

The Peninsula-Delaware
Annual Conference

Communicator

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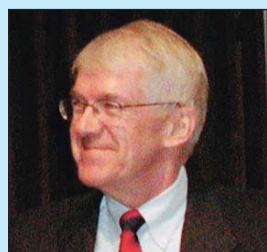
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One Great Hour of Sharing March 6, 2005

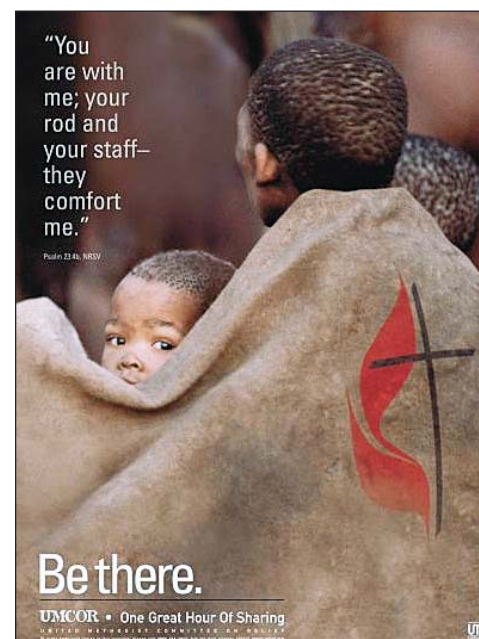
UMCOR brings relief when a catastrophe strikes. We rush to disaster areas all over the world with aid. But, along with food, clothing, shelter and medical help, we stay to assist survivors rebuild lives. That's what United Methodists do in response to God's love. From re-educating soldiers to feeding schoolchildren to establishing medical clinics in remote villages, we are hope for millions in nearly 100 of the poorest countries in the world. Once a year, during One Great Hour of Sharing, you can join United Methodists worldwide

by making a special offering to support this humanitarian aid. Please do your part by giving generously. Now, more than ever, the world needs you.

Every gift helps, but when you give all you can, your generosity is more meaningful. It is multiplied. It is a miracle. And it becomes enough. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

One Great Hour of Sharing began as a special effort of the Episcopal Church in 1946. In 1949 the observance became ecumenical, and today several denominations—

including The United Methodist Church—participate. The yearly observance is planned by denominational representatives and related to Church World Service and Witness, the relief agency of the National Council of Churches. Originally one special worship hour during the year was reserved for people of faith to contribute over and above their regular offerings. Today different denominations celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing at various times throughout the year, but the cooperative spirit remains.



Wherever there is suffering, we are your hands and heart.

UMCOR brings relief when a catastrophe strikes. We rush to disaster areas all over the world with aid. But, along with food, clothing, shelter and medical help, we stay to assist survivors rebuild lives. That's what United Methodists do in response to God's love. From re-educating soldiers to feeding schoolchildren to establishing medical clinics in remote villages, we are hope for millions in nearly 100 of the poorest countries in the world. Once a year, during One Great Hour of Sharing, you can join United Methodists worldwide by making a special offering to support this humanitarian aid. Please do your part by giving generously. Now, more than ever, the world needs you!



Donde hay sufrimiento, allí están nuestras manos y nuestro corazón.

El Comité Metodista Unido de Auxilio (UMCOR) trae alivio cuando ocurre una catástrofe. Llevamos ayuda

inmediata a las áreas de desastre en cualquier parte del mundo. Junto con alimento, ropa, reconstrucción de viviendas y ayuda médica, permanecemos con los sobrevivientes para ayudarles a reconstruir sus vidas. Eso es lo que los metodistas unidos hacemos en respuesta al amor de Dios. Desde reeducar a soldados hasta alimentar a niños y niñas en edad escolar, o establecer clínicas médicas en aldeas alejadas, somos la esperanza de millones de personas en más de cien de los países más pobres del mundo. Una vez al año, durante La Gran Oportunidad de Compartir, usted puede solidarizarse con los metodistas unidos alrededor del mundo at hacer una ofrenda especial para apoyar esta ayuda humanitaria. Por favor, done generosamente. Hoy, más que nunca, el mundo nos necesita.

