

Session Summary

Kansas East Annual Conference
June 4-7, 2008
Baker University, Baldwin City

*Our Mission...to connect and empower people and churches living out the Gospel's call
to invite, nurture, equip, and send forth disciples of Jesus Christ.*



Just GO!

State of the Conference Address

In his state of the conference address, Bishop Scott J. Jones shared stories of local church ministries in the Kansas East Conference that are offering radical hospitality and reaching the unchurched. He reminded us that "radical hospitality" is not waiting for people to come in the door- it's about stepping out and doing things that connect us with the unchurched outside of the building. It is being "radical" in the way we invite them in and then make them feel welcome.

He reminded us of his rule of thumb that half the people in our communities do not have a relationship with a local church. If we want to have a relationship with these persons, we need to look at our own relationships and, if all of our friends go to church, "get some new friends."

Bishop Jones referred to Bishop Rueben Job's book which takes John Wesley's general rules and put them into three simple rules, making them easier to remember.

Do no harm! Do good! Love God!

Bishop Jones offered his own three rules for the Kansas East Conference to continue to transform the world. First, keep the goals of our conference's strategic plans in mind and keep moving toward them. Second, keep moving toward 100 percent payment of apportionments. Third, implement strategies for bringing in more people - younger people and more diverse people - by going outside the church doors.

Bishop Jones expressed his hope, that over the next four years we are going to turn around our declines in membership and worship attendance and once again be a growing Annual Conference.

Edited by

Libby Oberdorf
Annual Conference Secretary

Items to note:

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**Photos from the
2008 Annual
Conference will be
available at the
KodakGallery.com
website near the end
of July. Watch the
Kansas East
Conference
Communiqué for
further details.**

Worship Services

Opening Worship -

A Service to Celebrate the Saints

Luke Wetzel's sermon called us to recognize that, even though our ministry is challenging, our faith will help us to stay in the race until the end.

Those remembered during the service included:

Clergy

Calvin Dickinson
Harry Sims
Gene Riley
Robert Kendall
Ira Wiley
Don Frogge
Glenn Amend
Fred Ackman

Spouses

Alice Evans
Caroline Nabors
Ligeia Lamberty
Mary Heidrick
Marian Kendall
Jean Life
Dr. Roger Eakins
Martha Jones

Related

Rev. John Vaughan

Music was provided by the Dixieland Band from Manhattan: First UMC.

An offering of \$2,436.09 was received for Baker University in honor of their 150th Anniversary this year.

Retirement Service -

A Celebration of New Beginnings

Rev. Phyllis Garrett encouraged retirees to look at this time in their lives as a time to stand out. It is the time for those who have been a steady, long-standing and reliable presence to "stick out." They will stick out by looking for new ways to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through new adventures and new friends, and by taking risks, and most importantly, by listening to the younger generations.

Retirees included:

Rev. Harriett Bechtle
Pastor Ed English
Rev. Pat Flowers
Rev. Margaret Gunselman
Rev. Tedd Inman
Rev. DeeAnn Mezger
Pastor Karen Miller
Rev. Larry Parrish
Rev. Ed Stevenson

An offering of \$4,225.31 was received for the work of Joe and Shirley Edgerton in Haiti.

Celebration of Ministries

In the midst of stormy weather on Thursday evening, we still found much to celebrate. Sermonettes were given by Chris Williams (youth from Emporia: Grace) who spoke about "the rapture" and Cindy Heilman (Young Adult) who spoke about the "body of Christ" using Mr. Potato Head as a visual aid.

Awards were given by a variety of boards and agencies of the Kansas Area and the Kansas East Conference (listed on page 3). The shortened service concluded with the commissioning of Lay Speakers and Project Transformation Interns (listed on page 5).

Music was provided by Aldersgate UMC Praise Band and Hands of Glory from Ottawa: First UMC who signed a musical celebration.

An offering of \$1,371.37 was received for the ministry of Tony Ikenberry in Bangladesh.

Save these dates. There are more places to GO!

