



Sunday

Conference daily update

166th Session of the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church

Rev. Karen Nichols Dungan Preaches at the Memorial Service

A celebration of the lives of those who passed away this past year was held on Friday afternoon. Rev. Karen Dungan's message of Hope and Encouragement was based on 2 Corinthians 4:7-15. The One who raised Jesus will also raise us to God's glory.

The question remains: How can we be examples of faith to others when we're in the midst of trauma? While the initial pain of loss may stun us in the beginning, reflection occurs later. Those little moments of reflection trace back to the mercy of God at a time when life is not good. God's abundance and blessing are evident in the supportive fellowship of those who were part of the lives of the deceased.

As Paul reflects on his ministry he sees times of hardship and loss, but he still gives glory to God. Finding grace and mercy is where we see God at work. In our ability to give thanks, we acknowledge God's involvement. It changes us within giving us the ability to give God glory. When we live a life that deepens our relationship with God, we cultivate our faith, and it doesn't need to be questioned. We can cling to that relationship and the source of God's peace—even when we don't feel it. Our relationship is not broken with our Savior. The abundant life that God offers us becomes real. God is good because we have seen what God has done in the past, we can abide in what God is doing now and we can trust God to continue to be with us in the future.

The offering was designated toward the summer initiative, "Nothing but Nets" in Sierra Leone.

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Conference Votes to Move to Hy-Vee Hall

The 2010 session of the Iowa Annual Conference will be held at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines. By a tally of 806 to 210 members of the Conference choose a venue with greater accessibility, seating at round tables, a choice of meals served within the facility, a display section adjacent to the meal and hospitality area and ample parking for cars and campers. In the course of the debate and after the vote was tallied, great thanks was expressed for the courtesy and support of staff of the Hilton Coliseum, Scheman Building and Iowa State University.

Special Offerings

Four special offerings have been received to this point during the 2009 Conference. An offering of \$5,175.55 was received for Noting But Nets on Thursday. An offering for Disaster Recovery of \$6,185.85 was received on Friday. Saturday saw two offerings: \$2,876.75 in support of the Iowa-Nigeria Partnership and \$6,135.19 for the 33 Pages.

Pages Support Heifer Project and Bishop's FIT Challenge

The Pages serving the 2009 Annual Conference gave two tithes of the offering taken for them. \$613 will go to the Bishop's FIT Challenge and an additional \$613 will be sent to Heifer International.

Conference Artist Offers Interpretation

Rev. Ted Lyddon Hatten, Conference Artist shared his interpretation of the art imagery of this year's Conference. Director of the Wesley Foundation at Drake, he described himself as a "47 year old late dreamer with a premature vision."

Radical Hospitality often comes, he said, from those with differing opinions rather than from those who are likeminded. The two are on opposite sides of the battlefield. Both come to hear the same story. It is much akin to Pentecost when everyone came from different regions and cultures but joined together for one purpose.

In this vision there are 16 chairs. One has no name on it. The question is raised: Which chair do you sit in? In the color wheel opposing colors complement one another. Each one is bright in its own way, but those on the opposite sides of the wheel are brighter when placed next to one another. When two complementary colors are combined, the result is a blah grayish color. So it is with people with opposing viewpoints. While not everyone may be in agreement, diversity enhances one another's perspective. A few people don't belong in any chair; everything is unfamiliar. They don't fit in. But they do have a seat in that circle. Everyone hears the same story yet they are at war in their thinking. There needs to be different perspective; they need one another. Find your own chair and listen.

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Tallies of Constitutional Amendments Votes

Most of the proposed Constitutional Amendments have been discussed and voted, as of the closed of the extended Saturday session. Several were the subject of prolonged discussion; most were considered briefly before a vote was called for.

The results: Amendment 1: Yes-561, No-502; Amendment 2: Yes-865, No-149; Amendment 3: Yes-349, No-643; Amendment 4: Yes-419, No-691; Amendment 5: Yes-389, No-701; Amendment 6: Yes-644, No-391; Amendment 7: Yes-388, No-708; Amendment 8: Yes-929, No-107; Amendment 9: Yes-915, No-113; Amendment 10: Yes-376, No-728; Amendment 11: Yes-364, No-721; Amendment 12: Yes-364, No-719; Amendment 13: Yes-356, No-732; Amendment 14: Yes-372, No-711; Amendment 16: Yes-355, No-727; Amendment 18: Yes-350, No-722; Amendment 20: Yes-362, No-734; Amendment 21: Yes-362, No-715; Amendment 23: Yes-365, No-731; Amendment 24: Yes-363, No-733; Amendment 25: Yes-352, No-735; Amendment 26: Yes-330, No-733; Amendment 27: Yes-359, No-720; Amendment 28: Yes-360, No-721; Amendment 29: Yes-361, No-732; Amendment 30: Yes-354, No-732; Amendment 31: Yes-354, No-737; Amendment 32: Yes-341, No-717.

CD's/DVD's Available

CD's and DVD's will be made of key presentations. In addition to those listed on the order sheet placed at each Conference member's assigned space, a CD and DVD of Rev. Jeremiah Wright's remarks to the MFSA Awards program will be offered, at the same rate as those listed. The Wright presentation may be written in on the order sheet. Bring the completed order and check to the Treasurer's Office, in the Gold Room.

FIT Challenge Tee Shirts to be Available

Orders for FIT Challenge tee shirts may be brought to the Treasurer's Office, in the Gold Room.