

Friday



# Conference daily update

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

## **Annual Conference to Celebrate, Worship, Elect, Holy Conference and Make Decisions**

At precisely 6:30 pm Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble called to order the 166th Session of the Iowa Annual Conference. Laity and clergy members from the 820 congregations of the Conference joined in an opening Worship Celebration of Baptism and Holy Communion on Thursday, June 4. Rev. Karen Dungan, Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries, introduced the visiting choirs – from Rust College and the Hope for Africa Children's Choir. Rev. J. Robert Burkhart, Assistant to the Bishop for Administration, presented Bishop Trimble to the Conference. (The video that chronicled Bishop Trimble's election to the episcopacy and his first year in the Iowa Conference will be posted to the website on Saturday.)

In his sermon entitled, "No Longer A Stranger," Bishop Trimble called on the Conference to "live up to our advertising...live up to Radical Hospitality." He said that "we need to be authentic in our welcome, living a willingness to change and to be changed." The Bishop noted that "God said, 'I'll give you more people.' To reach them we might have to move, to learn to speak a new language, to redefine our parish boundaries, to think more globally and act more locally, to pay attention to other communities. Some might be poor, might not have all the proper documents that some thing they need to have, might have been bruised by other communities." He advised that "When the Bishop comes to your church he might be coming to see if the sign of welcome on the outside matches with what's being lived out on the inside." The Bishop concluded his sermon by noting that "we have fertile soil and an open market for planting encouragement."

### *Friday's Agenda*

Friday morning's organization includes the Treasurer's Report, Bishop Trimble's Episcopal Address, instructions for the legislative committee work, and the meeting of the legislative sections. The afternoon session includes the Laity Address, discussion and voting on the proposed 32 amendments to the United Methodist Constitution, presentation on the Disaster Recovery efforts, celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iowa-Nigeria Partnership, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Justice for Our Neighbors, a video on the Builder's Call, an introduction to the Cross Point congregation,, an interpretation of the art work, and the Memorial Service. Time will be devoted to considering legislation in the evening.

## Twitter During Annual Conference

Share your ideas and observations with others during the Annual Conference session...on Twitter. Find the Conference at **iowaconference** and include the **#iaumc09** as a hashtag at the end.

## Five Special Offerings to be received

Four special offerings will be received during the course of the Annual Conference Session. They are:

- *Iowa-Nigeria Partnership*
- *Malaria Nets for Sierra Leone*
- *Disaster Recovery*
- *FIT Challenge*
- *Pages*

## Ten Legislative Committees to Hear Reports; Discuss Proposed Actions

The approximately 1700 lay and clergy members of the Iowa Annual Conference will form ten "legislative committees" on Friday morning. Some two hours are scheduled for the groups to review reports, discuss potential Conference action, and comment on the work of the two task forces.

## Prayer Centers Will Be Available During the Annual Conference Session

The Worship Committee for the Iowa Annual Conference extends an invitation to utilize the Prayer Centers that are created on the Upper/Inner Concourse of the Hilton Coliseum as sacred space "to uphold one another in prayer as we seek God's presence among us during this 2009 Annual Conference." The Prayer Centers are intended to remind us all of God's invitation to "pray unceasingly" for and with each other. There will be 6 stations of different designs. Oil for anointing will be available at each station.

## Audio and Video Recordings Will Be Available

Interested in an audio CD or DVD recording of the worship services and presentations, including the sermons of Bishop Trimble, Rev. Dungan and Dr. Daniel, the Episcopal Address and the Laity Address? Order forms will be at each Conference members place during the Session. They will be mailed within two (2) weeks of the close of the session.

## 2009 Journal Orders

Journal orders for 2009 are due on the last day of annual conference which is June 10. You may mail your order to Jill Stanton at the Conference Center or you may leave your order with the Treasurer's office at the annual conference session. All orders must be accompanied by payment.

## Emergency Telephone Number during Conference

The emergency telephone number during the Annual Conference is: **(515) 294-8222**. (It will ring into the temporary Annual Conference office in Hilton Coliseum.)

### ***Friday's Highlights...***

8:40 am	Organization of the Conference	1:15 pm	Laity Address
8:53 am	Treasurer's Report	1:35 pm	Constitutional Amendments
9:15 am	Episcopal Address	4:30 pm	Memorial Service
10:00 am	Legislative Committees	7:15 pm	Reports & 2010 Site Vote