

Daily Summary – Friday, June 18, 2010

California-Nevada Annual Conference

Bishop Warner Brown convened the session following worship led by Marcia McFee.

Susan Hunn reviewed the agenda and presented the Consent Calendar. Items 18 and 23 were inadvertently presented to two different Sections. They were correctly presented to Section E and the report we will receive will be the Section E report.

Shan McSpadden reported from the Commission on Religion and Race on the monitoring from yesterday's sessions. The Commission struggles with "racial ethnic" as a term. "Ethnic Minority" indicates the dominant, non-dominant reality of our Conference and society. The memorial service was universal and inclusive and there was important participation of diverse people. We see the face of the church of the future. In the plenary there was a good balance of men and women, with 75% of the speakers being European-American. We raise the question of whether we are employing the best methods of handling legislation, since the ethnic groups are so under-represented in the conversation.

Reading and Setting of Appointments: Bishop Brown and Ted Virts read the appointments to extension ministries.

Bill Beck was recognized to share news that the Heifer International president was named co-recipient, with David Beckman of Bread for the World, of the World Food Prize – the first woman to win it.

Bishop's Award #2. The recipient cannot be with us in person, but will join telephonically. A teacher in local high school, carried love of teaching to the church (Sunday school), known by many in community who have known person through church or school. Coordinates food pantry. Provides gifts at Christmas for children, multiplied the church's efforts by securing grants for mission outreach, enabling the church to reach many more. Lifelong member of UMC for 64 years in the same local church. We honor and celebrate the gifts of **Ms. Billie Hall of Smith River UMC**. Her pastor received the award on her behalf.

Treasurer's Report, Diane Knudsen – This is a season of change, time to make some fundamental choices about apportionments. Fewer than 1/3 Cal-Nev churches paid 100%. Proportion of the congregational budget for apportionments too high; must change not for the sake of change, but for the sake of Jesus.

Endowment Board presentation, Cory Parish – The board's mission is to provide funds for the support of Conference Claimants (retired clergy). It makes an annual gift to the Board of Pensions and the BOP decides how to allocate it (currently to the pre-1982 pensions and retiree healthcare). In addition, an annual grant to Retired Clergy Association in support of its staffing, events, and outreach to retired clergy and spouses. Founded in 1891, the board holds assets in a diverse portfolio. Most assets are income-generating. All districts are represented on the board, 50% clergy and 50% lay. It makes decisions about gifts, assets in portfolio, and how we can continue for a long time. \$33,260,000 in grants to BOP since 1978. This year, \$1.4 million to BOP for retired clergy, \$84,000 to RCA.

Laddie Perez-Galang – Introduced the Conference offering for the Gilead Center for Children and Ethelou Talbert Shelter for Girls in Manila, Philippines. The collection was received.

Bishop Brown called attention to our rule about distributing materials to the tables. The intention of the rules is to keep fairness in our process, so that voice and vote are equally accessible through sections and plenary. Material distributed this morning outside the center, titled “prayer request,” does not violate our rules, and he appreciates that intention. However, it is still in violation of the spirit of the rule, and undermines the Christian conferencing we want. This is a secular tactic of politicking, and he hopes we can establish contacts through Christian conferencing and making decisions in a different way.

Section reports, Mark Zier, chairperson.

Items 4, 18, 27, and 39 have been withdrawn from the Consent Calendar.

Section B: Paul Extrum-Fernandez, chair. Seven (7) items, four (4) on Consent Calendar.

Item 6 – Cambodia – CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 31 – Clergy electronic mail – CONSENT CALENDAR AS AMENDED

Item 32 – Communication coordinator – CONSENT CALENDAR AS AMENDED

Item 33 – Communications, Internet presence, CONSENT CALENDAR AS AMENDED

Item 8 – Much conversation in Section about superintendent workload and circuits; “yes” vote recommended. Item is APPROVED. New district lines will be put in place in September by Bishop.

Item 9 – Set aside Division V of the Standing Rules – recommended as amended by Section, 70 yes to 20 no. Item APPROVED AS AMENDED. Received 2/3 vote.

Item 39 – Bishop has received a request for ruling of law regarding Item 39, and recognized Fred Roesti, the lay member to Conference elected by Hamilton UMC in 2007. He is formally requesting a ruling of law: Is the motion to discontinue Hamilton UMC, San Francisco out of order because there has been no process of consultation with the local congregation?

Because DS is not Present, Conference Superintendent Ted Virts responded: The Annual Conference in 2008 declared that the Hamilton church was abandoned and we have treated the church as such. The Judicial Council was asked to make a ruling and ruled that it did not have jurisdiction, but let the decision of the Conference stand. The church was abandoned.

Section recommended discontinuation of Hamilton UMC be APPROVED, by 60 yes, 0 no. Following discussion, the question was called and supported. Item 39 is APPROVED. Dividing of the house – called by Mr. Roesti – voted by 1/3 of the house. Hand count taken. Report on ballot – yes 528, 155 against. Item 39 is APPROVED.

Section C: Donna Wood, chair. Items 7, 12 and 16 were placed on Consent Calendar.

Item 14 – recommendation regarding minimum compensation rules. The section voted 27 yes to 61 no. Item presented without a recommendation. Reminder that we are voting on the item itself, not on the Section’s recommendation. Question: Were amendments approved before the final vote of the Section? Donna Wood: No. Connie Hunter, St. Paul’s, San Jose – A revised version of Item 14 was distributed at Section and was accepted as a friendly amendment. However, that is not now before us.

