

Minutes of the One Hundred Forty-second (142nd) Session of the
Eastern Shore District Conference
Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church
Franktown United Methodist Church, Franktown, Virginia
Sunday, November 1, 2009, 3 pm

The One Hundred Forty-second (142nd) Session of the Eastern Shore District Conference of The United Methodist Church was held on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at Franktown United Methodist Church. The Reverend Tammy L. Estep, Eastern Shore District Superintendent, presided. The Reverend Victor R. Gómez, Executive Director of Rural Family Development of the Virginia Council of Churches was the District Conference preacher.

Host senior pastor, Rev. Alex Joyner and associate pastor, Rev. Peter Surran welcomed everyone. The worship service followed, under the theme "Embracing Diversity" with the focus on our 2009 Annual Conference's challenge to our churches "Let's Get Growing!-"More Diverse People". Rev. Victor Gómez delivered the sermon "You don't want to leave too, do you?" Other participants in the service were District Superintendent Tammy Estep; Rev. Brenda Laws of Friendship UMC; District Lay Leader, Barbara Mason; and District Associate Lay Leaders: Iris Gunter Smith and Mickey Merritt. Special music was provided by: host church's youth band "Sanctifying Grace"; and Snead Memorial UMC's adult choir.

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

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

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: Martha James, Lay Member of Franktown UMC; Brenda Laws, Clergy Member of Friendship UMC; Melvin Burton, Lay Member of New Mission UMC; and Tom Durrance, Clergy Member of Painter-Quinby Charge. There were no other nominations from the Conference floor.

The next order of business was the nomination of District At-Large Members to the Virginia Annual Conference Session on June 13-16, 2010 in Norfolk. Those nominees on the ballot, who were present, were asked to stand. The floor was opened for other nominations for the ballot. Norma Spencer Capeville UMC was nominated as District At-Large Member.

Nominations for Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 and Young Adult members to represent the district at Annual Conference was next on the agenda. Nominees presented on the ballot were asked to stand. Floor opened for other nominations. Asia Gibbs from New Mission UMC was nominated for Youth Member and Maggie Stodghill of Franktown UMC was nominated for Young Adult Member. Motion made to close nominations for District members to Annual Conference by Jennifer Tolbert. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Lay members of the 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: Mickey Merritt, Betty Armstrong, Jesse Poulson, Iris Gunter Smith, Dorris Kilmon, Steve Turlington, Mary Grace Woodburn, Maxine Ashby, Peggy Corbin, and Carole Oakley are the District Members At-Large with Lisa Sepelak, Sue Schofield and Norma Spencer as Alternates. (Alternates will be selected if needed in the order as they appear in the minutes.) Zach Sepelak and Asia Gibbs are the Youth Members. LáKendrick Dennis and Maggie Stodghill are the Young Adult Members.

Conference members received nominations for district officers and members of committees and boards as presented by the District Committee on Nominations. A motion was made to accept the list of nominees and to elect them for these positions. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Rev. Alex Joyner, Chair of the Eastern Shore District Committee on Ordained Ministry reported to the Conference. He stated that there are 10 clergy and laity on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the District Superintendent who meet on a regular basis. Their function is to meet yearly with local pastors and to recommend candidates for licensing and ordination and to be agents to help people listen to their call. Joyner emphasized the importance of each local church's responsibility when it comes to nurturing those in their congregation to listen to their call.

Rev. Estep announced that the next regular session of the Eastern Shore District Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 14, 2010. Place to be announced later.

Adjournment was 4:45 pm, closing with the Doxology.

Offering received at this District Conference session was in the amount of \$900 --\$850 was designated for our District Hispanic Ministry and \$50 in donations to Occohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Center.

Connie M. Owens, Recording Secretary