

***Daily Proceedings***  
***Minutes of the One Hundred and Forty-Sixth Session***  
***of the Central Texas Conference***

**WACO CONVENTION CENTER**  
**Waco, Texas**  
**June 3-6, 2012**

**FIRST SESSION - SUNDAY EVENING, June 3, 2012**  
***OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE***

The opening worship service of the one hundred and forty-sixth session of the Central Texas Conference was held at Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, Waco, Texas. The 7:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music was conducted by the St. James United Methodist Church Choir Temple, Texas.

The Celebration of Christian Worship began at 7:30 P.M. with the Call to Worship by DeDe Jones, Jill Danklefs and Sam Titsworth. Rev. Chris Mesa, host pastor and senior pastor of Austin Avenue UMC, Waco, gave Words of Welcome and Introduced Bishop J. Michael Lowry who introduced the Conference Preacher, Dr. Joy Moore, associate dean for Black Church Studies and Church Relations at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C. and teaches in the area of homiletics and the practice of ministry. Dr. Moore used as her text Acts 2: 1-13 in a sermon titled, "The Word on the Street". The music was led by the St. Andrew's UMC, Arlington Celebration Choir and by the St. James UMC, Temple Choir who joined with them during the offertory. Rev. Don Scott, Host District Superintendent, also participated in the service. The service ended with Bishop Lowry issuing a "Call to Discipleship" and the congregation following the lead of the choirs in singing, "You Are Good".

**SECOND SESSION - MONDAY MORNING, June 4, 2012**  
***CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION***

The Clergy Executive Session was held in Chisholm Hall in the Waco Convention Center. It was presided over by Bishop Mike Lowry who called the session to order. A few moments were taken to center ourselves as the Bishop read scripture from Isaiah 40.

Dr. Mike McKee, Chair of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry along with other members of the board, presented the report to the Session. Dr. McKee introduced the Board of Ordained Ministry members and he expressed thanks for them and the work they do. "Qualifying persons for ministry is very serious business and they do their job as service to God and the annual conference."

Those who were presented for election as full members and subsequent ordination were: (Question 31 BAC)

- a. Deacons – Kay Lynn Lancaster, Gregory Paul "Greg" Shapley, Amy Tate-Almy

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- b. Elders –. Tae Sun Beckling, Kyland Cason Dobbins, Michael Harry “Mike” Love, William Stephen “Steve” Moss IV, Robert F. Nimocks IV, Estee Carol Valendy

Those who were presented for ordination as an Elder and transfer from deacon in full connection were: (§309.3) (Question 33.b BAC)

- i. Holly Clarinda Dittrich – Candler School of Theology, M. Div., 2002
- ii. Kevin Robert Wilson – Brite, M. Div., 1999
- iii. Jane Elizabeth Woodward – Brite, M.T.S., 1993, M. Div., 2012

Presented and elected as Provisional Members: (Question 28 BAC)

- a. Provisional Deacons (under provisions of §324.4a.c)
  - i. Joy Roberson
- b. Provisional Elders (under provisions of 324.4a, b? (v):
  - i. Daniel Koos Hawkins – Perkins, M. Div., projected graduation 05/2013
  - ii. David James Ray – Brite, M. Div., 05/2010
  - iii. Michael James “Mike” Rodden – Brite, M. Div., 12/2011
  - iv. Margaret “Meg” Witmer-Faile – Brite, M. Div., 10/2006
  - v. Walter “Harrell” Braddock, Jr. – Brite, M. Div., 12/2010
  - vi. James Lawrence “Larry” Duggins – Perkins, M. Div., 05/2011 (begins D. Min., Fall 2012)
  - vii. John Richard Nader – Brite, M. Div., 05/2010
  - viii. Charles Bradley “Brad” Slaten – Austin Presbyterian, M. Div., 05/2011
  - ix. Arlene Infante Turner – Perkins, M. Div., 05/2011, (begins D. Min., Fall, 2011)

Those who are continued as provisional members in preparation for ordination as a deacon (PD) (§326.1): (Question 29.a BAC)

- i. Darlene Low Grant

Those who are continued as provisional members in preparation for ordination as an elder (PE) (§326.2): (Question 29.b BAC)

- i. Walter “Harrell” Braddock, Jr. – Admitted 2011 (Brite, M. Div., 12/2010)
- ii. James Lawrence “Larry” Duggins – Admitted 2011 (Perkins, M. Div., 05/2011 (begins D. Min., Fall 2011)
- iii. Janice Gregory – currently FLOA – Admitted 2007 (Brite, M. Div., 2011)
- iv. John Richard Nader – Admitted 2011 (Brite, M. Div., 05/2010)
- v. Jamie Lee Peterson – currently Voluntary Leave – Admitted 2009 (Austin Presbyterian, M. Div., 2009)
- vi. Sandralyn Lou “Sandy” Pierce – Admitted 2010 (Perkins, M. Div., 2007)
- vii. Charles Bradley “Brad” Slaten – Admitted 2011 (Austin Presbyterian, M. Div., 05/2011)
- viii. Elizabeth Watson-Martin – Admitted 2007 (Southwest Baptist, M. Div., 1989)
- ix. Harris Eugene Worchester - Admitted 2006 (Brite, M. Div., 2006)

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The full report was submitted to the annual conference and appears in this journal in business questions 17-75 pages 106-124.

## **LAY SESSION**

The session was held in McLennan Hall 208-209 of the Waco Convention Center under the leadership of Mr. Steve McIver, Conference Lay Leader and Dr. Gil Rendle, Conference Teacher.

## **FELLOWSHIP OF LOCAL PASTOR SESSION**

This session was held in McLennan Hall 207 of the Waco Convention Center under the leadership of Dave Goodrich.

## **THIRD SESSION - MONDAY MORNING, June 4, 2012 CALL TO ORDER**

Annual Conference was called to order by Bishop Mike Lowry. He referred us to the Worship Guide that had a long biography of our Conference Preacher, Dr. Joy Moore and welcomed her to our conference. Bishop Lowry introduced General Charles "Ray" Bailey. There are only 2 general ranks in the armed services for chaplains, and one of those is in our conference, General Ray Bailey, from the West District. He was recognized by Bishop Lowry and given a Bible. General Bailey then gave a word of greeting.

Bishop Lowry called us into worship.

## **JOINT CLERGY/LAY MEMORIAL WORSHIP SERVICE,**

The joint Clergy/Lay Memorial Worship Service was led by Bishop Lowry assisted by liturgists Dr. Luther Henry, Rev. Carol Woods, Mr. Aaron Kenninger, Rev. Rankin Koch, Mr. Steve McIver and musicians Owen McKnight and Dr. Andrew Hudson. Dr. Joy Moore preached using Isaiah 6: 1-8 as her text in a sermon titled, "Those Who Come Behind Us". Those lay persons, in each district, and those clergy and surviving spouses of our conference, who had passed away during the year were listed in the Worship Guide and remembered in a special liturgy and during a time of the "Cross of Resurrection".