**World Day of Prayer
Friday
March 4**



From Your Wesley College's Chaplain Message from Conference UMM President

The following is in large part based on an essay by Arnold Omondi, a sophomore here at Wesley. He is working on his B.S. degree in medical technology. Here is his story:

"Each of you specifically has a divine destiny," Sister Magdalene Lopez told her Sunday school class, "a divine purpose for which you were created." Arnold was part of that Sunday school class and he took the words to heart. He felt that his destiny was to become a medical doctor. In Kenya, he had neighbors such as Tom Odhiambo, who suffers with AIDS and is confined to bed. This is just part of normal life for Kenyans. He sees the very existence of his people, the Luo, at stake and his service to the Lord is medical service to his people.

Arnold comes from a family that prizes education. This value on education has brought him to the United States. Raised as a British Methodist, Arnold became an active member of Grace United

Methodist Church in Wilmington. Both Grace and Aldersgate have been very generous supporters of his education here at Wesley College. Based on his love of science, he plans to study biochemistry. However, Arnold believes that education is not only classroom and laboratory. It is "hands-on" through service opportunities. In fact, Arnold has a God-given opportunity to go to Kenya this summer to work at a research-oriented hospital in Nairobi. Such a holistic approach to his education will get him ready for medical school and to address world-wide health concerns. After Wesley, he hopes to be a part of the world renowned pre-medical programs of Emory University or Goucher College. He says that either one will enable him "to bring out the best in myself." As a superbly trained medical doctor, with foundations laid here at Wesley College, he hopes to work for organizations such as World Vision or the World Health Organization.

I can end this best by quoting Arnold: "In service to my Lord, I have little choice but to follow this divine destiny that has been laid before me. We are all children of God, created in his image..... I have no legally binding obligations with my church as to what I will do when my medical studies are completed, but I feel I have a morally binding obligation to go back home. That is where my services are really needed."

We thank God for Arnold Omondi!

Your Brother in Christ
Mark

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Hispanic Latino Training Conference Held

On November 13, 2004, representatives from all districts of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference met at Wesley Church in Dover for the first Hispanic Latino Training Conference. There were more than 25 attendees, including the District Superintendents from each district. Rev. Salazar, a consultant from the National Hispanic Plan, taught the course. The first hour was translated into Spanish. The purpose of this training seminar was to organize the various districts so that each has an effective Hispanic Latino Task Force that can begin to implement the National Hispanic Plan on a local level.

In addition to studying the various aspects of the National Hispanic Plan, the key points of our own Conference Hispanic/Latino Strategic Plan were discussed by Rev. Sandra Steiner Ball. Each District then broke off into discussion groups and preliminary goals were set for reaching out to the Hispanic community during the next four years for each district. Angel and Elizabeth Marrero led the group in Spanish/English praise songs and the meeting closed with a prayer by Rev. Jeremias Rojas.

One of the first steps in the implementation of the national Hispanic Plan for this conference is the publication of the Resolution for the Adoption of the National Hispanic Plan that was approved by the Annual Conference in June of 2004. The resolution in its entirety is printed here. If you would like to become a part of this exciting ministry, please contact the co-chairs, Rev. Christine Lee 302.945.9453 or Angel Marrero 302.836.0440, who will put you in touch with the chair of your specific District Task Force.

