 million bequest from the Dorothea and Raymond Dier Trust. One quarter is designated as student aid to Methodist-affiliated colleges with primarily black students, one quarter to UMC missions with Native American children and youth for assistance with education, and one half to support new conference churches and church growth.

During this year, 12 properties were sold from the closing of former church-

es, as well as abandoned or discontinued properties.

Also two of our district parsonages, NYCT and LIW, are badly situated. The NYCT's house is not centrally located, and the LIW parsonage lies outside of the current district. Steps are being taken to remedy this by selling the current properties and purchasing more relevant properties. A concern was raised from the floor to insure that the sale of the current parsonage properties would cover the purchase of the future parsonage properties.

Camp properties

The bulkhead (seawall) of Camp Quinipet on Shelter Island, damaged during Superstorm Sandy, is under repair at a

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Corporate Session

Continued from previous page

current cost of \$702,300. A Small Business Administration Loan has been secured at 3 percent interest over 30 years.

The contract for the sale of Camp Epworth is in its final stages and the camp will be sold within a few weeks. The sale will bring \$3 million to the Conference. How to spend the funds has not yet been decided at this point.

The Young Clergy Debt Assistant Program has been authorized and established. Clergy will be able to apply for a one-time gift to be used to pay their student loans, up to an amount of \$5,000.

In legal matters, clergy were informed about the possible implications of a November 2013 Wisconsin federal district court ruling that stated tax-free housing allowances violate the separation of church and state. Currently, parsonage living by clergy is not affected. This case is in appeal, and the fear is that the ruling will prevail and change the tax law.

Consent Abounds In Legislative Work

Probably for the first time in history legislative section 3, Ministries of Advocacy, voted all their business to the consent calendar, announced Ian Straker after coming to the stage to conduct the legislative business on Friday afternoon.

Also out of 62 pieces of business before the legislative sessions, 61 pieces were placed on the consent calendar. The one that needed to be voted on was not voted in session due to an oversight. The report on the Conference Rules Committee was quickly voted in to rectify the situation.

An amendment was then proposed for the United Methodists Men's Report, which had been lifted from the consent calendar to discuss a program for attracting men to the church that raised some concern for some.

The report was amended to support the evangelism of men and, in a separate action, directed them to work with the visioning table to explore different methodologies.

The \$8,527,715 budget was reviewed and passed, and then a petition, that was discussed in the section, was considered.

The petition denied the use of conference funds for trials involving those charged with performing same-sex marriages and for being self-avowed homosexuals. Presiding Bishop Alfred Johnson ruled the petition out of order.



Choirs from Anchor House performed on Friday night after dinner. The night's offering went to support the programs at the men's and women's centers.

New Appointments for July 1

Rhonda Taylor: UMC of Hartford
Kathleen Patterson: Bakerville (DH)
Enock Yatri: AIEM, chaplain, Solamaor Hospice Care.
David Henry: St. Paul's, Brooklyn
Anthony Mecca: Saugerties
Steven Kim: Watertown UMC
Sungmu Lee: First and Wesley, West Haven
Kenny Yi: AIEM
Marvin Moss: Salem
Sheila Beckford: Westbury
Joseph Piccirillo: Memorial, Avon
Edward Norman: Freeport
Peola Hicks: Naugatuck
In Koo Chung: Huntington, Conn.
Alpher Sylvester: Grace, St. Albans
Dong Hyun Choi: Windham-Hensonville and Ashland Community
Carole Paynter: Smithtown
Judy Stevens: Mamaroneck
Sabrina Johnson Chandler: Woodycrest (LFT)
Susan Goodman: Sugar Loaf (DH)
Jennifer Tiernan-Bindler: Drew UMC Cooperative Parish
Karina Feliz: Highlands, Highland Falls and Sloatsburg
Wendy Modeste: Bay Shore
Kevan Hitch: Nichols, Trumbull
Julia Weidemann Winward: Cornwall
Narcisse (Cherie) Philips: Bethany, Brooklyn
Ronelle Howard, East Avenue (DH)
Namsuk Kim: New Hyde Park Korean
James Midgley: First, Ansonia and Seymour (DH)
Ximena Varas: St. Andrew's, New Haven (DH)
Esau Greene: Bloomfield
Charles Ferrara: Bellmore (LFT)
Vicky A. Fleming: Fort Montgomery (LFT)
Carol Bloom: Diamond Hill and Springdale
Paul Smith: East Meadow (LFT)
Teresa Ko-Davis: Copake and Craryville
Huibing He: Chinese UMC (Associate)
Thomas MacLeod: Southold (LFT)

