

## DAILY PROCEEDINGS

KANSAS WEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, KS  
May 25-27, 2011

Scott Jamison Jones, Presiding Bishop  
Anita McMillan, Conference Secretary

Theme: Worth It! Risk-Taking Mission

### Tuesday, May 24

**Retired Ministers and Spouses Luncheon:** Kansas West Conference Retirees Fellowship Time was at 12:00 p.m. in the Encampment Building. A luncheon and program followed.

**Young Adult Clergy Dinner:** The Young Adult Clergy Dinner was at 5:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church.

**Clergy Gathering and Registration:** Clergy gathering and registration was at 7:00 p.m. in the Encampment Building.

**Clergy Session:** The Clergy Session was at 7:30 p.m. to consider matters related to the report of the Board of Ordained Ministries.

**Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors:** This event was at 9:00 p.m. in the Encampment Building.

### Wednesday Morning, May 25

**Breakfast:** United Methodist Health Ministry Fund provided breakfast in the Meadowlark Building of the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

**Registration:** Registration began at 7:30 a.m. in the Meadowlark Building.

**Child Care:** A nursery for infants/toddlers and a Kid's Camp for school age children was provided at Trinity United Methodist Church, Hutchinson. A Parent's Room was located in the Sunflower South building at the Fairgrounds.

**Orientation:** The Board of Laity sponsored an orientation session in the Meadowlark Building.

**Displays:** Displays of various ministries were set up in the Sunflower South Building. They were: Wichita First United Methodist Church TV Ministry; Counseling and Mediation Center, Inc.; United Methodist Youthville; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Church and Society; Tallgrass Spiritual Retreat Center; Saint Paul School of Theology; Kansas Area United Methodist Rural Fellowship; Commission on New Church Development; Conference Council on Youth Ministries; Kansas Area Resource Center; Disaster Response Committee; aCross Creation; Reconciling Ministries; Della Lamb Community Services; Chabadza Team; United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries; Heifer

International, Kansas Committee; Grace Med Clinic; Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology; Circles® Initiative; Bishop's Rural Issues Task Force; Health and Wellness Committee; United Methodist Health Ministries Fund; Asbury Park; Kansas State-Wesley; Campus Ministry at Washburn University; United Methodist Men; United Methodist Women; Hispanic Ministries; Garrett-Evangelical School of Theology; Faith Vessels/Pottery for Worship; Church Mutual Insurance Company; Phillips Theological Seminary; Marketing and Communications Council; Lakeside United Methodist Center; Kairos Prison Ministries; Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty; Beneath the Upper Room; Combs Organ Specialists; Motorcycle Ministry; The Mission Society; Wesley Towers; Kansas Area Commission on Archives and History; NEW BOOKS by Salmon; Vivid Pro Systems; Oxford Ministry Partners; Board of Laity; Volunteers in Mission; Kansas Wesleyan University; Southwestern College; Mates in Ministry; Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation; Numana, Inc. and United Methodist Open Door.

The Cokesbury Book Store was located in the Sunflower South Building.

The Health and Wellness Blood Draw station was located in the Meadowlark Building.

**Business –Plenary:** The 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Kansas West Annual Conference was called to order by Bishop Scott Jamison Jones. He greeted delegates and guests and offered prayers.

**Worship Service:** The opening worship service was held in the Meadowlark Building. The Rev. Cynthia Harvey, deputy general secretary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the General Board of Global Ministries, was featured speaker. She told about the work of UMCOR. Their goal is to provide relief, rehabilitation, and long-term development. She reminded us that our hope is in Jesus Christ and that we give hope to others by living out our own hope. Abby Caseman and Adam Barlow-Thompson were liturgists. Scripture reading was from Romans 8. Bishop Jones celebrated Holy Communion. Music was provided by the band "Clarensau." Members are Kyle Schmitz, Blake Aaron Guthrie, Lawrence Pridmore, Tyler Clarensau, Jimmy Taylor, Tyler Caggiano and Sally Caggiano. CCYM members gathered an offering for the Global AIDS Fund.

**Business - Plenary:** Bishop Jones called the business session to order. He expressed his appreciation to Cynthia Harvey. He thanked Kim Dickerson-Oard and members of the Sessions Planning Committee for their work and expressed his pleasure at being in Hutchinson.

**Enabling Motion:** Kim Dickerson-Oard, Chair, Sessions Planning Committee, presented the Enabling Motion and called attention to changes. Lexie Williams replaced Dayna Hauschild as an Associate Secretary. Kim thanked United Methodist Health Ministry Fund for the breakfast. She gave severe weather shelter information. She stated that the bar of Conference is the area with tables. During business, only delegates should be seated within the bar of the Conference. She gave preliminary information on the procedure that will be used to elect delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. She moved adoption of the Enabling Motion.

The Enabling Motion passed.

**Resolution to Include (DSA) District Superintendent Assignment Leaders in the Business of the Annual Conference:** The resolution was presented Max Clayton on behalf of the Cabinet. It amends Conference Rule number 11 (equalization of lay and clergy numbers) by adding number a.18: "Lay persons assigned by the District Superintendents (DSAs) to serve local churches."

Amendment: Kim Dickerson-Oard moved to amend to read "lay persons who qualify under Disciplinary paragraph 602.4," which requires them to be members of the United Methodist Church for two years preceding their election and active participants in The United Methodist Church for four years.

Max accepted the amendment as friendly.

The resolution passed as amended.

**Motion:** On behalf of the Kansas West Conference Disaster Response Committee, Keith Fink, Chair, moved to take \$10,000 in investment earnings from the Kansas Area Disaster Funds and send it to the Missouri Annual Conference for their storm response after the Joplin tornado.

The motion passed.

Bishop Jones told about receiving a telephone call from Bishop Janice Huie right after the Greensburg tornado. She told him the Texas Annual Conference was sending \$10,000 for relief efforts. It was welcome news. He is glad Kansas West Conference can do the same thing for the Missouri Annual Conference.

**Personnel Privilege:** Keith Fink introduced "Dorothy" (Kathy Koehn) from the Wizard of Oz, who can provide information on disaster response needs. He announced that the conference would take a special offering for UMCOR/Spring Storm response during the afternoon session.

**Roll Call:** The Roll is taken from printed slips completed and submitted to the Conference Secretary by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

**General/Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Elections:** Two lay and two clergy will be elected as delegates to General Conference. Bishop Jones discussed eligibility for both election and voting. A written list of eligible clergy was distributed at clergy registration. All laity who meet membership qualifications are eligible. Profiles of laity and clergy who expressed interest in being delegates are available on the Kansas West website. Bishop Jones gave voting instructions. On the first ballot, voters will write first and last names on paper ballots. Laity and clergy receiving votes will be shown on the screens prior to the next ballot. After that ballot, only persons receiving five or more votes will be listed. The 2012 General Conference will be held in Tampa, FL April 25 –May 4. Jurisdictional Conference will be in Oklahoma City, OK July 17-21.

UMCOR Video: The video featured people whose lives were touched or changed through UMCOR.

General Conference Clergy Ballot # 1: Tellers distributed the ballots. Bishop Jones offered prayer. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

General Conference Lay Ballot # 1: Tellers distributed the ballots. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**United Methodist Health Ministry Fund (UMHMF):** Bishop Jones introduced Kim Moore, President and CEO, who showed a video to begin the presentation.

The video provided a whirlwind tour of UMHMF. UMHMF was established in 1986 from proceeds of the Wesley Hospital sale and is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Grants and gifts of over \$56 million have been made. Currently there are four focus areas: Access to Care, Access to Health Care; Fit Kids; Ready for Life – early childhood mental health; and Healthy Congregations.

Lance Carrithers, UMHMF trustee, reported on selection of trustees and how they organized their work. Trustees can serve three terms of three years' each. Meetings are held four times per year. He listed the current trustees. Lance thanked Kim for his twenty-five years of service to the UMHMF. Lance also thanked Kansas West Conference staff for their cooperation and assistance.

