New Conference mixes meetings with mission

By Daniel R. Gangler

More than 2,000 United Methodist conference members from across Indiana representing 1,200 congregations descended upon the Ball State University campus in Muncie June 25-28 for the first Indiana Annual Conference session under the theme of “RETHINK CHURCH.”

The conference partnered with United Methodist Communications in purchasing five billboards, radio spots and live radio remote, a full-page newspaper ads, and 1,100 T-shirts to promote the conference’s presence city-wide.

New to the conference session was a Saturday all-conference Day of Outreach and Mission. Dressed in red RETHINK CHURCH T-shirts, more than 1,000 volunteers were sent to ten sites across town with their new districts to work with community leaders in outreach projects.

Mission

Muncie’s 14 United Methodist churches hosted sites in five churches and five elementary schools. From these sites, the conference volunteers dispersed to help the City of Muncie clean streets of litter, visit residents in ten nursing homes, work in food pantries, soup kitchens and the Red Cross, swing hammers with Habitat for Humanity, pray with kids on streets in neighborhoods and joined Covenant Partners Ministries telling listeners about the Saturday Mission and Outreach across Muncie.

Education

The four-day meeting also included three hour-long education presentations by the Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the 15,500-member Church of the Resurrection (UMC) in Leawood, Kan., who focused on church leadership, ideas for preaching and worship, and strategies for reaching residents who have no church commitment. (See page 4.)

The Rev. David Bell of Brighton, Mich., led two hour-long Bible studies on the theme of extravagant generosity. Bell serves as vice-president of stewardship with The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. (See page 5.)

Business

In other business the conference:
- Restructured the administration of the conference based on a Leadership Table chaired by the bishop;
- Streamlined the conference from three offices to one conference center and 18 to 10 districts;
- Announced boundaries and superintendents of the 10 new districts (effective Jan. 1);
- Announced the location (by Nov. 1) of the new conference center on the northside of Indianapolis and the closing of offices in Bloomington and Marion;
- Established a special-Sunday offering for Indiana campus ministries;
- Established a special-Sunday offering for a retired-ministers compassionate fund;
- Authorized the implementation of a partially funded supplemental health-care insurance plan, separate from HealthFlex, for retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses based on years of service;
- Continued HealthFlex plan for clergy and conference employees;
- Celebrated the chartering of Faithpoint UMC in New Albany District;
- Introduced a $3.9 million Lilly Endowment funded Well-Lived Life program to assist pastors with indebtedness and congregations with financial planning;
- Celebrated the retirement of 28 pastors who served a total of 742 years;
- Celebrated the ordination of 15 elders, 1 deacon, 1 associate member and commissioning of 16 provisional clergy;
- Remembered the lives of 23 clergy and 37 clergy spouses who died this conference year; and
- Approved a $15.1 million budget for 2010.

With both former conferences combined, membership stands at 204,527 down 1,872 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 121,591 down 2,467. Sunday school attendance stands at 43,119 down 2,329. The statistics are unofficial and will be audited in July.

Indiana approved only five of the 32 Constitutional Amendments considered by all annual conference globally.

More coverage of the Indiana Annual Conference session can be found on pages 2-9.
Bishop announces selection of two new associate directors

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Bishop Mike Coyner announces the selection and appointment of the Rev. LeKisha Reed of New Orleans, La., as the new Associate Director for Missions and Advocacy for the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church effective July 1. Reed is a new face to Indiana as she begins her work with Connectional Ministries Director James Bushfield as an employee of the new conference staff.

Coyner also announced the selection of the Rev. Sandy Harlan of Bloomington, Ind., as the new conference Associate Director of Clergy Services effective August 1.

The selections of Reed and Harlan were made by Bushfield.

Reed

Reed recently served as associate pastor of First Grace United Methodist Church in New Orleans, a position she served since June 2007. Previously, she served as pastor of the Boyntown UMC in Gretna, La. She also has served a resident student chaplain in Atlanta, Ga., program director for the Summer Leadership Institute in New Orleans, and a ministry fellow of The Fund for Theological Education in Atlanta.

She is a 1994 graduate of Holy Names High School of Oakland, Calif.; a 2002 graduate of Dillard University of New Orleans (B.A. of Arts Humanities) and a 2005 graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta (M.Div.). She spent 1990-2000 in the overseas student program at the Fulton University in Beer-Sheba, Israel.

Reed is a Hurricane Katrina survivor and assisted her congregation and community of Gretna in recovery efforts following the August 2005 devastation.

In her application letter, she wrote, “I have worked with African American, White, Hispanic, Latino, Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist congregations training their young people in advocacy and mission work. My approach to mission and advocacy is to build on people’s strengths and assets and not solely focus on deficits and needs. This enables them to actively

Harlan

In making the selection of Harlan to Connectional Ministries, Bushfield said, “Harlan was selected by an interview team from members of the two former boards of ordained ministry and the cabinet. She will work with the new Board of Ordained Ministry in coordinating the transition to new districts and she will plan for the transition to the new conference center this winter. Both Harlan and Dan Snyder (of the former NIC) will continue their responsibilities (as registrar) with each of the former conferences between now and the end of the year, to organize the transfer of records and other transition issues.”

Harlan has worked with the South Indiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry in several capacities during the past 11 years. She first became a member of the board in 1998 when she served as Registrar of Deacons. In 2000, she became interim staff person to the board and the cabinet. Shortly thereafter, she became the staff person relating to the board. In 2007, she was named to the full-time position of Director of Ministerial Services and continues to serve in that capacity.

From 1993 to 2007 she served as Director of Financial Ministries for St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Bloomington.

She was consecrated a Diaconal Minister in 1998 and ordained Deacon in 2000. Her secondary appointment is to St. Mark’s where she continues to serve in a variety of ways. She graduated from the University of Evansville with a B.A. degree and has done graduate work in theology and church administration.

She is mother to two adult sons, one of Greenwood, the other of North Fort Myers, Fla. She also has a grandson in Bloomington who is married and father to twin five-year-old girls. Besides time with family and friends, she enjoys movies, reading, walking, travel and oil painting.

See more announcements on page 11.

