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Talk about church growth! In five minutes a Volunteers in Mission team built this chapel on stage, big enough for 14 persons to enter and sing "The Church's One Foundation."

## It's back to the future for the Detroit Conference

KAY LUKINS  
MCA Editor

ADRIAN (MCA) — Follow through... it's what distinguishes a duffer from a professional golfer; a sandlot player from a batting champion. As in the world of sports, so it is in the world of faith. Follow through... constancy and careful nurture are also marks of distinction of an effective annual conference.

To fully understand the significance of the 1990 Detroit Annual Conference session, one needs either a good memory or a copy of the 1988 *Conference Journal*. There were no four-hour debates such as two years ago, but this was a year in which past decisions were more fully developed toward the end of assuring a strong future for the United Methodists in eastern Michigan.

In 1988 the Conference Leadership Consultation/Council on Finance and Administration (CLC/CFA) proposal was a major focus of attention and action. At that time council director Al Bamsey noted that the goal was to "downsize and reshape the Detroit Annual Conference for better mission in the 90's." Timelines for return-

ing to those recommendations for implementation or update largely came due in 1990. That cluster of items then became the heart of the business transacted in Adrian last week. The sense of urgency and scarcity that punctuated the discussion in 1988 was largely gone and business was conducted with a greater sense of confidence. While not emotion-laden nor long on debate, continued follow through on these matters will be critical to strong ministry and mission in this decade and beyond.

**IN 1988** A standing vote in Dawson Auditorium was required to determine the outcome of a motion that was too close to call. At that time the Conference refused to delete the recommendation to consider going to six districts from the present seven. Business of the 1990 Annual Conference returned first to that subject in a report by Dr. Carl Price, who chaired a task force that brought a picture of how district boundaries might be set should the Conference mandate a decrease to six. With the report before the house on Wednesday, June 25, 1990. See **FUTURE**, page 6

## Bishop stresses closings not primary goal

ERIK J. ALSGAARD  
MCA Correspondent

ADRIAN (MCA) — "Welcome to Conference with the Pistons!"

With that, Bishop Judith Craig opened the executive session of the 1990 Detroit Annual Conference. For the third straight year, the executive session has occurred on the opening game of the NBA finals, with the Detroit Pistons fighting for the championship. Executive session, continued Craig, is "the annual meeting of (the) covenant body" that "considers questions relating to matters of ordination, character, and conference relations." (1988 *Discipline*, Paragraph 422)

Speaking at the close of the session, the bishop promised a continuation "of a conversation that we began last year." That conversation centered around the appointive process and open itineracy of clergy. "I will come again to the districts," the bishop said. "We have learned much about itineracy that is working well, and we see some sore points, too. The cabinet wants to be sensitive about family needs, but also must be faithful to pastoral ministry as a sense of call versus a sense of career."

**BISHOP CRAIG** also announced the formation of a task force of a dozen church leaders to continue the work the 1988 Annual Conference set forth. That Conference mandated that: "The bishop and cabinet in consultation with the appropriate program staff develop a plan to create more viable pastoral appointments. In order to enhance ministry, the goal should be to increase the number of appointments. See **PLAN**, page 4



Adrian College's Dawson Auditorium was the arena in which members of the Detroit Conference voted, witnessed and celebrated during the session held June 5-8. The conference theme, "High Climb for a New Time," was in the foreground in a setting created by Dr. Perry Thomas.

# MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

JUNE 25, 1990

The 149th session of the Detroit Conference

## God's people move on to higher ground

KAY LUKINS  
MCA Editor

ADRIAN (MCA) — It was one of those Annual Conferences whose highpoints occurred in the sanctuary during worship rather than in the auditorium during debate. It was a session, held on Adrian College's campus June 5-9, whose mood was characterized by patience rather than passion. In a biblical sense, the work of the 1990 Detroit Annual Conference took place in that season between seedtime and harvest; its major pieces of legislation moved toward fruition actions originally planted by the 1988 Conference members' decisions regarding the CLC/CFA report.

While it was also a week in which social/missional issues seemed secondary to institutional concerns, the Conference was given a global dimension by the presence of UMCOR's Norma Kehrberg and through phonelinks to places where Advance Special dollars are at work. (See story page 3.)

With regard to the CLC/CFA recommendations made at the beginning of the quadrennium, the Conference heard progress reports and approved plans for

implementation. In accordance with the request made two years ago to study reduction to six districts, a report came to the Conference floor on Thursday morning outlining costs and boundaries should that change be approved. A subsequent motion to continue with seven districts, was soundly affirmed by Conference members without discussion.

Plans were adopted that update the Strategic Vision of the Detroit Conference, reorganized the way the Conference does program and administration, and promised commitment to measures that will put numerical and spiritual growth at the forefront as the Conference's "first priority."

This is more than another legislative action," noted Bishop Judith Craig following the adoption of a "Growing Together in Christ" statement that invites local churches to new efforts in worship and witness, Christian nurture, outreach and stewardship. Five years after the adoption of the original Strategic Vision for the Annual Conference, the "Growing Together" emphasis will now serve as a guide for the next six years.

The Conference plan for restructure required approximately two-and-one-half hours of Friday's agenda to move through the 59 page document. The major change, mandated by the *Discipline* rather than the will of the Conference, called for the creation of a sixth board—Higher Education and Campus Ministry. When action was completed on the document, 79 persons had been added to the proposed number,



Dr. Carl Price took up dentistry on Thursday morning in his explanation of his motion to maintain seven districts. "It's the difference between describing a root canal and then being asked if you'd like to have one," he noted.

still 27 percent fewer than the present leadership corps, fulfilling the goal of "downsizing." Implementation of the restructure will be complete by 1992.

A plan to enable and sustain numerical and spiritual growth was passed unanimously on Friday morning with little amendment or debate. The centerpiece of this revitalization and development effort is the "GROW" program to be launched in the spring of 1991. Moving forward in conjunction with the "Growing Together in Christ" theme and its emphases over the next five years, the plan also calls for formation of a "network" for support and accountability on each district.

A central piece of the CLC/CFA cluster of concerns remains in the planning stage. See **MOVING ON**, page 15



## Bishop's Beat

—Judy Craig  
Michigan Area

### Conference reflections

Some will say it was boring, quiet, lacking "fire" (whatever that means). I will say it was organized, collegial, cooperative. Some will say the conference just nodded agreement with what others suggested. I will say there had been careful work done across the months between conferences, with open consultation and dissemination of information to a broad constituency, and responsive reception of alternative ideas and improvements. It is true that the floor debates were quiet, there were no close votes, and amendments were few and far between. It is not true there was no passion, no signal moment, nothing of great import that issued out of the days together as the Detroit Annual Conference.

I consider the action on the Growing Together in Christ to encompass excellence in cooperative designing and joint commitment to ministry and future directions for the Conference. The broad, broad base of data collection undergirding the document, the several check points for consultation along the road to the writing of the final document, and the mutually empowering joint work of those concerned for coordinating major focuses led to a clear, utilitarian, yet inspiring and enabling document on which all constituencies of the Annual Conference can hang their ministry hats. I salute the process and the content and believe the clarity of purpose coupled with a sufficiently inclusive foundation will point the corporate witness in effective ways in the last decade of this century.

Surely the plan for Church Growth, with its specificity, its invitational language, its variety of options and its intentional expectations, will become a bench mark toward fresh vigor of witness and invitation to spiritual connec-

tion for the unchurched and churched. I fully expect to see measurable results as well as experience the dynamism of that which is immeasurable but life-giving in the next five years. The plan is based on the best of our self-understanding as those who issue invitation to discipleship. Watch for immediate results and many serendipitous outcroppings.

The ease with which restructure was accomplished is perhaps the most eloquent evidence of work well done before coming to conference...both in terms of the plan and in terms of communicating it beforehand. Those who say we spend too much attention on structure underestimate the importance of appropriate order for corporate life which enables energy for ministry encouragement. This is a good plan of order. It will make connection with local congregations all the way to the general church specific and smooth. Decision making will be visible and clean. Hats off to those who brought us to that moment, also!

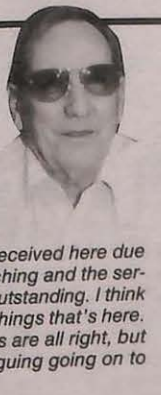
I am grateful for the decision to remain with seven districts. Pastoral support and supervision, resourcing ministries, and effective consultation about our life together will be protected and enhanced by that decision. Now we will turn our attention to the other task of examining the best way to deliver ministry and pastoral care in the local settings. As I name the Task Force on Charge Alignments, the charge will be to consider all the ways ministry is designed and delivered, by laity and clergy, and to consider the possibilities yet unclaimed for dispensing and gathering the resources required for effective and energizing congregational life.

The last item on that agenda is church closings! In fact, that language will not even be in my instructions to the Task Force! That is not to say we are never going to close any churches. It is to say we are not beginning with that as our goal. The study will lead us to consider all the stewardship and ministry issues that have to do with pastoral work load, pastoral deployment, vitality of congregational life as a worship and nurture community and vitality of congregational life as the servants of God in the world. I hope the work will be seen as encouraging, not threatening. We have many strengths in our Body. With them we will begin.

So, we have done it again! And it was good. Worship was deep and high, thrilling and life giving. Fellowship was zesty and comforting. Passages of life were strong reminders of the constancy of God's grace. Now the future is already in the hands of the Risen Christ who beckons come along. Thanks be to God for the journey and for the faithful companionship of all who travel with us.

Arthur Finch  
Roseville  
Trinity UMC

"Really, this is one of the very good conferences that I've attended, and I think I have attended about ten or 11, so far. The spiritual value that is received here due to the wonderful preaching and the services we have had is outstanding. I think that's one of the best things that's here. And the business parts are all right, but there's not enough arguing going on to make it interesting."



Bill Quick (l) and Duane Miller (r) were on hand Thursday morning to present the 1990 Denman Awards. The Conference celebrated the evangelistic work of Mrs. Virginia Conrad and the Rev. Eric Hammar. Hammar is pastor of Northville UMC. Conrad is on the staff of Detroit Metropolitan.

## Special moments in the Conference spotlight

KAY LUKINS  
MCA Editor

ADRIAN (MCA) — The theme of the United Methodist Church for 1988-92 is "Celebrate God's Grace, Witness for Jesus Christ." At each Annual Conference there are times for fellowship, fun, and recognition in which that theme comes dramatically alive.

The 1990 Detroit Annual Conference took time throughout the week to celebrate and witness what people and parishes are doing across eastern Michigan. In experiences like the following, the connection was felt and community was strengthened.

**"Peace Covenant Churches** were called forward on Friday afternoon by the Rev. Joy Arthur on behalf of the Peace Section of the Division of Church and Society. Representatives from Ann Arbor First, Ypsilanti First and Burton UMCs each received a peace pole in celebration of their study, prayer and actions taken for peace in 1989.

**"Persons** took centerstage on Friday morning in recognition of significant growth in church membership and Sunday school attendance. Dr. Bill Quick noted that 178 churches showed growth in 1989 (five percent more than in 1988), and he presented awards to churches in five different membership ranges: Madison Heights: Korean First Central (43.8 percent growth); Crosswell (20.5 percent); Milford (7.1 percent); Lake Orion (9.5 percent); and Clarkston (6.4 percent). Quick stressed that our mandate in 1990 is the same as that of the circuit riders: "Proclaim the faith! Build churches! Serve the world!"

The Rev. Wayne Ferrigan reported that there were two new Sunday school starts in 1989: Port Huron Washington Avenue and Mt. Clemens Korean. He applauded growth in attendance for five church schools: Larium (131.7 percent); Decker-ville and Minden City (150 percent); East Detroit Immanuel (91.5 percent); Howell First (24.1 percent); and Royal Oak First (29.7 percent).

**"It was time to say hello and goodbye to members of the ministry team.** Bishop Judy Craig presented Bibles to Robert L.S. Brown and Al Bamsey, who leave their posts as superintendent of the Flint District and director of the Conference Council. She welcomed Doug Mercer and Ted Doane to those posts. Terry Allen was given a book as a remembrance of his time as director of the United Methodist Foundation.

**"A global perspective** was brought to the Conference session through phone hookups arranged by UMCOR consultant Harold Stanton. Bishop Craig, herself chair of the denomination's Advance Committee, had conversations with the Rev. Gy Ames, UMCOR disaster consultant at work in the flooded southwest, Dr. Samuel Habib, general director of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services based in Cairo, and Mr. Jean Angus in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Conference members listened in through help of a loud

speaker. The bishop also chatted with Harold, who was coming to the end of an extended hospital stay.

Changes in Eastern Europe were also highlighted as Bishop Craig shared about her trip to the German Democratic Republic. The Rev. Heinrich Meinhardt, associate pastor at Detroit: St. Timothy's, also brought greetings from the European Central Conference. Meinhardt, himself from West Germany, emphasized, "We can do whatever we want but the cross will not disappear!"

**"Peggy Paige** presented the **United Methodist Rural Fellowship Citation of Merit** to Audrey Dunlap. Hearing the call to preach at youth camp in 1964 (at the age of 41), Audrey's first appointment was to the McMillan Charge (five country churches in five counties). She then served as director of the God's Country Cooperative from 1981 until her retirement in 1985. Audrey, accompanied by her husband, Ivan, thanked the Conference for an "affirmation of love to me and to the small rural and town churches."

**"The 1990 Denman Awards** were given to the Rev. Eric Hammar and Mrs. Virginia Conrad. Hammar, pastor of Northville UMC, "refuses to put evangelism on the back burner," according to Dr. Bill Quick in his introduction. Hammar attributed part of his success in outreach to his wife, Florence's "better-than-sex dessert. Does that ever attract people!" quipped Hammar. "Commitment plus consistency" was the trait attributed to Virginia Conrad by the Rev. Duane Miller. Conrad, on the staff of Metropolitan UMC in Detroit, has designed tracking systems and member profiles that help guide the evangelistic efforts of that parish.

**"The United Methodist Men** introduced three special guests: the Rev. Ray Buchanan, founder and director of the Society of St. Andrew; Bud the Spud, aka Bud Curtis, who heads the **Detroit UMC Men's Potato Project**; and the Spudettes, a chorus line of dancing tubers who invited Conference members to join in the "Meals for Millions" effort. UMMen president, Bob Connor, challenged the conference to contribute 150,000 meals (\$1,500) before week's end. Donations were collected in a potato bank presented to Bishop Craig. Connor later announced a commitment of 40,000 pounds of potatoes from a grower in the Conference.

**"United Methodist Women** paraded up the aisles and across the stage to encourage participation in the **Campaign for Children**. Conference president, Joan Chapin, led those in Dawson Auditorium in this prayer: "Dear God, at least all of your children need to be...not afraid...not hungry...not cold...not abused...not without love. Help us be witnesses to the world that we believe in children." Chapin also noted that \$496,225 went to missions from the Detroit UMW in 1989 and announced the theme for the new year, "God's Rainbow, a Sign of Hope."

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## Legislative Round Up

The following is a summary of actions taken by the Detroit Annual Conference at this 149th session. Other legislative action is described in stories beginning on page 1.

**EARTH DAY** — All churches in the Detroit Conference are urged to celebrate Earth Day each year and are also urged to practice concern for the environment on a daily basis.

**BLEACHED PAPER** — Local churches and denominational agencies are encouraged to refrain from use of highly bleached paper due to chlorine pollution of rivers in Michigan and other states.

**HEALTH CARE** — The Conference opposed inadequate health care payment systems and called on the federal and state governments to take steps to ensure local public access to quality health services and to develop a state/national health care policy. (Underfunding of Medicare and Medicaid particularly threatens small—less than 100 bed—hospitals.)

**DRUG TRAFFIC** — The Conference urged the President and Congress to end involvement with individuals engaged in drug trafficking and to end support for drug-corrupted military allies. A federal investigation and prosecution of government officials, involved in covert operations with drug dealers, was also suggested. United Methodists are urged to become educated about this problem through the use of materials available through the Peace Section of the Bd. of Connectional Outreach's Div. of Church and Society.

**RAIL GARRISON** — The Conference went on record in opposition to the proposed MX nuclear missile rail garrison at Wurtsmith Air Force Base. Fifty rail-based missiles are to be located in Oscoda to travel a 400 mile loop of the Detroit and Mackinac Railway at a cost of \$5.6 billion. Elected officials are to be informed of this Conference action.

**OUT OF POVERTY** — Administrative boards of all local churches are asked to review the "Up and Out of Poverty Campaign." Report of action to be sent to the Conference Div. of Church and Society. The resolution supports an increase in Michigan's welfare grants (AFDC, GA, and SSI) to at least the poverty level.

**ALCOHOL ADS** — Agencies, churches and individual United Methodists in the Detroit Conference are urged to write senators, representatives and the networks in support of a ban on alcoholic beverage advertising on television.

**UMW SUNDAY** — Local churches were encouraged to observe a United Methodist Women's Sunday in November in conjunction with a World Thank Offering. Purpose of the observance is the promotion of the denomination's mission program and the opportunity to support same as a United Methodist Woman.

**HOLIDAY INN** — Efforts at educating local churches on the issue of pornography were affirmed along with attempts to mobilize ecumenical action beyond the boycott of this hotel chain.

### CONFERENCE EDITION

Extra copies of this Detroit Conference edition of the MCA are available. Minimum order is five copies. Cost is 25 cents per copy plus shipping.

Copies of the West Michigan edition, dated July 9, can be ordered by calling our office at (517) 265-2075. Minimum order five; 25 cents each. If ordered by June 28 no additional shipping will be charged.

## UMCOR exec urges Conference to possibility thinking/doing

ERIK J. ALSGAARD  
MCA Correspondent

ADRIAN (MCA) — The United Methodist Committee on Relief celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Members of the Detroit Annual Conference marked this event Thursday night of conference with a worship service. Guest preacher was Dr. Norma Kehrberg, chairperson of UMCOR.

Dr. Kehrberg expressed gratitude on behalf of UMCOR for the DAC's giving in 1989 to the One Great Hour of Sharing totaling over \$52,000.