Virginia Elliott, Vice President for Programs, introduced a special opportunity: Philanthropist for a Day. Delegates and guests can register at the UMHMF booth. During Friday's session four names will be drawn. Winners will get to award grants in the amounts of \$10,000, \$7,500, \$5,000, and \$2,500. Grantees will be selected from applications made by eight eligible agencies.

Bishop Jones thanked the staff and trustees for their incredible work.

**Prayer Concern:** Bishop Jones prayed for the families of those killed in the tornados that hit St. John and Overland Park in Kansas and various areas of Arkansas.

**Board of Ordained Ministries Report:** Tom Sheldon, Chair, presented persons who are being commissioned and ordained. They are: Associate Member: Gary Merritt; Provisional Deacons: Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson, Jan E. Blasi, Abby Lynn Caseman; Provisional Elders: Amanda Lee Baker, Timothy William Bever, Rebecca Lynn Davidson, James M. Gaddie, Justin Jamis, Margaret E. Johnson, Anne Williams; Full Member/Elder, Orders Previously Recognized: James Mark Chambers, Sr.; Full Members/ Elders: Charles Lawrence Danforth, Michelle Erin Gowen, Adelia Ann Hooley, Justin Michael Lefto, Amy Renee Hopmann Slater, Jeffrey Kris Slater, James Taylor III, Faye I. Wagner, April May Wegehaupt, Tessa Ann Zehring

Bishop Jones asked each group presented to introduce themselves. He greeted them.

Historic Questions: Bishop Jones asked the Historic Questions of those being ordained. The conference gave the Ordinands a standing ovation.

Deaconess: Kathy Mary Webster, a nurse at Lakewood Nursing Home, is a deaconess. Her service was affirmed.

Board of Ordained Ministries Report, Part II: Elizabeth Lippoldt, Interim Registrar, called attention to the printed report. Lori Richey is a candidate for certification in Youth Ministry. Those previously certified are: Billie Blair, Kimbra L. Burnett, Tammy Dees, Dayna Hauschild, Brenda Heard, Steve Johnson, Elizabeth Lippoldt, Kathy Kruger Noble, Bill Podschun, Nancy Profitt, Geraldine ReQua, Linda Stewart, Dianne Tombaugh, Nancy B. Walker

Bishop Jones offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the life and service of Jane Platt Cooper, a diaconal minister who died during the year. Sondra Matthaei and Pat Jordon, previously retired, were recognized.

**Recognition of Course of Study Graduates:** Kathy Aeillo, President, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, recognized Kay Metzler and Gary Merritt for completing the Course of Study.

**Introductions:** Bishop Jones announced that Michelle (Micki) McCorkle, will be Board of Ordained Ministries Registrar for Kansas West, Kansas East, and

Nebraska Annual Conferences beginning July 1. Denise Rogers will be Assistant Registrar.

**Hospitalities - Announcements:** Mike Rose called attention to the Disaster Response booth, where delegates and guests can register for a Disaster Response Kit. The Marketing and Communications staff has videos for use in local churches. He gave instructions for lunch.

Bishop Jones gave a blessing for the meal.

### Wednesday Afternoon – May 25

**Luncheon:** The Clergy-Lay Luncheon was held in the Meadowlark Building. The catered meal was served at delegates' work tables.

**Business – Plenary:** Bishop Jones called the session to order.

**United Methodist Committee on Relief:** Rev. Cynthia Harvey, deputy general secretary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the General Board of Global Ministries, presented a teaching session on disaster and poverty relief and the work of UMCOR. She recommended "Dancing With Elephants: Accountability in Cross-Cultural Christian Partnerships" by Jonathon Rowe as a good resource for anyone involved with relief and rehabilitation. All of us are in poverty at some point. The way we describe it determines what type of help will be most effective. No efforts will be successful without community buy-in and involvement. There are four key relationships: spiritual, social, psychological, and physical. Women and children are the most vulnerable in a disaster situation. The poverty cycle cannot be broken until people learn to see poverty in relational terms and recognize the unique gifts of the poor. Relief is provided in three parts: immediate relief, rehabilitation, and development, or capacity building. While presence is important, the best response to a disaster is often to give money. We are all called to transform the world. We can best do that by being disciplined, humble, and respecting those we serve.

A video about the work of UMCOR ended the presentation. An offering was taken for UMCOR/Spring Storm relief. Rev. Harvey received a standing ovation.

**Presentation to Richfield UMC:** Rev. Harvey presented Richfield United Methodist Church with a Connecting Neighbors Program award for their work and generous support for UMCOR relief projects. The congregation met all seven standards to qualify for the award. Members present included Ryan Branholtz, David Dunn, Deborah Krey, and Pastor Sandy Ferguson. "Dorothy" joined the group to promote disaster relief awareness.

**Moving Committee:** Ross Olsen presented the report. He requested prayers for John Paul Jones, Chair, who is ill. He called attention to the written report and stated that there were no substantial changes. He moved approval of the report.

The motion was approved.

**Personal Privilege:** Penney Schwab thanked everyone for their prayers. Her grandson is out of surgery and doing well.

**Kansas Area Commission on Archives and History:** Charles L. Danforth, Chair, presented the report. History is written every day. The commission held a workshop to equip church historians to preserve local history. He lifted up the

Day Award. He introduced commission members in attendance and recognized the archivists.

**Asbury Park:** A video opened the presentation. Bishop Jones introduced Tom Williams, CEO of Asbury Park, who brought greetings on behalf of residents and staff. He highlighted the Intergenerational Program and discussed unmet needs of homebound people. Asbury Park provides about \$26,000 per month in free care. Tom thanked Kansas West Conference for their prayers and their support. He hopes fifty people in fifty churches will step forth to provide additional support. Bishop Jones expressed gratitude for the work of Asbury Park.

**Nominating Committee:** Dixie Brewster, Chair, and David Bell, secretary, called attention the printed Nominating Report. An election was held for the four open slots and the four persons whose terms are expiring on the Nominating Committee. Those terms expiring are also eligible for re-election. However, delegates may vote for others. Voting will be by writing four names on the ballot sheets. Tellers distributed the ballots. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Recognition of Patti Biddle:** Janet Hernandez, Wichita West District Superintendent, and Gary Brooks, Wichita East District Superintendent, introduced Patti Biddle. Patti was Administrative Assistant for twenty-two years and served eight district superintendents. They presented her with a plaque. There will be a retirement reception for her during the break time. Patti said she retired with twenty-two years of fantastic memories of people in the Wichita Districts.

**Transition Team Presentation:** Dixie Brewster described the General Conference action that required each United States Jurisdiction to reduce the number of sitting Bishops by one position. Bishop Jones told how the transition team was selected. Members from Kansas West Conference are: Dixie Brewster, Pat Ault-Duell, Troy Bowers, Gary Brooks, Bob Cox, Corey Godbey, and Cheryl Jefferson Bell. Bishop Jones introduced team members Oliver Green, Kansas East Conference, and Sharon Kramer, Nebraska Conference. Today's presentation will also be given at Kansas East and Nebraska annual conference sessions.

A video from General Council on Finance and Administration showed that the United Methodist Church in the United States has a declining, aging membership but rising costs. Bishop Jones stated that God is not finished with us yet, but we cannot do business like we have been doing. He asked us to rethink church for the next twenty years. He introduced Dr. Gil Rendle, a nationally known consultant experienced in merging conferences, who has been working with the Transition Team.

Dr. Rendle spoke about "the Great Plan for the Great Plains." He stated that the Transition Team wants to start a conversation. We need to not only rethink our church, but our world, businesses, industries, and ourselves. The Protestant Church in North America is changing. Every 500 years the church has to face deep change. We are looking at a changed mission field. We are in a divergent time, not a convergent time. Ministry must be done in a different way. "The Great Plan for the Great Plains" is not the ultimate goal, it is a description. It is about radical hospitality. He invited people to join the conversation and to be in prayer and discernment.

Pat Ault-Duell called attention to the printed report. She hopes delegates have come with questions and are ready to join the conversation. She

stated that becoming one conference was a way to build a different bridge, a leadership bridge. Corey Godbey discussed the energy and relationships that could come through merger. Gary Brooks said that one conference would provide opportunity to do things we can't do as three conferences. Troy Bowers said that merger would allow the Bishop to be a visionary leader and would facilitate financial management. Bob Cox said that people could connect through technology. Cheryl Bell ended the presentation by stating she believed God was calling us to become one conference.

