Different Calls, One With Each Other

By Rev. Ed Preston

“Different calls but one with each other.” Rev David Stough shared from John 15; “I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener.” He continued “While the life of the vine calls and guides us as branches into a wide variety of ministries, all ministries are equally connected to, empowered by, and sustained through the same source: the Savior of our world, Jesus the Christ.” These words shaped the theme of our worship as we celebrated the ministry of those called to a variety of types of ministry in God’s church.

Rev Doug Posegate recalled a time when a colleague said to him “Please pray for me, as I pray for you.” He also recalled the force with which Bishop Felton May had pulled down forcefully on his stole at ordination, telling him that God wasn’t messing around! He lifted up the role of song in our worship, saying that “Singing puts everyone on a level playing field.” He then shared a song, “Well, Well, Well”; “Well, Well, Well, Who’s That Callin’? Well, well, well, hold my hand, Well, well, well, night is a-fallin’, Spirit is a-movin’ all over this land.”

Pastor Tina Hawkins based her remarks on the joy of baptism that comes from us worshiping together as the sacrament is shared. She admitted to not being able to carry a tune but shared that “When you listen to others singing, you can lift your voice too.”

Pastor Hawkins shared that “We can care for the masses together in a way we could not do alone,” recalling the differences that were put aside by former Methodist and EUB representatives so that the United Methodist Church could be created. There was also a sense of lament as she recalled a time when pews and Sunday school rooms were filled to overflowing, but “we have gotten lost. The world has changed but we have not. We got hung up on our needs and forgot that we are disciples.” She went on to assert that “We may be a dysfunctional family, but dysfunctional families can love.” After Bishop Park conducted the historic examination of the ordinands, Certified Lay Minister Mrs Patty DeCapria offered a testimony. She recalled the two times in the life of her church that pastors tragically lost sons. She recalled crying out to God, seeking guidance on how to serve in the midst of the crisis. She finally realized that the answers were not in theology, but in community. “We were better together” she recalled. “We are better together because we allow God to make us who we were called to be.”

The body was invited to share in the Wesley Covenant Prayer, reaching across the full spectrum of our calls to ministry. We then recognized and celebrated our 2019 retirees and closed singing “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!”

PHOTO BY: SANDII PEIFFER

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park leads the annual conference in celebrating the ministries of the 2019 class of retiring pastors.

Election Results

General Conference

Clergy Elected
Rev. Matthew E. Lake
Rev. Janice F. Hughes
Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Salsgiver
Rev. Dr. Kathleen E. Kind
Rev. Jason R. Mackey
Rev. Dr. Kenneth M. Loyer

Laity Elected
Christina McDermott
Kaytlynn Hughes
Dr. Milton Loyer
Craig Brennecke
William Leight
Spencer Ross

Jurisdictional Conference

Clergy Elected
Rev. Mark F. Reisinger
Rev. Dr. Gary D. Weaver
Rev. Rachel E. Keller Wong
Rev. Jacob A. Waybright
Rev. Lenore C. Hosier
Rev. Dr. Paul C. Amara

Laity Elected
Shawn M. Gilgore
Dr. Kim Garris (LeGore)
Madisyn Bennett
Raymond Hamill
Alexander Clark
Lucy Obrzut

Alternate Clergy Elected
Rev. Rebecca L. Holland
Rev. Richard M. Morris

Alternate Laity Elected
Glenn Heisey
Toni Oplinger

Tenth Session
June 1, 2019 • Vol. 10

THE CHURCHES OF THE SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A witness to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
What’s Up for Today

8 a.m. – Fourth Plenary
We will begin our worshipful work session in a Bible Study with J.C. Park, president of The World Methodist Council.

Our morning will continue with a report of the Bishop’s Partner in Mission, and celebration of the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women.

Clergy appointments will be read and set, and the dates for our next Annual Conference will be announced.

Noon – Lunch

1 p.m. – Ordination Service
This afternoon we will commission four pastors as provisional elders and ordain four pastors into as elders.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR TODAY
Bishop’s Partners in Mission (7090) calls us to Imagine No Malaria and Imagine No More Debt! 100% of the proceeds from this fund go to Imagine No Malaria (the UMC’s global campaign to fight malaria) and paying down the debt of Mission Central so they can focus on their core mission of connecting God’s resources with human need.

