

III. DAILY PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. ROLL CALL

CLERGY:

Abel Estella, Acquaah-Harrison Emmanuel, Adkinson Austin, Adone Glenn, Aduku Ebenezer, Ahn Soon Kook, Akinbode Gabriel, Allen Fred, Allen Mark, Allen Richard, Allen, Jr. Richard E., Alvarez-Plaud Milca C., Amartey-Amarh Esther, Ando Susumu, Andrews Harold, Annin Anne, Annum-Jermin Vera, Anschutz Jessica, Anspach Bruce, Asamoa-Amoako Emmanuel, Ashby Dale, Azevedo Dale, Baker Stuart, Ball David, Barnes William, Barrera Oliverio, Barton Walter, Bassinger-Ishii Jeannette, Bates-Stepe Lynda, Bauman Stephen, Beach Glyger, Beaven Warren S., Beck Anthony, Beltré Magaly, Bennett Stefanie, Bergmann Edwin G., Berninger Caroline, Bienvenue Gordon, Booth Robert, Bosley Kimberly, Bowles Paul, Boyer Melissa, Bracket Anne, Braddon Elizabeth, Bradley Wilbert, Brandon John E, Brewington Adrienne, Brooks Gennifer, Brown III John G., Buddle Dr. Duane, Burger Karen, Burgin Dillon, Caldwell Dorothy, Capen John, Carlisle James P, Carney Thomas, Carol Alexis, Carter Nancy, Ceasar Johnny, Chadwick Susan, Chandler Sabrina, Chang Hikari, Chang Paul C., Charles Lawrence, Chatterton Mark, Chin Noel, Cho Daniel, Cho Kun Sam, Cho Young-Chuel, Choi Byung Chul, Choi Oon, Choi Young, Chung In koo, Codd Trudy, Coddington Kenneth, Cole John, Collier Donald, Cook Karen, Coscia-Ackerman Lorraine, Cox Carol, Cox Ronald, Crockett Joseph V, Cross-Hansen Jody, Crump Mary Helen, Cunningham Douglas, Curry Leo, Curry Matthew, Czeisel David, Daniel T. Anne, Daniel Wesley, Darden Hermon, Dawber Arlene, Day R. Randy, De Armitt Lorraine, de Leon Avelio, Del Giudice Mark, DeSousa Susan, Destruge Oscar, Dharmaraj Jacob, Dixon Nathaniel, Dodd Cynthia, Donkor Prince, Dorsey Scharlise, Downs Carol, Doyle Christopher D., Druck Diana Jani, Dunlap Larry, Dunn Kristen, Eddins Florence, Eddins Woody, Edwards Gordon AR, Emerick Robert, Engelhardt George C., Epstein Martha, Ewoodzie Joseph, Fabrizio Peggy, Fahey John, Ferrara Charles, Ferrari Ariel, Fils-Aime Wentler Alicia, Fitzsimmons M. Craig, Fjeldal Eric, Fleming Vicky A., Flippin Vicki, Ford Sarah, Franson Carl, Freeman Eileen, Furey Beverly, Gabor Gregg, Gadzini Penny, Galbraith Laura, Gangaware Lee, Garcia Rafael, Gatewood Clifton E, Gay Seaborn, Gerlach John, Gilliard Cathy, Giron-Ortiz Sara, Gockel Charles, Goldstein Stephen, Goodhue Tom, Goold Sara, Gould Ivan, Grady Nathaniel, Graham Hilda, Greene Esau, Grimm Robert, Grissom Thomas, Grubbs Roy, Guice Richard, Hagerty William, Hahn Henna, Hahn Zintack, Hall Emily, Hall Gia, Hamilton Hugh, Han-Kim Youngsook, Hanse Richard L., Hansen Kristina, Hardt Philip, Hare Timothy, He Huibing, Hearth Blair, Henderson Dolores, Henderson Eric, Henderson Timothy, Henry David, Hewitt Robert, Hibbard Paul, Higgins Gregory, Hill Lucile, Hitch Kevan, Hoch Virginia, Hodge Janet G., Hoffman James, Hooper Bryan, Horesco John, Horne Edward,

Hosten Betty, Hoynes Mary, Hubbard Marion, Hunter William, Iahn Amanda, Irwin Cornelius, Ishii Taka, Jackson Fredric, Jackson Kent, Jackson Roger, Jacobsen Roy, James Rev William, Jefferson David, Jermin Ovid, Jermin Sonia, Jermin Tisha, Jin Seong, Johns Roger D., Johnson David, Johnson Joan, Johnson Johnny R., Johnson Rev. Cedric, Johnson Robert A., Johnson-Agu Dorette, Jolly David, Jones Edwin, Jones Elizabeth, Jones Lucy, Josiah Winson, Jung Kwangwon, Kang Miyoung, Kang Won Geun, Karpen James, Karpow Karen, Kawakami Mel, Keeler Tammie-Rae, Kelley Darlene, Kersten Robert, Kieffer Kenneth, Kim Chong, Kim Churl, Kim Dea, Kim Eumin, Kim Gye Ho, Kim Jay, Kim Jin, Kim Jong -Kwon, Kim Jong Sung, Kim Joong Urn, Kim Kwang Won, Kim Kwang-il, Kim Mark, Kim Moonsook, Kim YangHee Christine, Kim YoungJu 'Steven', King Jack, King Gloria, Kirton Fitzroy Allan, Klein Elizabeth, Knutsen Steven, Koestline Noel, Krazmien Dale Ellen, Lamar-Sterling Sara, Lange Raymond, Laporta Hector, Lashley Chermain, Lashley Kirton, Law James, Lebron Enrique, Lebron-Mazariego Dilca, Lebron-Rivera Lydia E., LeConey Bridgette, Lee Dai Hoon, Lee JaeJoon, Lee Joon, Lee Koonae, Lee Sungmu, Lee YongBo, Lee Yongyeun, Leibold Robert, Lenz Richard, Leopold Phyllis, Logan Bernadette, Luna Victoria, Lykens Retta, MacLeod Thomas, Madlon Douglas, Maine Arturo, Major Cynthia, Mangan George, Mantz David, Mantz Sandra, Martinez Luisa, McArthur Douglas, McDonald Evelyn, McSherry Richard, Mecca Anthony, Melzer Barbara, Miller Albert, Miller Herbert Miller, Miller Lori, Milsom Robert, Mitchell Marion, Modeste Wendy, Monk Karen, Moore James, Morgan Ann, Morris Beverly Mary A., Morris Dorothy M, Morris, Sr. Harold W, Morrison Joseph, Morrow Jennifer, Mortlock Elizabeth, Mott-Intermaggio Patricia, Moy Sung, Muhleman Keith, Mulqueen Kevin, Mungin Barbara, Murdock Delroy, Mygatt Debbi, Naegele Bertha, Nealon Linda Kay, Nichols Willard, Nixon Maxine, Norelius Ted, Nugent Randolph, Nunes Marjorie, Oakes Elliott R., Ogborn Karen, Ortiz Carmen Margarita, Osgood Douglas, Osgood Robert, Ott Elizabeth, Ott Gene, Paige Randy, Pak Constance, Park Austin, Park Song Ha, Park Woo Young, Parker Richard S., Patel Snehlata, Patel-Yatri Iwy, Pearson Ann, Peck-McClain Andrew, Peck-McClain Emily, Pfeiffer Steven, Perrin Patrick, Pfohl William Phillips Narcisse, Phillips Steve, Piccirillo Joseph, Pickett C. Denise, Pinckney, Jr. Allen, Pipa Nazare, Piscatelli David, Polin Joaquin, Porcher Janet, Porter Willett, Powell Laurence, Prill Kenneth W. Rackliffe Donald, Radmacher Jason, Rasmussen A. Erik, Regholec Camille, Resling Darlene E.R., Resling William, Rice Richard, Riss Timothy, Rivera Hector, Rossini Anne, Roy Rev. John, Ryley Richard, Saffoury Agnes Campbell, Saint Ange Guerschon, Samuel St Clair, Sanchez Ernesto Santos Raymond, Sauerhoff Peggy, Schaffer Barbara, Schofield-Bodt Brian, Schrader Elizabeth, Scott Marguerite, Senkewich John, Severance Lynne, Shand Wesley, Shillady William Sibley Jane, Sikes Gainus, Simmons, Jr. John, Simpson Eldon, Simpson Robert, Sinclair Heather, Smartt William, Smartt Sears Denise, Smoot Thomas, Sohm Bette, Solorzano Milagros, Soltysiak Sallie, Song Sung-Mo, Sorozan Robert, Stafford Ernest, Steed Wendy Stevens David, Stevens Dee Carol, Stevens Judy, Stinson James, Stone Cecil, Stowe-Johns Louise, Straker

Ian, Straut Charles, Summerville Mary Ellen, Summerville Scott, Sylvester Alpher, Taylor Rhonda R, Theilmann Thomas, Thomas Felix, Thomason John, Thompson Alfred, Thompson-Gee Robert, Tompkins Ronald, Uche Godfrey A., Upole Joseph, Van Houten Chuck, Van Schaick James, Van Siclen Margaret, Veatch James, Vencuss Thomas, Vencuss Wendy Vicioso Elisa M., Viera Javier, Villazon Westley, Vink Martha E, Volpe Stephen, Waite Francis Waldmann Russell, Walker Robert, Wardell-Sankoh Pauline, Washington Joseph E., Watkins Kirtland, Weigert Dorothy, Wells Jeffrey, Welsh Elaine E., Wendler William, Wettstein Frank Widmann Ruth, Wilkerson Joyce, Williams Gerald, Williams Jodey, Williams John S. Winkleblack Dennis, Yang Min Seok, Yatri Enoch, Ye Kim Rachel, Yerkes Randolph, Yew Ezra, Yi Kenny, Yim Julia Yeon Hee, Yoo HyongDock, Yoon HyoJung (Dawn), Yoon Tae Hun, Yount Christopher, Yuen Mashing, Yun Charlie

LAY MEMBERS:

Acheson Jennifer, Adams Kenneth, Adams Rosa, Ahlers, Sr. Kenneth, Airall Matthew Buntin, Alexander Sue, Allen Stephen, Alston James, Anderson Beverly, Andreana Patricia, Andrew Helen, Appiah-Kubi Ebenezer, Archibald Patricia, Arendt Marilou, Arthur Ellen, Ashby Laura, Ashton Estella, Ashton John, Atchison Barbara, Atherley Esther, Backofen Frances, Backofen George, Baier Bonnie, Bailey-Jacob Sheila M., Barclay Cynthia, Barr Janet, Barry Douglas, Bartels Richard, Bartholomew James, Bates Anna, Bathrick Judith, Beaven Carol R., Beck Susan, Becker Barbara, Beepat Ralph, Behlman Robert, Behlman Sr. Robert, Belgrave Velma, Bell Claudia, Bell Florence, Biglin Patrick, Bird Jane, Bird Rachel, Blewett Kathleen, Bloom Carol, Blount Monique, Bolduc Diane, Bollin Shirley, Borchardt Kerry, Bosworth Lisa, Bovell Egan, Brandon Arrie, Branker Ruby, Brantley Quinton, Brevigleiri Mary, Broberg Daniel, Brown Beulah, Brown Joetta, Brown Kimberly, Brunson Evelyn R., Bryant Jeremiah, Buie Jimmie, Burgess Gloria, Burgess Minerva, Burns Daniel, Burr Virginia, Butler Courtney, Byer Amelia, Cabrera Jesus, Calzone Joseph, Camacho Javier, Capen Beth, Capen-Guldy Beatrice, Capers Sarah, Carlin Barbara, Carnes Gay, Chang Sai-Wan, Chisolm Muriel, Christiana Jeanne, Clark J. Elizabeth, Clarke Phyllis, Cobb Michael, Coddington Donna, Coddington Thomas, Collins John, Conaway Carson C., Contrera Frank, Coombs John, Cordani Joan, Cox Janet, Crosdale Evian, Crowder Billy, Daley Erma, D' Angelo Guy, Daunt Eileen M, Day Inday, De Armitt Kristy, De Silva Janet, DeBoer Andrew, Deible Richard, Demos Marcia Dejesus Hilda, Derby Steven, Dexter Michele, Dharmaraj Glory, Diaz Olga, Dickinson Kathryn, DiDomineck Darlene, Dimmie Annette, Doctor Emma, Dodillet Lyn, Doe Sr. James Roosevelt, Donlon John, Doram Cora, Dorsey Robert, Dortona Tailor, Douglas Smith Linda, Dunlap Donna, Duxbury Diane, Dymek Fred, Eagan Gerald, Earley Lucy, Edwards Barbara J., Edwards Betty, Edwards-Bourdrez Alex, Egensteiner Leslie, Eichenauer Virginia, Elgot Jane, Ellis Emily, Ellsworth Wayne, Elmasry Karen, Elmore Florence, Elsbree Patricia, Engelhardt Carolyn Hardin, Enwere Godfrey, Ephraim Ronis Erdie Gail, Esposito Jennifer, Esposito Virginia, Fay Rick, Fernandez Lucretia, Ferrara Myong-Cha,

