



DAILY PROCEEDINGS

2014 JOURNAL

Oklahoma Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

SECTION E

DAILY PROCEEDINGS
The Forty-Seventh Session of
The Oklahoma Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church
May 26-29, 2014

FIRST DAY – MONDAY, MAY 26

Executive Sessions

Lay members met in the Christian Life Center at St. Luke's UMC at 3 p.m., while clergy members met in the sanctuary at 3:15 p.m. The report of the Board of Ordained Ministry was presented and approved at the clergy session. (See Section F – The Business of the Annual Conference.)

Eucharistic Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance – 7 p.m.

Under the leadership of Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr., the 2014 Oklahoma Annual Conference began with the Eucharistic Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance in the Sanctuary of St. Luke's UMC in Oklahoma City. Rev. Jasmine Smothers was guest preacher for the service. Afterward a reception honoring Rev. Smothers and the families of the deceased was held in the Christian Life Center. (See Section J - Memoirs.)

SECOND DAY – TUESDAY, MAY 27

General Session – 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Hayes officially opened the business meeting in the Freede Center of Oklahoma City University.

Episcopal Address - Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr. (See Section H – Reports.)

Laity Address – Conference Lay Leader Chuck Stewart. (See Section H – Reports.)

General Session – 10 a.m.

Teaching Time – Acts of Repentance (See Section H – Reports.)

J. D. Ward encouraged the conference members to be in better health and reminded everyone to participate in the Health Screening.

General Session – 2 p.m.

Enabling Motions - Conference Secretary Joseph Harris made the following motions, and they were adopted.

1. The digital and printed Pre-Conference Workbook shall be the official program of the 2014 session of The Oklahoma Annual Conference, subject to necessary additions and adjustments.

2. The minutes of the daily sessions, as prepared by the secretarial staff and reviewed by the Oklahoma Conference Department of Communications, shall be the official record of the conference.

3. The bar of the conference for voting, debate, discussion, and other official business of the annual conference session shall be restricted to the main floor of the Freede Center, including the stage area, the Christian Life Center, Fellowship Hall, and Youth lounge at St. Luke's UMC, with no seating division between laity and clergy.

4. All materials distributed at registration and on the conference website shall be considered in the hands of the conference members at this opening session so that action concerning them may be taken after 24 hours have passed in any cases where such time interval is required.

5. That the following be elected as assistant secretaries: Kyle Anderson, Sheri Lashley, Stephen Lashley, Reece Player, Jan Polson, Marsha Purtell, Valerie Steele; and that Barbara Perry be elected as head teller.

6. That the Thursday morning ballots for the Board of Pension & Health Benefits recommendations and the Missional Realignment of Districts recommendation be written ballots, with the results announced in the afternoon session.

Mark Ashton made a motion that CF&A in conjunction with ACC, MSMT, and DMT provide each delegate a written projected budget for the period of 2016-18 for all ministries under the umbrellas of the MSMT and DMT. This written projected budget must be in the hands of the delegates before 2 p.m. on Wednesday. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken, and it was approved.

Strategic Plan Update – Craig Stinson presented the report. He reminded us that we are in business for one thing: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We make disciples.

One new proposal is to begin a 4-year realignment of our Conference Budget, which will set aside \$700,000 this year specifically to help a church or ministry reach new people and new places. In 2015, this amounts to 4 percent of our total budget.

If this budget passes, every church and ministry in this Conference will be able to apply for funds to help make disciples.

Annual Conference Council – Donna Heldermon and Sam Powers presented the report. (See Section H – Report.) Powers spoke of the Oklahoma Annual Conference Corporation's request to budget \$1 million, over four years, for New People, New Places. To achieve that, ACC would reduce funding over the next four years for some of the existing ministries, with no increase to local church appointments.

If this proposal is passed, grant applications will be available in June to submit new ministry proposals by local churches and Conference entities.

Heldermon encouraged the conference to vote for this new proposal.

Mission and Service Ministry Team – Barry Bennett presented the report. (See Section H – Report.) Bennett introduced Karen Distefano, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries.

Distefano spoke of the work of missionaries serving in Oklahoma and of missionaries from Oklahoma serving in other countries. The GBGM Advance once again has recognized Oklahoma for the highest missionary support in the South Central Jurisdiction and the highest level of designated giving.

Office of Mission – Jeremy Basset says we cannot undo the past, but we can live in ways that demonstrate we understand what we did in the past. It is the Office of Mission's intentional commitment to serve God's mission within our Conference and, where possible, to work alongside our sisters and brothers in the OIMC in such a way that the world will know we serve a Jesus who gave himself so that ALL humanity might know all are included in God's great love.

Sarah Nichols and Charlie Ludden joined us to take on the work of Project Transformation and oversee the new Young Adult Mission and Service Office, which incorporates PT. They are that office's director and associate director, respectively.