Bishop Park is inviting individuals, congregations and church groups to join him and be Partners in Mission, committing to $100 or more a year. Whatever you can give helps the lives of those locally and around the world. God is still calling us to imagine great things, he is calling us to Imagine What We Can Do Together!

Service of Commissioning & Ordination

Ordained Elders
Left to right:
Joseph Samuel Hopkins, Joshua Stephen Wargo, Stephanie P. Rupert, and Joshua W. Davinsizer

Commissioning/Provisional Elder Membership
Left to right:
Beth A. Pyles, David R. A. McElwee, David Neal Layser, and Daniel L. Wilt

LIVE Streaming Archive
Available via susumc.org

Saturday, June 1, 2019
8 a.m. – Plenary Four
1 p.m. – Ordination Service
Conference Acts on Resolutions

By Rev. Bethany Wood and Rev. Skip Spangler

The Susquehanna Annual Conference acted resolutions focusing on Mental Health, Disability Awareness, and Socially Responsible Investments.

The annual conference adopted a resolution calling on Susquehanna Annual Conference clergy, laity, and local church affiliates to work on providing an inclusive and holistic space for people with disabilities.

The conference also adopted a resolution calling for the ongoing efforts of education and awareness concerning disability issues to be incorporated into the work of the entire Board of Pensions.

Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Jong Chun (J.C.) Park

Rev. Dr. Jong Chun (J.C.) Park is a Korean Methodist pastor serving the Methodist Theological University and Academy in the position of professor and president. He graduated from Emory University and received a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology. He has published five books and many articles. His most recent academic work is Systematic Theology as Church Didactics - theologiae cordis dei.

J.C.’s first experience of the World Methodist Council was the 1991 Singapore conference. He has been the chair of the Theological Education committee of WMC as well as the co-chair of Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies. J.C. is a prominent Christian leader working for the Methodist Churches in Asia and the Ecumenical Churches in Korea. He is committed to revitalizing churches through affirming the worldwide Methodist unity in fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples through vibrant evangelism and prophetic engagement.

Ordination Service Speaker: Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams

Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams is the fourth person and first South African to serve as General Secretary of the World Methodist Council. He began his tenure in 2012 after a period of transition commencing at the close of the World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa. From 2003-2012, Bishop Abrahams served as Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa—one of the largest Christian denominations in Southern Africa. During his tenure he provided prophetic leadership and direction. His capstone achievement was the formation and successful completion of the multiracial rand legacy project, the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary.

Bishop Abrahams is well-versed in casting vision, providing spiritual and strategic leadership, developing policies and procedures in line with values, goals and the mission of the church to achieve its vision. A renowned ecumenical leader and advocate for social justice, Bishop Abrahams is active in various fora including the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. He is married to Esme F. Abrahams, General Hospital Manager (i.e. CEO) of Netcare Garden City Hospital in Johannesburg. Together they have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Report: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

By Rev. Rebecca L. Holland

On the morning of Friday, May 31, 2019, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits report was presented by Michelle Bodle, the chair of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, and Jason Mackey, acting benefits administrator.

Working Hard to Serve the Susquehanna Conference

Michelle Bodle stated that the Board of Pensions was hard at work during this past year. The board expanded health care elections available to conference clergy to include six medical plans, three vision plans, and three dental plans. These same options will be continued in the coming year.

Two people were added to the retirement list listed in the workbook on page twenty-two under Recommendation Two. Jason Mackey stated that one of these names was added during clergy session on Thursday morning. Retirees are all actively retiring as of July 1, 2019 unless otherwise noted.

The recommendation then went before the body for a vote. There was no further correction and no discussion. The report was approved.

Wespath Continues to Support the Susquehanna Conference

After the report was approved, Terry Shoemaker, the conference liaison for Wespath and benefits, stood to speak. She stated that Wespath is here to support the conference. According to Shoemaker, Wespath has supported the Methodist Church for about 100 years. She assured the body that Wespath will continue to support the conference, “well into the future.” She stated that Wespath is, “working to make sure that we can assuage some anxieties,” regarding the future. She encouraged the body to visit Wespath’s website (wespath.org), where there is a comprehensive list of answers to frequently asked questions. This list of questions and answers is updated on a regular basis. She stated that those with questions can also submit a question to Wespath through the website.

At the conclusion of the report, the body showed their appreciation for the work of Wespath through applause. Members of the board of Board were invited to stand. Appreciation for the work of the entire Board of Pensions and Health benefits was shown through applause.