Resolution R-9 – To Adopt National Plan for Hispanic Ministries as Approved by the 2000 General Conference and Re-Funded by the 2004 General Conference for the 2005-2008 Quadrennium :

WHEREAS, the Peninsula-Delaware Conference recognizes that the Hispanic Population is the fastest growing racial/ethnic group in the Conference, already comprising nearly 8% of the general population, with concentrations in some towns exceeding 35%;

WHEREAS, the Spirit is leading our denomination to respond in various ways to God's call to Hispanic ministries;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, all congregations, Hispanic or not, will diligently assess their communities in order to identify needs for ministry within specific Hispanic groups.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, all districts within the Peninsula-Delaware Conference shall organize a District Committee on Hispanic Ministries, or its equivalent, comprising members of local Hispanic Ministries, a District Superinten-

dent and other members with a passion and vision to advocate for this life-changing ministry.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Peninsula-Delaware Conference recognizes the specific ministry needs of all racial/ethnic groups and to that end hereby adopts the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry as a plan for ministry within the bounds of the Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, all congregations will consider Hispanic Ministries as a vital Mission Area Ministry, and will provide seed monies to each respective District Committee on Hispanic Ministries to establish and nurture Hispanic faith communities and furthermore will advocate for overall racial justice and understanding in the communities throughout the Peninsula-Delaware Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Conference Task Force for Hispanic Ministry recommends adoption of this resolution to be effective on January 1, 2005.

The resolution was introduced by Rob Townsend, and it was affirmed.



Rev. Jeremias Rojas, Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball (Dover District Superintendent) and Rev. Dionisius Salazar

By Charles E. Brummell, Jr.

A viewpoint from the Conference President of United Methodist Men, speaking to the Body of Christ (the whole church).

If I may ask a question: Are we truly connected as one in Jesus Christ or are we like a mathematical problem (as in fractions) with many parts to address? Before we reach the solution: "Who may worship in your sanctuary Lord? Who may enter your presence on your Holy Hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right." Psalm 15:1-2

The United Methodist Men are purpose driven. Driven by the Holy Spirit with a passion to serve our Lord Christ Jesus and to be good stewards over all he has entrusted us with. Therefore, we are committed to seek his presence everyday of our life.

Reflecting on some issues that inhibit the growth of the United Men. The lack of total commitment, accountability, attitudes, communication, motivation and finances or the lack of, limits progress.

Therefore, the previously mentioned nouns are necessary tools required to maintain at least the status quo of United Methodist Men.

Attitudes can be negative or positive depending on the delivery. A break from traditional practices in the way things were accomplished yester-year, may or may not present a negative saturation to changes.

In rural areas where there is a majority of small churches and where small populations exist, creates inadequate membership and financially inhibits.

Accountability and commitment requires not only showing up for meetings, but to be an active player, be creative, offer encouragement and sharing the good news with others.

Team players and role models enhance our efforts and affords a window of opportunity for us to excel in our mission and ministry.

But there are some solutions to some of the problems confronting the Methodist Men. Everyone in the whole church can help. All Pastors and laypersons, regardless of gender, can become members.

EMS members receive the following:

- UMM Magazine – includes men's news quarterly
- Devotional Book
- Discount in tackle box catalog
- Event discounts and other related resources

Your support is distributed as follows:

- \$5.00 to conference and districts to support evangelism, mission and spiritual life ministries
- \$0.75 to the jurisdiction to support evangelism mission and

- spiritual life ministries
- \$0.75 to National Association of Conference Presidents to support evangelism mission and spiritual life
- \$1.50 to enhance and expand our scouting and civic youth ministries
- \$0.75 to support (UMM) sponsored Mission opportunities
- \$0.75 to support the Upper Room Prayer Ministry
- \$15.00 to direct expenses related to training production of resources, renewals, reports, men's news (UMM) magazine, postage, awards, etc.
- \$5.50 to General Commission on United Methodist Men Administrative Expenses for the every man shares ministry

If anyone is interested in obtaining membership information, please contact any District President of UMM for a brochure that includes an application.

Did you know that every United Methodist Church in each District shall have an organization named United Methodist Men? This is an auxiliary to the conference organization of UMM and the General Commission on UMM page 2301 in the Book of Discipline.

Please note the following dates of UMM events for 2005.

- March 3-6 – National Association of Conference Presidents' Meeting
- United Methodist Men Foundation Annual Meeting
- Confer Prayer Advocate Training and Meeting
- NAUMS Meeting
- May 22 – Men's Executive Meeting
- July 15-17 – 9th Gathering of United Methodist Men

The people answer in unison, we will do everything the Lord told us to do.