John Wesley would have recognized this as a Methodist event.”

received comments like these:

- “The new Indiana Conference is truly greater than just the sum of our parts,”
- “This was my first time to attend an Annual Conference, and it was so much more wonderful than I expected;”
- “It was worth the drive from Evansville, and I even got to reconnect with a high school friend from South Bend from 41 years ago;”
- “I have finally seen the revival of Methodism in Indiana for which I’ve been praying for 60 years;”
- “Thanks for a kick-butt Conference” (from a young person);
- “The best conference I have ever attended – spiritually, educationally and otherwise;”
- “I think God went beyond what we could IMAGINE at Annual Conference”
- “The first gathering of the Indiana Conference has resulted in the saving of at least one pastor! I have hope again for our church. And, I have regained hope for myself.”

Of course I know we also had some tough issues at annual conference, and adapting to a new location presented all of us with challenges. We still have a greatly-reduced budget to live with, and are still in the midst of a “messy” transition year.

There is much yet to be done. We must translate our enthusiasm into action and into fulfilling our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” But John Wesley would have recognized us as the people called Methodists. 

Bishop Michael J. Coyner
Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church
“Making a Difference in Indiana and around the world”

MISSION STATEMENT: To reflect the teachings of Christ through stories and pictures, thereby sharing key moments and concerns in the life of his Indiana church and its people. To share joy, to share personal faith, to share challenges, and to refresh the spirit.

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www.inumc.org
Welcome

As Hoosier United Methodists, we have completed our first annual conference session as a united conference. We have worked side-by-side as volunteers during our first day of mission and outreach to the City of Muncie, a model to be replicated in other Indiana communities. We have approved a leaner budget for the two previous years’ conferences and prepare to move into a new conference center on the north side of Indianapolis by November 1.

We have hired young adult associate directors in missions and youth and young adult ministries, begun the process of moving toward ten new districts formed from the existing 18 districts and heard words of instruction about revitalizing existing congregations and establishing new faith communities. In many ways, we probably have more questions than answers as we move forward to forge a church to meet the spiritual needs of the 21st century. Now we must ask ourselves, will all this restructure and unifying of the two former Indiana conferences into one streamlined and efficient conference be worth the effort? Questions are part of the journey.

In order for the new conference to truly be new, conference leaders need members and congregations to challenge them to become what God fully wants us, as Hoosier United Methodists, to be.

We need to be challenged to think in new ways, in other words — RETHINK CHURCH.

We need to be challenged and question who we are on this faith journey.

United Methodists are good on structure and method. It’s both in our name and our DNA.

Now, we need God’s Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ to continue to guide us in the future if we are to make a difference, if we are to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We need a radical departure from the norm, because the norm no longer bears fruit.

We need to pray into our future and hear the latest trend in doing church, but to be open to the leading of God’s Spirit in the months to come. We are challenged to be faithful even if that doesn’t mean being successful.

We need a radical departure from the norm, because the norm no longer bears fruit.

We need to ask the difficult questions of how to partner as clergy and laity, church and community, conference and state. We need to constantly try without the fear of failure.

In the pages ahead, you will find news and information about the annual conference session, read stories of mission, be introduced to new leaders who have come to join in the church’s service to Indiana, review the new conference budget and what it doesn’t include and hear the decisions made of retiree’s pensions, as well as the results of the constitutional amendment vote.

And, if you don’t find the answers to your questions, please ask.

Welcome, Daniel R. GANGLER

Are we up to the challenge of being and doing church?

By Todd Outcalt

I began reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation on January 1 while recording my daily biblical observations and insights on a blog (toddabible.blogspot.com). It’s been a fun adventure so far. And funny.

I say funny because, the more I read the prophets, the more I am convinced the prophets of old were the original actors. Take Jeremiah, for instance. At various times he acts out his theology by sitting at a potter’s wheel and shattering clay jugs (chapters 18-19), by eating overripe figs (chapter 24), and by burying a favorite loincloth in the ground near the Euphrates (chapter 13). Of course, the prophet didn’t want to wear the soiled thong after he dug it up (Who would?), and he declares that God doesn’t like soiled people, either. Nevertheless, Jeremiah follows all of God’s instructions to the letter — like he’s acting out a divine comedy and — doesn’t flinch when God tells him to act out again.

Ezekiel, though a bit more apocalyptic, is much in the same vein as Jeremiah. Old Zeke, at various times, builds a brick model of the city of Jerusalem which he then destroys (chapter 4), and also sleeps on a desert bed with a sharp sword (chapter 5), and even carries his luggage around the city so people will ask him, “Where are you going, Zeke?” His answer? “Into exile, just like you.”

The prophets acted out their proclamations. They were dramatic. They played a game of show-and-tell. And a lot of their performances during rugged times were nevertheless hilarious and always over-the-top. Have you ever tried preaching in a loin-cloth? How about a Snuggie? Ever tried preaching a sermon while wiping down the pulpit with a Sham-Wow (cause we don’t do this all day)?

How about us? Do we perform any dramatic demonstrations of our faith in a time when words are just words and our faith needs some shoe leather to get the point across? How about us?

Our answers might then carry more weight. “For the love of Christ,” we might answer. Or “this is what the Christian faith looks like” or “we’re not called to sit in a pew, friend, but to step into the world and demonstrate that the Kingdom of God has come upon the earth!”

Just a few things to think about while you’re considering your next move.

Todd Outcalt serves as senior pastor of Calvary UMC in Brownsburg. His latest books are Your Beautiful Wedding on Any Budget (Sourcebooks), School’s Out (Abingdon) and the upcoming $5 Youth Minis-try Group.

Body, Mind & Spirit

Acting up

By Todd Outcalt

I am convinced the prophets of old were the original actors.

Where all the birds come from

By Jean Moorman Brindel

Development officer the Indiana Conference UMC

Did you ever see something that put all you thought you knew in question for just a split second?

I experienced such a moment this past spring. Needing to plant grass seed, flowers and do other spring stuff, I went to one of those big home improvement store where I could purchase it all in one trip.

I found the store’s gardening-outdoor section, and began to fill my cart. There was the garden hose, just next to the fertilizer. In the next aisle all in a row, were the vegetable garden seeds, flower seeds and bird seed. My brain began to spin — bird seed? I thought birds were hatched! Thinking of birds, an idea began to hatch in my brain as I filled the cart.

I think many people get confused about where new Christian come from. Reports show church camp is the place where children, youth and young adults — meet Christ and make a commitment to Christ and His church.

Church camp is not sports camp where kids hone their athletic skills. Church camp is not band camp where they learn the latest marching routine. And it’s not simply a place where kids go to escape the family for a week. But rather, church camp is the place where children, youth and young adults go to make life changing decision to follow Christ. There all activities nurture Christian growth.

