

IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS

A. 2008 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

“Follow Jesus – Make Disciples – Transform the World”

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

- 10:00 A.M. Annual Day Apart: “A Day with the Upper Room Worshipbook,” led by Professor Elise Eslinger, Director of the Institute for Applied Theology, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio; to be held at Central Church, Clyde (conclusion by 3:00 P.M.)
- 6:45 P.M. Service of Evening Prayer, Stuart Auditorium
[All persons who are present at Lake Junaluska at this hour are invited to participate in this service.]
- 8:00 P.M. Executive Session of Clergy Members, Stuart Auditorium
[Only clergy members of the conference and the lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry are expected and permitted to attend this session.]

Thursday, June 5, 2008

- 9:30 A.M. Orientation Session for Laity, Stuart Auditorium
[All lay members of the conference are invited to this session.]
- 10:30 A.M. Worship Celebration and Holy Communion
Sermon: The Reverend In-Yong Lee, Pastor, St. Paul’s Church, Asheville
- 2:00 P.M. Opening of Conference for Organization and Plenary Business Session
Welcome to Lake Junaluska Assembly and Report of Southeastern Jurisdiction
Connectional Table, Jimmy L. Carr, Executive Director
Necessary Elections
Report of Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting
Action on Amendments to Plan of Organization and Rules
Report of Committee on Conference Staff Relations, Kenneth M. Partin, Chairperson
Election of Conference Secretary for 2008-2012
Report of Committee on Nominations
Election of Conference Statistician for 2008-2012
Cabinet Motions: Patricia A. Lewis, Cabinet Secretary
Annual Statistical Report, Charles D. White, Jr., Statistician
- 3:30 P.M. Composite Report of the Cabinet
- 3:45 P.M. Celebration of Centennial of the Social Creed and Presentation of new Social Creed
- 4:15 P.M. Conference Business
- 5:00 P.M. Recess
- 7:30 P.M. Plenary Business Session
Annual Meeting of the Membership of The United Methodist Foundation, Sam H. Smith, Jr., Chairperson; David A. Snipes, President
Report of The Duke Endowment, Robert R. (Robb) Webb III, Assistant Director, Rural Church Division
Report of Council on Congregational Development, Michael G. Carle, Chairperson
- 8:15 P.M. Recognition of Retirement of Conference Secretary Charles D. (Denny) White, Jr.
- 8:30 P.M. Reception Honoring the Retiring Secretary, Harrell Center Auditorium

Friday, June 6, 2008

- 7:30 A.M. Service of Holy Communion, Memorial Chapel, led by David R. Ortigoza and representatives of Hispanic/Latino ministries of the conference
- 8:45 A.M. Daily Light: Scripture Study, based on John 21:1-14, led by Veranita G. Alvord, Pastor, Hoyle Memorial Church, Shelby
- 9:30 A.M. Plenary Business Session
Report of Conference Ministries Advisory Council, Robert E. Shepherd, Chairperson
Report on 2008 General Conference, Betty Jo C. Hardy, Delegation Chairperson; T. A. (Andy) Langford III, Delegation Vice-Chairperson; and Kimberly T. Ingram, Delegation Secretary
Approval of “Jurisdictional Pool” of Nominees for General Agencies
- 10:15 A.M. Report of Board of Ordained Ministry, J. Thomas Stinson-Wesley, President
Recognition of Licensing School Graduates
Recognition of Graduates of the Course of Study
Recognition of Clergy Transfers and Other First-Time Appointees
Reception of Probationary, Associate, and Full-Connection Classes
- 11:00 A.M. Recess and Transition for Worship
- 11:15 A.M. Service for the Commissioning of Probationary Members

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

- 12:00 P.M. Recess for Lunch
 1:45 P.M. Plenary Business Session
 Report of Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Mark B. Edwards, President
 Report of Council on Finance and Administration, James C. Windham, Jr., President
 Election of Conference Treasurer-Director of Administrative Services for 2008-2012
 Annual Financial Report, William C. Wyman, Jr., Treasurer
 Report of Stewardship of Giving Task Force, Sam H. Smith, Jr., Chairperson
 Report of Council on Campus Ministry, James C. Howell, Chairperson
 Conference Business
 Adoption of Consent Calendar
 3:15 P.M. Recognition of Retirement of Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey and Report of Committee on
 Episcopacy, Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., Chairperson
 3:45 P.M. Reception Honoring Bishop and Mrs. McCleskey, Harrell Center Auditorium
 7:30 P.M. Plenary Business Session
 Celebration of Ministries of the Laity
 Laity Address: Vincent Sutlive, Lay Member, Crossroads Church, Concord
 Council on Laity, Betty Jo C. Hardy, Conference Lay Leader
 Election of Conference Lay Leader for 2008-2012
 Confirmation of District Lay Leaders and Associates for 2008-2009
 Council on Youth Ministries, Chris Grimmert, President
 United Methodist Men, Richard W. Strachan, President
 United Methodist Women, Amy L. Johnson, President

Saturday, June 7, 2008

- 7:30 A.M. A Service of Healing and Communion, Memorial Chapel, led by Bart W. Milleson and Angela
 A. Pleasants, with music by choir of Hinshaw Memorial Church, Greensboro
 8:45 A.M. Daily Light: Scripture Study, based on John 21:15-25, led by Jeremy I. Troxler, Director,
 Thriving Rural Communities Initiative, Duke Divinity School
 9:30 A.M. Plenary Business Session
 Report of Conference Board of Trustees, Joseph P. McGuire, President
 Cabinet Resolutions, Patricia A. Lewis, Cabinet Secretary
 Report of The United Methodist Publishing House
 Report of Conference Brotherhood/Sisterhood, A. Owen Peeler, President
 10:00 A.M. Ceremony of Recognition of Retiring Clergy, sponsored by Board of Pension and Health
 Benefits and Board of Ordained Ministry
 Statement on Behalf of Retirees: J. Hurley Thomas III, Superintendent, Winston-Salem
 District
 10:30 A.M. Plenary Business Session
 Report of Commission on Archives and History, James L. Pyatt, Chairperson
 Presentation of Bishop's Awards of Excellence in Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting
 11:00 A.M. Recess and Transition for Worship
 11:15 A.M. Celebration of Life Service
 Sermon: The Reverend K. Wesley Judy, Pastor, First Church, Forest City
 2:15 P.M. Organizational Meetings of Agencies for 2008-2012 Quadrennium
 7:30 P.M. Service of Ordination of Deacons and Elders
 Sermon: Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey

Sunday, June 8, 2008

- 8:45 A.M. Sunday School for All Ages
 Children (kindergarten through fifth grade): Room 316, Terrace, led by Jane Hoover,
 Christian Educator, Kernersville
 Youth (sixth through twelfth grades): Amphitheater at the Cross (in the event of rain, in the
 International Room, Lambuth Inn), led by Cindy Furr, Christian Educator, Weaverville
 Adults: Memorial Chapel, led by Robert V. Dodd, Matthews
 10:30 A.M. Conference Sunday Service of Worship
 Sermon: Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey
 Fixing of Appointments, Sending Forth, and Adjournment *sine die*

B. CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS**Tuesday, June 3, 2008**

- 2:00 P.M. 15th Annual Children's Home Benefit Golf Tournament, Lake Junaluska Golf Course
 5:45 P.M. Dinner, Conference Secretarial Staff

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

- 11:45 A.M. Luncheon and Annual Meeting, Clergy Appointed to Extension Ministries and Beyond the Local Church, Lambuth Inn
- 2:00 P.M. Beginning Pastors' Seminar: "The Art of the Start," Harrell Center Auditorium
- 2:00 P.M. Meeting, Bishop and Cabinet, Room 316, Terrace
- 3:30 P.M. Annual Meeting, Conference Brotherhood/Sisterhood, Room 211, Terrace
- 4:00 P.M. Meeting, Board of Ordained Ministry, Room 213, Terrace
- 5:00 P.M. Annual Dinner, Duke Divinity School Alumni/ae and Friends, Nanci Weldon Gym
- 5:00 P.M. Banquet, United Methodist Rural Fellowship, Maggie Valley Church
- 5:30 P.M. Dinner, Hood Theological Seminary Alumni/ae, Room 319, Terrace
- 5:30 P.M. Dinner and Training Session, Conference Ushers, Foundation for Evangelism Building
- 6:00 P.M. Dinner, Bishop and Cabinet, Terrace Auditorium
- 9:30 P.M. After-Hours Entertainment, Ed Kilbourne, Edgewater Café, Harrell Center

Thursday, June 5, 2008

- 8:15 A.M. Breakfast, Women in Ministry, Dining Room, Lambuth
[Note: Persons staying at Lambuth Inn and not involved in this event are advised that they are to have breakfast in the International Room.]
- 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Tents beside Stuart Auditorium (through Saturday)
- 12:15 P.M. Luncheon, Drew University Alumni/ae and Friends, Saville Room, Lambuth
- 12:15 P.M. Luncheon, Erskine Theological Seminary Alumni/ae and Students, Room 319, Terrace
- 12:15 P.M. Picnic, hosted by Health and Human Services Consortium, with music, tent on lawn between Stuart Auditorium and Harrell Center (until 2:00)
- 12:15 P.M. Luncheon and Meeting, Conference Board of Trustees, Room 316, Terrace
- 12:15 P.M. Luncheon, Greensboro College Alumni/ae and Friends, Terrace Auditorium
- 12:15 P.M. Luncheon, Methodists Federated for Social Action, International Room Lambuth
- 5:30 P.M. Banquet, Board of Ordained Ministry, Cabinet, and Persons Being Ordained and Commissioned, First Church, Waynesville
- 5:30 P.M. Banquet, Pfeiffer University Alumni/ae and Friends, Foundation for Evangelism Building
- 5:30 P.M. Reception, Retiring Clergy and Spouses, Section A, Terrace Auditorium
- 6:00 P.M. Banquet, Retiring Clergy and Spouses, Sections B-C, Terrace Auditorium
- 8:30 P.M. Reception, Honoring Retiring Conference Secretary, Harrell Center Auditorium
- 9:30 P.M. After-Hours Entertainment, Ed Kilbourne, Edgewater Café, Harrell Center

