

JOURNAL OF DAILY PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, July 9, 2011 - First Sitting

(1) OPENING OF CONFERENCE AND COMMUNION SERVICE

The Forty-Fourth Annual Conference Session of the South Carolina District of the Wesleyan Church convened in Founders Hall of the Dining Commons Complex located on the campus of Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina, at 8:30 A.M. on Saturday, July 9, 2011. A keen awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit prevailed as Rev. Don Milstead, accompanied by Bob Cooley at the keyboard, led the audience in singing *"There Is A Fountain Filled with Blood"* as a prelude for a very sacred time of communion. Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Fred Andrews, led the opening prayer and read a scripture passage from I Corinthians 11:17-34. Rev. Tim Jones, Assistant District Superintendent, delivered an inspiring and challenging devotional emphasizing the power and purpose of communion and led in prayer. Dr. Andrews gave an invitation to communion and led the delegation in prayer. Communion station servers were invited to come forward. The servers, the Revs. Michelle Bryant, Dumar Camacho, Ken Hales, Wade Rogers, Scott Uselman, and Paul Wilcox, took their places at communion stations for the delegation to participate in the Lord's Supper as a sacred opening of the South Carolina District Conference. Following this meaningful time of Communion, Dr. Andrews led the delegation in *"The Lord's Prayer."*

(2) CALL TO ORDER

District Superintendent, Rev. Buddy Rampey, welcomed the pastors, delegates, and guests. Rev. Rampey then introduced General Superintendent, Dr. Jerry Pence, to chair the conference, and the delegation welcomed Dr. Pence warmly with applause. Dr. Pence brought greetings from the International Headquarters and expressed delight to be in the SC District. He then called to order the Saturday morning session of the 44th District Conference.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE BAR AND ROLL CALL

By common consent, the Conference Bar was established to include the platform and the floor area where tables had been set up for the delegation as well as the first row of chairs in the back of the room. Guests were invited to use the chairs outside of the bar. Dr. Pence gave instructions for the Roll Call. Delegates indicated their attendance by use of a Roll Call Ballot. The roll call ballots were collected by conference tellers and tabulated resulting in the following attendance profile: Total Attendance = 222; Ministerial Delegates = 99, Lay Delegates = 115, DBA Lay Members = 8.

(4) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

An agenda was offered to guide the conference proceedings and was adopted without objection.

(5) CONFERENCE SESSION COMMITTEES

District Secretary Sue Rickman recommended the following Session Committee Chairpersons to assist the delegates during the conference sessions: *Courtesy Committee Co-Chairs*, Beth Petersen and Rev. Steve Stanley, Co-Chairs; *Chair of Distributing Tellers*, Aaron Gadsby; *Chair of Counting Tellers*, Sharon Hall; *Platform Administrative Assistant*, Amanda Link Harris; and *Chair of Apportionment Committee*, Mark Payne. All members of the Session Committees who would be assisting were recognized. Motion to approve carried with appreciation expressed for their service.

(6) REPORT OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT BUDDY RAMPEY

Dr. Pence expressed words of appreciation and commendation for District Superintendent Rampey as he presented Rev. Rampey to the delegates to give his seventh annual report as District Superintendent. Rev. Rampey presented his report highlighting statistics showing gains in sixteen areas in the district including significant gains in Salvations, Adult-Youth-Children Enrolled in Discipleship, Called to Ministry, and Student Membership. He noted that the South Carolina District paid 100% of the United Stewardship Fund/Educational Investment Fund Assessment for the sixth year in a row! Rev. Rampey also drew attention to three areas showing a decrease this year: total contribution income, total assessable Income, and Global Partners offering. He provided a reality check by sharing that while 28 churches showed an increase in primary worship attendance this past year, 26 registered a decrease and one church remained the same. Furthermore, he revealed that seven churches reported zero conversions and 19 reported zero baptisms. He presented enlightening dashboard indicators for study that served to further gauge the health of the district and churches as well. District Superintendent Rampey expressed deep appreciation to pastors and lay leaders, DBA, and Assistant Superintendents for their leadership,

and for the wise counsel of General Superintendent Pence during this conference year. He applauded the pastors to be recognized during the Awards and Recognition Program for *Pastoral Leadership Awards* and *Excellence in Ministry Awards*. Showing gratitude for the positive gains achieved, he challenged the leadership and churches to reflect upon the information provided and to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit in how to discern the status of their church's health and position for growth and to reflect upon how they might more effectively experience the transformational power of the gospel in their churches and communities in the coming year. At the conclusion of the Report of the District Superintendent, a video presentation highlighted some celebration scenes from churches across the district. The report was received with appreciation and applause. **(See Report #1)**