Bishop Jones thanked the team for their report. After a short question and comment period, Bishop Jones stated that the conversation would continue Thursday. He recessed the session.

### **Wednesday Evening, May 25**

**Dinners:** The Ordination Dinner was held in Thorne Hall, Trinity United Methodist Church.

**Service of Commissioning and Ordination:** The Commissioning and Ordination Service was held in the Meadowlark Building. Hebrews 11:1, 12:1-2 was read by John Badley and Meg Calvin, ministerial candidates and graduates of Southwestern College. Bishop Jones' sermon was entitled "Convictions of Another World." He shared his personal struggles to live by faith, not sight, and to focus always on Christ. His calling and the calling of Christians is to run the race set before us in this world. God transforms the world through His Grace. It is the church of Jesus Christ where so much of that grace comes to pass.

Ecumenical guest was The Reverend Phillip Vickers, Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Brent Valiant was organist. Trinity United Methodist Church Sanctuary choir, directed by Bill Anschultz, sang the choral anthem and response to the Word. Offertory Music was led by Daniel and Sarah Miller, Josh Melcher, and Martin Rude. An offering was taken for the Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Jill Foss, Lay Leader; Tom Sheldon, Chair, Board of Ordained Ministries; and Elizabeth Lippoldt, Interim Registrar, presented candidates. They are:

Provisional Members: Amanda Lee Bennett Baker, Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson, Timothy W. Bever, Jan Elise Lawrenz Blasi, Abby Lynn Caseman, Rebecca Lynn Davidson, James Michael Gaddie, Justin Jamis, Margaret Elizabeth Johnson, and Anne M. Williams

Associate Member: Gary Merritt

Full Member-Orders Previously Recognized: James Mark Chambers, Sr.

Full Members – Elders: Charles Lawrence Danforth, Michelle Erin Gowin, Adelia Ann Hooley, Justin Michael Lefto, Amy Renee Hopmann Slater, Jeffrey Kris Slater, James E. Taylor III, Faye I. Wagoner, Tessa Ann Zehring

A reception for ordinands was held in the Meadowlark Building.

### **Thursday Morning, May 26**

**Wellness Booth:** The Wellness Booth opened at 6:30 a.m. A variety of health screening tests and educational materials was available.

**Breakfast:** United Methodist Health Ministry Fund provided breakfast in the Meadowlark Building.

**Devotions:** CCYM members led devotion on the theme “Experiencing Service.” Mohri Exline read John 13: 1-20 and Tyler Ward led the Call to Worship. The CCYM band—Katie McDermott, Samantha Silver, and Ben Wheeler---led singing. Tate Strasner’s sermon was “Risk-Taking Mission Through the Eyes of a Teenager.” He contrasted life of an average teen with life of a Christian teen. Faith is not built without risk. Jesus’ life was risk in pure form. His teachings opened him to ridicule. The heart of faith is reaching out to others in mission. Brittany Roberts gave the benediction. An offering was taken for the Youth Service Fund.

**Business – Plenary:**

**Bishop’s Bike Challenge:** Bishop Jones, dressed in bicycle shorts, shirt, and helmet, rode his bicycle down the center aisle of the Meadowlark building to call attention to the Bishop’s Bike Challenge. The Challenge will raise funds for the United Methodist Open Door’s capital campaign. He called the session to order.

Gary Brooks stated that he and CCYM would help the Bishop raise funds for the Challenge. Cindy Watson offered a gourmet dinner to everyone who helped her raise more money than the Bishop.

**Kansas Wesleyan University:** A video highlighted the activities of Kansas Wesleyan University. Carl Ellis introduced Dr. Wayne Lowen, KWU Provost. Dr. Lowen discussed faculty and student involvement in a project in Liberia, including raising \$8,500.00 to build a school and \$1,500.00 for computers and training for a medical center.

**Structure Committee:** Dirk Hutchinson, Chair, presented three resolutions comprising the report and moved their approval.

Resolution Concerning Hispanic Ministries Committee: Therefore be it resolved: Pastors serving Mission Churches be moved to a new category of “ex-officio members with vote” and that the Area Superintendent of New Church Development replace the Director of Connectional Ministries as the staff member on the committee.

The resolution passed.

Resolution to Eliminate Membership Classes: Therefore be it resolved: That the phrase “and elected for eight (8) year staggered terms in two classes” be deleted from MEMBERSHIP under the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits on page 14 of the structure; and that the phrase “divided into four classes” be replaced by “with the option of serving a second term of four years” in MEMBERSHIP under the Conference Board of Trustees; and that rules 12.B and 12.C be deleted from the conference nominating rules.

The resolution passed.

Resolution to Dissolve the Resource Center Committee: Therefore be it resolved: that the Resource Center Committee be dissolved and that “supervision of the Resource Center” become one of the functions of the Educational Ministries Team.”

The resolution passed.

**GraceMed Video:** A video highlighted the work of GraceMed, which provides medical and dental services for more than 17,000 people annually.

**Kansas Area Health and Wellness Committee:** A Health and Wellness Video illustrated work of the committee. Susan Harvey, Co-Chair, emphasized three areas; clergy wellness program; health ministry liaisons for local churches; and

the 2012 Kansas West/East Walking Challenge. The walking challenge will begin January 15, 2012 and end April 15, 2012. Winner will be the conference with the most churches participating. Susan thanked United Methodist Health Ministry Fund and Kansas Health Foundation for their support of health and wellness activities.

**Board of Laity:** Jill Foss, Lay Leader, presented the report. The Fun Run will start at 6:15 a.m. Friday. The Board of Laity conducts programs on lay leadership, sponsors Mission Ambassadors, and serves as a Conference Board of Lay Speaking Ministries as well as assisting with annual conference. She thanked Lisa Diehl and the communications staff for their creative work. She and Phyllis Stoppel, Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, presented three petitions and moved their approval.

Resolution to Recognize National Red Ribbon Week October 23 – 31,

2011:

Resolution to Celebrate Laity and Lay Speakers in the Local Church:

Laity Sunday is October 16, 2011.

Resolution to Celebrate Clergy Appointments in the Local Church:

The resolutions were considered together and passed.

**Chabadza Leadership Team:** Quinton Bennett, Chair, presented the report. He brought greetings from Bishop Nhwatiwa, Zimbabwe East Annual Conference. The Leadership Team has worked toward connecting Kansas West churches with Zimbabwe East churches. Kansas West Conference and work teams sent a total of \$51,971.02 in 2010 to support Zimbabwe East Ministries in 2010.

Financial support is important, but relationships are the heart of the Chabadza Covenant. Participants have found that the United Methodist Church is not dying. It is alive and growing in many places across the world. Lives and souls are being saved. There is healing and care for people with AIDS. People are choosing hope when their might appear to be no reason for hope. The growth plan in Zimbabwe is to send pastors to the people. Disciples are being made for the transformation of the world. Quentin lifted up the newsletter, asked people to serve on Volunteers in Mission teams, and noted that speakers are available promote the Covenant in local churches. He thanked Bishop Jones for leading the way then recognized members of the Leadership Team.

Bishop Jones said that Hillsboro United Methodist Church made a telephone call to Zimbabwe as part of a worship service.

Chabadza Covenant Churches: Alden, Dodge City First, Ellsworth, Florence, Great Bend Trinity, Hesston, Hillsboro, Hutchinson Faith, Hutchinson First, Hutchinson Tenth Avenue, Leon, Lyons, Marion Eastmoor, McPherson First, Mitchell Chapel, Newton Salem, Newton Trinity Heights, Norwich, Pretty Prairie, Murdock, Bushton Salem, Salina Church of the Cross, Salina Quayle, Salina University, Sedgwick, South Hutchinson, Stafford, Sterling, Wichita Asbury, Wichita First, Wichita Mt. Vernon

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose made announcements. Wichita West District Conference will be held during noon break to vote on dissolution of the Wichita West District Union. He requested prayer for Nathan Morgan, who has medical needs. The Center for Small Churches, directed by Carl Ellis, is offering three new programs this summer. Mike read a note from “Dorothy” inviting people to see the Disaster Trailers.