Dr. Peter Messiah is the new part-time director of the newly shaped ministry called Prevent/Recover, previously Addiction Ministries. Dr. Messiah will spearhead a new alliance with the Conference and OCU to ensure that we remain at the cutting edge of this vital need and provide resources to our local churches.

Richard Norman spoke of the work of Disaster Response in helping those affected by the six tornadoes that hit central Oklahoma one year ago this month. God called upon 23 individuals to give two years of their lives to help with the collaborative Oklahoma Disaster Recovery Project. The United Methodist Church will serve until recovery is complete.

Basset announced that the conference "Equipping the Church for a Changing World" conference will be held on Nov 14-15, 2014, at OKC Church of the Servant with Rev. Dr. Denise Honeycutt, Deputy General Secretary of UMCOR, as the keynote speaker.

Rev. Modesto Mamani, a key leader of the Bolivian Methodist Church, was introduced as he prepares to return to Bolivia. At the invitation of Bishop Hayes, Mamani came to Oklahoma a year ago. He studied at OCU and visited a number of our churches, promoting the important partnership that exists between us. He witnessed God's grace and the love of Christ in United Methodist brothers and sisters who invited him into their homes and churches. His spirit has been renewed through his contact with the people of the Oklahoma Conference. He has learned that leadership must be in the form of service. Mamani invited Oklahomans to Bolivia. He thanked the Conference for all it has done for him and his family.

Basset spoke of working on the launch of Kingswood Institute in Fall 2014, and the partnership with OKC-Wesley UMC to house the center. And he reported that Dr. Cherian Thomas is making wonderful headway in the missional area of Community and Global Health.

Basset presented the report for adoption. It was approved. (See Section H – Reports.)

General Session – 3:50 p.m.

Board of Laity - Chuck Stewart presented the report. (See Section H – Report.) Stewart spoke of three celebrations for the conference. The first: \$2,500 was raised at today's Laity Luncheon for Water4, a project that provides a cheaper/easier way to drill for and pump water in areas where people don't have access to clean drinking water.

The second reason to celebrate: the young Oklahomans who will travel to the Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly. Youth, young adults, and adult workers from around the world will gather in the Philippines July 16-20. Each conference in the jurisdiction nominated three youth representatives to attend; we are the only conference whose nominees all were elected. They are Jay Williams from Wewoka, Kirsten Schiska from Fairview, and Katy Shewey from Enid. Young adults representing the conference are Drew Walker who attends Redlands Community College; Miranda Luster, an OSU student; Morgan Ross, a kindergarten teacher in Yukon; and Rev. Matt Franks, who is being appointed as senior pastor at Locust Grove UMC.

The third high point: the "It Worked for Us" awards. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Board of Laity awards that annually recognize a lay-led ministry in each district. The nine categories of ministry spotlight: Ministry with the Poor, Outreach-Evangelism, Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Young Adult Ministries, Family Ministries, Senior Adult Ministries, Prayer and Bible Study, and VIM/Multipurpose Ministries.

Trustees: Church Closings - Chuck Stewart celebrated the rich histories of the churches that are officially closing this year. The churches are: Barnsdall UMC, of the Bartlesville District; Carter UMC, of the Clinton District; McAlester-Christ UMC, of the McAlester District; and Agra UMC, of the Stillwater District. Stewart moved for adoption of this report and related resolutions. They were approved. (See Section I – Resolutions.)

Bishop Hayes led a prayer for those lives touched by these churches.

Department of Congregational Development - Chuck Nordean and Brad Humphrey presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.)

The Annual Conference Corporation has recently adopted a Statement of Vision, which includes the following:

"From Genesis to Revelation, the call for new people in new places is woven into the fabric of our faithfulness. Likewise, our Methodist heritage is rich with its stories of bold adventure. From open fields to hearthside conversation, good news has been shared. In places and ways that seemed scarcely imaginable, faith communities were birthed. In an effort to be faithful to our past, confident in our present, and hopeful in our future, we will pray for God's guidance. We will rethink our mission. We will do new things in new places. We will relate to new people in new ways. We will gather around hearths and step into the open fields, form new faith communities, birth new churches, seek out new expressions of sharing God's love, and make disciples so that the world might be transformed."

The Department of Congregational Development is driven by that vision. On Oct. 6, 2013, the new-church start Connect became the first congregation to be officially chartered since Edmond Chinese International UMC was chartered Oct. 19, 2003.

Semaj Vanzant is serving at the Christ Experience (formerly Christ UMC) in Oklahoma City, and God is doing wonderful things there through your prayers and financial support.

Summit is a new-church start in Edmond that is emerging as a community born out of deep relationship, faithful study, and a commitment to serve the community.

Living Water is a new-church start located in Glenpool, with its ministry centered around a coffee shop model; coffee and related foods sold during the week raise funds for the new church, and worshippers have been gathering in that same space on Sundays. Worship participation has outgrown the space and is moving across the street.