(7) REPORT OF ASSISTANT DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Assistant Superintendent Fred Andrews' annual report was referenced by Dr. Pence as included in the conference packets. The report focused primarily on Dr. Andrews' role in pastoral care for the district. **(See Report #2)**

Assistant Superintendent, Rev. Tony Casey, referred to his report which reflected extensive work with the District Board of Ministerial Development, Leadership Team, Camp Meeting Board, Public Morals and Social Concerns Committee, planning for Pastors' Gatherings, and many other activities and duties. **(See Report #3)**

Assistant Superintendent, Rev. Tim Jones, highlighted his work with pastors of Developing Churches which involved meetings with key speakers and discussion designed to help pastors and churches focus on Church Health. Rev. Jones noted that these efforts have already shown some great results. Having recently been trained in Natural Church Development, he announced that he will be focusing this year on church health emphasizing the *Eight Characteristics of a Healthy Church*. Beginning in August, the Church Development Group, consisting of pastors and lay people, will study one of these eight characteristics at every meeting throughout the year. Other duties cited included his work with the Hispanic Leadership Committee. **(See Report #4)**

Each report was received with appreciation and applause.

(8) DBMD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ORDINATION, LICENSURE, AND TRANSFER

Rev. Tony Casey, Chair of District Board of Ministerial Development, presented the names of those individuals recommended by the board for election as Licensed Ministers for the conference as follows: Michelle DeRossett, Justin Donnahoo, Mike Ferrell, Aaron Gadsby, Rick Gilbert, Matthew Haynes, Casey Poore, and Jeff Scranton. The recommendation was approved by voice vote.

Rev. Casey presented a recommendation by the District Board of Ministerial Development that Kenneth L. Hales be elected as an Ordained Minister in the South Carolina District of the Wesleyan Church. The recommendation for Ordination was approved by voice vote and commendation and congratulations were expressed.

Rev. Casey presented the recommendation by the District Board of Ministerial Development for the Validation of Ordination through transfer for Adony Seizeme. The recommendation was approved by voice vote, and Rev. Seizeme was commended, congratulated, and welcomed officially to our district.

All delegates were encouraged to attend the Service of Ordination scheduled for 4:00PM in the sanctuary of First Wesleyan Church-ALIVE on the university campus following the conclusion of the afternoon session of conference. **(See Report #5)**

MID-MORNING BREAK

The conference was given a mid-morning break at 9:45 and business resumed at 10:15. (A called meeting for the DBA was announced for 9:50 AM in the President's Dining Room.)

(9) ELECTION OF DISTRICT SECRETARY

Dr. Pence recognized District Superintendent Rampey to announce the Nominating Committee nominations for District Secretary. **Ballot #1** was cast to elect a District Secretary; the ballots were remanded to the counting tellers and tallied. The election results were reported with Sue Rickman elected as District Secretary with 198 votes cast and 100 necessary for election. Sue Rickman (198)

(10) ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE – ORDAINED MINISTERS

Dr. Pence brought **Ballot #2** to the attention of the delegates and asked District Secretary Sue Rickman to read the Nominating Committee Report regarding ordained ministerial nominees for delegates to General Conference; each nominee was asked to stand. Hearing no additional nominations, the ballot was marked, collected, and tallied. With four positions to be filled, 202 votes cast, and 102 necessary for election, election

results were announced. Four ministerial delegates to General Conference were elected on the first ballot as follows: Rev. Tony Casey (166), Rev. Steve Stanley (150), Rev. Tim Jones (128), and Rev. Tom Harding (109).

Dr. Pence suggested that the conference body might desire to have alternate delegates be assigned if needed according to the next highest votes received by those who were voted upon but not elected. The delegation approved this by common consent. Alternate delegates, if needed, would be assigned accordingly: Rev. Frankie Rodriguez (106), Rev. Richard Hall (67), Rev. Scott Uselman (42), and Rev. Wade Rogers (39).