Bishop Lowry then called the Annual Conference back to order.

## **WELCOME TO WACO DISTRICT**

Rev. Don Scott, Host District Superintendent, welcomed the CTAC to Waco.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE RANDY WILD**

Dr. Randy Wild outlined the various items needed for the smooth operation of our time together. Registration went well online. Over 90% of our 1000+ people registered online. Registration is still open but at this point is handled at the District

Administrator table in the back, along with any changes when alternates are replacing a member from a local church.

- i. Name badges are different colors for different groups.
- ii. Lost and Found is in the Hospitality Room, Room 213.
- iii. Forms for Sending Greetings/Sympathy, making a motion, amending a motion, or corrections to printed reports, receiving Hotel tax credits etc. can be found in the back of the Preliminary report were noted and explained.
- iv. Extra forms are available at the registration tables and the district superintendent tables.

Dr. Randy Wild called attention to the packet on the table titled, "Recommendation for the Conference Service Center Office Relocation". This is on the agenda for introduction Wednesday and added two names at the back of the handout to the Building Committee: Deborah Crumpton, Dennis Reycek.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** **RANKIN KOCH**

Rev. Koch moved that the bar of the conference be set as the people sitting at the tables of the conference until the conference is sent forth. The motion passed. He announced that the Agenda was as printed in the preliminary report on pages 9-13 with necessary changes as needed.

The Consent Calendar was explained and stated that it was printed on page 14 of the preliminary report and page 2 of the Addendum and the purpose is stated on page 13. Vote on the consent agenda will be held Wednesday. The per diem was set and listed on page 38.

Pages 38 contain the Agenda Committee's report. Rev. Koch thanked the Bishop and Georgia Adamson; Pat and Patricia Stroman, Chris Mesa, and all others in places of leadership for carrying out the Conference. The motion was made to accept the report. (Approved) Bishop expressed his appreciation for Rankin Koch and the entire Agenda Task Force.

### **CFA INTRODUCTION OF 2013 BUDGET** **JOHN MCKELLAR**

Dr. McKellar officially put the 2013 Budget on the table for adoption on Wednesday, June 6th. This is a revised budget based on changes enacted at General Conference and reminded everyone that we will only be voting on the highlighted items. He invited anyone who would like to discuss or ask questions regarding the 2013 budget to a special Q & A session to be held today immediately following adjournment in the front of Chisholm Hall.

Rev. David Adkins, First Round Rock. Moved for suspension of rules, (Preliminary Report, p. 114, Financial Best Practices). Seconded. Timely as well as time sensitive issue. Suspension allows us to deal with an issue before CF&A and Trustees. For action at this conference, this rule will have to be suspended (the requirement of a full year notice). Desire of the conference to be able to discuss and act. Refers to money already in the budget, which reflects a reduction in

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apportionments for the churches. 2/3 vote required. No one at a microphone. (Approved overwhelmingly.)

## **NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

**GEORGIA ADAMSON**

Dr. Adamson presented the slate of nominations. See stapled document on the tables. She explained that much of what has happened this year is to realign district representation. Formal action will be taken on Wednesday.

There is an opening on p. 1, Central District, to be filled by the District. Two appointees on following pages will be found once the board is in place.

Campus Ministry Boards. Three are still working on those. They will be completed later.

## **EPISCOPAL ADDRESS**

**BISHOP LOWRY**

Commercial from Super Bowl television was shown to begin the Address. Bishop Lowry said that sometimes reality is different from supposition. We hope for magic, but magic is fundamentally false! Often in our work, what appears to be “magic” is God at work due to our diligence and efforts. Bishop Lowry thanks God for all in the Conference, and all of their work. He went on to speak about God in action—“God Sightings.”

The book, Remember the Future, by Robert Schnase was handed out to every member of the conference. Bishop Lowry thanked all who made it possible to do this. The Bishop pointed out p. 31, as an example of how to use the book for exercises within the local church. Also p. 39, he pointed out that the book gives concrete ways that the committees in the church might use this book, such as Administrative Council. Page 97. “It’s not a book to read by yourself,” but to use in groups. “Pray as if everything depended on God and work as if everything depended on you. (John Wesley).”

## **CELEBRATING COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES: LYDIA PATTERSON**

**SOCORRO DEANDA**

Dr. DeAnda showed a short video emphasizing the ministry and acknowledging that the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lydia Center Institute will be celebrated next year.

She then spoke briefly on things that have been happening on/across the border, such as the violence of recent history. They lost students, but have recovered their numbers now. 70% of their students come from across the border (with Mexico).

She highlighted the accomplishments of some of the students. \$1.4 million in scholarships was awarded to a class of 51 students. 100% of their students are going to college every year and 2/3 of the cost of the students’ education is supported by the apportionments from the UM churches. Thank you for sharing.

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## **HOLY LAND 2013**

**SCOTT YOUNGBLOOD & PAULA KING & BISHOP LOWRY**

A video was shown about the upcoming trip to the Holy Land. Brochure on the table is also a lunch ticket for those who are interested in eating with them today at Ninfa's. The total cost of the trip is under \$3,000 per person. Bishop Lowry expressed his deep conviction about educational opportunity and in particular this trip to the Holy Land. It deepens faith, understanding, and will help the way you read and understand scripture.

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## **ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

**HENRY RADDE & CALVIN SCOTT**

Henry Radde invited everyone to their table to purchase the CTC History book for \$25.00. Every church needs a copy.

Calvin Scott: Highlighted his goals toward archiving historical documents for the Conference by starting an electronic data base, performing oral history interviews, and reminding us that history keeping does not begin at the conference level, but with the churches.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RANDY WILD**

1. TMF dinner will be held at 6:00, not 5:30
2. Hilton Hotel dinner area will have a buffet lunch for \$10.95
3. \$4,135.80 annual conference offering total as of last night.

## **ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH**

Rev. Rankin Koch, South District Superintendent, gave prayer and blessing for lunch.

## **FOURTH SESSION - MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 4, 2012**

**AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION**

The session began at 2:00 p.m. with Owen McKnight leading us in singing "Bless the Lord My Soul" and a prayer led by Rev. Carol Woods.

Bishop Lowry introduced Gil Rendle

## **TEACHING SESSION #1**

**DR. GIL RENDLE**

"The Wilderness of a Paradigm Shift" Conversation about the UMC has been going on for about 10 years. This is us trying to find our way in the wilderness. Conversation is the currency of change of how we move into the Wilderness of a Paradigm Shift. Wilderness is a place of chaos, a place where we have already lost our way. A biblical term; an idea that comes clearly out of scripture. When someone goes into the wilderness comes out changed, headed in a new direction.

Paradigm Shift in our language comes from the sciences. A set of assumptions that set our world and our lives on end. Those assumptions sometimes have to change. The church in the wilderness is trying to find its way. We have moved from Christianity to Post Christianity. What we need to recognize is that everything goes back to zero. We have to test, to question some of our assumptions

“The wilderness of deep change”. When an organization or institution has lost its connection with its own environment there is only one choice: either deep change or slow death. Quote from Deep Change by Robert Quinn.