Cynthia Major: UMC of Peekskill
John Fritz: Cooperative Parish of Pine Plains, Bangall, Millerton, Rowe and Elizaville.
Gregory Higgins: Cooperative Parish of Pine Plains, Bangall, Millerton, Rowe and Elizaville
David Piscatelli, Nichols
Peter Brown: Canaan
Oon Don Choi: Ossining (LFT) and St. Matthew's (LFT)
Akimitsu Nishikawa: Japanese American United Church
Daniel Cho: Island Park (LFT) and UM Korean Church of Astoria (Associate/LFT)
(Steve) Young Dong Kim: Zion's Hill (DH/LFT)
Harold Andrews: Valhalla (He will serve in retirement.)
Guerschon Saint Ange: Asbury, Mt. Vernon (DH/LFT)
Bryan Hooper: Christ, Manhattan (Associate)
Kwang-Il Kim: High Ridge/Stamford Korean
Ronald Cox: Newington (He will serve in retirement.)
Jean Montas: United Methodist Parish, Bushwick (DH)
Lori Hartman: St. Paul, Jamaica (LFT)
Omar Hall: St. Paul's, Brooklyn (DH/LFT)
DaleEllen Krazmien: Goshen
Hyo Jung (Dawn) Yoon: Faith, Staten Island
Gabriel Akinbode: Red Hook
Jessica Anschutz: Cooperative Parish of Putnam Valley: Grace, Van Cortlandville Community, South Highland and Cold Spring
Betty Edwards: Cooperative Parish of Putnam Valley: Grace, Van Cortlandville Community, South Highland and Cold Spring (LFT/DH)
Dorothy Caldwell: Cooperative Parish of Central Valley, Monroe and Harriman
Wendy Paige: Cooperative Parish of Central Valley, Monroe and Harriman
Marcia White-Smith to Aldersgate, Dobbs Ferry
Mickey Correa: Broadway Temple (DH)
Jongbum Lee: Marn-Baeksung

'Healing Communities' Help Churches Relate to Prisoners

By Tom Coddington

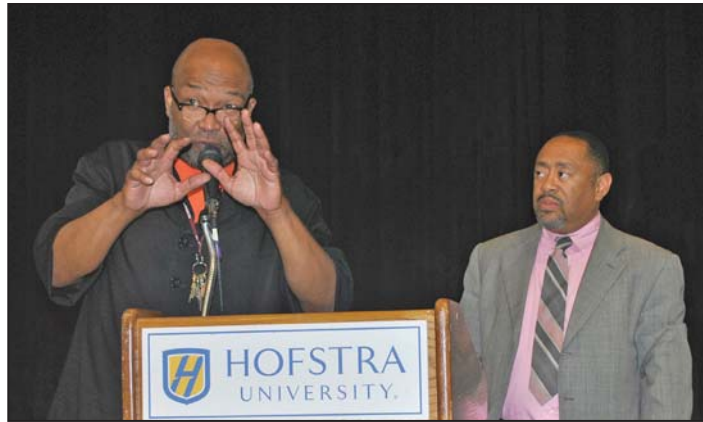
"They call them 'correctional facilities,' but that's a big misnomer," Rev. John Collins lamented. "They don't correct anything."

Collins, a longtime social advocate, offered that grim commentary at the conference's Church and Society Chapter dinner Friday night. Collins reported that nearly two million people are incarcerated in the United States, either in prisons of county jail facilities.

Mary Ellen Kris, who chairs the NYAC chapter, noted that locally, the focus has primarily been on prison ministries. She then introduced Douglas Walker, the national coordinator for criminal justice reform at the General Board of Church and Society.

Walker, in turn, introduced Dr. Harold Trulear, national director for "Healing Communities," a Philadelphia organization that strives to balance justice with mercy.

Rev. Adrienne Brewington, left, dean of the Cabinet, points out the inscription on a walking stick given to Rev. Ann Pearson during a surprise presentation Friday night. Pearson, who is retiring after 13 years as the conference director of Connectional Ministries, will be dearly missed for her inspiration and leadership.



Dr. Harold Trulear, and Douglas Walker addressed ways churches can reach out to those who are incarcerated.

Walker lauded Trulear's program. "It fills the gap between education and experience. The gap is not just positive to negative; it also can go the other way, from negative to positive," he stated.

He gave the example of a pastor who was incarcerated. "When the man was recovering in prison, he asked a chaplain if he could help out. The chaplain replied, 'There is nothing you can do to contrib-

ute.'"

Walker then recounted what Jesus said to his followers, "I was in prison, and you visited me."

"What Jesus was doing was challenging not just the disciples, but us as well, to see humanity in everyone," he said. "Most churches have people who know at least one incarcerated person. They can see the pain, but don't know how to deal with it.

"The training that Healing Communities can offer help and help people believe that they can make a difference. Everyone is worth saving – shouldn't the church feel that way?"

"How many of our churches see people coming out of prison, but don't know how to accept them?" Trulear asked. "What if they treated them the way the care for the sick?"

"Churches can help these people and their families. Too often, nobody gets involved unless they have connections with someone in prison.

"The idea is to help them. Get people involved to connect parents to their children, and be more involved with them. Churches can help them learn, in a loving way," he concluded. There will be Healing Communities-related programs in the conference later this year, with both Walker and Trulear involved. The events will be posted on the NYAC website.



Great gratitude to all who've helped get the Updates published day: Stephanie Parsons, Tom Coddington, Barbara Eastman, Margaret Laemmel, Brian McQuaid, the NYAC staff and ushers. Look for additional coverage on the web site and June Vision.