(11) ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE - LAY PERSONS

Dr. Pence brought **Ballot #3** to the attention of the delegates and asked District Secretary Sue Rickman to read the Nominating Committee Report regarding nominees for lay delegates to General Conference; each nominee was asked to stand. After two additional nominees were nominated from the body, the ballot was marked, collected, and tallied. With four positions to be filled, 201 votes cast, and 102 necessary for election, election results were announced. Five lay delegates to General Conference were elected on the first ballot as follows: Joy Bryant (164), Charles Tegen (151), Bryan Stepp (130), Julie Kellett (113), and Jonathan Catron (109).

Dr. Pence suggested that the conference body might again desire to designate alternates to be assigned according to the next highest votes received by those who were voted upon but not elected. The delegation approved this by common consent. Alternate delegates, if needed, would be assigned accordingly: (Casey Gadsby (105), Dr. Martin LaBar (92), Jack Watson (66), and Joe Hayes (61).

(12) ORDERS OF THE DAY: EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH PRESENTATION

District Superintendent Buddy Rampey shared highlights from his report, including his heart passion for seeing the district rise to the challenge of having 10,000 lives engaged in 80 healthy, growing, and multiplying churches by 2022 and believing for a catalyst of five "Jerusalem Plant" projects in the next three years to respond to the call of the 3,500,000 unreached persons in our circle of accountability. He announced an exciting partnership that the SC District has entered into with Rev. Phil Struckmeyer, founder of the Nitrogen Network and denominational director for Church Planter Training, to assist the district in cultivating a "multiplication movement."

As an example of our thriving Hispanic Ministries in the SC District, Rev. Rampey introduced and welcomed Pastor Hernando Bustos, pastor of the newest Hispanic Church Plant, Iglesia Wesleyana Centro Familiar Cristiana, that was given Developing Church status this Spring.

Rev. Rampey also highlighted the progress being made at True Life Christian Fellowship under the leadership of Pastor Gene Burgess as a ReStart congregation. He also commended the growth being experienced at New Hope Wesleyan Church (formerly Startex) as a ReStart with an extremely strong discipleship emphasis under the recent leadership of Rev. James Borgman. The report was received with applause in gratitude for the reports of growth and in support of the vision and plans communicated. *(See Report #6)*

(13) ELECTION OF DBA MINISTERIAL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Dr. Pence brought **Ballot #4** to the attention of the delegates and asked District Secretary Sue Rickman to read the Nominating Committee Report regarding nominees for Ministerial Members-At-Large for the District Board of Administration; each nominee was asked to stand. Following one additional nomination from the body, the ballot was marked, collected, and tallied. With six positions to be filled, 201 votes cast, and 102 necessary for election, election results were announced. Six ministerial members-at-large were elected on the first ballot as follows: Rev. Steve Stanley (172), Rev. Frankie Rodriguez (169), Rev. Tom Harding (151), Rev. Michelle Bryant (150), Rev. Richard Hall (130) and Rev. Phil Baily (126).

(14) ELECTION OF DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION LAY MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Dr. Pence brought **Ballot #5** to the attention of the delegates and asked District Secretary Sue Rickman to present the nominees for Lay Members-At-Large for the District Board of Administration, asking each nominee present to stand as introduced. Following one additional nomination from the body, the ballots were marked and remanded to the tellers to be tallied. With six members to be elected, 201 votes cast, and 102 necessary for election, the results were reported. Five members-at-large were elected as follows on the first ballot: Bryan Stepp (149), Joy Bryant (146), Casey Gadsby (126), Charles Tegen (124), Dr. Josh Ray (127). Two additional ballots were cast with no one receiving the number necessary for election. On the third additional ballot, the sixth lay member was elected with Linda Moore receiving 138 votes of the 194 ballots cast with 98 necessary for election.

(15) ELECTION OF CONFERENCE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dr. Pence directed the attention of the delegates to **Ballots #6 & 7** and asked District Secretary Sue Rickman to present the nominees for the District Nominating Committee, asking nominees to stand as announced.