It's not about poor leadership. We've been looking around trying to find out whose fault this is. There is no fault. If Christian faith is to remain alive then we have to shift with that around us.

We are going to have to go into Wilderness experiences.....change. Wandering is important in the wilderness. If we will be alive again in Christ we will have to wander and make mistakes. An important issue is trust – in God, in our leaders, in each other.

The church, clergy, members can no longer be the object of our affection! Belonging to a certain church used to be the real driver. We started to worry about whether our members were happy ...”If everybody is happy it must be okay.” But actually, if everyone is happy, something is wrong.

The church “needs to be appropriately uncomfortable with itself.” We have become dependent – wanting and waiting for someone else to solve our problems. That may have worked in an earlier culture ...

God needs to be able to use the church, not just love it. Also, we can love the church too much, and then we just want to protect it (instead of using it).

A Simple Systems Model -- Edwards Deming – Simple Systems Theory  
Input – nouns, resources  
Throughput - verbs  
Output

#### Non-Profit Dilemmas

Non-profits routinely do not know what they produce.  
Systems that can't measure their outcomes commonly measure input.  
In non-profit systems inputs are commonly mistaken for outcomes.

#### The Shifting UM Paradigm

We are no longer called to make members; we are called to make disciples.  
We are the resources, the input, not the focus or the output.  
Thoughts, behaviors, feelings will all have to be dealt with.

#### Three stages of change (William Bridges)

- I. Letting go
- II. The confusion of the in-between time - the chaos – the wilderness – the wandering
- III. Starting new

We always want to start in stage 3 because stage 1 is painful! Confusion is unsettling.

This wilderness is no longer about us; the reason we are here is not about us or our local church. The reason that you and I are here is because we have been called to a great purpose. In order to do that we are going to we have to let go. Then we have to put up with the confusion of the in-between time. So much of what we have counted on has begun to change. When change occurs people tend to get unhappy. We have to stop being institutional and serve the purpose of the church.

**D**

If you have the mind of Christ within you, you no longer think about yourself, but think about the larger world you live in. You no longer worry about having the power, but are willing to empty yourself. We have a message that can help people who are afraid of zombies and vampires. We cannot start something new and be heard in a changed world if you and I do not do the hard work of letting go. And the wandering that belongs to the in between time. Thank you for what you are doing, the leadership that you give, for your prayers which are continuous, and for your willingness to wander with me and others.

Bishop Lowry stated that he would pause for special moment of privilege then called Tom Harkrider to the microphone.

Tom explained that next month the south central jurisdiction will meet to elect four (4) bishops. Tom spoke of our General and Jurisdictional delegates and their fine work. He then explained that they have gone through a seven-step process for discerning nominees for Episcopal leadership. By way of this process and the evaluations that followed, Dr. Michael McKee was chosen as a candidate for Bishop from this conference. "I move, the Central Texas Conference endorse, and offer its affirmation and support of, Dr. Michael McKee as an Episcopal Candidate at the 2012 South Central Jurisdictional Conference." Seconded. (Approved by acclamation)

Dr. McKee responded with a thank you and comments about being deeply humbled by the experience and honored by this nomination. He stated through this process he has discovered that we have deeply committed clergy and a laity that is passionate. Whatever happens with the candidacy, he is deeply honored.

Bishop Lowry called for a 10 minute break.

## ***CENTER FOR EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH*** ***GARY LINDLEY***

(Preliminary Report p. 28 - Mission and Initiatives of the Center) The Center used a video as the basis for each of the sections of its report.

- a. First area of work: The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI).
- b. HCI Strategies are in 2 sections:
  1. for larger churches and (2) for small churches (under 80)
    - i. Peer learning
    - ii. Trained coaching
    - iii. Outside consultation
    - iv. Peer accountability



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- v. Lay involvement
- 2. Second area of work of the Center is Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
Leanne Johnston
- 3. Third area of work of the Center is new church starts  
(Partners in Ministry SHARE Program)

## **HARRY DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARDS**

Clergy – Denise Bell Blakeley  
Youth – FUMC-DeLeon – Seth William Locke

Gary presented the entire Report from the Center for approval. (Approved)

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP ADDRESS**

**KEVIN GREGORY**

Leanne gave an overview of her work as a leader for youth in the conference and introduced, Kevin Gregory, the CTCYM President for 2012-13.

*Changing People's Hearts* is this year's theme for CTCYM. The goal is to give every youth in the Conference a chance to have experiences in leadership. Youth, youth directors, and laity who work with youth were all asked to stand and be recognized. The conference was challenged to have more people standing next year. He concluded with a message of hope about the future of the UM church.

## **PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE 2013** **BISHOP LOWRY & LARRY DUGGINS**

The trip is for 20 youth between 17 and 30, the ages established by the Taize community and will be May 18-29, 2013. The goal of the trip is spiritual development of those who attend, and leadership development. Attendees will be selected from applications. Go to [missionalwisdom.com](http://missionalwisdom.com) for online application.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURN FOR DAY**

**RANDY WILD**

- a. Thanks for churches that brought crosses for today's worship.
- b. Asbury Seminary breakfast 7 a.m. at Café Cappucino
- c. Clergy remember to get your picture taken.
- d. Those in Health Fair – still spots to participate.
- e. Immediately following adjournment, three sessions available:
  - 1. More about Taize
  - 2. More Healthy Church Initiative
  - 3. Q & A on 2013 Budget

Bishop adjourned the session after a prayer by Rev. Karen Greenwaldt.

## **MONDAY EVENING, June 4, 2011**

There were no conference events planned in order for the members of Annual Conference to be able to have some time for fellowship with one another.

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## **FIFTH SESSION – TUESDAY MORNING, June 5, 2012** **BUSINESS SESSION**

The Business session convened at 8:30 a.m. with worship through Song led by Owen McKnight “The Summons”, “Seek Ye First”, “I Love You Lord”, “In Christ /Alone”) and a prayer was offered by Dr. Bob Holloway.

### **CLERGY SPOUSES ORGANIZATION** **LOU ALBERTSON & LIZ SCOTT**

Introductions were made of the officers, Liz Scott & Lou Albertson, Co-Chair; Gena Hoffman – Vice President; Melissa Trigg – Sec/Treas. Mrs. Jolynn Lowry was introduced. She expressed her appreciation for the Spouses organization and the conference.

### **TEACHING SESSION #2** **DR. GIL RENDLE**

Recap: Mission field has changed; Requires major shifts; We have allowed ourselves to be disconnected. Paradigm shift from members to disciples. Must let go of old ways and assumptions first – some of most painful work.

Today – WANDERING

“All who wander are not lost.” (Gilbo Baggett, *Fellowship of the Rings*)

“Stumbling means moving ahead faster.” (American Indian saying)

We must be willing to mess up. We must try what we do not know.