Preaching from Deuteronomy 30:19 and Matthew 25:14-21, Kehrberg proclaimed that "Christians are called to see the possibilities of changing life for the good."

**KEHRBERG ENCOURAGED** people to rise to meet the challenges the world places in front of them. "When adults no longer see the challenges, we stop living," she stressed. "To experience true life we have to recognize the possibilities as well as the risks. We need to recognize the possibilities of our faith."

Giving to UMCOR, she said, is just one manner of sharing our faith. "United Methodists are able to respond quickly to needs throughout the world because of their giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing. There is no one bank account called *Hugo, Gilbert*, or labeled *earthquake*. But there is a way for United Methodists to say we care through this giving."

**LOOKING INTO** the future, Kehrberg sees many opportunities for United Methodists to share their faith, witness for Jesus Christ, and change people's lives. "In the decade of the 1990s," she said, "it will not be the lack of technology" that will prevent positive change, "it will be the lack

of will. We need to call forth people for the decade ahead, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ."

The biggest challenge UMCOR faces in the next six months, according to Kehrberg, is the mass movement of people. "Because of war and natural disasters, we will have to deal with many people migrating and experiencing uprootedness — crossing borders and leaving families, friends and homes. Not just for the next six months, but for the entire decade." "We've got a lot of work to do, but we're called by Christ to make a difference," she concluded.

Responding to that invitation, the conference received an offering for UMCOR, totaling \$4,400. □

**Catch the Spirit**  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Laity challenged to think about missionaries

PAUL DONELSON  
MCA Correspondent

ADRIAN (MCA) — "What do you think of when I say the word 'missionary?' Do you picture an older white woman or man from the United States working in a remote area of the bush country of Asia, Africa or one of the Pacific Islands?" This is how Millicent (Billie) Rensch, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, challenged the thinking of laity as they attended the Laity Luncheon on Wednesday, June 6, at Adrian First UMC.

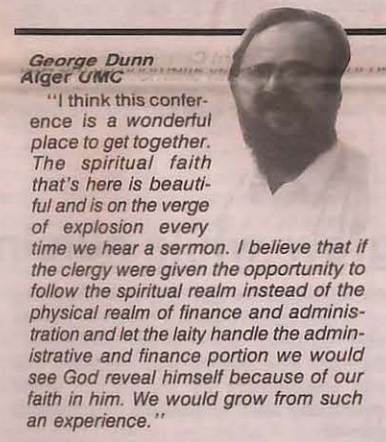
**DURING HER** address, Rensch lifted up her concern for the work of missionaries abroad and within the United States, pointing out that there are actually five basic categories of missionaries: United States missionaries in world mission, United States missionaries in the United States, nationals in mission in their own country, international missionaries, and volunteers in mission.

Especially concerning Rensch as she spoke was missionary Julius Nelson and all our Christian sisters and brothers in Liberia. "Liberia is in a civil war," explained Rensch. "Our current information is sketchy. The conditions are serious. Ganta Hospital and Leprosarium, the School of Theology and many United Methodist Schools are closed," continued Rensch. "There are over 1000 who have been kill-

ed, some kidnapped and some missing. The estimated number of refugees is 200,000 in neighboring countries. All U.M. missionaries except one have been evacuated," she said.

**RENSCH EXPLAINED** that one of the biggest problems facing U.M. missionaries at home and abroad is salary payment, a large portion of which comes from local church contributions to World Service and Conference Benevolences (WS/CB). "When you go home," stressed Rensch, "if you don't already know, find out if your church paid WS/CB in full. This is the first mile that paves the way for more to happen in mission. . . . Next, is your church in a covenant relationship with one or more U.M. missionaries. . . ?" asked Rensch.

Following this address the laity returned to an afternoon Conference business session and heard Conference lay leader, Charles Arnold, announce a "Convocation of Laity: A Celebration — Called to be Laity" which will take place at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center on Feb. 16, 1991. This, explained Arnold, will be an opportunity for laity of the Detroit Conference to be in dialogue with laity on the west side of the state. Listed as speakers for this convocation were Haviland Houston, Donald Mendenhall (director of Iowa Conference CCOM), Carolyn Johnson, and Bishop Judith Craig. □



George Dunn  
U.M.C. Treasurer

"I think this conference is a wonderful place to get together. The spiritual faith that's here is beautiful and is on the verge of explosion every time we hear a sermon. I believe that if the clergy were given the opportunity to follow the spiritual realm instead of the physical realm of finance and administration and let the laity handle the administrative and finance portion we would see God reveal himself because of our faith in him. We would grow from such an experience."

### Conference treasurer celebrates . . .

## Back-to-back banner years at the bank

KAY LUKINS  
MCA Editor

ADRIAN (MCA) — "How will we know when we are financially stable?" asked Detroit Conference treasurer Stan Sutton.

"We will be fiscally sound when finances are transparent, that is, when the financial impact of a decision we make as an Annual Conference is not the first thing we debate."



These "bag ladies" helped collect an offering on Thursday evening. Conference members contributed \$4,400 to the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).



John Kershaw was one of several persons leading an "act of commitment" during the UMCOR anniversary celebration Thursday evening. Water is but one gift of life provided through UMCOR.

That measuringstick was offered at the close of the treasurer's report to the Annual Conference on Wednesday afternoon. When compared to other years—for instance, 1986 when the Conference was "technically bankrupt"—1990 became a time to rejoice in an economic turnaround.

**SUTTON'S REVIEW** of 1989 highlighted that it was the first year since 1977 that the Detroit Conference had back-to-back positive years in its two major funds: Connectional Ministry and Administration (CMA) and World Service and Conference Benevolences (WS/CB). Receipt on apportionments in 1989 was 88.8 percent, the highest level since 1978. Some 300 churches paid apportionments at 100 percent. Payment of World Service apportionments at 100 percent (the first time since 1982) was another cause for celebration.

The treasurer's analysis broke down Conference "uses of funds" into three major categories: ministerial support (44.4 percent); administration (26.1 percent); and missions (29.5 percent). (Definition of mission: "Money sent out of the Conference or used by people not employed by the Conference.") By comparison, Sutton See MONEY, page 11

# Dean of cabinet pleads for sense of urgency

PAUL DONELSON  
MCA Correspondent

ADRIAN (MCA) — "The basic need for all human beings is to have a purpose and meaning for life," quoted Robert L.S. Brown, speaking before the assembled Detroit Annual Conference on June 6. Taking the quote from Viktor Frankl, Brown added, "One senses that behind that statement is an additional unspoken dynamic that people must also have a keen sense of urgency to fulfill that purpose." Brown then related that this sense of urgency was responsible for the energy of the first church and that it is necessary for the life of the church, today. "When we discern God's mission for us as the Church, we know what our life is about," said Brown.

BROWN THEN went on to define that mission: "We believe it is to make God's way of love, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, a visible reality within the human race to the end that every person may fulfill his/her divine destiny as a child of God!" Brown then said that without this "cornerstone of ministry and mission... the Church has little meaning and will ultimately crumble."

Referring to the Detroit Conference's vision statement for the next decade, "Growing Together in Christ," Brown warned against the shallow desire to grow simply to "fill half-empty pews and pay bills" and suggested that measuring spiritual growth may be difficult. Nevertheless, Brown

commended the work of the Task Force on Church Growth "in helping us in these crucial matters," and stated that the bishop and district superintendents urged a "full participation by every pastor and church." He also suggested that every Administrative Board/Council study ¶211-215 in *The United Methodist Discipline* entitled "The Meaning of Membership."

Perhaps central to Brown's statements was the offering of the cabinet's continued support of the appointive process, despite the "tensions, struggles, and misunderstandings on the part of both clergy and laity..."

Quoting from Dennis M. Campbell's book *The Yoke of Obedience*, Brown said, "Methodism was built on the theological conviction that preaching the gospel was the single priority... Only a system that placed preachers according to strategic needs of the entire connection could be acceptable, and no system that allowed for dissension and controversy among leadership or people would be tolerated. The answer was the power of appointment to which preachers and members agreed."

According to Campbell, related Brown, the appointive process strengthened the work of the Methodist Movement

"because it allowed mission to be the determining factor in the stationing of the preachers rather than personal desire or the preferences of the people."

NOTING THE efforts of Bishop Craig over the past year to meet with pastors and cabinets in both conferences concerning the appointive system, Brown stated that the results will show an "improved communication between cabinet, pastors and churches; training of Pastor-Parish Relations Committees about the appointive process; and continued effort to have more accurate information in the cabinet about both congregations and pastors."

Brown stressed the importance of both pastors and committees to be "faithful in their accountability" to the "consultation process" which has been devised whereby communications take place between cabinets, pastors, and Pastor-Parish Relations Committees.

Despite various stresses upon the appointive process, including "the widespread employment of spouses," "the state of schooling of pastors' children," "the growing number of clergy couples," and "the continued unwillingness of many congregations to accept either a woman or a pastor of a different ethnic or racial background," Brown said that the cabinet had cause to celebrate: Brown cited the increase of non-Caucasian pastors "from 26 in 1980 to 45 in 1990," and the increase of women pastors "from 22 in 1980 to 65 in 1990." "We rejoice in this growing diversity of pastoral leadership because we believe it adds to the richness and the possibilities of a strong Christian witness," said Brown.

LOOKING AT other factors of the past decade, Brown said that the district superintendents have felt encouraged in various ways: "These include an increased eagerness of laity to improve their Christian understanding through adult study programs whether in Bible, doctrinal beliefs, family enrichment, or social issues confronting our world," said Brown. "We see an earnest desire to be about the business of the church, and to do so through a holistic



The Rev. Robert L.S. Brown delivered the report of the district superintendents on Wednesday afternoon. He lifted up three trends of the 80s: ethnic and gender inclusiveness and the increase in the number of part-time pastors.

approach, by ministering to the physical, mental, social, and political as well as spiritual needs of God's children." Brown continued, "We see it in the growing concern to provide caring ministries of various kinds and the willingness on the part of the laity to be a part of the general ministry which is their by virtue of their baptism."

Taking a look at matters of financial stewardship, Brown cited some changes: "Total giving by local congregations for all causes rose from \$30,707,500 in 1979 to \$49,775,000 in 1989, or 62 percent in actual dollars; but when adjusted to consistent dollar value, local church giving has dropped by 1 percent."

Brown showed how giving for all benevolence causes had increased by 45 percent, but that most of this increased giving was in designated giving, leading Brown to conclude "that people give generously when they know and understand where their money goes." "This," stated Brown, "empowers us to do a better job interpreting the specifics of the general funds of the Church." □

## PLAN from page 1

be to adjust the number of charges. Our aim will be the most fruitful deployment of our pastors, with optimum faithfulness in the allocation of conference financial resources in the support of pastoral ministry." (1988 Detroit Conference Journal, pg. 65).

Does that mean closing churches? The bishop was clear.

"I do not want to send a signal that we're going to be closing churches, because that's not our purpose here," she told the *Detroit Free press*. And she emphasized to the pastors in executive session that "any decision will be made in consultation with people in the local churches. We will not superimpose any decision on them from above." (For more comments on this study, see "Bishop's Beat," page 2.)

The Rev. Jack Harnish, pastor at the Dexter UMC, and chairperson of the Task Force on Spiritual and Numerical Growth, said that growth is fast becoming a priority in the Conference. "There maybe are some churches that need to close, but we also need to open new ones. We've just done a better job of closing them than opening them lately. Our primary concern has to be working towards growth, whatever that means. It will be interesting to hear the task force's report next year."

THE TASK FORCE will be expected to make a progress report to the 1991 Annual Conference, said Craig, but no deadline is being placed on their work.

In other matters before the executive session, Board of Ordained Ministry chairperson the Rev. Ralph Janka celebrated the fact that 18 deacons were to be ordained this year. "This is something we're cheering about," he said. Ten of the 18 this year are women. Janka also continued the warning trend of past years by encouraging those assembled "to continue to work hard at recruiting persons" for ordained ministry. "The need will be urgent soon," he noted. □



Jeff Hale  
Caring Covenant  
Group Ministry

"I'm numb! This is my first day at Annual Conference. I arrived here this morning and I'm numb, already! This is my first time here!"



Mary Lee Turner  
DCOM Chairperson  
Saginaw Bay Dist.

"One thing I was excited about was the passing of the new vision statement, because having served on the writing team and putting some of those words together, I was glad to see the conference adopt it. I hope we can continue to work it out in the next few years as an invitation and as a covenant."

## Council director's report:

# Denomination to grow while nursing society's hurts

PAUL DONELSON  
MCA Correspondent

ADRIAN (MCA) — "As I finish my time as council director I am becoming convinced that mainline churches will reverse the membership decline that has been going on since the beginning of the century..." observed Alfred T. Bamsey, director of the Detroit Conference Council on Ministries in his report to the Annual Conference on Wednesday, June 6.

Describing how the church would do this, Bamsey used the latter half of his report to point to the many needs of hurting people facing the church, opening up opportunities for vital ministries.

"I AGREE WITH Merle Stromman," quoted Bamsey, "that we have an 'epidemic of hurting people' and that in order

to counteract the pain and suffering going on in this country we will have to continue and expand our caring ministries." Bamsey said that he was confident that this involvement by the church would eventually lead to positive membership growth.

Listing a variety of societal problems that the church will be ministering to in the future, Bamsey suggested that "because mainline denominations like United Methodism have lost their central place in American life, and no longer have to be so unquestionably supportive of the main drift of the nation, we have the opportunity to become partners with people whose experience has been at the margins of society and not of the center." To become more aware of the theologies of such people, Bamsey recommended the church's study

of the writings of John Segundo, James Cone, Rosemary Reuther, and Rita Brock.

CITING A RECENT article by Herb Miller in *Net Results*, Bamsey gave other reasons for optimism for church growth. First, related Bamsey, there is an "increasing willingness by top denominational leaders to deal with the problem" of membership decline. Then there is an "increasing interest in evangelism in seminaries," followed by an "increasing recognition of congregational leaders who achieve evangelism effectiveness." Also, there is "the planting of new churches," an "increasing clergy motivation to improve their evangelism skills," an "increasing interest in Sunday school, worship and preaching, and youth ministry," and "increasing willingness to use new methods," and an "increasing recognition that baby boomers are returning to church."

Bamsey went on to suggest that over the next 50 years churches such as the UMC will become known for their "commitment and civility," using the words of Martin Marty. Rather than being like some of the newer churches which are blossoming which impose a "complete set of norms on the lives of their followers," or which "develop fierce protective tribes with strong psychic boundaries," or which offer believers a "complete individualism of religious choice and practice... lacking all social consequences or power," the United Methodist Church may succeed in being a church which is "at once open to plural options of religious and cultural affections yet convinced of the saving power of Christian faith for those who believe."

In this, his last report as CCOM director, before moving on to become the pastor of Ann Arbor First UMC, Bamsey thanked Bishop Craig for her support. He also thanked the conference staff and others with whom he has worked over the years.



Bishop Judith Craig gives a Bible to Dr. Al Bamsey who leaves his post as director of the Conference Council on Ministries. Best wishes were also given to Karen, c, who has served the Conference as computer coordinator.

## From the editor

### Recruitment

**T**ypos can be such fun. Not only that, they often communicate more than the original word intended. There it was staring off the page. Correct word was, of course, "recruitment." The fleeting fingers of an Advocate correspondent had typed, "refruitment." If it's not a word in the church's lexicon, it should be! It's a word which, I believe, captures the spirit of the 1990 Detroit Annual Conference.

As did the question by John Harnish, put to the Conference members on Friday morning during the presentation of the commitment to growth: "Do you want to be healed?" Christ's word to the invalid at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:6), was indeed the question of the hour. "Do you want to be healed of the sickness that stunts your growth?" "Do you seek refruitment of your barren life?" Leaders bringing legislation to the floor of the Conference and members voting their affirmation of that legislation now trust that the answer to both questions is, "Yes!" on the part of United Methodists across eastern Michigan. We'll see.

Reading it on the eve of the Detroit Conference, this editor couldn't keep from relating the article on "messiahship" (see page 14 this issue) to the business that took place on the floor of Dawson Auditorium. While we are most familiar with messiahship as it applies to an individual, surely the attributes might also apply to an institution. *In that light, it seems to me there has been a serious attempt on the part of the Detroit Annual Conference to move away from a "messiah complex."*

For example (quotes from L. Haller's story just cited):

*Pastors (with this complex) attempt to be omnipotent and omnipresent and feel a disproportionate need to be needed. Their self-worth depends on their productivity, and their self-esteem depends upon whether they can get everyone to like them... they believe they are indispensable and therefore run themselves ragged ministering to every little need that arises.*

It seems to me that the efforts at downsizing the Conference structure (27 percent effective once all was said and done) began to address this issue. The goal—to free people from administration in order to be engaged hands-on in ministry, people-work rather than paper-

work—allows the Conference to continue to resource the local church but from a stance a little less "omnipresent."

*A dependent relationship is fostered within the congregation. The more the pastor does, the less the lay people do. And the congregation feels they cannot make a move without the pastor. Eventually, the congregation feels powerless, controlled, and angry.*

It also seems to me that the plan—"Growing Together in Christ"—with its aim to engage and empower the local church in areas of strategic need, invites us away from attitudes of dependence/independence toward a relationship in which all levels of the church are more interdependent.

*There is a resistance on the part of many congregations to accept anything less than a pastor with a messiah complex. It is not easy to teach a congregation that the pastor cannot be all things to all people and that they can take care of most of their needs themselves.*

Finally, the Commitment to Growth offers some very specific, very pragmatic ways to equip the saints within every congregation of the Conference. As the laity claim their roles as ministers, the relationship of the Conference can be transformed from "parent" to "partner."

*If actions of the 1990 Annual Conference are taken seriously, it appears to me that the Detroit Conference is not looking to be a messiah. But the success of that effort now remains to be proven at the local level, where people are sometimes looking for, yea longing for, a savior. "Do you want to be healed?" Implicit in that question is the realization that sometimes our complaints about a "do-everything" Conference might mask our own satisfaction to "do-nothing" on our own.*

Some wag once said, "A bureaucracy can outwait anything." Anything except determined disciples on fire for the Lord and open for refruitment. For the past two years the Conference has done its work and re-ordered its outlook. It's now up to the people to respond to the challenges to growth. We've everything to gain and nothing to lose but one of our favorite scapegoats... the "system." Let's go for it!

