

Minutes of the One Hundred Forty-fourth (144th) Session of the
Eastern Shore District Conference
Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church
Grace United Methodist Church, Parksley, Virginia
Sunday, November 13, 2011, 4 pm

The One Hundred Forty-fourth (144th) Session of the Eastern Shore District Conference of The United Methodist Church was held on Sunday, November 13, 2011 at Grace United Methodist Church. The Reverend Tammy L. Estep, Eastern Shore District Superintendent presided. Rev. Kenneth J. Jackson, Alexandria District Superintendent was the District Conference preacher.

District Superintendent Estep along with Host Pastor, Rev. Donald A. Jamison welcomed everyone. Jamison invited our churches to join Grace UMC in the "Care Bears Ministry". He stated that Grace Church has been collecting teddy bears and blankets to be placed in police cars, fire engines and EMT vehicles. They will be used to comfort children in accidents, house fires and domestic violence situations under the direction of the Accomack Sheriff's Department.

The worship service followed, under the theme of "taking Christ outside the church walls". Rev. Ken Jackson delivered the sermon "the neighbor I never knew". Scripture was from Luke 10:25-37 (the good Samaritan). Other participants in the service were District Superintendent Estep; District Lay Leader, Ms. Iris Gunter Smith; District Associate Lay Leader, Mrs. Barbara Mason; District Associate Lay Leader, Mr. Aaron Kane; District Associate Lay Leader, Don Foster; Rev. Brenda Laws of the Horntown Charge; Rev. Don Jamison; and youth from Grace UMC. Special music provided by Mr. Roland Major of Adams UMC. Organist was Ms. Kathy Kutz of Grace UMC.

The business session of the Conference convened. The District Superintendent presided.

The first order of business was the nomination and election of Connie M. Owens, District Administrative Assistant to serve as the Recording Secretary. The following tellers were nominated and elected: Mr. Aaron Johnson (lay member of Grace UMC), Ms. LaShauna Christian (lay member of Friendship UMC), Rev. Bobbie Henley (clergy member of Craddockville) and Rev. Ray McGarr (clergy member of Epworth UMC).

Rev. Alex Joyner, Chair of the Eastern Shore District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) reported to the Conference: The function of this committee is to help people listen to their call to ministry and work with candidates as they progress through the ordination/licensing process. The Eastern Shore District currently has three certified candidates and one candidate (Peter Surran) for provisional membership toward Deacon's orders as well as a number of local licensed pastors the Committee meets with annually. Joyner told us that there is a new mentoring group on the Eastern Shore. Rev. Elizabeth Lutz is the Mentor Coordinator. Also, new categories and orders of ministry will probably be debated on the floor of the 2012 General Conference Session. Joyner remarked that we need people of exceptional gifts for ministry. "We touch their lives each day - everyone in our churches. Our leaders are already there. Be on the lookout!", he said as he finished his report.

District Superintendent Estep instructed everyone to complete the Attendance Forms included in their packets and to give them to the tellers when ballots were collected. Those names have been duly recorded in an attachment to the minutes.

The next order of business was the nomination of District At-Large Members to the Virginia Annual Conference Session on June 22-24, 2012 in Roanoke. Those nominees on the ballot were presented. The floor was opened for other nominations for the ballot. Katrina Perez of the Leemont Charge was nominated. There being no others, there was a motion to close nominations. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations for Youth members between ages of 12 and 17 to represent the district at Annual Conference were next on the agenda. Nominees on the ballot were presented. Floor opened for other nominations. Hannah Perez and Malcolm White of the Leemont Charge were nominated as Alternates. There being no others, there was a motion to close nominations.

Nominations for Young Adult members between ages of 18 and 35 to represent the district at Annual Conference were next presented. Floor opened for other nominations. There being no others a motion to close nominations was made.

Lay members of the District Conference were asked to vote for 10 Members At-Large, 2 Youth and 2 Young Adult members. Ballots were collected and tallied by Conference tellers.

The results of the election being (in the order of highest votes received): ①**Jesse Poulson** of Metropolitan, ②**Barbara Mason** of Christ, ③**Betty Armstrong** of Franktown, ④**Laurine White** of New Mission, ⑤**Berkley Ashby** of Epworth, ⑥**B. Olivia White** of Adams, ⑦**JoLynn Hart** of Melfa, ⑧**Carole Oakley** of Epworth, ⑨**Maxine Ashby** of Epworth, and ⑩**Dorris Kilmon** of Smith's Chapel are the District Members At-Large with ①*Robin Nedab* of Adams, ②*Peggy Corbin* of Metropolitan, ③*Annette Kellam* of Epworth, ④*Marlene Donnell* of Travis Chapel, and ⑤*Katrina Perez* of Leemont Charge as Alternates. ①**Yasmine Johnson** of Deas Chapel and ②**Anne Parker Kellam** of Grace are the Youth Members with ①*Malcolm White* and ②*Hannah Perez* as Alternates. ①**Harold White, Jr.** of New Mission and ②**Daniel Hiler** of Franktown are the Young Adult Members with LáKendrick Dennis of Adams as the Alternate. (Alternates will be selected, if needed, in the order as they appear in the minutes.)

Conference members received nominations for district officers and members of committees and boards as presented by the District Committee on Nominations. Since there were no nominations from the floor, a motion was made to accept the list of nominees and to elect them for these positions. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

In closing, DS Estep said, "I know that there is much anxiety about the economy and about apportionments. In the midst of such scarcity thinking, I want to remind you of the abundance of God's amazing grace. Together with the abundance of God's grace in the one Body of Christ, we can do anything."

Adjournment was 5:50 pm, closing with the Doxology.

District Hospitality Co-chairs, Berkley and Maxine Ashby provided refreshments downstairs in the fellowship hall.

Connie M. Owens, Recording Secretary