**Slide:** *Wandering is another word for learning.*

- a. Who is our client?
  - a. Ministerial candidates – three equal size groups
  - b. Fresh out of college
  - c. Those with life experience, second career people
  - d. Damaged people...

Preparation from the church is focused most on this group. They required pastoral care before they were ready to minister.

#### **Who is our client?**

You and I have not been called to our congregations as if they are our clients for mission, but as if they are our resources for mission. We are wandering, experimenting, learning, and shifting. We must examine our core principles to move in the right direction (even when we don't know what the destination or the road to it will look like). Our structure will not save us. We must rebuild ourselves so we are appropriate tools for the mission we've been given. We don't need to expend ourselves needlessly doing frivolous things. *Job 1: Do you hear yourself as trying to learn?*

**Slide:** *Wandering is another word for learning*

We are teaching ourselves (reminding ourselves) that the end result of an encounter with Christ is to make someone new.

**Slide:** *Questions for the Wilderness*

How will we now be with God? How will we now be with one another? Israelites struggled and formed the Levitical Code. We argue over it. It was not for us. It was for a people trying to find their way in a new situation. The things that most connect us are institutional. We must rediscover our connections. Most of the wisdom about how the church will be in the world to come is in this room. But we must talk about it. We cannot depend on our denomination leaders to have all the answers.

**Slide:** *The Long Journey from Membership to Discipleship*

We are living in a time when people don't join. They don't make long-term commitment to a group. Today participation is going up while membership is going down. We like to think about our preferred future – very much like our present, only better! The evidence is that ours is not our preferred future, and continuing like we are it is an unsustainable future.

**Slide:** *The Eschatological Gap*

The learning curve = a long one; "One of the biggest mistakes of ministry is to think that we can do what God has not." We have to become disciples before we can make disciples. We must learn to live with Christ in us. Mission happens in the local church, not in structure or in organization or in the upper levels of our denomination.

**Slide:** *The Need for Proximate Outcomes*

Do you know that not everyone in the church likes to count things? We are very worried about measurements, things we can count. These are insensitive, incomplete measures. We are measuring members at a time when people don't join. We are counting attendance at a time when attendance has plateaued. We are counting baptisms at a time when people like to give their child a choice. This does not mean we shouldn't measure them. A system gets what it measures. Today's primary door for entering into fellowship is invitation to a mission. This is a dilemma. But it's only a dilemma on a moving path. If outcome cannot be measured by quantity, it must be measured by descriptions. And "if we're going to have that" then what is needed from us to accomplish it? This is going to be uncomfortable for us for a long time. We struggle with outcomes. The more we talk about it, the more it works.

**Slide:** *So...we now work at proximate goals*

The map at the back of the Bible is comforting. God's people went until they didn't know where to go next, and then they pitched a tent for a while!

**Slide:** *What does God now call us to be?*

We are called not to be a United Methodist Institution but a Wesleyan movement: A group of people who at personal cost join together to change the status quo. At the center are those who are deeply committed. Next ring sees that this is what needs to go on, it's the right thing to do. Next ring sees that this is the right thing and what we have to do, so they join but they don't really help. Their status is "wait and see." Fourth ring is those who will not go. They wait it out until they're able to leave.

An institution: Attempts to get everyone facing in the same direction. If we wait until everyone is happy about taking the trip, you will not go. The more we describe what is needed and the purpose of it, the more people will rally around. We need "A coalition of the willing" (Bishop Lowry's term). It's a faith choice. We must intentionally choose....It's about risk....It will demand courage....It will change us.

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Isn't that what the wilderness is about? We are in an unsustainable position. Thank God.

Bishop Lowry called for a 15 minute break.

The Business session reconvened with music led by Owen McKnight ("My Hope is Built") and a prayer was offered by Rev. Jack Jackson.

## **EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

**BLISS DODD**

The report can be found on page 41 in the Preliminary Report. We have a Bishop who has been busy leading us through the wilderness. We have given feedback to the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee that we want our Bishop to return. It's not written in stone. I would think that it is very probable. Tim Brewster and I are committed to standing by that. The committee is committed to finding the best bishop for the conference.

Special thank you for our Bishop leading us, we are grateful for his help. Jo Lynn is a trained mental health professional and she wants more than anything to be able to work with clergy families and issues within clergy families and be a guide and help anyway she can. Let her know how she can be of help.

Would you join me in thanking the Bishop and Jo Lynn for their service to us for the past four years? (A standing ovation occurred.)

## **MORRIS WALKER AWARD**

**STEVE MCIVER**

Steve presented the Morris Walker Award to: Laity, Bliss Dodd. There was no clergy award given this year.

## **RECOGNITION/APPRECIATION FOR THE FOUNDATION OF THE CTAC OF THE UMC, INC.**

**GARY LINDLEY**

Gary gave a brief history of the CTC Foundation. It was established in 1957. Pat Sprayberry-Hall has led the organization since 1987 when she came on in the role of planned giving and later was elected as director. Under Pat's leadership the foundation grew to more than 22 million dollars. During the past year, we have moved in union with the Texas Methodist Foundation, which is beneficial for individuals and for the annual conference. She guided us faithfully in making these changes. We want to recognize her and express our appreciation to her for her work for our annual conference. (The conference showed appreciation for her with a round of applause.)

Tom Locke, President of the Texas Methodist Foundation, spoke of his deep admiration for Pat's leadership and help in making this a smooth transition. He reiterated the mission of TMF comes from the contributions we can make to help you with financial services, clergy leadership, and to find ways to help your congregation go about achieving the world that God imagines. He introduced Rev. Henry Radde,

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who is retiring as the liaison to the CTC and thanked him for his service and introduced Dr. Eric McKinney the new liaison to the CTC.

## **CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP**

**GEORGIA ADAMSON**

(Preliminary Report p. 35-54 and page 3 in the Addendum)

We have worked hard to administer the work of the Exodus Project you see before you the range of issues with which the Center deals.

Conference Core Leadership Team is a group that will coordinate outcomes and set the agenda for what we are doing. It is convened and led by Bishop Lowry.

Purpose and role of CCLT -

- o Keeps CTC Mission, Vision and Values out front
- o Recommends policies and direction based on Annual

Conference actions

- o Leads/Coordinates CTC long-range planning
- o Provides critical review (from a big picture perspective) on the alignment of budget, deployment of resources, major policy issues and outcomes of the centers
- o Creates a culture of accountability
- o Seeks and Identifies emerging missional needs.

Core Strategies

- o To energize and equip local congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through the engagement and development of the following:
  - > Wesleyan Spirituality and Theology
  - > Transformation of Local Churches
  - > Clergy and Lay Leadership Development
  - > Ministry with the Poor
  - > New Churches
  - > Accountability
  - > Extravagant Generosity – of financial, time, energy resources

## **CABINET REPORT**

**BOB HOLLOWAY**

Bob Holloway recognized our district administrators and our conference staff learning new things in new ways, reconstructing the districts, recognized Steve McIver for his help in the reorganization, and welcomed Kim Simpson as new Conference Lay Leader.