—Kay Lukins



## What's new at the Advocate?

Advocate editor Kay Lukins, with the help of board members and friends portraying the Peanuts gang, went centerstage on Friday morning to announce some significant changes at the publishing company.

First, a new trustee president was welcomed, Mary Jane Jewell. A laywoman from Pontiac Central, Jewell has served on



Mary Jane Jewell

the board since 1985. Appreciation was expressed for the leadership of the Rev. Larry Irvine, who steps down from the helm. Thanks also went to Shirley Cook, who leaves the board after nine years of service, including duty as vice president. The Rev. David Kidd will join David Wiltse (W. Mich.) as second and first vice presidents respectively.

Second, starting with the July 23 edition, the Michigan Christian Advocate joins other publications across the country in the use of recycled paper. This announcement was greeted by spontaneous and strong applause by Conference members. The change was made not only at the urging of Advocate readers but out of the

trustees' own conscience regarding stewardship of God's resources.

Using factors supplied by West Michigan Conference treasurer, Dick Vreeland, (16 trees spared per each ton of recycled paper used), this change could save 468 trees each year.

To illustrate that the Advocate is seeking to provide a global outlook from a Michigan perspective, Lukins asked those to stand who were readers or newsmakers during the past year. With virtually everyone in the auditorium on his or her feet, she noted that, "It is this kind of people-base that will help the Advocate have a 'bottoms-up' rather than a 'top-down' approach in the decade ahead."

As national polls show that half as many persons read a daily newspaper today as did 20 years ago, the editor closed by encouraging everyone present to help defy that statistic on behalf of the Michigan Area newspaper. □



James Thomas Retired bishop

*"I've been particularly impressed with the atmosphere of the conference. It's not a concrete thing you can put your hands on, but you can feel it.*

*I was also impressed with the way in which the conference responded to the district proposal, which was rather unusual and, I thought, on a high tone."*

## LETTERS to the editor



### TURN ON LIGHTS

I very much appreciated Harry T. Cook's column, Dateline: Babylon, in the MCA, June 17. He stated that "the church is in some kind of secular exile. In many ways, the church is just another building on the block, one more set of competing demands on people's time and energies."

Harry is largely right in perceiving the church's stance in our society. Society is calling the tune and setting the agenda for people in general rather than the church doing so. He goes on to say that "it's pretty difficult to conclude anything other than that the church for many people — both inside and without it — is an elective."

He admits his Episcopal Church is in exile because according to a recent Gallup survey the members indicate that they don't really take their faith very seriously.

We United Methodists would probably also have to admit that our devotion and dedication to Christ leave much to be desired. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves why is the church merely an elective in our society? Could it be because of our spiritual lukewarmness?

The church like the rest of society is primarily preoccupied with making a living — with money, material security, status, pleasure and creature comforts. If the church is to be more than an elective in our common life; we members must experience a fresh realization of the living presence of God in our lives. Our faith needs to be not merely a form but a force in our lives! Thus we shall live out our faith with a sense of commitment and conviction! The Church of Jesus Christ needs a fresh outpouring of the Spirit — the divine presence in our lives. Hence we shall experience a "spiritual fullness" that will bubble up and spill over into the many empty and hungry lives around us!

Indeed, we shall be instrumental in turning on many lights in our dark world! This is what the church is all about!

—John S. Myette  
Wyoming, Mich.

### KUDOS FOR CAMPING

It is important to let the camp coordinators know how much our children enjoy the United Methodist camping program. For our daughter, the entire summer schedule must be planned to insure that she will be able to attend choir camp! Our son has also enjoyed Camp Kinawind.

The camp program has helped to provide support for our youth choir program in our church. I am pleased that another choir member will be attending choir camp this year.

As a person who grew up in another denomination, I have been impressed with the variety of camping programs that are available. We are looking forward to seeing our children continue to participate in the camping program through high school.

Keep up the good work. It is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to have a fun experience in a Christian environment.

—Judith L. Page  
Edenville Hope UMC

### SALUTE TO AIDES

I very much appreciated the fine tribute to nurse aides which appeared in the article about Detroit area United Methodist Retirement Homes (May 28).

As a Registered Nurse, working in geriatric long term care on the other side of the state, I witness daily the loving care given by these persons. They are truly some of the unsung heroes of our work force, giving so freely of themselves and with financial remuneration which does not seem to fit the demands of their job. Rather it reflects the attitude of our society on which jobs are "important."

In developing the new nurse aid training curriculum for my facility I became increasingly aware of the expectations and demands placed on our nurse aides. In addition to meeting the personal care needs ranging from bathing, dressing, feeding, and toileting to transporting, we also expect these special persons to supply emotional, psycho-social support to those entrusted to their care. Few jobs require so much giving of one's self. Nurse aides we salute you!

—Ann Mulder  
Lowell UMC



The Rev. Audrey Dunlap (c) was honored with the United Methodist Rural Fellowship Citation of Merit, presented by Detroit chapter president, Peggy Paige, on Thursday morning. Her husband, Ivan, shares in this moment of affirmation and joy.

**Catch the Spirit**  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# From Advent to Pentecost

PAUL DONELSON  
MCA Correspondent

ADRIAN (MCA) — It was Baptism on Tuesday, Christmas on Wednesday morning, Easter on Wednesday night, Epiphany on Thursday, and Pentecost on Friday! Participants in the 1990 Detroit Annual Conference were taken on a tour through the Christian year as they worshiped at services featuring preachers Bishop Judith Craig, Bishop James S. Thomas and Dr. Orville H. McKay.

The worship was enhanced by the presence of a choir composed of clergy and laity from all over the Detroit Conference and directed by W. Gene Coburn, Jr., director of handbells and conductor of junior high and adult choirs at Flint's Central UMC. Present for most services were liturgical dancers, including a troupe of youth dancers from Flint Central UMC, and a handbell choir. There was a brass ensemble, directed by the Rev. David Mulder, as well.

At the organ or piano throughout all worship services was Wilnelia Bush, director of music at Tecumseh UMC and teacher at Adrian College.

**THE TUESDAY** evening service was, indeed, a service of Baptismal Renewal, a service which is being used more and more throughout the United Methodist Church as churches are becoming more acquainted with the services contained in the new *United Methodist Hymnal*.

Keeping with the theme of this service, a fountain was placed in the chancel of the chapel and filled during the opening procession by persons carrying water from the rivers, lakes, and municipalities of the Detroit Conference. Being filled with water the fountain was turned on and water could be seen and heard throughout the duration of the worship service.

Bishop Craig's sermon, based on Ezekiel 47:1-12, was one wherein participants were asked to remember their baptism. They were reminded that when they

"live in the stream" of what their baptism means they have power to bring others into the fellowship of believers.

As a response to the hearing of God's word, the congregation was invited to be reminded of their baptism in a very vivid way: Each person was instructed to come forth and take a small shell, dip it into a bowl of water, and use the water celebratively.

The Easter theme was played out at the Memorial Service (see article page 13).

The Christmas morning celebration featured the singing of Christmas hymns and the reading of Luke 2:8-15. Bishop Thomas' sermon centered upon the city of Bethlehem, saying that in that city God's love became resident in one human being as it had never been before, that God's coming in Christ was revolutionary, and that God did this with the knowledge of the price that would be paid.

**ON THURSDAY** morning the ephiphany theme: "New Images of Proclamation — Life and Teachings of Christ" was presented in worship. Bishop Thomas' sermon, based upon John 13:34, reminded the congregation that the mark of the Christian is love.

Pentecost's Friday service was marked in its beginning with the brass ensemble's playing of, "O When the Saints Come Marching In," as they marched down the center aisle to the clapping and singing of the congregation. Bishop Thomas remarked, during his sermon, based on Acts 1:4, that he thought, at first, that he was in New Orleans.

Each worship service was enriched through the use of symbols which could be touched and worn, as well as those which could be seen and heard. For instance, during the Christmas service paper cranes were passed out to worshippers who were told to take them home to hang on their Christmas trees as a symbol of world peace. Stars, butterflies, shells and other tactile symbols were also used throughout the week.



Children gathered near the Christmas tree on Wednesday morning to learn a song from the Rev. Scott Wilkinson (above). On Friday Bishop Craig offered hearty thanks to Conference preacher, Bishop James Thomas, and his wife, Ruth. In her introduction earlier in the week, Craig noted "the long and important shadow across the history of United Methodism" cast by James Thomas.



## FUTURE

day morning, Price then took the floor as a clergy member and moved that the Conference continue with seven districts.

Anticipating the question of why a plan was drafted for six but a proposal brought forward for seven, Price said, "It's the difference between describing a root canal and then being asked if you'd like to have one." He cited three primary reasons for maintenance of seven districts: 1) with 56 average pastoral appointments per district, the Detroit Conference is "in the mainstream with other conferences;" 2) cutting staff by one (done in 1988) does not demand cutting a district—"If we lost one finger on our left hand, would we then deem it necessary to cut one from our right?"; and 3) feedback from local churches indicates that more, not less, contact is desired between the parish and the cabinet. Hearing those thoughts from Price, no further question nor discussion came from the Conference members. The motion to remain at seven districts passed with but few dissenting votes.

**BISHOP CRAIG** then announced that a second study directed in 1988 could now get underway. With the number of districts settled, a task force will now be named by the bishop to "start the conversation" around a plan to create more "viable appointments." With work to start in September, the task force will report to the 1991 Annual Conference but no firm deadlines were set for a final report and recommendation.

It was this point that was the focus of major debate in the original CLC/CFA proposal. Initially recommended in 1988 as a reduction of the number of charges in the Detroit Conference by 60 before 1994, conference action amended the task as follows: "create more viable pastoral appointments." It continued that, "in order to enhance ministry, the goal should be to adjust the number of charges." But the stated aim was to be "the most fruitful deployment of our pastors, with optimum faithfulness in the allocation of Conference financial resources in the support of pastoral ministry." (See related story page 1.)

**AFTER TWO** years of feedback from the people of the Detroit Conference, a plan was brought to the floor on Thursday afternoon that would bring the Strategic Vision to grassroots level. "Growing Together in Christ" was presented by Conference Council on Ministries vice chair, Phyllis Martz, as a covenant that will guide the Detroit Conference through 1996.

A sampling of the invitations presented in each of four areas of focus include:

**\*Worship and witness:** setting of goals and adopting programs for increased worship and church school attendance; participation in the "Vital Congregations-Faithful Disciples" initiative of the Council of Bishops;

**\*Christian nurture:** increase camp registration by ten percent annually; start-ups of singles groups, substance abuse recovery groups, adult classes, and lay visitation;

**\*Outreach:** participation in the feasibility study that would revitalize camp facilities and develop new churches; disinvestment of endowment funds from companies with more than five percent profit from military production;

**\*Stewardship:** develop and encourage tithing; recruit persons for ministry; empower churches to pay apportionments in full.

James Little  
UMMen Det. West

"This year's conference has been very impressive to me. I've enjoyed the way things have gone, so far. There hasn't been a lot of controversy. There has been a lot of sincerity. And I think that the conference is moving forward and I'm happy to be a part of it. The United Methodist Church has a great future. We can look back on a lot that has happened and we can look forward to something great. This conference is pointing in that direction."



Question was raised concerning one point incorporated into the stewardship section of the document: "Initiate conversations with West Michigan toward developing a plan to merge the Detroit Conference and the West Michigan Conference." The bishop emphasized that these conversations are to be informal in nature and are not intended as official overtures. Dr. Robert Horton was asked, by a vote of the members, to convey this action to their sister conference at its session the following week.

With the "Growing Together in Christ" document approved, Bishop Craig read its initial covenant statement with the comment, "This is more than just another piece of legislation. It represents a gathering of your collective wisdom."

**"WE DON'T WANT** a motherhood and apple pie vote," noted the Rev. John Harnish as the body prepared to act upon the report of the Task Force on Commitment to Growth. "If you intend to take part, vote yes. If not, we prefer you vote no," he urged the Conference on Friday afternoon.

The report received unanimous approval. The basic recommendations for each church include: 1) participation in the GROW program to be launched in the spring of 1991; 2) goal setting for worship, church school, and membership; 3) participation in a district support network; 4) creation of at least one new spiritual growth opportunity each year; 5) expansion of the church school for all ages; 6) revitalization of worship and preaching; and 7) a commitment to pay apportionments in full and to support at least one advance special.

Corollary recommendations were made for district and conference involvement. Significant among these are new church start-ups, study of clergy morale by the Board of Ordained Ministry, and deployment of conference staff that supports growth as "our first priority."

Conference member Mike Norton commended the task force for placing the focus of ministry on the local church and for not "reinventing the wheel." During a

presentation time on Friday morning, Bishop Craig restated challenges that would support growth. "Find ways to find prospective members before they find you," she noted. "If they found you first, they are the evangelist!" She also encouraged the creation of new study settings, participation in the GROW program, and the establishment of confirmation classes.

**WHILE IT** took approximately two-and-one-half hours to move through its 59 pages, the new plan of organization was adopted with few changes. Major features of the plan as proposed included:

"replacement of present two program boards with five boards to become more congruent with the General Church and provide for more immediate relationship with the Conference Council;

"board chairs to be nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Conference Council on Ministries rather than from within the board to provide inclusiveness of leadership and a more wholistic approach;

"the number of persons serving on each unit has been reduced to enhance attendance and to involve more people in implementation rather than administration.

A motion asking that chairpersons be elected by the Annual Conference from nominations brought by the Conference Committee on Nominations failed. The most significant change made by Conference action was the addition of a sixth board—Higher Education and Campus Ministry—in order to be in line with the *Discipline*. During the course of action, the Conference added 79 more persons to a variety of units. Those additions still left the plan of organization 27 percent "leaner" than the 1,064 volunteers needed to serve under the present structure.

An oft-heard phrase at the 1988 Annual Conference—"We are not operating from business-as-usual"—was spoken out of a need for crisis management. That the 1990 Conference session in some ways seemed routine—too business-as-usual—could perhaps be perceived as a signal of renewed health.

from page 1

# Retirees give half millennium of service

KATHY GOOLIAN  
MCA Staff Reporter

ADRIAN (MCA)—The 16 pastors retiring at Detroit Annual Conference this year paraded a regalia of colorful anecdotes, colorful clothes, sources of inspiration, mentors, eccentric middle names, rapid conversions and spouses who taught them how to live. The Rev. Pat Zimmerman led the celebration on the afternoon of June 7. These retiring pastors represent a total service of 520 3/4 years—over half a millennium, not even counting the dedicated service of their spouses.

With a white convertible, bright clothes and bright shoes, Bill Mercer didn't fit the pattern of a minister and was at least once mistaken for a man of another profession. Bob Brown's middle initials stands for Lee Snow, the physician who delivered him. Don Strobe expressed a feeling of minor kinship to Francis Asbury, who became a deacon, elder, and bishop in the course of days. Lois Glenn cited the influence on her ministry of such women as Elsie Johns, Cecilia Jordan and Beth Isaacs. Bill Mercer's wife "taught me how to live when I was a workaholic." She insisted on a date every week for almost 45 years. Perry Thomas, new at Commerce, was confronted by a woman in black in a large old house. She said, "We're glad to see you come and we'll be just as glad to see you go!" At the end of his ministry, Perry is sorry and glad he's leaving.

First to be honored were the Rev. Perry Thomas and his wife Julia Ann, who have served in the ministry for 40 3/4 years. They leave Ypsilanti First after 12 years. "I began my ministry at Commerce," he said, "with an inordinate desire to please. I had something the whole church and the whole world needed." Eleven years later with a better estimate of his gifts, he was leaving to go to Flint Asbury. He got a card from the woman in black, saying she was sorry he was leaving. "It was a ministry to remember," Thomas concluded. "It has been my goal to bring the entirety of my life into the service and praise of Jesus Christ."

The Rev. Don and Kathleen Strobe served the church for 40 years. They are retiring from Ann Arbor First after 18 years. Strobe wants to be remembered for "making the Christian faith intelligible and enjoyable. In Asbury's footsteps, Don had a conversion experience in Jan. 1950, in February he joined the church and in March he was behind the pulpit. "I decid-

ed God had had a lot of bad press." In April he was approved as a local preacher and in May he had his local preacher's license. In June the Korean War began. Don is grateful for the "opportunity to proclaim the inexplicable riches of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Rev. Dorraine and Ruth Snogren served the church for 35 years, 22 of them at Flint Calvary. He noted four areas of his ministry: 1) the construction of new churches; 2) the emphasis on spiritual renewal; 3) the development of small groups which have continued for 18 years; and 4) leadership in 16 consecutive Holy Spirit Conferences. He has experienced "a profound sense of liberty to fulfill my ministry. The work of the holy spirit has had a strong influence."

The Rev. William and Helen Stone are retiring after 42 years in Michigan churches. They leave the Harrisville and Lincoln charge after seven years. They have served suburban, village, city, inner city, resort, Indian churches and the Wesley Foundation. "I was converted under the preaching of a woman preacher," he said. He expressed gratitude to the Thornburn UMC, "where 25 went into the ministry from that small church which called young people into commitment to Jesus Christ."

Harley L. Siders and Rose Mae served the church for 34 1/2 years. They are leaving Calvary UMC in Holly after eight years. He wishes to be remembered "as one who not only preached the gospel, but related the ministry to the living of the gospel. . . . It has been a high privilege and joy," Harley said. "The Lord has worked through us and in us."

The Rev. Ross Nicholson, with 20 years service and a five-year leave of absence, was not present.

The Rev. Bill Mercer is retiring after 49 years in the ministry. He leaves Troy First UMC after four years. He is going to Detroit Metropolitan UMC to serve as associate. In 49 years he received 6,000 new members, collected \$5 1/2 million total offering, and oversaw construction of six major buildings, including two complete churches, St. Andrews and Nardin Park. He wishes to be remembered as a "caller, a preacher, and a builder."