Friday, June 6, 2008

- 7:15 A.M. Breakfast, WNC Conference Retired Clergy and Spouses and Surviving Spouses, sponsored by the Eugene M. Cole Foundation, International Room, Lambuth
- 7:52 A.M. Dutch-Treat Breakfast, North Wilkesboro District, Terrace Auditorium
- 10:00 A.M. Coffee, Honoring Spouses of Retiring Clergy, Susan Todd Lounge, Harrell Center
- 12:30 P.M. Annual Missions Luncheon, First Church, Waynesville
- 12:30 P.M. Luncheon, Asbury Theological Seminary Alumni/ae and Friends, Room 319, Terrace
- 12:30 P.M. Luncheon, Chaplains' Fellowship, Room 316, Terrace
- 12:30 P.M. Luncheon, Gammon Theological Seminary Alumni/ae and Friends, Front Dining Room, Jones Cafeteria
- 12:30 P.M. Luncheon, High Point University Alumni/ae and Friends, Terrace Auditorium
- 12:30 P.M. Luncheon, Pastors of New-Church Starts, Saville Room, Lambuth
- 1:30 P.M. Watermelon Cutting, hosted by Pfeiffer University, Tent between Stuart Auditorium and Harrell Center
- 1:30 P.M. A Cup of Lemonade, hosted by Friends and Alumni/ae of Campus Ministries, Tent between Stuart Auditorium and Harrell Center
- 2:30 P.M. Meeting, Prayer and Praise Fellowship for Clergy Spouses, Memorial Chapel
- 3:45 P.M. Reception, Honoring Bishop McCleskey upon Retirement, Harrell Center Auditorium
- 5:30 P.M. Banquet, Wesley Theological Seminary Alumni/ae and Friends, Room 316, Terrace
- 5:30 P.M. Banquet, Candler School of Theology Alumni/ae and Friends, Long's Chapel Church
- 9:15 P.M. Ice Cream Social, hosted by Greensboro College, tent between Stuart Auditorium and Harrell Center
- 9:00 P.M. Young Adult Clergy Gathering, Terrace Auditorium
- 9:30 P.M. After-Hours Entertainment, Ed Kilbourne, Edgewater Café, Harrell Center

Saturday, June 7, 2008

- 7:30 A.M. Breakfast, Educational Opportunities, International Room, Lambuth
- 7:30 A.M. Breakfast, Christian Educators Fellowship, Room 316, Terrace
- 7:30 A.M. Breakfast, Committee on Native American Ministries, Saville Room, Lambuth
- 8:30 A.M. Hospitality Time for Retiring Clergy and Spouses, Harrell Center Auditorium
- 10:45 A.M. Reception Honoring Retiring Clergy and Spouses, Harrell Center Auditorium
- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon, Scouting Awards Participants, Terrace Auditorium

- 12:30 P.M. Annual Luncheon, Clergy Spouses, First Church, Waynesville (tickets available outside registration area on Wednesday night and Thursday and Friday mornings)
 12:30 P.M. Cookout, Hood Theological Seminary Students, Alumni/ae, and Friends, Nanci Weldon Gym

C. DAILY MINUTES

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 4, 2008 – 8:00 P.M.

CLERGY SESSION CONVENES: In compliance with ¶ 605.6 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004), Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey convened an executive session of the clergy members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Hymn 540 (*UMH*), "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord," was sung, and Bishop McCleskey offered prayer, after which the clergy members joined in a unison prayer.

READING PROGRAM: Bishop McCleskey made brief remarks concerning the Bishop's Reading Program of the Finch-Hunt Institute for Homiletical Studies, noting that a list of books being recommended for reading and study had been distributed to the clergy members.

CHAIRS OF THE ORDERS: J. Thomas Stinson-Wesley, president of the Board of Ordained Ministry and on behalf of the board, nominated Saxon C. Scarborough as chairperson of the Order of Deacons for the 2008-2012 quadrennium, and he was elected by the deacons in full connection. Rev. Stinson-Wesley then nominated Joseph C. (Jody) Seymour, Jr., as chairperson of the Order of Elders for the 2008-2012 quadrennium, and he was elected by the elders in full connection.

CLERGY HEALTH INITIATIVE: Bishop McCleskey reported that The Duke Endowment, in cooperation with Duke Divinity School, had begun a \$12-million, six-year initiative on clergy health in North Carolina. Robert R. Webb III, assistant director of the Rural Church Division of The Duke Endowment; Robin Swift, director of the initiative; and David Toole, of Duke Divinity School, each spoke briefly concerning this urgent concern. A survey of 1,600 clergy in both United Methodist conferences in the state will be the first phase of the initiative and will help define the parameters of the program.

ORDER OF ELDERS: Susan Pendleton Jones, chairperson of the Order of Elders, invited all elders to share in the November 10-12, 2008, annual retreat, "Leading Causes of Light," at Kanuga Retreat Center.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD: Robert W. Combs, executive director, spoke concerning the mission of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood and urged the clergy to become members of this benevolent organization.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS: Board of Ordained Ministry president J. Thomas Stinson-Wesley, board secretary Jeffrey S. Patterson, and board registrar Charles D. White, Jr., as appropriate, supplied the proposed responses to Business Questions 17-62, 83, 88c, and 91. In each instance, the affirmative vote of the clergy session was by more than the required majorities, including those instances in which 2/3s or 3/4s votes were required. The listings for all questions dealt with in the clergy session as printed in Section V, The Business of the Annual Conference, accurately reflect the actions of the clergy session.

PASTORAL STATEMENT: Bishop McCleskey offered reflections on the subject, "Call and Response," lifting up specific references to the call of Jesus to his disciples and the understanding of the call to ministry set forth by H. Richard Neibuhr: The general call, the inner call, the providential call, and the ecclesiastical call.

ADJOURNMENT: Bishop McCleskey led in unison prayer (689 *UMH*) and in the singing of hymn 690 (*UMH*), "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended." The bishop pronounced the benediction, and the executive session of the clergy was adjourned at 9:38 P.M. (See Sec. V, The Business of the Annual Conference.)

FIRST DAY – THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2008

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION – 9:30 A.M.

LAITY ORIENTATION SESSION: Under the leadership of Betty Jo C. Hardy, conference lay leader and president of the Council on Laity, an orientation session for the lay members of the conference was conducted at 9:30 A.M., Thursday, June 5, 2008, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska.

OPENING WORSHIP CELEBRATION AND HOLY COMMUNION: The conference celebration of Holy Communion began at 10:30 A.M. in Stuart Auditorium. John-Palmer Smith, associate conference director of music, played the opening voluntary, "Sanctus," from *St. Cecilia Mass*, by Charles Gounod. Joshua M. Noblitt, liturgist, led the responsive call to worship, and the congregation sang processional hymn 181 (*UMH*), "Ye Servants of God." Rev. Noblitt then led the unison collect.

Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey introduced the preacher for the service, The Reverend In-Yong Lee, pastor of St. Paul's Church, Asheville. Betty B. Brown, liturgist, offered the prayer for illumination, and Rev. Noblitt read the Gospel from Matthew 25:14-30. Following the singing of hymn 581 (*UMH*), "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service," Rev. Lee delivered the communion sermon, "Joy of a Servant."

In response to the proclamation of the Word, Charles D. White, Jr., conference secretary and co-celebrant, led the Apostles' Creed, after which Rev. Brown offered concerns and prayers. Bishop McCleskey gave the invitation to the Lord's Table and led the act of confession and pardon. Following the exchange of signs of peace, the offering for the Lake Junaluska Foundation in honor of the retiring secretary, to be used for the renovation or replacement of Stuart Auditorium, was received while the offertory, "How Beautiful," was signed by

the Long's Chapel Church Deaf Ministry Choir. The congregation then sang the doxology with alleluias (94 *UMH*).

Bishop McCleskey and Dr. White, co-celebrants, led in the prayer of great thanksgiving, with sung responses, and the Lord's Prayer. The elements were distributed by members of the extended cabinet and those to be ordained or recognized as elders and deacons at the 2008 session. With Lester E. Ackerman, conference director of music, at the organ and Rev. Smith at the piano, various hymns were sung as the elements were received.

Bishop McCleskey led the unison prayer after communion, and hymn 433 (*UMH*), "All Who Love and Serve Your City," was sung. Bishop McCleskey offered the dismissal with blessing; the conference musicians played the closing voluntary, "Improvisation on 'Hymn to Joy,'" arranged by Richard Elliott; and the service concluded at 12:00 noon.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION – 2:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE CONVENES: With J. Lawrence McCleskey, resident bishop of the Charlotte Area, presiding, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church convened in George R. Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, on June 5, 2008.

CALL TO ORDER: Bishop McCleskey called the 41st annual session of the conference to order at 2:00 P.M. with the congregational singing of hymn 553, "And Are We Yet Alive."