Camps and retreats are the most effective evangelism tool of the church.

Camps and retreats are the most effective evangelism tool of the church.

Bird seed — so that’s where all the birds come from.

As the days of spring began to fill the outdoors section, and began to fill the trip. Bird seed — so that’s where all the birds come from. Those boomin’ birds come from. Bird seed — so that’s where all the birds come from. Those boomin’ birds come from. Bird seed — so that’s where all the birds come from. Those boomin’ birds come from. Bird seed — so that’s where all the birds come from. Those boomin’ birds come from. Bird seed — so that’s where all the birds come from. Those boomin’ birds come from.

Viewpoint

By Jean Moorman Brindel

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Camps and retreats are the most effective evangelism tool of the church.

With the economy in a tail spin, many kids have been on scholarships to camp this summer. Churches and individuals have gifted their youth, as has the schol-
Bishop calls the first Indiana Conference session to order

MUNCIE, Ind. -- Bishop Mike Coyner called the first Indiana Annual Conference Session to order on June 25 using a gavel made from the wood of an Indiana meeting house used by Bishop Robertston. He then led in prayer using a prayer of John Wesley, founder of Methodism.

Coyner introduced Carolyn Johnson, conference secretary.

Mary Hubbard and Karen DeHaas were introduced as the co-chairs of the conference sessions committee, which is responsible for the conference arrangements.

Jim Bushfield, new director of connectional ministries, reviewed the process of how the rules and structure of the conference were written and introduced the new rules and structure of the annual conference which were adopted.

Kent Millard, chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, introduced the proposed 2010 conference budget. The interim CF&A was composed of equal number of members from each of the previous two conferences. He reported that the recession has made an impact upon how people give to the church. He also reported 600 UM churches have given more than 90 percent of their tithe. Another 50 percent gave less than 90 percent of their expected tithe. On the average, most United Methodists give 2 to 3 percent of their income. A $15.1 million budget was proposed. What CF&A is requesting is a tithe (10 percent) for conference and general church plus a one percent asking for district ministries. Streamlining ministry has included reduction of administration, reduction of property and increased general conference support. The budget will come back to the conference on Saturday morning.

CF&A policies were adopted. In regard to retiree health-care insurance, CF&A proposes a shift in health care insurance coverage for subsidizing Medi-care coverage. That proposal was dismissed on Friday. (See retiree health-care story.)

Concerns were raised about the proposed retiree health-care insurance coverage and funding of campus ministries whose funding is not in the 2010 proposed budget.

Ashley Cone, the new manager of the Indiana Cokesbury Store, was introduced. She presented Bishop Coyner with a white stole bearing the new Indiana Conference logo.

Pastor of largest UMC encourages Hoosiers to ‘Rethink Church’

By Matthew Oates

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding and current lead pastor of the Church of the Resurrection (UMC) in suburban Kansas City, presented three sessions on “Effective Church Leadership,” “Ideas for Preaching and Worship” and “Strategies for Reaching the Unchurched” during the opening day of the Indiana Annual Conference. The Church of the Resurrection is the largest United Methodist congregation in the United States with 15,500 members.

Effective leadership

Hamilton kicked off his June 25 sessions by offering a revival for spiritual renewal for laity and clergy, saying that on average there are about 10 percent of both who are feeling burned out, which then affects their ministries and leadership. “Believe we have a future with hope, but not with out change,” he said.

Five times he will address various areas of the church that have not worked well and work on ways to change for the future.

Five ways for effective church leadership include:

- Setting the tone of the organization.
- Clarifying and championing the mission and vision.
- Holding the organization accountable to its mission.
- Owning ultimate responsibility for the organization’s mission.
- Preparing the organization for the future by leading for change.

“The mission drives everything,” said Hamilton. “The problem is we don’t change. We act like the status quo. This is a problem for every generation.”

Hamilton also explained the differences between managers (plan and budget, develop policies, control and problem solve and create predictability and order) and leaders (establish direction and cost vision, align people and resources to accomplish a vision, motivate, inspire and produce change and chaos).

Preaching and worship

“If you preach excellent sermons, people grow in their faith,” said Hamilton. “The entire church benefits.”

Hamilton encouraged the conference to understand that worship is more than just a sermon and is more involved and important than putting together the order on Friday or Saturday.

Throughout the session, he provided tips on music introductions, explaining to congregations what they are singing and the different facets of faith that people attending a church for the first time might not understand. “If you help them in leading worship, the grace of God flows through the sacraments.”

He added, “Your sermon is the most powerful tool in your tool belt to help your congregation.”

For example, at Christmas and Easter, announce various programs to those visiting.

One of the strategic goals at the Church of the Resurrection is to reach out young adults, not just in growing their faith or becoming members, but also to involve them more in the decision making and life of the church.

Some of those sermons include:

- Fishing expeditions: exploring various questions of non-church active people.
- Discipleship: Lent.
- Pastoral care sermons: addressing topics of marriages, suicides, care giving.
- Equipping and sending: preparing members to do missions, social justice and more.
- Strengthening the church: stewardship and visioning.

The sermons should touch on five components:

- Teaching something new.
- Inspiring people.
- Providing practical advise for life.
- Calling people to action.
- Including creativity, being interesting and intriguing.

“Preaching has power… the world is changed.”

Strategies for reaching the non-religious

Each church in developing various strategies for evangelism and outreach needs to wrestle and answer the following questions:

- Why do people need Jesus Christ? “The fundamental needs in our human heart are spiritual needs. We yearn for unconditional love, need hope and more. All of these things are orchestrated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”
- Why do people need the church? “The church belongs to Jesus Christ.”
- Why do people need your church? People need the help of our local congregations in finding the love of Jesus. “Many of our churches are struggling with self-esteem with years of decline.” Hamilton encouraged the conference faculty to take pride in their church and pastors to find the special aspects of their congregations.

At Church of Resurrection, they emphasize mission work and projects for outreach to young adults. “Non-religious young adults are really interested in changing the world. That’s what Rethink Church is all about…”

The world needs vibrant, vital United Methodists. The world needs you.”

Youth rally at Union Chapel’s one-eighth program center

By Matthew Oates

Youth from across the Indiana Conference and the Muncie District participated in a fun evening of fellowship, worship and sharing on Saturday night June 27.

The Rev. Mark Beeson of Granger Community United Methodist Church near South Bend provided the message to more than 150 youth at the event.