Emil and Betty Haering are retiring after 35 years of service to the church. They leave Flint Bethlehem and Faith after five years. He cited two things of great importance—Betty's life as a teacher and his as a pastor, as well as their family. The couple has four children. Emil and his son Ken performed a duet, "So thou listist thy devine petition," while Betty played the piano accompaniment.

Lois Glenn retires after 41 years of service to the church. She leaves Mio UMC after serving four years. She will be serving the Saginaw Burt UMC. "It's a testimony to the ministry that women (incidentally) are called as individuals and as persons. . . . Most women came in as local preachers, taking lost outposts. They didn't bother with politics. They had no conference membership. Some never attained it. Younger and newer people come in with their main call to serve Jesus Christ their Lord."

George William and Bonnie Dunstan are retiring after 28 years of service. They have been at East Detroit Peace UMC for ten years. They wish to be remembered as a couple who truly loved and cared for the people they served and are grateful for the love they received in return. George is grateful to Merton and Metha Stevens and the pastors and their spouses at E. Detroit Emmanuel, his home church.

Frank B. Cowick and Martha retired on Jan. 1 after 35 years of service to the church. They were unable to attend the retirees' ceremonies.

Zack A. and Evelyn Clayton are retiring after 40 years of service to the church, the past 20 of them at Midland Aldersgate UMC. He will become an associate at Fenton UMC. He wants to be remembered for always trying to keep a sense of humor and never turning off others by being too stuffy. He noted that bigness is often equated with success. But "almost any minister could handle a congregation of 500 or more. The purpose of the church and ministry is not just to handle people efficiently but to minister and love persons as children of God and my brothers and

sisters in Christ."

Ronald D. Carter and Elizabeth retired Jan. 1 after 36 1/4 years of service to the church. They are in Florida.

Robert L.S. Brown and Ruth are retiring after 41 years of service, the last five as Flint District superintendent. He wants people to say of him, "He was authentic. He walked as he talked." He is grateful to the church for many and varied things (Bible teacher at School of Christian Missions). He is also grateful for the itinerant system, which led them to serve five districts.

Charles J. and Vivian Bamberger are retiring after 9 1/2 years of service. They have served the Morrice-Bennington-Pittsburg charge for nine years. He wants to be remembered for "sharing God's love not simply through the word, but showing, with a hug and a handshake, that God loves you and I love you—being with people when they need love the most." The UMC has been a second career for Charles. He is grateful to the Rev. Eric Hammar, who kept urging him to get involved in the active ministry. □



A special moment came during the retirement celebration when Emil Haering and son, Ken, sang a duet with wife and mother, Betty, at the keyboard.

## A-C President Stanley Caine lifts up "college-related church"

KATHY GOOLIAN  
MCA Staff Reporter

ADRIAN (MCA)—It was a sentimental return for Adrian College President Stanley Caine. His first public appearance on campus a year ago, even before he was officially president, was to welcome the convocation of Detroit Annual Conference attendees to the college.

Stating that the college has 1100 students, Caine said he had seen "no more concentrated energy than in the worship" he had attended in chapel that morning.

His most satisfying discovery as president has been to learn that the college takes very seriously the United Methodist Church, both in its curricular and extra-curricular offerings. "There is a vibrant chaplaincy led by Kristen Leslie," he said, and the church connection shows "how we aspire to be as a community. We workshop together," discuss world citizenship and values. He spoke of the UMC as being a "college-related church."

THE PRESIDENT MADE special note of a new campus service, Michigan Campus Compact. Students volunteer their services in the community. The college has a \$4,350 Campus Compact grant to develop a program called Give, to provide volunteer work for community service agencies in Lenawee County.

"As I have traveled around the country, I have been impressed by the number of UMs who take special pride in Adrian and wish to see the church tie strengthened."

Caine expressed his appreciation of support from the Detroit Conference, and hopes it will continue to attract students and resources to Adrian College. "This is where the college and the church come together," he said.

The Advocate questioned Caine on the phrase "college-related church."

"It's not an original phrase. But the point of it is that we not only have a college which takes seriously its connection to the church and tries to work out the meaning of that in what the college does, but we have the church that takes seriously its connection to the college and tries to decide what its mission to colleges should be, the president stressed.

"THE UMC SEEKS in an elaborate and

responsible way to make connections with the colleges—contributing money, and structurally, they provide many services. And I have been pleased this year, and surprised to some degree at the degree to which the UMC has organized its higher education mission to serve the institutions. So it's not only the fact that the college cares about its church connection, but the church seems to care about its college connection.

"I think that's something we're going to have to continue to work on in these coming years when it becomes harder to recruit students and we find the sources of funds becoming much more difficult to identify. Corporations are tending more and more to give money to research institutions whose work may serve them directly," Caine observed.

"And so, more and more, the understanding is that the people who really know what you're trying to do, who have a sense of loyalty to the institution, are the ones who are going to have to be at the center of the support of the institution in terms of attracting students and financial resources and doing anything else they can for a college. So it's going to be a time when loyalties will be tested."

On a personal note, Caine remarked, "My wife and I became United Methodists over the last year. We've been Presbyterians through our lives. But that transition has not been difficult. We like the local church, my wife sings in the choir. It's a good choir. The Sharais and people of the church have been good to us. I even played softball for the church team two nights ago," the president concluded. □



Dr. Stanley Caine, president of Adrian College, welcomed Conference participants during opening moments on Wednesday morning. "Not only are we a church-related college," said Caine, "but we are also a college-related church."



Hugs abounded at the 1990 Conference session. Here Bishop Craig shares in a congratulatory embrace with the Rev. Lois Glenn during recognition of retirees.



Rev. John Lee  
Ann Arbor  
Korean UMC

"The worship services are very great. The spiritual atmosphere is very high. Especially this morning, Bishop James Thomas' preaching was real great."



The brass ensemble, directed by the Rev. David Mulder, added beauty and spirit to all gatherings for worship and praise.



Adrian College chaplain, Kristen Leslie, plays "Amazing Grace" on the hammered dulcimer during the Memorial Service on Wednesday evening.

# DETROIT CONFERENCE 1990



**Charles Jones**  
Detroit Resurrection UMC

"So far it has been a very wonderful conference. One of the major issues that was really concerning me was the redistricting of the East and West districts. Rather than consolidating into six districts, they voted to let it remain as seven districts, which was quite a very important thing that went on this year at conference."



Phil Seymour and Janice Osborne were in the wings as part of the computer network that facilitates Conference record keeping and publication of the Conference Journal.



The torch was passed by retiring pastors to new elders in a ceremony held Thursday afternoon. Here the Rev. Ed Rembert (c) is greeted by the Rev. Ron Brunger. The Rev. Susan Jo Arnold Word (l) and Mrs. Ruth Snogren (r) were also among the "cloud of witnesses" participating in "A Celebration of Ministry."



**Virginia Welles**  
Milwaukee Area

"From the load that big pile of literature that we had to deal with in legislative sessions, I was a little apprehensive. But it kind of worked out when you find out you're only responsible for a little section of it that you're responsible for. It's working out all right."



**Gloria Haynes**  
Seminarian

"I am thrilled to be here, not just because I'm going to be ordained a deacon but also because I'm looking forward to being able to come back here next year to be appointed to a full-time position. Going to Annual Conference is like coming home."



Clowns came to Conference on Friday — David Librande, Denver, Colorado; Beth Goudie, Milan, MI; the Rev. Diana Goudie, Milan. David and Beth are being married one week after conference by Bishop Craig. They were invited to participate in the morning worship service, during which the season of Pentecost was emphasized.



**Allen Lewis**  
Retired pastor

Referring to an announcement that the Detroit Conference had only lost a 1.6 percent of its membership in 1989, he said, "I'm a little disturbed about all this excitement about 'no gain in membership'! We ought to pat ourselves on the back a little more with our foot! We shouldn't start feeling happy about ourselves until we see some growth in the church."



Liturgical dancers joined the Conference Choir. Their candles and graceful movement added to the Epiphany celebration Thursday morning.



**Rev. Gerald Mumford**  
Mt. Bethel UMC

*"I've been impressed with the spirituality of the worship and have enjoyed being able to greet persons I haven't seen in a while."*



A stream of "living water" was a dramatic addition to the opening Service of Baptismal Renewal held in the Adrian College Chapel Tuesday evening. Bishop Judy Craig reminded those in the pew of their responsibilities as "people of the wet hair."



The folks in the treasurer's office were busy counting cash. Two offerings were taken during the session: \$4,400 was collected for UMCOR; \$1,800 was donated to the Africa National Congress in celebration of Nelson Mandela's visit to Detroit.



**Rev. Paul Lim**  
Hazel Park First

*"Like every year, it is a beautiful campus affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Everyone seems to like this campus and particularly in this season. Beautiful scenery and also beautiful this year, the temperature: not too hot, not too cold. And people everywhere cheery. It is a good fellowship in Christ."*



Beth Points was one of a parade of United Methodist Women who held placards high on behalf of the "Campaign for Children," an international UMW emphasis.



The 1990 Detroit Conference was for the birds! This starling came on stage, pinchhitting for a dove, during the presentation of the Peace Covenant Church awards. For a time on Friday afternoon our "eye was on the sparrow!"

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**Rev. Linda Donelson**  
Linden-Argentine



*"There are two things which impress me. First, was the manner in which the legislative material was handled during the business sessions. When serious materials were presented there was an atmosphere of warmth. I appreciate Judy's humor. The second thing which impressed me was the worship services. I particularly enjoyed seeing and hearing Bishop Thomas. He was the bishop who ordained me deacon and elder, years ago, in the Iowa Conference. I have a warm spot in my heart for him and I'm glad that the Detroit Conference asked him to come."*



Bishop Craig receives a potato bank from (l-r) Bud "the Spud" Curtis, the Rev. Ray Buchanan and Conference UMMen president, Bob Connor. The Potato Project hopes to provide "meals for millions." Buchanan is the national director of the Society of St. Andrew.

# MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

## Detroit Annual Conference

of the United Methodist Church — June 16, 1990

New appointments are in bold face type.

### Appointments Beyond the Local United Methodist Church 1990-1991

#### Appointments within the Connectional Structure (Para. 443.1a, Book of Discipline, 1988)

James A. Craig, Secretary, Church Redevelopment and Renewal, National Program Division, General Board of Global Ministries, Saginaw: Sheridan Avenue C.C.

**Theodore E. Doane**, Conference Council Director, C.C.

Terry A. Euper, District Superintendent, Saginaw Bay District

A. Theodore Halsted, District Superintendent, Marquette District

John R. Henry, Alaska Missionary Conference, East Anchorage United Methodist Church, Anchorage, Alaska, C.C.

**(Jeffrey Hildebrand)** (part-time), Chaplain, Boulevard Temple Retirement Home

Robert E. Horton, Area Assistant to the Bishop, Detroit: St. Timothy C.C.

Roger W. Ireson, General Secretary, Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Nashville, TN, Detroit: St. Timothy C.C.

Mark G. Johnston, Director/Manager, Judson Collins Camp, Springville C.C.

Donald W. Joiner, Director Section on Stewardship, General Board of Discipleship, Ferndale: First C.C.

Wayne T. Large, Chaplain/Director, Wesley Foundation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: First C.C.

**Kristen Leslie**, Chaplain, Adrian College, C.C.  
Donna J. Lindberg, District Superintendent, Ann Arbor District

**Douglas K. Mercer**, District Superintendent, Flint District

Duane E. Miller, Associate Council Director: Evangelism/Stewardship, Saginaw: State Street C.C.

Edmund A. Millet, Associate Council Director: Urban Missioner, Detroit: Central C.C.

James F. Parker, General Secretary, General Board of Pensions, Ann Arbor: First C.C.

William T. Robinson, Executive Secretary, Church Redevelopment and Renewal, General Board of Global Ministries, National Program Division, Ann Arbor: Glacier Way C.C.

Donald A. Scavella, Sr., Executive Secretary, United Methodist Union of Greater Detroit: Associate Council Director: Church Extension and New Church Development, Detroit: Trinity C.C.

**(Jean M. Scroggins)** (Part-time ½), Director, Wesley Foundation, Northern Michigan University, C.C.

Robert L. Selberg, Associate Council Director: Board of Local Church Ministries, Wayne: First C.C.

Merton W. Seymour, District Superintendent, Detroit West District

Lynnette Stallworth, Director, Wesley Foundation, Wayne State University, C.C.

Donald S. Stanton, President, Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, Atlanta: Peachtree Road C.C.

Jerry L. Stewardson, Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Adrian College, C.C.

R. Stanley Sutton, Conference Treasurer, Detroit: Metropolitan C.C.

Phylemon D. Titus, District Superintendent, Detroit East District, C.C.

Kenneth L. Tousley, District Superintendent, Port Huron District

Theodore P. Townsend, Theological Hall, Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, World Division, Board of Global Ministries, Ann Arbor: West Side C.C.

William A. Verhelst, Associate Council Director: Parish Development/Global Ministries, Flint: Court Street C.C.

Robert E. Walton, Program Secretary, United Methodist Voluntary Services, National Division, Board of Global Ministries, Detroit: Central C.C.

Kenneth E. Ward, Associate Council Director: Outdoor and Youth Ministries, Farmington: Orchard C.C.

Karl L. Zeigler, Vice President for Development, Bethany Methodist Corporation, Birmingham: First C.C.

#### Appointments to Extension Ministries (Para. 443.1b, Book of Discipline, 1988).

James R. Balfour, II, Counselor, Burns Clinic, Petoskey, MI, C.C.

James C. Batten, Executive Director, Retirement Homes, Chelsea, MI, Detroit: Metropolitan C.C.  
Benjamin H. Breikreuz, Director, Department of Pastoral Care, Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas, Dearborn: Mt. Olivet C.C.

Tommy Glenn Burdette, Protestant Staff Chaplain, University of Michigan Hospitals, Ypsilanti: First C.C.

Kenneth R. Colton, Chaplain, U.S. Air Force, Commerce C.C.

Hydrian Elliott, Chaplain, U.S. Navy Reserve, Detroit: Conant Avenue C.C.

L. Susan Garment, Chaplain, U.S. Navy, Wilbur C.C.

Stanley J. Garment, Chaplain, U.S. Navy, Flint: Central C.C.

Alan J. Hanson, Executive Director, Samaritan Counseling, Center of Toledo, Saginaw: Jefferson Avenue C.C.

Theodore W. Hepner, Chaplain, U.S. Army, Detroit: Trinity C.C.

**H. Emery Hinkaton**, Staff Chaplain and Adult Psychiatry, Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL

**David M. Hurst**, Hospital Chaplain and Supervisor of Programs in Clinical Pastoral Education, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI, Ypsilanti: First C.C.

Douglas Leffler, VA Medical Center, Saginaw, MI, Saginaw: State Street C.C.

Martin A. McEntarfer, Service Director, American Cancer Society, Riverside, CA, Center Line: Bethel C.C.

Harold E. Morse, Chaplain Supervisor, St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO, Rochester: St. Luke's C.C.

R. Bruce Pierce, Chaplain, U.S. Navy, Ishpeming: Salisbury C.C.

Michael L. Raymo, U.S. Army Chaplain, Detroit: Trinity C.C.

Allen B. Rice II, (Ret.), Executive Director, Michigan Interfaith Council on Alcohol Problems, Detroit: Metropolitan C.C.

Archie T. Roberts, Chaplain, The Chapel of Four Chaplains, Philadelphia, PA, Dixboro C.C.

Donald J. Robinson, Director, Department of Pastoral Care, Wyandotte General Hospital, Wyandotte: First C.C.

James G. Simmons, Chaplain, Chelsea Retirement Home, Chelsea: C.C.

Jay K. Six, Homeland Missionary—Accountant, Overseas Missionary Society, Pickford C.C.

David A. Winslow, Chaplain, U.S. Navy, Dearborn: First C.C.

#### Appointments beyond the ministries extended through the local United Methodist Church (Para. 443.1d, Book of Discipline, 1988).

**Robert Henning**, Assistant Coordinator in Prisoner Education program, Spring Arbor College

William A. Wylie-Kellermann, (LTFT ½) Whittaker School of Theology, Detroit, MI, Detroit: Cass Avenue C.C.

John Mecartney, Coordinator, Non-Violent Action for National Defense Institute, Detroit: Redford C.C.

**Steven E. Poole**, Uniting Church of Australia, C.C.

Philip H. Townley, Director of Programs, Ecumenical Institute, Chicago, IL, Warren: First C.C.

#### Appointed to Attend School (Para. 443.1e, Book of Discipline, 1988).

**Duane J. Hicks**, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN

**Barbara Lewis-Lakin**, GETS-Samaritan Counseling Center

**Pamela J. Scott**, CPE Residency, Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL

Harry Weeks, University of Michigan

### Ann Arbor District

Donna J. Lindberg, Superintendent  
900 S. Seventh St., #1  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(313) 663-3939

Adrian: First—Maurice D. Sharai

Associate—Jack R. Lancaster (Ret) (LTFT)

Ann Arbor:  
Calvary—Gary R. Glanville

First—**Alfred T. Bamsey**

Associate—Russell L. Smith

Associate—P. Thomas Wachterhauser

**Glacier Way—Harold E. Weemhoff**

Korean—Jae Huang Lee

West Side—Elwood J. Berkompas

Associate—Nancy A. Woycik

Azalia, London—David W. Purdue

Belleville: First—Richard O. Griffith

Associate—(Edwin C. Hoff) (Ret) (LTFT)

Blissfield:  
**Emmanuel—John N. Hamilton**

Associate—Thomas A. Davenport (LTFT ½)

First—Robert P. Garrett

Brighton: First—Benjamin Bohnsack

Associate—Karen D. Poole

Britton: Grace—Martha C. Ball

Canton: Cherry Hill—Randy J. Whitcomb

Carleton—Frederick O. Timm

Chelsea: First—Gerald R. Parker

Clayton, Rollin Center—Walter H. Miller

Clinton—Roy A. Syme

Commerce—John G. Park

Deerfield, Petersburg—Max L. Gibbs

**Denton: Faith—Gerald S. Hunter**

**Dexter—Leland E. Penzien**

Dixboro—Charles R. Marble

Dundee—William M. Smith

Erie—David E. Ray

Fowlerville: First—Robert B. Secrist

**Hardy—Hayden K. Carruth, Jr.**

Hartland—Mark E. Spaw

Highland—Gilson M. Miller

**Howell: First—David A. Russell**

Associate—Margaret R. Garrigues-Cortelyou

Hudson: First—Francis F. Anderson

Ida—John M. Mehl, Jr.

