

Minutes of the One Hundred Forty-first (141<sup>st</sup>) Session of the  
**Eastern Shore District Conference**  
Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church  
*St. John's United Methodist Church, Atlantic, Virginia*  
*Sunday, November 2, 2008, 3 pm*

The One Hundred Forty-first (141<sup>st</sup>) Session of the Eastern Shore District Conference of The United Methodist Church was held on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at St. John's United Methodist Church. The Reverend Tammy L. Estep, Eastern Shore District Superintendent, presided. Ms. Rachel Gene May, member of Epworth UMC and second year Vanderbilt Divinity student was the District Conference preacher.

Host pastor, Rev. Gary C. Miller welcomed everyone. The worship service followed, under the theme "Let the Children Come" with the focus on our 2008 Annual Conference's challenge to our churches "Let's Get Growing! --"More Young People". Ms. Rachel Gene May delivered the sermon "More Than a Mouthful". Other participants in the service were liturgists, LaQuan Nock, a youth from Friendship UMC; Rev. David Chew, pastor of Greenbackville Charge; Adams' UMC youth, TreVaughn Topping; Cheriton Charge pastor, Rev. Nathan Decker; District Superintendent Tammy Estep; Host pastor Gary C. Miller; District Lay Leader, Barbara Mason; and District Associate Lay Leaders: Greg Duncan, Iris Gunter-Smith, and Mickey Merritt. Special music was provided by: Alex, Nick and Gary Gibb from Market Street UMC; Host church's CROWN (dance team) and their youth and young adult choirs; and Epworth UMC's children choir.

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

The District Superintendent 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: Kamesha Miller, lay member from St. John's UMC; Rita Kanten, clergy from New Hope Charge; Carl Bundick, lay member from Belle Haven UMC; and Harold White, clergy from New Mission UMC. 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 14-17, 2009 in Norfolk. Those nominees on the ballot, who were present, were asked to stand. The floor was opened for other nominations for the ballot. Lisa Sepelak from Atlantic UMC was nominated. Motion made to close nominations for District At-Large Members.

Nominations for Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 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. Since there were none, motion made to close nominations for Youth members.

Nominee on the Ballot for Young Adult Member (ages 18-30) to Annual Conference was asked to stand. Floor was open for other nominations. Maggie Stodgehill from Franktown UMC was nominated. Motion made to close nominations for Young Adult Members.

Lay members of the Conference were asked to vote for 10 Members At-Large, 2 Youth and 2 Young Adult members. Ballots were collected by Conference tellers. The results of the election being: Gregory Duncan, Iris Gunter-Smith, Mickey Merritt, Carole Oakley, Pauline Milbourne, Jesse Poulson, Olivia White, Peggy Corbin, Berkley Ashby, and Steve Turlington are the District Members At-Large with Don Bowling, Kay Downing, Betty Armstrong, Bonnie Lewis, Stephane Taylor, Janice Rivell, and Lisa Sepelak as Alternates. Deon Blake and Brittany Lewis are the Youth Members and Airee Watson is an alternate. Kendrick Dennis and Maggie Stodgehill are the Young Adult Members. (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. There was a motion made to accept the list of nominees. 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 who meet on a regular basis. Their function is to meet yearly with local pastors and to recommend candidates for licensing and ordination. Joyner asked our congregations to encourage our young people with ministry potential to listen for God's call in their lives –sometimes it can just be a tap on the shoulder to say "you have the gifts and qualities." There are currently three young adults on our district who are certified/seeking certification: Rachel May, Peter Surran and Sherri Shumate, Joyner commented. The District Superintendent asked the Conference for a motion to accept this report. Motion to approve the report was made. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

The District Superintendent presented Franktown UMC with the 2007 Robert M. Pitzer Award from the Southeastern United Methodist Agency on Rehabilitation (SEMAR). The award recognizes their leadership, dedication, inclusion and commitment to persons with disabilities for the past 46 years. Franktown UMC's pastor, Rev. Alex Joyner accepted the award on behalf of the church.

Mr. Donn Lee presented information concerning the conference's renovation campaign "Grow Faith" for the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone. For over 100 years this Virginia U.M. facility has been a place where people of all ages have come to renew and strengthen their faith. Now there is a need to renovate and expand it to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Lee stated that there are representatives that will go to churches to talk with congregations about the campaign.

Rev. Estep announced that the next regular session of the Eastern Shore District Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 2009 at Franktown United Methodist Church.

Adjournment was 4:55 pm, closing with everyone singing "Jesus Loves Me".

Offering received at this District Conference session was in the amount of \$800, designated to be divided evenly between our 2 district ministries to young people: Occohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Ctr., Belle Haven and the Agape Christian Children's Community Ctr. in Horntown.

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Connie M. Owens, Recording Secretary