OKC-St. Luke's has a new satellite church. The Edmond campus will have all the same ministries as the downtown Oklahoma City campus.

There is a new-church start in Lawton. Lawton's population has been expanding, and there is need for a new church in this diversified community. Phil Hodson is the church planter there.

CrossTimbers in Moore has been making disciples since 2009. On June 1, 2014, its people will participate in the covenant of chartering, becoming our newest official United Methodist Church.

Congregational Development has affirmed these guiding principles for its work —

- Start a new stand-alone church each year for the next five years
- Enable district strategy teams to identify areas of potential growth and coordinate the planting of new churches
- Increase funding to include staff and facilities for the first three years

- All funding will be based on the achievement of benchmarks.
- We expect all new churches to be self-supporting after three years.

Oklahoma City University - Maggie Ball, who is retiring this year, was given an honorary degree from OCU. Rev. Ball expressed gratitude to the conference for scholarships and other financial support for OCU students. (See Section H – Reports.)

New alumni Trey and Addison Witzel, who majored in religion, married in the OCU Smith Chapel one week after graduation. They will continue their education in Boston, Mass, then plan to return to Oklahoma to continue their ministry.

Matt Patrick is preparing for a pulpit ministry and is excited to begin his senior year at OCU in Fall 2014. He is thankful for the scholarships and the call on his life to be a servant leader.

OCU President Robert Henry introduced Charles Neff, who will replace Maggie Ball as vice president of University-Church Relations. Neff wants to hear from you; let our leaders are OCU know how they can expand efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Neff encouraged the conference to recommend OCU to potential students.

Introduction of Ordinands and Those Commissioned - Board of Ordained Ministry Chairperson Linda Harker introduced Elders Registrar Jim Shepherd, who introduced those being ordained and commissioned this week. Erica Thomas introduced those who will be ordained as Deacons (See Certification of Ordination - Section E.)

Service of Commissioning and Retirement - 7 p.m.

The pre-worship concert was performed by UMC Church of the Servant Choir, in St. Luke's Sanctuary. Rev. Jasmine Smothers was the preacher for the service. Afterward a reception was held in the Christian Life Center, honoring those newly commissioned and also new retirees. (See Certificate of Ordination - page 190).

THIRD DAY – WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

General Session – 8:30 a.m.

Retiree Vignette Video – The first of several videos honoring this year's retirees was shown.

Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries - Adam Leathers presented the video highlighting the programs of the ministry. (See Section H – Reports.) Leathers introduced Brantley Tillery and thanked him for his nine years of service to CJAMM. Tillery is being appointed to pastor a church.

Leathers introduced a man who testified about finding Jesus Christ through a CJAMM program in prison. He proclaimed he is a new person and his life has been restored through the miracle of God's great love. He thanked CJAMM and the conference for being a part of his life.

Youth Workers Academy - Leslie Long presented the report. Long told of the new venture providing training not only for those working with youths but also for individuals who work with children's ministry in our churches. Rev. Dr. Charlotte Teel will coordinate the Children's Workers Academy. Both the Youth Workers and Children's Workers Academies will begin in August.

We need to identify people in our churches who have gifts to work with children and youth, and we need to invest in them, Dr. Long emphasized. Let's not lose another generation by not taking seriously our task of teaching our youngest (and often most curious) Christian disciples.

Restore Hope Ministries video - (See Section H – Reports.) The video showed many ways the funds that support Restore Hope in Tulsa are used, including food and rent assistance, for families in crisis. In 2013 more than 20,000 individuals were served by Restore Hope. Jeff Jaynes also reported the agency helped 948 people avoid homelessness — a 99 percent success rate for that program.

Cookson Hills Mission video - (See Section H – Reports.) The video presented many programs available through this mission in the tri-county area of which Cookson Hills is a part. It is one of the most poverty-stricken areas of the state.

Youth - Lauren Berlinger presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) Lauren spoke of how her life was changed for the better by becoming part of CCYM. A video was shown of many people expressing their appreciation to all who have donated to the Youth Service Fund.

United Methodist Women video – Conference UMC President Cindy Hull works with 9,600 women across the Oklahoma Conference to “Make It Happen: Turning Faith, Hope, and Love into Action,” on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. (See Section H – Reports.)

Hispanic Ministries video – Roger Parker reported on what happened during 2013 and how your support is making the difference in the lives of many. (See Section H – Reports.) These fellowships are growing and continue to serve many people, who need to hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Strategic Plan for these ministries was created in 2011, and three focus areas were emphasized: strengthening current congregations, raising leadership, and starting new faith communities. It is with great excitement that all these areas are being addressed.

Carlos Rameriz announced there are now seven Hispanic/Latino congregations. Ramirez thanked the conference and Bishop Hayes for continued support.