Fiore Elaine, Fisher Dennis, Fitzsimmons Doreen, Flake, Jr. John C., Flegenheimer Richard, Flores Eunice, Forde Granville, Forman Mary, Fowler Geoffrey, Fowler-Jackson Kim, Fowlkes Nancy, Franklin Joseph, Freeman Jane, Fritz John, Fulmore Darby Veronica, Gafney Mark, Gamby Nancy, Gannon Betty L., Garcia Juliann, Garcia Matt, Gardinier Sandra, Garrity David, Garvin Mazaleen, Gayle Cedric, Germaine Miriam, Gilbert Jared, Gill Susan, Gillens Annie, Gillham Chan, Giugliano Diane, Gleason William, Golden A. Jo, Goodridge Victor, Gorenbergh Holly Beth, Goss Jamie, Green Marchelle, Gregory Jonathan, Grey Hyacinth, Gundersheimer Albert, Gustafson Roy, Hague Elizabeth, Hall Melvin, Halstead Purdy A., Halstead Ruth M., Halversen Matthew, Hamann Karen, Hamilton Carmen, Hamilton John, Hancock Robert, Hannigan Janet, Hanse Kathy, Hansen Donna, Hardgrove Linda, Harkness Donald, Hartman Stanley, Harvey James, Haskin Bertha, Hasler Guy, Hawes William, Hayden William, Headley Pinkey, Hedrington Lilith, Hees Linda, Heisel Janet, Henderson Ginny, Hendrix Lee, Henne Peggy, Herbert Virginia, Hermance Robert C., Higgins Lois, Hill Johnella, Hill Joyce, Hinnen Melissa, Hoag George, Hoff Christine, Holcomb Judith, Holden E. Wilhelmina, Holder Clement, Holder Patricia, Hoose Arlene, Hoppe Christopher, Hornaday Diane, Howe Margaret, Hoyt Mary, Hubbard Stephen, Hubbard William, Huie Gwen, Hulse Kathy, Hunsinger Robert, Hunt Lois, Hutchinson Nancy, Hwang Chun Cheng, Ingram John, Jakaitis Denise, James Jeffrey, James Simon, Janson Lori, Jaycox James, Jho Chang, Jimenez Ingrid, Johnson Cynthia, Johnson Mary, Jolly Donna, Jones Emily, Jones Evelyn, Jones Helen, Jones Una, Jonquiere Harriet, Jordan Corrin, Kang Baik-Hyun, Karsten Helen, Keane Brigitte, Kearsse Clara, Keithan James, Kelder Ruth, Kenneson Linda, Keyes Janet, Kibwe Kalaba, Kim Giho, Kim Hyun Soo, Kim Jaewon, Kim Jai, Kim Kyung Sook, Kim Pyung, Kindos Thea, King Rose M., Kirby Donald, Kissner Carlton, Kittoe Victoria, Klingel Edward, Knoth Eugene, Koch Kim, Koo Chang-Soo, Koomson John, Koronowski Lori-Ann, Krauss Timothy, Kullgren David, Kurman Keith, Kurz Lenore, Kusi Jim, Laemmel Margaret, Landry Lorraine, Langan Elizabeth, LaPierre Barry, LaSpalluto Laura, LeCain John, Leotaud Julien, Levenberg Susan, Lewis Evana, Li Gary, Lilly Jordan Helene, Linnick Stephen, Lister Dr. Bruce A., Little Thelma, Littlejohn Roena, Lobato Gladis I., Loomis Linda, Louie John, Love James, Luck Shirley, Lue-Hing Donna, Lukey Robert, Lyman Mary Grace, Macaluso Susan, Mace Kit, Maggio Brenda, Maine Maria, Mallgraf Michael, Mallory Joan, Marchan Ni, Markisenis Karen, Mathewson Paul, McCready Betty, McDermott Valerie, McDowell Allen, McDowell Diane, McGaughey Lawrence, McGuire Anna, McNulty Elizabeth, Mellis Ersell, Mellor Linda, Merola Melodye, Mignott Ivy C., Miller Aubrey, Miller Derek, Miller Robert, Mills Jeremy, Minder Harriel, Minton Paul, Minton Valerie, Mitchell Rhonda, Moculeski Ellen, Moculeski John, Moore Daphne, Moore Janice, Moore William, Morales Jesus, Morales Larry, Morgan Matthew, Morse Joy, Mouzon Margaret J, Mueller Louise, Muller Frank, Naegele Bertha, Nanton Caroline, Nation Veveine, Nelson Kevin, Nemley Ena, Ng Arthur, Norman Daryl, Nunno Jennie, O'Connor Alice, Okoli Chinyere, Olson Dorothy J., O'Meara Bill, O'Neil Thomas, O'Neill Peter, Orvam Jordan, Oryson Alice, Oryson

Sam, Otten Douglas, Owens Ruth, Oyathelemi Samantha, Padron Lillian, Paquette Elmer, Paradiso Marilyn, Parker Terry, Parsley Janet, Patton Charlotte, Payos-Piquant Barbara, Pedersen Claire, Pettiford Shirley T., Phillips Peggy, Philyaw Richard, Pickett-Pinckney Shirley, Pinckney Bobby D, Piotrowski Bonita, Pitura Judith, Plimpton Colleen, Pollsen Robert, Poole Linda, Porter Constance, Porter Robert, Potter Pamela, Powell Gail, Price Keith, Prince Gillian, Pyne Lenore, Pyne Rittinella, Pyne Jr. Charles, Quraishy Zamzam, Rabinowitz Elizabeth, Ramaker Judson, Randolph Pamela, Rayne Vera, Redman Wayne, Reich Joanne, Reyes Edda L., Riccardi Charlene, Ricciardi Frances, Richon Diane, Richter Doris, Rivera Michael, Rivera Yvonne, Rivera-Velez Milagros, Robinson Cheryl, Robinson Margaret, Robinson Robbie, Robinson Wally, Roden Ruth, Rohrs Joan Marie, Romano Alberta, Romano Barbara, Roncal Bethzaida, Rose Peggy Ann, Ross Spencer I, Rueda Wilson, Russell Jean, Sagara Masahiko, Sampson Kent, Samson Charles, Samuel Susan Marie, Samuels Clythia, Schadlich Caroline, Schadlich Tom, Schalck Ronald, Schoen Robert, Schutter Stephen, Shand Hortense, Silz Robert, Simpson Victoria, Skerritt Claris, Smallwood Carrie, Smith Carlos, Smith Chiquita, Smith Jewell, Smith Renata, Smith Terrence, Snook Catherine, Snow Ellen, Snow Layton, Snyder Geraldine, Sohm Glenn, Solomon Mary, Southard Pat, Speight Christine, Stack Christina, Stancil Veronica, Steimer Edith, Stevenson Jean, Stewart John, Stinson Barbara, Stockbridge George, Stoppenbach Frank, Strickland Lauren, Subbiondo Dennis, Sween Brenda, Swiggett Ernest, Talone JoAnne, Tattnell Magdelene, Taylor Lamont, Taylor M. Lynne, Teed Joyce, Terchunian Marianne, Thomas Seymour, Tompkins Joyce, Topliff Ross, Towle Virginia, Tripp Patricia, Tryon Barbara, Tucker Adeline, Tucker Frank, Turmo Linda, Underwood Mitchell, Usher-Kerr Marva, Uteley Joanne, Val-Hackett Astor, VanHeydoorn Ramona Charlene, VanTilburg Thelma, VanTine Marilyn, Varas Jorge, Varas Ximena, Vassall Virgilia A., Vernon Flora, Vessey Antoinette, Vey John, Vigneault Brenda, Vink Jane, Virginia Stephen, Voth William, Wagner Sylvia, Wakefield Marilyn, Walker Rosemarie, Watson Mary, Weidemann Winward Julia, Welch David, Western Warren, White-Smith Marcia, Whyte Robert, Williams George, Williams Nancy, Wilson Charles, Wilson Myrtle, Wilson Pat, Winward Elaine, Wright Cynthia, Yoo Francis, Young Ruth, Zachman Gerard, Zukowski Michael

STAFF/MUSICIANS:

Beckford Sheila, Cartiglia Kim, Dickson Everett, Evans Sally, Godwin Gale, Gullon Aldo, Hyatt Bonnie, Lebron Enrique, Lockward Jorge, Mitchell Shelley, Neal Joan, Nicodemus Richard, Perruccio Patricia, Persaud Heman, Rosenfeld Sam, Strasser Nathan, Strong Jean, Swiggett Ernest, Usher-Kerr Marva, Willis Mathew

VISITORS:

Acquaah-Harrison Cecilia, Asamoah-Amoako Estella, Baier William, Baker Carolyn, Barclay Thomas, Barrett Christine, Benz Dorothee, Bovell Felicia, Bowles Audrey, Boyden Lyle, Brooks Doris, Bryant Ernest, Bryant Jeremiah,

Burnside Marion, Buzzell Susan M., Capen Beatrice, Carr John, Carty Wayne, Collins Daniel, Collins Francine, Copeland-Cooks Helena, Cotton Megan, Current Rebecca, Dalton Jean, Demos Marcia, Detzel John, Deysenroth Paul, DiMassi Patricia, Dixon Junior, Dixon Norma, Dulaney Robbie, Durso Brian, Eastman Barbara, Euting Jennifer, Forde Launa, Fraser-Johnson Adriann, Gardiner Charles A., Garman Alan, Gathers Ruth D., Gay Seaborn, Gerow Shirley, Giddings Ray-Andrew, Goggins Tracy, Gomi Lynda, Gray Angela, Greaves Graham, Grissom Gwendolyn, Hahn Sungsoo Hans, Hall Omar, Hawes Kay, Hill Roxanne, Hodlin Lois, Hoffman Judy, Johnson Alfred, Johnson Ria, June Carol, June John, Kim Shung, Kim Sungchan, Kim Young Kirl, Kim Young Shik, Koomson Rosemond, Law Stella, Logan LaShawna, Lucas Diana, McNair Carolyn L., Medlin Terry, Metz Madeline, Mihok Jennifer, Mitchell-Listwan Heather, Moore Gary, Moore Holly, Morrissey Mike, Morrissey Sherri, Morton Mary, Nation Gertrude, Norris Gerald, Nyquist Ethel, Onanuga Jacob, Paige Wendy, Parker David, Peck Risi Beverly, Perez Adelaida, Perez Eugenia, Pfeiffer Terry, Piturro Marlene, Platt Brian, Porter Willett, Pratt-Barrett Angela, Rackliffe Donald, Ramsey Miller Marion, Reyman Leslie, Rhim Intaek, Richardson Yvette, Robinson Tashen, Robison Mary, Seaborn Gay, Seeger Shirley, Smith, Jr. Adolphus O., Sommer Lois, Sommer Robert, Stainback Sylvia, Stephen Andrew, Strachn Glenner, Temple Steve, Thom Barbara, Trapp Raymond, Trudeau Isabel, Vargas Rufina, Vaughan William, Velez Natassia, Vernon Eric, Voeks Carol, Walters Dorella, Wareham Ann, Warner Rashid, Williams Elizabeth L., Wilson Sandra, Wright Frederica, Young Ruth

CLERGY EXCUSED:

Anspach (part of Thursday, Friday, Saturday) B., Arbogast, J., Asedillo R. C., Bardsley, J. W., Beveridge, T. F., Brand-James B., Brooks, E. A., Brown, C. F., Calhoun, J., Carpenter, G. H., Chin (Thursday, part) N., Coscia-Ackerman (Saturday), L., Curry (Friday/Saturday) L. W., Czar, G., Davidson S. V., Davis, J. H., Dawber (Friday PM/Saturday) A. B., Driscoll, C., Dunn, K., Edwards, R. E., Ferrara C., Field, C., Gainer H., Gault E. S., Hanse (Friday) R., Hassel, R., Henry D., Hewitt, A.A., Hewitt (Saturday afternoon) R., Hill, J., Hill, L. C., Hodges-Fairweather B., Hong K. P., Hullstrung, Jermin (Wednesday – Friday) T., Jin, S., Johnston W., A., Jones, E., Kim, K. H., Kohn C. F. W., Lee (Friday) D. H., Leibold (Wednesday PM & Thursday PM), R. C., Lull, D. J., McArthur, (Thursday morning), D., Morrow (Friday) J., Moy (clergy session, Wednesday) S., Nation (Saturday), G. V., Nelson, J. A., Norberg, T., Outlaw Stallings S., Pfohl (Saturday) W., Prill (Saturday) K. W., Queen, M. B., Rust, N. A., Sauerhoff (Thursday evening), P. A., Schenck, W. H., Schnell, P., Serra F., Spoor, R. E., Stapleton, C. L., Thomas, J. M. S., Thomas, L. D., Thompson Tweedy, S., Underwood, E., Waldmann (Friday & Saturday), R., Watkins, K. M., Wall, J. G., Wall-Smith, S., West, B., Widmann, R. D., Yount, C.

LAITY EXCUSED:

Brewington (Wednesday/Thursday part) F., Davis, B. A., Goss, J., Johnson, L, Mallgraf, M., Moore, J. K., O'Neill (Friday), P., Wilson, P.

**MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

210th Session – June 10-13, 2009

For Such a Time as This:

We Are a Beloved Community of Hope

Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11550

BISHOP JEREMIAH J. PARK, PRESIDING

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 10, 2009

7:30 PM

OPENING OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE by Bishop Jeremiah J. Park

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park greeted us in the name of Jesus the Christ our hope in the world. He welcomed attending Bishop Johnson, Rev. Safiyah Fosua and Rev. Kwasi Kena, family, visitors and all delegates to the 210th Annual Conference. Bishop Park reminded us that for such a time as this: we are a beloved community of hope.

Opening Music — Conference Music Team: Sheila Beckford, Aldo Gurlon, Rev. Chris Heckert, Rev. Tom Kim, Rev. Enrique Lebron, Dorlimar Lebron, Enrique Lebron, Jr., Jorge Lockward, Music Coordinator, Nathan Strasser, Raymond Trapp, Natassia Velez, Rev. Joyce Wilkerson, Matthew Willis, Rev. Hyoung Dock Yoo

Prayers for the 210th Session of Annual Conference

Prayers were offered by Bishop Park.

Greetings and Introductions,

Rev. Vicky A. Fleming, Conference Coordinator brought greetings and gave some general guidelines for the Conference. On behalf of the conference sessions committee she welcomed each and every one of us. Last year we had to pay for seven lost keys. This year they are \$100 per key. If you lose your keys you will be billed for \$200. The nurses' station is out the back left and there are signs and arrows to direct us to that station. The document table and the elevator are off to the left. Hofstra is a green university and they are recycling everything. There is a commissary downstairs. Busses are accessible and will take you around to the dorms. Please be polite to the Hofstra staff.

Organizational Resolutions,

Mr. Robert Miller, Conference Secretary, brought the organizational resolutions to the body, found on the loose page in our packets. Mr. Miller read the resolutions. It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolutions. Beth Capen moved to delete number 9 and 10 because the rules of order address these issues. Moved and seconded. Motion passed. Organizational resolutions as amended were passed.

Conference Rules Committee,

Rev. Vicky A. Fleming, Chairperson, presented the report of the Rules Committee. The Conference Rules of Order, page 299 of the 2008 Journal. There were no proposed changes for this year. Rev. Tim Riss proposed an amendment to Conference Rule 32. Delete the reference to preconference mailing and say the proposed budget will be made available four weeks before conference session. Amendment passed. Conference rules were adopted.

Corporate Session was called to order at 7:45 PM by Bishop Park.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

Rev. Patrick Perrin presented the nominations for Trustees. Clergy: Rev. Koonae Lee, Rev. Joseph Piccirillo and laity SUSAN WILSON BYNUM and M. MYERS MERMEL were nominated.

Bishop Park led us in singing "Blessed Assurance."