Following an additional nominee from the body for ministerial consideration on the committee, the ballots were marked and remanded to the tellers. The results were announced as follows with two members elected for ministerial on the first ballot and two final members elected by the fourth ballot; four members elected for laity on the first ballot:

District Nominating Committee

Ministers: *(199 ballots cast, 101 necessary for election)*

Rev. Heath Mullikin (120) Rev. Frankie Rodriguez (111)

Rev. Richard Hall (130) *(199 ballots cast on 2nd ballot, 101 necessary for election)*

Rev. Gary Long (145*) *(192 ballots cast on 3rd ballot, 97 necessary for election, no one elected; 196 ballots cast on 4th ballot, 99 necessary for election*)*

Laity:

Martin LaBar (166), Bryan Stepp (145), Charles Tegen (140), Bob Moore (105)

(16) ELECTION OF CONFERENCE ACTION COMMITTEE

Dr. Pence directed the attention of the delegates to **Ballots #8 & 9** and asked District Secretary Sue Rickman to present the nominees for the Conference Action Committee, asking nominees to stand as presented. The ballots were marked and remanded to the tellers. The results were announced as follows with three members elected for the ministerial and laity representation on the first ballot and a fourth ministerial member elected on the third ballot as follows:

Conference Action Committee:

Ministers: *(201 ballots cast, 102 necessary for election)*

Rev. James Wiggins (138), Rev. Lewis Edwards (119), Rev. Foster Gentry (112)

Rev. Don Milstead (142*) *(194 ballots cast on 2nd ballot, 98 necessary for election, no one elected; 198 ballots cast on 3rd ballot, 100 necessary for election*)*

Laity: *(201 ballots cast, 102 necessary for election)*

Dr. Martin LaBar (163), Ken Ellison (134), Sandy Buchanan (126)

(17) PRESENTATION OF SC DISTRICT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES ACTION PLAN

District Superintendent Buddy Rampey recognized Mrs. Julie Kellett, SC Director of Women's Ministries Leadership Team, to present the Action Plan for Women's Ministries in our district and to highlight significant positive changes ahead for Women's Ministries in the local churches following the historic Wesleyan Women's Summit held in Columbus, Ohio, on June 23-25, 2011. At the Summit, Wesleyan Women passed a resolution to officially dissolve its Constitution to no longer be an independent auxiliary of the Wesleyan Church. By action of the General Board of The Wesleyan Church, Women's Ministries will become an integral part of the Local Church Services Division of the denomination. Mrs. Kellett presented a district transitional plan developed in response to this historic change empowering local church women's ministries to design their own organizational structures to mobilize women more effectively to participate in their local church's mission. Mrs. Kellett assured the delegation that the SC Women's Ministries Leadership Team will work diligently with the local women's groups to equip and encourage them as they organize their ministries during this exciting time of great potential for growth in the local church ministries. ***(See additional information found also in Report #25)***

(18) REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

A report of the Auditing Committee was referenced as prepared by Rev. Joey Parris and Mr. Charles Tegen and included in the conference packet and was received with appreciation. ***(See Report #7)***

(19) REPORT OF BOARD OF MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Rev. Tony Casey, Chairman of the DBMD, presented the remaining recommendations in the Report of the Board of Ministerial Development requiring conference action, including a list of 21 individuals recommended for licensure as Ministerial Students; Nathanael Massey to be licensed as Special Worker, and James Borgman, a Minister in the Process of Reinstatement. Rev. Casey commended Patrick Gué and Hernando Bustos for having completed the transfer requirements satisfactorily. The report was received and approved with great appreciation. ***(See Report #5)***

(20) DENOMINATIONAL ADDRESS

District Superintendent Rampey presented General Superintendent Pence for the State of the Church Address to the conference. After leading the delegation in reading Psalms 86:8-11 responsively, Dr. Pence stated that the Wesleyan Church is in its most exciting and effective days yet as a denomination and cited four reasons for this:

- We serve an incomparable God;
- We are convinced we have a compelling mission;
- We have access to incomprehensible power; and
- We have a renewed passion and commitment to holiness and long for an undivided heart.

As he spoke, Dr. Pence provided significant examples and information about the state of the Church highlighting evidence that The Wesleyan Church continues to reflect a strong worldwide Wesleyan presence. He shared information about areas showing growth and challenges. As he spoke about the Wesleyan Church's mission to exalt Christ by evangelizing the lost, he cited a the compelling need for and called for a passionate commitment district wide to missionality and the planting of new churches, the strengthening of existing churches, and fruitfulness in order to fulfill our mission.