ROLL CALL OF THE DECEASED: The members of the conference stood in moments of tribute as the secretary called the names of the clergy and diaconal ministers of the conference who had died since the adjournment of the 2007 session: David Kuhl Allcorn, Zeb Elonzo Barnhardt, James Sherer Barrett, Roy Edison Bell, Melvin Mock Beeker, Sr., Joseph Ray Bogle, Paul Meredith Bradley, Jr., Glenn Albert Brooks, David Wayland Charlton, Jr., James Woodrow Crawley, Luther Crady, Jr., Kenneth Dewey Crouse, William Tyndale Forbis, Dwight Rodney Frye, Melton Edward Harbin, Paul Marshall Hart, Warren Gamaliel Harding Hawks, James Ernest Hull, Carl Wesley Judy, Howard Marshall Kiser, Ralph Marsden Kitley, Everett Herman Lowman, Mark Dwight Mashburn, John Lloyd McWhorter, Kenneth Robbins Moore, Larry John Rowell, Bernard Curry Russell, Fred Coolidge Shoaf, Benjamin Taylor Steele, Harry Lee Watwood III, Howard Charles Wilkinson, and Larry Dale Wilkinson. Bishop McCleskey then offered the prayer of grateful remembrance.

OFFICIAL ROLL: The secretary noted that, under the rules, the signed registration cards constitute the official roll call and stand as evidence of attendance at the sessions of the conference.

QUORUM: The secretary stated that one third of the total number of voting members registered at the time of the organizational session constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business throughout the conference sessions, and Bishop McCleskey ruled that a quorum was present.

VOTING BAR: Upon motion by the secretary, the voting bar (legal limits) of the conference was set to include all of Stuart Auditorium, with the provision that those voting must be seated within the bar unless other instructions were given in case of a full house.

AGENDA: The secretary moved that the conference program as printed, subject to necessary daily adjustments, constitute the official agenda of the 2008 conference session, and it was so ordered.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND AGENCIES: The secretary moved that the reports of conference boards and agencies as printed in the *Program and Reports* booklet and the supplement be ordered to record insofar as they did not require conference action and provided that conference agencies be permitted to file late reports and/or editorial corrections and adjustments, including necessary adjustments in lists of names of agency board members, by June 16, 2008, and it was done.

WELCOME TO LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY/SEJCT REPORT: Jimmy L. Carr, executive director of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Connectional Table, welcomed the conference to Lake Junaluska Assembly and reported on a newly emerging master plan for major additions and renovations at the assembly. Included in that plan are a 3,000-seat conference center and a new hotel beside the lake. Further development of the design and major efforts in fundraising are in the offing for some years to come.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING: Bishop McCleskey, chairperson of the committee, made the annual report of the committee (see Sec. VIII.N), expressing gratitude to those involved in the planning of the 2008 session.

RULES AMENDMENTS: The secretary presented an extensive series of amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and Procedure as proposed by the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting and/or other agencies, and the conference approved the amendments by the required 2/3s vote in each instance. While the extent of those amendments prohibits their being quoted in these minutes, noteworthy aspects of them included elimination of all references to forum groups, as directed by the 2007 conference; establishment of conference and district boards of congregational development, as ordered by the February 2, 2008, special conference session; and various miscellaneous additional adjustments. Section VII of this volume, the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and Procedure, accurately reflect the actions of the conference in this regard.

REPORT ON PROGRAM MINISTRIES STRUCTURE: Robert E. Shepherd, chairperson of the Conference Ministries Advisory Council and of a special task force authorized by the February 2, 2008, special conference session to work on a new structure for the program ministries of the conference, presented the report (see Sec. VIII.Y), assisted by Stephen D. James and Kimberly T. Ingram. Special emphasis was placed upon having all of the constituencies of the conference represented at the Connectional Table and upon continuing to refine the structure and process over time. After two grammatical corrections had been noted, the report was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS: Kenneth M. Partin, chairperson, reported on behalf of the committee, noting improvements in the area of technology and in staff compensation policies and also expressing gratitude to Bishop McCleskey; Charles D. White, Jr., conference secretary; and Janet M. Hitch, conference director of Christian education, upon their retirements.

ELECTION OF CONFERENCE SECRETARY: Kenneth M. Partin, chairperson of the Committee on Conference Staff Relations and on behalf of the committee, nominated Kimberly T. Ingram as conference

secretary for the 2008-2012 quadrennium, and she was elected.

CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR: Bishop McCleskey nominated James C. Windham, Jr., a member of Myers Memorial Church, Gastonia, as conference chancellor for 2008-2012, and he was elected.

COORDINATOR OF CALENDAR: Bishop McCleskey, chairperson of the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting and on behalf of the committee, nominated Kimberly T. Ingram as coordinator of calendar for the 2008 session, and she was elected.

SECRETARIAL STAFF: Secretary White nominated the following persons as members of the conference secretarial staff for the 2008 session, and they were elected: Kimberly T. Ingram, associate secretary; Sandra S. Hargett, Stephen M. Martin, A. Owen Peeler, Susan L. Yarski, and Debra S. Younts, assistant secretaries; and W. T. Medlin, Jr., secretary *emeritus*.

STATISTICAL STAFF: Kimberly T. Ingram, statistician for 2008-2012, nominated Sandra S. Hargett as associate statistician and Lawrence E. Barden and Charles D. White, Jr., as statisticians *emeriti* for the coming year, and they were elected.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS: Charles D. White, Jr., committee secretary, presented the report as contained in the supplement distributed at registration, and, with various necessary adjustments, it was approved (see Sec. VIII.W).

GREETINGS: In the necessary absence of Patricia A. Lewis, secretary of the cabinet, J. Alexander Ward, Jr., Waynesville District Superintendent, moved that information from conference members and the cabinet concerning conference members unable to attend because of illness or other family emergencies be given directly to the conference secretary, and that the secretary write these absent members expressing the greetings and prayerful concern of the conference, and it was so ordered.

MOVING DAY: Dr. Ward moved that moving day be set for Tuesday, June 24, 2008, and it was done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Dr. Ward then moved that the bishop and the cabinet be empowered to care for any unfinished business of the annual conference that does not contravene *The Book of Discipline* (2004), and it was so ordered.

CABINET RESOLUTION: On the behalf of the cabinet, Dr. Ward proposed the adoption of the following resolutions on church discontinuance and abandonment, and each was adopted:

Duncan Memorial Church, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte District

Whereas, The local church property of the former Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, 420 East 15th Street, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, is no longer used, kept, or maintained by the membership as a place for divine worship as a United Methodist church; and

Whereas, Said property no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, The superintendent of the Charlotte District has recommended discontinuance of Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte District; and

Whereas, The presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the Charlotte District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been met; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte District, be discontinued, effective December 31, 2007; that the church property located at 420 East 15th Street, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, be declared abandoned, effective December 31, 2007; and that the annual conference trustees assume control of all remaining real and personal, tangible and intangible property, in accordance with ¶ 2548 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004).

Kelly's Chapel Church, Bessemer City, Gaston County, Gastonia District

Whereas, The local church property of the former Kelly's Chapel United Methodist Church, Bessemer City, Gaston County, North Carolina, is no longer used, kept, or maintained by the membership as a place for divine worship as a United Methodist church; and

Whereas, Said property no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized in 1893; and

Whereas, The superintendent of the Gastonia District has recommended discontinuance of Kelly's Chapel United Methodist Church, Bessemer City, Gaston County, Gastonia District; and,

Whereas, The presiding bishop and a majority of the district superintendents and the Gastonia District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been met; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Kelly's Chapel United Methodist Church, Bessemer City, Gaston County, Gastonia District, be discontinued, effective January 27, 2008; that the church property located at 914 West Carolina Avenue, Bessemer City, Gaston County, North Carolina, be declared abandoned, effective January 27, 2008; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., in consultation with the Gastonia District Superintendent, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2548 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004).

Leicester Church, Leicester, Buncombe County, Asheville District

Whereas, The local church property of the former Leicester United Methodist Church, Leicester, Buncombe County, North Carolina, is no longer used, kept, or maintained by the membership as a place for divine worship as a United Methodist church; and

Whereas, Said property no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, The superintendent of the Asheville District has recommended discontinuance of Leicester United Methodist Church, Leicester, Buncombe County, Asheville District; and

Whereas, The presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the Asheville District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been met; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Leicester United Methodist Church, Leicester, Buncombe County, Asheville District, be discontinued, effective May 14, 2008; that the church property located on New Leicester

Highway, Leicester, Buncombe County, North Carolina, be declared abandoned, effective May 14, 2008; and that the annual conference trustees assume control of all remaining real and personal, tangible and intangible property, in accordance with ¶ 2548 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004).

Manus Chapel Church Property, Polk County, Marion District

Whereas, The local church property of the former Manus Chapel Methodist Church, Polk County, Marion District, located on the north side of North Carolina State Road No. 1327 in White Oak Township, Polk County, North Carolina, was closed by the 1965 session of the Western North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church (page 106, Journal of the 1965 Session); and

Whereas, There exists no resolution of the annual conference concerning the disposition of said property; and

Whereas, The Marion District Superintendent has recommended the abandonment of said property according to ¶ 2548.2b of *The Book of Discipline* (2004) for the purpose of forming a cemetery association in accordance with the laws of the state of North Carolina; and

Whereas, The presiding bishop and a majority of the district superintendents consented to the following action on May 13, 2008; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the property of the former Manus Chapel Methodist Church, located on the north side of North Carolina State Road No. 1327 in White Oak Township, Polk County, North Carolina, Marion District, be declared abandoned, effective May 13, 2008, and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., in consultation with the Marion District Superintendent, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2548 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004).

Martin Street Church, Shelby, Cleveland County, Gastonia District

Whereas, The local church property of the former Martin Street United Methodist Church, Shelby, Cleveland County, Gastonia District, located at 608 Martin Street, Shelby, North Carolina, is no longer used, kept, or maintained by the membership as a place of divine worship as a United Methodist church; and

Whereas, Said property no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized; and

Whereas, The superintendent of the Gastonia District has recommended discontinuance of Martin Street United Methodist Church, Shelby, Cleveland County, Gastonia District; and

Whereas, The presiding bishop and a majority of the district superintendents and the Gastonia District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action, and all disciplinary requirements have been met; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Martin Street United Methodist Church, Shelby, Cleveland County, Gastonia District, be discontinued, effective November 30, 2007; that the church property located at 608 Martin Street, Shelby, Cleveland County, North Carolina, be declared abandoned, effective November 30, 2007; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., in consultation with the Gastonia District Superintendent, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2548 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004).