OPENING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Rev. Joyce Wilkerson opened the worship calling for us to stand for our gathering hymn "*Summoned by the God Who Made Us.*" The Call to Worship was adapted from Psalm 100. Mr. Robert Dorsey, Rev. Oon Doon Choi, Mr. Arthur Ng, Pastor Elisa Vicioso and Rev. Joyce Wilkerson led the call to worship. Bishop Jeremiah Park gave a prayer of invocation. Our act of thanksgiving was from Psalm 103 and read by Ms. Nancy Fowlkes and Miss Olivia Kieffer. Interspersed with the reading was the singing of "*And Are We Yet Alive.*"

After the act of confession, Bishop Park gave words of assurance. The lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures, Psalm 133 was read by Ms. Stella Law; the Epistle Lesson by Rev. Dennis Winkleblack and the Gospel lesson by Rev. Emily Peck-McClain. Bishop Jeremiah Park gave the Episcopal address. He gave thanks for the spirit of joy and hospitality that Bishop and Mrs. Park encounter as they travel throughout this Conference. He introduced the appointment cabinet for the NYAC. Then he introduced the extended cabinet for the Conference. Rev. Gunshik Shim and Rev. George Engelhardt will be leaving the cabinet. Bishop Park spoke of their fine work and their next appointments. He expressed gratitude for the spouses of these retiring cabinet members. Rev. Kenny Yi and Rev. Ken Kieffer were introduced as the two newest cabinet members. Their families were also welcomed. The new Dean of the Cabinet will be the Rev. Noel Chin, District Superintendent of the Metropolitan District. He also gave thanks for his assistant Evelyn Brunson. Rev

Joseph Ewoodzie was recognized as a representative of the staff. He gave thanks to the members of the Episcopacy Committee as it cares for the Bishop and his family. Finally he gave thanks to his wife Lisa and all of his family. Bishop Park's sense of being in the right place for ministry is stronger than ever. He wants us to continue to lift up the phrase, "*for such a time as this.*" It is an expression of a plea from the faithful people in the book of Esther. So what is the time in which the world is living? One characteristic is the economic hardship in our country and in the world. The plight of half of the world's population who are living on less than a dollar a day is the bleakest of all. Global warming and environmental degradation is real. War and conflict affects too many places and people. The most fundamental human rights are violated all over the world, including by our government. Many families and communities are starving from moral poverty and hunger. This church has been shrinking every year for the last forty years. Let's remember the Asian world symbol for crisis has two characters one means "thank you" the other means "opportunity". He led us in saying together out loud the mission for the New York Annual Conference. We were invited to take a journey with him to be the beloved community of hope, focusing on the three words "beloved", "community" and "hope". We each have an intrinsic value as a beloved child of God. We are governed by the simple rules of life: "do no harm", "do good" and "stay in love with God". We must do no harm. The enemy has overcome you when he makes you like himself. God's ways are not the world's ways. This Bishop is against torture of any kind, in any circumstance. We must not let evil wear us down. We must overcome evil with good. He quoted John Wesley's words about doing good. We have to admit that these rules are difficult if we rely on our own strength. The only capacity to live by these rules comes from love. We must rely on God's capacity to love. "I am a dreamer of the beloved community of hope because I believe in hope. I am an optimist of the beloved community of hope because I believe in hope", said the Bishop. The beloved community of hope lives by the simple faith that hope makes our faith real. We do not hope in vain; for the people of faith hope is a real thing. Bishop Park quoted Hebrews 11:1. Faith without hope or hope without faith is a contradiction. One cannot stand without the other. In faith we claim that our future is filled with the things we hope for. There are signs of hope and evidences of faith all around us. Bishop Park shared a few examples:

- \$600,000 has been given to Bishop's Partners in Mission. The mission spirit of our conference is powerfully evident and is growing.
- Volunteers in Mission teams continue to expand. Soon the number of teams sent to the Gulf Coast will pass one hundred. Since we met here last year more than 215 persons have responded to this call. When we add in all the other mission trips the number is more than 315 from 29 different churches.
- Shared ministry apportionments: by God's grace NYAC was able to pay all of our shared ministry apportionments in full for the fifth year in a row.
- Natural Church Development guides local churches to become healthier and healthier. To date 104 churches have taken the surveys. NCD is helping to change the culture in more one quarter of our churches.

- Rethink Church, more than 100 went to NYC to do random acts of kindness to reach a new generation for the life-changing gospel of Jesus the Christ. Church is a verb not a noun. There are 10,000 doors for Jesus the Christ. UM Communications was offered a bill board in Time Square and our spots will run once an hour this summer. Unless we reach more people, younger people, diverse people our future is bleak. Church what is your plan to become a connected church?
- In the Bronx we have launched a new church, "New Day." It began in a funeral home. A newly chartered congregation, a Chinese congregation, will be celebrated on Saturday. Last year they baptized 217 people.

Turnaround churches—we are not in the business of managing a dying church. Bishop Park said, "I refuse to lead a dying church". The turnaround movement is already happening. Surely, the day will come when the turnaround churches are the "rule" rather than the "exception" in the NYAC. Witness ministry to peace and justice never ceases. We as an annual conference will have a time of dialogue on one of the most heart-wrenching agendas we have, homosexuality. Youth and children's ministry are creating new energy. They are not the future church; they are a vital presence in our church.

On Saturday hundreds of lay speakers will join us and together we will claim a future of hope. Enough is enough; it is time for our churches to turnaround by becoming connected churches. Bishop Park will invite all new disciples since I came to the New York area to Saturday of Annual Conference, next year. It is the Bishop's dream that one day this whole arena will be filled with United Methodists in witness. Next year we are going to fill this place with more 5000 people. Pastors, lay speakers and lay leaders, you have to start now to declare that we are not a dying church or a surviving church but a thriving church to make disciples for Jesus. Rosa Parks sat down so that Martin Luther King, Jr. could walk. Martin Luther King, Jr. walked so Barak Obama could run. Barak Obama ran so that all children could fly. We are the church that God's people have been waiting for. Hallelujah. Amen. We then sang "*God of Grace and God of Power.*"

Rev. Robert Sorazon who, with Rev. Kristina Hansen, co-chairs the Episcopacy Committee spoke to the body. We have all come to love Lisa Park. He called upon each of us to receive and honor Lisa Park. She thanked the body for the warm greetings and hospitality they received last year. She shared with us new beginnings and endings for her family. Bishop Park's reappointment, her retirement, their son finishing his PhD, and their daughter and her husband are expecting a baby girl in six weeks are all notable in their lives. They see the wheel of the life cycle turning and turning. Bishop Park gave gratitude and thanks for Lisa and the partnership they have in the church and in life. His love for Lisa grows everyday and every year.

Bishop Park introduced Rev. Anne Bovian, Executive Director for Women's Advocate Ministry (WAM). She gave the history of this organization. She thanked us for all the baby showers for babies born behind bars. They are now working with the children of women in prison. Also the policy prohibiting the shackle women "in labor" was instituted but it is not law and they are doing this heinous act again. The

offering tonight is for WAM. WAM does not receive city, state or federal funds. While the offering was being taken music was offered by the Conference Music Team.

The closing hymn was *"Together We Serve"*. Mr. Robert Miller gave the announcements. The charge and benediction was given by Bishop Park. Session adjourned at 9:24 PM.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 2009

Opening music was done by the Conference music team.

BIBLE STUDY – 8:30 AM

Rev. Ann Pearson introduced our Bible leader Rev. Safiyah Fosua, Director of Invitational Preaching Ministries, General Board of Discipleship. Rev. Pearson said that in Safiyah's heart and soul is family; her two sons and her two grandchildren and the works she has done in developing her worship series. Preaching and teaching the word of the Lord really light her up. Her scripture text was Esther 4:1-5. She brought greetings from the New Jersey Conference where she and Kwasi are members and from the Board of Discipleship. The book of Esther is where the text comes from "for such a time as this." What was happening and why was how the reading for today ended. The clue to becoming the beloved community is often hinged on learning what is happening and why. The NIV calls Esther the Jewish novella. There are two versions of this book — the version in the Jewish Hebrew text and in the old text of the Protestant Bible and the text in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Bibles. The story of Esther takes place during the time of the Jewish Diaspora under King Ahasuerus. Mordecai is a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin with ties to the house of King Saul. He is Esther's cousin and adopted father. Her Hebrew name is Hadassah, means "hidden". In Persian the name Esther means "star". She was indeed hidden in the King's palace, as the King's wife and her identity was hidden from all. She becomes a star at the end of the story as she saves her people. King Ahasuerus' name means "mighty man". Vashti, the king's first main wife and the Queen, refused to go into the party with all the drunken men. The men got into an uproar because women were not free to say what they would or would not do. If she says no, our women will say no and a crisis will occur. So Vashti was banned. The men said get a new wife. The women have twelve months of purification to make sure they were not pregnant. They were virgins and the King sent for them one by one and their honor was to spend one night with the mighty man. The one he liked became Queen and the others spent their life in the royal harem. King Ahasuerus put the royal crown on her head. She broke with Jewish tradition and ate the palace food and she carried on as the Queen would carry on. She did not carry on with the Sabbath and she used her Persian name. There came a time of disorientation. What became of her as she pretended to be someone else? We need to own up to who we are, we cannot keep our identity hidden. What glues a faith community together? Esther was

successful but separated from her community. The life style of the King was to eat, drink and be merry. We (Safiyah and Kwasi) entered the UM appointment system in Iowa and were part of the Iowa-Nigeria partnership. We hosted Rev. Daniel from Nigeria in our home and people brought food. We asked him "how are you fairing in this country?" He said. That we are in such a crisis and what I see in the American church is that you are in a "food fest". King Ahasuerus had one banquet after another. Esther was lulled into a sense of timelessness; unfamiliar surroundings. What time is it when cousin Mordecai whispered to her? Did she enter into the deception of being a woman of privilege or was she biding her time? Then a wake-up call happened. The Jewish people became in danger and Mordecai went into mourning. He could not get in the palace because people in mourning cannot get into the places of power. Her first impulse was to stop it. Send him some clothing but when she could not stop it she went to find out what was wrong. What is the churches first response when a ruckus is going on? The first response is to try to stop it and give them something to make them more like us. Sometimes we never hear the answer because the answers bring so much pain. What is the truth around us and can we stand the pain? We are living in a post-Christian country. The world as we know it has gone away. We are in a pluralistic nation. The demographic make up of the UM Church is changing. We have 35.4% of United Methodist members outside of the United States. Over the past ten years, the UMC is below zero in net growth in this country. West Africa, Congo, Africa and the Philippines are growing wildly. The growing edge of the church is outside of this country. There is a shift taking place. In 1900 the dominant force in Christianity was in Europe. By 2025 the leading force in the UM church will be in Latin America and Africa. There is a shift in the center of power for the church. Who is in power is the group that writes the liturgy and writes the theology. How we do church will be revised because the balance of power has shifted. In North America 64.9 percent of Americans can now trace their descent back to Europe. In the UM Church nearly 93% of United Methodists trace their ancestry back to Europe. We have work to do toward becoming the beloved community that Jesus spoke about. The dominant language of Christianity is now Spanish according to "Reading the Bible in the Global South" by Phillip Jenkins. Theology and rules as we know it now were written by the Global North. A short video clip done by Phillip Jenkins was shown. He spoke about reading the Bible with "Global South" eyes and you see how much of the Bible is about food. Safiyah said a lot of the Bible has to do with food, power and money. As we think about the concerns of those who are around us we find that often times we are in crisis because the church has not come up with its own identity in the 21st century. We are in crisis, just like Esther. We were led in a litany of confession written by a chaplain, Rev. Rina Terry, from the Greater NJ Conference who has worked with those in prison.

**THE BELOVED COMMUNITY OF HOPE:
REMEMBERING THE SAINTS
9:30 AM**

The Call to Worship began with singing "*For All the Saints.*" The call to worship was led by Rev. Ernesto Sanchez. Natassia Velez, soloist, was not feeling well, our prayers were with her and in her place an instrumental anthem was offered, "Amazing Grace." The Hebrew scripture lesson, Joshua 1:1-9 was read by Pastor. Amanda Iahn and the Gospel lesson, John 12:20-26 by Rev. Adrienne Brewington. Rev. Brewington introduced the speaker for the morning, Mr. Ernest Swiggett, Conference Treasurer & Director of Administrative Services.

He read the Epistle, Hebrews 11:33-12:3 and he brought us the Word through his sermon, "More than Just Remembering." A beloved community of hope remembering the saints, he asked us to pray with him because it is more than just remembering. We acknowledge this day, with great clarity that we are not here on our own but through the wondrous grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Where would be if it were not for those who journeyed before us? These are called out saints. These are the Saints that molded us and nurtured us. These were ordinary people who did extraordinary things because of their witness to the power of the Holy Spirit. We are the inheritors of a rich and vibrant faith. God created a beloved community of hope and the chief witness is that of Jesus the Christ. This community of hope is an unbroken line back to Abraham and Sarah and Noah and the prophets. My very soul trembles for what my life would be without this community of hope. The power of our language has become so trivialized so that when people begin to talk about hope it is that "dilly-dally" hope. That is not the hope we are talking about this morning. We are talking about a hope that is routed in the blood of Christ Jesus. Hope is what connects the present to the future. The direction of hope is always forward. Hope always hallows the future. Hope frees us from the tyranny of an unredeemed past. Hope expresses, by the witnesses in faith, that it is not idle talk. These saints knew they served a life-giving and life-transforming God. They did not just believe in Jesus, they knew Jesus in the morning. They knew what Jesus had done in their lives and what Jesus was doing right now. They stretched out in hope because they knew what Jesus would do in the morning. These witnesses stood on the promises of God. Hope will let us know that there is more to bad news than just bad news. We not in sorrow but we come in joy because Jesus is the cornerstone of this hope and the center of the beloved community of hope. We give evidence this day that you have received this legacy of hope. As Moses passed on the baton to Joshua so these saints we honor today have passed on this legacy of hope. The question for today is how will we honor this legacy? How will you and I receive this legacy? Attention must be paid to these Saints. If we seize the baton we must make their memories living organic revolutionary monuments to spreading the word of Jesus the Christ. If we claim this inheritance you and I will become a part of that great community of hope, which means we must witness to this legacy of God. There is a direct correlation between

remembering and doing God's ministry. It is in the witnessing to this world that is crying out for a life-line of hope that we are to live. If we receive this the question is: have you kept the faith? Can you testify to what God has done to you for the bringing of the Good News? Why are we so content with declining membership? Why are we so content with scarce dollars and holding the money for ourselves? Why are we so content with worship services that would not disturb the dust on the pews? Where is the passion of the pulpit and the pew? We need to strip all the egos and the vanities. It is not about us, it is about Jesus. Jesus is leading the way. Study how he did it. He went to the cross for you and me. His eyes were always on the prize to sit at the right hand of God. How do we honor the saints? We honor the saints because you and I must witness to this generation and the generations to come the power and grace of our Savior. God that is calling us today is the God of the future not the God of the past. If we can be those newly resurrected persons that God is calling out we can have a spiritual revolution and transformation that has never been seen on this earth. "New York Annual Conference" fix your eyes on Jesus this day and all days to come.