“You try to stay true. You try to stay on path. It’s too easy to get off track,” said Beeson. “You’re going to have to pay close attention to who you let close to you.”

Beeson shared experiences throughout his life where he learned from others who were teachers, colleagues and friends and how their influence guided and helped him.

“But it’s the stuff in you that by God’s love. “You are the hope that the world is looking for. You are the carriers of Christ,” he said. “If you let Jesus keep you clean, your life will shine with purpose, meaning and joy.”
Bell encourages culture of extravagant generosity

By Matthew Oates

The Rev. David Bell, of Brighton, Mich., serves as vice-president of stewardship with The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. Bell consults independently through Design for Ministry. He began a June 26 Bible study held in his church’s donated home that was featured in the May 14 Mission Statement.

Recalling this passage — which was his first stewardship sermon in his first church years ago — Bell shared that stewardship is more than just money, it is also about time and involvement.

“My understanding of Christ’s stewardship is that it’s not only money, but everything we have is a gift of God,” said Bell.

New Albany District church chartered

Director of Church Development Mark Gough said to conference members on June 26 that together we need to find new ways of reaching more people for Jesus Christ, younger people and more diverse people.

He noted that worship attendance continues to decline. He said, “We need to pull together in a process, a way of bringing people to the church.”

He outlined four strategic Church Development areas which include locations, people groups, existing churches and new churches. Pending budget approval, conference grants will be provided in 2010 for new churches, multi-sites, worship and relocation.

Gough introduced the first conference church development staff person, Ed Fenstermacher, who presented a tool box for church growth (see page 11).

Fenstermacher reminded the conference of Bishop Coyner’s vision of sending of the 70 in Luke’s Gospel. North Indiana picked up the idea in a program called Sending of the Saints.

Fenstermacher said ways of starting new faith communities include Sunday school, home Bible study and new worship services. He said, “We’re inviting you to make this commitment in the next two years by establishing new faith communities.

A tool box of resources is available online at www.inumc.org and select “Church Development.” Web seminars also are available online. Coaches will help church develop their own ministries.

At the close of this report, the Faithpoint United Methodist Church of Floyds Knobs, Ind. was chartered as a new congregation in the new Indiana Conference. Pastor George Wasson explained the development of this congregation from a home Bible study to Easter of this year. Wasson thanked the conference for its support in this new ministry.

Today, people are living in a hyper-consumer culture and an age of instant gratification.

There are more passages about money that Jesus taught his disciples and people than other topics.

“There is this tension that exists in our culture,” said Bell. “The result is that the average American lives well beyond their economic means.”

Today, people are living in a hyper-consumer culture and an age of instant gratification. Bell called on conference members to address the economy.

There are several culture values — such as rich lifestyles, consumer debt, saving and giving — that are in place over biblical values of giving, saving, simple lifestyle and consumer debt.

“If you want to release the bondage that money has on your congregation, start giving.”

Bell shared information that most people are among the ordinary wealthy and our wants have been replaced with needs. “This idea of scarcity is pervasive across all economic lives,” said Bell.

“People of less means give more.” Bell continued, “Faith and money are linked together. You can’t separate those two. Contentment comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. The longer the church is silent, how can the world hear? Contentment brings joy and peace into our lives.”

Bell provided six concepts for conference members:

- A Biblical/theological context
- A sense of anticipation
- Practice ethical financial management
- Personally thank the giver
- Remind them of the mission to change lives, and
- Create a joyful atmosphere of extravagant generosity.

In addition Bell will be presenting programs throughout Indiana during the fall and winter.

Rejuvenate program to help pastors, churches with finances

During the Laity Session on June 25, the Rev. Michelle Cobb, new director of the Rejuvenate program, explained how the program will help pastors in financial crisis.

The project has been funded $3.9 millions by the Lilly Endowment.

She said the purpose of the program is to strengthen the quality of pastoral leadership and enhance the vitality of Indiana United Methodist congregations.

She said research informs us that UM clergy in Indiana are experiencing debt at a level that is negatively impacting their sense of well-being and their ability to provide for their families. There is little correlation between the age of the pastor and the amount of debt — older pastors are as likely to carry high debt loads as are younger pastors. This suggests that it is very hard for pastors to retire their debt, especially educational debt.

The research also informs us that few clergy understand financial issues and therefore cannot model personal financial competence nor practice sound financial management skills in leading their congregations.

Cobb said the Lilly Endowment grant will permit the conference to address not only the debt issue (that will include a grant/match component), but several other issues that the survey brought to our attention. The survey revealed a significant number of clergy do not make personal contributions to their pension fund. In response, the conference will offer:

- Retirement Fund Incentives — these incentives will encourage clergy to personally contribute to their UM Pension Plan; develop a retirement savings plan and assist clergy to prepare for a retirement fund.
- Funding for Emergencies — there is an alarming number of clergy who reported no provisions for financial emergencies. Through the grant, clergy and pastoral families will be encouraged to develop within a financial plan the means to establish and maintain funds for an emergency. Also, the fund will provide immediate resources to the Bishop and the Cabinet to assist pastoral families who may experience a significant family crisis that could force the family into a major financial crisis.
- The Called Anew Fund will assist pastors who need to exit pastoral/appointive ministry. This is a Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and cabinet procedure. Transitional support for a limited period of time will be offered to the clergy person.

Cobb said, “Only the laity, the success of this project will mean they will grow in the practice of faithful stewardship; renew financial support for effective clergy leadership; experience a renewed sense of pastoral excellence among Judiciatory clergy and the congregation’s clergy."

Indiana Annual Conference approves only five proposed constitutional amendments

Only five of the 32 proposed amendments to the United Methodist Church Constitution were approved by the Indiana Conference votes received Friday, June 26, at Muncie. A total of 1,257 ballots were cast, according to Conference Secretary Carolyn Johnson. All of the votes will be added to the individual votes from all the annual conferences.

The following required the required two-thirds or above votes in Indiana included proposed amendments:

- Conflict of Interest – 1071 affirmative votes
- Gender – 1113 affirmative votes
- Jurisdictional Conference Membership – 1040 affirmative votes
- Voting Eligibility – 1087 affirmative votes
- Bermuda – 1127 affirmative votes
- All of these proposed amendments were passed in Indiana with an 82 percent or above approval.

No other proposed amendments received more than 52 percent of the vote. None of the Global Nature of the Church proposed amendments received a two-thirds majority vote in Indiana. A complete tally and short description is available at www.inumc.org.