We have become very focused. Our job is energizing and equipping local churches. The appointment process is part of that commitment. We are realigning our focus to determine who is our client? Bishop Lowry has helped us focus on our clients:

- i. God – the kingdom of God
- ii. The Mission field
- iii. Congregations
- iv. Clergy

## ***IN THAT ORDER!!!!***

The discussion of our clients takes place in the context of prayer, the daily office and with the Bishop pausing often to pray for all of these clients. Bob asked for prayer for the cabinet as they grow and also to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Bob thanked the clergy of the conference for honoring their commitment to their call and the laity for their willingness to work for the conference. Thanks for our Bishop whose own spiritual life has served as an example. He has a passion for learning and inspires our quest for learning. He has a passion for those who do not know Christ. He continually leads us into justice ministries, for peace and for gratefulness. Cabinet has also endorsed Dr. Mike McKee for the office of Bishop.

## ***CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS***

***VANCE MORTON***

Vance Morton, Director of Communications and IT for CTC, Presented a snapshot of communications since last June through a slide presentation. He introduced Calvin Scott as IT Coordinator.

First order of business was laying down a solid foundation: Luke 6: 48. He is working on a long range strategy for IT, has replaced some equipment and revamped the conference web site. We are headed toward telling more stories of what is going on in actual congregations; continue exploring more options for sharing these stories. Also build up the communications community, including going mobile and becoming more active in social media.

## ***CAMPUS MINISTRY***

***MIKE YOUNG***

TCU, Baylor, Hill College, Tarleton, UTA, and Texas Wesleyan Foundation Ministries are taking place in a changing culture driving students away from four year colleges to two year colleges. Demographics are changing in colleges. Other changes are being made too so we must also change the way we minister to students and with students. We have seen creative responses.

## ***BOARD OF LAITY***

***STEVE MCIVER***

No formal report just a word of thanks and appreciation to the leaders, clergy and lay of the conference for giving him the chance to participate in this capacity and for supporting him. Bishop Lowry thanked Steve for his leadership and help; then presented him with a plaque in appreciation of his hard work.

## ***PARTNERS IN MINISTRY***

***CLIFTON HOWARD***

Clifton shared a video about Partners in Ministry, which included first hand testimony about the merits of PIM from Jeff Miller, Danny Tenney and Bishop Lowry. It's about

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practice, not just learning. It's for a healthy church that wants to get better at reaching out to its community. See brochures on the tables.

## **CONFERENCE MERIT AWARD**

***KIM SIMPSON***

A \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a first year student attending a UM related college or university. This year it is awarded to Forrest Stanley-Stephens of Stephenville, TX, who will be attending Southwestern University in the fall.

## **BISHOP'S PREACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD**

***BISHOP LOWRY***

The 2012 recipient is Rev. Quinton Gibson, pastor at Saint James UMC in Temple. Rev. Gibson acknowledged the award and said thank you. The plaque will continue to hang in the entry at the Conference Service Center.

## **UNITED METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE**

***J. ERIC MCKINNEY***

The UMPH works in partnership with the local church to provide resources. Thank you for your support. Every time you make a purchase, you are helping someone in a foreign land to read the gospel in their own language.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***RANDY WILD***

1. Clergy get your pictures taken downstairs with Lifetouch this afternoon.
2. Remember that Lost and Found is in the Hospitality Room 213 (for that someone to reclaim their lost keys.)

Bishop Lowry dismissed us for lunch after a pray by Rev. Wade Killough.

## **SIXTH SESSION - TUESDAY AFTERNOON, June 5, 2012**

***BUSINESS SESSION***

The Business session reconvened at 2:00 p.m. with singing led by Owen McKnight (Praise to the Lord, the Almighty) and a prayer offered by Dr. Luther Henry.

## **RETIREMENT SERVICE**

***JIM CONNER***

The Retirement Service took place in Chisholm Hall. Those participating in the service as liturgists were Bishop Lowry, Rev. Frank Briggs, Dr. Jim Conner, Rev. Carol Gibson, and Rev. Brenda Wier. The Retiring Class was introduced and those present were given the opportunity to address the Conference. Retiring clergy who were present and spoke: Rev. Thomas Edward Connolly and Judy (32), Rev. Thomas Michael Faile and Meg (7), Rev. Sheila Karen Granderson (21), Rev. Joseph Michael Hannah and Frances (40), Rev. Sandra Elaine Hippman (11), Dr. Lynn David Moore and Jill (30), Rev. Norman Lee Suggs and Nancy (28), Rev. George Mimms Sutton and Margaret (29).

Retiring Pastors who were unable to attend the service: Rev. Robert Dan Benton and Cynthia (37), Rev. E.F. "Skip" Blancett and Gayle (41), Dr. James "Gus" Guthrie and Sue (39), Dr. John Charles Holbert and Diana (42), Rev. Marty K. Jeane and Daena Jan (23), Rev. John Howell Loggins and Linda (42), Dr. Linda Susan Mitchell (21), Rev. Gary Frank Turner and Carol (33).

Bishop Lowry led the section of the service of the Passing of the Mantle with retiring elder, Tom Connolly passing the mantle to Estee Valendy and retiring deacon, Karen Granderson passing the mantle to Greg Shapley.

**D**

Bishop Lowry called for a 15 minute break.

The Business session reconvened with music led by Owen McKnight ("Indescribable").

Ahead of schedule, the Bishop called on Rev. Frank Briggs to present the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Report that was scheduled for Wednesday at 10:20.

### ***BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS***

***FRANK BRIGGS***

Rev. Briggs said the Report from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits begins on page 92 of the Preliminary Report. Rev. Briggs gave an explanation of each report. Three new items will be implemented in 2013: 1) Each church pay for the complete health care premium for their pastor...in 2013 that amount will be \$9,912. (This continues the direction of the conference asking that each local church pay only for their clergy and moves us toward the industry standard in health care where the employer pays for their employee); 2) Our Retiree Health care will be moved into the Medicare Supplement market and we will partner them, individually, with Extend Health, to help them navigate the process, enroll in and be matched with the plan that is best for their health care needs; 3) a new Fund will be established to enable the Board of Pensions to offer grant money for clergy and surviving spouses of clergy to assist them in the face of catastrophic unanticipated medical expenses. He stated there is no raise in health premiums for next year. Rev. Briggs introduced and thanked the Board, including Dr. Randy Wild and Shawn-Marie Riley for their hard work, and moved the approval of his report. (Approved)

### ***BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY***

***MIKE MCKEE***

Dr. Mike McKee stated the report of Board of Ordained Ministry is found beginning on page 42 of the preliminary report and the other report was laid on the table Monday. Dr. McKee presented people who have come from other denominations to join us in the Annual Conference today. These people are chaplains in the Harris hospitals. Both UMC and other denomination chaplains came to the front. Those from other denominations were identified.

This evening we will be consecrating and ordaining a number of persons. The candidates were discussed and approved in the Clergy Executive Session on Monday.