MID-DAY BREAK

Following the Denominational Address, the delegates were given a noon break for lunch and reconvened for the Memorial Service at 1:30 P.M. (The DBA was asked to convene briefly at the beginning of the break in the front of Founders Hall.)

(21) ORDERS OF THE DAY: MEMORIAL SERVICE

Under the direction of Rev. Marshall Rampey, Sr. and Rev. Foster Gentry, the Annual Memorial Service gave special tribute to Mrs. Lillian Gibson Bryant, wife of the late Dr. C. T. Bryant, by Dr. Fred Andrews, and Mrs. Carolyn Duncan Wilcox, wife of Rev. Paul Wilcox, by Rev. Lewis Edwards. Rev. Marshall Rampey read scripture and led in prayer, and Rev. Don Milstead shared in song. In further recognition of the significance of the theme of the service, "*We Pause to Remember*," a Roll of Honored Dead from the local churches was included in the program and presented on the screens for all to see. Rev. Foster Gentry closed with prayer. Pastors were encouraged to share copies of the program bulletin with family members of those who were honored during the service. **(See Report #8)**

(22) ORDERS OF THE DAY: EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

The Conference Educational Service was led by Rev. Lewis Edwards, Education Director, featuring representatives from Southern Wesleyan University, Asbury Theological Seminary, and Bethany Bible College. **(See Report #9)**

- Rev. Tony Casey, an alumnus of Asbury Theological Seminary, spoke enthusiastically about the Seminary and his past and present affiliation with the seminary. He gave examples and evidence of the incredible commitment the seminary has to equipping men and women for ministry, highlighting the programs offered, the invaluable relationships maintained among alumni, and the availability of new low cost student and married housing provided in order to foster learning within a sense of community. Dr. Joe Dongell sent greetings from Asbury Theological Seminary through Rev. Casey and expressed regret that he was unable to attend conference this year.
- Dr. Bill Peed brought greetings from Bethany Bible College and shared positive news from the college and shared a video message from the new president, Dr. Mark Gorveatte.
- Rev. James Wiggins brought greetings on behalf of Southern Wesleyan University and expressed great appreciation for the USF/EIF support from the SC District that had made it possible to award significant scholarships to Wesleyan students. He shared many answers to prayers and a positive word regarding finances, the impact the university is having on and through students' lives, and shared how God had led in amazing ways throughout the search for a new president following Dr. David Spittal's announcement in the Fall of his plans to retire at the end of June, 2011. He shared a message from Dr. Todd Voss, the newly-elected President of Southern Wesleyan University.

(23) HOSPITALITY PRESENTATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Joan Rampey, wife of the District Superintendent, was recognized to make a presentation to Mrs. Calene Pence, wife of General Superintendent Jerry Pence, by presenting Mrs. Pence with a beautiful basket

designed by one of the native basket weavers in the SC Low Country as a reminder of the time spent with their South Carolina friends.

Mrs. Rampey also drew attention to the S.W.I.M. (Southern Wives in Ministry) brochure in the conference packets and encouraged all pastors and lay leaders to make it possible for every minister's wife to attend "EXHALE," a retreat being held in the Bonclarken Conference Center located in the beautiful NC mountains and picturesque setting of Flat Rock, North Carolina, on November 4-6, 2011.

(24) REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

District Treasurer Mark Payne highlighted his eighteenth report as district treasurer noting that this year's 98.21% collection rate was 3.31% higher than last year's collection rate. He noted that the district had paid 100% of the general assessment which totaled \$295,217. The Mitchell Endowment had a good year, and gross investment performance totaled a positive 13.66% and \$55,000 was paid to fund Extension and Church Evangelism projects during the year. Ending net assets were \$1,498,397. The Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center Endowment had a good year as well. Gross investment performance totaled a positive 11.28%, and \$13,076 was paid to assist with the maintenance needs of the camp. Ending net assets were \$276,030. The report was received with deep appreciation and applause. **(See Report #10)**

(25) REPORT OF CONFERENCE ACTION COMMITTEE

Dr. Martin LaBar, Member of the Conference Action Committee, presented the following recommendations from the committee with motion to approve each as follows: **(See Report #11)**