**Lambertville—David D. Amstutz**

LaSalle: Zion—Craig A. Smith

Livingston Circuit:  
Plainfield, Trinity—Paul F. Bailey

**Macon—Gregory E. Rowe**

Manchester:  
Manchester—Pegg Ainslie

Sharon—Erik J. Alsgaard

Milan: Marble Memorial—Robert F. Goudie

Associate—(Diana K. Goudie) (SLP ½)

Milford—James C. Braid

Monroe:  
Calvary—William P. McBride

East Raisinville—(Daniel W. Harris) (Part-time)

First—James D. Jacobs

**Frenchtown—Mary T. Tame**

St. Paul's—Marvin H. McCallum

Morenci—Evans C. Bentley

New Hudson—Robert A. Mitchinson

North Lake—Sandra B. Willobe (LTFT ¾)

Northville: First—Eric S. Hammar

Novi—Charles R. Jacobs

Oak Grove—M. Jean Love

Ogden—(Allen F. Schweizer)

Plymouth: First—John N. Grenfell, Jr.

Associate—David K. Stewart

Associate—Frederick C. Vosburg (Ret) (LTFT)

Romulus: Community—John D. Landis

Salem Grove—District Superintendent Assignment

Saline: First—Lloyd E. Christler

Samaria: Grace—(Patricia A. Newkirk) (Ret) (SLP ½)

South Lyon: First—Alan R. George

Associate—Ralph A. Edwards (Ret) (LTFT)

Springville—William P. McKnight

Stony Creek—Douglas K. Olsen

Tecumseh—John H. Bunce

**Walled Lake—Tat-Khean Foo**

Associate—John R. Crotser (Ret) (LTFT)

Wayne: First—John W. Kershaw

Wellsville—Thomas A. Davenport (LTFT ½)

Weston—(Mark K. Smith) (HL) (Part-time)

Whitmore Lake: Wesley—Timothy S. Woycik

Willow—District Superintendent Assignment

Ypsilanti:  
First—David E. Kidd

Associate—Marsha M. Woolley

Lincoln Community—David C. Collins

St. Matthew's—Richard L. Dake

**DIACONAL MINISTERS**  
Service Appointment (310.5d; 516.3)  
Monroe: St. Paul's—Pamela J. Mathieu  
Japan: United Church of Christ—George W. Gish, Jr.

### Detroit East District

Phylemon D. Titus, Superintendent  
21700 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 1200  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(313) 559-7000

Berkley:

First—Mary B. Willoughby

Beverly Hills—Scott T. Wilkinson

Birmingham:  
Embury—Philip M. Seymour

First—Robert P. Ward

**Associate—Juanita J. Ferguson**

Associate—Bruce M. Denton

Associate—Charles H. Beynon (Ret)

Bloomfield Hills:  
St. Paul—Pauline S. Hart

Centerline:  
Bethel—June M. Westgate

Clawson—Gordon E. Ackerman

Detroit:  
Cass Community—Edwin A. Rowe

Associate—To be supplied

**Central—David T. Strong**

Associate—Linda Lee Dobbins

**Christ, Jefferson Ave.—Frank R. Leineke**

Associate—(Linda Slaughter) (SLP)

Conant Avenue—James D. Cochran

Messiah—Steve Perrine (LTFT ½)

Metropolitan—William K. Quick

Associate—Jerome K. Smith

**Associate—William D. Mercer (Ret)**

Associate—Eskil H. Fredrickson (Ret)

Associate—(David Gladstone) (SLP)

**Associate—(Charles Boayue)**

Mt. Hope—(John A. Martin)

North Detroit—(Patricia Green) (SLP)

St. Paul's—Wilfred E. Johnson, Sr.

Zion—Sharon G. Scott

East Detroit:  
Immanuel—R. LaVere Webster

**Peace—Faye McKinstry**

Ferndale:  
Campbell Memorial—Charles W. Ewing (Ret)

First—George E. Spencer

St. Paul's—Albert E. Hartoog (Ret)



The Rev. Phylemon Titus, superintendent of the Detroit East District, came to the center microphone Wednesday afternoon for reading of the appointments.

Four Towns—(Judy May) (SLP)  
Fraser: Christ—Eric G. Wehrli  
Associate—To be supplied  
Grosse Pointe—Jack E. Giguere  
Associate—Jack L. Mannschreck  
**Associate—Russell Stevens (Ret)**  
Harper Woods: Redeemer—Ronald K. Corl  
Hazel Park: First—Paul B. Lim  
Highland Park:  
Berea-St. Paul—Alonzo E. Vincent  
First—**Meredith T. Moshauer** (LTFT ½)  
Keego Harbor—(Ronald A. Brown) (Part-time)  
Madison Heights:  
Korean First Central—Mu-Young Kim  
Madison Heights—Eugene K. Bacon  
Oak Park: Faith—Kenneth L. Whyte  
Pontiac—Cooperative Parish:  
Aldersgate—Sylvia A. Bouvier (Parish Director)  
Baldwin Avenue—Patricia A. Meyers  
Central—W. Herbert Glenn  
Associate—George Covintree, Jr.  
First—Robert E. Burkey  
Four Towns—(Judy May) (SLP)  
St. James—To be supplied

Pontiac:  
St. John's—Andrew A. Allie  
Rochester:  
**Rochester Hills: First—Robin G. Gilshire**  
St. Luke's—John S. Liles  
St. Paul's—Timothy R. Hickey  
Associate—David A. Diamond  
Associate—To be supplied  
Associate—Samuel F. Stout (Ret)

Roseville: Trinity—Sam E. Yearby

Royal Oak:  
First—Edward L. Duncan

Associate—Edwin C. Hingelberg

Associate—Nanette Myers

St. John's—Donald L. Lichtenfeld

St. Clair Shores:  
First—David R. McKinstry

Good Shepherd—James D. Weiss

Troy:  
**Big Beaver—Daniel J. Wallace**

**Fellowship—W. Thomas Schomaker**

First—Terry W. Allen

Korean—Young Bong Yoon

Associate—Kwang Min Lee

Warren:  
First—Norbert W. Smith

Associate—Richard Andrus

Wesley—Paton M. Zimmerman

**Waterford: Trinity—John C. Ferris**

**DIACONAL MINISTERS**  
Service Appointment (310.3d; 516.3)

Birmingham: First—Rodney Petersen

Birmingham: First—Joanne Riser

Metropolitan—Terry Gladstone

**Metropolitan—Mary I. Levack**

Pontiac: Central—Janice Caldwell

Rochester: St. Paul's—Thelma Childress

### Detroit West District

Merton W. Seymour, Superintendent  
21700 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 1200  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(313) 559-7000

Allen Park: Trinity—Jacqueline E. Holdsworth

Dearborn:  
First—Ralph W. Janka

**Associate—Shawn P. Lewis-Lakin**

Good Shepherd—Kathryn S. Snedeker

Mt. Olivet—Haldon D. Ferris

Dearborn Heights:  
Stephens—Robert C. Hastings

Melvindale:  
**First/Detroit: Woodmere—(Claire A. Clingerman)**  
 Redford:  
 Aldersgate—M. Clement Parr  
 Associate—Troy Douthitt  
**Lola Valley—Susan Bennett Stiles**  
**Rice Memorial—Robert Duggan**  
 River Rouge:  
 John Wesley—Lester Mangum  
 Riverview—Gary A. Alward  
 Southfield:  
 Hope—Carlyle F. Stewart, III  
 Magnolia—(Marquis D. Lyles) (S)  
 South Rockwood—Dana R. Strall  
 Taylor: West Mound—James McCallum  
 Trenton:  
 Faith—Marshall G. Dunlap (LTFT ½)  
 Susan K. DeFoe Dunlap (LTFT ½)  
 First—Webley J. Simpkins  
 West Bloomfield—Thomas E. Hart  
 Westland:  
 St. James—Robert G. Williams  
 Wyandotte:  
 First—Richard L. Myers  
**Associate—(Doris Crocker)** (S)  
 Glenwood—Arthur V. Norris

**APPOINTMENT TO OTHER CONFERENCES**  
 (Para. 426.1) Book of Discipline, 1988  
 Middleton/Maple Rapids, Middleton, Mich.—  
 Timothy Wohlford

**DIACONAL MINISTERS**  
**Service Appointment (310.3d; 516.3)**  
 Peace Lutheran Church, Detroit, Mich.—B. Thomas  
 Vice, Detroit: St. Timothy's C.C.

**Flint District**

**Douglas K. Mercer, Superintendent**  
 927 Church Street  
 Flint, MI 48502  
 (313) 234-8609

Birch Run—Dale E. Brown  
 Brent Creek, Northwest Venice—Harry M.  
 Brakeman (Ret) (LTFT)  
 Burton:  
 Atherton—Grant A. Washburn  
 Burton—Bonnie Byadiah  
 Christ—Thomas F. Keef  
 Emmanuel—James G. Kellermann  
 Caring Covenant Group Ministry:  
 Columbiaville—Stephen E. Wenzel  
 Davison—Dwayne L. Kelsey  
 Geneva, Theford Center—Willard King  
 Oregon, Elba—George F. W. Gerritsen  
 Otisville West Forest—G. Patrick England,  
 (Parish Director)  
 Richfield, Otter Lake—District Superintendent  
 Assignment  
 West Deerfield—(Ginetha D. McDowell)  
 (Part-time)  
 Chesaning: Trinity—Brent L. McCumons  
 Clarkston—Douglas R. Trebilcock  
 Clio: Bethany—Thomas G. Badley  
**Coruna—Paul G. Donelson**  
 Davidsburg—Melvin Leach  
 Seven Churches United Group Ministry:  
 Byron—Robert D. Schoenhals (Parish Director)  
 Durand—Thomas C. Anderson  
 Lennon, Outfield—(James R. Allen) (Part-time)  
 Vernon, Bancroft—Katherine J. Ralick  
 Fenton—David W. Truran  
**Associate—Zack A. Clayton (Ret) (LTFT)**

Flint:  
**Asbury—Leonard W. Gamber**  
 Bethel—Russell F. McReynolds  
 Bristol, Dimond—Hoon Hee Wong  
**Calvary—James E. Tuttle**  
 Associate—James P. Kummer  
 Central—Dale M. Miller  
 Charity—Emmanuel F. Bailey  
**Court Street—John E. Hamish**  
 Associate—David G. Mulder  
 Associate—Horace James (Ret) (LTFT)  
 Eastwood—Arthur Zehr (DSA)  
**Faith—Sylvester Miller III (LTFT ½)**  
 Hope—Ralph H. Pieper, II  
 Lincoln Park—Paul L. Amstutz  
 Oak Park—Tom Brown II  
 Trinity—Roger A. Parker  
 Flushing—Gary L. Sanderson  
 Associate—Susan Jo Arnold Word  
 Goodrich—John W. Elliott  
 Grand Blanc—R. Edward McCracken  
 Henderson, Chapin—J. Robert Anderson  
 Holly: Calvary—Jeffrey R. Maxwell  
**Langsburg, Middlebury—Robert J. Easlick**  
 Millington, Arbela—Ronald Figgins Iris  
 Montrose—Richard L. Beemer  
**Morrice, Pittsburg, Bennington—(Donald Woolm)**  
 Mt. Bethel—Gerald E. Mumford  
 Mt. Morris: First—Donald E. Hall  
 New Lothrop, Juddville—To be supplied  
 Ortonville—Daniel M. Young  
 Owosso:  
 Burton, Carland—(M. Shirley Jones)  
 Associate—(Howard M. Jones) (Ret) (Part-time)  
**Central—Linda J. Donelson (LTFT ¾)**  
 First—Carol J. Johns  
 Trinity—Mark D. Miller  
**Seymour Lake—R. Wayne Hutson**  
 South Central Cooperative Ministry:  
 Lake Fenton—Clifford J. Furness (Parish Director)  
**Linden, Argentine—Carter Garrigues-Cortelyou**  
 Halsey, South Mundy—Martha H. Cargo  
 Swartz Creek—H. Reginald Cattell  
 Associate—Emil E. Haering (Ret) (LTFT)  
 West Vienna—Wayne C. Ferrigan

**DIACONAL MINISTERS:**  
**Service Appointment (310.3d; 516.3)**  
 Charlotte A. Cowdin, Clarkston

**Marquette District**

**A. Theodore Halsted, Superintendent**  
 111 East Ridge Street  
 Marquette, MI 49855  
 (906) 228-4644

Calumet, Mohawk-Ahmeek—David P. Snyder  
 Crystal Falls: Christ; Amasa: Grace—  
 (Nancy Fredrickson Sparks)  
 Escanaba:  
 Central—Ralph T. Barteld  
 First, Bark River—Michael L. Peterlin  
**Gladstone Memorial—Jeffrey W. Dinner**  
 God's Country Cooperative Parish:  
 Newberry—James L. Rule (Parish Director)  
 Engadine, McMillan—Philip D. Voss  
 Grand Marais, Germfask—John N. Grenfell III  
 Paradise, Hulbert—(Jan Lee Baderstadt) (Part-time)

Gwinn—Max Weeks  
 Hancock: First—Frederick P. Cooley  
 Houghton: Grace—David R. Strobe  
 Iron Mountain:  
 First, Quinnesec: First—Douglas J. McMunn  
 Trinity—John C. Stubbs  
**Iron River: Wesley—(James A. Rencontre)**  
 Ironwood: Wesley, Wakefield—Thomas H. Zimmerman  
 Ishpeming:  
**Salisbury, Palmer—Paul Weisel (LTFT) RMOG**  
 Wesley—George A. Luciani  
 Lake Linden, Laurium—Jack E. Johnston  
**L'Anse, Sidnaw, Zeba—James M. Mathews**  
 Manistique: First—Stuart L. Proctor  
 Marquette:  
 First—Steven J. Buck  
 Associate—Stanley A. Bailey Jr. (Ret) (LTFT)  
 Grace, Skandia—J. Douglas Paterson  
 Menominee: First—Donald C. Scharf  
 Munising—(Ray S. Peterson) (Part-time)  
 Negaunee: Mitchell—King Wm. Hanna  
 Norway: Grace, Faithorn—Carl R. Doersch  
 Ontonagon, Greenland, Rockland: St. Paul's—  
 William D. Schoonover  
 Painesdale: Albert Paine Memorial—District Superin-  
 tendent Assignment  
 Pickford—Lawson D. Crane  
**Republic, Woodland—(Nicholas W. Scroggins)**  
 St. Ignace—Robert C. Watt  
 Sault Ste. Marie:  
 Central, Algonquin—John C. Huhtala, Sr.  
 Stephenson, Hermansville: First—David J.  
 Leenhouts  
 Trenary—James S. Ritchie (Ret) (LTFT)  
 White Pine, Bergland, Ewen (Trout Creek  
 Presbyterian)—Charles H. West (LTFT ½)  
 Margaret H.R. West (LTFT ½)

**Port Huron District**

**Kenneth L. Tousley, Superintendent**  
 1228 - 6th Street  
 Port Huron, MI 48060  
 (313) 982-5755

**Aigonac: Trinity—James E. Britt**  
 Armada, Omo Zion—(Robert Thornton)  
 Avoca, Ruby—(Victor L. Studaker) (Part-time)  
**Bad Axe: First—William R. Wright**  
 Bay Port, Hayes—(Alger T. Lewis)  
 Brown City: First, Immanuel—James J. Walker  
 Capac: First, Zion—Gordon B. Boyd  
 Carsonville, Applegate—J. Gordon Schleicher  
**Caseville—Gregory M. Mayberry**  
 Cass City:  
 Salem—Donald J. Daws  
 Trinity—Richard W. Sheppard  
 Cole—(William D. Wood) (Part-time)  
 Colfax—District Superintendent Assignment  
 Crosswell: First—Grant R. Lobb  
 Decker, Argyle, Shabbona—Wallace Peter Crawford  
 Deckerville, Minden City—Richard J. Richmond  
**Dryden, Attica—James R. Rupert**  
 Elkton—James P. James  
 Harbor Beach, Port Hope—Wayne A. Hawley  
 Howarth, Paint Creek—Bruce L. Billing  
 Imlay City, East Goodland, West  
 Goodland-Lum—James A. Govatos  
**Jeddo, Central-Lakeport—(Donald H. Francis)**  
**Kimnash, Unionville—George Lewis**  
 Kingston, Delord—Lynn F. Chappell  
 Lake Orion—Richard A. Peacock  
**Associate—Bruce Scifres-Petrick**  
 Lakeville, Leonard—Emerson W. Arntz  
 Lapeer: Trinity—James R. Timmons  
 Associate—Michael O. Pringle  
 Lexington, Bethel—Donna J. Osterhout  
 Marine City—Deane B. Wyllys  
 Marlette: First—John R. Allan  
 Mansville—Cleon F. Abbott  
 Mayville, Fostoria, Silverwood—William R. Maynard