One with Each Other
Council on Finance & Administration

By Rev. Ryan Krauss

To begin the 2019 Executive Session of Annual Conference, Rev. Tim Baer quipped: “We could probably save a little bit of time if we approve the report of the Council on Finance and Administrative right now.” With a joyful attitude, Baer encouraged the conference body to “bless others in order to be a blessing!” He cited evidences of God moving in the 1,500 campers already signed up for 2019 camps in the Susquehanna Conference, churches that, though they had been floundering, now have hope and new purpose, and numerous other examples of the Godly momentum that the Conference financial plan makes possible.

The last few months, admitted Baer, have been challenging in the finance office. The “bad news” has included the unexpected and un solicited resignations of finance office staff, un timely financial journaling, and a resulting inability to generate timely reports. Yet Baer cited much “good news.” Accounts receivable, payable, and payroll are all working. Likewise, many persons have stepped in to help in the time of transition. Joni Way, a retired treasurer from the Kentucky Annual Conference, has been serving as interim treasurer. The time and energy of Joni and many, many others, have kept the finance office moving. Baer stated that this decision was a result of faithful giving, stewardship, and generosity across the conference. Specifically, Baer noted a budget increase to the Equipping Vital Congregations office on page 25, line 56. Other budget lines had been realigned, the retiree supplemental health insurance line items (page 27, lines 53-54) were lower due to the use of reserve funds. Baer noted that General Church Apportionments (line 69) had decreased, and Cabinet members had agreed to only a 1.5% salary increase (line 40) compared to the 3% increase approved in the Equitable Compensation report.

Benevolent Goals

Benevolent Goals

Baer indicated that the Benevolent Goals and special offerings for 2020 remained unchanged from years past. Dates were simply updated to reflect the 2020 calendar. The conference body voted to approve pages 28, line 9 through 29, line 2 of the CFA report with no discussion or clarifications.

General Policies

Baer placed before the conference body the general policies for CFA. He noted all of these policies had been in place previously as a result of Annual Conference action. This portion of the report simply compiled three conference’s worth of adopted resolutions and reports. The conference body voted approval of the recommendations listed on page 29, line 4 through page 30.

Celebrations

As a note of celebration, Baer recognized the work of Seedling Financial Ministry under the direction of executive director Lauren Hokamp, Jeff Bingaman, and Christine Sims. Under its various names and permutations, Seedling Financial Ministries celebrates 300 years of ministry this year. By video report, Seedling detailed its mission and work. They seek to connect investors and borrowers to seed churches with funding to grow. Seedling’s constituents include churches and individuals within the conference who invest and pay their loans. The ministry originated in 1916 to assist churches secure loans for repair and property purchase. In 1969, the then Lending Fund made investments available to purchase, and in the 1980s the name Loan Fund was adopted. Now in 2019, the Loan Fund has rebranded to Seedling Financial Ministry. In their own words, “You are borrowing from and investing in something you can believe in.”
Report: UMSF Considers Merger with Western PA

By Rev. Rebecca L. Holland

On the morning of Friday, May 31, 2019 Rev. S. David Simon, president of the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation, and Rev. Nicholas Keeney, vice-president of UMSF, presented the report of the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation. After Simon greeted the body, he stated that the executive director of UMSF, Rev. Phyllis Bowers, could not be at annual conference, “due to medical and health reasons.” The report was presented in her absence.

Rev. Ed Bailey, executive director of the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania, was also present. He emphasized that all the proposed resolutions and amendments had previously been approved by the board of directors.

The first resolution presented by Keeney can be found on page thirty-six of the conference workbook. Resolution 12A is a proposed amendment to the bylaws of UMSF. According to Keeney, the intent of this resolution is to broaden the language of the bylaws in order to prepare for “what may be coming next for us as a denomination.” As such, the proposed change will insert the phrase, “organizations that contain common bonds,” with the United Methodist Church. This would allow UMSF to consider future partnerships with organizations that share such “common bonds.”

The resolution was approved and accepted.

Keeney then invited the body to turn their attention to page thirty-eight of the workbook, where the next two amendments are located. He stated that the intent of this resolution was to amend the articles of incorporation of UMSF. This would, “broaden the scope of those we are able to partner with in ministry.” He said that these changes to the articles of incorporation have also been approved by UMSF’s board of directors.

The resolution was placed before the body and approved.