- Recommendation #1 that the district's current "*Roll of the Honored Dead*" be named "*Roll of Honored Deceased Ministers*," and that the standard for inclusion in the list should be changed to the following: "*Deceased ministers who have been appointed as active ministers for ten years or more in the South Carolina District, and who have remained in good standing, will be listed in the Roll of Honored Deceased Ministers. Those not members of the District at the time of death, and other exceptions, may be considered by the Conference Action Committee.*" It was further recommended that this standard be added as Item 11.5 in the District's *Policies and Procedures*. Motion carried.
- Recommendation #2 that the Action Committee may authorize such minor edits to District *Standing Rules, Policies and Procedures* as may be necessary to provide for consistency in terminology and structure. (e.g. In 9.2, replacing *District Building Committee* with *District Board of Administration* and changing *USF* to *USF/EIF*.) Motion carried.
- Recommendation #3 that the District *Standing Rule #5* be changed to include *the director of women's ministries (formerly Wesleyan Women)* to the list of District Directors that shall be appointed by the District Board of Administration. (This recommendation is made in order to appropriately align the District *Standing Rules* with the organizational changes made in SC Wesleyan Women Ministries since the historic Summit and Wesleyan Women General Convention just concluded on June 26 in Columbus, Ohio, at which time Wesleyan Women dissolved their Constitution and status as an auxiliary of the Wesleyan Church with districts and local churches now having the opportunity to design their own organizational structure as desired to meet local needs. The SC Wesleyan Women Executive Committee submitted a plan of action, which was approved by the DBA which included the election of the SC District Wesleyan Women's Ministries Director by the DBA.) Motion carried.

The conference delegation expressed their appreciation through applause for the work done by the Action Committee.

(26) DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Charles Tegen presented the proposed District Operations Budget and the proposed District Operations Support Budget for 2011-2012. He highlighted several areas of the proposed budget that was developed on an Assessment Base of \$4,930,005. He noted that the proposed budget did not represent any change from last year's assessment percentages for General USF/EIF assignments or District assignments for Operations, Operations Support, Evangelism and Church Growth, or Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center, with the total assignment remaining at 11.4%. The report of the District Budget Committee was received with appreciation as information since the final decision on the 2011-2012 District Budget rests with the newly-elected District Board of Administration. **(See Report #12)**

(27) DISTRICT BUDGET ASSESSMENT

Charles Tegen presented a motion to approve the District Budget Assessment as allocated in the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget. The recommended assessment for 2011-2012 is as follows:

• General – United Stewardship	2.75%
• General – Educational Institutions	3.25%
• District Operations	3.90%
• District Operations Support	0.30%
• Evangelism and Church Growth	0.50%
• Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center	<u>0.70%</u>
 Total Assessment	 11.40%

Assessment Base: \$4,930,005

Motion carried. **(Information provided orally with Report #12)**

(28) REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER DISTRICT LEADERS

- Adult Ministries Report by Dr. Roger McKenzie **(See Report #13)**
- Archives Committee by Mrs. Joy Bryant **(See Report #14)**
- Best Years' Fellowship by Dr. Charles Mealy **(See Report #15)**
- Building Committee by Rev. Buddy Rampey **(See Report #16)**
- Children's Ministries Director by Mrs. Stephanie Rhyne **(See Report #17)**
- Family Camp Chairman by Rev. Richard Hall **(See Report #18)**

(Rev. Hall, upon being invited to announce plans for Family Camp, encouraged everyone to attend Family Camp at Table Rock during the week of July 10-17, with Rev. Ernest Mullins and Rev. Steve Wilson as speakers.)

- Missions Director by Rev. Dave Tolan **(See Report #19)**

(Rev. Tolan presented two book awards to the pastors of FWC/ALIVE and Trinity Wesleyan in recognition of each church's outstanding level of giving to Global Partner. FWC/ALIVE contributed the highest total amount of any church in the SC District to Global Partners, and Trinity Wesleyan gave the highest amount per capita of any church in the district.)

- Pastors' Gathering by Rev. Tony Casey **(See Report #20)**

(A PowerPoint of the upcoming Pastors' Gathering for 2012 was shown to encourage pastors to attend this event scheduled for January 9-11, 2012, featuring Dr. Mark Gorveatte speaking on "The Missional Church.")