Bishop Park gave appreciation for this amazing sermon and had the body sing, "*My Hope is Built.*" Rev. Sanchez led the affirmation of faith. A Celebration of Life was led by Mr. Robert Miller, Conference Secretary, reading the names of the Honored Saints.

Clergy

Austin H. Armitstead
Ethelyn Bennett
Clarence S. Bigler
Herbert William Detweiler
Robert K. Fell
Reese E. Griffin
Oren F. "Frank" Kugler
Roger Don Riley
M. Lawrence Snow

Spouses of Clergy

Elsie Florence Brown
Mildred M. Johnson
Doris Melano
Lucille Rackliffe
Nila Jean Scholten

Local Pastor

Richard Henrickson

Widows

Euna Lee Benson
Hilda Lee Dail
Dorothea Maria (Darcy) Nappi
Ruth Vayhinger
Jean Lapple Young

Children of Clergy

Timothy Raine Hunter, Sr
Timothy John Rackliffe

Following the reading of the names we sang "*For All the Saints.*" An invitation to the table was issued by Bishop Park and the body was led in confession. Bishop Jeremiah Park and Bishop Johnson, celebrants, then led us in communion. Our final hymn was "*When We All Get to Heaven.*"

CONFERENCE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION report was brought by Rev. Tim Riss. Rev. Riss presented the proposed 2010 budget. Efforts are being made to reduce and control costs. He stated that the proposed budget for apportionment income is about one percent less than in 2009. Under the line item for clergy support, district superintendent expenses, he stated that salaries for DS's and the extended cabinet are to go down by about 4 ¼ percent, with other expenses down about eight percent. He asked that we give thanks to the cabinet and the extended cabinet

for their help in controlling costs. The assistant to the bishop is also going down in salary, a 6.9 percent decrease.

Under the line item for clergy support, "retiree medical benefits", he said that there is an increase of 23% as it is important that we fully fund the care of our retirees. Under the Board of Ordained ministry total for clergy support there is a proposal for an increase of just 2.6 percent.

There are some new items in the budget, but program expenses will go down by a 15.6% decrease. This is a difficult cut because programming is such an important part of our ministry together.

Total budgeted expenses for the 2010 budget are \$9,060,238, down from \$9,194,477 in 2009. General church Apportionments' are down 2/10ths of a percent.

Rev. Riss invited the CFA members to stand and gave thanks to them for their hard work. Then the Bishop said it is his privilege to serve with the Council on Finance and Administration, working in partnership with one another. Our budget is not just figures but our vision and mission statement. Their spirit of cooperation, along with good debate is needed, God's spirit is present. They are faithful to address the real concerns we have. He then thanked them for their leadership. The body expressed their appreciation.

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS report was brought by Rev. William Shillady,

Rev. Shillady reported that in previous years there were more positive reports as the market outperformed our needs. This year things are not as positive. The care of the clergy remains the primary goal of the Board. He stated that on pages 5-15 of the pre-Conference packet there is bad news. We are no longer over-funded in any of our programs, and the benefit costs are increasing. Because of a two year lag in our United Methodist reporting system, the problems created by the 2008 recession will really hit us in 2011. He called for a task force to begin to deal with this crisis over the next year as we look to financial funding of 2011.

The problem, however, is not only the downturn in the market, but the lack of full payment on the 10.24 million dollars in benefits billing. Every year we are paying out approximately \$300,000 more than we receive, and Pensions can no longer afford to do that since we are currently underfunded in the pension program. At the end of 2008, our Pensions accounts are owed about \$380,000 by CF &A, due to the underpayment and non-payment of benefits billing by churches and clergy who are not paying their share of Health Flex and Pension premiums.

The other difficulty is that we basically have no policy for what to do when a pastor and church do not pay their share of the benefits package, yet continue to receive health insurance and payments made to their pension account. We need for the cabinet and CF &A with Pensions to develop a covenantal agreement with accountability that is compassionate, yet fair to everyone. In a join meeting earlier this year, they asked the Cabinet to work on a policy to present to the Annual Conference. He is hopeful that they will share that in the Legislative section. Also he asks that any time the Cabinet sends an apportionment report to the churches and pastors, it should also include an update on their benefits billing.

There is some good news. The Board of Pensions will give our churches a credit in early 2010. Because of saving of costs when we converted all clergy to Blue Cross/Blue Shield, there is a savings which will be shared with all who pay their Health Flex in full in 2009. There will be a \$250 credit to the church and a \$25 credit to the pastor. The other good news is that the wellness program is paying off, literally. We received a rebate from Health Flex for \$36,700 because of clergy who did the "HQ" on line and took a wellness exam in 2008.

The Health Flex premium for "actives" in 2010 will increase by 11% to \$12,664. This will be confirmed by the General Board in August. Churches will pay 90% or \$11,393. Pastors will pay 10 % which is \$1,266 per year. There will be a more detailed billing statement starting in July 2009.

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (Defined Benefit, Defined Contribution and Comprehensive Protection Plan) billing will need to increase by 1% to 17.4% of compensation. The Past Service Pension Rate for 2010 will increase by the mandatory 2% to \$545. We can no longer afford the increase since we are now at only 91% funded contribution from a retiree health benefits reserve that we have attempted to grow. A retiree will be required to pay \$94 per month toward the retiree Health Flex costs.

The appropriate legislative section will have all the details to consider/adopt policies related to our benefits program including a housing resolution for retirees to have their pension be deemed in part a housing allowance.

Rev. Shillady introduced Kelly Piepenbrink of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Ms. Piepenbrink is with us for the second year at our Conference. She said that by having everyone "healthier" helps us to manage health care costs better. Lifestyle and how we live daily has an important impact on our health. Regular activity, healthy eating, weight management impact our vigor in your ministry and prevent other diseases.

The Health Flex program targets wellness. This includes incentives for taking the Health Quotient, walking programs, coaching programs, Pro Check blood screening, employee assistance programs and Weight Watchers. Health Flex is adding incentives. Every Health Flex participant is eligible to earn \$300 for participating in "Virgin Health Miles" program activities. They are handing out pedometers to those who are registering. Health Flex participants will earn 2,500 bonus Health Miles for taking Health Quotient in 2009. You get up to \$300 based on how much walking you do. The Conference will also get a check based on how much you walk. Last year there was a huge improvement in people participating in the wellness programs and she encouraged people to continue to participate. Regarding Virgin Health Miles Participation, 33% is average, but our Conference is at 15%. Please register with Kelly. One can earn up to \$425 and can take steps to improve your health and help your ministry.

He introduced Rev. Fred Jackson who announced that eleven participants walked from White Plains to Hofstra, more than 38 miles. They earned 100 bonus health miles to get here. He invited everyone to participate in running and walking in front of Student Center tomorrow.

Bill gave thanks to Kelly, Bill Neurt, our representative from the General Board and Ernest Swiggett, our benefits officer. The Bishop encouraged people to do exercise because there is a connection between physical health and spiritual health.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS

Announcements about the Legislative sections were given by Rev. Ian Straker. We will meet after lunch to discuss the Constitutional Amendments. In the registration area there will be numbers and stickers showing where people will be assigned for Legislative Sections. There will be a master list at the legislative sections of "who" belongs there, and stickers will be given out.

- Section 1 "Witness" in Arena
- Section 2 "Nurture" in Plaza Dining
- Section 3 "Advocacy" in Student center theater
- Section 4 "Commissioning" in Hofstra USA
- Section 5 "Pastoral Compensation" in the Cultural Center theater
- Section 6 "Administration" in the Greenhouse of the Student Center
- Section 7 "Budget" in the Multi-purpose room.

"Items of business" are in February, May and June Pre-Conference booklets. Copies of budget are in the Conference packet.

Announcements were given by Mr. Robert Miller, Conference Secretary. He invited us to contribute to the Bishops' Partners' Mission.

Bishop Park stated that Rev. Avelio DeLeon's church in Maspeth burned down this week and is a total loss. He offered a prayer for that situation. He said that in tragedy we are together with each other and with God. He asked for God's grace with this church. We trust in God of creation and resurrection even in dark situations.

Grace was brought to us by Rev. Avelio DeLeon who reminded us in his prayer that God's grace is sufficient. He also reminds us that there are many people around world who want to eat but have no food, and there are those who have food but no appetite. We give thanks for food and the appetite for food. May the meal be a blessing physically and spiritually. We adjourned for lunch at 12:18 PM.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PRESENTATION

The session began at 1:45 PM Thursday afternoon with the hymn "*On Christ the Solid Rock*". The Bishop offered a prayer for this important part of our work together.

Rev. Allen Pinckney brought greetings on behalf of the delegation of NYAC to General Conference at Fort Worth, Texas in 2008. The General Conference was an awesome, visionary movement of the Spirit toward transformation. The seeds

of hope were developed for a new way of going forward. God provides the church for a future with hope. We as an Annual Conference are called upon to participate. There are 32 Constitutional amendments approved by the General Conference including the 62 US Conferences and the 73 African, European and Asian Conferences. Twenty-three of these amendments describe the relationship of Conferences outside the USA. These amendments make adjustments not only in language (from Central Conferences to Regional Conferences) but also relate to equity and justice. The Amendments that General Conference approved came out of the work of the Task Force on the World Wide Nature of the Church. This task force will continue to address questions relating to this change and its impact on United Methodism within the context of the USA. Approval of these amendments could lay the groundwork for passing legislation at General Conference in 2012. The other amendments are related to the church and inclusiveness of the church, fiduciary responsibility and clergy participation in the election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Rev. Pinckney introduced some of the members of the delegation who presented a skit about these amendments: Rev. Constance Pak, Rev. Evy McDonald and Carolyn Engelhardt. The skit was written by Fred and Rev. Adrienne Brewington. The skit taught that 2/3 of individuals in all the annual conferences around the world must approve the amendments. Currently all Conferences outside the USA would be known as Regional Conferences. This would take place January 1, 2013. Significant changes could be accomplished if this is done. This would mandate the creation of one or more Regional Conferences in the USA. The decision is ultimately in the hands of the General Conference, but recommendations come from Task Group on the World Wide Nature of the Church. These recommendations and financial implications would be worked out by the Task Force in the future. These amendments before us are just the first steps of worldwide reorganization.

Bob Miller outlined the voting process. Everyone received a sample ballot in their packet. It lists all 32 amendments. We will vote on each amendment individually. Clergy members in full connection can vote. Provisional members, associate/affiliate members, and local pastors cannot vote on constitutional amendments. Duly elected lay members of annual conference have the right to vote. Diaconal ministers, home missionaries and deaconesses may vote. Each vote will count individually. We may see what the aggregate of our Conference is, but the individual votes will be tallied of all worldwide voters. Each individual vote counts. The pre-Conference packet included information on all the amendments.

Bishop Park asked the body to remain within the bar. The Bishop said that those who will be ordained later in this Conference do not have a vote. Beth Capen, who serves in our Conference and on the Judicial Council, refrained from voting and from debate as some questions may later come to be considered by the Judicial Council. Allen Pinckney announced that for those who do not have amendments in their packet, will be provided relevant info by power point presentation on the screen. The Bishop asked each eligible voter to use the sample ballot so that people could go through and note "yes" or "no" in preparation for when the final ballot is distributed people that they may be clear about their voting intention.

Allen Pinckney announced that there would be an explanation of amendments 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17, 19, 22. The first five are to be presented by the Rev. Tim Riss; he will try to explain the rationale of General Conference, with comments “pro” and “con” by Conference members.

- Amendment 1 – The amendment states that “all persons” are eligible to attend worship, participate in programs, receive sacraments and, upon baptism, be admitted as members. There was debate pro and con. One person asked: Is there no age limit? Does a clergy person still have some discretion on membership? Another person said that with this amendment a pastor has no ability to require membership classes. It is important for a person to help a person understand their membership responsibilities. Someone said that a pastor should not make decisions about membership based on a capricious idea or because of just one issue. Someone asked if this change would change church rulings about homosexuality. The answer was that this was not the intent of the General Conference. Someone said that this would throw away all accountability of new members. In favor of the amendment, a speaker stated that we believe that all people are of sacred value to God and are eligible for membership. Regarding preparation for membership, this does not change preparation for membership. A speaker advocated for us not getting into a tangle in the definition of “all.”
- Amendment 2 – This amendment requires all organizations of our church to have ethics and conflict of interest policies. This is new as we have no such policies now. One person said the language is vague about who it applies to. Does it apply to small groups in the local church? Here you have vagueness. There is the potential of all different groups working on their own ethical standards. Another person said that accountability is important everywhere in the church. Some auditors say church leaders should sign a conflict of interest policy.
- Amendment 6 – This will add a sentence to paragraph 15. The purpose is to allow for flexibility in establishing the number of general and jurisdictional or regional/central conference delegates elected from new conferences. New Conferences may not have the same amount of delegates as older member Conferences for two quadrenniums.
- Amendment 8 – The purpose is to say that for the rights and privileges of church membership and church agencies and organizations, we cannot discriminate by gender of a person. One person asked, does this mean you can have single sex small groups? Does this open the door to not having balance of genders on church committees? A comment was made that the UM church seeks to be inclusive, not to use this to exclude. To raise gender as a concern for the worldwide church may raise awareness of role of women for the worldwide church. Someone asked why we not say, “for all persons.” Why are we talking about race, gender and status?
- Amendment 9 – This relates to the requirement of a minimum of 100 jurisdictional delegates per Jurisdictional Conference. This would prevent small jurisdictions with less than this number from electing bishops.

It was voted at this point by the Conference to limit the discussion to three persons on each side for “speeches”. Discussion continued: It was stated that we must recognize the large parts of the United States in the west that may have few Methodists. Currently no jurisdictional conferences would be affected.

The following amendments were presented by Rev. Judy Stevens.