In January, Vida En Victoria (Life in Victory) United Methodist Hispanic congregation, part of Guymon-Victory Memorial UMC, celebrated its second anniversary. With 120 in attendance, 11 children and youths were baptized, four adults were baptized, three adults and one child reaffirmed their faith, and 34 new members were received. Vida En Victoria is the largest Hispanic congregation in the conference, and it continues to grow under the leadership of a lay pastor, Jesse Gonzalez.

United Methodist Foundation – A video highlighted the benefits of the program “Let the Church Arise.” Vinita UMC was thankful for the help it provided to that congregation and its community.

Bill Junk presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) Junk introduced Bob Long, who spoke of the Foundation’s leadership in confronting the issue of seminary debt. Long stressed the importance of raising up young pastors and the need to offset the high cost of attending seminary. The Pastor Education Fund has been set for this purpose. Long encouraged all clergy and lay delegates to lift up this issue in their churches.

The Jim Egan Legacy Award was presented to Marvin and Kaye Nelson for their Christian stewardship and philanthropy.

Discipleship Ministry Team video – Connie Gibson spoke of the many programs and tools available from DMT to help grow your congregations and enhance your ministries. (See Section H – Reports.)

Dr. Stephen Hale spoke of the work of the Evangelism Committee, including the success of the Home for Christmas program. The Denman Award was presented to lay recipient Marty Anderson and clergy recipient David Daniel.

Trevor Smith spoke of the Simple Church program being presented at Re-Ignite Workshops.

Bishop Hayes spoke of the new motorcycle ministry “Million Miles for Christ.” Hayes had spoken to the riders and received a leather vest embroidered with his biker name, The Bish.

Commission on the Small Church video – The video showed the many programs and ministries carried out through rural and small-membership churches. (See Section H – Reports.)

Warren Peck encouraged members of smaller churches to expand outreach in their communities.

Treasurer’s Report - Brian Bakeman presented the 2013 audited financial report of the Oklahoma Annual Conference. (See Section H – Reports.)

Many financial decisions made by the Conference are based on the fact that the number of people joining our churches and the average worship attendance has dropped significantly over the past seven years, Bakeman said. We cannot continue to do business the way we have been for the past couple of decades. Decisions need to be made this week that refocuses our financial resources to reach new people. We need to do this while we remain a financially strong conference.

He attributed our overall asset increase to the excellent work by the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation and General Board of Pensions in managing our investments.

Bakeman’s hope is that the retiree health insurance proposal will pass on Thursday. If it does, the Conference financial leaders plan to request a new actuarial report on our post-retirement liability. Bakeman hopes that will result in a substantial reduction, so that we will be able to post our liability to our audit next year, which will result in a major reduction in our net assets.

Bakeman recommended approval of the audited financial report. It was approved.

Young Adult video – The video highlighted the mission opportunities available for young adults in the conference. (See Section H – Reports.)

Several participants expressed their appreciation for the Young Adult retreat at Camp Egan and

how it has ignited a passion for Christ in their lives.

Wellness Committee – Debbie Ware encouraged everyone to participate in the health screening to receive the wellness discounts for their monthly health insurance premiums in 2015.

General Session – 10:40 a.m.

Lydia Patterson Institute – David Severe introduced President Socorro de Anda. (See Section H – Reports.) De Anda presented a video celebrating LPI's first 100 years and dreams for the next 100 years. Help us make the next 100 years better than the first, she urged.

The centennial celebration was held two weeks before this Oklahoma Annual Conference. It honored distinguished alumni and received the highest achievement award given in El Paso, Texas.

In May, 69 seniors graduated, and all are going to college. Bequer Gomez will be an intern at the Oklahoma United Methodist Ministry Center this summer, before attending OCU in the fall.

The institute is in the midst of a capital building campaign. The goal is to raise \$15 million to improve the buildings on campus. So far \$6 million has been raised. The Woodworth Estate of Oklahoma is funding the new science lab. Your money and prayers are changing lives at LPI every day.

Leadership Development Ministry Team - Dianne Peters thanked the congregations that take up offerings for Peace With Justice Sunday. That support allowed LDMT to send laity and clergy to a relevant conference in Nashville. (See Section H – Reports.)

In developing a new program for laity and clergy, LDMT is working to host the mediation training skills institute that is directed by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. The goal is 10 teams, each composed of one clergy and one lay person, to help resolve conflict in a church or community.

LEAD Seminars are available throughout the year for clergy.

Saint Paul School of Theology at OCU - Elaine Robinson presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) It has been a great six years in Oklahoma City. By August, a total of 25 students will have graduated from Saint Paul at OCU. Three of those are serving in other annual conferences or denominations, meaning 22 are new pastors in pulpits in Oklahoma.

Saint Paul's mission is about preparing persons who have the knowledge and skills to be excellent leaders of our churches. Andy Nelms and Adam Shahan, who will graduate this summer, spoke of their experience attending the seminary.