**United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries:** A video highlighted the agency’s medical, dental, and hunger relief efforts.

**Southwestern College:** A video featured Christian community activities at Southwestern College. The school tries to help students learn about needs around the world and to help in restoring life and love. They work to help people understand salvation through Jesus Christ

Bishop Jones expressed gratitude for the work of Southwestern College and Kansas Wesleyan University.

**Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot # 1:**

Ballots Cast: 226                      Needed to Elect: 111  
Valid Ballots: 220                      Elected: None

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

General Conference Clergy Ballot # 2: Tom Schneider offered prayer. Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot # 2. This and subsequent ballots will be tabulated electronically. Bishop Jones explained the voting process. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #1**

Ballots Cast: 255                      Needed to Elect: 124  
Valid ballots: 247                      Elected: None

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

General Conference Lay Ballot #2: Tellers distributed Lay Ballot # 2. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

Clergy Voting Eligibility: Bishop Jones ruled that Local Pastors who have completed their educational requirements and have been in continuous appointment since July 1, 2009 were eligible to vote for clergy delegates

**Resolution on Sanctity of Human Life:** Raymond Pachta presented the resolution: "Let it be resolved that the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church affirms the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to the point of natural death."

Motion: Nancy McKellar requested that the vote be taken by paper ballot. The request was treated as a motion.

The motion failed.

There was discussion.

Motion to Close Debate: Quentin Bennett moved the previous question on all that is before us.

The motion to close debate passed.

The Pachta resolution failed.

**Commission on Equitable Compensation:** David Bell brought greetings from Phil Morris, Chair, and presented the report. Recommended minimum compensation amounts are: Full Member (Elder or Deacon) - \$36,434; Probationary Elder or Deacon or Associate Member - \$34,291; Full Time Local Pastor - \$32,148. There is no minimum for Student Local Pastors attending seminary since each situation is different. David commented on the Gender Equity Compensation Study. There are signs of inequity and signs of progress, but no progress in terms of real dollars.

Motion to Amend: Kendal Utt moved to amend by changing the totals to the 2011 current level. He stated that the proposed level represents a two percent increase.

David replied that last year's increase was to cover higher insurance costs and that this proposal brought salaries back to the 2010 level.

The amendment failed.

**Motion to Amend:** Geniese Stanford moved to amend by requiring that "The Committee on Equitable Compensation will report annually the comparison of male and female clergy Conference Average Compensation."

The amendment passed.

**Motion to Amend:** Cheryl Bell called attention to Section C on page 57 of the printed report. She stated that the goal of having all charges become self-sustaining may not be attainable. She moved that Section C be taken out of the report.

The amendment failed.

**Motion to Amend:** Larry Myers moved to amend by adding "If the change of pastor involves change of gender, the salary will not be lowered."

Bishop Jones ruled the amendment out of order because local churches set pastor's salaries. The right of the Bishop to make appointments would be compromised by the amendment, and the annual conference has no right to dictate the appointment process.

David moved acceptance of the report as amended.

The motion passed.

**Elijah Pilgrim Geiger Project:** Kendal Utt introduced Dawn Pleas-Bailey and Brendon Fox, Southwestern College. They gave a brief history of Elijah Pilgrim Geiger, who graduated from Southwestern College in 1899, the first African-American to do so. He was a minister in Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Kansas, including serving at St. Mark UMC in Wichita when it was named Fifth Avenue Methodist Church. He died in 1943 and is buried in Wichita's Maple Grove Cemetery. They asked delegates and guests to honor his life by giving to a fund to buy a headstone to mark his grave. Any additional funds raised would assist ethnic minority middle and high school students who will be first generation college students.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose announced lunches. He congratulated Laura Fricker, whose 60<sup>th</sup> birthday is Saturday. Kendal Utt offered prayer.

#### **Thursday Afternoon, May 26**

**Luncheons:** Wichita West District Meeting was held in the Meadowlark Building. The Rural Fellowship Luncheon was at First United Methodist Church. The St. Paul School of Theology Luncheon was at the Fairgrounds 4-H Building.

**Business – Plenary:** Bishop Jones called the session to order.

#### **Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #2:**

Ballots Cast: 199                      Needed to Elect: 96  
Valid Ballots: 190                      Elected: None

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

**General Conference Clergy Ballot # 3:** Prayer was offered. Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot # 3. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #2**

Ballots Cast: 297                      Needed to Elect: 145  
 Valid ballots: 288                    Elected: None  
 Bishop Jones read the ballot.

General Conference Lay Ballot #3: Tellers distributed Lay Ballot # 3. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**State of the Conference:** Bishop Jones and Jill Foss, Lay Leader, presented the State of the Conference Address. Bishop Jones stated that we as an annual conference had been on a journey. He asked to us remember the Called Session of Annual Conference in 2005. He asked four questions: 1) how can we strengthen our existing congregations? 2) how can we start more and stronger new congregations? 3) how can we better serve ethnic minority persons in Kansas; and 4) how can we strengthen student ministries?

The conference responded by adopting a new mission statement. The Bridges to the Future campaign received pledges of about \$5,200,000. To date, \$2,994,354 has been paid toward the goal. He thanked Kansas West Conference for their faithfulness. Camps Lakeside and Horizon are now financially sound. Campus ministries have grown. Significant strides have been made in Hispanic ministries. Bishop Jones wants to redirect the flow of attention, energy, and resources to an intense concentration on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations that are effective in making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. He is also implementing dramatic reforms in clergy leadership development, evaluation, and accountability systems.

Jill announced new appointments. As of July 1, Gary Beech, Kansas East Conference, will be Assistant to the Bishop and Treasurer for both Kansas West and East Conferences. Linda Louderback will be Area Director of Clergy and Congregational Excellence. Micki McCorkle will be Board of Ordained Ministries Registrar for Kansas West, East and Nebraska. Connie Wilson will be program director for Transition into Ministry, funded by a Lilly Endowment grant.

Bishop Jones stated that there are more United Methodist Churches in Kansas than U.S. Post offices and we have seen an increase in the number of vital congregations. Jill introduced Vital Signs, a method for collecting key indicators of vitality on a weekly basis. A General Council on Finance and Administration video discussed vital congregations and a program called Vital Signs. A video on Vital Signs explained the program. Bishop Jones closed the presentation by stating that when we measure something, we pay more attention to it. If we aren't keeping score, we aren't getting better.

**Congregational Ministries Celebration:** Linda Louderback, Director of Connectional Ministries, introduced those participating in the panel presentation.

Circles of Hope®: Jerica Hinshaw and Rev. Clarence Rempel discussed the Circles of Hope® program that involves members of Newton First and McPherson United Methodist Churches. The fifteen-week sessions help people get out of poverty. Clarence, a Mennonite pastor for 33 years, found his life changed when he learned about and started working to alleviate poverty in Newton. Jerica, a program participant, has received an Associate's Degree from Hutchinson Community College and is now enrolled in Bethel College.

GraceMed: Dr. Robin Walker, GraceMed, is a former CCYM member and graduate of Southwestern College. GraceMed is a Federally Qualified Health Center that serves a wide variety of clients, including the poor and uninsured. They are also a mission of the United Methodist Church through

providing compassionate, professional, and high quality care in the name of Jesus Christ. They hope to be the face of Christ for their patients.

Rev. Jon Jones, Chaplain, greets and visits with patients at GraceMed and shares the good news of Jesus. It has given his life new directions, goals, and blessings. Some clients want to know more about Jesus. One said "The clinic saved my life and they restored my faith." Staff members distribute English-Spanish New Testaments to patients.

Park School: Libby Eaton, First United Methodist Church, Wichita, had some extra hats, gloves, and mittens, so she called Park School to see if any children needed them. School social worker Lori Mueller took the clothing and mentioned the need for a washer and drier so kids' uniforms could be washed at school. A local realtor delivered a washer and drier the next day, along with a year's supply of laundry detergent. That was the beginning of a church-school partnership that has benefited both parties. First United Methodist Church now helps with material needs, tutoring, and has started a women's group for Park City mothers.