- Amendment 15 – The first change addresses how we determine the makeup of clergy and lay members of annual conference. The change deletes these categories and will say lay and clergy members as defined by General Conference. This could mean a change every four years. The second part of this is how long a person must be a member of a church before becoming an Annual Conference delegate. Change would say they would need to be a member for one year preceding their election. A speaker against this says we already have such complexity in deciding who can vote and who cannot. This would be cumbersome. A newcomer may not understand the ethos of the UM church and might only have an agenda.
- Amendment 17 – This deals with whether lay members of the Committee on Investigation should be eligible to vote. In the Discipline, lay people are not allowed to vote on things relating to character and conference relations of clergy. The exception on that is the Board of Ordained Ministry. Complaints against clergy are brought to the Committee on Investigation. A comment was made that the committee is not looking at the person’s whole ministerial career, just at the area of complaint. Another person said that the next stage is a trial which would be with clergy. After that there is an appeal which includes both clergy and laity. The person spoke in favor of having wise laity be able to vote.
- Amendment 19 – This relates to who may vote for general and jurisdictional conference delegates. Currently full members only vote. The proposal is to include voting right to local pastors who have completed course of study or M.Div. and served for two years. It includes associate members and provisional members who have completed all their educational requirements. One speaker says this enfranchises some people but not others who have served for a long time. A speaker spoke on behalf of local pastors having a vote.
- Amendment 22 – This change would add Bermuda to regions served by the Northeast Jurisdiction.

Rev. Allen Pinckney presented on twenty-three amendments: 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32. Currently all conferences outside the USA are called Central Conferences. They would be called Regional Conferences. The reference to them being only those outside the US would be deleted. This would start for January 1, 2013. This would lay the groundwork for the mandate of establishing one or more Regional Conferences in the USA. This would not happen immediately. All these amendments speak to change from Central to Regional Conferences. These amendments were discussed all together. Rev. Pinckney said the language recognizes the church as being worldwide. It eliminates calling conferences outside the US by the word “Central” which has a

negative connotation in US history. Speaking against this was one person who says this is a big change done through a task force so we do not have adequate information about what it means. This is not a time for creating new separations and bureaucracy. The changes to be brought by the Task Force will be acted on in the future. We, as Americans, must be more inclusive of the worldwide church. Someone said we are a connectional church and this would sever our unity. This would lessen accountability of the US to the rest of the church. A person who attended the General Conference said the Bishops of Africa asked for this change. Some from outside the USA said they are tired of debating US social issues. This change would allow them to talk about their own social issues in their own countries. This would give a growing number of people a framework to do their own work. One speaker spoke of the history of Central Conference in the USA as racist. We should think very clearly before we make this change. Another speaker spoke in favor of the amendments because the current power is heavily based in the United States. This is an attempt for the churches in the world to deal with their own cultures, languages, social issues and enables the churches to deal with their own situations. We need to give freedom and opportunity to churches around the world. It gives them more autonomy and responsibility.

All eligible Conference members voted on the amendments. There was a prayer before the vote.

Robert Miller made announcements about the time of gathering of commissioning rehearsal, and the gathering of the Hispanic group this evening. Tomorrow there will be a special clergy session around noon in the arena. There will be a book signing at 6:30 PM by Bishop Wilkie and Gennifer Brooks.

The Bishop asked people to go directly to their Legislative Session. As needed, Legislative sections may be extended after the Commissioning service. The Bishop asked us to express our appreciation to the General Conference delegates. This session closed at 4:05 PM. After the closing of the above section, Legislative Sections met in assigned areas.

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 11, 2009

PASSING OF THE MANTLE SERVICE — 7:30 PM

The "Passing of the Mantle" Service began with "*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*," as the prelude with the processional beginning the hymn "*This is a Day of New Beginnings*," followed by "*Bring Many Names*." The Bishop began with greetings and prayer. Conference Lay Leader, Renata Smith, Rev. Elizabeth Braddon, Rev. William Hawes and Rev. Kun Sam Cho presented the candidates for ministry.

Presented for license for pastoral ministry are:

- Scharlise Dorsey,
- Gregory Higgins
- Deborah Mygatt.

Candidates for commissioning and provisional membership are:

- Austin Adkinson,
- Sabrina Chandler (Deacon's track),
- David Jefferson,
- Richard Lenz,
- Darlene Resling,
- Carrie Mae Smallwood (Deacon's track),
- Enoch Yatri,
- David Ball,
- Young Choi,
- Miyoung Kang,
- Song Ha Park,
- Hector Rivera
- Gerald Williams.

After they were presented the body sang, "*Send Me Jesus.*" Offering tonight was for personal energy transportation. Mr. Donald Muth informed the body of this ministry. Offertory anthem was "*I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*" with soloist Rev. Adrienne Brewington, Long Island East, District Superintendent. An offertory prayer was led by Rev. Jim Moore, Catskill-Hudson, District Superintendent. Prayer for illumination was given by Rev. John Simmons, Vice Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Hebrew Bible Lesson, Deuteronomy 6:1-9 was read by Rev. Iwy Patel-Yatri and the Gospel Lesson Luke 10:25-37 by Rev. George Engelhardt, Connecticut District Superintendent. The sermon by Rev. Engelhardt was titled: "Beyond the Samaritan". He spoke about the parable of the life-saving station that forgot its purpose and became a social club. Woe to you institutional church more concerned with your own comfort than with your call. We cannot stay in a place of criticism and condemnation of the church. If this is where you are tonight, you will suffer burnout. I know that if you do not love the church, if you are not thrilled and humbled by this call to be in ministry through baptism or ordination you cannot last. Ours must be a lover's quarrel if we are to remain in ministry. There is another parable that describes the church: a wayfarer once visited a farm; it was a dysfunctional scene. The farm barely functioned. A few years later the wayfarer returned to see what might have happened. This time he saw the barn collapsed and the fields completely gone to seed. No persons to be found any where. The wayfarer went into town and inquired about what had happened. He learned the farm wife had died. Now those who have ears let them hear. We may blunder and stumble. We may look dysfunctional. We may get side-tracked by our family feuds and wounded by our ecclesial civil wars but as long as we have life; as long as we are, at least present to the Master, something of the job gets done and something of the mission gets accomplished. Where would God be in this world without the church? Ministries of mercy will not suffice. In addition to and beyond our best Samaritan effort, there has to be a better way. "And I saw the Holy City", a New Jerusalem is a vision for us. The City of God stirs humanity to hope. The redeeming vision of God is systemic moving us beyond ministries of mercy to ministries of justice. What might it look like when we move from being the over-burdened farm wife to the bride adorned

for ministry and in love with the church we serve? He offered a few scenarios. Our lover's quarrel will not end until we get beyond sending out good Samaritans to bind up wounds one at a time. Something stirred in life-club saving station. They dug out old journals and read accounts of heroic rescues and the stories stirred their souls. Then someone discovered the original creed of purpose that opened each meeting. In time a committee core grew in number. They stayed to rethink club. So colleagues in ministry do not give up the struggle. Stay and fight, but fight fair. Stay in love with the church.

The sermon was followed by the hymn, "*Christ Loves the Church.*" Rev. Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii, New York-Connecticut District Superintendent led the affirmation of Faith. The Body then sang "*Great is Thy Faithfulness.*"

Rev. Eumin Kim, Conference Relations Chair **led the honoring of all who are retiring:**

- Avelio S. de Leon,
- Christopher D. Doyle,
- Cheryl A. Driscoll,
- William Hawes,
- David F. Johnson,
- Marion C. Mitchell,
- Willard G. Nichols,
- Solomon Parmar,
- Kenneth Ruge,
- Stephen F. Shick,
- Louise D. Thomas,
- Richard F. Williamson,
- John H. Zimmerman.

These retirees have combined for a total of 352 years of service. The spirit of appreciation is much greater than just those gathered here for all the lives they have touched. Video biographies were shown about each of the retirees.

Bishop Park led in a prayer of thanksgiving, followed by the hymn "*Great is Thy Faithfulness.*" Rev. Kun Sam Cho, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry introduced the general examination of the candidates. After the recognition of Licensed Local Pastors the body sang "*Send Me, Lord.*" After the commissioning of provisional members the body sang, "*Here I am, Lord.*" For the passing of the mantle of ministry Rev. Marion Mitchell read Hebrew Bible Lesson 2 Kings 2:6-14. Rev. David Johnson then spoke to the retirees, the congregation and the newly commissioned members.

The Bishop sent the body forth at 9:45 PM. The recessional hymn was "*In the Midst of New Dimensions.*"

FRIDAY, MORNING JUNE 12, 2009

Opening Music—by the Conference music team.

BIBLE STUDY – 8:30 AM

Rev. Safiyah Fosua continued with Bible study. She began with a brief review. Today's study was based on Esther Chapter 4. When she could not stop the problem from manifesting then she sent somebody, her trusted eunuch, Hathach, to find out what is going on. If we find at what is happening outside our doors we discover we are in a culture shift. We look at signs and wonders. Are we aware of individuals gifted or experienced in prayers for healing, exorcism of demons, the ministry of miracles, gifts of prophecy, interpretation of tongues? The church of the global north entered a period of its history where the rational overloaded everything else. It did not happen in the global south. Rev. Fosua related the experience of American preachers coming and experiencing healing miracles for the first time. Sometimes 3-5,000 people accepted Christ for the first time. We are going to find that we have first generation Christians immigrating. They do not want to hear us preach the gospel "way" to them. People from the global south believe what the Bible says. If they feel something demonic in their lives they will want to come to the church and have the church address it. In the global north we have explained away good and evil. We have concluded that we are not sinful we just have to be educated and taught the right way. In the global south if something is wrong the devil is in it. They will want help in praying, in fasting and in finding out what is wrong. We need to address their basic spiritual needs. This will present a challenge for most of us because most of us have had the miracle "educated" out of us. In the global south there is this basic belief by Christians there that God wants everyone to have enough to eat and for everyone to be as well as possible. Here, we preach that we can amass more and more and more. Are we supporting a system that goes against God? Amassing riches seems to be the game even in the church. Jesus says if you have two coats give one away. What can we say about why we are in the church? Why do we serve the Lord? It is not enough to say I have been brought here since I was born. What three things do you have in common with people of Biblical times? This was a difficult question to answer because we have distanced ourselves from the Bible. Let's go back to the text. The law of the Medes and the Persians is that when a King has issued a degree it cannot be over-turned even if it was said in a drunken stupor. That is why Mordecai put on his sack cloth and rolled in the dust, because on the particular day that all the Jews would be killed, both Haman and Mordecai were oppressed people. Was their struggle a righteous struggle or an old grudge? The challenge is living a faithful life in an unfaithful culture. How do you live faithfully when you are in the midst of unfaithful times with unfaithful people? Mentoring is the way to deal with this. Mentors are the people who allow their hindsight to become your foresight. Mentors need to teach about a relationship with God, with the community, with outsiders, an identity that differs from the ordinary and a sense of mission in the world. There are chains of mentors in Bible times. Jethro mentored Moses who mentored Joshua who mentored Army

Leaders. Elijah mentored Elisha and the school of prophets, Elisha mentored King Jehoshaphat. Eli mentored Samuel who mentored King Saul who mentored King David who mentored King Solomon. Jesus mentored the disciples. Mordecai mentors Esther and teaches her that she was Jewish, that she came from a people with a history and culture; that she had a family who loved her, and to be alert for opportunities and positioning. Each of us is divinely positioned by no accident. Could it not be that you were placed here for such a time as this. Mordecai told Esther about resistance — do the right thing but do not compromise your core values. Convictions cost. It costs to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is no time for parking lot discussions. If it is right in the parking lot it is right in the board room. We ended with a video clip about Tiananmen Square. Several people contributed for us to speak out when the Chinese students could say no more because people stood up for what they believed. “People of God”, stand up. Who knows if you have been placed where you are for such a time as this. And as you stand pull someone to your side and teach them how to stand. This session closed with “*I Need You.*”

Bishop Park called us to order at 9:31 AM and invited us to sing “*Leaning on the Ever Lasting Arms.*” He opened with prayer. He introduced the Bishop Joaquina Nhanala of the Mozambique area. and Dr. Dale Irving, President of NYTS who shared his greetings. Those of us in theological education — we need you. The seminary lives to support the church in partnership.

REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EXAMINATION COMMITTEE was given by Rhonda Mitchell. She reported that the minutes for Wednesday June 10 and Thursday June 11 were examined and found to be in order. Mr. Robert Miller, Conference Secretary gave the summary report on the constitutional amendment voting; 646 ballots were cast and of the 32 amendments only amendment #15 did not pass; amendment #6 did not pass by a two-third’s majority.

RELIGION AND RACE MONITOR REPORT Inday Day, chair of Commission on Religion and Race and member Rowena Littlejohn brought the report. During the Clergy Session, Asian Americans spoke 12 times, African Americans 20, Hispanic-Latino 5, White were 34. Pacific Islanders and Native Americans spoke none. Clergy, 37 spoke and 2 lay persons spoke. Candidates — 10 spoke. Males — 45 spoke; female — 25. Young adults — 15, 51— adults, 5 — older adults and no one “with disability” spoke. During the Laity session the following “persons” spoke: African Americans — 3, Latino Hispanic — 0; white — 3, clergy — 1; lay — 5, males — 4, females — 2, no youth or young adults, 6 — adults, no older adults, no disability. (Every time the Bishop speaks it raises the number of Asian Americans that are speaking.) The monitors were recognized. From the three regular sessions and the figures include musicians, ushers and servers. The figures are: white — 94; Asian-Americans — 40; African-Americans — 30, Latino-Hispanic — 11; Lay — 44, clergy — 113; 125 — males, 62 — females, 7 — youth, 24 — young adults, adults — 134, older adults — 13, 1— person with disabilities. Rev. Judith Stevens, Chair of COSROW gave a report. They primarily monitor for gender. The report is

for Wednesday and yesterday. Less than 50% of the speakers were women, of that 50% white clergy women made up 80%. This indicates a lack of voice from ethnic women and lay women; 25% of young adults spoke.