A Deeper Partnership with the UM Foundation of Western PA

Keeney stated that his third piece of business was to inform the annual conference that UMSF has been in discussion with the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. Keeney said that he was pleased to share that both organizations have agreed to explore ways to improve their relationship and deepen their connections with one another.

According to Keeney, the hope is that UMSF and the United Methodist Foundation of Western PA will, “come alongside one another and be better partners as foundations.”

A video clip was then shown to introduce the work of the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania. The video used the analogy of teams, “In Western PA, we love our teams. We love our sports teams and local teams.” The body was invited to, “celebrate a team that has been around for almost fifty years, the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania.” The UM Foundation of Western PA is currently helping approximately 250 congregations in Western Pennsylvania to work as a team. The UM Foundation of Western PA works to help congregations to invest their money in a way that will maximize returns and minimize risk.

After the video, Rev. Ed Bailey, executive director of the UM Foundation of Western PA, took a moment to speak. He said that he was excited to be able to share that, “both foundations have agreed to explore ways that we might leverage our relationship together to explore our future.” He also thanked the body for allowing him to be included in the proceedings of the 2019 Annual Conference.

Resolution number six was distributed on a separate sheet of paper. The intent of this resolution was to give permission for the board of UMSF to pursue a working relationship and operating agreement with the Western Pennsylvania Foundation. Keeney said that this resolution has been approved by UMSF’s board of directors. The resolution was placed before the conference, and it was approved.

A Possible Merger?

After offering a prayer, Simon stated that he had now concluded his one-year term as the president of The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation’s board. He then introduced the new incoming board president, Rev. Miguel Arenas. Finally, Simon moved for the complete adoption of the report. The report was placed before the body. It was approved.

Once the report was approved in its entirety, Bishop Park stood and made the statement that, “When I first heard about the possible merger, I was very excited.” Bishop Park asked for the body to pray, “that this process takes place.”

He said that the possible merger between United Methodist Stewardship Foundation and the United Methodist Foundation of Western PA was an example of the church being “better together.”

Did you know that there is a ministry within our Conference that connects investors and borrowers to help equip churches to grow?

We are pleased to introduce a new name for a unique kind of Ministry — the Loan Fund has become Seedling Financial Ministry! The name represents what our ministry does – help investors and borrowers plant the financial seeds to equip churches and their ministries to grow.

Our ministry provides United Methodists a unique opportunity to make funds available in support of our Mission of Making Disciples for Jesus Christ! As we continue to receive more loan requests from growing churches across the Conference, we need to continue to raise the needed funds to meet the growing demand. By investing or repaying your loan (“planting”) your money will allow Seedling Financial to continue to “seed” the needs of congregations throughout the Conference.

We have helped hundreds of churches build sanctuaries for growing congregations, repair church buildings and expand current facilities to provide more community outreach. These ministries that were funded represent changed lives and as an investor or borrower you are our partner in this ministry!

Having Seedling provide loans to churches allows you to have the confidence of knowing your money is working according to your values. It gives meaning to your money and aligns your faith and your finances.

Please contact Seedling if you are interested in learning more about our investments and loans.

Together we can connect to fulfill our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Lauren Hokamp, Executive Director
lhokamp@susumc.org (717) 766-5275 ext. 3502

Christine Sims, Investment Specialist
csims@susumc.org (717) 766-5275 ext. 3500

Jeffrey Bingaman, Lending Specialist
jbingaman@susumc.org (717) 766-5275 ext. 3608

Did you know that there is a ministry within our Conference that connects investors and borrowers to help equip churches to grow?
YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINISTRY

Time is Running Out!

Did you get your Better Together Polo or T-shirt yet? ... There’s still time

Grab a friend and bring them to the Young People’s Ministry Table to get yours. Proceeds from the polo and t-shirt sales will be used to fund Youth scholarships to Annual Conference.

Polo Shirt
Adult Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large - $24
Adult 2XL and 3XL - $27

T-Shirt
Adult Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large - $10
Adult 2XL and 3XL - $13

Young People Ministry

The Young People’s Ministry Council presents its report to the annual conference.

By Rev. Bethany Wood

Forgoing many year-end school activities, 16 young persons took the stage for the Young Peoples Ministry Council Report.

Kicked off by Julia Brinselli, the report included testimony by several young people as to their growing faith through their involvement with YPMC.