Communicator

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Individual subscriptions,
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All information in the center section of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference newspaper (i.e. the United Methodist Review) including news, opinions and editorials are the sole responsibility of the UM Review and are not necessarily the views of the annual conference.

Interfaith Resource Center

To DVD or Not to DVD

At a recent meeting of the Board of the IRC, the topic of format of future purchases was raised. The IRC has over 1500 video cassettes and 150 kits with video cassettes in its library. The reality is that the VHS format has been making a rapid disappearance in the commercial world, being replaced enthusiastically by the DVD. Many churches, however, own only a video cassette player. Our decision to purchase materials in one format or the other is not always clear. In some cases, resources are distributed with both formats included. Increasingly, programs are available in only DVD format. I urge you to take that into consideration as you consider purchasing new equipment for your church. Both DVD and VHS players can be obtained at modest cost and may be purchased as a single unit, if desired. When you borrow DVDs from the IRC, take care not to scratch or fingerprint their recorded surface. They are lighter weight and therefore cheaper to mail, but are far from indestructible. The IRC will continue to maintain and support VHS format materials for the foreseeable future, however, don't be surprised if a program that you request is only available in DVD.

New Resources:

Shouting in the Hush Arbor is an Afro-centric intergenerational



Paula Hartzell

Vacation Bible School from Cokesbury. Based on the struggles of Christian slaves who were often discouraged from gathering for worship in the pre-Civil War South, *Shouting in the Hush Arbor* offers an opportunity for congregations to raise up the rich history of the African American Christian tradition. The program includes both traditional gospel and contemporary CD's intended to connect the participants with their heritage. Consider this program for use in Sunday school, as a Black History experience, or in the more obvious VBS format. The IRC maintains a preview copy.

Wesley Ministry Network has begun to produce adult study material by respected Wesley Theologi-

cal Seminary professors on specific bible topics. **In God's Own Time** is a 10-session study offering a faithful and credible Christian perspective on the topic of the End Times. Taught by Craig C. Hill, Wesley Seminary Professor of New Testament, this series examines the history of the Biblical predictions for the end of days. In **Journey Through the Psalms**, Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Wesley Seminary Professor of Hebrew Bible, leads an 8-part study of the psalms. **Women Speak of God** is an 8-part study of faithful Christian women throughout the past 2000 years. Amy Oden, Wesley Seminary Professor of Church History, examines 6 women of faith, from Perpetua and Macrina to Georgia Harkness and Susanna Wesley. All three of these programs are supported by leader's guides and participant books and are available in both VCR and DVD formats.

Highway Visual Curriculum is a series of 3 DVD's with 5 brief video segments, often with a Post-Modern approach, addressing specific issues that youth face in their faith formation. Titles of the DVD's include *Life Rollercoaster*, *Stuck in a Rut*, and *Gimme God*. Each DVD is accompanied by an extensive leader's guide. To borrow these or any of our 6000+ resources, email us at resource.ctr@dol.net or phone toll free at 1.800.336.6152 (in New Castle County: 477.0910).

Health Ministry News

Jack took a long look at his speedometer before slowing down: 73 in a 55 zone. Fourth time in as many months. How could a guy get caught so often? When his car had slowed to 10 miles an hour, Jack pulled over, but only partially. Let the cop worry about the potential traffic hazard. Maybe some other car will tweak his backside with a mirror. The cop was stepping out of his car, the big pad in hand. Bob?

Bob from Church? Jack sunk farther into his trench coat. This was worse than the coming ticket. A cop catching a guy from his own church. A guy who happened to be a little eager to get home after a long day at the office. A guy he was about to play golf with tomorrow.