UNITED METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE, Mr. Algernon H. Arthur spoke on behalf of Cokesbury and the UM publishing house as the manager of the Cokesbury store in Teaneck. This year the publishing house has helped annual conferences and developing nations to develop resources for their needs. There are now low cost and free resources for churches and individuals. To the clergy pension fund, Cokesbury has contributed over 50 million dollars. Like others, Cokesbury has been affected by the down-turn of the economy. Two Cokesbury stores have closed and hours have been limited. They are working at reducing other costs. While we are cutting operational costs the UM Publishing House objective is to remain vital. Therefore it is with great regret that there are insufficient funds to provide our usual allocations for annual conference benefits. It is our expectations that with earnest work to hold down the cost while maintaining the quality level we have always had, we will rebuild the assets needed once again to support the pension fund. Bishop Park said we would find a way to continue to help the Central Conference Pension initiative fund.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER, Ms. Renata Smith

She expressed her gratitude to God and the gathering for a year of learning and service. Renata requested the members of the Board of Laity to stand and be recognized and thanked Bishop Park for his leadership and accessibility to the laity. For the full report see written record at an appropriate section in the Journal. She affirmed and challenged laity to continue in ministry and echoed words of United Methodist Women: "to develop a creative and supportive fellowship." Renata praised United Methodist Women, praised the School of Christian Mission, and encouraged men to participate. "Every lay person is called to be in mission." "God has placed a calling on each of us." "Daily prayer prepares us and keeps us clean." "There are no shortcuts." We must reminder to "keep our vessels clean." "The inside work must be done before the outside work can be effective." She encouraged the laity to work with pastors. "We are laity and our ministry matters." Bishop Park praised our Lay Leader. The time concluded with singing of "*Leaning on the everlasting arms.*"

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Rev. Noel N. Chin, District Superintendent, Metropolitan

Rev. Chin praised the cabinet as an introduction to this report. He shared summary statistics – there are 118,367 United Methodists in NYAC. He noted that these numbers expressed great diversity: ethnic, socioeconomic, educational, professional, theological, age and gender. Gratitude was expressed for collaboration of others with cabinet, naming Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack, Rev. Ann Pearson, Mr. Ernest Swiggett and Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie in particular. In awareness of the cabinet role in spiritual leadership, in 2009, they added a new focus on an "intercessory

prayer” calendar. The Natural Church Development (NCD) was lifted up; all churches are encouraged to participate in this program. He shared the spiritual preparation the cabinet did prior to appointment making. Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committees were invited to provide evaluations to the Cabinet to improve the process. The Cabinet operates as “ambassadors”: They participated in quadrennial denominational training program: *“Living the United Methodist Way: Turning Worlds Upside Down”* (January 29-31, 2009, Jacksonville, FL). It included four focuses: (1) developing principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the world, (2) creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations, (3) engaging in ministry with the poor, (4) stamping our killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally. These are the four areas of focus for the world church for the 2009-2012 quadrennium. Challenges before us are: (1) conflict in churches, (2) effective evangelism, (3) pastoral compensation, (4) practicing faithful stewardship. The cabinet will be playing a role to facilitate stewardship education in the months to come. Despite the challenges as a conference and as a nation, there is a renewed determination to look to the future with hope and confidence. (Ref. *Jeremiah 29:11*) Renewed sense of hope and confidence was manifested in the recent RETHINK CHURCH events. Gratitude was expressed to: Bishop Jeremiah Park, Mrs. Lisa Park, and all the cabinet and their spouses, Ms. Evelyn Brunson, administrative assistant to the Bishop, and the administrative assistants in each district office. Welcome was extended to new District Superintendents and their spouses: Kenny Yi (LIW) and wife, Lisa, and Ken Kieffer, (Connecticut), and his wife, Karen. The talk ended with references from Hebrews 12:1-2. The efforts of the District Superintendents in promoting church health and growth were recognized.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Ms. Erin Hawkins, General Secretary
General Commission on Religion and Race**

Bishop Park introduced Ms. Erin Hawkins. *“We are the beloved community of hope.”* — we claim it as a declaration. Naming and claiming it is one of the things we are about. *“I’m inspired by this.”* – that is, hope as a metaphor and idea, finding great resonance in our national and world culture. This is an important call at a time when we are experiencing anxiety around a failing economy, threat of nuclear war, and poverty. What does it mean to be a community of hope? Community means *“to belong.”* — to know in the deepest sense that you are not alone. Yet, in the church we continue to experience alienation and exclusion even as Christ has called us to include. Ethnically homogenous churches continue to exist because of the need for belonging in a society that does not always honor diversity. When monitoring works it can show when the church becomes alienated within by excluding others, and allows for reintegration. *“Communities of Hope”* — (1) know that every person counts and every issue counts, (2) reclaim courage, learning to persevere despite adversity, (3) understand that hurt people tend to “hurt people” and healing builds community (4) take on the tough issues in a spirit of hope. When we motivate with a spirit of hope, we move people to action. Will we let go of the idea of “transforming them” and replace it with “becoming conduits for global reconciliation and healing”? Will we be willing to be transformed into disciples of Jesus Christ

even in a world that is transforming in both good and bad ways? We finished with singing of: *"Our Hope Is Built on Nothing Less than..."* and concluded with an inspiring video of *"Stand by Me"* sung by street musicians around the globe.

REPORT OF THE FRONTIER FOUNDATION

Rev. Dr. Keith Muhleman, President and Executive Director brought this report to us. The Foundation is ready to help us invest our money wisely to build Christ's kingdom for the world. It brings this message because we have received so much; we are called upon to return some of what we have received in our ministry and in our witness. We must build upon the hope and the call of discipleship to use these gifts so that others may know God. As Christian stewards of your funds, the foundation knows that it has been entrusted by you to make a difference in someone else's life. Discipline, giving, keeping, growing and sharing are the five disciplines of using the gift of money. The losses we have recently experienced will define this new generation in the way it defined our parent's generation. The stock market declined over 50%, home values plummeted and credit declined. The foundation exceeded the indexes by which we measure our success. The decline was only a 14% decline with an overall growth of 4% in the bond fund. Stewardship education is important to the health of the church and we are very excited that Rev. George Engelhardt will take the lead at the local church level on behalf of the conference. Education will continue through out the Conference for local churches. There is an annual clergy finance seminar for new clergy members on personal and church finances. The Frontier Foundation was formed to help churches, individuals and agencies have a healthy financial future. Stewardship grows out of a relationship to God. Stewardship is not just money; it is ministry. Christ talks about stewardship in the Gospel three times more than love and prayer combined. Our goal is to serve the community and encourage the giving of self and the giving of God. We are your Foundation and you have a Foundation to help you meet your goals. Peace and grace be with you. Amen.

REPORT OF CITY SOCIETY

Mr. Jim Perkins, President has been serving City Society since 1988 and as President since 1999. He will soon be completing his term as President. Mr. Perkins said that my service has been an experience of awe and a privilege. We have served over 24,000 children through our after school programs and other services. During the last nine years millions of dollars have been contributed to underwrite church building and other programs. Co-op City Church, Iglesia Evangelica were underwritten by the Society, along with Anchor House. We have struggled with the mission in Far Rockaway to make that a viable mission. The torch is being passed; Wendall Harris will become the next president at the next board meeting. Mr. Perkins acknowledged the Board, Executive Staff and Program Directors of Anchor House, Camp Olmstead, Head Start and the Far Rockaway Mission. He turned the presentation over to the executive director, Rev William Shillady.

Rev. William Shillady, Executive Director began by reading Jeremiah 29:7. After nine months at the helm, he still loves coming to work every day. The City

Society works miracles, small miracles but still life saving ones in helping youth, children, adults and congregations in finding the love of Christ. Our endowment fell by over 4.5 million dollars by the end of 2008 due to the economy et al. The "Good News" is that all God's children are finding the transforming love of Jesus Christ through our programs, our churches and our United Methodist witness in the City. We have a transfer agreement with Salem UM Church to transfer the title back to the congregation and sell Salem House. Through the proceeds from the Grace UM Church sale, it will be possible to purchase of 56 more affordable houses. The City Society will provide whatever support they can to the Maspeth congregation in light of the fire devastation. We will try to be good stewards by using the land and property that God has entrusted to us; we are land rich and cash poor. We have invested in engineering studies of facilities and funded restoration at several churches. Some of our dreams have been delayed but not denied. April Calendar, associate director, gave an over view of children's program. The goal is to enhance the quality of services. There are 9 churches serving over 1,500 children; over 1,000 children go to camp each summer. Head start in Brooklyn and Long Island City serves over 120 students. Camp Olmstead, since 1901, has been providing camping and services. Children find new skills, build confidence and form relationships that last a life time. On pages 6-26 of the May Pre-Conference Booklet is the annual report. He asked for churches that have donated to the City Society to stand. City Society does not receive apportionment money. The current reality is City Society no longer has the deep pockets that everyone believes we have. We need your generous hearts to compel your hands to dig dipper into your pockets. Rev. Javier Viera, chair of scholarship committee, spoke next. City Society identifies students every year who have great potential and promise as future leaders in church and society. The scholarship recipients are: Luke Bauman, Leona Daniel Peterson, Jared Gilbert, Simeon Law, Rosa Cummings, Delois Davis, Victoria Kittoe, Sharon Petcrave and John Wood; all received Urban Ministry scholarships. Sallie Bullock and Jillian Horne received college scholarships. Bishop Park asked for our prayers and support for The City Society. He thanked the Society for its partnership in ministry.

Bishop Park invited the **Dean of the Theological School of Drew University, Dr Maxine Beech**, to come to the podium. Next year she will finish her tenure as Dean. She brought greetings to this body from the beloved community. She stated, we are as faithful as we can be at Drew Theological School. The largest increase in persons receiving Master of Divinity degrees are among those who are under twenty-five years of age. Each year we honor one of our outstanding alumnae; this year it is Bishop Jeremiah Park who is honored.

Rev. Clayton Miller, who has been struggling with health issues, was recognized by Bishop Park. Rev. David Stevens was in the hospital for five months, but was here at the Retiree's luncheon was also mentioned. We claim the miracle of God's healing presence with and among us.

Announcements were given by Mr. Robert Miller. There is a plenary meeting of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry in the arena, immediately following this meeting.

Grace was given by members of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries: Beatrice Capen-Guldy, Courtney Butler, Evian Crosdale, Tailor Dortona, Shavon Gooding-Weir and Jordan Orvam.

FRIDAY, AFTERNOON JUNE 13, 2008

THE BELOVED COMMUNITY SPEAKS: CONNECTING THE BODY OF CHRIST

Bishop Park opened the session with the hymn... "*O For a Thousand Tongues We Sing.*"

Introduction: Bishop Park invited the body into a time of conversation to be led by Jonathan Gregory and Kevin Nelson around the topic of human sexuality. This requires utmost care and sensitivity. Bishop Park invited us to greet each other as "Beloved." Bishop Park led us in prayer.

Goals and Process: Goals and Process were explained. Jonathan Gregory is representing the "evangelical" point of view. He invited all to lay down misconceptions to enter into dialogue. He reminded Conference attendees of a lunch held last year with all individuals interested in entering into dialogue. He suggests this can be a continuation and expansion of that beginning. Kevin Nelson is representing the "progressive" point of view. Kevin presented some of the goals of this special time together — to gain a better understanding why the subject of sexual orientation is important to this body. The desire is to humanize what we debate so that we can change the way we dialogue about this issue. This is an attempt to create space for God to work in our hearts. There is value gained from learning to speak from our hearts and listening to others who are speaking from theirs.

Sharing our Stories began with thoughts by Jonathan Gregory. How have evangelicals been impacted and why is this important to me? There may have been a deep impact but it is not always fully known. He shared stories of people's experiences of grappling with this issue and the decisions they made which brought them pain, separation and disconnection on both sides. Present homosexuality is really just "the tip of an iceberg". What is below the surface that we don't commonly see? There is the issue with the authority of scripture. He quoted 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. The position was posed that if this verse is true, then the progressive church is hurting the homosexual person they are affirming. References were made to 2 Timothy 3:16-17 for inspiration of the Holy Scripture. The issue with "Lordship: Making Jesus Lord over all your life" was raised. Matthew 10:27-29 was quoted. The issue with the "Greatest Commandment" was raised; it suggests that people are loving neighbor more than God. Affirming neighbor over God, asks the following of those gathered to say: I proclaim that: (1) I love God first, (2) Jesus is my Lord, (3) I submit to the authority of scripture, just as Jesus did.

Hymn: Bishop Park invited us to sing a verse of "*We are one the Spirit*".

Sharing our Stories — multiple speakers presented a "progressive" voice. Some expressed pain experienced from church and home by those who rejected

homosexuality. Others expressed joy over churches that embrace homosexuality as normal. One challenged the concept of "Open Doors". An openly gay Baptist minister in a committed relationship shared the paradox of serving a UMC church but being unable to transfer his membership. Another spoke of meeting her partner in the church. This relationship was celebrated by her local UMC church and was nurtured by her congregation. She expressed the pain of being welcomed by God but rejected by the UMC which cannot bless her union with her partner through marriage. A UMC pastor expressed pain in being unable to fulfill her role as pastor to homosexuals. Not being able to officiate in a service of commitment to their lifelong relationships nor encourage those with a call to pursue ordained ministry presents a difficult situation. A lawyer feels a sense of loss with the failure to treat with dignity brothers and sisters in Christ who are homosexuals. A story was told of a homosexual seminarian who felt a call to ordained ministry by God and painfully wrestled with the United Methodist Church until she discerned she needed to pursue ordination in another denomination.

Preparing for dialogue, Bishop Park invited us to sing a verse of "*We are one the Spirit*".

The Beloved Community Speaks: Bishop Park invited the body to share our stories with one another following a prayer.

Discussion questions of small groups were as follows: (1) In what ways do you see people, whether yourself or others, being impacted by this subject? (2) How do you feel so far about this experience? After being in small groups, Bishop Park invited us to come to the microphone to share our experience. One person said I learned that the middle group is much larger than people believe it to be. We believe the beloved community can live in that tension. Those of us in the middle are not evangelical or progressive. Perhaps we should be living in sacrifice, so that others can live. At the end of sharing Bishop Park thanked the body. It has been a rich conversation; there is more to be done. Bishop Park encouraged us to continue this conversation.

The body sang "*Make Us One Lord*"; then Bishop Park led us in a litany of commitment.

After the break, Bishop Park called our attention to Bob Miller for announcements. Bishop Park gave Rev. Taka Ishii a "point of privilege" for some brief comments.

LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS

Rev. Ian Straker was pleased to announce that all the sections completed their work last night. Only three items did not achieve consensus.

PRAYERS FOR WITNESS MINISTRIES were offered by Ms. Donna Jolly, Chair of the Catskill-Hudson, District Council on Ministries.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE SECTION 1

In the absence of the Chair, Rev. Straker placed before the body the items on the consensus calendar. It was moved they be adopted. The body adopted items 1001-1004.

PRAYERS FOR CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND MINISTRIES OF NURTURE, were offered by Mr. Fred Brewington, Chair-elect of the Connectional Ministries Vision Table

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE SECTION 2

Chair, Rev. Charles Straut put before the body items 2001-2009. All items were on the consent calendar. All items were adopted.