Winfield First United Methodist Church: A video gave information on the church's Wednesday night Kids' Club for children in kindergarten through first grade. It also featured the church's fifteen-year history of service through prison ministry. Church members have taken Disciple Bible Study into the prison and sponsor a legal ministry.

Greenwich United Methodist Church: A video presented the highlights of the church's participation in Journey of Hope. On Pentecost Sunday eight people handed out fifty sack lunches to those in need. The lunches contain enough food to keep recipients fed until morning. Both givers and recipients find companionship and relationship. Feeding people physically also feeds them love.

Minneapolis United Methodist Church: Rev. April Wegehaupt and Sylvia Kvacik discussed participation in Leadership for Faith – Transforming Communities. When they asked about community needs, they discovered that drugs and alcohol were problems. Through working with school administration and parents, the school adopted a policy to ban synthetic drugs. The group also started a pre-school and found they had to move it out of the church in order to let it grow. April advised other churches to reach out without being afraid of losing control. Ministry and mission can happen when we turn control over to others.

Linda closed the presentation by asking people to call for additional information on helping in communities. She lifted up a book, "The Externally Focused Church" that is available through Cokesbury. Bishop Jones expressed his gratitude to those who shared.

**Commission on Discipleship Awards:** These were shown on the screens. They are: Discipling Church Recognition: Lindsborg Trinity UMC, Wichita Aldersgate UMC

Seminary Scholarship Endowment Churches: Arkansas City First UMC; Barnes UMC; Bushton Salem UMC; Clay Center UMC; Ensign UMC; Great Bend Trinity UMC; Hanston UMC; Hutchinson First UMC; Hutchinson Trinity UMC; Kechi UMC; Little River UMC; Milton UMC; Murdock UMC; Oberlin UMC; Salina First UMC; St. Francis UMC; Valley Center UMC; Washington UMC; Wichita Dawson UMC

Creation Care Awards: Satanta UMC; Wichita Aldersgate UMC; Marion Valley UMC

**Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #3:**

Ballots Cast: 199                      Needed to Elect: 100

Valid Ballots: 197                      Elected: None  
 Bishop Jones read the ballot.

General Conference Clergy Ballot # 4: Janet Hernandez offered prayer. Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot # 4. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #3**

Ballots Cast: 282                      Needed to Elect: 137  
 Valid ballots: 273                      Elected: Dixie Brewster  
 Bishop Jones read the ballot.

General Conference Lay Ballot #4: Tellers distributed Lay Ballot # 4. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Bishop Jones reported that the Reading United Methodist Church was structurally sound, although the windows were blown out and there is considerable roof damage. A tornado hit Reading resulting in considerable property damage. Janet Bara and Adrian Hurley won the Disaster Response Kits. Mike Rose stated that churches could sign up for Vital Signs at the communications booth. He thanked Church Mutual Insurance Company for sponsoring afternoon refreshments.

**Introduction of Kansas East District Superintendents:** Bishop Jones introduced Janet Maxwell, Parsons District; Dennis Ackerman Five Rivers District; Evelyn Fischer, Topeka District, and Mike Chamberlain, Kansas City District. Howard Johnson, Flint Hills District, was unable to attend due to storm damage in the district.

**Board of Pensions and Health Benefits:** Mike Shockley, Chair, Investment Committee, presented the report. He thanked the conference staff for their assistance.

Parts I, II, and III: General Information, Pension Programs, and Comprehensive Protection Plan: The 2012 Kansas West Conference average compensation is \$56,203, an increase of 0.9%. The denominational average compensation is \$62,781, a 1.7% increase. The Board recommends that the CRSP Defined Benefit rate be 10.65% of plan compensation and that the CRSP Defined Contribution rate be 3.0% plan compensation. Mike called attention to policies on incapacity leave and death/disability, which remain unchanged. The Pre-82 Pension rate for 2012 is set at \$685 per year of service, an increase of 3.63% over the prior year rate. This is 1.22% of the 2012 Kansas West Conference average compensation.

The Board approved a grant of \$850,000 to Kansas West Conference, with \$161,527 to support 2012 benefits administration and \$668,473 in budget support. The monies are from earnings on pension reserves and were approved following recommendation by CF&A.

Part IV: Health Insurance: Mike called attention to the written report. In 2010 the conference had a loss ratio of 131.9%, which will cause the 2012 insurance rate to go up. The conference currently insures 672 lives averaging 43.8 years.

The Board recommends amending the original report to read: "The Conference Board is investigating the implementation of the Medicare Secondary Payer/Small Employer Exception Rule for all qualifying churches and employers when employ fewer than 20 employees to become effective January 1, 2012.

Under this rule, Medicare would be the primary payer of claims submitted for clergy and lay employees (and their eligible spouses) who are age 65 or older and working for a church/employer that employs fewer than 20 employees. We are considering a HealthFlex Medicare Companion plan to be the secondary payer of health care claims. Participants in this program must enroll in Medicare Part B.”

Mike stated that the Board predicts a 15% increase in 2010 health insurance premiums if there are no benefit changes and the blended rate is maintained.

Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Kansas West Conference: Mike presented the resolution.

Mike moved approval of the entire report with the three action items: past service rate, grant to the Conference, and the housing resolution.

There was discussion centering on the cost of health insurance and the grant from pension reserves to the Conference budget.

The report passed as amended.

**Transition Team Report:** Bishop Jones invited those who were standing at microphones at the end of yesterday’s session to return and be ready to speak. Troy Bowers, Transition Team Member, called attention to the technical information handout. It is for information only and will not be dealt with today.

There were numerous questions as well as speeches in favor of and opposed to the team’s recommendations. Mark Conard stated that the first joint Kansas –Nebraska Conference took place in 1856. Bishop Jones was asked whether combining the two states into a single Episcopal area was punitive. Bishop Jones stated that the action was not punitive and that our membership loss is comparable with that of other conferences. Bishop Jones again explained the five-finger vote, which is not a final vote on merger. The Transition Team is continuing to get feedback.

**Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot #4**

Ballots Cast: 202	Needed to Elect: 102
Valid Ballots: 201	Elected: Mark Conard

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

General Conference Clergy Ballot #5:

Troy Bowers offered prayer. Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot # 5. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of General Conference Lay Ballot #4**

Ballots Cast: 285	Needed to Elect: 137
Valid ballots: 273	Elected: Penney Schwab

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot # 5: Bishop Jones announced that General Conference Lay delegates have been elected. The next ballot is for two Jurisdictional Conference delegates, who will also be alternates to General Conference. Tellers distributed Lay Ballot #5. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Elijah Pilgrim Geiger Offering:** Junius Dotson announced that a special offering for the Elijah Pilgrim Geiger project would be taken at the Memorial Service.

**Personal Privilege:** Loyd Hamrick introduced Brian Buffum, Prison Ministry Coordinator for United Methodist Men. Brian is one of seven candidates for Volunteer of the Year.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose made announcements. CCYM members presented Bishop Jones a jar of money to support his bike challenge ride. He will have to buy pizza for CCYM.

#### Thursday Evening, May 26, 2011

**Dinners:** Volunteers In Mission, Trinity United Methodist Church

**Retirement Worship Service:** The Retirement Service was held in the Meadowlark Building. Worship leaders were Craig Hauschild and Laverne Bolling. Scripture was Luke 10:1-3. The Annual Conference Concert band, directed by Doug Hiskin, provided music. The message, "Risk Worth Taking," was a video presentation featuring reflections of the retirees on risk-taking ministry and Scriptures that had influenced them. Bishop Jones recognized the 2011 retirees and spouses and led the Retirement Liturgy. Following Passing of the Mantle, a video shared hopes for the church of the future. Bishop Jones gave the benediction.

#### Retirement Class of 2011:

Richard Brooks	Charles Grant	Philip Shull
Susan Wickiser	Sandy Des Plas	Glenn Krebs
Alan Stambaugh	Samuel Wood	Russell Fincham
Cheryl Peters	William Stapleton	Gerald Sharp
Richard Zimmerman	Don Flanner	Sharon Teppen

A reception for retirees was sponsored by Kansas West Conference Board of Pensions and held in the Meadowlark Building.