Jumping out of the car, he approached a man he saw every Sunday, a man he'd never seen in uniform. "Hi, Bob. Fancy meeting you like this." "Hello, Jack." No smile. "Guess you caught me red-handed in a rush to see my wife and kids." "Yeah, I guess." Bob seemed uncertain. "I've seen some long days at the office lately. I'm afraid I bent the rules a bit - just this once." Jack toed at a pebble on the pavement. "Diane said something about roast beef and potatoes tonight. Know what I mean?" "I know what you mean. I also know that you have a reputation in our precinct." Ouch. This was not going in the right direction. Time

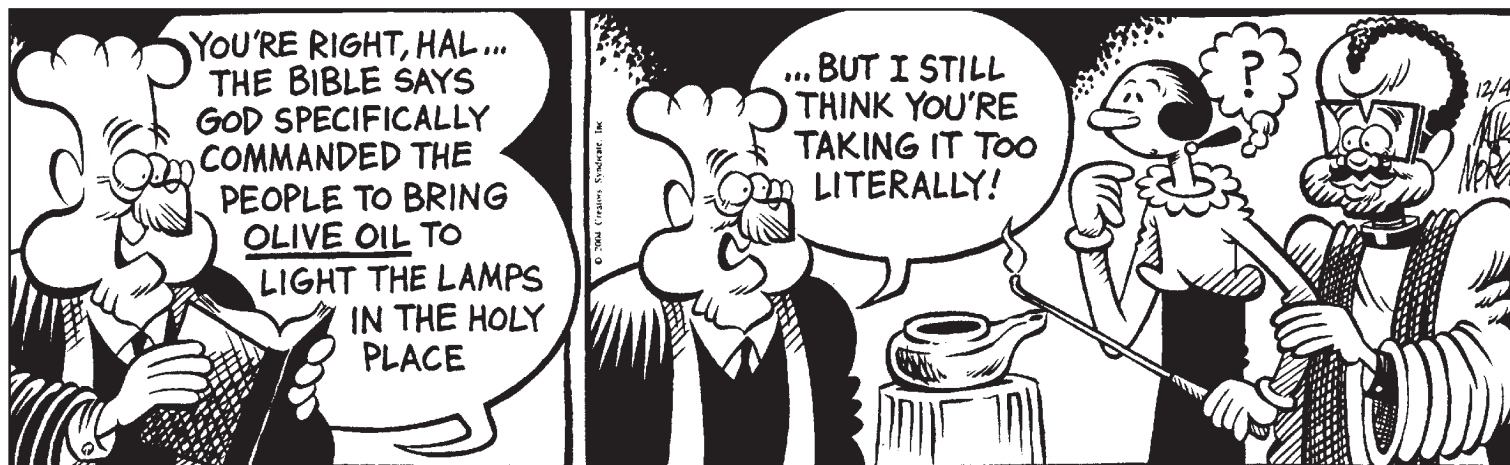
to change tactics.

"What'd you clock me at?" "Seventy. Would you sit back in your car please?" "Now wait a minute here, Bob. I checked as soon as I saw you. I was barely nudging 65." The lie seemed to come easier with every ticket. "Please, Jack, in the car." Flustered, Jack hunched himself through the still-open door. Slamming it shut, he stared at the dashboard. He was in no rush to open the window. The minutes ticked by. Bob scribbled away on the pad. Why hadn't he asked for a driver's license? Whatever the reason, it would be a month of Sundays before Jack ever sat near this cop again.

A tap on the door jerked his head to the left. There was Bob, a folded paper in hand Jack rolled down the window a mere two inches, just enough room for Bob to pass him the slip. "Thanks." Jack could not quite keep the sneer out of his voice. Bob returned to his police car without a word. Jack watched his retreat in the mirror. Jack unfolded the sheet of paper. How much was this one going to cost? Wait a minute. What was this? Some kind of joke? Certainly not a ticket. Jack began to read:

"Dear Jack, Once upon a time I had a daughter. She was six when killed by a car. You guessed it - a speeding driver. A fine and three months in jail, and the man was free. Free to hug his daughters, all three of them. I only had one, and I'm going to have to wait until Heaven before I can ever hug her again.