- Prayer Coordinator by Rev. Chet Rowan **(See Report #21)**
- Public Moral and Social Concerns Committee by Rev. Aaron Gadsby **(See Report #22)**
- Spiritual Formation by Dr. Roger McKenzie **(See Report #23)**
- Wesleyan Men by Mr. Bryan Stepp **(See Report #24)**
- Wesleyan Women by Mrs. Julie Kellett **(See Report #25)**
- Wesleyan Youth by Mr. James Henderson **(See Report #26)**
- Winter Camp Meeting by Rev. Don Milstead **(See Report #27)**
- WKFM by Mrs. Cynthia Edge **(See Report #28)**
- Hispanic Ministries Council by Rev. Dumar Camacho **(See Report #29)**
- District Statistician *(Full report available on denominational website and to be included in the Conference Journal in lieu of report at conference.)*

Full written reports of the above, except for the Statistical Report that is available on the denominational website, were included in the delegates' packets and will be included in the 2011 District *Journal* along with a full statistical report. Following reference to each report by District Superintendent Rampey and an opportunity given for questions to be asked, leaders were asked to stand and appreciation was expressed through applause.

(29) HEPHZIBAH CHILDREN'S HOME SPOTLIGHT

Rev. James Wiggins, Member of the Board of Directors for Hephzibah Children's Home, brought greetings from Hephzibah on behalf of Director C. K. Chitty who was unable to attend conference. Great appreciation was expressed for the SC District's support of the ministries at Hephzibah, and updates were shared regarding the recent re-accreditation and the highly-valued programs that are addressing crisis needs in a remarkable way.

(30) REPORT OF THE TABLE ROCK RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER BOARD CHAIR

In the absence of Mr. Ken Whitener, Chair of the Table Rock Retreat and Conference Center Board of Directors, who was unable to be present at conference, District Superintendent Rampey referenced the report as included in the conference packets. He particularly highlighted the significant achievement made by the Board in creating a new entity, TRRCC Utilities, LLC, to both own and manage the current water system for the Table Rock facilities. Jonathan Catron was recognized for his superb leadership in completing this long overdue project. Gratitude was expressed for Mr. Whitener's exceptional leadership, along with the dedicated service and expertise of each of the members of the current board. The report was accepted with deep appreciation. **(See Report #30)**

(31) REPORT OF COURTESY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Beth Petersen and Rev. Steve Stanley, Co-Chairs of the Courtesy Committee, recognized and welcomed the following guests and ministers to the conference:

- Rev. W. C. Jones, Wesleyan Bible Conference
- Dr. Bill and Marilyn Peed, Bethany Bible College
- Rev. Jim and Kathleen Borgman, Pastor, New Hope Wesleyan Church
- Rev. Hernando and Graciela Bustos, Pastor, Iglesia Wesleyana Centro Familiar Cristiana
- Rev. Heath and Karen Mullikin, Pastor, Oakway Wesleyan Church
- Rev. Adony and Jeanne Seizeme, Assistant Pastor, Anderson Haitian Church
- Mark and Rhonda Benedict, Intern, True Life Christian Fellowship
- Matthew and Anna Irvine, Student Ministries Pastor, FWC-ALIVE

The conference body welcomed each individual with a warm applause upon their introduction.

(32) REPORT OF DBA ON MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2011-2012

District Superintendent Rampey called on District Secretary Sue Rickman to present the DBA Ministerial Appointments for 2011-2012. The report was approved as presented. Final approval was delegated to the newly-elected District Board of Administration for the pastoral appointment yet to be finalized for Common Ground. **(Report #31)**

MID-AFTERNOON BREAK

Delegates were given a mid-afternoon break at 3:30 and reconvened at 4:00 P.M. for the Awards Program.