Memphis: First, Lamb—Donald L. Bates  
 Mt. Clemens:  
 First—David M. Liscomb  
 Associate—William Rickard (Ret)  
 Korean—Chang Eun Park  
**New Baltimore: Grace—James E. Greer II**  
 New Haven-Meade: Faith—(John J. Rodgers)  
 (Part-time)  
 North Branch: First, Clifford—Roger F. Gedcke  
 North Street—Kenneth Ray  
 Omard—(Earleen A. Hamblen) (Part-time)  
 Owendale, Getageton—Mary F. Neil  
 Oxford—Dwight W. Murphy  
**Peck, Buel, Melvin—Louise Ott**  
 Pigeon:  
 First—Steven P. Schwandt  
**Salem—Steven A. Miller**  
 Port Austin, Grindstone City, Pinnebog—Barbara  
 E. Welbaum  
 Port Huron:  
 First—Richard D. Lobb  
 Associate—Jeffrey Jagers  
 Gratiot Park, Washington Avenue—Donald R.  
 Sperling  
 Port Sanilac, Forester, McGregor—Kenneth C.  
 Reeves  
 Richmond: First—Gary E. Beeker  
 Romeo—Dean A. Klump  
 St. Clair: First—John E. Nalle  
 Sandusky: First—Margery A. Schleicher  
 Sebawaing: Trinity—Lawrence C. Brooks  
 Snover: Moore, Trinity, Elmer—Michael K. Norton  
 Sterling Heights—Joy A. Barrett  
 Sutton-Sunshine, Bethel—(Billy J. McKown)  
 Thomas—Mary Margaret Eckhardt (LTFT ¾)  
 Ubyly—(Rothwell McVety) (Part-time)  
 Utica:  
 Utica—Jeffrey D. Regan  
 Associate—Christopher D. Cowdin  
 Utica: Hope, Mt. Vernon—Kenneth A. Kohlman  
 Washington, Davis—Brent L. Webster  
 West Berlin, Berville—(Gerald VanDeusen)  
 (Part-time)  
 Yale, Greenwood—Trevor A. Herm

**Appointment to other conferences (Para. 426.1)**  
**Book of Discipline, 1988**  
 Central United Methodist Church, Brockton, Mass.  
 Student Associate, Bufford W. Coe

**Diaconal Ministers**  
**Service Appointment (310.3d; 516.3)**  
 Beverly W. Rice, Project Director

**Saginaw Bay District**

**Terry A. Euper, Superintendent**  
 3115 Davenport  
 Saginaw, Michigan 48602  
 (517) 793-8838

Akron—Michael Ingersoll  
 Alpena: First—Clive H. Dickens  
 Auburn—Donald P. Haskell  
 Au Gres, Twining: Trinity—(Lillian G. Richards)  
 Bay City:  
 Christ—Robert D. Wright  
 First—Carter W. Preston  
 Fremont Avenue—James H. McLaurin  
 Salem, Thoburn—David K. Koski  
**Beaverton: First, Dale—Janet M. Lerner**  
 Caro—Calvin H. Blue  
 Associate—(Served by pastor of Akron)  
 Cheboygan: St. Paul's—John F. Greer  
**Coleman: Faith—Joy E. Arthur**  
 Essexville: St. Luke's—Philip A. Rice  
 Fairgrove, Gilford—Otto F. Fiachsmann  
 Frankenmuth—G. Charles Ball  
 Freeland—Harold J. Slater  
 Garfield—Eldon C. Schram RMOG  
 Gaylord: First—Warren D. Pettis  
 Geneva: Hope—(Served by pastor of Rosebush,  
 West Michigan Conference)

Gladwin: First—Joel W. Hurley  
 Glennie, Curran, Wilber—Margaret A. Paige (LTFT  
 ½)  
 James E. Paige, Jr. (LTFT ½)  
 Gordonville—Charles W. Keyworth  
 Grayling: Michelson Memorial—Dennis N.  
 Paulson  
 Hale—William R. Donahue, Jr.  
**Harrisville, Lincoln—(Edward C. Seward)**  
 Hemlock, Nelson—Steven A. Gjerstad  
**Hillman, Spratt—Paula M. Timm**  
 Hope, Edenville—Donald Crumm  
 Houghton Lake—Roger L. Colby  
 LaPorte, Mapleton—Edwin M. Collier  
 Mackinaw City: Church of the Straits—+ William J.  
 McGuinness  
 Midland:  
**Aldersgate—David A. Stout**  
 First—Carl E. Price  
 Associate—Robert C. Grigereit  
 Associate—Duane M. Harris  
 Homer—James M. Thompson  
**Mio—John J. Britt**  
 Onaway, Millersburg—Michael Grajcar, Jr.  
 Oscoda, Oscoda Indian Church—William A.  
 Corgo  
**Ossineke, Hubbard Lake, Wilson—Priscilla J. Seward**  
 Pinconning—Donald J. Emmert  
 Poseyville—(Bruce C. Hatch)  
 Reese, Watrousville—Sang Yoon Chun  
 Roscomon: Good Shepherd of the North—  
 Kenneth L. Christler  
 Rose City: Trinity, Churchill—Barbara L. Franks  
 Saginaw:  
 Ames—John Hinkle  
**Associate—Timothy Hastings**  
**Burt—Lois E. Glenn (Ret) (LTFT)**  
 Calvary—John K. Benissan  
 First—James F. Thomas  
**Associate—Karen Knight Ott**  
 Jefferson Avenue—Walter David  
 Associate—(Robert J. Thaler) (Part-time)  
 Kochville—Gary C. Dawes  
 State Street—Phillip D. Miles  
 Swan Valley—Calvin D. Long  
 West Michigan Avenue, Sheridan Avenue—  
 Richard A. Turner  
 St. Charles, Brant—Edward C. Weiss, Jr.  
 Sanford—James A. Smith  
 Standish: Community, Saganing Indian Church—  
 Devin S. Chisholm  
**Sterling, Alger, Bentley—Zina B. Bennett, Jr.**  
 Tawas—S. Joseph Robertson  
 Vassar: First—Alan W. DeGraw  
 Wagarville: Community—(Wayne D. Jensen)  
 (Part-time)  
 West Branch: First—Gordon W. Nusz  
 Associate—(Carler H. Miller) (Ret) (Part-time)  
 Whittetom, Prescott—Donald Milano  
 Wisner—Mark A. Karls  
 Wooden Shoe—(Served by pastor of Wagarville)

**DIACONAL MINISTER**  
**Service Appointment (310.3d; 516.3)**  
 Project Director—Jaye Reisinger  
**Saginaw General Hospital—Joyce Thomas**

**Bold — A new appointment**  
 ( ) — Local pastor  
 (Ret) — Full member retired  
 (Part-time) — Part-time local pastor  
 (LTFT) (Less than full time) — 1/2 for full member  
 + — Minister in good standing in another denomina-  
 tion  
 RMOG — for retired minister of other conference  
 + + — Ad-interim appointment  
 HL — Honorable Location  
 HLOC — Honorable Location another conference  
 (S) — Student  
 DSA — District Superintendent Assignment —  
 represents a week-to-week assignment by the D.S.

**MONEY**

cited these figures for local church spend-  
 ing in the same categories: ministerial sup-  
 port (30.5 percent); administration (45.6  
 percent); and missions (23.9 percent). Fur-  
 ther, it was pointed out in the Cabinet's  
 report that over the past ten years less not  
 more money is leaving the local church:  
 25.3 percent in 1979 as compared to 22.7  
 percent in 1989.

The treasurer also offered the view that  
 apportionments are partly "pooled local  
 church expenses." "In fact," said Sutton,  
 "over 44 percent of the apportionments are  
 expenses directly related to local churches,  
 but we choose to gather them under a  
 conference umbrella rather than paying  
 them church by church."

Saying Detroit is a "barbell Conference"  
 (more small and large churches with less  
 than average numbers of mid-size churches),  
 Sutton reflected that apportioning  
 ministerial expenses tends "to equalize  
 our local churches financial strengths and  
 weaknesses."

**THE CONFERENCE** passed a budget  
 for 1991—\$10,045,783—that represents a  
 1.6 percent increase over 1990. Further,  
 members voted to limit growth of the total  
 apportionment budget to 1.6 percent each  
 year through 1994, in order to "bring costs  
 into line" with other conferences in the  
 Jurisdiction. A cost comparison has shown  
 that the Detroit Conference apportion-  
 ments are considerably higher than the  
 other 13 conferences in the North Central  
 region.

Debate centered on whether to exclude  
 pensions, health insurance and general  
 church apportionments from the budget  
 cap. Those arguing that all costs need to  
 "be on the table" and that "tough choices"  
 need to be made in every area won the



Gordon Nusz exhibits the "Michigan Area Hunger Bowl" (foreground). "The winners are the hungry" as it passes between the annual conferences in the state.

day. Ed Eichler, chair of the Conference  
 Council on Finance and Administration,  
 noted that the decision to remain under 1.6  
 percent "encourages intentionality" on the  
 part of all recipients of apportionment  
 dollars.

In earlier legislation, the Conference re-  
 jected a proposal that could have reduced  
 the Conference apportionments by  
 one-third in order to reach the "average  
 local church apportionment load" as that  
 of the Jurisdiction.

**ON FRIDAY** afternoon Paul Blomquist  
 came to the microphone and brought an  
 Old Testament lesson. "Make yourself an  
 ark," said God to Noah. And Noah replied,  
 "Is this feasible?" Blomquist conjectured.  
 He then gave an update on the feasibility  
 study mandated by the 1989 Annual  
 Conference.

A consultant has been secured and a  
 plan designed which will begin in the fall  
 of 1990 with a series of "focus meetings."  
 "We are committed to a first rate study,"  
 Blomquist said, as he encouraged partici-  
 pation in those settings. "This calls for  
 maximum involvement."

The preliminary scope of the project is  
 \$6.5 million (\$3.5 million for camp facili-

ties and \$3 million for the development of  
 eight new churches in the next five years).  
 Returning to the Genesis imagery, Blom-  
 quist said, "The secret to success is inten-  
 sity... as recorded in the scripture, 'Ex-  
 actly as God had commanded him, so  
 Noah did.'"

**OTHER FINANCIAL** matters included  
 the following:

"approval of an ad hoc committee ap-  
 pointed by the bishop that will study the  
 apportioning formula and bring a recom-  
 mendation to the 1991 Conference. "We  
 need to take a look periodically at how we  
 divide the pie," noted CFA chair Eichler.

"word from the Committee on Insurance  
 that participants in the Conference plan  
 will experience a 15 percent increase in  
 rates from Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

"a vote to increase the 1991 equitable  
 salary schedule by six percent. Also, a  
 report will be brought back to the 1991  
 Conference showing a graduated sched-  
 ule for members in full connection and  
 local pastors with at least ten years of ser-  
 vice. Open itineracy and clergy morale  
 were concerns prompting the study. A sug-  
 gested guideline: a pastor with 20 years  
 full-time service to receive 25 percent  
 greater salary than a first-time  
 appointment.

"an announcement of a "Decade of  
 Excellence" to be celebrated in 1992 on  
 the tenth anniversary of the Caring Con-  
 nection. Churches will be recognized who  
 have paid apportionments in full for ten  
 straight years. Other churches have the  
 opportunity through Dec. 31, 1991 to make  
 up past shortfalls. Full credit will be given  
 to those churches who supplement their  
 giving in order to reach the 100 percent  
 mark.

from page 3

# Closing celebration introduces 30 new leaders for DAC

**ERIK J. ALSGAARD**  
MCA Correspondent

**ADRIAN (MCA)** — The Service of Consecration and Ordination is always a high moment during the Detroit Annual Conference. Closing the activities of the Conference again this year, the two-hour service took place Friday night inside Dawson Auditorium.

Bishop Judith Craig used as her ordination sermon text Mark 14:1-11. Preaching on, "The Unnamed," she used the nameless woman who anointed Jesus for his burial as a model for ministry.

"**BEING REMEMBERED** by name is precious to us," the bishop acknowledged. "We pastors are in positions where we are apt to be remembered, for good or for ill. Tonight, I offer for a model the Unnamed Woman of Bethany." Humility of attitude and commitment to Christ's service were the themes for those assembled for setting apart to represent the Gospel.

"How sad that the name has been dropped from the telling. Or is it sad? What is really significant here? Her name? Or the faithful act of a wise, responsible woman?" she inquired.

Echoing her earlier statements about pastoral ministry being a call versus being a career, Craig asked, "What is important for us? That our names be recorded in history? Is it the memory of our names? Or fulfillment of our call? Is it placement in the perceived structure? Or to being placed to serve and heal and encourage? What will consume you for the next 20, 30, 40 years—and what relationship will it have to the dreams of tonight?"

**THE BISHOP** closed her sermon with an invitation. "I would like to invite the Unnamed Woman of Bethany to join you in your search for what servanthood will look like in the 1990s. Will you look at her, my sisters and brothers who would serve Christ, and consider if you will become her name?"

Assisted by the seven district superintendents and the conference lay leader, Charles Arnold, the bishop continued with rituals of consecration and ordination. As always, the laying on of hands, the yoking represented by a new stole, and joy-filled hugs made these moments holy. Prior to the benediction, the newly ordained clergy and diaconal ministers served the full auditorium the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

An interesting fact is that ten of the newly ordained deacons are women, or 55 percent of the class. There was one clergy couple ordained deacon, as was one-half of another clergy couple. □

## Elders, 1990

These persons were received as full ministerial members of the Detroit Conference and were ordained on Friday evening.

**Robert J. Anderson.** Home church—Carleton UMC. Eastern Michigan University, 1978, B.S.; The Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 1984, M.Div. Appointment—Henderson, Chapin Charge (Flint).

**Sang Yoon Chun.** Spouse—Song-Yi Kim. Home church—Korean UMC. Yonsei University, B.S., 1977; M.S., 1980; M.S., 1983; Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, M.Div., 1988. Appointment—Reese, Watrousville Charge (Saginaw Bay).

**Michael Ingersoll.** Spouse—Roxann Marie. Home church—First UMC, Adrian. Adrian College, B.A., 1984; Illif School of Theology, M.Div., 1987. Appointment—Assoc. Caro, Pastor Akron (Saginaw Bay).

**Charles M. Knight.** Home church—Bethel UMC. Northeastern and Kennedy King College, B.A., 1978; Northeastern University, M.A., 1981; The Methodist Theological School in Ohio, M.Div., 1988. Appointment—Assoc., Redford UMC (Detroit West).

**Shawn P. Lewis-Lakin.** Spouse—Barbara Lewis-Lakin. Home church—Christ UMC, Detroit. Michigan State University, B.S., 1982; Yale Divinity School, M.Div., 1988. Appointment—St. James UMC, Pontiac (Detroit West).

**David G. Mulder.** Spouse—Elizabeth Ann. Home church—Metropolitan UMC. Western Michigan University, B.M., 1978; Asbury Theological Seminary, M.Div. 1988. Appointment—Assoc. Court St. UMC, Flint (Flint).

**Michael Owen Pringle.** Spouse—Lora E. Home church—Birch Run UMC. Asbury College, 1979-83, B.A.; Asbury Theological Seminary, 1983-87, M.Div. Appointment—Assoc. Trinity UMC, Lapeer (Flint).

**Edward B. Rembert.** Spouse—Venus P. Home church—Scott Memorial UMC. Eastern Michigan University, B.S. 1978; The Methodist Theological School of Ohio, M.Div., 1986. Appointment—Henderson Memorial UMC, Detroit (Detroit West).

**Susan Jo-Arnold Word.** Spouse—Mark T. Home church—Central UMC, Detroit. Center for Creative Studies, B.F.A., 1977; Boston School of Theology, M.Div., 1988. Appointment—Assoc. Flushing UMC (Flint).

## Diaconal Ministers

**Mary I. Levack.** Home church—Metropolitan UMC, Detroit. Siena Heights College, Adrian, MI, B.A., 1964; Michigan State University, M. Music, 1971; Foundational Studies completed 1989. Serving as Director of Music and Pastoral Asst., Metropolitan UMC.

**Charlotte Ann Cowdin.** Spouse—P. Douglas. Home church—Clarkston UMC. University of Michigan, B.S.N., 1957; Michigan State University, M.A., 1973; Assoc. in Christian Ed., 1984; Foundational Studies completed 1989. Serving as Assoc. in Christian Ed. and Programming, Clarkston UMC.



Two diaconal ministers were consecrated at the 1990 Conference. Char Cowdin (l) serves the Clarkston UMC and Mary Levack is on the staff of Detroit Metropolitan UMC.



**ELDERS 1990**

Front row (l-r) Charles Knight, Susan Jo Arnold-Word, Sang Yoon Chun, David Mulder. Back row (l-r) Michael Pringle, Edward Rembert, Robert Anderson, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Michael Ingersoll.



The Rev. Charles Knight celebrates the moment of elder's ordination at services held in Dawson Auditorium on Friday night. He was one of nine new elders of the Detroit Conference.

## Deacon, Associate Membership, 1990

**Billy J. McKown.** Spouse—Bonnie J. Home church—Burton UMC. Central Methodist College; University of Missouri; Five year course of study 1988. Appointment—Sutton-Sunshine, Bethel UMCs.

## Deacons, 1990 Probationers

**Phillip Burks.** Home church—Scott Memorial UMC. Wayne State University, B.G.S.; Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

**Melanie L. Carey.** Spouse—Jonathan. Home church—Chelsea First UMC. Kalamazoo College, B.A. 1987; Union Theological Seminary.

**Carter Garrigues-Cortelyou.** Spouse—Margaret. Home church—First UMC, Ann Arbor. University of Michigan, B.G.S., 1986; Wesley Theological Seminary, 1986. Appointment—Linden, Argentine UMCs.

**Margaret R. Garrigues-Cortelyou.** Spouse—Carter. Home church—First UMC, Ann Arbor. University of Michigan, B.A., 1984; Wesley Theological Seminary, 1986. Appointment—Assoc. Howell First UMC.

**David G. Gladstone.** Spouse—Terry N. Home church—Metropolitan UMC, Detroit. Albion College, B.A., 1971; University of Michigan, B.Music, 1975; M.Music, 1977; Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Appointment—Assoc. Detroit: Metropolitan UMC.

**Gloria Haynes.** Spouse—Douglas S. Home church—Columbiaville UMC. Mott Community College, A.A.S., 1982; University of Michigan—Flint, B.A.S., 1988; Asbury Theological Seminary.

**Pamela Sue Kail.** Home church—Church of the Straits. Michigan State University, B.S., 1968; Central Michigan University, M.A., 1984; Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

**Richard F. Kriesch.** Spouse—Diana F. Home church—First UMC, Memphis. St. C.C.C.C., Port Huron, Assoc. of Ed., 1965; Western Michigan University, B.S., 1967; Asbury Theological Seminary.