Parkway Church, Stanly County, Albemarle District

Whereas, The membership of Parkway United Methodist Church, Stanly County, Albemarle District, has declined to fewer than 20 members, with an active membership of six persons, plus the pastor's family; and

Whereas, The church building needs significant and costly repairs, which the church cannot afford; and

Whereas, A called church conference on May 29, 2008, voted to discontinue the congregation, with no dissenting votes, and in such action requested that "...the Western North Carolina Conference trustees make every possible effort to sell the property at a reasonable price to Westminster Presbyterian Church," a congregation that has been worshipping in the Parkway sanctuary since 1991; and

Whereas, The Albemarle district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Albemarle District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Parkway United Methodist Church, Stanly County, Albemarle District, be discontinued and declared abandoned, effective June 22, 2008, immediately following a closing service of worship celebrating its life and ministries, and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2548 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004) and the policies of the annual conference, with special sensitivity to the request of the congregation for the sale of the property.

Rolling Hills Church, Monroe, Union County, Albemarle District

Whereas, Rolling Hills United Methodist Church, Monroe, Union County, Albemarle District, declined to fewer than 15 active members; and

Whereas, The Rolling Hills charge conference voted on February 26, 2006, to sell its property due to encroaching commercialization; and

Whereas, The members were unable to meet local expenses, pastoral compensation, and district and annual conference apportionments; and

Whereas, The congregation was unable to fulfill its purpose and mission according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; and

Whereas, A called church conference on September 26, 2007, voted unanimously to discontinue the congregation rather than relocate and to request that all assets from the sale of the property be

used for congregational development in Union County, the seventh-fastest growing county in the United States; and

Whereas, The remaining members wish to attend several different nearby United Methodist churches; and

Whereas, A final service of celebration for the ministries of Rolling Hills Church was held on October 21, 2007; and

Whereas, The presiding bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, a majority of the cabinet, the Albemarle district superintendent, and the Albemarle District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Rolling Hills United Methodist Church, Monroe, Union County, Albemarle District, be discontinued, effective October 21, 2007; that the church property located at 2691 West Roosevelt Boulevard, Monroe, Union County, North Carolina, be declared abandoned, effective October 21, 2007; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., in consultation with the Albemarle District Superintendent, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2548 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004), with the assets from the sale of the property to be used, as requested by the Rolling Hills church conference, for congregational development in Union County.

Union Hill Church , East Bend Charge, East Bend, Yadkin County, Northeast District

Whereas, The membership of Union Hill United Methodist Church , East Bend Charge, East Bend, Yadkin County, Northeast District, has declined to 24 professing members, with a worship attendance of 8; and

Whereas, The church is no longer able to provide either pastoral compensation or connectional apportionments; and

Whereas, The church cemetery continues to provide the resting places of loved ones from the church family; and

Whereas, The sanctuary of the church is furnished with many items that were made by members of the church who have died, but continue to live through this legacy of faith; and

Whereas, The presiding bishop , a majority of the district superintendents, and the Northeast District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Union Hill United Methodist Church, East Bend Charge, East Bend, Yadkin County, Northeast District, be discontinued, effective December 31, 2007; that the church property located at 4309 Union Hill Road, East Bend, Yadkin County, North Carolina, be declared abandoned, effective December 31, 2007; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., in consultation with the Northeast District Superintendent, be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2548 of *The Book of Discipline* (2004), provided that the church buildings and cemetery are to be transferred to the Union Hill United Methodist Chapel and Cemetery Association, Inc. , for care, maintenance , and use.

Joy M. Clark asked that, in the closing of Duncan Memorial Church in Charlotte, the conference trustees continue to be mindful of the need for a United Methodist presence in the part of the city in which the church was located, an area undergoing revitalization and renewal.

STATISTICAL REPORT: Charles D. White, Jr., conference statistician, presented his summary report for the 2007 calendar year, which was received with appreciation (see Sec. VIII.LL).

COMPOSITE REPORT OF THE CABINET AND THE STATE OF THE CHURCH: Bishop McCleskey offered the annual report of the cabinet, presenting six signs of hope which he observed emerging in the conference:

1) The formation of a new district, the Lake Norman District. In a time when some annual conferences are reducing the number of districts, this annual conference has taken a bold initiative to cultivate growth.

2) A concern for the health of the clergy in a holistic sense, as exemplified by the new clergy-health initiative being started with the cooperation of The Duke Endowment and Duke Divinity School. In addition, the oversight group was being named for the covenant peer groups authorized at the February 2, 2008, conference session.

3) The four-way partnership between the two annual conferences in North Carolina, Duke Divinity School, and The Duke Endowment for strengthening rural communities and congregations.

4) Initiatives involving the churches of African American identity are emerging with good effect.

5) A turn-around being observed in the financial stewardship of congregations in support of the annual conference and the general church, with total apportionments paid in 2007 of 74.6%, as compared to 69.6% in 2006.

6) An increase in the number of new clergy coming from local churches in the annual conference, resulting in the need to deploy fewer persons from other conferences and denominations.

The bishop concluded the address by expressing his thanks for his four years as bishop in the conference and challenged the churches to continue following Jesus, making disciples, and transforming the world.

CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SOCIAL CREED: Pamela Shoffner, chairperson of the Committee on Church and Society, introduced the celebration of the centennial of the Social Creed. Stephen F. Lee highlighted the historical development of social creeds within the Methodist family, noting that, in 1972, after the formation of The United Methodist Church, a new statement of Social Principles was adopted. The members of the conference then stood and recited the Social Creed. Polly Pearson noted that a new Social Creed had been proposed at the 2008 General Conference, but had not been adopted. Instead, the proposed new creed was approved as a liturgical companion to the creed, and it has already been given a musical response. Cornelius F. Brantley, Jr., led the conference in reciting the litany and singing the response.

Ms. Shoffner then presented the first social justice recognition award to Green Street Church, Winston-Salem. Kelly P. Carpenter, pastor, and Vanessa Keesey, church lay leader, accepted the award on behalf of the church.

RURAL FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION: Randy L. Wall, chairperson of the United Methodist Rural Fellowship of the conference, presented to Joan C. Christy, on behalf of her late husband, John H. Christy, a posthumous honorary life membership in UMRF. In so doing, he noted that the fellowship had raised \$3,700 for its work in obtaining this membership in recognition of Dr. Christy's life-long interest in and commitment to rural ministry.

REPORT ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION: Walter H. McKelvey, president-dean of Gammon Theological Seminary, brought greetings on behalf of the 13 theological schools of the denomination and expressed gratitude for the support given regularly to the Ministerial Education Fund. He also noted that Gammon would celebrate its 125th anniversary during 2008.

REPORT ON WAYNESVILLE DISTRICT DISASTER RESPONSE: Randall A. Tingle, on behalf of Bill Cannon, chairperson of the Waynesville District Disaster Response Committee, spoke concerning the great work done since September 2004 in flood relief in the Clyde and Canton areas, which is to be completed during 2008. Michael H. Collins, ministry team coordinator, and Jackie Bolden, case worker and volunteer coordinator, were invited to the platform to receive the thanks of the conference.

CELEBRATION OF 40th ANNIVERSARY OF CONFERENCE RESOURCE CENTER: Barbara J. Barden, chairperson of the advisory committee of the conference resource center, led the celebration. Sonja S. Clough, resource center coordinator, presented a brief video about the resource center, which has come to be called the "Fishin' Hole."

CELEBRATION OF 40th ANNIVERSARY OF COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE: Kathy FitzJefferies, chairperson of the Commission on Religion and Race, acknowledged the work of the commission and introduced the showing of a video, *Journey for Inclusiveness*, which had been shown at the 2008 General Conference.

RECESS: Following a benediction by Bishop McCleskey, the conference stood in recess at 5:10 P.M.

EXCUSED (entire conference): Timothy L. Auman, Michael F. Austin, Betty N. Boyd, Perry J. Bradshaw, Frances L. Browne, M. Susan Carmichael, James H. Charlesworth, H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Cathy A. Cook, Elizabeth M. Crissman, Kelly S. Crissman, C. Ray Davis, Homer C. Dawkins, Marcus L. Dodson, James B. Durham III, Katherine L. Earley, Karla V. Farabow, Larry W. Fletcher, Jacob B. Golden, Jr., Raymond L. Grubbs, Stephen D. Haines, Michael B. Harrill, Sr., Ann G. Haywood-Baxter, Bradford H. Holliman, Lori B. Holliman, Patricia Humphries-Bivens, Donald Jenkins, David C. Joyce, Karen Kaser Odor, Nathan E. Kirkpatrick, Laurie H. Knoespel, T. Kirk LeJeune, J. Barry Lemons, Anna O. Mandelstamm, William I. Mandelstamm, Melissa L. Martinez, W. T. Medlin, Jr., Nancy S. Meeker, R. Blake Michael, Karen F. Miller, Fred B. Moretz, Clarence E. Osborne, Jr., Beverly L. Parker-Reece, Wayne B. Parleir, W. Douglas Pryor, Larry G. Puryear, Francisco (Frank) Ramos, Christopher L. Sheffield, Leonard E. Stadler, Jr., Thomas R. Steagald, E. Boyd Stokes, Patricia H. Stone, Elizabeth A. Sutton, Tamela R. Talbert, Ann M. Tucker, Charles E. Tyson, Jeane S. Walker, Priscilla B. Walker, Michael E. Winstead.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION – 7:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess, the conference reconvened at 7:30 P.M. with the singing of hymn 158 (*UMH*), "Come, Christians, Join to Sing."