A thousand times I've tried to forgive that man. A thousand times I thought I had. Maybe I did, but I need to do it again. Even now. Pray for me. And be careful, Jack, my son is all I have left." "Bob" Jack turned around in time to see Bob's car pull away and head down the road. Jack watched until it disappeared. A full 15 minutes later, he too, pulled away and drove slowly home, praying for forgiveness and hugging a surprised wife and kids when he arrived.



Camping And Retreat

Ministry



Drayton Celebration of Ministry Scheduled

A celebration of the ministry of Drayton Retreat Center is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2005. The day-long event will enable those who have been impacted by the retreat ministry at Drayton to celebrate its significance through prayer, worship and fellowship.

The Celebration will include an Open House from 9am to 2pm. During this time, guests will be invited to use Drayton as a place of "Retreat." There will be occasional prayer services to enable guests to express gratitude for Drayton, as well as pray for the future of Adult Retreat Ministry in the annual conference. A light lunch will be available for those present during the noon hour. The day will culminate with

a worship service, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

The planning committee is comprised of persons who have had a significant connection to Drayton, past and present. They are: Ann Ashe (current Site Director), Kate Breeding (former Board member), Tom Carter (former Director), Pam Lardear (former Director), Carol Shaw (former Administrator) and Jonathan Whitney (current Board member). The committee asks that if you have a significant memory of Drayton or pictures to share that you contact Ann Ashe at 410.556.6900, x100 or annashe@draytonretreat.org. The committee would also like to know how many will be attending and who will be eating lunch (donation requested), so those planning to attend should contact Ann Ashe, as well.

AUCTION

DRAYTON RETREAT CENTER CONTENTS
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005

10 A.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
MARSHALL AUCTIONS
AT 410.749.8092

OR GO TO

WWW.MARSHALLAUCTIONS.COM

Life and hope in the congo

One missionary's perspective . . . Karen Morgan

Five thousand feet below us the rain forest seemed to creep slowly by beneath the G.B.G.M.-piloted six-seater. Jacques and Djamba, our most capable and caring pilots, assured us "we would not want to have to land down there." The forest looked like a never-ending field of broccoli crowns, as far as the eye could see in every direction. Occasionally, there were breaks in the canopy, and we could see tiny huts clustered together, forming small villages. Wisps of smoke rising from the earth beneath the canopy, and the crooked foot paths running askew where the ground could be seen hinted at human life.

But, why were we headed into the rain forest when so much had to be done in Kinshasa, where our partnership projects are located?

As we visited the villages of Wembo Nyama, Minga, and Tunda, our eyes were opened to the enormity and expansiveness of the problem of displaced people in the Congo. For it is here, in the villages of the rain forest, where the war has ravaged the people – driven them from their homes and families, to seek the relative safety of the capital city, Kinshasa. – so many in that city now, with so little.

Our points of reference tell us "so little." But indeed, the people of the Congo, in spite of the devastation, have so much determination and faith and hope and fortitude, it seems it is we who have so little.

Their hope is magnified immeasurably by the presence of the people of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference – people who have come "out of nowhere," with

hearts to help and learn, regardless of the strife the country faces – people who represent thousands who support and pray for the Congolese.

A Congolese interpreter said: "we know that God is with us because we see God in your love and care for us – you do not even know us and our country, but you still care."

A Congolese child said: "you make us happy when we see you. And you help us to have some food. You are like mother and father to us."

Dr. Yohadi, at the MPASA Nutrition Center, said: "Before you came to help, I was like a soldier being sent into battle without any weapons. Now, with medicine, I can fight."

As for me, the Congolese have given me so much: a humble spiritual perspective on what it is to love one another, and how truly easy it is when our hearts and minds are focused on others; the gift of soul-shaking peace; the gift of love and assurance of the almighty so deep within oneself it moves one to tears; and the clarity of the spiritual connectedness we all share.