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Refer to the report – David Medley was introduced. He comes from another denomination.

For commissioning this evening

One (1) as a Provisional Deacon: Joy Roberson

Four (4) as Provisional Elders: Daniel Koos Hawkins, David James Ray, Michael James Rodden, Margaret Witmer-Faile

Three (3) to be ordained Deacons in full connection: Kay Lynn Lancaster, Amy Tate-Almy; Greg Shapley

Three (3) to be ordained as Elders in full connection by transferring from Deacon in full connection: Holly Clarinda Dittrich, Jane Elizabeth Woodward, Kevin Robert Wilson

Six (6) to be ordained as Elders in full connection after provisional membership: Tae Sun Beckling, Kyland Cason Dobbins, Michael Harry Love, William Stephen Moss IV, Robert F. Nimocks IV, Estee Carel Valendy

Rev. Billy Strayhorn presented this year's recipients and the scholarship each received:

Sowell Scholarship for Women honoring the Life and Ministry of Rev Dr. Jesse Sowell: ***Marilyn Jones***

Board of Ordained Ministry Scholarship in Honor of Rev Gil Ferrell: ***Tina Schramme***

And one Honoring this Year's Retiring Clergy: ***Clint Jones***

Drummond Scholarship Fund provided by 1st UMC Waxahachie: ***Carlos Careaga***

Elliot Scholarship in memory of Rev John W Elliott Sr.: ***Fred Bates, Jr.***

Arborlawn UMC Scholarship: ***Alex Latu***

Avinele McWhirter Ogle Fund: ***Cynthia Moss***

Guy E & Alma L. Perdue Scholarship: ***Chris Reyes***

The BOM sets the standards for assessing candidates. The Board is very focused about making the process throughout the districts consistent, in terms of assessing fitness for ministry and readiness for ministry.

CTC is blessed beyond measure with the number of young persons who are aspiring to ministry. We are a leader not only in the state, but nationally in this. We want to add the number of pastors we will need, but we also want quality of people. Many pastors start the process because of someone whispering in their ear. Do not underrate this. The critical pieces happen in local churches. A Staff-Parish Relations Committee at the local church begins the conversation about a person's fitness for ministry.

BOM is initiating a new policy about clergy ethics. It is an all-encompassing project, covering many subjects, not just sexual harassment. It should be ready sometime in early 2013.

The work of the Board of Ordained Ministry has been very fulfilling for those who have served. The Board members were asked to stand and be recognized. Thanks to Kathy Ezell that everything has been converted to digital format.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURN FOR DAY** **RANDY WILD**

1. Clergy pictures reminder;
2. On June 6 and 7 there is a free download of the Common English Bible from [comonenglishbible.com](http://comonenglishbible.com);
3. UMW Mission Project - 9906 meals prepared for Kids Against Hunger (standing O);
4. The spouses are looking for a church going to Sager Brown this summer to take health kits;
5. Worship this evening includes the conference offering;
6. CTC Fellowship of Local Pastors has created a CTC Local Pastors Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ctcflp](http://www.facebook.com/ctcflp);
7. 7:00 a.m. each morning has been Holy Communion service. As you enter tomorrow, come in silence.

Bishop adjourned the session 46 minutes early after a prayer by Rev. Judy Richmond.

## **SEVENTH SESSION –TUESDAY EVENING, June 5, 2012** **A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**

The Pre-Service concert music was provided by Dr. Randy Umstead, Director-Austin Avenue United Methodist Church. Bronwen Forbay-Umstead, soprano, Randall Umstead, tenor, and Jeffrey Arnold, piano.

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination began at 7:30 p.m. Liturgists for the service were: Dr. Michael McKee, Mr. Steve McIver, Dr. Chris Hayes, Rev. Bobby Cullen, and Dr. John Clifford. Participants in the service were: Rev. Rachel Heyduck, Rev. Louis Carr, Rev. Carol Gibson, Rev. Katie Meek, Rev. Matt Ybañez, Music was provided by Chrystle Hicks, mezzo-soprano, and the combined choirs of Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, Central United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church-Woodway. Dr. Joy Moore preached using Exodus 16 as her text in a sermon titled "The Hunger Games".

The congregation was invited to greet the newly commissioned and ordained ministers, and the retiring ministers following the service at an outdoor reception under the tent on 13<sup>th</sup> Street for fresh-made ice cream.

## **EIGHTH SESSION – WEDNESDAY MORNING, June 6, 2011 BUSINESS SESSION**

8:30 am Gathering in silence and then quiet music. “We are called to order for an act of worship,” Bishop Lowry.

Dr. Bassford then led us in “*A Service of Repentance*”. Instructions were given on parts to read so we may stand and sit as silently as possible, to stand to read your part and be seated as the next group stands. We are standing to be aware that we are standing with one another in confession and repentance. We may not have intentionally inflicted harm on our brothers and sisters and yet, we have participated in those acts that diminish the others sense of self-worth and value. It is in that spirit that we come this morning. Read with emphasis for these words are important. Let us take a moment and listen to the call of the Shaman. At the conclusion of the service Rev. Kyland Dobbins pronounced the benediction which led into his report.

### **CENTER FOR MISSION SUPPORT**

**RANDY WILD**

(Preliminary Report p. 55-75 and pages 10-20 in the Addendum)

Kyland Dobbins presented the report for mission experience. Mission experiences include CTCYM, UMCOR, Great Day of service, and UMVIM. And whatever else you have believed God has called you to do in your community to edify God and support your community. Following our service of repentance for our actions to our Native American brothers and sisters, there is nothing less meaningful than a meaningless apology. The mantra for VIM is “Christians Love in Action.” We are proposing that we give and do something about this repentance and rebuilding of relationship. In 2013 we will have a year-long emphasis of ministry in and with the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. We will participate with our CTCYM mission trips there along with several adult mission trips.

Kyland lifted up story after story of volunteers living out their gospel commands. Also in 2013 we are planning to rekindle our work on Imagine No Malaria with trips to and collections for Africa and eradicating malaria.

In addition we want to begin a Mission Trip Registry on our web site that will do a number of things such as promotions, to enhance our connectional ministry, provide high quality training resources and support and to properly and accurately celebrate our churches in mission within the jurisdiction and general conference levels. He also spoke that our Disaster Response ministry had been active this year with training additional ERT's and storm work after the damage of the tornados in Arlington.

He lifted up the need and offered an invitation for every church to be involved in the Great Day of Service which is purposefully scheduled the Sunday after Easter (April 6, 2013) in order for your Easter visitors to be invited to participate with you in this opportunity to reach people, evangelize and serve in your community. He then thanked all those who worked and provided leadership in this past GDOS.

Dr. Randy Wild picked up the Center for Mission Support Report noting that the Center for Mission Support is more than what we have offered and are offering in the

next hour. It begins with the Connectional Table as an overall backdrop for everything that we do in our work. They are the listening, learning and coordinating agency of our conference. We try to live out our mission through Risk Taking, mission and service. We are about the overall mission of the church, not just outreach. We also offer resources for children's ministries, trustees, pensions and insurance, council on finance and administration, clergy benefits and much, much more.