(33) AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM

A number of pastors and churches were honored for their faithfulness in building God's kingdom through effective local church ministry. The following churches/pastors in the SC District were recognized by General Superintendent Dr. Pence and District Superintendent Rampey for having met the more stringent requirements for the *Excellence in Ministry Award*: Rev. Rick Gilbert, Bethany Wesleyan; Rev. Doug Windsor, Chesnee Wesleyan; Rev. Patrick Gué; Rev. Dumar Camacho, Iglesia Wesleyana Amistad Cristiana; Rev. Frankie Rodriguez, Iglesia Wesleyana El Camino; and Rev. Tim Jones, United Wesleyan Church. District Superintendent Rampey also presented the 2011 *Pastoral Leadership Award* to the pastors of churches that had demonstrated significant attendance gains (*minimum of 10%*), reported conversions to Christ, paid 100% USF/EIF/District Assessment, and submitted required reports on time. The pastors receiving this honor were: Rev. Gene Burgess, True Life Christian Fellowship; Rev. Harold Jones, Landrum; Rev. Mark Griffith, Bridge of Hope; Rev. Chet Rowan, Piedmont; Rev. Tom Harding, FWC-ALIVE; and Rev. Rick Gilbert, New Life Sanctuary. Rev. Darlene Teague was honored with a plaque upon her retirement from the ministry after having served twenty-four years in various ministries at the local, district, and denominational level. On behalf of the Leadership Team, District Superintendent Rampey presented the third *District Missional Church Award*. Senior Pastor Tom Harding was presented the 2011 *Missional Church Award* on behalf of the FWC-ALIVE congregation with commendation for their community-wide impact and bold vision and passion to reach the 96,000 unchurched in Pickens County. The pastoral staff and church have demonstrated how to meet the deepest needs of their community by sharing the love of Christ in tangible effective ways in their community as well as in other parts of the world, including Haiti, India, and the Bronx.

(34) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT FOR ORDINATION SERVICE

With all agenda items satisfied, District Superintendent Rampey expressed his appreciation to the South Carolina District of the Wesleyan Church for their work throughout the entire day and for the wonderful spirit present during the conference proceedings. Rev. Rampey and Rev. Tony Casey encouraged all delegates to make their way immediately to the sanctuary of FWC/ALIVE located on the university campus to participate in the Ordination Service to begin at 4:30 PM.

(35) ORDINATION AND AWARDS SERVICE

An atmosphere of worship marked the final session of the District Conference, a Service of Ordination for the recognition of God's call and equipping for the work of the ministry of the church. The Ordination Service was held in the sanctuary of First Wesleyan Church ALIVE at 5:00 PM following an unexpected rain shower delay.

Following a musical interlude and the procession of the ministers, the Service of Ordination began under the leadership of Rev. Tony Casey, Assistant Superintendent and Chair of the DBMD. The ministerial members of the District Board of Ministerial Development comprised the Council of Ordination and assisted throughout the service. After the Call to Worship, singing of "Lead On O King Eternal," and invocation, General Superintendent Dr. Jerry Pence preached the ordination sermon. Following the sermon, District Superintendent Buddy Rampey presented Adony Seizeme for acceptance as a Minister in Transfer and Dr. Jerry Pence presided over Rev. Seizeme's acceptance. Kenneth L. Hales was presented by Rev. Rampey for Ordination and was ordained by Dr. Pence. The Council of Ordination joined in prayers of enduement led by individuals chosen by each of the ordinands. A prayer of benediction was offered by Dr. Jim Bross, Sr., for God's Spirit to rest upon these servants of the Lord for lives of faithful and effective service to Christ and the Church.

At the conclusion of the service and following the recessional of all ordained ministers in attendance, a reception was held in the Fellowship Hall in honor of the ordained and their families and the retiring minister.

The Forty-Fourth Annual Conference of the SC District of the Wesleyan Church was officially adjourned at the conclusion of a very worshipful and memorable Ordination Service on Saturday evening, July 9, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue J. Rickman

Sue J. Rickman, District Secretary
SC District of the Wesleyan Church

REPORT OF CONFERENCE JOURNAL EDITING COMMITTEE

We, the Conference Journal Editing Committee have checked and edited the minutes of the 2011 South Carolina District Conference of the Wesleyan Church and certify that they are correct.

Journal Editing Committee Members: Rev. Fred Andrews, Mrs. Joan Rampey, Mrs. Sue Rickman, Rev. Paul Wilcox

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officers, duly elected by the South Carolina Conference of The Wesleyan Church, do hereby certify that, in our opinion, the printed copy of the Minutes of the proceedings of said District Conference held in Central, South Carolina, on July 9, 2011, to which this statement is bound, is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the said session.

This is valid only when signed by the District Superintendent and District Secretary. Dated this 15th day of August, 2011.



Rev. Buddy Rampey, District Superintendent
S.C. District of the Wesleyan Church

Sue J. Rickman

Mrs. Sue J. Rickman, District Secretary
S.C. District of the Wesleyan Church