It was decided to sort out the amendment during the lunch break.

LUNCH

Ardith Allread, Woodland, moved to table Item 14 on Equitable Compensation because we need more information and preparation. Seconded. Vote – Motion succeeds, Item 14 is TABLED.

Item 38, pulled from Consent Calendar. Ardith Allread moved to table Item 38. It was seconded and approved. Item 38 is TABLED.

Reading and Setting of Appointments for Bridges District.

Item 25 by the Israel/Palestine Task Force will be presented through the petitionary process.

Section D: Myra Gaiser, chair. Items 15 and 20 were put on Consent Calendar. Items 17, 19 and 36 were put on Consent Calendar as AMENDED.

Item 10, registration fee for Annual Conference Session was AMENDED and APPROVED by Section. Move to refer to ACS Commission to come back to 2011 ACS with a proposal that local churches which pay their apportionments in full would not be charged a registration fee, but those not paying in full would pay a registration fee. Hand vote: Motion to refer, yes 355 and no 284. Item 10 is REFERRED.

Section E: Chuck Johnstone, chair. Item 18 was on Consent Calendar but is now removed and is before us. Section unanimously recommends. Item 18 APPROVED.

Budget consideration, Pat Stout – Item A, recommending column “2011 Recommended” with the following changes:

Line 21 – \$87,560

Line 22 – \$164.281

Line 29 – \$3,572.850

Line 30 – \$1,190.950

Line 31 – \$4,763.800

Line 45 – \$10,498.919

Budget is before you. Budget is APPROVED.

BREAK

Returned to see the video of the Gilead Center for Children and Ethelou Talbert Shelter for Girls.

Melvin Talbert Award for Racial Justice was presented to Lucia Ann McSpadden by Jeffrey Kuan.

RCA scholarship – Linda Butler presented to Heather Wells and Jose Ramos; each received \$2500 to assist them in their seminary education.

BHECM: Francis Asbury Award for Campus Ministry (given to an individual who has made significant contributions to Higher Ed in our church) was presented by Mike Harrell to Carolyn Talmadge.

Suk Chong Yu Scholarship for Religious Studies was presented by Blanche Farnam to Heather Wells, attending PSR orders for Deacon, and Susan Kopp, in ClayM program, \$500.

Bishop's Award #3: Presented to **Mollie Epperson** from Visalia UMC, who has modeled laity working in partnership with clergy for more than 30 years in the Annual Conference.

UM Publishing House presentation, Shinya Goto – Donated \$15,000 to Imagine No Malaria campaign. Regrets that current economic situation does not allow for a contribution this year to pensions.

Section reports continue

Item 21 – resolution on humane budget AMENDED. Recommend 72 yes to 14 no.

Move amendment – Line 25, after word "California" add the words "and Nevada" and pluralize governor to "governors." Seconded. Amendment passes. Item as AMENDED is APPROVED.

Item 23 – Distribution of journals. On Consent Calendar with amendment. 50-1.

Item 24 – Ruled out of order.

Item 30 – Self-determination East Turkistan – as AMENDED in Section, recommends 37 YES, 28 NO. APPROVED.

Item 37 – Laiban Dam. Would relocate indigenous people. AMENDED. Section 53 yes-13 no. Item 37 is APPROVED as AMENDED.

Items 40 and 41 – On Consent Calendar 65-0, 73-0 respectively.

Section A – Jim Taylor, chair. All about pensions.

Item 1 – Consent Calendar 101-0

Item 2 – Consent Calendar 101-0

Item 5 – Consent Calendar 91-0

Item 13 – Consent Calendar 87-0

Item B – Consent Calendar 98-1

Due to being behind schedule, the bishop requested that we return at 7:30 p.m. for plenary. We will delay the evening activities by 30 minutes.

Reading and Setting of Appointments: Ben Silva-Netto and Jerry Smith.

David Malloy from GBGM, Annual Conference liaison for the Advance – Celebrate and participate. \$34 million raised in 2009. \$543,000 raised by Cal-Nevada for Haiti so far.

UMVIM Director Phil Bandy – Has just returned from Haiti, being part of a group of 10, all being trained as leaders. Five teams will be going in future – sign up.

Brian Diggs, director of UMCOR's second depot, UMCOR West, in Utah – Gathering relief supplies and getting them ready to send. Groups come and stay a week at a time; great for church trips. Cal-Nev has been wonderful with response to Haiti: more than 10,000 kits from Cal-Nev.

Return to Israel-Palestine Task Force – Item 25 on page 50. Presenting as a petition to the Conference – use for your congregations. How do we engage in this without alienating Israel?

Rethink Church: Imagine No Malaria – from UMCOR, Jennifer Rodia. Showed Imagine No Malaria video – more than nets; prevention, treatment, education, communication. The goal is no malaria in Africa by 2015. "Nets Plus." So far have raised \$10 million toward goal of \$75 million. As of 1:30 p.m. \$1,760 raised at Annual Conference Session.

DINNER BREAK

Section A: Jim Taylor, chair. Item 3, direct bill pension. AMENDED. Recommended by Section, 75 yes and 17 no.

Vote: Declared Passed. Division of the house: Count vote requested. Item was APPROVED 365-129.

Item 4 directly related: Change of standing rules. Recommended by section 97-8. APPROVED by 2/3.

Grady Knowles introduced Barb Hora, our liaison from the General Board of Pensions.

Convene tomorrow as scheduled.

Adjourn for Bishop's Reception and hoops ("Slam Dunk Malaria" fundraiser for Imagine No Malaria).