## **CELEBRATION OF COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES** **RANDY WILD**

What followed was a celebration of the life changing, hope giving, grace filled transformational ministries that you have offered in the name of Jesus Christ. The conference celebrated the many of our areas of ministry showcasing each local church that had experienced, giving 100% of their connectional mission giving, a baptism, a profession of faith, growth in worship, sent a mission team into the world, and those who had offered a confirmation class in 2011. We also celebrated our Imagine No Malaria campaign and recognized our \$1 million goal by reminding ourselves that we have already raised \$442,399.89.

He then introduced Doug Hawthorne of THR who spoke about the partnership with the conference and the ministry of THR and particularly the Harris Methodist Hospitals including the \$614 mission dollars in Charity care this past year along with the Faith Community Nursing program which helps local churches with their health needs.

Dr. Randy Wild then introduced Chris Spence with Wesleyan Homes who spoke of their ministry and partnership with the conference and invited all of us to share with them in the celebration of 50 years of ministry on October 20, 2012.

Bishop Lowry called for a 15 minute break.

The Business session reconvened with music led by Owen McKnight ("Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross").

## **INCLUSIVENESS REPORT** **PAT LOOMIS**

Pat Loomis, Chair of the Inclusiveness Task Force of the Connectional Table, noted the conference has made great strides in our inclusiveness since 2000 and in the last year and then showed a number of slides of the diversity of the general population of our conference, our local churches, our clergy, including breakdowns in each group by race, gender etc.

Pat asked, "What does inclusiveness mean? It is respect and equal treatment of all of God's children." We have made progress in diversity in growth of all our ethnic groups but we must continue to bring more people of color into our fold, train and recognize them and continue to show that their contributions are a vital part of our congregations after all more than half of the general population in Texas is from some kind of ethnic background.

In our clergy gender representation our male clergy population has remained steady while our female clergy have grown.

For the future, while we have shown wonderful growth in almost every area of inclusiveness, we must continue our work to be inclusive in all areas. The journey goes on. We would like to provide training, mentoring and support so that every one of you can reach your potential. Cabinet has continued emphasis on appointments that will include all people of all race and age and will continue to monitor our inclusiveness. There is a Native American Course Study offered to improve on our act of repentance. In Membership, we should put a task force together who are committed to inclusiveness. We have to work within the mission field. Develop ways to cross barriers. Address real issues to make a difference in who we are and reach out to those who do not feel included. We need to do church ministry in different ways. To improve we must continue to change. Any suggestions or how you would like to receive resources, please give me a call. Let's keep inclusiveness front and center.

### **40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GCSRW**

We continued the report by watching a video and celebrating with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women on their Fortieth Anniversary.

### **MISSION OF THE CHURCH WORK DAWNE PHILLIPS**

Rev. Dawne Phillips shared a first-hand view that Christianity was alive and well in the Eastern Mexico Conference and that ministry is available to the CTC in a relationship/partnership with the Eastern Mexico Conference. She called on us to reestablish a Covenant Relationship with the Eastern Mexico Conference in which we can establish mission trips safely and with confidence, to work with educating bodies, to build relationship with the churches in Mexico, and to have reciprocal presence at the annual conferences in Eastern Mexico and CTC. The Preliminary Report (Page 66 line 18) calls for the development of a task force and is a recommendation. This requires a vote from the conference to re-establish a formal covenant connection with the Eastern Mexico Conference. (Approved) Dawne Phillips described the resources available to the local churches through the Parish Nursing Program.

She listed the requirements to be a church with a Five Star Recognition designation: Pay 100 percent connectional mission giving (apportionments), contribute to a GBGM Missionary, contribute to an advanced special, support ongoing program of mission education, and support outreach in the local community. She then recognized the 16 new and 29 continuing (12 more than last year) churches that had earned that designation in 2011. All received a banner (first time) or patch to place on their existing banner if a continuing designee.

She recognized and presented certificates to the 53 CTC churches who contributed financially to a missionary and the 34 CTC churches who supported a full covenant relationship with a UM missionary (\$2500/year or \$5/member/year).

She reminded us of some of the initiatives that are underway: Safe Sanctuary initiatives and training for churches; Elementary Bible Camp in September at Glen Lake Camp; Fiesta Cristiana: Understanding Christian Celebrations in the Hispanic Tradition; Christian Educators Fellowship Partnership; Curriculum Workshop at FUMC Keller on children and teen spiritual development.

In Ministry with the Poor: Ministry Partnerships with local churches who know the ministry needs of their mission field; Outreach Outings; Mission Backpack, combating hunger to feed hungry children and JFON partnerships.

**D** In Global Health: Imagine No Malaria; Global AIDS Ministry; Healthy Families, Healthy Planet; the Church and Addiction Workshop in Ballinger; Faith Community Nursing workshop in the fall led by Texas Health Resources.

She described a database being developed on who is doing what in their local communities and encouraged every church to respond which will allow us to assist churches in connecting with one another around common ministries.

Dr. Randy Wild returned to thank those in the Center for Mission Support but also the entire Service Center staff for their hard work and moved the adoption of the report. (Approved)

### **CONFERENCE TRUSTEES PROPOSAL – CONFERENCE SERVICE CENTER RELOCATION**

**EARL WOOD, CARL STENGER**

(Addendum p. 18-20 and the packet that was distributed Monday)

Dr. Randy Wild began the presentation by calling attention to the two packets of information and waited till that information was found. He reminded us that we added 2 names on Monday and corrected a mistake changing the name Wayne Lewis to Wayne Matthews. The information on the proposal is that we sell the current Conference Service Center, give \$1,000,000 of the proceeds to Texas Wesleyan University in an agreement for a pre-paid 10 year lease on a 15,000 square foot building, which they propose to build to suit our needs.

Earl Wood then outlined the steps that had been taken to come to this decision and outlined a few of the benefits to the conference, less than \$7 a square foot, it gives us a missional presence in neighborhood, it connects us with an UM educational institution, and gives us flexibility as we continue to live into the Exodus Project...Who knows what our needs will be in 10 years with the advances in technology etc.

He called upon Carl Stenger, chair of the task force who said we have spent 4 years on this project and the task force wholeheartedly endorses and recommends this plan.

He introduced Dr. Fred Slabach, President of TWU who made comments related to the university and the campus and CTC becoming part of the campus, the mission and vision for the future of the university, a master plan with a significant public investment in the Rosedale Corridor in Fort Worth and showed a slide show featuring the master plan concept and the location of the CTC Service Center.