PRAYER FOR MINISTRY OF ADVOCACY, was offered by Rev. Virginia Hoch.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE SECTION 3,

Chair, Rev. William Pfohl put before the body items 3001-3006 and 3009-3016, all on the consent calendar. Item 3006 was non-concurrence. It was moved to remove Item 3014 from the consent calendar. Motion was not adopted. The consent calendar items were adopted. Item 3007: New York State Marriage Equality Law received 75% concurrence. The Chair moved to adopt the item. The item was adopted. Item 3008: "Support for those who Dissent from Discipline", as amended and on behalf of the section, its adoption was moved by the Chair. A standing vote was taken and the results, reported by Mr. Bob Miller were: "for" 295, "against" 199. The petition was carried.

PRAYERS FOR LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES, were offered by Rev. Arturo Maine.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE SECTION 4, Chair Rev. Bob Sorozan presented items 4001-4005 all passed by consensus and were moved. All were adopted. He gave thanks to all who were part of the section.

PRAYERS FOR CARE AND SUPPORT OF OUR CLERGY were offered by Rev. Dennis Winkleblack, Assistant to Bishop Park.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE SECTION 5, Chair Rev. Craig Fitzsimmons presented 5001 and 5002 passed by consensus. They were adopted.

PRAYERS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT were offered by Mr. Ernest Swiggett, treasurer and director of Administrative Services.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE SECTION 6, Chair Rev. Joyce Wilkerson presented 6001 and 6002 for adoption. Both were adopted. Leslie Reyman, Chair of Archives and History presented the report to be placed on the document table, available to all delegates and to be included in the 2009 Journal. Bishop Park stated that is a point of information.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SHARED MINISTRY were offered by Ms. Margaret Howe, vice chair of Administration, council on Finance and Administration.

REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE SECTION 7, Chair Ed Horne, reported that there is a new report for the Council and Finance and Administration, Item 7001, with one amendment and Item 107 as an amendment. Rev. Tim Riss was invited to come and be available for questions on the budget. The budget was amended to remove the amendment placed in the budget by the committee. The budget as amended was adopted. Item line 107 "amendment" was adopted. Line 115, the total budget was amended to reflect the previous vote. The Council on Finance and Administration report was placed before the body and adopted. Bishop Park acknowledged the voluntary act of giving by the Cabinet in asking for a reduction of salary to the "2008 level". He appreciates the spirit of the Cabinet.

Bishop Park noted that the Legislative Section 7 worked late hours to fulfill their obligation to serve the New York Annual Conference.

Rev. Ian Straker moved that the "green sheets" be formally included in the journal. Motion was carried. Many of us were extremely pressed by the timeliness of the work; thanks were expressed to all the sections leaders who accepted the task with good humor and grace.

Mr. Robert Miller presented the report from the Commission on Archives and History report. It was moved that report be included. Motion passed.

Bishop Park invited **Jim Winkler, General Secretary of Board of Church and Society** to the podium who brought greetings. He acknowledged Fred Brewington as a board member. The task of the Commission is to seek the implementation of the social principles adopted by General Conference through education, witness and action. We also spent time working with the White House on related matters. He reported that, today the Congress adopted federal regulation of tobacco which this agency has been working on for years.

CLERGY SPOUSE PRESENTATION AND GRACE, this association sang "*I Love to Tell the Story*."

ANNOUNCEMENT, Mr. Bob Miller stated that there would be a "clergy session" gathering at the closing of tonight.

FRIDAY, EVENING, JUNE 12, 2009

Bishop Park invited the body to reconvene with singing "*Joy to the Word*." As we start this session Bishop Park introduced a celebrity in Korea that is on our Board of Ordained Ministry. He invited Rev. John Collins to introduce Dr. He Sung Koh and the fact that her two sons, Howard and Harold have been proposed for positions with President Obama. Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling of First Summerfield, said they are proud to have He Sung as a church mother of her congregation. The congregation greeted Dr. Koh. She gave a report of her history and the work of her children. A limited edition print of "The Amistad" was presented by Dr. Koh to Bishop Park. Dr. Koh painted this rendition of a famous symbol of freedom, human

rights and friendship. Carolyn Engelhardt, Rev. John Collins and Rev. Lamar-Sterling were presented smaller versions.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND PRESENTATION AND OFFERING

Rev. Noel Chin presented the present chair person, Ms Veronica Darby who introduced “The Black College Fund”, Lina H. McCord Ambassador. Megan Christina Cotton, a classically trained cello musician and music major attended Bennett. First, she attended Dillard and experienced hurricane Katrina. Her bus burst into flames and destroyed all of her belongings. Bennett allowed her not to give up on her dreams. It was noted that last year the NYAC gave 102% of the apportioned amount to this ministry.

An offering for the Black College Fund was taken. Dr. Gennifer Brooks led us in prayer. Bishop Park said we have given more than 100% of our general church apportionments partly because we gave more than 100% to Black College Fund and Africa University.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling and Pastor Andy Peck-McLain, President of the New York Education Society introduced the Scholarship programs. Rev. Lamar-Sterling spoke about the work of our campus ministers; both spoke of the need to support our students.

Conference Merit Award,

Pastor Andy Peck-McLain presented awards to Kimberley Leak from Westbury, UMC to attend American University and Deja Armstorn from Butler Memorial who is going to DePauw University.

NYES Fellows: Julia Madden from St. Paul and St. Andrews, Chloe Girot from Nichols UMC and Theresa ADewale from Faith.

NYES Scholars are Rosa Cummings from Springfield Gardens, Elisa Vicios, pastor at Knickerbocker UMC, Katelyn Exner from Ulster Heights.

Book Grants went to Edward Merritt from Union UMC, Darlene Irons from Butler Memorial, Emma Sanborn from St. James, Tracy Laderer from UMC of SeaCliff, Donald Wentler from Simpson UMS, Ashley James from Woodycrest and Byungkook Lee from Ridges & Roxbury UMC. A “leap of faith” was taken and returning awardees were Alicia Thompson-Gee, Justin Thompson-Gee, Olivia Horne, Andrew Yau, Amanda Yau, :Paul John, Deonne John and Ekow Commeh,

New York Education Society Award,

Pastor Andy Peck-McLain presented awards.

Francis Asbury Award,

Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling and Jordan presented this award to Rev. Dr. Johnny R. Johnson.

Gloster B. Current Scholarship,

Rev. John Carrington announced the scholarship winner as Mr Joseph Antonio Ivan Gordon. A history of Gloster B. Current’s life was given along with the

scholarship requirements. Mr. Gordon's qualifications were listed. He was an organist of Crawford UMC and director of five of their eight choirs before attending University.

Kim Jefferson Award for Excellence in Urban Ministry

Rev. Louise Stowe-Johns presented the award to a congregation that is very effective in urban ministry. It is not an urban church but a suburban one. The recipient was Trinity United Methodist Parish in the town of Newburgh and Pastor Charlie Gockel. The love of Jesus Christ has compelled us to get out of our four walls and share the love of Jesus Christ with others. He was greeted by Bishop Park.

Harry Denman Award from the Foundation for Evangelism: A history of Harry Denman was given by Rev. Sandra Mantz. This award was first offered in 1991. Eunice Kirpatrick, lay woman was one recipient. She is a member of Butler Memorial and is the Chair of Evangelism. She brings people hope. The clergy person receiving this award is **Rev. Steven Bauman from Christ Church in Manhattan**. Over the last three years his church gained over 230 members. Rev. Mantz read from scripture from Matthew 5:14.

Bishop Park invited the body to sing "*I Love to Tell the Story.*"

CORPORATE SESSION

Corporate Session was convened by Bishop Park at 8:31pm.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, Rev. Ginny Hoch, Vice-Chair spoke of her experience of the work of this board. **Ms. Joyce Palevitz, Chair** was unable to be here. Rev. Hoch introduced members of the Board of Trustees. She thanked Rev Noel Chin for his service on the board and three other members who will no longer be serving.

Lawrence McGaughey, Conference Chancellor gave his report. Litigation: there are three cases pending from prior years and one new case reported. Rev. John Paul Hankins sued over mandatory retirement in 2002. He has appealed for the second time. In February they argued before a three - judge panel. The senior judge is Sonya Sotomayor. "Thompson vs. Grace UMC", a church secretary was fired and brought a case of defamation. The case is in an early discovery phase. "Pedrosa vs. St. John's Ridgewood UMC" is a case from a fall. There should be no Conference liability. "Lions vs. Grace UMC" is where a church member was accused of physical abuse of teenage daughter. A report was filed with NYC Administration for Children's Service. They are bringing a charge of defamation. A child abuse statue gives immunity. This has not been investigated at all at this time. Mr. McGaughey's last words were to encourage reporting to the "insurance company" all incidents that could result in a lawsuit(s). When should you report? Report as close to the incident date as possible. Churches are also encouraged to report if someone is being "fired" or if a child abuse report is filed. Report anytime something

out of the “normal” has happened. Report suspected child abuse to the state “hot line” even if not a mandatory reporting incident. The “reporting” telephone numbers are — CT: 800-842-2288; NY: 800-342-3720. For Chancellor’s “Child Abuse” reporting send an email to the Conference Chancellor at : LOLHM@aol.com, specify CT or NY.

On behalf of Joyce Palevitz and the Board of Trustees the name of Larry McGaughey was submitted to continue as chancellor. This was affirmed by the body.

Rev. Hoch spoke of her work on small properties that are no longer being used as churches. These properties are being sold with the money going to ministry in the respective communities.

Rev. Gunshik Shim brought forth a Corporate resolution 2009-A for the charter of Tian Fu UMC with Rev. Zhaodeng Peng at 4616 4th Ave in Brooklyn New York. It was voted and accepted with a “Hallelujah” from the body.

Rev. James Moore presented two resolutions Corporate Resolution 2009- B — the sale of Platte Clove UMC in the Town of Hunter, Greene Count with the funds being used to establish a Catskill Hudson District Mission Fund. The resolution was carried Corporate Resolution 2009-C was presented for — the dissolution of the merged town of Bethel UMC to dissolve this congregation and re-establish the former congregations. Bishop Park suggested we lay this resolution on the table. It was moved and seconded that it be tabled.

Rev. George Engelhardt presented a Corporate resolution 2009-D regarding the East Pearl Street UMC in New Haven, CT. to declare it discontinued and abandoned and that the membership go to St. Andrews. In addition the resolution provides that the Conference Treasurer negotiate and complete the sale of this property and the proceeds of the sale be used for ministry in the New Haven metropolitan area and other areas as shall be determined by the Bishop and Cabinet. This resolution was adopted.

Rev. Noel Chin presented a Corporate resolution 2009-E for the discontinuation of Lexington UMC with the building being turned over to the NYAC. A member of Lexington for over fifty-one years shared some of her experiences with the body. The resolution was adopted. Bishop Park expressed his appreciation to God’s people who tried to keep their church going and kept trusting God that something good would come out. The journey is not finished and God is in control. He thanked all persons for their faithfulness.

Rev. Hoch presented corporate resolution for the proceeds from the sale of discontinued or abandoned property that proceeds would be divided as follows 50% to the new church growth and development fund, 30% for the district in which the local church is situated and 20% to the Conference Board of Trustees. A motion to suspend the rules was made. The motion passed. An amendment was offered that “**net**” proceeds be distributed as proposed. This was accepted as a friendly amendment. It was moved and seconded to table this matter until next year. The motion passed and it was tabled.

Rev. Hoch on behalf of Joyce Palevitz gave thanks to the entire board of trustees. Bishop Park expressed his appreciation for the Conference Trustees.

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Rev. Patrick Perrin led us in voting on Trustee nominations: Rev. Koonae Lee and Joseph Piccirillo and lay candidates M. MEYERS MERMEL and SUE BYNUM. At 9:42 PM the ballot was declared as closed.

Resolution 2009 B was brought off the table. An amendment was proposed to delete “**a charge**” from, the wording of the amendment. The amendment was passed. The resolution was passed, as amended.

At 9:44 PM the Corporate Session was placed in recess.

NOMINATING REPORT

Rev. Patrick Perrin gave thanks for staff and for those who served and came to the end of their tenure. Bishop Park ruled the creation of the Council on Missions as shown in the draft report “out of order”. As corrected, the nominating report was accepted.

Bishop Park asked for the body to express their appreciation to the nominating committee.

Announcements: Mr. Robert Miller reported the Offerings: PET-\$4,109; WAM, \$4,807, Black College Fund- \$3,507. Bishop Park offered a prayer and the body adjourned at 10:14 PM.

WORSHIPFUL GATHERING LAY SPEAKERS: Lay Speakers gathered at the USA Building.

SATURDAY, MORNING JUNE 14, 2008

BIBLE STUDY – 8:30 AM

Rev. Safiyah Fosua continued with Bible Study. Rev. Fosua continued Bible Study with Esther 4: “Esther is us”. We are entering a third generation of individuals who have no Christian memory, no Bible stories. We have a group of people who are Biblically illiterate. We need mentors to teach not only what the Bible says but how to live the word and be the beloved community in unfaithful times. You have a part to play in God’s promise. We need to listen to the heartbeat of God. This is a time for the people of God to be alert, to listen and to mentor one another. “If I perish, I perish”; this is a far cry from some of the theologies that say if you say the right prayer or follow the right formula you will have success. Our theologies are in conflict with the Biblical text. Mordecai in going to Esther was like a modern day prophet that believes that in the core of every human being there is a piece of goodness. We need to understand the nature of the problem. Brian McLaren says the core of what holds us together in the Western world is that we believe in

prosperity; that everyone can be prosperous. This is how we have criminalized poverty because they must be the “slackers”. In our history, we have had such a thing about “security” that it gave us permission to violate our rules in other ways. In the third interlocking system there is a sin of equity in that we all support what is going on; we all have certain equal benefits. Our feet are on the accelerator in the prosperity system and it went out of control. In the middle of the three interlocking systems is a framing narrative; a story that provides a framework within which we live and act and desire and dream. Our framing narrative has been from the Bible. What happens when that begins disappearing? McLaren has said it is time for us to reintroduce Jesus the Christ. In the church, one group is demonizing the other group and the world sees us fighting. We Christians need to stop our fighting and come back to the story, come back to Jesus and understand the principles that underline his story. Most of the Bible is talking about money and food, we need to go back and talk about those things that glue us together. Divine positioning: as heinous as it was it was no accident that Esther was where she was. Samuel was raised in the corrupt household of Eli but Samuel rose up to mentor King Saul. Jethro (Reuel) mentored Moses who then mentored Joshua who mentored the Army Leaders. God will hide us in plain view when it is needed. Moses had a transgression; he killed an Egyptian. He escaped to a Midianite priest, Jethro. Recognize where you are, after you look at the problem. Ask God what have I got to address this problem? Never pray unless you are willing to be part of the solution. As we respond to the call of God we have to figure out if we are willing to pay the price for the complete action; then we have to take the right action. We need to appeal to something different than what is going on all around us. Do not be afraid to start small. Two clips were shown about solving the problem and starting small. Do not be afraid to aim high — the moral is start somewhere. At the end of Esther’s fast the King was moved and touched and he gave the Jews the ability to fight back and the whole nation was saved. Every year faithful Jews celebrate Purim, celebrating the saving of the Jews. Purim is a holiday of reversals and it sets us up for a gospel of reversals. When Mary finally knew that she was pregnant the first thing she says was, “my soul magnifies the Lord...he has filled the hungry and sent away the rich.”