Madyson Bennett spoke of her mission trips to Henderson Settlement with her youth group – getting into a pronunciation war of the word “Appalachian” with her clergy member father, Randy.

Jacob spoke about how involvement in YPMC has helped and influenced his growing leadership skills both in his local congregation and in high school. Hannah Carter, who graduated only on Tuesday, shared how she was a very quiet, shy, and introverted teenager. However, her involvement in Young People’s Ministry Council has helped her blossom into a confident young woman of faith. She went on to relate how Young People’s Ministry Council raises money for Youth Service Fund – to provide grant money on the Youth Service Fund and how youth groups can apply for Youth Service Funds. She reminded the delegates of the various fundraising activity here at Annual Conference designed to benefit the Youth Service Fund.

Lydia Zarefoss spoke about communication in the community of faith. She talked about ways to keep in touch and connected with our teens through the annual conference. Among those are: Facebook (igniteyoungpeople), Instagram (@youngpeopleministry), twitter (@yngoplministry) or email (ypmc@susumc.org)

Finally, a video clip was shown detailing the experience of two of the young people as they travelled to Africa for the Global Young People’s Convocation in 2018, a multi-cultural, multi-national, spirit-filled gathering.

FUNDRAISING GOAL for AC 2019 = $11,000

Candy Change Challenge

Hershey Kisses vs. Twizzlers

We what to know which one is your favorite. Drop spare change or loose bills into the bucket for the candy you would like to see win our change challenge. The candy with the most money will win and there will be a sweet reward. The competition will end today at 11 a.m. Come vote for your favorite candy!

Charging Station

Long sessions, short battery life, or lost power cord - we’ve got you covered. Check your mobile device at the charging station in the Great American Hall and we will get you powered back up. (suggested donations $5 per phone, $10 per tablet/iPad, $20 per laptop)

Gift Basket Silent Auction

(20 Baskets)

Bidding on gift baskets will be open until 9 a.m. today. There are over 20 baskets that will be waiting to go home with you! Place a bid on your favorite baskets at the YSF display table.

By giving generously our youth can continue to be vital in their communities and the world.

Thank You!

YSF is the UM mission fund that is raised by youth, administered by youth, for the benefit of youth ministry and mission locally, nationally, and globally.

Information about 2019 YSF Grant Recipients are on the tables in the dining areas.

Apply for a YSF grant online by visiting igniteyoungpeople.org, deadline October 31, 2019.

Susquehanna Daily LINK - June 1, 2019
Annual Conference Award Recipients

One with Each Other

The Rev. Dr. Maud K. Jensen / Rev. Dr. Karen E. Layman Memorial Scholarship
Rev. Anna Layman Knox, Taylor Johnston - recipient, and Bishop Jeremiah J. Park

Thomas K. Cartwright Scholarship
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Emily Buonocore - recipient, and Rev. Suzanne Elliott

The Earl N. Rowe Memorial Scholarship Award
Bishop Jeremiah J.Park, Pastor Steven Small - recipient, and Rev. Nick Keeney

J. Marlene Atanasoff Spiritual Formation Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Cynthia Willis of Wesley UMC, Bloomsburg - recipient, and Rev. Kathy Harvey Nelson

The Marty Cox Award for Christian Unity
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, United Youth of Lewisburg District - recipient, Mindy Moore, Pastor Daniel Wilt and Pastor Laura Kincaid.

The Howand and Elizabeth Brinton Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Wenda Harman, Shepherd Closet at Trinity UMC, Hummeletstown, Harrisburg District - recipient, and Rev. Mark Messner

The Flying Dove Church Award

The Harry Hoosier Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Countryside Community UMC, Clarks Summit - recipient, Jill and Ron Imdorf, Rev. Anna Layman Knox, Marge Solsman, Jeff Warren, Steve Green, Rev. Mark Terwilliger, and Bill Franklin

The Clergy Denman Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Rev. Dr. Ken Loyer of Spry UMC, York District - recipient, and Rev. Dr. Charles Salisbury

The Laity Denman Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, George Baird of Trucksville UMC, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District - recipient, and Rev. Marian Hartman

The Bishop D. Frederick Wertz Award
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Rev. Debbie Heisley-Cato (accepted the award for Dr. Russell Hart - recipient), Chip Edmonds, and Rev. Dr. John Piper

PHOTOS BY STACY ECKERT
2019 Class of Retirees


*Rev. Robert G. Wood was incorrectly pictured in yesterday's edition of The Susquehanna Daily LINK. The LINK regrets its error and offers its apologies to Rev. Wood.