All constitutional amendments must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the total number of voting members of all conferences worldwide. The Council of Bishops is expected to announce the results during its spring meeting.
Day of Mission and Outreach embraces City of Muncie

By Matthew Oates

More than 1,000 Hoosier United Methodists fanned out across Muncie on a sunny, warm June 27 Saturday afternoon for a day of mission and outreach.

The Rev. David Arnold of Muncie College Avenue UMC, which served as one of the host churches for the West District, has been part of the planning team. “The congregation feels privileged to serve in this manner,” said Arnold, who also is expecting a variety of follow-up from community members and agencies.

Ann Newton of Green Castle Gohan Memorial UMC was excited about the day of mission. “I do a lot of mission projects. Action is an important part,” said Newton. “The way to do church is different than what most people think. This is quite a witness.”

Rev. Colin Cress, pastor at Freedom and Worthington UMCs, was spreading mulch at A Better Freedom and Worthington UMCs, “I was really excited because we don’t frequently get adults as volunteers,” said Kelley. “We often don’t have time to get to the outside and yard work.”

Based out of High Street UMC in downtown Muncie, the Rev. Greg Pimlott of Mohawk UMC in the Central District worked with Rev. David Neuen of Muncie High Street UMC picking up trash on the West End of downtown. “There’s no limits or bounds to what your work as a minister is,” said Pimlott as they were walking down the sidewalks and alleys hauling trash bags, also adding that it was fun to do a project like this. Pimlott also added that having a hands-on project such as picking up trash or participating in a prayer walk or other community project affirms some of the other mission projects and passions that the Mohawk church and other churches are active with.

“By actually seeing people live it out gives the church a new vitality. It helps build trust,” said Neuen. “It should become part of our life. Think about what you could do all year.”

Joan Scrivnor of Muncie Avondale UMC served as a host coordinator at Southview Elementary School, which hosted a prayer walk and a community clean up. “Everyone seemed to have fun,” said Scrivnor.

The Rev. John Keller of Patronville UMC, the Rev. Honna Schluss of the Lynnville-Spurgeon Charge and Rapid Watters of Muncie Avondale UMC went on a prayer walk, had stopped at the edge of an industrial area and had decided to start praying for the community when something happened. “A car pulled up and we opened the doors close and the next thing we know, a man was in our circle and he needed prayer. He thanked us for praying,” said Keller.

“We just put our arms around him,” said Schloss. “He knew the power of God. It still gives me goose bumps.”

This was Watters first prayer walk and he did not know what to expect. “I felt this hand on my shoulder and I heard someone crying,” said Watters. “God told me to stop walking and I embraced the gentleman who I was embracing.”

After talking to the man for a while, he returned to his car and left. “It was just an experience I will never forget,” said Watters.

Conference celebrates mission outreach to Muncie, world

Following a Saturday June 27 afternoon of sweat and aching muscles, 1,500 conference members and guests celebrated the outreach and mission of the church not only across Muncie, but around the world.

Day of the outreach leader, Karen Powell, pastor of Riverside United Methodist Church and nine other Muncie sites to be transported to one of 40 sites citywide.

Volunteers piled into vans at Riverside United Methodist Church and nine other Muncie sites to be transported to one of 40 locations across the city.

Two conference volunteers walk on of ten neighborhoods assigned to prayer walkers. Each walker was given a neighborhood map and a booklet of prayers to assist them as they walked and prayed.

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Volunteers piled into vans at Riverside United Methodist Church and nine other Muncie sites to be transported to one of 40 sites citywide.
Retirees celebrate a total of 742 years of ordained ministry

Totaling 742 years of service as ordained ministers, 28 pastors retired during this first session of the new Indiana Conference. They were granted retirement status by the clergy executive session of the conference held Thursday night June 25 as Union Chapel Ministries UMC in Muncie.


Class of 2009 ordained


Retiring clergy


Ministry service calls on members to ‘Finish the Song’

Members and friends of the Indiana Annual Conference packed Emens Auditorium for a Sunday morning worship service June 28 that included the commissioning and ordaining of 33 clergy members of the conference. Of the 33 clergy members, 16 were commissioned; one as an associate member, one as a deacon; and 15 were ordained elder in full connection.

Bishop Coyner began talking about how in April 1995, Pastor Jim Dickey, went to church for the first of two services, and shared with his wife that he wasn’t feeling well. That morning as he announced the opening hymn, he fell back into the pulpit chair and died. “Jim was a good guy, a faithful pastor. He was a family friend and served as an associate pastor at my home church,” said Coyner.

At the funeral, Jim’s granddaughter was to sing a solo. “She wanted to sing for her granddad. She got up and sang the anthem, ‘On Eagle’s Wings.’ After the first verse, she faltered. We all at once joined together to finish the chorus with her. She sang the second verse and we sang the chorus again.”

“Jt was one of the most healing experiences I have ever had at a funeral. We helped each other finish the song,” said Coyner.

“We’re called to finish the song of Jesus. He taught us the words, the melody to sing the song of Jesus. He gave it to his disciples. They passed it on to us.”

Coyner continued to the conference that there are many people who don’t know the song. They have forgotten the lyrics. There’s also the picky stuff. All of those things add up.”

Coyner called upon all clergy and laity to work together and be there for one another. “When they go through some moment in their ministry, if they call any of you and tell you that, will you have coffee with them, will you say something to help them get through that time to sing that song.”

With the start of a new conference, Coyner added, “We have a new secret code language that everyone knows. ‘I’m having trouble singing the song of Jesus today.’ ‘I’ll help you finish the song.’”

The service, much like all sessions of this annual conference, was Webcast. At least 24 churches across the state were using the ordination service as part of their Sunday morning worship. (For Webcast archive, visit www.inumc.org.) Leeann Huffman Gough and Eeviya Marie Gough, daughters of Rev. Mark and Paula Gough, were baptized during the service.
Conference approves the creation of ten-district structure

On behalf of the conference Transition Team, Chair Cindy Reynolds, brought seven recommendations to the conference June 26 to implement a new district structure. They includedRecommendation 4 which was a major shift from last year’s five bi-district resource centers with two districts and superintendents proposing to a ten district configuration including a superintendent, associate superintendent, and energizing minister plus partnering with conference-supported connectional ministries and church development. The reason for the change was a fear of adding another layer of structure and increasing the complexity of a bi-district structure.