Saint Paul at OCU has received full accreditation; the seminary now can offer four degree programs and every class can be offered here, ending a requirement to take some classes in Kansas City, Mo.

We would be happier with more students, Robinson said. Those students come out of local churches, and you are best recruiters. If we work together we will have great leaders to grow our churches.

Academy for Part-Time Local Pastors video – Max Rudd spoke of his 38-year ministry as a Local Pastor. His brother, Lynn Rudd, has been a supply pastor for six months and now is attending the academy. Lynn Rudd said he appreciates the knowledge and information he gains in the academy. Jose Estrada spoke of his own powerful academy experience. If you are feeling called to be a bi-vocational pastor, please contact your district superintendent or Diana Northcutt.

Perkins School of Theology – (See Section H – Reports.) Dean William B. Lawrence was proud to share his vision for the next leaders of the 21st century. Most people who hear the call to ministry are junior-high age when they experience it. We need to offer to introduce them to educational opportunities, the dean said. He thanked Oklahoma United Methodists for sending students to Perkins.

Commission on Episcopacy - Tom Harrison presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) Harrison expressed appreciation to Bishop Robert and Dee Hayes for their dedication and service to our conference.

Circle of Care - Don Batson, president of the United Methodist of Circle of Care, thanked the conference for enabling the agency to minister to the children and youth of Oklahoma.

David Beal spoke about what churches' and individuals' support of Circle of Care does for children. Circle of Care has been serving them for almost 100 years. More than 50 years ago, Beal and his two sisters were placed with the Methodist Children's Home. They received the love and care they needed, he described. He now chairs the board of directors for COC.

A foster parent, in the Child SHARE program since 2008, spoke of the wonderful experience of fostering four children. Child SHARE supported the family through some difficult times.

COC recognized the top five churches in terms of per person giving in 2013: Nicoma Park, North OKC District; Cheyenne Valley, Woodward District; Broken Arrow-First, Tulsa District; Lucien, Enid District; and Whitehead, Ardmore District.

The top five churches honored for overall giving to COC are: Asbury, Boston Avenue, and First UMCs, Tulsa District; OKC-Church of the Servant, North OKC District; and Broken Arrow-First, Tulsa District.

Children of COC thanked delegates personally for their love and support.

Commission on Religion and Race - Rose Marie Leroy presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) On Oct. 4, 2014, CORR will host a workshop at OCU, dealing with prejudice. The speaker will be Paul Saltzman, a filmmaker and the CEO of Moving Beyond Prejudice.

If we are to survive, our hearts must be transformed, and transformation comes from opening ourselves to the grace that only God can bring, said Leroy.

Special Offering video – Asbury College in the Philippines is one recipient of the special offering received this week.

Commission on the Status and Role of Women video – COSROW strives to challenge The United Methodist Church to work for full and equal participation of women in the total life of the denomination, including ordination and policy-making. (See Section H – Reports.)

COSROW recognized the women who are being commissioned and ordained this week in the conference worship services. (See Certification of Ordination - page 190).

The Frances E. Willard Award was presented to Dr. Sara Nordholm Brown of Tahlequah-First.

Special Offering video – The second recipient of this week's special offering is UMCOR Typhoon Relief.

Roundtable Discussion - 2 p.m.

Discussions were held in the Christian Life Center of St. Luke's UMC on three proposals scheduled for vote on the conference's final day.

Service of Ordination - 7 p.m.

The pre-worship concert was performed by St. Luke's Chancel Choir. The service was held in St. Luke's sanctuary, and preacher was Bishop Hayes. Afterward a reception was held honoring Bishop and Mrs. Hayes and those newly ordained. (See Certificate of Ordination - page 190).

FOURTH DAY – THURSDAY, MAY 29

General Session – 8:30 a.m.

Board of Ordained Ministry – Lesly Broadbent opened the report. As board members work with entities across our annual conference, to empower women and men for God's call, they are committed to examining and adjusting our processes as we make "All Things New." Broadbent noted the board makes a significant impact on the lives of both clergy and laity, because incoming clergy will serve and minister with the next generation of United Methodists in Oklahoma.

BOM Chairperson Linda Harker thanked the executive committee and board members, as well as Chuck Nordean and Connie Barnett, for all their work.

Greetings from Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference - David Wilson expressed appreciation to Oklahoma Conference for its continued financial support for OIMC. The Oklahoma Conference represents the second largest funding source for OIMC, he said. "Your giving shows that you are confident in our ministry. Thank you for that encouragement."

OIMC will hold its 170th Annual Conference Session in Antlers in June.

OIMC quickly activated a disaster response team after the 2013 spring tornadoes and was able to give many Native families immediate help. Wilson said OIMC is thankful to be part of the overall disaster response effort with the Oklahoma Conference. He thanked Jeremy Basset, who helped ensure OIMC was included in the long-term response.