Recognizing CLMs, LLPs and COS Grads

Licensed Local Pastors

Certified Lay Ministers

Course of Study

During its Friday session, the annual conference recognized two Certified Lay Ministers, and congratulated six local pastors for completing a six year course of study.
United Methodist Church.

There are deep historical ties with Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. The forerunner institution was Walden Seminary, housed in the Mississippi to make education available to former African-American slaves. The forerunner institution was Walden Seminary, housed in the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. There are deep historical ties with the United Methodist Church.

Walden Seminary, housed in the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. There are deep historical ties with the United Methodist Church. Said Williams, “The strength of numbers’ came with bold efforts of our United Methodist Church to propel a people who were considered un-teachable by some into a people that could one day be doing the teaching.”

Philander Smith College is the result of the first attempts west of the Mississippi to make education available to former African-American slaves. The forerunner institution was Walden Seminary, housed in the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. There are deep historical ties with the United Methodist Church.

By Rev. Ed Preston

Mr. Russell R. Williams, III presented the Black College Fund report. Williams is a Political Science major at Philander Smith College and has a passion for social justice and community development. He has plans to further his education by completing a Master in Public Service and Juris Doctorate degrees.

“Strength” said Williams “can be defined as the capacity of an object or substance to withstand great force or pressure. Power is the ability to do something or act in a particular way. I stand before you today to express that one should have knowledge and experience in dealing with both.”

Philander Smith College is the result of the first attempts west of the Mississippi to make education available to former African-American slaves. The forerunner institution was Walden Seminary, housed in the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. There are deep historical ties with the United Methodist Church.

Mr. Russell R. Williams, Ill

Said Williams, “The strength of numbers’ came with bold efforts of our United Methodist Church to propel a people who were considered un-teachable by some into a people that could one day be doing the teaching.”

Mr. Williams thanked the Annual Conference for its full support of the Black College Fund. He pointed out that without the rich history and support of the UMC, there might not be a Philander Smith College.

“Look to your left, your right, to your front and to your back – and relish in the ‘strength in numbers,’ for that is our path forward.”

By Deb Steransky

A three-strand cord braided together is stronger than a single strand. With that in mind, the United Methodist Home for Children and the Board of Child Care of the United Methodist Church have merged. With a shared history and passion for the welfare of children and families, it just made sense to join together to be better together.

Laurie Anne Spagnola, CEO of the BCC, reported that by joining together each organization’s skills and services will complement each other and have a bigger impact on the communities of the Mid-Atlantic areas. Benefits of the merger have already been realized. On January 1, 2019 the association was awarded the Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) Accreditation.


to learn more or schedule a personal tour, visit RiverWoods.org and NormandieRidge.org

The Auxiliaries at RiverWoods and Normandie Ridge are dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents.

At RiverWoods Senior Living Community in Lewisburg and Normandie Ridge Senior Living Community in York, you’ll find numerous ways to continue your mission of service including:

• Auxiliaries (membership is open to residents and non-residents)
• On-campus church services & Bible studies
• Meals on Wheels at RiverWoods
• Music Ministry (Chorus/Choir)
• Woodshops and Craft Studios
• Volunteer Opportunities
• Libraries on campus

The Ultimate Conductor

“I think of playing music as making sculptures of sound.”

Christina Kobbs has learned to play the piano two ways, using modern techniques and those from Beethoven’s time to share a different sound for the same music. The older technique offers new paths for playing, bringing more fluidity to her work. The newer technique requires a different posture and is less subdued. From designing the instruments to designing the song, there remains the presentation of our music in the world. For “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.” Our giving is to be defined by the shepherds’ staff and tied to Jesus’ form. We manage our community like symphony in collaboration, connected to do better together for the transformation of the world.

It matters what we emphasize, it matters why we play and for Whom. Like “streams that make glad the city of God,” we as a community, channel Jesus’ message, sharing his methods and resting on his timing. Our course is to keep noting this amazing grace beyond measure until we are of one accord and going by his tempo. It takes concerted effort to become fluent. It takes practice for our movements to become aligned and well-orchestrated. Our conductor directs many players to flow together as one, each raising our heart’s song for our Lord. Yet we are also to seek out every voice for the choir and encourage accompaniment from the church. This is key to being sound. As we continue to shape and share our chords and discords, what can be our refrain?”