Other recommendations included:

- District lines including cluster configurations which have been drawn by the bishop and cabinet,
- Support of the directors of connectional ministries and church development,
- Support of the rules and structure report already adopted,
- Asking the bishop to name an ongoing Transition Team,
- Enabling the ten district structures to be formed, and
- Discontinuing the current Transition Team.

After discussion and concerns about district funding, the conference approved the recommendation to form a ten-district resource center structure.

Connectional Ministries to serve with leaner budget, fewer personnel

Connectional Ministries Director Jim Bushfield said the conference is moving to support more connectional ministries concerns and moving away from funding ministry projects. He said new conference ministries to congregations needs to be reason-able, responsible and achievable.

Priorities on connection ministries will be a collective reduction in both salary and personnel. Part of the new way of ministry is financial. Connectional Ministries sees its goal as to provide resources and opportunities for congregations to be connected to their communities. In the current conferences’ budgets, more than $1 million is pass through funds from congregations to conference supported ministries. Bushfield said conference directors envision a leaner budget with less “pass through” funding of ministries related to the conference such as campus ministry which is a $250,000 reduction from the two previous conference connectional ministries program budgets from $1.3 million to $300,000.

Bushfield said ministries supported by congregations are being funded at ten times more than conference funded ministries. “Local churches are already doing ministry and mission funding ten to one times more than the conference, ” he said.

Significant cuts in the connectional ministries budget are in campus ministry and mission advocacy. The proposed connectional ministries 2010 budget will include $200,000 for emergency funding.

Bushfield said even though campus ministries are large and significant programs, we need to fund them in new ways closer to the schools. “Today, all of our communities have some form of campus ministry. Education has changed and we must change to meet the needs,” he said.

The funding for the new Indiana Conference is based on the conference tithe (10 percent of each month’s congregations’ income) and one percent used for district finances.

Retirees healthcare plan outside of current HealthFlex

Following more than an hour of debate and several unsuccessful amendments, the annual conference approved a revised plan to care in part for the health benefits of retirees.

Before considering the retirees health benefits issue, Brent Williams, new director of Administrative Services now North Indiana treasurer, explained that the 1982 Service Rate for 2010, June 26. The conference approved this action regarding retiree health care insurance supplement.

1. That the conference proceed with significant changes from a HealthFlex supplemental insurance plan for retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses due to increased costs (estimated to cost $525 per person in 2010), and in place of it, move to a health insurance subsidy based upon years of service, set at $5 per service-year per-month, with a maximum of 30 years or $150 for each retiree and spouse, and with a $250 per month for each surviving spouse.

AND

2. That the conference has retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses enroll in one of two plans our benefits consultant recommends. These are:

- Plan A – a plan similar to HealthFlex but without some of the extras that HealthFlex brings, such as mental and nervous, Optum Nurse Line, Wellness, WebMD. The estimated cost for this plan is $434 per month, because this plan includes a richer pharmacy benefit with Medco.
- Plan B – a plan less with pharmacy benefits, but one that still exceeds what conference retirees could purchase on their own. The estimated cost of this plan is $31 per month.

This choice will be supported by further information and consultation throughout the fall of this year. It will help avoid having retirees and spouses make their own purchases on the open market. Both Plan A and Plan B are in addition to the basic Medicare coverage that all people age 65 years and over receive.

Conference approves $15.1 million budget for 2010

The annual conference approved $15.1 million income and expense budgets for the 2010 conference year. The budget amount was based upon the 2008 actual income of $15.8 million.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) called the budget realistic, reasonable and achievable.

The income budget is based upon a 10 percent tithe of $13.8 million from the 1,200 congregations giving 10 percent of their monthly income to the conference, plus another one-percent of income from each church to support its district ministries and adding another $1.38 million to the conference income budget.

The expense budget of $15,166,718 will support 80 percent of the general church appropriation of $5.9 million or $4.7 million (31.2 percent of the budget). The Indiana Conference CE&H has requested the General CF&A to reevaluate the new conference’s apportionment in light of the unification of the two former conferences and plans to pay 80 percent of the General Church apportionment in 2010, 90 percent in 2011 and hopefully a full 100 percent in 2012.

Two significant changes in the budget have directly affected tire health-care insurance and outreach ministries, especially campus ministries, which was reduced to no income from the conference budget. Other conference-related ministries were affected by this move, too, but not to the extent that campus ministries was affected.

The conference did take measures to shore up individual congregational giving to campus ministries through a Special Sunday offering and other means. (See separate story on page 9.)

Other expenditures in the conference 2010 budget include: $2.5 million (16.7 percent) for districts including the salaries of district superintendents, $1.95 million ($12.9 percent) for pension and health-care insurance, and $5.9 million (39.2 percent) for connectional ministries, church development, administrative services, episcopal office and another $958,200 for financial services.
Cobb: ‘We are living stones proclaiming God’s mighty acts’

"We are spiritual houses who are to proclaim the mighty acts of God," said the Rev. Michelle Cobb, now former general president of the Calumet District, to more than 2,000 worshipers Friday, June 26 during an evening Service of Remembrance and Celebration of Resurrection. The conference celebrated and remembered the lives of 23 clergy and 37 clergy spouses, who died since both conferences met this year.

Using the words of Jesus in John 7:37-39, Cobb proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to Jesus and drink. You and I have received the living water." Cobb is a member of the Combined Muncie choir including members of Gethsemane, Riverside, College Avenue and High Street UMCs.

Those remembered during memorial service


Those 37 clergy spouses remembered included: Barbara Maxwell, Bernice Miller, Betty Rhoda, Mary Wigner, Jane E Bill, Martha Louise Carlton, Evalena Clements, Sue Copeland, Esther Mary Crocker, Phyllis Dicken, Terry French, Marjorie M Friz, Elma Heady, Eleanor Heath, Jeanette Hubert, Minnie Lee Jones, Pamela Keith, Hazel Killion, Roberta Lundy, Martha L McGee, Opal Lathrop Mills, Montana Dee Nevil, Stella Nordly, Janet Soldner Nussbaum, Kathryn Osbon, Marian Parks, Lillian Perk, Mary Beth Png, Jewell Ritenhouse, Lydia Sands, Irene Saunders, Jessie Skinner, Alice Sprague, Sarah Thayer, Josephine L Thomas, Charlene Ward and Gary Werner.