Base salary for an OIMC pastor with a master's degree is several thousand dollars below the minimum salary for most annual conferences. OIMC held its second gala in October, in Midwest City, to raise funds for the endowment for OIMC pastoral support. The hope is to continue to grow the endowment to replace decreasing funding from general agencies to OIMC. Approximately \$65,000 was raised at the gala.

Wilson expressed thanks to Bishop Hayes and the readers and other presenters for leading Oklahoma Annual Conference delegates and guests yesterday in the educational time that was the Act of Repentance. The Cherokee Choir had a great time sharing their hymns.

Earlier in 2014, Bartlesville District Superintendent George Warren contacted OIMC leaders about the closing of Commerce UMC, asking if OIMC would be interested in the facility. OIMC has desired to connect with the 10 tribes in that part of the state, Wilson said, and welcomed the chance to restart the site as an OIMC church. A full-time pastor will be appointed to begin the ministry of creating that church, which will be called All Nations UMC.

Wilson also talked with McAlester District Superintendent Darrell Cates about the closing of the church in Weleetka, which is in the midst of the Muscogee Creek Nation. That church was scheduled to hold its final service June 1, and OIMC representatives will be present to mark the transition of that facility into that conference.

Wilson invited Oklahoma Conference members to attend the OIMC annual gathering in Antlers, for worship, food, fellowship, and even some business.

Camps video – (See Section H – Reports.) Ken Long, director of Cross Point Camp, thanked donors for making possible two new cabins and facilitating new activities.

David Combs, director of Canyon Camp, thanked the volunteers who made new bunk beds and installed new showers in cabins, as well as financial donors who made other improvements possible.

Josh Pulver, director of Egan Camp, expressed thanks, too. Your churches' apportionment dollars make ministries possible at each of our campsites. To take camping ministry to the next level, he said, we need your help by bringing groups to camp and by helping identify potential donors. Egan has held its first fundraising golf tournament.

On behalf of all the directors, Pulver thanked Randy McGuire for his work and dedication as director of the Camp & Retreat Ministry. McGuire is being appointed to pastor a church.

Rick Trobaugh presented McGuire with a plaque for his 18 years of service and also a robe made by campers, to wear on his first Sunday in his new assignment.

Annual Conference Corporation - Judy Benson asked that pages 5-8 of the Round Table report be accepted as the printed report, instead of what was in the Pre-Conference Workbook. It was approved. (See Section H – Reports.) The role of the Oklahoma United Methodist Corporation is to ask questions such as "How can the resources that God has blessed us with be MORE effectively utilized in carrying out God's Mission?" The corporation looks at our conference from a total perspective, not a single focus, because it is the only group in which both administration and programming groups are represented.

The corporation has prayed and discussed churchwide issues. They have brought forth their best recommendations, and they believe, if those are approved, local churches will be cared for better and have lower apportionments. Health benefits will be improved, new churches will be started, and more people will come to know Jesus Christ.

Board of Pension and Health Benefits - Mark Commons presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) Commons was pleased to report that more than 99 percent of the clergy are making at least 1 percent contributions to their UMPIP accounts and receive the 1 percent match.

The board is also pleased that clergy are making pension savings a priority, through contributions toward their UMPIP accounts, as well as participating in the Wellness Program.

Commons encouraged all clergy to attend a Clergy Benefits Retreat. One session focuses on long-term planning for the future; the other is designed for clergy nearing retirement.

Wellness Chairperson J.D. Ward spoke of the new Amazing Pace walking program. He also stressed the importance of participating in the Health Screening, which results in a \$10 monthly savings in your health insurance premium, and there are other incentives for even more savings.

The Wellness plan partner is now Personal Health Partners. Ward encouraged all to pursue a healthier lifestyle, which can lengthen your life and lower the cost of health insurance.

There are five BPHB reports to be considered and ratified today. Report No. 3 deals with retiree benefits and will be voted on last, by written ballot.

Common presented the remainder of Report No. 1, to be accepted as written. It was approved.

Common presented the remained of Report No. 2, to be accepted as written. It was approved.

Common presented Report No. 4 for adoption. It was approved.
Common presented Report No. 5 for adoption. It was approved.

Discussion and Ballot - Report No. 3 of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits was presented for approval.

Mark Ashton presented the following motion for approval: "I move that all voting on the realignment of districts, new people new places, and upon the 2015 budget be held by written printed ballots." It was seconded, and the motion carried.

Ballot #1 (Report No. 3 of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits) was taken and received by the Tellers. Results will be announced this afternoon.

General Session – 10:30 a.m.

Church and Society - Mark Whitley introduced Briana Tobey, a member of the General Board of Church and Society, and Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society.

Henry-Crowe explained that the Board educates, advocates, and resources communities on social justice issues. One major issue currently before the Board is the trafficking of boys ages 8-9 and girls ages 11-13. The Board can provide resources and materials to the annual conferences. She said it is an honor to serve on the General Board with Tobey and commended her to the delegates.