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.: The conference stood in recess in order that the annual meeting of the membership of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc., might be held. Sam H. Smith, Jr., chairperson of the board, convened the annual meeting and offered a brief report, noting that, as of December 31, 2007, the foundation had \$100 million under its management, giving it access to the best investment options available and making it one of the largest foundations in United Methodism (see report in Sec. VIII.DD). Upon presentation by Mr. Smith, the following were elected as members of the foundation board in the Class of 2011: Robert Byrd, Christopher W. Davis, Dawn M. Hand, Thomas Jordan, and Doris D. Vincent. David A. Snipes, foundation president, then presented the annual president's address, stressing the importance of the "connection" in the ministries of the foundation. He in particular challenged the members to make it possible for every local church to have at least a general endowment in place. Special reference was also made to the relationship between the foundation and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation's "Dollars for Scholars Program," aiding students with academic expenses. Rev. Snipes then introduced Lauralee D. Bailey, foundation vice-president for communication, whose remarks focused on the services of the foundation, including endowment development, planned-giving programs, fund management, and development and loan programs. Mr. Smith then adjourned the annual meeting, and the conference reconvened.

REPORT OF DUKE ENDOWMENT: Robert R. Webb III, assistant director of the Rural Church Division of The Duke Endowment, offered the annual report of that agency (see Sec. VIII.GG), which was received by the conference with deep appreciation. Special emphasis in the report was placed upon the new initiative on clergy health being put in place by the Endowment, Duke Divinity School, and the two United Methodist conferences in North Carolina. Robin Swift, director of clergy health at Duke, then brought remarks concerning the initiative.

REPORT OF COUNCIL ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Michael G. Carle, chairperson, directed the annual report of the council (see Sec. VIII.C). Robert L. Kerr, vice-chairperson of the Commission on Witness Ministries, presented the portion of the report pertaining to the Denman Awards in evangelism. Jack Ewing, executive director of the Foundation for Evangelism, presented the clergy award to Hubert C. Clinard; the laity award to Elizabeth Montgomery, of West Market Street Church, Greensboro (*in absentia*); and the group award to the Kids Jam Sidewalk Sunday School of East Flat Rock Church of the Asheville District. All of these were greeted by the conference with standing applause. Mr. Carle then recognized representatives of the five churches that had earned the designation, "Five-Star Church of Excellence," for 2008: Denver Church, Charlotte District; New Union Church, Lexington District; Hillsdale Church, Lexington District; Center Church, Greensboro District; and Oak Ridge Church, Greensboro District. Mr. Carle reported on the numerous programs of the council and expressed gratitude to all who had been supportive of the council's efforts across the quadrennium.

In particular, he recognized Nancy Burgin Rankin, who was leaving the position of director of congregational development to return to parish ministry. Bishop McCleskey then presented to Dr. Rankin a gift of appreciation.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING SECRETARY: Bishop McCleskey began a period of recognition of the secretary of the conference, Charles D. White, Jr., who had served as secretary for 25 years, as Board of Ordained Ministry registrar for 16 years, and as conference statistician for 4 years. Carol S. White, the secretary's spouse; Charles B. White, the secretary's son, along with his spouse, Betsy; and Judith L. White, the secretary's sister, were invited to the platform. Kenneth M. Partin, chairperson of the Committee on Conference Staff Relations, and Bishop McCleskey then presented gifts to Dr. White. After the members of the conference had expressed their appreciation with standing applause, the secretary offered his thanks and reflections about the work in which he had been engaged and expressing hope for the future of the conference.

RECESS: With encouragement to conference members to attend the reception honoring the secretary to follow, Bishop McCleskey led in a prayer of thanksgiving, and the conference stood in recess at 8:30 P.M.

SECOND DAY – FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION – 8:45 A.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 8:45 A.M. with the singing of hymn 185 (*UMH*), "When Morning Gilds the Skies," and a morning prayer led by Bishop McCleskey.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY: The Friday morning Bible study period was led by Veranita G. Alvord, pastor of Hoyle Memorial Church, Shelby, who based her presentation, "The First Breakfast," on John 21:1-14. Her presentation concluded with the singing of hymn 344 (*UMH*), "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore," sung alternately in English and Spanish and led by David R. Ortigoza.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE MINISTRIES ADVISORY COUNCIL: Robert E. Shepherd, council chairperson, presented the report of the council (see Sec. VIII.B). He noted that, despite reductions in staff, several positive signs could be seen: (a) \$1.2 million contributed to Advance missions specials, representing a 5% increase in the number of churches participating; (b) improved communications in the annual conference, with the *e-news* electronic publication and the stewardship resource, *Connections for Ministry*; (c) the training of 1,000 child-care workers and the participation of 1,700 youth in "SpiritUs"; and (d) the work of Lillie Madison Jones in the area of ethnic and justice ministries. He then spoke words of appreciation for the members of the council and conference program staff persons.

Mr. Shepherd then recognized Janet M. Hitch, ministries team coordinator in Christian education, upon her retirement as a diaconal minister. He spoke words of appreciation for her 17 years of service on the conference staff and presented her with a gift. Bishop McCleskey expressed his appreciation and presented an additional gift. Ms. Hitch thanked the annual conference for its recognition and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

Kimberly T. Ingram, coordinator of ministries with young people, introduced Caroline Wood, the new coordinator of ministries with young people.

A video concerning young-adult ministry was then shown, and A. J. Thomas, associate pastor at Boone Church, Boone, spoke words of encouragement about those ministries and the work of the conference young adult ministries task force.

REPORT ON 2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE: Betty Jo C. Hardy, chairperson of the conference's delegation to the General Conference, spoke words of appreciation for the work of the delegates, noting that several of them had served in leadership roles during the 2008 General Conference. A video prepared by United Methodist Communications, with the assistance of Mark L. Barden, conference director of communications, was shown. The video included highlights of the conference and interviews with delegates from the Western North Carolina Conference.

EPISCOPAL ELECTION: Thomas A. (Andy) Langford III, delegation vice-chairperson, reported that, after prayerful consideration and a significant process of discernment, the delegation had chosen not to nominate a candidate for election to the office of bishop at the upcoming 2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

APPROVAL OF "JURISDICTIONAL POOL" OF NOMINEES: On behalf of a committee composed of Bishop McCleskey and the delegation from the conference to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional conferences, the delegation secretary, Kimberly T. Ingram, presented a slate of nominees for inclusion in a "pool" of potential members of general and jurisdictional agencies for consideration at the 2008 jurisdictional conference. Other conference members offered additional names, as provided by the *Discipline*, and the following list of persons was named:

Delegates to the General Conference: (Clergy) Thomas A. (Andy) Langford III, Sally O. Langford, Arnetta E. Beverly, Angela A. Pleasants, Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., Kimberly T. Ingram, Charles D. (Denny) White, Jr., James C. Howell, Julianne (Jan) Brittain, Nancy Burgin Rankin, Ashley Crowder Stanley, Ronald A. (Alan) Rice, Jr., Patricia A. Lewis. (*Laité*) Betty Jo C. Hardy, John F. Howard, Jr., Jack Young, James C. Windham, Jr., Sarah E. H. McKinney, Amy L. Johnson, Teila Hand-Broadnax, Kimberly H. Wright, Sandra L. Hieronymus, Sarah Kim, John D. Ammons, William E. Greene, Joetta F. Rinehart.

Clergy: Shirley L. Canty, Elizabeth O. Coppedge-Henley, Frank H. (Duke) Ison, Charles C. Kyker, Keys S. Pendleton.

Lay Women: Jennifer L. Burton, Mildred S. Carter, Kathy FitzJefferies, Tonya A. Lanier, Sara M. Williams.

Lay Men: Michael G. Carle, Henry Dozier, Crowson H. Hunt, Philip D. Wingeier-Rayo.

Youth: Canon Brodar, Donta Glenn, Chloe A. Gobel, Philip Howard, Samantha Shuford.

Asian Americans: Abraham Kim, H. Jae Lee, In-Yong Lee.

African Americans: Jennifer P. Davis, Lazelle E. Free, Earl Wilson, Jr.

Hispanic Americans: Ana C. Morrison, Frank Ramos, Diana Wingeier-Rayo.

Native Americans: Larry S. King, Connie Locklear, Donna Strickland Smith, Daphne L. Strickland.
Pacific Islanders: None.

Young Adults: Samantha Adams, Abigail Huggins, Leonard Howze, Will Sherrill, Jesse Smith.

Older Adults: Iva Sue Allen, Coley Hooker, Jr., Robert E. Shepherd, Richard W. Strachan.

Persons with Disabilities: Marty Folsom, Harold Johns, N. Gregory McLaughlin, Bobby Sharpe.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Louretta Howze observed that Arnetta E. Beverly, conference director of connectional ministries, had been nominated for the episcopacy by one of the caucuses of the church and requested that delegates to the jurisdictional conference consider supporting Dr. Beverly in that election..

REPORT OF BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY: J. Thomas Stinson-Wesley, president, presented highlights of the annual report of the Board of Ordained Ministry (see Sec. VIII.K). As a part of that report, a video was shown, containing comments by persons to be ordained at the 2008 session concerning those who had been supportive of them in their responses to the call to ministry.

CERTIFICATION: Ellen S. Johnson and Kathleen H. Kilbourne, associate Board of Ordained Ministry registrars for certification, and Bishop McCleskey presented certificates of professional certification to LeeAnn Baird (Christian education and youth ministries), Linda Crisco Helper (Christian education), and Lorie Lewis (Christian education).