Co-Lay Leaders join forces in first united laity session

By Matthew Oates

The inaugural laity session for the new Indiana Conference began with words from co-lay leaders Kaye Mykrantz and Ike Williams thanking lay members for their service and attendance.

The Rev. Jim Bushfield, director of connectional ministries, gave the laity an update of the Imagine Indiana plan. "Your conference must have a clear mission statement you have to know where you’re going. The same can be said about the annual conference. You are the conference," Bushfield continued. "You are making decisions for the conference, which is your local church. If the conference is to grow, the local church needs to grow. The energy of the annual conference should be to assist the local church."

Bushfield closed with a question of the lay members: "Are you here?" He added that members should answer that question theoretically: "Why has God called you here? Even if you are here by accident, God wants you here."

"We have the potential to model and lead the denomination," said Bushfield.

Bread and Basin Award

Alan Riendeau of the Kokomo District was this year’s recipient of the Bread and Basin Award. Alan was honored for his commitment and dedication to building 50 camp chairs for Camp Adventure, organizing members of the Kokomo District to build 128 bunk beds for Pine Creek Camp and participating in various mission trips in Africa, South America, Central America and across the United States.

Laity manuscript

Bob Ice of Mt. Zion UMC near Evansville was the winner of the annual laity manuscript contest, with this year’s theme of “Disciples Transforming the World Through Prayer.”

Jane Heusitis of Indianapolis Irvington UMC was the first runner-up and Scott Semester of Indianapolis St. Luke’s UMC was the second runner-up.

Ice began asking what if the disciples had to go through a modern day screening process to become Jesus’ disciples. He concluded saying, “A good disciple is hard to find today as in Jesus’ day.”

Saying that we are all called to consecrated action, discipleship is the process of becoming a whole person. “Discipleship is not a part-time activity. It is a Christian’s full-time vocation.”

Ice used several analogies, including football references and not just huddle in the church: we need to go out and share Jesus’ love. "We’re all called to be disciples," he said. "We’re being watched by others. Your actions are viewed by others and may be the only Bible others ever see."

Conference takes action in relation to campus ministry

Due to severe budget cuts across the board directly affecting outreach ministries in Indiana, the issue of campus ministries and its funding came to the floor of the Indiana Annual Conference session in Muncie for debate. In relation to campus ministry, the conference took several important actions.

They included:

1. The conference approved and has already implemented the hiring of the first-ever associate director devoted to Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry. The Rev. Brian Durand is that associate director. With his previous experience, he will do an excellent job of helping the conference move forward with an over-all plan for these areas of ministry.

2. During the Saturday morning June 27 session final Council on Finance and Administration report, the conference approved a Special Sunday offering to support campus ministry, for the first time ever. Many people expressed their desire to “go the extra mile” and to expand their giving to support those campus ministries which are effective by the budget cuts. Since the Conference also greatly reduced the local church share sent to support the conference in 2010 (from 12 to 10 percent), there could be more local church support available to help campus ministries, especially those that enjoy a sense of relationship and local support from nearby congregations.

3. The conference also approved and referred to the new Leadership Table a fund for “Emergency and Emerging Ministries,” which may be assigned to help any of our institutions and agencies that need transitional help, including campus ministries.

4. The current funding for Campus Ministries in the 2009 budgets of the former North and South conferences continues to the end of 2009, so there is time for these transitions and for decisions by the Leadership Table to provide transitional funding in 2010.

The conference did not approve a last-minute resolution to revert to the former budgets and to the former “pass through” method of supporting some agencies, which has resulted in increasingly less support in recent years.

The new Indiana Annual Conference will continue to seek new ways to encourage, evaluate and support campus ministries.
North Indiana Conference

Bishop Michael J. Coyner has announced the following changes within the Indiana Area. These appointments are based on Cabinet reports received by Indiana Area Communication during the months of May and June 2009.

Emerson, Wendell Lee from Mt. Gilboa, Kokomo District to Indpls: Meridian Street, Indianapolis East, 7/1/2009

Herrin, Cory from Epworth, Evansville, 8/1/2009

Hendrey, Darin Calvin from Odon, Calumet District to Muncie, 7/1/2009

Hunt, Curtis Clark from Carmel, Indianapolis East to Clarksville: Morton Memorial, New Albany, 7/1/2009

King, Kimberly Jean from no appointment to Indpls: Roberts Park, Indianapolis West, 7/1/2009

Kite, Marion L. from Carmel: St. Mark’s, Indianapolis East to Indpls: West District Superintendent, Indianapolis West, 7/1/2009

Lance, Rick D. from no appointment to Francisco, Vincennes, 7/1/2009

Land, Robert Alan from Centerville, Rushville to Shelbyville: First, 7/1/2009

Landon, Jeffrey Alan from Middletown, Rushville to Incapacity Leave, 7/1/2009


McGillen, James from Patoka Grove/Aldersgate, Warsaw to no appointment, 7/1/2009

Miller, Victor Lee from Heritage, Kokomo District to Indpls: Adams, Muncie, 7/1/2009

Murphy, W. Theodore from Erie, Bloomington to no appointment, 7/1/2009

Neikirk, Christopher Dale from no appointment to Evans: Methodist Temple, Evansville, 7/1/2009

Perry, Paul Dewayne from Clarks: Morton Chapel, New Albany to Indpls: Adams, Muncie, 7/1/2009

Platt, Larry J. from no appointment to Borden Cir: Daisy Hill, New Albany, 7/1/2009

Radin, Jerry W. from New Alb: Silver Street, New Albany to Indpls: Old Bethel, Indianapolis East, 7/1/2009

Ramsey, James G from Bloomington: St. Mark’s, Bloomington to Avon, Indianapolis West, 7/1/2009

Relford, Allen from WTH First: Bethsaida/WTH: First, Terre Haute to Wayside, Terre Haute, 7/1/2009

Roberts, Christopher from Grace, Kokomo District to Indpls: Meridian Street, Indianapolis West, 7/1/2009

Sanders, Douglas Lee from Lebanon: Otterbein/4th Otter, Middletown, Indianapolis East to Elizabethtown, Columbus, 7/1/2009

Schoenecker, Warren from Old Union/ Old Union: Leipsic, Bloomington to no appointment, 7/1/2009

Seitz, Stephen R. from Shiloh, Vincennes to Retirement, 6/30/2009

Smock, Linda from no appointment to Sullivan, Vincennes, 7/1/2009

Stum, Dale from no appointment to Elizabethtown, Columbus, 7/1/2009

Taylor, Scott from no appointment to Indpls: Grace, Indianapolis East, 7/1/2009

Terrell, Teresa from no appointment to Mt. Nebo: Christianburg, Bloomington, 6/1/2009