The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation

3901 Hartzdale Dr. Suite 110
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Phone 717-766-7343
Toll Free 800-272-0113
sfspa@umstewardship.org
Rev. Bill Pipp brought the report of the Commission on Equitable Compensation. Rev. Pipp reported that the Commission is recommending a 3% increase in the minimum salary level for 2020. After a brief discussion, the recommendation was approved.

The Rev. Troy Howell presented a brief report on the conference’s parsonage standards. The Commission has been examining the current standards, with an eye to the concern that they are too “checklist-heavy” and are in fact impeding local church progress in keeping parsonages properly maintained. Over the coming year, new standards will be written with the aim of making them more realistic for local churches to meet. The Commission is proposing that clergy/clergy family accessibility issues be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

The Rev. Lori Steffenson presented the One Matters Award to the Laurel Run Church. This is an award given by the General Church in celebration of the churches’ behalf, indicating that they have been given two pieces of advice when she was sent there: love the people and preach Jesus. She had been given two pieces of advice when she was sent there: love the people and preach Jesus.

State College District Superintendent Rev. Mark Messner, Chairperson of the Missional Board, presented the resolution on Advance Specials. These encompass projects both conference and district wide. The Missional Board is the connection part of the process whereby various mission endeavors are reached out to. They also have an educational component to the Board.

Rev. Bill Pipp brought the report for this year were made. Several resolutions were presented that proposed to close churches who felt they could no longer fulfill their original mission. Penbrook Trinity in Harrisburg, Grace in Harrisburg, Whites Valley in Pleasant Mount, and Morris-Blackwell in Morris all asked Annual Conference to close them. Those resolutions were approved. The resolution to close Houserville, however, was defeated.

Lew Parks, chair of the property and casualty insurance committee, reported that all the churches have paid their premiums. He also addressed frequent questions he is asked about instituting armed security in the churches. Our insurance carrier says that security must be done by a certified company or by active law enforcement. To do otherwise would raise the possibility of catastrophic injury.

A CLOSER COURSE OF STUDY
ASK your DS or DCOM about the POSSIBILITIES

NEW

Master of Arts in Ministry & Leadership

- Earn COS equivalency and a Master’s Degree
- Eligible for scholarships, student loans, financial aid
- Convenient Schedules: Weekday or Friday/Saturday
- Lancaster is a UMC-approved seminary

Lancaster THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MyMAML.com

evangelical ecumenical spirit-filled
Susquehanna Daily LINK - June 1, 2019

**Essential Elements**

By Rev. Ed Preston

Grow! Equip! Connect! These are much more than verbs; these are essential elements in the life of the church! Kay Kotan, Jason Mackey and Kevin Witt teamed up to energize the gathered body around these three concepts in ministry. “Grow” like a seedling, pushing through the earth toward the sun to take in light and energy. “Equip” for ministry, giving us the necessary tools in our tool box to be effective in our ministry efforts. “Connect” with others in the fellowship, because we are better together! But where did these three elements come from? They resurfaced in the Conference mission statement, as key action components guiding our life together. Kay Kotan, Jason Mackey and Kevin Witt offered perspectives on these elements in the Essential Elements report.

After being guided by videos showing us “days in the life” of Jason and Kevin, we learned more about what these three elements mean for our ministry as the church. “Grow” calls us to becoming, to break out and be transformed by our dedication to be changed in the process. “Equip” guides us to be faithful to staying relevant and increasing our competence in the practice of ministry. To “Connect” is to leverage the strength of the many in the carrying out of ministry.

Two living examples of these elements were shared. The Valley, a new church plant in State College is dedicated to reaching the un-churched and de-churched in a growing community. Rev Tim Parker is reaching out in a variety of ways and places to build relationships with those who are seeking something more in their lives. In Harrisburg, Impact Harrisburg is planting The Journey, a community that wants to love neighbors and introduce new people to Jesus, investing in the neighborhood to bring new life and hope.

But there is actually a fourth element; YOU! We are all called to be an active part of these and many other efforts to share Jesus around our Conference and the world. These elements of Grow, Equip and Connect require God’s children to faithfully embody around our Conference and the world. These elements of Grow, Equip and Connect require God’s children to faithfully embody around our Conference and the world.

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(to the left at the bottom of the escalator)

Today: 8 am - 12 pm