#### Friday Morning, May 27

**Fun Run:** The fun run included runners, walkers, and bikers. It was held on the Fairgrounds.

**Devotions:** CCYM members led devotions on the theme "Sending Service." Blake Heiman read Matthew 14:13-21 and Levi Nord led the Call to Worship. Some youth decided to be disciples. They set a goal of having youth in each district feed 5,000 people. They fed 70,000 people and made a tremendous difference through risk-taking mission. The CCYM band—Katie McDermott, Samantha Silver, and Ben Wheeler---led singing. Lindsey Graber's sermon was "How You've Seen Risk-Taking Mission Be Extended." Christ took the nature of a servant. It's hard to be a Christian without being the hands and feet of Jesus. Starvation is the # 1 taker of lives. We can make relationships with others and spread both food and love. Carlin Green gave the benediction.

**Business – Plenary:** Bishop Jones called the session to order.

#### **Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot # 5**

Ballots Cast: 260	Needed to Elect: 126
Valid ballots: 251	Elected: Jill Foss

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot # 6: Kendal Utt offered prayer. Tellers distributed Lay Ballot # 6. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot # 5**

Ballots Cast: 194                      Needed to Elect: 93  
Valid Ballots: 185                      Elected: None  
Bishop Jones read the ballot.

General Conference Clergy Ballot # 6: Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot # 6. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Personal Privilege:** Mary Lou Reece thanked the Conference for recognizing her. She is involved in the Bishop's Bike Challenge. Since neither Cindy Watson nor Gary Brooks attended the Fun Run, she decided not to support their efforts but to give another way. Bishop Jones stated that we might want to review the Annual Conference rules which designates Mary Lou Reece as an honorary member.

**Transition Team Report and Vote:** Pat Ault-Duell explained the 5-finger voting process. The Team felt it was premature to ask for an up or down vote on merger because some people want details and there aren't any. This vote is asking "How are you coming along with the vision part of this?" The Team hopes people will write comments and questions on the voting sheet, and we may sign our names if we wish.

There were additional questions and comments. Bishop Jones stated that the votes would be counted on June 13 and results posted on the websites of the three conferences. He offered prayer.

**Motion to End Debate:** Larry Greenwood moved the previous question on all that is before us. Bishop Jones stated he had just declared the discussion ended.

The vote was taken. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed. Bishop Jones and the conference expressed appreciation to the Team for their work.

**Report of General Conference Clergy Ballot # 6**

Ballots Cast: 153                      Needed to Elect: 74  
Valid Ballots: 147                      Elected: Amy Lippoldt  
Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 7: Rick Saylor offered prayer. Bishop Jones announced that the General Conference Clergy delegates have been elected. The next ballot is for two Jurisdictional Conference delegates, who will also be alternates to General Conference. Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot # 7. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot # 6**

Ballots Cast: 238                      Needed to Elect: 111  
Valid Ballots: 221                      Elected: None

Jurisdictional Lay Ballot # 7: Tellers distributed Lay Ballot # 7. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**United Methodist Youthville:** Bishop Jones introduced Shelley Duncan, Youthville CEO; Evelyn Fisher, Board Chair; and Janet Hernandez, Wichita West District Superintendent and ex-officio Board member. Evelyn thanked everyone for their support of Youthville. A video featured stories of people served through the agency. Youthville requests approval of a restructuring process that would change some aspects of their relationship with Kansas West Conference.

Shelley explained reasons for the change. Youthville is creating a new parent corporation named EmberHope, which will still be related to the conference. EmberHope will have several wholly-owned subsidiary corporations. Two of the corporations will retain the name Youthville. Each non-profit subsidiary will have its own Board of Directors:

Motion: Janet moved that "Kansas West Annual Conference approve the proposed restructuring of United Methodist Youthville Inc., including the creation of an umbrella corporation to be called EmberHope, Inc., and such subsidiary corporations as may be appropriate and that the Kansas West Annual Conference approve the bylaws of EmberHope, Inc. and direct the Focus Team to finalize, approve, and file the articles of incorporation."

The motion passed.

**Conference Board of Trustees:** Pete Marcus, Chair, presented the report. He recognized the trustees and thanked them for their work. Insurance payments from the 2009 fire at the Conference office totaled over \$1,530,000. The building now has some cosmetic damage and moisture problems. Pete discussed disposition of closed church buildings and other properties. Evangelica UMC has a new parsonage located at 1505 East Loral in Garden City. Pete thanked Lance Carrithers for helping with the acquisition. The next district parsonage to be replaced is Dodge City. A video showed the district parsonages.

Bishop Jones thanked Pete and the Trustees for their work. There were no action items in the report.

**Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot # 7**

Ballots Cast: 257                      Needed to Elect: 122  
Valid Ballots: 243                      Elected: Tyler Ward

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Lay Ballot # 8: Prayer was offered. Bishop Jones announced that Jurisdictional Conference Lay Delegates have been elected. The next ballot is for three Jurisdictional Conference alternate delegates. Liz Lippoldt withdrew her name from the voting. Tellers distributed Lay Ballot # 8. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 7**

Ballots Cast: 193                      Needed to Elect: 97  
Valid Ballots: 192                      Elected: Cheryl Bell

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 8: Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot # 8. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Church Closings:** Bishop Jones stated that sometimes a church needs to close. His policy is to leave that decision to church members but help them close with dignity. A video showed each church that has closed during the year.

Resolution for the Closing of Lincolnville United Methodist Church: Rick Saylor, Hutchinson District Superintendent, presented the resolution and moved its approval. Lincolnville UMC, founded in 1888, is discontinued as of June 30, 2011. Church members wished to “plant some new seeds” so their pulpit and other worship items will be shipped to Zimbabwe. Bishop Jones prayed.

The resolution was approved.

Resolution for the Closing of Summit United Methodist Church: Rick Saylor presented the resolution and moved its approval. Summit UMC provided 132 years of faithful service as an open county church. It was discontinued January 31, 2011. The building was torn down and final assets used to pay their pastor and Mission and Ministries. Bishop Jones prayed.

The resolution was approved.

Resolution for the Closing of Windom United Methodist Church: Rick Saylor presented the resolution and moved its approval. Windom UMC was founded in 1884 and was discontinued January 30, 2011. Final assets will help maintain a community center. Bishop Jones prayed.

The resolution was approved.

Resolution for the Closing of the Weskan United Methodist Church: Max Clayton, Hays District Superintendent, presented the resolution and moved its approval. Weskan UMC is discontinued as of May 31, 2011, and its assets transferred to Kansas West Annual Conference. Bishop Jones prayed.

The resolution was approved.

Resolution for the Closing of Byers United Methodist Church: Janet Hernandez, Wichita West District Superintendent, presented the resolution and moved its approval. Byers UMC was started by Jesse Waters in 1905 as a Sunday school class. Byers is discontinued as of June 30, 2011. Bishop Jones prayed.

The resolution was approved.

Resolution for the Closing of Cullison United Methodist Church: Janet Hernandez presented the resolution and moved its approval. Cullison UMC was founded in 1886 and is discontinued as of June 30, 2011. Bishop Jones prayed.

The resolution was approved.

Resolution for the Closing of Liberal, St. Paul United Methodist Church: Kendal Utt, Dodge City District Superintendent, presented the resolution and moved its approval. St. Paul was founded in 1964 as one of the last new church starts in Kansas for the former Evangelical United Brethren Church. St. Paul is discontinued as of June 30, 2011. Bishop Jones prayed.

The resolution was approved.

**Philanthropist for a Day:** Bishop Jones conducted a drawing for the chance to choose grant recipients in conjunction with the United Methodist Health Ministries Fund. Winners are: Jean Hedstrom, Mulvane UMC, \$10,000; Merlin Dresher, Canton UMC, \$ 7,500.00; Marlene Appenfeller, Downs-Portis, \$5,000.00; and Donna Blattner, \$2,500.00.