Whitacre, Matthew Blaine from no appointment to Erie, Bloomington, 7/1/2009

White, Sharon Anne from South Indiana Conference to Anderson New Hope, North Indiana Conference, 7/1/2009

Wibert, Gerald from McCordsville UMC, New Albany, 7/1/2009

Williams, Ryan from no appointment to Indpls: North, Indianapolis West, 7/1/2009

Wilson, Valerie E. Transfer from Baltimore, Westminster, Lancaster District to Indpls: Old Bethel, Indianapolis East, 7/1/15/2009

Witt, Douglas Alan from Emison, Vincennes to Lincoln Hills, New Albany, 6/30/2009

Zirkle, Jeffery F. from Greensburg, Rushville to transferring to Kingwood, Amariillo District, North Texas Conference, 4/30/2009

Mc Cordisville UMC breaks ground for new addition

Members and friends of the McCordsville United Methodist Church celebrated as ground was broken on the building expansion project May 10. The first phase is a $1.6 million expansion that will double the existing size of the church providing a welcoming and handicapped accessible design. In the second phase, the existing sanctuary will be remodelled. The 8,600 square foot addition to the church will add the following features: new classrooms, a fellowship hall, a commercial grade kitchen, an elevator, new office space, handicapped accessible restrooms and a new area off the main entrance. Construction is expected to be completed by fall of this year. The Rev. John Myhland is pastor of the McCordsville UMC north of Indianapolis.
Bishop approves four employees to continue with conference

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Bishop Mike Coyner and the conference directors have approved the selection of four Indiana Conference staff members to continue in similar positions. They are Ed Fenstermacher as Associate Director of Church Development, Ruth Ellen Needler as Assistant Director for Office and Conference Services, Ed Metzler to continue as Secretary to the Bishop and Erma Metzler to continue as Communication Assistant.

Ed Fenstermacher, associate director of church development and revitalization of the former North Indiana Conference based in Marion, Ind. is a native of Harrisburg, Pa., but only lived there a few months. His parents, Bob and Anita Fenstermacher, were Methodist medical missionaries who served in the former Belgian Congo (now the DRC) and later served in Nome, Alaska. Ed has lived in northern Indiana since he was eight-years-old.

He is a graduate of John Glenn High School in Walkerton and Taylor University where he was granted a B. D. Degree in secondary education English. He taught high school English in Kendallville from 1980 to 1984. He then served as Director of Church Growth and Revitalization at Simpson UMC in Fort Wayne from 1984 to 1995. For the past 14 years, he has served as Associate Director for Church Development and Revitalization in the former North Indiana Conference.

His mother, Anita, who died in 2000, was a Lay Leader for the North Indiana Conference served in the area of spiritual formation. His father, who retired and lives in South Bend. His oldest brother, Mark, is senior pastor of Trinity UMC in Elkhart.

He and his wife, Marcia, members of Covenant UMC in Fort Wayne where Marlene serves as a diaconal minister in the area of children’s ministries. They are the parents of Erik (17, a high school senior), Anna (16, a sophomore) and Andrew (14, an eighth grader). The Fenstermachers spend a lot of time watching their three boys’ sporting events. Ed also volunteers at “In As Much,” a downtown homeless shelter. He also likes to play racket ball, work crossword puzzles, garden and collect banana stickers.

In his new position which began July 1, he will lead the conference's development and implementation of the conference strategic plan for church development, with a focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Key functions of this position include among other tasks: identifying and motivating transformational leaders and carrying out the church’s development strategic plan within the new North and Northeast Districts. He is supervised by the Rev. Mark Gough, the new conference director of church development.

Other Associate Directors of Church Development will be announced in the weeks to come.

Ruth Ellen Needler, assistant administrator for office and conference services of the former North Indiana Conference based in Marion, Ind. is a native of Sweetser, Indiana Conference based in Muncie, Ind. where Ed had previously served a lot of time as a support staff. In her new position which be- came effective July 1, she provides oversight of office services, including supervision of the support staff pool and conference secretarial functions. She has served as the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director.

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The Revs. deteriorate and delegate to General Confer- ence services, died June 4, 2009. He was also the father-in-law of the Rev. Karen Ottjes of Akron. A memorial service was held June 9 in St. Vincent College’s chapel. Memorial contributions can be sent to Jeanne Meddock, 405 Hawthorne Lane, Greenfield, IN 46140. Memorials can be given to the Bradley UMC, 210 W. Main St., Greenfield, IN 46140.

RICK MULLER, retired Elder (former NIC), is the former pastor of the Mt. Olive UMC in Evansville, Ind. He died June 21, 2009. Memorial contributions can be given to the Mt. Olive UMC, 124 S. Main St., Evansville, IN 47712; and to the Mt. Olive UMC, 210 W. Main St., Greenfield, IN 46140.

ROBERT MILLER, retired Elder (former SIC), is the former pastor of the Mt. Olive UMC in Evansville, Ind. He died June 29, 2009. Memorial contributions can be given to the Mt. Olive UMC, 124 S. Main St., Evansville, IN 47712; and to the Mt. Olive UMC, 210 W. Main St., Greenfield, IN 46140.

ROBERT MILLER, retired Elder (former NIC), died June 4, 2009. Memorial contributions can be given to the Mt. Olive UMC, 124 S. Main St., Evansville, IN 47712; and to the Mt. Olive UMC, 210 W. Main St., Greenfield, IN 46140.

SHIRLEY A. BRETT, widow of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), died July 4, 2009. A memorial service was held July 7 at the former St. Paul UMC in Fort Wayne, Ind. Survivors include: his daughter, Dr. Carolyn Brett, Fort Wayne, Ind.; his son, Rev. John Brett, Mishawaka, Ind.; his three sons, Paul Brett, Mishawaka, Ind.; Thomas Brett, Bluffton, Ind.; and two granddaughters. Preceded by death was his father, Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director.

SARAH YARBROUGH, widow of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC) and mother of the Rev. James M. Evans, Jr., died May 22, 2009. Memorial contributions can be given to the St. Elizabeth Hospice, 2142 West 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46202; St. Vincent Hospice, 2142 West 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46202; and the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director, of the Rev. William E. Brett (former NIC), Lay Director.
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