Bishop Lowry opened the floor for discussion and questions...a few are captured below:

- I. A sinking fund is mentioned, do we need an amendment to be sure this is accomplished?
- II. What is the current square footage compared to new and size of lots?
- III. What about the remaining \$1.9 million?
- IV. How long to obtain that amount and what happens if it is not raised?
- V. If we sell our building before the new one is built what do we do?
- VI. One of the criteria is that it be available to the largest number of churches why not relocate to Waco?
- VII. In that neighborhood will safety at evening meetings be an issue?
- VIII. What is the timeline?
- IX. Does TWU have a long term use of the building being built?
- X. This gives us a neat way to partner with a university and to live out our mission to the poor.
- XI. A realtor stated she had several questions until she saw the whole proposal and the detail work that had been done and suggested we get an appraisal.
- XII. Would our lease give us exclusive use of the facility?
- XIII. When would our lease begin?
- XIV. What kind of contingency options exist if our conference merges etc.?

Someone thanked the Trustees for being as transparent as possible.

A motion was made to adopt the report as submitted. Bishop Lowry called for a vote to see if we were ready to vote on the report. (Motion to vote – Approved)

The adoption of the report vote was before us. The resolution was shared again, found in the document that you have before you, but basically it provides for the Conference Board of Trustees to sell the current property, to pay TWU \$1million for a 10 year pre-paid lease, and appoints a building committee to work out any final detail and work with TWU on our needs for the building.

Bishop Lowry took the vote on the resolution and report. (Approved overwhelmingly.)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RANDY WILD**

1. History Books are still available.
2. Greeting/Sympathy forms are in the back of the Preliminary Report.
3. Evaluations will be taken on our conference web site. If you can't, contact Randy and he will make other arrangements.

Bishop Lowry dismissed conference to go to the Health and Welfare Lunch after a prayer by Mary Weathers.

## **SIXTH SESSION - WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 6, 2012**

### **BUSINESS SESSION**

The Business session reconvened at 2:00 p.m. with singing led by Owen McKnight ("To God Be the Glory") and a prayer offered by Rev. Rankin Koch.

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## **COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION BUDGET 2013**

**JOHN MCKELLAR**

Dr. McKellar told about Report # 1 beginning on page 18 of the Preliminary report. In Report 1 line 85 we are recommending a change in the way we figure DS and Executive Director salaries. Vote was taken on Report 1. (Approved)

Reports # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. A vote was taken on these reports. (Approved)

A motion to accept Reports # 8 and 9. The vote was taken. (Approved)

John McKellar placed the entire 2013 Budget before us, reminded us that we were only voting on the large highlighted sections and moved the adoption of the budget. (Approved)

John McKellar moved to approve the report as a whole. (Approved)

John McKellar recognized Dr. Randy Wild and David Stinson for their work with the CFA. Bishop Lowry recognized everyone who has worked on CFA over the past four years. During the past four years we have cut the budget every year, well over \$900,000, a substantial amount of savings. We owe the CFA a tremendous appreciation. Please convey to the whole group our deep gratitude.

### **PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RANDY WILD**

None have been submitted this year. Dr. Randy Wild reminded us that all petitions and resolutions are due to the Conference Secretary no later than two months prior to Annual Conference in order to give the members of the committee, board, agency or task force time to review and make a recommendation to the conference.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**RANDY WILD**

Randy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. All those reports from Preliminary report and addendum are before us. Nothing has been taken off the calendar. (Approved)

### **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP**

**GEORGIA ADAMSON**

The slate of officers was presented with corrections and questions of clarifications. (Found in the front of this Journal.)

A vote on the Committee on Nominations and Leadership report as a whole was taken. (Approved)



**RECOGNITION OF CONFERENCE SERVICE CENTER STAFF,  
LOGISTICS, AND AC HOSPITALITY TEAMS  
GEORGIA ADAMSON & GARY LINDLEY & RANDY WILD**

Those who have worked on the annual conference meeting plans and implementations were brought to the front of the room to be recognized. Not everyone was here. The people were shown on the projection screen as well. Bishop Lowry introduced Pattie Wood from his office.

**GENERAL & JURISDICTIONAL DELEGATION REPORT  
MIKE MCKEE**

Dr. McKee called all the delegates to the stage and said that this was the hardest working group he had been associated with. We began working immediately after last year's annual conference and that it was an honor for each of the delegates that the annual conference bestowed on them with their vote last year.

Several of our delegation was honored, Jeannie Trevino Teddlie was a nominee to the University Senate, Tim Brewster was elected an alternate to the Judicial Council the first time for CTC person and Kim Simpson was elected to the 2016 planning committee.

Some of the Highlights: Lowered budget by 6%; Pension plan for clergy which reduces the amount paid by churches; Ordained ministry: complaint process is more understandable and less cumbersome; did away with Security of Appointment (guaranteed appointments) – the concern as to how it would be done. Process was reworked and clarified....the Episcopacy Committee will hold Bishops accountable for appointments and for not giving a person an appointment. This will always be done with sensitivity; Lay Speaker will now be Lay Servant Minister; Two constitutional amendments coming up: 1) Timing of General Conference to make it easier for students to attend; 2) Allow Annual Conferences to choose delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences two years ahead – helps with getting Visas, where needed. Attempts to propose restructuring at the conference ended up with no action. Comment: Your work is not dependent on the General Church. You can be effective in your ministry or not. We ought to claim and acknowledge that. The basic unit of the UM is not the General Conference, it is the Annual Conference. No change on issues of sexuality. Worldwide nature of the church will change. The majority will not be from the U.S. in the future. We must learn how to live and work with other world views. How can we hear each other, love each other, and continue to be in ministry with each other? We are called to be faithful, not to be right. God is continually seeking to sanctify us and bring us into that place of perfect love.

Again Thanks for the opportunity you have given this group to go to Tampa and Oklahoma City to represent you.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
RANDY WILD**

1. Resolutions and Petitions are requested 60 days prior to Annual Conference (verified timeline)

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2. Please review the Nominations process (Preliminary Report P. 118, starting on line 13). Next year nominate yourself or someone.
3. You received a thumbdrive earlier today. It is full of information for you, including many of the presentations from conference along with a tour of our new web site and ways of partnering with the service center and other churches in ministry. Take it home and look at it! We are striving to put more and more on the thumbdrives and less on your desk.
4. Holy Land trip brochures – leave on table. Everything else – please take home or use the blue recycle bins.
5. BOM will meet in room 113, downstairs, immediately upon adjournment.

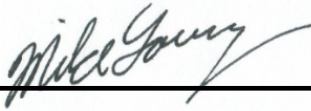
**D**

Bishop Lowry called for a short break in preparation for the closing service, a stand up break, immediately after a prayer by Dr. Clifton Howard.

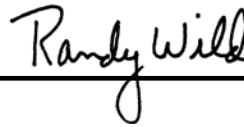
A printed copy of the Episcopal appointments was handed out.

A closing worship was conducted by Bishop Lowry and Dr. Bob Holloway titled "Committed to Christ" which included the setting of the appointments.

Bishop Mike Lowry adjourned the Central Texas Conference at 4:30 p.m.



Bishop J. Michael Lowry  
President



Dr. Randy Wild  
Conference Secretary