DIACONAL MINISTRY: Bishop McCleskey asked Business Questions 71-82; Charles D. White, Jr., conference secretary and registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry, provided the proposed responses; and each response was approved as required.

RECOGNITION OF LICENSING SCHOOL GRADUATES: James R. Reeves, director of the School for the Licensing of Local Pastors, presented certificates to the persons who had completed the requirements for the license for pastoral ministry at the May 2008 licensing school. These persons were greeted on the platform by Bishop McCleskey and Rev. Stinson-Wesley.

RECOGNITION OF COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATES: In response to the calling of their names by Sylvia D. Wilhelm, associate registrar for local pastors, the local pastors of the conference who had completed the five-year Course of Study during the previous conference year came to the platform and were greeted by Bishop McCleskey and Rev. Stinson-Wesley.

RECOGNITION OF OTHER FIRST-TIME APPOINTEES: As the board registrar called their names, other persons being appointed for the first time as local pastors or as non-transferred clergy from other conferences and denominations were invited to the platform and greeted by Bishop McCleskey and the board president.

RECOGNITION OF CLERGY TRANSFERS: As the conference secretary called their names, the clergy transferring into the conference (see Sec. V, Questions 41 and 32b) were invited to the platform, where they were greeted by Bishop McCleskey and Rev. Stinson-Wesley.

RECEPTION OF CLASS INTO PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP: The eight probationary members intending to become deacons and the 28 probationary members intending to become elders who had been elected at the 2008 clergy session (see Sec. V, Questions 29a, 32a, 28a, and 28b) were called individually to the platform by the Board of Ordained Ministry registrar and formally presented to the conference. Bishop McCleskey spoke words of welcome and admonition.

RECEPTION OF CLASSES INTO FULL CONNECTION AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: The one clergy person newly elected to associate membership under the 2004 *Discipline*, (see Sec. V, Question 27b), the 3 clergy newly elected to full connection as deacons, (see Sec. V, Question 33a), and the 25 clergy newly elected to full connection as elders (see Sec. V, Question 33b) were introduced to the conference by the board registrar. Bishop McCleskey spoke words of admonition and encouragement and asked the traditional questions from the *Discipline*, to which each candidate gave the expected responses.

REQUEST FOR DECLARATORY DECISION: Thomas A. (Andy) Langford III, noting that he was doing so at the point in the conference agenda when the ministries of the clergy were being considered, moved that the conference petition the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church for a ruling in the nature of a declaratory decision on the following question: "Does ¶ 1117.9 as amended by the 2008 General Conference contravene the Restrictive Rules of The United Methodist Church?" After Rev. Langford had spoken brief words of explanation, the motion to request the decision was approved.

RECESS: The conference stood in recess at 11:30 A.M. in preparation for the service to follow.

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING OF PROBATIONARY MEMBERS: The annual service for the commissioning of probationary members began at 11:50 A.M. with the singing of processional hymn 648 (*UMH*), "God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian." Bishop McCleskey spoke the words of introduction, and J. Thomas Stinson-Wesley, president of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the candidates who had been elected for commissioning as probationary clergy members and the one candidate who had been elected to associate membership. Bishop McCleskey led the opening statement to the congregation, conducted the examination of the candidates, and offered prayer. The bishop then welcomed to associate membership the one person who had been elected thereto. He then commissioned to ministry the 2008 class of probationary members of the Western North Carolina Conference, who had been elected under the provisions of the 2004 *Discipline*. Jeffrey S. Patterson, secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented a *Book of Worship*, and the conference secretary gave appropriate certificates of membership and licensing to each new member. The bishop led in a closing prayer; the congregation sang the recessional hymn 584 (*UMH*), "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"; and the service of commissioning concluded at 12:30 P.M.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION – 1:45 P.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess, the conference reconvened at 1:45 P.M. with the singing of hymn 140 (*UMH*), "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," and prayer by Bishop McCleskey.

REPORT OF BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS: Mark B. Edwards, president, presented the annual report of the conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Inc. In the context of the report (see Sec. III.L), he expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of the late Larry D. Wilkinson as a member of the board

and as chairperson of its Health Benefits Committee. The report of the board was received with the appreciation of the conference.

RULE SUSPENSION: Donald W. Routh moved that the rule governing the introduction of new material be suspended for the purpose of permitting a motion concerning the fund for clergy pensions in the central conferences, and the rule was suspended.

PENSION CONTRIBUTION: Rev. Routh then moved that the proceeds which the conference would receive for the pension fund in 2008 from the profits of The United Methodist Publishing House be donated to the fund for clergy pensions in the central conferences, and it was so ordered.

REPORT OF COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: James C. Windham, Jr., president, introduced the annual report of the Council on Finance and Administration (see Sec. VIII.A). He noted the positive signs taking place in the conference and local churches in the area of the stewardship of giving. He urged that persons follow the biblical mandate for extravagant giving. He then introduced the conference budget and financial policies for 2009, consideration of which was subsumed under the legislative calendar item to follow.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR: Bishop McCleskey led in the consideration of the following petition:

Petition 1 (2009 Conference Funds and Financial Policies). During consideration of this petition, various members raised questions for clarification. Of particular concern was the relationship between item 7 of the petition and the fourth, fifth, and sixth paragraphs of the report of the Committee on Conference Staff Relations (see report in Sec. VIII.S). James W. Ferree moved that Fund 505, Conference Support, be amended so that the salaries of the executive staff persons in 2009 would be the same as those of the district superintendents. After Dr. Ferree and R. Naomi King had spoken in favor and Dick Brenner had spoken against, the amendment did not prevail. Olin B. Isenhour raised an inquiry which was interpreted as a statement against item 7 of the petition. Robert Lancaster moved that Fund 504, District Superintendents' Fund, be amended so that the salaries of the district superintendents for 2009 would not be increased over the 2008 amount, and the amendment did not prevail. Lisa Hertzog Hannah moved that Fund 504 be amended so that the superintendents' salary level of 80% of the salary of a bishop would be phased in over three years. Nathan D. Finsel spoke in favor of the amendment. Michelle D. Chappell moved as a substitute for the amendment that Fund 504 be amended so that that the 2009 salaries of district superintendents would be set at a level reflecting a cost-of-living increase, plus a 2% merit increase. Alice P. Day and Laura Harrell spoke in favor of the substitute, and David Derrick and Dick Brenner spoke against. Shirley L. Canty moved that the substitute be amended by including the salaries of the executive staff, and the amendment was approved. The substitute as thus amended prevailed, and the Hannah amendment as thus substituted for prevailed, with the understanding that the Council on Finance and Administration would submit the necessary revisions to Fund 504 and Fund 505 for publication in the journal. Russell C. Pierce moved that item 7 in the petition be further amended by adding these words at the end: "...and clearly reported to the annual conference as part of the report of the Committee on Conference Staff Relations." This amendment was approved, and the entirety of Petition 1 was then approved as amended.

MOTION RE FORUM GROUPS: Charles W. Eurey moved that forum groups be reinstated in the plan of organization for the 2009 annual conference, and this motion did not prevail.

MOTION RE STUDY OF COMPENSATION AND APPOINTMENTS: Bart W. Milleson moved that a task force be appointed by the bishop to study the complex issues of clergy compensation and appointments. Robert E. Shepherd moved that the motion be referred to the Committee on Conference Staff Relations, and it was so referred.

MOTION RE LEGISLATIVE GROUP ON FINANCE: Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., moved that the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting consider the creation of a legislative group which would meet during the session of the annual conference to refine the budget proposed by the Council on Finance and Administration, to answer complex questions, and to build support for the proposed budget, with the intent that this group, along with pre-conference briefings in the districts, would help as mediating structures between the Council on Finance and Administration and the annual conference. Kathy FitzJefferies requested that those looking at this matter focus initially on matters of inequality and be inclusive of ethnic persons. Caren Bigelow Morgan suggested that those involved in this matter also include lay persons. [Note: The Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting is, as constituted for the 2008-12 quadrennium, inclusive of ethnic and lay persons.] David C. Nolan requested that the committee also carefully consider schedule conflicts being experienced with the public-school schedules in the state. The Carter motion was then, under the rules, referred to the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting.

ELECTION OF TREASURER: James C. Windham, Jr., president of the Council on Finance and Administration and on behalf of the council, nominated William C. Wyman, Jr., as conference treasurer-director of administrative services for the 2008-2012 quadrennium, and he was elected.

TREASURER'S REPORT: William C. Wyman, Jr., conference treasurer-director of administrative services, gave his annual report, and it was received with appreciation (see Sec. VIII.KK).

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BISHOP AND REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY: Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., chairperson, reported for the committee (see Sec. VIII.T), thanking the members of the committee for their work. He noted that, over the past four years, the committee had sent forth Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, selected and prepared a new episcopal residence, welcomed Bishop and Mrs. Lawrence McCleskey, and now where celebrating the retirement of Bishop McCleskey. Dr. Carter spoke personal words of gratitude to Bishop McCleskey and paid tribute to his work in promoting racial unity in the South Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences, especially through the Bishop's Initiative for Africa University. He noted that Bishop and Mrs. McCleskey had created the McCleskey Scholars Program at Pfeiffer University and intended that *all* financial expressions of appreciation for them be given to this special program. Margaret F. McCleskey, the bishop's spouse, was invited to the platform, where she and the bishop were presented with a gift from the committee. The bishop then introduced members of his family, including his sister, Sara, and his mother, Doris. Margaret McCleskey spoke words of gratitude to the annual conference, and the bishop expressed his heartfelt appreciation for his wife's support and encouragement through 45 years of marriage and ministry. He reflected on his wife's special contribution to the conference as the first director of development for UMAR. He then announced his priorities for retirement: Assisting in the development of Africa University, being Margaret's

husband a a good "grandpa," and tending their garden. The conference expressed its gratitude for Bishop and Mrs. McCleskey with standing applause.