Sept. 27 *Camp Chippewa 50th Anniversary Celebration, Camp Chippewa*

Oct. 18 *Cat/Hawk Challenge*

Nov. 15 *Bishop's Round up for Hunger, Douglas County Fairgrounds*

Celebration of Ministries -

Conference Merit Scholarship - Laura Snyder

Francis Asbury Award - Rev. Jennifer Collins (Coffeyville:1st)

"Doc" Wollen Awards (Camp Chippewa) –
Kyle Medina (Vinland) presented posthumously

Healthy Congregation Awards -
44 awards to churches in the Kansas East Conference, with special recognition was given to Humboldt, Richter and Lenexa: St. Paul's.

Watch the KEC website for a complete listing of churches.

Scouting: Torch Award – Judy Cooley and Sidna Small
Bishop's Award of Excellence –
Ottawa: Trinity UMC, Scout Pack 3118.

Denman Evangelism Awards –
Laity: Shelly Todd & Eva Durand (Baldwin City: First)
Clergy: Rev. Lynn Lamberty (Nominated by
Kansas City: University)

Celebrating 150th Anniversaries –
Clearfield, Seneca, Leavenworth: Trinity and
Wathena.

Rural Fellowship Award of Merit -
Forrest Buhler (Manhattan: College Avenue)

Communication Awards -
Baldwin City: Ives Chapel, Berryton, Elk Falls-
Longton, Fairway: Old Mission, Independence: First,
Lenexa, Lenexa: St. Paul's, Louisburg,
Olathe: Aldersgate, Overland Park: Valley View,
Parsons: Faith, Pleasant Hill, Topeka: First

Grants approved by the Bishop's Committee on Children and Families in Poverty

\$1,500 - Atchison, High Prairie, Wilsey
\$1,000 - Elk Falls, Kansas City: University, Parsons:
Wesley, Overland Park: St. Marks and
Mision Nueva Vida, Shawnee Heights,
Wyandotte, Yates Center
\$750 - Frontenac, Grenola, Wesley House
\$600 - Seneca, Worden
\$250 - Rossville

Ordination and Commissioning Service

We celebrated those beginning a new relationship in the conference, including:

Newly commissioned to perform the duties elder:

Guy Thomas Bailey
Kimberly Dowd Dominic
Regina Lou Gile
Joshua Ryan Gooding
Melody Corine Kimbrel
Bradley Joe Wheeler
Morgan Elizabeth Whitaker

Ordained as a full deacon:
Kurt J. Cooper

Ordained as full elder:
Young-Gil Bahng
Steven Ryan Blair
George Russell Brown
Moon-Hee Chung
Trudy Kay Kenyon Anderson
Nancy R. Pauls

Recognized as an Associate Member:
Laura Burnett

Music was presented by the Annual Conference Choir directed by Sara Wentz (Lawrence: First), and the Wesley Bells (Iola: Wesley UMC).

The offering was received for the Youth Service Fund and totaled \$2,734.08.

Sending Forth

On Saturday morning clergy and laity sat together as appointments were read during the "Jazzy" service, and the Rev. Jim Reed shared the message that the world is watching us, so even if we have doubts or think it is too messy, we need to "Just Go!"

An offering of \$2,985.09 was received for Katrina Relief.

2008 Annual Conference DVD Order Form

DVDs of presentations and worship services at the 2008 Kansas East Annual Conference are \$20 each or all seven sessions for \$100. VHS tapes will not be available.

DVD availability will depend on the number of each session ordered. If fewer than 10 are ordered for a session, that session will not be available. Payments will be returned for orders we are unable to fulfill.

Order deadline: July 1, 2008 To order, please complete the information below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Church: _____

DVD(s) I am ordering:

Quantity	DVD Title
	Myron McCoy, Saint Paul president, Plenary I and II - \$20
	Opening Worship - \$20
	Retirement Service - \$20
	Celebration Service - \$20
	State of the Conference address - Bishop Jones - \$20
	Ordination and Commissioning - \$20
	Sending Forth - \$20

Total order: _____

To complete your order, please leave a check payable to "Kansas West Conference" with a completed order form in the Business Office or mail the completed form with payment to:

Kansas East Annual Conference DVDs
 9440 E Boston Suite 110
 Wichita KS 67207



Just Go!