Missional Realignment of Districts – Judy Benson presented the following motion for approval: "On behalf of the Board of Laity, the Cabinet, and the Annual Conference Corporation, I move missional realignment of the number of districts of the Oklahoma United Methodist Conference, reducing the number from 12 to 8, to be effective at the end of Annual Conference 2015."

The motion was seconded.

Discussion and Ballot – After much discussion, the motion for Missional Realignment of Districts was presented for approval.

Ballot #2 (Missional Realignment of Districts) was taken and received by the Tellers. Results will be announced this afternoon.

Bob Long brought forth a motion to reconsider today's earlier vote to use a printed ballot on all votes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Bob Long brought forth a motion that only the final vote on the 2015 budget proposal be by printed ballot and all other votes will be by hand. The motion was seconded and approved.

Council on Finance and Administration -Tom Junk presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) Junk reported that the Conference received a clean audit again this year.

With the exception of Item No. 3, which was the proposed Conference Budget for 2015, Junk moved the acceptance of Items 1-17. It was approved.

Junk moved the adoption of the 2015 Conference Budget.

Discussion and Ballot – Ballot #3 (2015 Conference Budget) was taken and received by the Tellers. The results will be announced this afternoon.

General Session – 2 p.m.

Report of votes - Joseph Harris announced the results of the morning's balloting.

Ballot #1 (Report No. 3 of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits)
Yes: 95% with 772 votes. No: 4% with 35 votes. Abstain: 8 votes. Invalid: 1 vote.

Ballot #2 (Missional Realignment of Districts)
Yes: 81% with 696 votes. No: 18% with 154 votes. Abstain: 10 votes. Invalid: 1 vote.

Ballot #3 (2015 Conference Budget)
Yes: 68% with 568 votes. No: 31% with 259 votes. Abstain: 9 votes. Invalid: 3 votes.

Communications – Sam Welch presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) The Communications Department consists of two parts, the Communications Board and the Conference Communications staff. The board consists of both laity and clergy. Ten board members presented 17 Re-Ignite Workshop classes in nine districts in early 2014.

Welch said Oklahoma has the greatest Conference Communications staff in the denomination. Annual Conference is being reported via Facebook and Twitter as it occurs, and the sessions also are streamed live. The conference has a YouTube channel, where you'll find videos produced by the department. Responsive Web Design has been applied to okumc.org, for optimal viewing of pages on your mobile device. The Pre-Conference Workbook and other resources are being created digitally, available for download, to reduce print costs.

Caitlin Congdon, manager of Training and Development at United Methodist Communications, the denomination's media agency, thanked Oklahomans for their work making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. She led a seminar for delegates, about vital congregations, at 6:15 a.m. today.

One division of UMCOM, based in Nashville, Tenn., promotes the Imagine No Malaria campaign. The agency is partnered with the global UM community, sharing stories and undergirding ministry through various media platforms. Through the Flickr photostream of United Methodist News Service, another UMCOM division, you are encouraged to share great photos of your church's life.

Rethink Church, also birthed by UMCOM, has entered its sixth year. This campaign casts light on the meaning of church, as a 24/7 movement, not constrained by walls. Check out its Facebook page.

UMCOM and the Oklahoma Dept. of Comm. collaborated on messages of hope in TV ads and on billboards after the 2013 tornadoes here. Theme was "That's church."

Find-A-Church is available to churches, to inform people about with your programming.

UMCOM also offers online training for churches and agencies.

Introduction of Chaplains Under Appointment – Bishop Hayes invited the chaplains to introduce themselves and summarize their various ministries. He then prayed for them.

United Methodist Men video – Bill Chissoe reported on the ministries of UMMen. Around the conference, they continue to bless and serve their churches and communities.

Chissoe continues to work toward his goal of creating a UMMen communication network across the conference. Establishing leadership in each district continues to be a work in progress. A Facebook page promote UMMen activities. On it, Chissoe has written a "Man to Man" article, hoping men will connect through commenting on the blog.

Chissoe asked delegates to join him in his efforts to increase communication and grow men's ministry in Oklahoma. It's not just about numbers, he said; it's about "helping men to grow in Christ, so others may know Christ."

Equitable Compensation - Larry Bauman presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) Bauman presented three items of business for action.

1. Schedule of Minimum Compensation, effective Jan. 1, 2015. It was approved.
2. Item D – Resolution from the Oklahoma Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. (See Section I – Resolutions.) It was approved. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requested authority to make any changes to the resolution's verbiage or style as required by the General Conference. It was approved.
3. Item B – Oklahoma United Methodist Conference Arrearage Policy, effective June 1, 2014. It was approved.

Bauman requested adoption of the entire report. It was approved.

Campus Ministry video – Katie Hill presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) There are 15 Wesley Foundations in the Oklahoma Conference, along with five church-based ministries, that serve hundreds of students weekly.