**Kwang Min Lee.** Spouse—Mi Hyun Lee. Home church—Korean UMC, Troy. University of California, Berkeley, B.A., B.S., 1982; School of Theology at Claremont, M.A., 1985; Princeton Theological Seminary, M.Div., Th.M., 1988.

**John Allen Martin.** Spouse—Martha M. Home church—Metropolitan UMC, Detroit. Earlham College, A.B., 1958; Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, M.Div., 1964. Appointment—Detroit: Mt. Hope UMC.

**Judith A. May.** Spouse—Daniel Wesley. Home church—Nardin Park. Purdue University, B.A., 1971; Scarritt, Assoc. in Christian Edu.; United Theological Seminary. Appointment—Four Towns UMC.

**Lisa McIlvenna.** Spouse—Patrick Michael. Home church—First UMC, Ferndale. Adrian College, B.A., 1984; Perkins School of Theology.

**Kevin Miles.** Spouse—Catherine J. Home church—Clarenceville UMC. Purdue University, B.S., 1974; Asbury Theological Seminary.

**Louise Rose Ott.** Home church—Christ UMC, Bay City. Michigan State University, B.S. 1986; Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Appointment—Peck, Buel, Melvin UMCs.

**Mary Scifres-Petrick.** Spouse—Bruce. Home church—Port Huron First UMC. University of Indianapolis, B.A., Summa Cum Laude, 1987; Boston University School of Theology.

See DEACONS, page 13

**Dr. Anthony Shipley**  
Scott Mem. UMC

"I think the worship services here will have a major impact on the life of the conference. To pick major liturgical themes, I think, is wonderful. I had a very personal experience last night with a baptism, remembering my own. But really getting into being baptized and really having the sense that being baptized last night was a major religious experience of my life. I think the visuals that the worship committee have put together are just wonderful. Cotton was wonderful and the Cranes this morning. I look forward with great anticipation to the other things that will happen this week."



## IMPRESSIONS: From a delegate's purloined notebook

GROVENOR GRIMES  
MCA Correspondent

ADRIAN (MCA) — Impressionism in art suggests looking at things in a general way, rather than through objective or photographic reality. To a certain extent, that is what we found in this sourcebook, the impressions of an annual conference as seen through the eyes of an otherwise objective but anonymous writer. Unfortunately, the notes as found were in no particular order. As no effort has been made to edit this material, it will be episodic in nature.

"Bishop reported on the spreading influence of her electric train. She was able to convince a visiting bishop, that if he wanted to have his (or his grandchild's) electric train other than in his basement, the layout had to be skirted. Demonstrates waning influence of pants."

"What a year! In such a short time, too. Tuesday was renewal (symbolic rebaptism). Filling the font were waters from the lakes and rivers of Michigan and from other places including Israel's River Jordan. The font bubbled merrily throughout the service, an unexpected hypnotic. Occasionally, in a great surge of energy, it produced a seven-foot high waterspout, to the concern of a few and startling many."

"Christmas came on Wednesday morning, with fir tree, silver paper peace cranes for tree decoration, paper cranes for individuals, Christmas carols, and a fabulous newly written Christmas song (by Scott Wilkinson) and sung by him and the children. ("Imagine folding a 1000 paper cranes! Poor little Sadako has gotten her wish!")"

"Volunteers in Mission bet (There seemed to be a lot of wagers floating around this time!) that they could erect a house of God in ten minutes. They not only could but did—in five! Using prefabricated sides and roof, a motley crew hammered the small house together, fabricated a small steeple surmounted by a cross and placed it on the roof, put 20 chairs inside and were singing lustily, arms akimbo out of the windows, in five minutes!"

"Many interesting reminiscences by retiring clergy, but some different touches too. Ruth Brown thanked God for itinerancy which gave her and Bob the chances to meet so many wonderful people in so many different places. Most impressive statement among many great ones was that furnished

by Emil Haering, Betty, his wife and their son Ken, who presented their valedictory in song, with Betty at the piano and the two men singing a fine classical duet. (From Stainer's "Crucifixion.")

"Conference Preacher Bishop James Thomas in his Christmas sermon entitled "Bethlehem — and beyond" raised the suggestion, that the people of Bethlehem did not get close to the significance of Christ's birth. 'Nor are we, now' any closer, Bishop Thomas charges. (Many, if not most, of the concerns of the conference relate to closing the gaps in our own use of Jesus' revolutionary gift of love and understanding.)"

"Norma Kehrberg's rapid-fire testimonial telling of UMCOR's struggle against disaster, poverty and ignorance the world over would make believers out of the staunchest cynics. But when does that marvelous lady take a breath?"

"After listening to patient Chair Irene Norris take the conference through the lengthy and oft-amended restructuring plan, one must sympathize with Irene and her committee for the 75 excruciating hours of committee deliberations. There had to be more hours than the 75 reported in thinking through the cross-referencing within the plan and implications with reference to the Discipline."

There were many other, largely undecipherable, notes and references to irrelevant matters of concern only to the unknown writer. Claimant to same can contact the editor, Michigan Christian Advocate. □



Harry Brakeman  
Brent Creek-  
New Venice

"I thought that the worship service last night was great. I got a lot better understanding of what baptism is. I hope to use it in my church. It might help the people understand more what it means."

## DEACONS

from page 12

**Craig A. Smith.** Home church—LaSalle Zion UMC. University of Toronto, B. Commerce and Finance, 1981; Ontario Theological Seminary, M.Div. 1987; Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Th.M. 1988. Appointment—LaSalle Zion UMC.

**Paula M. Timm.** Home church—Sandusky UMC. Central Michigan University, B.S., 1985; Wesley Theological

Seminary. Appointment—Hillman, Spratt UMCs.

**Patricia A. VanWormer,** Spouse—Dennis P. Home church—Brighton First UMC. University of Michigan, B.A., 1970; S.S. Cyrill and Methodius Seminary; United Theological Seminary. Appointment—Samaria: Grace, Lulu UMCs.



DEACONS 1990

Front row (l-r) Mary Scifres-Petrick, Louise Ott, Margaret Garrigues-Cortelyou, Lisa McIlvenna, Judith May, Pamela Kail, Gloria Haynes, Melanie Carey, Pamela Timm, John Martin. Back row (l-r) Billy McKown, Carter Garrigues-Cortelyou, David Gladstone, Kevin Miles, Phillip Burks, Richard Kriesch, Patricia VanWormer, Craig Smith, and Kwang Min Lee.



The sound of bells again rang through the college chapel thanks to a choir led by Janet Lee and Sandy Balmer.

## Memorial preacher calls for letting the gospel loose

PAUL DONELSON  
MCA Correspondent

ADRIAN (MCA) — "Hearing those names read is like walking through a rose garden of cherished memories," proclaimed Dr. Orville McKay, preacher for the memorial service on Wednesday night, June 6, of the Detroit Annual Conference.

McKay was referring to the names of those who had either served as pastors, been spouses of pastors, children of pastors, or lay members to annual conference and had died within the past year.

"We don't cherish memories alone," McKay continued, "but we celebrate the lives as they dedicated their lives—to the Christian faith."

QUOTING THE apostle Paul's words in I Corinthians 9:1-13, McKay explained how the apostle refused to allow any material claim to become a hindrance to the gospel. "The real hindrances," explained McKay, "are far less tangible than budgets, buildings and salaries." McKay then went on to list the hindrances which plague many preachers of the gospel.

One of these hindrances, he explained, is "our own uncertainty to what the gospel is." Calling secularism "vaporized Christianity" resulting in a "non-descript theology which promotes human-centered values," McKay showed how many Christians mistake "well meant moralisms" for the Gospel.

McKAY DESCRIBED another hindrance as "our ineptitude to communicate," saying that many pastors do not use a language to describe the Gospel that can be understood by most people. "We must make everyone in the congregation feel

like we're preaching directly to them," proclaimed McKay. "To express the gospel means that the eternal word becomes the living word of God."

A highlight to this service was the music during The Giving in the communion service, played on a hammered dulcimer by Adrian College chaplain Kristen Leslie.

At the close of this service organist Wilnella Bush captivated the congregation with her performance of the Toccata from Charles Widor's Fifth Organ Symphony. □

### Detroit Annual Conference 1990 Roll of the Deceased

#### Pastors

Donald Brown, June 5, 1989; William Lutz, June 24, 1989; Helen Royce, Aug. 22, 1989; John Simpson, Sept. 3, 1989; Allan Gray, Sept. 14, 1989; Wayne North, Sept. 18, 1989; Neal Dow Kelley, Sept. 26, 1989; N. Ralph Guilliat, Oct. 28, 1989; Kenneth Callis, Nov. 8, 1989; Benjamin Holme, Dec. 8, 1989; William T. Browne, Dec. 30, 1989; Scott MacDonald, Dec. 30, 1989; Thomas Hackney, Jan. 20, 1990; Peter Schwitzer, Jan. 24, 1990; Howard Snell, Mar. 8, 1990; Monroe Frederick, Mar. 22, 1990.

#### Spouses of Pastors

Juanita Ferris, Jan. 16, 1990; Howard Osterhout, Apr. 2, 1990; Carrie Scheifele, May 21, 1990.

#### Widows of Pastors

Bernice Ziarka, June 26, 1989; Alice Spitler, Oct. 6, 1989; Naomi Wolf, Nov. 7, 1989; Grace Edgerton, Dec. 11, 1989; Louise Getty, Feb. 9, 1990.

#### Child of Parsonage

Hope Semran, May 14, 1990.

#### Active Lay Members

Sharlot Heldt, Oct. 23, 1989; James Walker, Jan. 17, 1990; Robert Jackson, Jan. 26, 1990; Doris Beltz, Mar. 19, 1990.

Phyllis Liebler  
DCOM Port Huron

"I was asked to be an acolyte and I've never been one before. And I've helped lots of kids do it. It was exciting! I was just thrilled to do it. It really was great. I enjoyed it. It really made the service meaningful."



# Messiah complex in the northwoods

LAURIE HALLER  
MCA Correspondent

(MCA) — Have you ever wondered how United Methodist clergy in the Grand Traverse District endure the isolation and harsh winters of northwestern lower Michigan? It's really quite simple. They are all willing to stick it out provided they and their spouses get to stay at the Grand Traverse Resort once a year.

For the past four years the Grand Traverse District has held its annual clergy and spouse retreat at the most attractive resort in the Midwest, the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. While the clergy and spouse retreat has been an annual event all during the 1980's, the numbers have grown in recent years because of the warm hospitality of the resort.

**DAN AND JEAN** Herlein of the Williamsburg UMC have been the organizers of the event for the past three years. Twenty-eight clergy and spouses gathered on Apr. 22 and 23 for this year's retreat. The program was provided by the Rev. Art Newhouse and his wife, Bonnie. Art is the Community Mental Health Services Coordinator for Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties and is also an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The topic for Newhouse's presentation was the "messiah complex." The messiah complex theory says that many pastors meet their own needs by meeting the needs of those whom they serve. Such pastors attempt to be omnipotent and omnipresent and feel a disproportionate need to be needed. Their self-worth depends on their productivity, and their self-esteem depends upon whether they can get everyone to like them.

Pastors suffering from the messiah complex believe that they are indispensable and therefore run themselves ragged ministering to every little need that arises. While to say "yes" to all demands on a minister's time may destroy the pastor's family life, to say "no" is to feel

intense guilt for failing one's parishioners and God as well. The result is that such pastors believe they are not doing their job unless they feel continually worn out.

The effects of such behavior on the congregation are very interesting. Initially, everyone in the church loves the pastor with a messiah complex. "At last," they say, "we have a pastor who will do something! She/He goes to all the meetings, does all the office work and even goes to the hospital in the middle of the night." In time, however, a dependent relationship is fostered within the congregation. The more the pastor does, the less the lay people do. And the congregation feels they cannot make a move without the pastor.

**EVENTUALLY, THE** congregation feels powerless, controlled and angry. But the pastor with the messiah complex has big shoulders and feels she or he can handle all this. When the lay folks start fighting and bickering among themselves, the pastor is often not aware of what is going on. The congregation then becomes passive-aggressive toward the pastor, the pastor blames the people for the church's problems, and finally the pastor leaves, never realizing that his or her behavior was the root of the problem.

While all this is happening in the church, equally disturbing things are going on at home. The spouse who marries the messiah complex pastor is initially supportive and many times receives his/her identity through the spouse. But because the pastor is gone a disproportionate amount of time, the family grows apart. There is a lack of communication and intimacy, and a wedge is driven in the family.

While the pastor may justify such a situation as the price to pay for saving souls, resentment grows, tension builds, and the pastor spends even more time away from home to get away from that stress. The conflict only increases, though. While the pastor claims that "God only calls a few

special people into ministry" and thereby justifies his/her actions, the spouse objects to that rationalization, feeling unappreciated, ignored and misunderstood. The result is often divorce in the clergy family.

**AS NEWHOUSE** summarized, there are three basic problems in dealing with the messiah complex. First is the fact that many pastors deny that the messiah complex exists for them. They'll say, "It is not my problem but yours. You don't understand how valuable I am to my congregation." Second, is the tendency of the clergy families to feel they need to keep up appearances; that is, they are perfect parents, the children always do the right things, and the family has no problems. Third, is resistance on the part of many congregations to accept anything less than a pastor with a messiah complex. It is not easy to teach a congregation that the pastor cannot be all things to all people and that they can take care of most of their needs themselves.

All of the participants in the clergy spouse retreat were challenged by Newhouse's presentation to examine their own lives and to discern if perhaps they



The Rev. Art Newhouse (l) chats with John Hice during the Grand Traverse District Clergy-Spouse retreat.—mca photo

had some of the tendencies of the person with a "messiah complex." After a wonderful time of relaxation and fellowship in the northwoods, everyone left with plenty to reflect upon on the way home. □

## Diary of a special ministry—camping for the physically impaired

SHERRIE CHRISLER  
Dean, Challenger Camp

It was the week of June 19-25, 1983, that the first Camp for the Physically Impaired Children was held at the Lake Huron United Methodist Camp and offered by the Detroit Conference Outdoor Education Division. There were five children, who knew little or nothing about God; five senior high youth committed to caring for their physical needs as well as being buddies; two adult counselors and myself as dean and living together as a Christian community. It was a growing experience in many ways for all.

From the beginning, this camp grew and in 1989 developed into two camps. The camp for the children nine to 18 years old

was called the Acorn Community and under the leadership of the Rev. Fred Timm as dean. The other camp for those 18-26 years old was called the Challenger Camp with myself as dean.

Because of the many variables involved each year, there has not been one camp the same as the other. For some of the campers, they spend the year looking forward to that one special week—their only week learning more about God and life in a Christian community at camp. Thanks be to God that the Detroit Conference has made this possible!

Then, too, there are some similarities. The need for a caring and capable nurse. The need for volunteer attendants to give their week to work one to one meeting campers' needs as well as being a special friend. It takes dedicated Christian volunteers! Losing a week's pay is sometimes the cost to be a part of this Christian mission and thus make this camp experience possible. I've been doing this and am working my eighth year as dean. One needs to be a part of this camp experience to know the real rewards.

Anyone wishing to be a part of the Acorn Community Camp, July 29-Aug. 3, call the Rev. Fred Timm at (313) 654-2001 or the Challenger Camp, July 15-21, call Sherrie Chrysler at (313) 278-0036. You are needed to make this an even better year!



Shown are Sherri and Robert at a previous Camp for Physically Impaired Children.

## Grosse Pointe UMC to observe 45 years

Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church will celebrate its 45th Anniversary with a homecoming and reunion on Sunday, Sept. 9. All former members and friends are invited. Please call the Church, (313) 886-2363, for information and to leave your name and address so you will receive an invitation. And, tell your friends who had an association with the church.

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## Free Pictorial Church Directory

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## L I N E R A D S

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE ADVOCATE  
Advocate ads bring results. Liner ads cost only \$2.25 per line or part thereof for the first entry, \$1.60 per line for identical ads thereafter. Display ads begin at \$10.00 a column inch. Rates vary. Call for details. Deadline for submitting or canceling an ad is the tenth day before date of publication. Write the Advocate at 316 Springbrook, Adrian 49221, for more information.

FOR SALE: Electric Mimeograph Machine, Model A.B. Dick 545. In excellent working condition. \$125. If interested please call the Grace United Methodist Church in Houghton, Michigan at (906) 482-2780 any morning between the hours of 8:30 and 11:30.

OFFICE ASSISTANT for New Hope UMC, Mecosta. General office skills, experienced with word processor and pc computer. Some program coordination required. Part time now, eventually full time. Resumes accepted through June. Send to box 186, Mecosta, MI 49332. Questions, call Iris Collins (616) 972-7629.

PART-TIME Christian Education Director who would be responsible for programming for all ages needed at the Lakeside United Methodist Church, 2160 Crozier St., Muskegon, MI 49441. Please send resume to the above address in c/o Mary Cryderman.

FOR RENT in Bay View, furnished cottage, sleeps ten people. Includes washing machine, dishwasher, TV, and unobstructed view of the Bay. June 1 through June 29, and Aug. 11 through Sept. 1, \$350 per week. Also Sept. 4 through Oct. 2, \$1,000 per month. Linens not furnished. Mrs. Coy H. James, 422 Linden Ave., Albion, MI 49224, phone (517) 629-4402.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS cottage for sale, built 1968, good condition. Excellent buy. Terms. John L. Francis, 187 Euna Vista, Holland, MI 49423, phone (616) 392-4626.

FOR RENT: condo in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Two bedrooms, sleeps six, pools, tennis and ocean. (313) 242-3251.

NEW FULL-TIME position being created for a Director of Christian Education/Music. Salary and benefits negotiable. Starting date: July 1, 1990. Send letters of inquiry to: Clare United Methodist Church, 105 East Seventh Street, Clare, MI 48617.

COTTAGE FOR sale at Crystal Springs United Methodist Camp near Dowagiac. Near pool. Remodeled kitchen. Appliances, some furnishings included. Ron and Mary Lou Fassett, (616) 243-2167.