We have made a difference in Kinshasa, Congo:

- There is medicine where once there was none
- Children have a home where once they were orphaned
- People learn trades where once they could not
- People have food who once did not
- For many, hope replaces desperation

And Kinshasa, Congo, has made a difference in us.

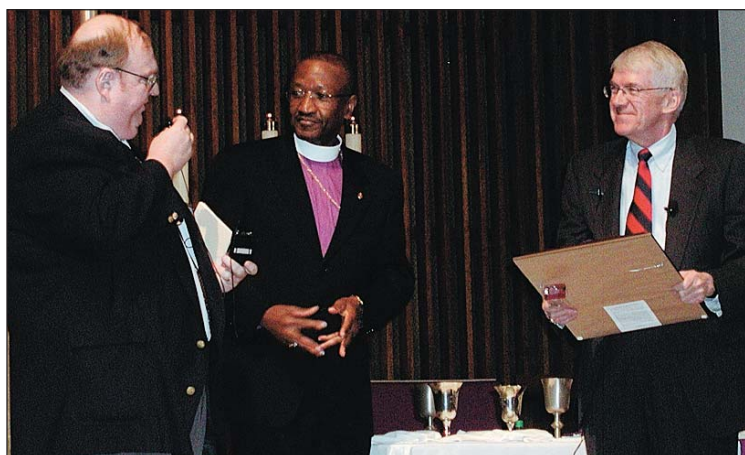


Conference Calendar of Events

March 2005

- | | | | |
|-----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Equitable Compensation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 p.m. | | Resource Center, 10:00 a.m. |
| | Conference Personnel Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m. | 10 | Conference Board of Lay Ministries Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:15 p.m. |
| | Insurance Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m. | | Commission on Archives & History Meeting, Frederica: Barratt's Chapel, 10:00 a.m. |
| 3 | Resource Development & Management Team Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 9:30 a.m. | 14 | Annual Conference Sessions Meeting, Wesley College: Simpson Room, 6:30 p.m. |
| | Leadership Development Resource Team Meeting, Wesley College: Carroll Room, 7:00 p.m. | | Congregational Development Corporation Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m. |
| 6 | Confirmation Rally (South) Salisbury Christian School, 4:00-6:00 p.m. | 15 | Vision Team, Wesley College: Simpson Room, 7:00 p.m. |
| 7 | Credit Union Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m. | 17 | Nominating Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. |
| | Wilmington District Laity/Clergy Banquet, New Castle, Asbury UMC, 6:30 p.m. | 17 | Health & Welfare Task Force Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 11:00 a.m. |
| 7-9 | Nurturing Wholeness in Community Retreat, Ocean City, MD.: Grand Hotel | 22 | Enabling Ministries Resource Team, Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. |
| 8 | Communications Commission Meeting, BFEM | 25 | Insurance Committee Meeting, BFEM Resource Center, 3:00 p.m. |
| | | | Good Friday, BFEM Resource Center CLOSED |

Service Award Presented



Kevin Readman, Bishop Marcus Matthews, Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.
(Photo by Suszy Keenan, EPA Conference Communicator)

An award of service to United Methodist Archives and History was presented to Charles Yrigoyen, Jr. at the Bishop's Lenten Day Apart. He was presented with the following gifts: a framed photo of a stained glass window of a church in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference commemorating a railroad, a medal commemorating the bicentennial of American Methodism, and a life-time subscription to the historical journal of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

The Connectional Giving Team at United Methodist Communications developed a new resource for local church pastors called 'Mission Moments and More.' This electronic resource provides a mission moment for worship, nuggets for the church newsletter and an offertory prayer for each Sunday of the year focused on our United Methodist connectional giving. These weekly resources will focus on the apportioned funds, the six churchwide special Sundays with offerings and the Advance for Christ and His Church. Mission Moments and More: <http://umciving.org/content/mission.htm>. Work and inspiration for the resource came from Tracy Woodm Barbara Dunlapp-Berg and Ken McNish from UMC and the Rev. Wayne G. Reece, a retired pastor of the West Michigan Conference, who did much of the research.