One student gave witness about her faith-growing experiences through the Wesley Foundation at OU. She asked UMs to continue to encourage students to get involved in their campus ministry.

Hill thanked all the campus ministers, who are preaching and spreading the word of Jesus Christ on college campuses around the state. The campus ministers introduced themselves.

Conference Board of Trustees – Jerry Perryman presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) A video highlighted the insurance challenges the conference faces. With the ending of the PACT program, the Ministry Protection Committee is no longer needed and will disband.

The Conference Board of Trustees will now be responsible for signing any legal documents

regarding the sale of any church property.

Perryman moved that the report be received. It was approved.

United Methodist Senior Living Facilities video – Featuring many residents and staff of U retirement communities, the video underscored the importance of a faith-based, safe, caring place to live in our later years.

John Harned, on behalf of all the directors of the retirement centers, thanked the conference for its support. Steve Vinson of the United Methodist Association presented an award to Epworth Living Inc. from the Eagle Accreditation Program.

Archives and History video and resolution – Christina Wolf described the programs that the Commission on Archives and History helps promote. (See Section H – Reports.) Major initiatives include the Oral History Project and the Historic Site designation program.

Tom Albin spoke of the benefits of joining the Oklahoma United Methodist Historical Society. History matters! Individuals and churches that understand their moments in history are better equipped to make new discoveries, overcome mistakes, and pursue new ways to be effective in the primary task of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Your Oklahoma Historical Society provides coaching and guidance for anyone interested in United Methodist history, and trains anyone interested in becoming a local church historian. The Society helps its members with research, writing, and the publication of articles, pamphlets, and books related to the history of Methodism in Oklahoma and in your local congregation.

John Beckman brought forth “A Resolution Relating to the Designation of First United Methodist Church, Stillwater, Oklahoma, as a United Methodist Historic Site.” It was approved. (See Section I – Resolutions.)

Standing Rules - Robert Rose presented the report. Rose brought forth recommended changes to the Standing Rules for approval. They were approved. The corrected version of the Standing Rules is printed in this *Journal*. (See Section K – Standing Rules.)

It was recommended that the Statement of Relationship for Epworth Living Inc. be accepted for approval. It was approved.

It was recommended that the Statement of Relationship for CJAMM be accepted for approval. It was approved. (See Section I – Resolutions.)

Nominations - Darrell Cates presented the report. (See Section H – Reports.) Cates is retiring as chairperson of the Committee on Nominations, and he introduced Donna Dodson as the new chairperson.

Cates presented the report for adoption. It was approved. Dodson moved to enable the committee and conference staff to correct and perfect the report in light of pending appointments. The report in the *Journal* will be the official report. It was approved.

Final Motions - Joseph Harris moved that any materials not yet acted upon be accepted in the record of the conference. It was approved.

Harris expressed his thanks to the assistant secretaries, the tellers, and his dedicated staff. Harris thanked GNTV for that company’s audio/video expertise, which helps make our Annual Conference a success.

Bishop Hayes introduced and thanked his administrative assistant, Pam Weatherford. He also noted that Pam’s husband, Chuck, is music director at OKC-Church of the Servant and directed the choir at this week’s Commissioning and Retirement Service.

Bishop Hayes thanked Janice Sharp, who led the Annual Conference worship design team.

The 2014 Annual Conference was officially adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Service of Appointment and Sending Forth – 4 p.m.

The service was led by Chuck Stewart. Bishop Hayes delivered the message, and the Cabinet members read aloud the changes in clergy appointments.

CERTIFICATION OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on the 27th day of May, 2014, I commissioned, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Elders:

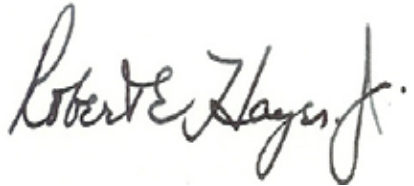
David K. Gardner, Jennifer E. Logsdon-Kellogg, Richard "Cap" McIlInay, Andrew L. Nelms, Shyloe Hailey O'Neal, Coy J. Remer, Adam Wayne Shahan, Desiree L. Sharp, and Joel D Thompson.

On the 28th day of May, 2014, I ordained, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following elders:

Kyle Matthew Anderson, James Edward Cinocca, Jr., April Ann Coates, Temple Charlene Diehl, Michael James Dye, Adam Leathers, Gerard Nsabimana, Adam James Ricks, Matthew B. Scaper, and Jack Fisher Terrell-Wilkes.

On the 28th day of May, 2014, I ordained, under the election of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, the following Deacons:

Cynthia Jean Culver and Harold Osborne Hamilton.



A Bishop of The United Methodist Church

OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

The foregoing proceedings, with reports herein published, were adopted by the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church at its forty-seventh Annual Session, held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 26-29, 2014, as the official record, and we hereby certify that they are correct.



A Bishop of The United Methodist Church



Secretary of the Annual Conference