Other Highlights

- Cheers rang out as we celebrated pledges of \$5,185,892 toward of our goal of \$5.35 million for the Bridges to the Future campaign.
- Together we began the celebration of Camp Chippewa's 50th Anniversary.
- We joined Baker University in celebrating their 150th Anniversary.
- Dr. Myron McCoy inspired us as the plenary speaker on Thursday and Friday mornings.
- General and Jurisdictional delegates and alternates shared highlights and reported key items approved at the 2008 General Conference.
- The following Project Transformation Interns were commissioned:
 - Zach Callaway (University of Missouri)
 - Lindsey Childs (Missouri State University)
 - Brittinee Craigg (Central Methodist University)
 - Monte Farres (Emporia State University)
 - Cindy Heilman (University of Kansas)
 - Armand Heynes (University of Kansas)
 - Sarah Hodges (Kansas State University)
 - Kate Hogan (University of Kansas)
 - Carissa Nichols (Baker University)
 - Heidi Pierson (University of Kansas)
 - Cede Schlapper (Baker University)
 - Greg Weseloh (University of Kansas)
- Randall Hodgkinson and Linda Gillespie Eads were recognized as commissioned as Lay Speakers.
- Linda Stotler was commissioned as a Certified Lay Minister.
- The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits provided Pro-Check Health Screenings.
- Toni Witherspoon (Norfolk, VA) was our special guest to present the Black College Fund Report.
- Lonnie Bailey, Local Church Resource Consultant KEC, spoke at the KAUMRF Banquet.
- Roger Dressler, Local VIM and Common Ground Coordinator, spoke at the VIM Banquet.
- Health Ministries led the second Bishop's Body, Mind, Spirit Walk and provided healthy food options and other healthy activities.

Issues and Petitions

Due to the limited number of "items for action" that were being addressed this year, there were no legislative committees. The following petitions and resolutions were brought to the floor of the conference and approved as amended, if amended:

- Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar Proposal
- Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee Expansion (*amended*)
- Healthy Lifestyles Committee Proposal
- Conference-Wide Energy Audit
- Request for a Declaratory Decision Pertaining to paragraph 507.2 (*2004 Book of Discipline*)

Other approved items brought by committees included:

- Advance Specials for Christ
- Equitable Compensation
- Board of Pensions - all items for action including the recommendation to change the conference health insurance to Humana
- CFA items including the approval of the following items;
 - ◊ budget (*amended*)
 - ◊ a new apportionment formula
 - ◊ changes to the Standing Rules (Audits, Moving Mileage Rates and Moving Guidelines)
 - ◊ Election of Russ Hinshaw as Conference Treasurer and Statistician

Other actions approved by annual conference included:

- A motion to consider a change of venue for annual conference.
- A motion to equitably fund annual conference by all churches.
- A motion to elect Libby Oberdorf as the Conference Secretary (2009-2012)

A complete list of petitions and resolutions will be posted on the KEC website.



Kansas East Conference
The United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 4187
Topeka, KS 66604-0187

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2008 Annual Conference Summary

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Just
GO!**

***“Are we really serving with the heart of Jesus,
or are we flickering, twittering and dying out?”***

Dr. Myron McCoy, President of Saint Paul School of Theology, posed this question when he addressed the conference during the plenary sessions. Dr. McCoy reminded us that the true gospel of Jesus Christ offers all people a way out of an existence that is focused on merely living for self. As Christians, we are sent forth to carry out the five marks of mission: to proclaim the good news of God's reign; to teach, baptize, and nurture new believers; to respond to human need by loving service; to seek to transform unjust structures of society; and to strive to save Godly integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

What gets in our way is our reluctance to go. We can come up with all kinds of excuses, just like Jonah did when God called him to Nineveh. We are called to make our lives an "Amen." Amen means "yes," "indeed," and "so be it." Amen is a commitment to action, a response to God's call and a dedication to God's ways. Christ calls us to live and proclaim the reign of God when we are running errands; when we are doing the mundane, thankless chores of life. When we least expect it, like reluctant Jonah, we are elected to go to Nineveh.

Dr. McCoy referred to Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor's writings, saying that "we are fickle and flawed. But we are more than that because we believe in a God who believes in us. God looks at us and sees the best, sees beloved children, sees likely allies, sees able partners in the ongoing work of creation."

The only viable option for the church to engage culture is by creating culture! We need faith so that when God calls us to high places, useful service, and noble living, we trust that God has already made the arrangements for the journey. Dr. McCoy encouraged us not to be reluctant, but to say amen as we are called and sent forth to carry out our assignment.