Kim Moore thanked all who registered. UMHMF is distributing fluoridated water and trail mix to delegates and guests.

**Hospitalities - Announcements:** Bishop Jones reminded us of the Elijah Pilgrim Geiger offering to be taken at the Memorial Service. Mike Rose asked delegates

to take leftover bananas home. The Mates in Ministry auction closes at 1:30 p.m. The pot of money given to the Bishop for his Bike Challenge contained \$121.34 plus Gummy Bears, Tootsie Rolls, and a Planet Sub Meal.

**Memorial Service:** A Service of Remembrance was held in the Meadowlark Building. A string ensemble (Aubrey Smading, Carolyn Kaufman, Daniel Ibarra, Greer Horning, and Preston Richey) played the processional and recessional. Walter Marsella and Amanda Baker were Worship Leaders. Ross Baker provided special music. Scripture was II Corinthians 4:6-18. Rick Saylor's sermon was "The Upward Spiral." We are asked to remember the clergy, diaconal ministers, and spouses for whom this Annual Conference was home but who are now in eternal rest with Jesus. We are asked to remember that life is not always easy and that to each of us come periods of grief. We are asked to remember Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. A video "Running Against the Wind" was shown. The Memorial Roll was read and candles lit. Rick gave the benediction. An offering was taken for the Elijah Pilgrim Geiger project.

Clergy:

H. Marvin Bower  
Linda O'Dell Toms  
Eugene H. "Gene" Slack  
Cecil Ramey  
William C. Miller  
Robert M. Fleenor  
Mehl Cruit  
Franklin Graber  
Harry Walz  
Willis J. Elliott

Diaconal Ministers:

Lois Lyons  
Jane Cooper

Lay Member:

Howard Ray McGee

Spouses:

Connie B. Knowles  
Nellie A. Hartman  
Velva Schwartz  
Geraldine Ann Brotten  
Eva Mae Matthew  
Maxine Leonora Brooks  
Betty Jean Robinson  
Lois J. Livengood  
Judy Carol Ritter  
Claude Belknap

**Friday Afternoon, May 27**

**Business – Plenary:** Bishop Jones called the session to order.

**Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot # 8**

Ballots Cast: 244                      Needed to Elect: 117  
Valid Ballots: 232                      Elected: None  
Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Lay Ballot # 9: Ashlee Alley offered prayer. Tellers distributed Lay Ballot # 9. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 8**

Ballots Cast: 187                      Needed to Elect: 89  
Valid Ballots: 176                      Elected: None  
Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 9: Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot #9. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

Bishop Jones thanked the tellers for doing such a great job. Ashlee Alley is the Head Teller.

**Resolution Relating to Health Insurance:** Barry Dundas presented the resolution: "Clergy couples under Episcopal appointment, whether serving together in one church/charge or in separate churches/charges, shall be charged

only one health insurance premium at the blended rate beginning January 1, 2012. Clergy couples will both contribute 3.5% of their salary as their contribution to the health insurance fund.”

He moved approval of the resolution. There was discussion.  
The resolution failed.

**Harry Denman Evangelism Awards:** Bishop Jones presented the award on behalf of the Discipleship Ministries Team. The award honors those who excel at evangelism. Bryan Anderson, Salina First UMC, received the Lay Award. Rick Just, Mulvane UMC, received the Clergy Award. The Youth Award was given to Tyler Ward, Hesston, CCYM President. Bishop Jones stated that he received the award once before he was elected bishop. On another occasion, he and Adam Hamilton were able to present the award to the man who mentored both of them.

**Bridges to the Future:** A video featured projects funded through the campaign. Bishop Jones thanked the conference for their financial support. K-State Wesley is a new residential community at Kansas State University. Campus ministry has been strengthened at other schools. Camps Lakeside and Horizon have improved facilities and are in good fiscal shape. Hispanic ministries and churches are growing. Mike Gaddie and Rob Schmutz are working with new church starts.

**Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 9**

Ballots Cast: 175            Needed to Elect: 86  
Valid Ballots: 171        Elected: Nathan Stanton  
Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 10:

Jerre Nolte offered prayer. Bishop Jones announced that Jurisdictional Conference Clergy delegates have been elected. The next ballot is for three Jurisdictional Conference alternate delegates. Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot #10. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

**Report of Jurisdictional Conference Lay Ballot # 9**

Ballots Cast: 207            Needed to Elect: 99  
Valid Ballots: 196        Elected: Steve Johnson, Mollie Haberer, Ben Wheeler.

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

The Lay Delegations to General and Jurisdictional Conferences are complete.

**New Church Development and Hispanic Ministry:** Presenters were Kent Melcher, Area Superintendent for New Church Development; Corey Godbey, Associate Director of Hispanic Ministries; Mike Gaddie, pastor of Fellowship at the Well; and Rob Schmutz, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Park City.

Kent discussed three priorities for new church starts: 1) where people are or are moving to; 2) reaching unreached populations, including Hispanics; and 3) places where United Methodist Churches have closed. A goal is to have 30 trained church planters in the area. There are now 27. Another goal is to start ten new churches. There are now six starts in the area.

Rob and some Launch Team members from Park City thanked the Conference for prayers and financial support. Their theme verse is Zachariah 4:10a, which is a scripture of promise. God will complete what God has started.

It would be wonderful if we never had to close another United Methodist Church in Kansas.

Mike's journey in ministry began five years ago and he has been involved in new church development ever since. The name "Fellowship at the Well" was chosen from the Bible story of the Samaritan women who was overwhelmed that Jesus would meet her at a well. We are called to proclaim Jesus Christ's presence and salvation to everyone. Aldersgate United Methodist is the parent church and has given great support.

Corey Godbey dreams of a day that Hispanics will be in leadership in this Conference. A video showed Hispanic Congregations and faith groups. Corey recognized Hispanic pastors: Tim Jepson, El Mesias, Wichita; Sergio Tristan, Evangelica, Garden City; Tania Montero, First UMC and Casa de Oracion, Dodge City; and Juan Garcia, Liberal. He recognized members of the Hispanic Ministries Committee.

Bishop Jones stated that when Aldersgate UMC became a parent church, they were reclaiming their heritage. He thanked them. He called attention to the story in pictures from the Hispanic Ministry video. The partnership with St. Paul United Methodist Church is wonderful. He thanked the team and all pastors involved in new church starts.

**United Methodist Women:** Thelma Miller, President, United Methodist Women, recognized Mary Lou Reece and presented her with a gift. Sherri Ewert, Youth Activities Chair, reported on the Mission Education Tour (MET) scheduled for June 5-15, 2011. Forty-three girls and six sponsors are registered. Diane McReynolds, Dean, School of Christian Mission, announced that this year's school will be held at Kansas Wesleyan University July 26 – 29 and offers studies on Haiti and social action. Bishop Jones will be a featured speaker. There will be classes for children and young adults.

**Introduction of the Cabinet:** Mary Lou Reece introduced members of the extended Cabinet and family members. They were Kendal Utt (Joyce); Lew Van Der Wege (Sherri); Janet Hernandez; Max Clayton (Kathy); Linda Louderback (Lee); Rick Saylor; Gary Brooks (Jeanne); Jill Foss (Doug); Lisa Diehl (daughter Rachel); and Gary Beech

Bishop Jones thanked the group for their work and support.

**CCYM Presentation to Bishop Jones:** Tyler Ward, Levi Nord, and other CCYM members presented Bishop Jones with birthday present to celebrate his 57<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was Monday. They gave him a cake, although they couldn't find enough candles; a T-Shirt that said "Kansas West" to show that the Bishop loves them best; a card stating they had donated a flock of chickens to Heifer International in his honor; and lots of leftover food from their booth.

#### **Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 10**

Ballots Cast: 183                      Needed to Elect: 85  
Valid Ballots: 169 Elected: Junius Dotson, Rick Just

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 11: Billie Blair offered prayer. Tellers distributed Clergy Ballot #11. Following voting, Bishop Jones declared the ballot closed.

Nancy Crowl asked if clergy could accept the top vote getter. Bishop Jones said he would recognize her after the next ballot and she could make that motion.