POSITION OPEN: Christian education director, half-time. Two years' experience, with associate's degree preferred, which includes coordination and/or supervision of others. Committed to Christian education and possess good oral and written communication skills. Send resume and letter to: Neil Michaels, 1st UMC, 304 Elm St., Big Rapids, MI 49307. Job description will be forwarded.

PART-TIME Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries needed for the Clawson United Methodist Church starting July 1, 1990. For further information or to send resumes write: 205 N. Main, Clawson, MI 48017.

1955 CASAVANT ORGAN: 46 shops, three manuals and pedal; anticipated availability, April 1, 1991. \$60,000; buyer to remove. Dr. Justin Sleight, Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48933, (517) 482-6476.

DIRECTOR OF music, part-time, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, phone (517) 339-1706.

FULL-TIME Christian education director needed for Royal Oak First UMC, 320 W. Seventh St., Royal Oak, MI 48067. Should have a degree in Christian education or equivalent work experience. Send resume to Rev. Ed Duncan. For further information call (313) 541-4100.

ALWAYS EARN a minimum of 100% profit with a fund raiser from Pietila's Photography. For more information call (313) 386-0088.

COTTAGE FOR SALE: 2 story in woods at Crystal Springs Camp near Dowagiac. Cute, historic 2 bedroom, fireplace, appliances, bath, winterized, storage barn, river access. Leased lot provides services, pool. \$16,900/terms. Call Crawford, (616) 621-3796.

THE UNITED Methodist Church of Marshall is seeking applicants for the position of Christian Education Director. Minimum requirements are: Bachelor's Degree in religion, education or related field. Prefer degree in Christian education. Must have ability to work with, direct and support others. Please send resumes to United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 110, Marshall, Michigan 49068.

NEW MATTRESSES—factory direct. Free delivery in the greater Grand Rapids area, first quality, twin \$70, double \$100, queen \$140. Grand Mattress Co., 4625 Clyde Park, SW, Wyoming, MI 49509, ph. (616) 538-5782. Hrs. Mon.-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-4. Specialists in custom sizes and custom frames.

The Division of Outdoor Education of The Detroit Conference, United Methodist Church announces the following employment position.

### Position Title:

### DIRECTOR of PROGRAM and INTERPRETATION

**Position Description:** For approximately ten weeks each year, the Director will be Resident Director of Camp Kinawind at Lake Louise, a facility which offers rustic, small-group camping, canoeing, backpacking and bicycling camps. The balance of the year, the Director will be resident at Lake Huron Camp near Port Huron and will direct program there as well as direct promotion, interpretation and marketing efforts of the Conference's Outdoor Ministry operation.

**Qualifications:** Mature adult with training and experience in outdoor programming, knowledge of the United Methodist Church, and expertise in marketing and interpreting outdoor ministry facilities and programs.

**Beginning Date:** September 1, 1990. Resumes of applicants due — July 1, 1990.

Salary range \$23,000 to \$28,000, commensurate with experience. Benefits include housing and utilities.

### For a complete job description, write or call:

Division of Outdoor Education  
21700 Northwestern Hwy., #1200  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(313) 559-7000, Ext. 67

# BIBLE FOR TODAY



## Wisdom as a way of life Proverbs of the wise—Unit II

### Priority of wisdom

July 1, 1990

Proverbs 4:1-13

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."

—Proverbs 4:7

"Now, son, please sit down because I have some great words of wisdom for you." "Yes, Father, I will sit at your feet, because I truly want to listen to all you have to teach me."

"I know that you are from the current generation, but what I learned from my father is still good for today and for you to teach your children."

"Yes, Dad, you are so wise, and what you experienced is good for me to know."

In how many homes would the preceding dialogue really take place? Usually, we would hear a father shouting to get his child's attention away from Walkman, Nintendo, or television. And the youth would probably say something to the effect that he or she didn't want to hear any more of that stuff about what Pop grew up with.

**YET, MUCH OF** the Book of Proverbs deals with the importance of a father's teaching his sons, since in that culture of that time, the males were responsible for instruction—especially the teaching of the Laws of God, the rituals of the faith, and the values of the family. For this reason, this chapter starts by stating:

Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain

insight; for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me. . . "Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."

Somewhere along the line, fathers have shunned this task, this responsibility. Recent statistics show that fathers spend only 28 minutes per week alone with each child, all with the excuse that they are making a living for their family. But as a tradeoff, are they helping to make a life? I know that the recent trend of "youth power" has given the impression that the youth have the right to stand up for themselves, to express their feelings. However, where are the standards of living, the values, the perpetuation of culture, the continuation of faith coming from?

Wisdom is characterized in this passage as an alluring female: "Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. . . guard her, for she is your life."

**YET, WHAT ARE** we and our young people embracing? Is it truly wisdom? What, among our society's offerings, is alluring us? Religious instruction, if any, has been turned over to Sunday schools and youth groups, but even there the youth say, "It's boring!" so we let them pick what they want to talk about or do, which is usually just more of the same.

Lest this sounds like youth-bashing, it isn't. It's only a reminder of what a wise man said to his son on behalf of God centuries ago, and we have been unwilling and/or unable to continue the quest for and instruction of Wisdom.

### The value of wisdom

July 8, 1990

Proverbs 8:22-36

"Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it."

—Proverbs 8:33

**D**uring recent commencement speeches across the country, we can assume that much was said about the importance of intelligence, the accumulation of knowledge, the amassing of degrees, and the desire for learning. The tragedy is that we have many smart persons who are unwise. The information explosion has over-loaded our computer-brains—but with what?

**IT IS ONE** thing to be able to give questions to all the answers on "Jeopardy," but it is yet another to determine how faithful a person that makes you, how better of a spouse/parent/child/teacher you can become. The significant difference is "Wisdom," the ability to discern what is pure, wholesome, and necessary to carry on a meaningful and purposeful life. We have discovered many truths about God's creation, but can we discern the best ways to use that information and that creation positively, rather than destructively? Wisdom can give us the difference.

This 8th chapter of the Book of Proverbs proclaims that Wisdom was "created at the beginning of this work, the first of his acts of old." (Verse 22) In that respect, wisdom is seen as a part of creation, older than the earth, the provider of water, the one who gave meaning to the sky, and rejoiced with God as they planned and enjoyed the

human race. (Read verses 22-31.)

**WISDOM IS** important in this book. The word "wise" occurs 59 times in the R.S.V., and the opposite word "fool" appears 40 times. A fool is one who "looks down the nose" at wisdom and has no use for advice or instruction (1:7); sneers at the idea of sin (14:9); makes learning a sheer waste of time (27:22); quarrels a lot (20:3); has no use for knowledge (1:22); thinks wrongdoing is a kind of sport (10:23); is very happy to remain as they are (1:22); inexperienced and easily enticed (1:32).

Read 8:1-12 and see Wisdom personified, standing in the city square or out on the hills, shouting to all passersby to follow her teachings. Then look over at her unworthy counterpart, Dame Stupidity. (Read 9:1-5, 13-18, and try to visualize what is going on.)

The one who is wise "finds me and finds life and obtains favor from the Lord; but those who miss me injure themselves; all who hate Wisdom love death."

What an indictment! What a challenge to a culture and even a church that are functionally illiterate in biblical knowledge, and the Wisdom that God has placed within Scripture. Sheer common sense can carry us only so far.

## MOVING ON

Bishop Craig announced the formation of a task force that will meet later this year around the possible realignment of charges in the Detroit Conference. The issue of "viable appointments" will be in the conversation stage for as long as necessary, with preliminary report back to the 1991 Annual Conference. (For more detailed information about the actions discussed in this CLC/CFA summary, please see article on page 1, "It's back to the future for the Detroit Conference.")

**WHILE DEFEATING** a proposal that called for a reduction of Detroit Conference apportionments to "no more than the average per-member/per-church loads" of the North Central Jurisdiction, the Conference did vote approval of a resolution presented by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA). This action capped the conference budgets through 1994, allowing a total increase of no greater than 1.6 percent annually. The 1991 budget approved by the Conference—\$10,045,783—showed 1.6 percent raise above the 1990 budget.

Another significant action concerning finance called for a study with report to the 1991 Conference of an equitable salary schedule that would more fairly compen-

sate pastors with many years of service.

It was reported that the study to determine the feasibility of a capital campaign to support new church development and outdoor education now has professional support. Focus meetings will begin in the fall of 1990 and this data gathering will feed into a recommendation that will come to the next Conference session. (For a more detailed account of money matters see story page 3.)

The 1990 Annual Conference was not a year in which high energy was generated in debate of social issues. For a summary of actions taken, see "Legislative Round Up" on page 3.

**PEOPLE—THEIR** words and their lives—brought an important witness to the Conference floor. Preachers delivered words of blessing and challenge:

"Bishop Judy Craig—"We have a common identity through baptism. As people of the wet hair, we are a symbol to the world."

"Bishop James Thomas—"The price of redemption goes beyond Bethlehem as we see in the Garden of Gethsemane."

"Dr. Orville McKay—"We must believe again that a decision for Christ matters."

"Dr. Donald Strobe—"The problem with



Joy Arthur (l), presents a peace pole to Jeanette Bartz (c) and Marsha Woolley, representing Ypsilanti First UMC. Other Peace Covenant churches for 1990 were Ann Arbor First and Burton UMC.

us is that we're always saying what Jesus did instead of doing what Jesus said."

Individuals received recognition for years of faithful service to the gospel. The 1990 Denman awards were presented to the Rev. Eric Hammar and Mrs. Virginia Conrad. The United Methodist Rural Fellowship Citation of Merit was received by the Rev. Audrey Dunlap. Churches, too, were cited for exceptional achievements in evangelism and peacemaking. Church growth awards went to: Madison Heights Korean First, Crosswell, Milford, Lake Orion, and Clarkston. Larium, Deckerville and Minden City, East Detroit Immanuel, Howell First and Royal Oak First were celebrated for growth in the Sunday school. Three parishes—Ann Arbor First, Ypsilanti First and Burton UMCs—were named as the first Peace Covenant Churches in the Detroit Conference. (For more detail, see story page 2.)

**WHILE THE DETROIT** Conference statistics showed another year of member loss of 1,420 persons, the 1.2 percent decrease was the smallest drop in the past 18 years. Membership at the end of 1989 stood at 116,661. Conference evangelism

chairperson, Bill Quick, celebrated several other statistics that found a 6.4 percent gain in professions of faith over 1988 and nearly double the number of baptisms over deaths. It's a hopeful sign, noted Quick, when there are "more baptisms than funerals."

Though the 1990 Conference theme was, "A High Climb for a New Time," by adjournment of business on Friday at 6 p.m., the week in retrospect seemed more a plateau than a mountaintop. Conference members could return home, however, with a sense that the refocusing and stabilizing of finances, program, membership, and administration that has occurred in recent months, promises strong upward movement for the Detroit Annual Conference in the years ahead. □

## APPOINTMENTS

By Bishop Judith Craig

Announcement is made by the district superintendent on whose district the new appointment will be served.

Bufford Coe is appointed, effective July 1, 1990, to the Redford: Aldersgate UMC as associate. He is serving as associate at Central UMC in Brocton, Mass.

Troy O. Douthit is appointed, effective July 1, 1990, to the Lincoln Park First UMC as pastor. He is serving as associate at Redford Aldersgate UMC.

—Merton W. Seymour

Detroit West District Superintendent

Thomas P. Macaulay is appointed, effective July 1, 1990, to the Warren First UMC as pastor. He is serving as pastor at Lincoln Park First UMC.

—Phylemon D. Titus

Detroit East District Superintendent

## LOST AND FOUND

Someone inadvertently walked off with Kathy Cay's choir robe. It is aqua with a reversible white and yellow stole. If found, please contact Kathy at 5434 S. Mt. Tom, Rose City, MI 48654, phone (517) 685-2424.

# Youth delegates examine their role, struggle with issues as voting members

KATHY GOOLIAN  
MCA Staff Reporter

**ADRIAN (MCA)**—For the youth delegation to Detroit Annual Conference, it is a week of confusion, tedious meetings, sleepless nights as well as feeling their oats in legislative sessions, reading the materials seriously, and renewing old friendships while introducing new friends to the ritual. They feel anything but powerless. They feel respected as fully contributing members.

Many of these are the youth elected by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries to represent their churches and their fellow youth all over the Conference.

After the retirees were honored, Bishop Judith Craig asked the full delegation, "Who takes the mantle? To whom does the light of the gospel pass?" She was referring at that moment to the new ordinands. But the youth block on the floor of Dawson Auditorium could well have asked themselves, "Is taking the mantle in my future?"

Some are the children of lay delegates, some are the children of pastors. They are the ones who will help shape the course of the Conference as the millennium turns in ten short years.

Tom Mitchell, outgoing CCYM chair, passed the mantle of his office and received a carton of Coke from Matt Beebe on Dawson's stage. The *Advocate* had three questions for them and nine other youth delegates. What do you think Conference is for? What is it like for you? And why do you think you are here?

**Matt Beebe** is from Highland UMC. He says, "Annual Conference is a place where you can go and voice your opinions. I have been elected to represent youth around the state. The Conference tries to complete business in a formal setting.



Matt Beebe

"Youth are the future of the church and our voices are very important now as much as anytime, especially in an age where youth are growing up so fast. To get opinions voiced and feelings out, I think youth are very appropriate at Annual Conference."

**Jay Joseph** of Flint Court Street UMC, says, "Adults as well as youth get together at Annual Conference and discuss business that's happened throughout the year and make new changes or additions to already existing divisions or boards. This is my first Conference. It's really fun, although some sessions are quite tedious. It's very informative.

"As youth our opinions are very impor-

tant because we are part of the Detroit Conference, so I think we should have intelligent representation here."

**Dawn Pilette-Phillips** is a member of Detroit St. Timothy UMC. She feels "Annual Conference is to get the rules and help the churches get in order; to present ourselves in the community, to help in the community so that the church knows what



Dawn Pilette-Phillips

they are allowed to do to get the communities back on their feet.

I'm here to represent my church and to take back basic information to my youth group of what all the other youth groups in Michigan are doing."

**Tom Mitchell**, of Flint Court Street UMC said, "Conference is a time where we as a connectional church can come together and really practice that connectionalism. We meet not so much from across the state, but across the generations. At least youth see it that way. This is our chance to express our views, to come to see how things work, to see how our future's going to be affected by decisions we're making here today.

"That really helps the youth to be appreciative of our church. When they come here they're surprised that they have the respect as another member of Annual Conference. We have just as much right to the future of the church as the adults do, and they practice that for us. We find that very comforting as youth.

"The youth contribute in many ways: in the legislative sessions if there's something that concerns the youth and we have a based interest—we did last year with a couple environmental issues. We work as good representatives of the youth of the Conference that we might be able to help the youth support here, which seems to be growing all the time. This is a nice feeling. And we come to get more events and more outreach for the youth in the Conference through a good relationship with it at D.A.C."

**Tia King** of Saginaw Ames UMC says, "Here we get together to delegate people to General Conference and to make up rules and inform people of what's going to happen in the Conference.

"This is my second conference. It's been pretty interesting. I think the business meetings are interesting and this year I'm more interested in the budget because of the field I'm going into. I like seeing all these people, and it's nice to know that we have a big family."

**Trinna Schramm** is from Sandusky First UMC. "This is my first Conference. I've had a really good time so far. I can see it gets quite hectic. We really need youth to give youth opinions and just have a well-rounded Conference. Our district youth program is just getting started. I'm in the Port Huron District."

**Emily Grammel** of Livonia Newburg was attending her first Conference. "It's a meeting for pastors, youth and everyone to catch up on what's going on and to make changes in what has been done in the past. It's been kind of confusing but I've tried to pay attention and get into the swing of things. I think I've learned a lot just in this first day."

**Marcia Schleicher** attends Sandusky First UMC. "D.A.C. is for all UMs around the Conference, representatives from different churches to get together and decide what the UMC is all about, what it stands for and what type of action we should take in the future with current events that are happening—what we can do about them.

"This is my sixth year here. I would encourage *Advocate* readers to ask their



Youth delegates to Detroit Annual Conference were frank about how they perceive their roles. Early conferences have been a learning experience, and in subsequent years the students have the background and confidence to speak out on issues. Above are (l-r) Joy McVey, CCYM secretary; Tom Mitchell, outgoing CCYM chair; and Marcia Schleicher, at DAC for the sixth year.

pastors and lay delegates what they learned about, such as the resolution about banning alcoholic ads on TV or Up and Out of Poverty, where we can help people. There are so many things we can write to our senators about and get involved. Just because we didn't come to Conference doesn't mean we can't get involved."

**Liesl Eichler** of Pigeon First UMC says, "My parents have always talked about Annual Conference and I've always wanted to go. Last year I was here for a time but had to leave early. I wasn't a delegate and I wasn't in the youth dorm. I'm beginning



Liesl Eichler

to understand more of what happens. I didn't have the materials to read through last year.

"If you've never gone to Annual Conference I'd suggest it because you find out things you don't find out in your home church."

**Joy McVey** comes from Berkley First UMC. "Conference is kind of like Congress—a way for the church to make their responses to what's going on in the world and in the state of Michigan.

"This is my fourth Conference. We have a lot of fun, but you learn a lot. It's a way to understand more of what's going on in



Matt Beebe, new president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, gives a going-away present to Tom Mitchell who leaves the helm of the CCYM.

the church, what being a UM is about. We're all really good friends. It's nice to meet the new youth who come and get them involved, too. The more the better. I'm secretary of CCYM. This is a place for the leaders of the church to come, and I'm a leader of the youth."

**Kate Miller** of Flint Central says, "It's an interesting, good experience because you get to find out how your church works. I've been here with my parents and I've always wanted to come as a youth delegate. I think I'm here because I want to learn how



Kate Miller

my church works instead of just going to church every Sunday. I want to get more involved and help out because my vote counts." □



Former CCYM president, Steve Euper, now a student at Northern Michigan University, went to the mike during the restructure debate in support of youth concerns.



Most students find DAC interesting, if at times confusing. They have made amendments to resolutions and have spoken out in the legislative sessions. They feel they are respected as full members of Conference. Above (l-r) are Jay Joseph, Tia King, Trinna Schramm, and Emily Grammel.