RECESS: With a reminder to conference members concerning a reception for the McCleskeys to follow immediately, Dr. Carter offered prayer, and the conference stood in recess at 4:25 P.M.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION – 7:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess, the conference reconvened at 7:30 P.M. with the singing of hymn 384 (*UMH*), "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," and a prayer offered by Bishop McCleskey.

REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING TASK FORCE: Sam H. Smith, Jr., chairperson, offered the report of the task force, noting signs of hopefulness in the financial stewardship of the conference, and the report was received with gratitude (see Sec. VIII.Z).

REPORT OF COUNCIL ON CAMPUS MINISTRY: James C. Howell, chairperson, introduced the report of the council (see Sec. VIII.E) and expressed special appreciation for the work of the campus ministers of the conference: D. Bradford Farrington, Jennifer McSwain Martin, Sadye Joyner Milton, Larry Jones, Pamela E. Blackstock, Amy J. Rio-Anderson, and Timothy S. Moore. Rev. Moore then presented the remainder of the report, offering greetings from the campus ministries association and emphasizing its commitment to be a connecting point between the church and students.

CELEBRATION OF THE LAITY: Betty Jo C. Hardy, conference lay leader and president of the Council on Laity, introduced the annual report of the council (see Sec. VIII.G) and of the lay leadership of the conference. Special appreciation was expressed to Lynn Blankenship Caldwell, cabinet representative to the council, upon her upcoming move to Virginia. On behalf of the council, Ms. Hardy presented a gift of hand-carved Christmas ornaments to Bishop and Mrs. Lawrence McCleskey. Mitchell Matthews was also recognized for his work on the council, especially as director of lay speaking.

LAITY ADDRESS: The 2008 Laity Address was delivered by Vince Suitive, a member of Crossroads Church, Concord, who based his message on John 15:4-8. The address was warmly received by the conference with appreciation.

LAY LEADERS: On behalf of the Council on Laity, Ms. Hardy expressed gratitude for the labors of the following district lay leaders who were leaving that office in 2008: Mary Lou Roller, Charlotte, *in absentia*; Kim Keyes, Greensboro; Robert D. Upchurch, High Point; and Evelyn Eller, Salisbury. Upon motion by Ms. Hardy, the district lay leaders and associate district lay leaders for 2008-09 were then confirmed (see Sec. V, The Business of the Annual Conference, Question 14c).

CONFERENCE LAY LEADER: Ms. Hardy, on behalf of the Council on Laity, and pursuant to the Plan of Organization, nominated Robert D. Upchurch, of the High Point District, as conference lay leader for the 2008-12 quadrennium, and he was elected. Mr. Upchurch responded with words of thanks to Ms. Hardy for her leadership as conference lay leader from 2004 to 2008.

YOUTH MINISTRIES: Philip Howard, president-elect of the conference Council on Youth Ministries, and on behalf of current president Chris Grimmett, gave the annual report of that council (see Sec. VIII.J). He noted in particular that youth events were being very well attended and gave special mention of a record-breaking number of participants in the annual Chrysalis event.

UNITED METHODIST MEN: Richard W. (Dick) Strachan, conference president of United Methodist Men, gave the annual report of that organization (see Sec. VIII.H), which was received by the conference with appreciation.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Amy L. Johnson, conference president of United Methodist Women, reported for that organization (see Sec. VIII.I). She observed that the Western North Carolina Conference UMWomen had, for the seventh consecutive year, led the denomination in giving in 2007. The conference warmly celebrated that news and received the report.

GREETINGS: Bishop L. Bevel Jones III, who had been resident bishop of the Charlotte Area from 1984 to 1996, brought greetings to the conference from Candler School of Theology, which has just named an endowed chair in the practice of ministry in his honor.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR: With the assistance of Kimberly T. Ingram, coordinator of calendar, Bishop McCleskey led the conference in consideration of Petitions 2-27 for 2008.

Petition 20 (Articles of Religion in the Local Church). The conference voted to adopt the petition.

Petition 21 (Rural Life Sunday). Claudia G. Harrelson moved that the petition be amended by adding a second "Resolved" paragraph, to read: "Resolved, That in the coming quadrennium, there be a celebration of town and country at annual conference, patterned after the celebration that took place at the 2008 General Conference." The amendment prevailed, and the petition as thus amended was adopted.

Petition 24 (Trustees of Duke University). The conference voted to adopt the petition.

Petition 26 (Camp Tekoa Trustees). The conference voted to adopt the petition.

Petition 22 (Study of Annual Conference Meeting). The conference voted to adopt the petition.

Petition 23 (Change Location of 2009 Annual Conference Session). Claudia G. Harrelson, petitioner, and Andy Ray spoke in favor of the petition, and Jim C. Gilland and Edna Seal spoke against. Scott Grogan moved that the petition be referred to the task force authorized in Petition 22. David C. Nolan spoke in favor of referral, as did the petitioner. The petition was then referred to the task force to study the conference meeting.

Petition 25 (Immigration and Trade Policy and Practice). The conference voted to adopt the petition.

Petition 27 (Rejoice! Publication). James C. Windham, Jr., chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration, to which the petition had been referred by the secretary under the rules, reported that the council had examined the request for funding in the petition and was recommending that said funding not be provided from 2009 budget funds. Mary John Dye spoke in favor of the petition. Bishop McCleskey explained that, in order to adopt the petition, the conference would need to vote to reconsider its action on Petition 1, in which the 2009 budgeted funds had been established. Michael A. Macdonald spoke in favor of the petition, and Luann Elliott spoke against. M. Lynne Gilbert then moved that the petition be referred to the Commission on Communications for further study, and the motion to refer prevailed.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Kimberly T. Ingram, coordinator of calendar, moved the adoption of petitions 2-19, which had been placed on the consent calendar. Bishop McCleskey noted that there was reason to believe that the list of persons named in Petition 7 as members of the governing board of the campus ministry unit at North Carolina A&T State University was not correct and that favorable action on Petition 7 would be understood to include the opportunity for a correct list to be inserted under the motion approved on Thursday afternoon concerning adjustments in lists of names (see Thursday afternoon minutes). The motion was then approved, and the following petitions were thus adopted:

- Petition 2** (Advance Specials for 2008-2009)
- Petition 3** (Golden Cross)
- Petition 4** (Directors of Wesley Community Development Corporation)
- Petition 5** (Brevard College Trustees)
- Petition 6** (High Point University Trustees)
- Petition 7** (Campus Ministry Boards)
- Petition 8** (Aldersgate Boards)
- Petition 9** (Arbor Acres Directors)
- Petition 10** (Children's Home Board)
- Petition 11** (Givens Estates Directors)
- Petition 12** (UMAR Trustees)
- Petition 13** (MCCS Board)
- Petition 14** (Amendments to Board of Ordained Ministry Policies)
- Petition 15** (Pension Program and Policies)
- Petition 16** (Health Benefits Program and Policies)
- Petition 17** (The Annual Conference Meeting)
- Petition 18** (Equitable Compensation Policies and Guidelines)
- Petition 19** (Cole Foundation Trustee)

RECESS: Following the singing of hymn 688 (*UMH*), "God, That Madest Earth and Heaven," and words of blessing from Bishop McCleskey, the conference stood in recess at 10:00 P.M.

THIRD DAY – SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2008

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION – 8:45 A.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess, the conference reconvened at 8:45 A.M. with prayer by Bishop McCleskey and the singing of hymn 145 (*UMH*), "Morning Has Broken."

MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Bishop McCleskey introduced Jeremy I. Troxler, director of the Thriving Rural Communities Initiative at Duke Divinity School, who led the morning Bible study on John 21:15-25.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Joseph P. McGuire, president, offered the annual report of the conference trustees (see Sec. VIII.M), noting that the board serves as a "forward guard" to assist the conference and the churches of the conference in reducing their liabilities and managing their risks. The board, he observed, also serves as a "rear guard" when churches are abandoned. Mr. McGuire then gave a brief update on the task force created to consider future needs for conference headquarters.

REPORT OF UNITED METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE: Donna Strickland Smith, a member of the governing board of The United Methodist Publishing House, presented the report. She noted new resources being offered and then presented a check to Bishop McCleskey in the amount of \$ 20,308.31, representing the conference's share in the proceeds of the publishing house for the preceding year. This amount, under the motion by Donald W. Routh adopted earlier, will be sent to the fund for clergy pension support in the central conferences.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary-elect, made necessary announcements.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD: A. Owen Peeler, president, offered the annual report of the Conference Brotherhood/ Sisterhood (see Sec. VIII.FF).

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING CLERGY AND SPOUSES: Following the singing of hymn 559 (*UMH*), "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," Mark B. Edwards, president of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, presented the 2008 class of retirees. William C. Wyman, Jr., conference treasurer-director of administrative services, presented each retiree with a retirement pin, and the conference secretary-elect presented to each a certificate of appreciation upon retirement. Bishop McCleskey greeted each clergy person and his or her spouse, and Dale C. Bryant, conference benefits administrator, presented to them tokens of appreciation. Charlotte G. Brendel and George I. Ragsdale, members of the 2008 class in full connection, led the litany of appreciation. J. Hurley Thomas III gave the response for the retirees. Bishop McCleskey offered the response for the conference and delivered the closing prayer. The period of recognition concluded with the singing of hymn 550 (*UMH*), "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord."