**Prize Winners:** Jill Foss stated that Fun Run participants estimated how long it would take them to reach the finish line. Walter Marsella and Theresa Forshee were closest and each won a \$10.00 gift certificate. Carolyn May announced that Jack Bates won the three night trip to Branson, MO.

**United Methodist Open Door Video:** The video highlighted Open Door's food bank and other ministries.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose announced that time would not allow all the videos to be shown, but that copies were available for clergy and could be picked up from Marketing and Communications. Winner of the Communion Set from the Faith Vessels booth was Earl Haggard.

**Report of Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Ballot # 11**

Ballots Cast: 182                      Needed to Elect: 92

Valid Ballots: 182                      Elected: None

Bishop Jones read the ballot.

Motion: Nancy Crowl moved that clergy accept the top vote getter as the last alternate by acclamation.

The motion passed. Pat Ault-Duell was elected.

The Clergy Delegations to General and Jurisdictional Conferences is complete.

**Rural Life Resolution:** Elin Cograzier presented the resolution on behalf of the Bishop's Rural Life Task Force. The resolution asks that "Congregations of the Kansas West Conference enthusiastically observe Rural Life Sunday annually on the Sunday before Thanksgiving or any Sunday that suits local needs. The purpose of this observance shall be to raise awareness of the relationship between agriculture and the food we eat; to inform urban/suburban dwellers of the plight of farmers and rural communities in our region; to affirm those who grow the food we eat; and to give thanks to God for the unique joys of rural living. A special offering is to be taken to give to the Center for Small Membership Churches, Rev. Carl Ellis, Director, to be used to strengthen and revitalize rural churches." Elin recognized Task Force members.

Mollie Haberer and her husband Eric farm near Paradise, KS. Their three children were not interested in returning to the farm. Mollie told of her family's efforts to recruit a young farmer to eventually manage their family farm. She moved approval of the resolution.

The resolution was approved.

**Conference Personnel Committee:** Tom Schneider, Chair, presented the report. He called attention to the handout, which has the revised recommendations. He moved that the District Superintendent Salary for 2012 shall increase by 2% from the 2011 level to \$71,633. He moved approval of the recommendation.

The motion passed.

Tom then moved that conference staff receive a 2% increase in salary for 2012.

The motion passed.

Bishop Jones thanked Tom and the Personnel Committee.

**Council on Finance and Administration:** Carl Nord, Chair, presented the report.

Recommendation for Treasurer and Director of Administrative Ministries: Carl moved that Gary Beech be elected Treasurer and Director of Administrative Ministries for the Kansas West Conference as of July 1, 2011.

Bishop Jones stated that he had worked with CF&A on this matter. Gary is treasurer and director of Connectional Ministries for Kansas East Conference. July 1, 2011, Gary will become assistant to the bishop and treasurer for both Kansas West and Kansas East conferences.

The motion passed.

Budget Report Narrative: Carl discussed items from the Finance & Administration video shown earlier. He suggested we get out of the “if we build it they will come” mentality and get into an “if we live it they will come” frame of reference. Our budget must always be about mission. He discussed the projection that the death rate will begin to significantly increase in 2018. Business as usual is no longer possible. CF&A hopes to bring to the Kansas West Conference a faith-based income formula in 2012. They are sending a petition to General Conferences that would allow it.

Carl gave an overview of church statistics for 2010. There were 1,255 professions of faith and the conference had a membership decline of 1,348. Average attendance at worship was 31,006. Mission and Ministry Funds were paid at 100% by 287 churches, but overall payout was only 82%. General church apportionments were paid at 88%.

CF&A recommends that the Mission and Ministry Fund Apportionment formula for 2012 remain the same as for 2011: 10% x (Grand Total Paid – Mission & Ministry Paid – Advance Specials Paid – Youth Service Fund Paid – Special Day Paid). Carl moved approval of narrative report.

The motion passed.

Budget Proposal: Carl stated that the figures on the budget handouts are the correct ones. He moved approval of a 2012 budget of \$ 5,851,884.

The motion passed.

Bishop Jones thanked Carl and members of CF&A. He also thanked Jane E. Voelkel, Conference Treasurer, who has been appointed to a church.

**United Methodist Men:** Loyd Hamrick, President, highlighted activities from the written report. The South Central Jurisdictional Men’s Gathering will be in at First UMC, Wichita, July 29-31, 2011. Speakers include Bishops Scott Jones and Robert Hays and pastors Kevass Harding, Todd Guinn, and Marvin Hood. The event will be webcast nationwide. Prison ministry is a major focus area. Kansas is one of five states selected to be an “Affiliate Program” with the parent organization “Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries.” Loyd expressed appreciation for Bishop Jones and the conference staff

Bishop Jones thanked Loyd and United Methodist Men.

**Marketing and Communications Council:** Jeff Slater, Chair presented the report. He announced a Web Ministry Workshop to be held in Hutchinson September 24, 2011. It will deal in part with social networking. He showed a video that illustrated various web ministries. Many people today find churches by looking at the church website. He called attention to the Kansas West Conference Website. Lisa Diehl, Director, made a status update while we watch on the screens. We should spread our ministries virally through Facebook, Twitter, and other social networking options.

Jeff announced the following awards:

Printed Communications: Excellence Award: Wichita West Heights Youth Program; Runners Up: Salina First, Hutchinson First

Promotional Campaigns: Excellence Award: Wichita West Heights, HERstory; Runner Up: Wichita St. Mark

Worship Presentations: Excellence Award: Wichita West Heights;

Web Communication: Excellence Award: Salina First

TV/Radio: Wichita West Heights

Bishop Jones thanked the Council for their work. He stated that he and Mary Lou were not on Twitter. Mary Lou corrected him, saying that she is on Twitter.

**Nominating Report:** Dixie Brewster, Chair, and David Bell, Secretary, presented the report. Persons elected to the Nominating Committee were Jerre Nolte, Phil Morris, Dianne Tombaugh, and Nathan Stanton. Dixie called attention to the printed Nominating Committee report and to the addendum handed out earlier. There will be additional changes and corrections. She moved approval of the report.

The report was approved.

Dixie requested that people fill out nominating interest forms.

**General Conference Disability Awareness Petitions:** No action was taken on four petitions to General Conference from the United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries because no delegate from Kansas West Conference presented the petitions for consideration.

**Motion to Accept the Minutes:** Kim Dickinson Oard, Chair, Sessions Planning Committee, moved to approve the minutes as prepared by the Conference Secretary and printed in the 2012 Conference Journal as the official record of the proceedings of the 2012 Session of Annual Conference.

The motion passed.

**Hospitalities – Announcements:** Mike Rose thanked Bishop Jones for a job well done. Conference delegates and guests sang “Happy Birthday” to Geraldine Requa.

**Fixing of Appointments and Sending Forth:** Appointments will be posted on the Kansas West Annual Conference website by June 1, 2011. Bishop Jones talked about the appointment process, being a connectional church, and the benefits of the connectional system to both pastors and churches. The Bishop and Cabinet are responsible for making appointments. They pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit. Bishop Jones stated that most of the time he believes that suitable pastors are found for each congregation.

Following the benediction, Bishop Jones adjourned the Conference.

**Offering Totals:**

Global AIDS Fund: \$2,746.07

UMCOR/Spring Storm fund: \$5,148.06

Seminary Scholarship Endowment: \$2,047.21

Youth Service Fund: \$1,269.96

Elijah Pilgrim Geiger fund: \$1,661.50

**Delegation to 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences**

**Delegates to General Conference**

<u>Lay</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
Dixie Brewster	Mark Conard
Penney Schwab	Amy Lippoldt

**Delegates to Jurisdictional Conference**

<u>Lay</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
Jill Foss	Cheryl Bell
Tyler Ward	Nathan Stanton

**Reserve Delegates to Jurisdictional Conference**

<u>Lay</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
Steve Johnson	Junius Dotson
Mollie Haberer	Rick Just
Ben Wheeler	Pat Ault-Duell



Rev. Gary Brooks prepares to participate in the Bishop's Bike Challenge

Photo by Keith Fink