Bishop Park praised the Bible Study that Rev. Fosua brought to us. Thanksgiving was raised to God for offering us this blessing.

REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EXAMINATION COMMITTEE, Rhonda Mitchell reported that the minutes have been found to be in order. Conference Secretary, Robert Miller gave the report on the Trustees elections: Koonae Lee, 428, Joseph Piccirillo 425, M. Meyers Mermel 431, Sue Bynam 425. These four were elected. There were 440 valid ballots cast.

RELIGION AND RACE MONITOR REPORT The report was presented by the Committee and was recognized by the body. Among those speaking at various times and settings within the conference sessions, there were 44 Asians, 38 Blacks,

5 Hispanics, 108 Whites, 69 Lay, 91 Clergy, 97 Males, 69 females, 10 youth, 15 young adults, 124 adults, 7 older adults and 1 person with a disability.

READING OF 2009-2010 APPOINTMENTS Rev. Jim Moore read the new appointments for Catskill Hudson. Rev. Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii read the new appointments for New York/Connecticut. Rev. Noel Chin read the new appointments for the Metropolitan District. Rev. George Engelhardt read the new appointments for Connecticut District. Rev. Adrienne Brewington read the appointments for Long Island East. Rev. Gun Shik Shim read the appointments for Long Island West. (See 2009-2010 appointment listing in Conference Journal.) The appointment process is still ongoing; there may be appointment changes after the end of the Conference session.

Bishop Park offered a word of prayer for the churches and pastors of our Annual Conference.

MISSION CELEBRATION,

Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Coordinator of Mission and Outreach

Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie began the celebration with singing "*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah.*" Those who participated in missions this past year went on stage. Missions have been in Costa Rica, Bolivia, Haiti, Ghana, Thailand, Biloxi, Iowa, and Chili in the past year. We collected 2,382 UMCOR health kits. Special guests were introduced: missionaries from Thailand. Mike and Sherry shared some of their story with us. They are the first GBGM missionaries in Thailand. They have been there two years and will be returning for three more years. Five churches have been "planted". Eighty-five percent of the villages in Thailand have no churches. The mission will be building mushroom barns beside a church that has already become a "mother church". Bishop Jeremiah Park introduced Bishop Joaquina Nhanala of the Mozambique area. She is serving in a country with a population of 41 million people and the life expectancy is 42.5 years. Aids and malaria are prevalent as is extreme poverty. 78% of the population exist on less than \$2.00/day. She is the first woman Bishop ever to be elected in the continent of Africa. She is a face of UM history. Bishop Park said, "You are a friend of the NYAC forever." Bishop Nhanala brought greetings from the UM Church in Mozambique. She shared a story of a country that lives on only \$2.00 per day. There are a lot of good things happening there. The NYAC has been part of those good things happening in the Annual Conference in Mozambique. As she was speaking then there was a team from this annual conference in Mozambique. This new generation will take the level of our partnership into another level. Bishop Park called for the volunteers who have gone to Mozambique to identify themselves to the body. We are in mission with them, as they touch our lives deeply. Bishop Park presented a check for \$10,000 for mission work in Mozambique to Bishop Nhanala.

Rev. Ewoodzie stated that our mission work empowers training our young people. Donna Jolly gave a report. There was a representation of our Youth Ambassadors. Next year they will be going to Cambodia. A gift was given to Bishop Park and the District Superintendents for the support they have given the Youth

Ambassadors throughout this next year. Bishop Park spoke about hearing the stories of young people who went to Costa Rica. A check for \$10,000 was presented to the Youth Ambassadors for their mission work.

A clip of Bishop Park in Haiti was shown. Bishop Park said, 'I can hardly describe the blessings I have received.' He thanked all "for the awesome people of God." He presented a check of \$10,000 for the Haiti mission work.

Bishop Park presented a check for \$7,000 to the Bolivia mission team.

Bishop Park presented a check for \$3,000 for the beginning work in mission in Thailand.

Bishop Park presented a check for \$10,000 for the mission work in Ghana.

Rev. Ewoodzie gave thanks for the mission support. We are really a conference in mission and "on fire". We have continued to give out Mission Gold Awards. This year four churches were able to achieve the 24K Gold Award. The awards were as follows:

- **12K**-11 churches,
- **14K**- 9 churches,
- **18K**- 5 churches,
- **24K** awards were given to: **Babylon, Woodbury, Shrub Oak and Warwick.**

A motion was made to allocate \$10,000 towards the pension fund ministers in Africa. The Bishop's Partner in Mission will do this, declared Bishop Park. The NYAC is a growing conference because we are growing in missions. The strength of our churches is not in the numbers in the portfolio but in the numbers of lives we touch through Jesus the Christ. We have another surprise. The Connecticut District raised an additional \$10,000 to give to Mozambique. Rev. Kristina Hansen asked the body to recognize Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie for the inspiration he is for mission work. The Body sang, "*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*"

Bishop Park asked for the body to sing together "*How Great Thou Art.*"

CELEBRATION OF "NEW DAY" NEW CHURCH START,

Bishop Park introduced the miracle of this new church start. Rev. Doug Cunningham says it is about including everyone. The first service was held in a funeral parlor. The people make the church not the building. Jorge Lockwood, Rev. Cunningham, and Lisa Cunningham spoke of a dream coming true. On March 15, 2009 the church was launched with more than 150 in attendance. It was noted for information and relevance that forty percent of the households in the church neighborhood spend half their income on rent.

Bishop Park had the body sing "*This is the Day.*"

RECOGNITION AND BLESSING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION: Tisha Michelle Jermin and Carrie Mae Smallwood

A lay member of the Board of Ordained Ministry spoke of the meaning of the laity in the development of the Methodist Church. He presented to Bishop Park the

image that the laity could be viewed as “an army” or “servants” depending upon the circumstances and situation.

Elaine Woodward led us in a gathering meditation. Rev. Hector Laporta led the Call to Worship which was followed by singing “*God of Grace and God of Glory.*” Bishop Park blessed those receiving professional certification. Following this recognition we were led in prayer. The Scripture reading was Acts 16:9-12. Rev. Kwasi Kena, Director of Evangelism Ministries, General Board of Discipleship brought us the sermon, “Move!” Dr. Kena thanked Bishop Park for the enthusiasm he brings to every day. He thanked individuals for the hospitality he and his wife have received. He thanked us for making history for this great gathering of lay speakers at a conference; for they are vitally important. There is a shrinking pool of clergy so we are probably going go back to our roots of resting on the “backs” of the laity. We are overdue for another great awakening. It will only happen when people like you answer the call of God to go where God sends. There is a partnership between clergy and laity. We were led in singing to each other “*I Need You*”. What would it take to convince you or me to move immediately to proclaim the “Good News”? Paul did not develop the ability to respond to God immediately overnight. His spiritual sensitivity developed over years. It began on the road to Damascus. Has God spoken to you in some dramatic way? God is still God and can speak in extraordinary ways. The response in many churches is to “vote” without going to prayer or scripture or allowing time for discernment. The issue is not how God spoke to Paul but how God speaks to us. In these days God is pouring out God’s spirit. When God speaks to us God expects us to act, to move. In the Macedonia Call, God expected Paul to move. In our history John Wesley was called to move out of the church to the fields by George Whitfield. You preach differently if you are out of the church walls. Ministry is not just preaching on Sunday. The ministry of lay speakers is more than waiting for pulpit supply. Find your own ministry. They cannot wait for us to call a vote. We need to be able to respond when God taps us on the shoulder. Macedonia is crying — who is willing to move? Paul moved to Philippi and there was no synagogue there. In that absence, people would meet at the riverside for prayer. Who is praying today? If we learn to hear God’s voice we will hear new solutions. Do we trust God? Do we want to hear from God? If we do, God will challenge our spiritual hearing? We have to discover what it will take for us to move in ministry. Paul went to Macedonia without knowing the details. Where are you in Paul’s story? Are you on the road to Damascus just beginning to listen to God’s voice? Is God sending you someone to restore your spiritual vision? Are you ready to move? Bishop Park has invited you to bring your new friends who have found Christ in the annual conference of 2010. Do you believe it can happen? Move!

Bishop Park led us in a response to the sermon. The Bishop gave a charge to the beloved community of hope. It is awesome to worship our awesome God. Our theme has been for such a time as this we are a beloved community of hope. The words “for such a time as this,” came from the book of Esther when God’s people were in danger and facing annihilation. It is about time to speak not only in words but in actions. When you hear God’s voice for such a time as this you can do two

things: nothing or you can respond. Do not say that you have no calling. Do not say you are not commissioned to make disciples of all nations.

The Body sang "*Here I am, Lord.*" The body joined Bishop Park in a reaffirmation, "*Living Libation.*" We then had a closing prayer. We closed with "*To God Be the Glory.*"

CELEBRATION OF CHARTER of TIAN FU UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, LONG ISLAND WEST DISTRICT

Rev. Gunshik Shin, D.S. and Rev. Zhaodeng Peng, minister shared in this special time. This church began five years ago and now has typically over 400 people in worship. Last year they baptized 250 disciples. The Conference was blessed with the playing of traditional Chinese music. This new congregation was introduced by Rev. Shin. Pastor Peng was introduced to the body. They have reached 1,100 members after these five years. They have a baptismal service once a month. In 2009, year to date, another 183 adults have been baptized. We trust, with our charter, we will move and make more disciples for God. Dr. Shin read a letter to this church from GBGM. A \$5,000 dollar check was presented from the church to the "Bishop's Partners in Mission". Rev. Peng's wife was introduced and acknowledged. The name of the church means "Our Heavenly Blessing." Bishop Park presented the certificate of Charter Membership on June 13, 2009 to the church/pastor. The Choir then sang music for the assembled Body. This is the youngest church in the whole of Methodism. Rev. Judy Stevens said let us thank the Hispanic Church of Brooklyn who sponsored this church for five years. We ended with the singing of "*To God be the Glory.*"

SATURDAY, AFTERNOON, JUNE 13, 2009

2:00 PM

ORDINATION SERVICE

The processional was "*Lift High the Cross,*" "*The Church's One Foundation,*" and "*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name.*" Liturgical dance to "*This is the Day,*" was performed by the NYAC Conference Liturgical Dance Team led by Ms Sheila M. Beckford. Prayers for unity were sung. Bishop Jeremiah Park brought greetings. He led the recognition of common ministry and reaffirmation of baptism. All visiting Bishops were introduced: Alfred Johnson, Felton E. May, Joaquina Nhanala, F. Herbert Skeete and Richard B. Wilke. Rev. Dr. William M. James gave a witness. Conference Lay Leader, Renata Smith and The Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Rev. Kun Sam Cho presented the ordinands:

- Dale L. Ashby,
- In Koo Chung,
- Sara Dolores Giron-Ortiz,
- Roy Brandon Grubbs,
- Won-Geun Kang,

- Austin Park,
- Woo Young Park,
- David R. Piscatelli,
- James R. Van Schaick.

Following was an anthem *“How Great Thou Art/The Lord’s Prayer”*, with Ms. Soh Young Lee-Sagredo, Soloist. The Hebrew scripture lesson Genesis 18:1-15 was read by Ms. Renata Smith. The Epistle lesson, Hebrews 12:1-7, 13-15; 13:1-6 was read by Rev. Noel Chin and the Gospel lesson John 13:31-35 was read by Rev. James Moore. Bishop Richard B. Wilke gave the sermon, *“In Times like These.”* Rev. Gunshik Shim, lead us in the Apostle’s Creed. An anthem was offered, *“Order My Steps,”* by the New York Conference mass choir. The Bishop examined the candidates for ordination. The congregation affirmed the candidates. The Bishop examined the Elder candidates followed by the laying on of hands and prayer. The congregation sang *“The Summons,”* and an offering was taken for The Bishop’s Partner’s in Mission. We celebrated with singing *“Siyahamba.”*

Bishop Park ended with a prayer and gave the blessing along with Rev. Sara Giron-Ortiz, newly ordained member of the body. The body sang *“The Hallelujah Chorus.”* The recessional hymn was *“Marching to Zion.”*

FIXING OF THE DATES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010


The dates for the annual conference in 2010 were fixed as June 9-12, 2010.

CLOSING OF CONFERENCE: The 210th session of the New York Annual Conference was declared closed at 4:45pm by Bishop Park.



C. NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES**CERTIFICATE OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY**

This is to certify that the foregoing minutes are a complete and accurate rendering of the proceedings of the 210th session of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (the fortieth session of the United Methodist Church and the forty-third since reunion with the New York East Conference after 120 years of separate existence), held at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, June 10-13, 2009, and, as such, the printed records with related data incorporated by reference have been adopted by the Annual Conference as its official record.



President



Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF CONSECRATION

This is to certify that at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York on Thursday, June 11, 2009, pursuant to the election of the New York Annual Conference, I commissioned as follows:

COMMISSIONED AS PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Austin Adkinson | Sabrina Chandler (Deacon's track) |
| David Jefferson | Richard Lenz |
| Darlene Resling | Carrie Mae Smallwood (Deacon's track) |
| Enoch Yatri | David Ball |
| Young Choi | Miyong Kang |
| Song Ha Park | Hector Rivera |
| Gerald Williams | |

RECEIVED LICENSE FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

Scharlise Dorsey Gregory Higgins Deborah Mygatt



**Jeremiah J. Park
Presiding Bishop
Hempstead, New York**

June 13, 2009

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York on Saturday, June 13, 2009, pursuant to the election of the New York Annual Conference, I ordained, as follows:

ELDER'S ORDERS AND FULL MEMBERSHIP

Dale L. Ashby
Sara Dolores Giron-Ortiz
Won-Geun Kang
Woo Young Park
James R. Van Schaick

In Koo Chung
Roy Brandon Grubbs,
Austin Park
David R. Piscatelli



**Jeremiah J. Park
Presiding Bishop
Hempstead, New York**

June 13, 2009