REPORT OF COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY: James L. Pyatt, chairperson, presented the report of the commission (see Sec. VIII.P), which included recognition of persons representing churches in the conference celebrating significant anniversaries: Bicentennial—Hopewell, Pleasant Grove, Siloam; Sesquicentennial—Chestnut Grove, Dobson, Martin's Chapel, Mount Herman, Pleasant Hill, Wesley Chapel; Centennial—Crouse, Hebron, Huntersville, Lafayette Street, Laughlin Memorial, Peachland, Teague's Chapel, Whitaker's Chapel, Whitnel; Belated Sesquicentennial—Bass Chapel; Belated Centennial—McQueen's Chapel.

SCOUTING AWARDS: Tim Harper, conference coordinator of scouting, presented a report on scouting in the conference and led in moments of recognition as Bishop McCleskey presented the 2008 Bishop's Award of Excellence in Boy and Girl Scouting to 11 scouting units from churches throughout the conference and Torch Awards to Evelyn B. Kent, Mark McCall, Marcia Tate, and Roger Byers. The God and Service Award was then presented to Bishop Lawrence McCleskey.

DISTRICT OFFICERS: The secretary moved the election, confirmation, or approval, as *The Book of Discipline* or the rules of the conference may require, of the district statisticians, the members of the district boards of church location and building, the members of the district committees on ordained ministry, and the members of the district boards of trustees as these had been listed by the district superintendents and filed with the conference secretary, and it was done.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: The secretary announced that, with the exception of the service of ordination and the fixing of the appointments, all necessary business of the 2008 session of the annual conference had been completed. He then moved that, following the fixing of the appointments and the benediction on Sunday, June 8, 2008, the Western North Carolina Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church be adjourned *sine die*, and the motion to adjourn prevailed.

RECESS: In anticipation of the service to follow, the conference stood in recess at 11:30 A.M.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE: The annual memorial celebration of life service began at 11:50 A.M. with the prelude of pipes, "Morning Has Broken." Bishop McCleskey led the responsive greeting, and processional hymn 159 (*UMH*) "Lift High the Cross," was sung. The bishop led the opening prayer, and the Conference Choir sang the anthem, "The Lord Is My Shepherd," by Matthews. Following the prayer for illumination and the reading of the New Testament from 2 Timothy 1:8-15 and 4:9-22 by Dawn M. Hand, Bishop McCleskey introduced the preacher for the service. K. Wesley Judy, pastor of First Church, Forest City, and son of one of the clergy being remembered in the service, delivered the memorial sermon, "A Legacy of Faith."

Stanzas 1 and 2 of hymn 711 (*UMH*), "For All the Saints," were sung. Then, accompanied by the tolling of a bell and the lighting of candles, Bishop McCleskey read the names of those whose memory was being honored, and their pictures were displayed. Stanzas 3, 4, and 5 of hymn 711 were sung, and the congregation prayed the Lord's Prayer and a unison prayer for all the saints. Hymn 707 (*UMH*), "Hymn of Promise," was sung; Bishop McCleskey pronounced the dismissal with blessing; the pipers played the recessional, "Amazing Grace"; and the service concluded at 12:55 P.M.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION – 7:30 P.M.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION: The conference service of ordination of deacons and elders began at 7:30 P.M. in Stuart Auditorium with the opening voluntary, "Lord of the Dance," arranged by Joel Raney. Processional hymn 571 (*UMH*), "Go, Make of All Disciples," was sung. Bishop McCleskey led the responsive greeting and prayer, the recognition of common ministry, and the responsive reaffirmation of baptism. Betty Jo C. Hardy, conference lay leader and a lay member of the Board of Ordained Ministry; J. Thomas Stinson-Wesley, president of the board; Kathleen H. Kilbourne, representing the Order of Deacons; and Susan Pendleton Jones, chairperson of the Order of Elders, presented the candidates for ordination and order recognition. Bishop McCleskey led in the responsive affirmation of the candidates. After he had read the scriptures from John 12:20-26 and offered prayer, the bishop delivered the ordination sermon, "The Unexpected Vision." Rev. Stinson-Wesley led the congregation in reciting the Apostles' Creed, and the Conference Choir sang the anthem, "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord," by Craig Courtney.

Bishop McCleskey led the general examination of the candidates, and the ordination hymn, "O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath," was sung.

Bishop McCleskey conducted the responsive examination of the candidates for ordination as elders as Ms. Hardy lifted signs of the ministry of an elder. The bishop then offered prayer for those to be ordained and, assisted by other elders of the church, ordained to the office of elder those who had been elected thereto. Joseph C. Seymour, Jr., chairperson-elect of the Order of Elders, placed stoles on the ordinands, and certificates of ordination and membership were presented by the conference secretary.

Bishop McCleskey welcomed Timothy Ardeil Webster, a newly elected probationary clergy member of the conference and an ordained minister in the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and, on behalf of the conference, declared his orders recognized as those of an elder in The United Methodist Church.

Ms. Hardy lifted signs of the ministry of a deacon, and Bishop McCleskey conducted the responsive examination of the candidates for ordination as deacons in full connection. The bishop then led in prayer for the ordinands and, assisted by other deacons and elders of the church, ordained to the office of deacon in full connection the candidates who had been elected thereto. Rev. Kilbourne presented stoles to the ordinands, and certificates of ordination and membership were presented by the conference secretary.

Bishop McCleskey led the closing prayer, and hymn 396 (*UMH*), "O Jesus, I Have Promised," was sung. The bishop led the responsive dismissal with blessing; the associate director of music played the voluntary, *Carillon de Westminster*, by Louis Vierne; and the service of ordination concluded at 9:05 P.M.

FOURTH DAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION – 8:45 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The conference Sunday School hour was conducted at 8:45 A.M. in three locations: for children, by Jane Hoover, of Kernersville, in Meeting Room 316 of the Terrace Hotel; for youth, by Cindy Furr, of Weaverville, at the Junaluska cross; and for adults, by Robert V. Dodd, of Matthews, in the Memorial Chapel.

CONFERENCE SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP: The conference Sunday service of worship began at 10:30 A.M. in Stuart Auditorium with the instrumental voluntaries, "Prelude on Rhosymedre," by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and "Ceremonial Music," by Georg Philipp Telemann. The combined choirs of Myers Park Church, Charlotte, and First Church, Gastonia, the final two churches served as pastor by Bishop Lawrence McCleskey, sang the choral introit, "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine," arranged by Vaughan Williams. The responsive greeting was led by David R. Ortigoza, liturgist. Processional hymn 545 (*UMH*), "The Church's One Foundation," was sung, and Rev. Ortigoza led the opening prayer. The combined choirs then sang the anthem, "O Clap Your

Hands, All Ye People," by Vaughan Williams, after which Rev. Ortigoza led the prayer for illumination.

Bishop McCleskey expressed his appreciation to the members of the choirs for their ministry of music and to the members of the conference for the gracious way in which they had engaged in the business of the conference. He also noted that \$15,000 had been pledged during the conference toward the "Nothing But Nets" campaign to provide protective mosquito netting to children in Africa. He then the scriptures from 1 Corinthians 3:1-11 and delivered the conference Sunday sermon, "Building Blocks and Watering Cans."

Veranita G. Alvord, ligurgist, led in the recitation of the Nicene Creed," after which the congregation sang the *Gloria Patri*. Rev. Alvord offered the prayers of the people, and the congregation prayed the Lord's Prayer.

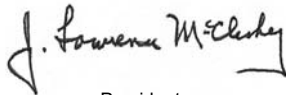
Bishop McCleskey explained that the offering to be received would be added to other funds already collected and pledged for the Bishop's Appeal for Africa University. During the receiving of the offering, the combined choirs sang the anthem, "My Eternal King," by Jane Marshall. The congregation then sang the Doxology with alleluias and hymn 451 (*UMH*), "Be Thou My Vision."

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess, the conference reconvened at 11:30 A.M.

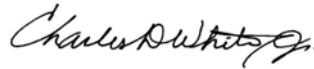
RECOGNITION OF CABINET MEMBERS: Bishop McCleskey led in moments of recognition for members of the extended cabinet who were moving to other responsibilities or retirement at the 2008 session, along with their spouses: Ashley Crowder Stanley (from Asheville District to a local church), Lynne Blankenship Caldwell (from High Point District to an appointment in the Virginia Conference), James H. Graves (from Statesville District to conference staff), J. Hurley Thomas III (retiring from Winston-Salem District), Arnetta E. Beverly (from director of connectional ministries to a local church), and Charles D. White, Jr. (retiring as conference secretary). He then recognized new members of the extended cabinet or those being moved within the extended cabinet at the 2008 session, along with their spouses: John S. Boggs (to Asheville District), C. M. Worthy, Jr. (from Lexington District to High Point District), Lillie M. Jones (to new Lake Norman District), Sylvia D. Wilhelm (to Lexington District), Samuel H. Moore, Jr. (to Northeast District), Mary John Dye (to Statesville District), William T. Medlin III (from Northeast District to Winston-Salem District), and Kimberly T. Ingram (new conference secretary). The members of the conference expressed their gratitude to all of these.

FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS: Printed copies of the 2008-09 appointments were distributed to the members of the conference; J. Alexander Ward, Jr., on behalf of Patricia A. Lewis, Cabinet secretary, noted necessary corrections; and Bishop McCleskey declared the appointments "fixed." The bishop then charged all clergy being appointed to serve Christ in their appointed places, and all lay members to receive and support those appointed. The clergy and the laity responded appropriately, and the bishop led in the traditional words of John Wesley's covenant prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: The closing hymn 117 (*UMH*), "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," was sung; Bishop McCleskey offered the dismissal with blessing; the combined choirs sang the choral response, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," by John Rutter; the conference director of music played the closing voluntary, "Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals," by Sigfrid Karg-Elert; and the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the South-eastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church adjourned *sine die* at 12:00 P.M.



President



Secretary