

RETIRES

The following clergy who are entering into retired relationship with the Arkansas Conference will be recognized during this morning's session:

- Ben H. Anderson
- Kenneth Anderson
- William C. Bradford
- Joe Michael "Mike" Campbell
- Gerald "Jerry" Collins
- Robert O. "Bob" Crossman
- Cornelia DeLee
- Jerry Eubanks
- Louise O. Finney
- Norma Gillerson
- Joe E. Glover
- R. Leon Gray
- William Grothe
- Donald Hall
- David Hanshaw
- Roger B. Hook
- Larry Hunt
- George Mitchell
- Edna Morgan
- Larry L. Morris
- Jack Lester "Les" Oliver
- Deborah Perry
- James T. "Jim" Rowland
- Molly Davis Scott
- Elizabeth Ann Stegall
- Rebecca S. Wiseman
- Edward E. "Ed" Wyers

Retirees will share some of their reflections on ministry in video segments that are scheduled to be shown at several points throughout the business sessions of the Conference.

Clergy session approves candidates

The Clergy Session has approved six new clergypersons for full connection and ordination in the Annual Conference.

Donna Hendricks, Martha Taylor, and Garry Teeter were welcomed as new deacons, while Michael Blanchard, David Ruehr, and Katie Pearce entered as new elders.

For the ordinands, the Clergy Session vote marks the end of a long journey toward full connection. The Rev. Blanchard sees it as both a humbling and an empowering change.

"I'm humbled by the affirmation of my call by the churches I have served and by the Annual Conference," he said. "I'm ready to be sent out to the local churches wherever God

might lead us."

For deacon Rev. Gary Teeter, ordination reminds him that everyone is called by God.

"For the past 30-plus years I

have been engaged in ministry, and for the past 20 years in pastoral counseling," he said.

"For me to be ordained as a [See CLERGY, page 2]

Fonda Kirkman, Central District administrator, received the Barnabas Award at the clergy session. Established in honor of the late Rev. Jim Beal, the Barnabas Award is presented to a person, lay or clergy, known to have "a heart for pastors," showing special interest in aiding clergy in the work of ministry. Kirkman is the first woman and the first layperson to receive the award.



PHOTO BY ERIC VAN METER

Laity session takes on Step 7 of mission plan

This year's laity session had a new element: discussions centered on unleashing lay leadership for ministry—otherwise known as Step 7 of the Bishop's Mission Plan.

After lay leader Karon Mann and Jimmie Boyd shared information on the business of the Conference and Lay Servant Ministries, John Crawford of the

Center for Clergy and Laity Excellence in Leadership asked attendees to form small groups to discuss elements of fruitful lay ministry. Laity then shared what they think it means to demonstrate passion and boldness, share faith, use spiritual gifts, be good stewards and engage in service.

"I like the fact that they had the intent of getting everyone involved," said Ron Hayes of First UMC Rogers, who added that he believes these conversations could inspire similar discussions in local churches. "For those of us here, we own making sure that that does happen. We have a great opportunity."



Clergy (continued from page 1)

deacon is an affirmation of God's calling placed within my heart so long ago."

In addition to the soon-to-be ordained, eight were approved by the Clergy Session to be commissioned as provisional members of the Annual Conference. Among those, Todd Vick, Kathleen McMurray, Bill Sardin, Clark Atkins, Bill Cato, Blake Langston, and Dane Womack are following the elder track. Michelle Whitfield will be commissioned as a provisional deacon.

"It's a little like getting married," the Rev. Sardin said. "There is an eagerness and nervousness about how this next

stage will change my life forever. I believe this journey is only going to get better, and I can't wait to see what the future holds."

The Rev. Clark Atkins echoed that excitement, but also noted the anxiety that comes with beginning his new career.

"I would not be honest if I said there wasn't some anxiety," he said. "But all along the way I have felt Christ's presence and urging to keep moving forward."

These clergy who are entering into a new relationship with the annual conference will be ordained or commissioned at the closing worship session, slated for 1 p.m. June 22 at the Hammons Convention Center.

From the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

For more than 40 years, COSROW has been concerned with advocating for women in leadership in the United Methodist Church. Being aware of diversity and desiring more equitable opportunities for all is not just a matter of "political correctness." Rather, it is a reflection of the deep desire for a just and inclusive community, reflecting the makeup of our society and affirming the "breadth, depth and richness of the whole Kingdom of God."

As we gather this week to worship, conduct business and grow in discipleship, COSROW members will monitor with regard to balance and inclusivity. Attention will be given to leadership and to participation, to language and to imagery as we strive for fairness and respect for the whole body of Christ.

Arkansas Conference COSROW
Helen Stegall (chairperson), Shelli Conrad, Michael Mattox,
Natasha Murray-Norman, Beth Perdue, Belinda Price

New Day, New Church: CCORR internal monitoring report

To get a head start on our new ministry model (outlined on p. 72 of the Pre-Conference Journal) the Commission on Religion and Race membership was assigned to two each (boards, agencies, committees, commissions) and other related groups to conduct an Internal Monitoring Report. This year, the following groups were selected: Status and Role of Women, Review and Research, Board of Ordained Ministry, Committee on Nominations, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Equitable Compensation, Committee on Finance and Administration, United Methodist Women, Board of Laity and Board of Global Ministry. The Commission received eight of the 10 reports returned, with no report from the Board of Laity or Board of Global Ministries.

Here are results compiled from the eight reports returned:

Total Membership: 155. Total Lay membership: 88. Total Clergy membership: 67. Total female membership: 77. Total male membership: 78. Total White membership: 138. Total African-American membership: 16. Total Hispanic membership: 1. Percentage of ethnic membership of the eight is about 10 percent. For 2014-15, eight new groups will be selected to be monitored for inclusiveness.

J. Harris Moore, Chairperson,
Conference Commission on Religion and Race

iPhone, iPad, Android users:

Do you have the new ARUMC app?



Scan for
iPhone app



Scan for
Android app



Scan for
iPad app

Contest: Win a CEB Wesley Study Bible!

Drop your answers in the box on the staff table beside the stage by 5:15 p.m. Friday, June 20. The winner will be randomly selected from all entries with three correct answers.

1. Who was the first Methodist preacher to hold regular services on an official circuit in Arkansas? _____

2. What church, first constructed in 1853, was home to the first Black Methodist congregation in Arkansas? _____

3. Who was the first female District Superintendent in the old North Arkansas Conference? _____

Name: _____

Church/City: _____

Mobile phone: _____

Prefer a text or call if you win? _____

Thanks to Julie Hill of Cokesbury, who arranged for our prize.

Find the *Daily Digest* online

PDF versions of each day's *Daily Digest* will be posted at arumc.org/ac2014, making it easier to share with your friends who aren't attending Annual Conference.



The *Daily Digest* is a publication of the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church. It is issued each morning during the Annual Conference session. It is distributed in print at Annual Conference, and also posted as a PDF at www.arumc.org.

Amy Forbus and Eric Van Meter, co-editors
forbus@arumc.org | eric.vanmeter@arumc.org
Arkansas Conference
800 Daisy Bates Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202-3770
www.arumc.org | 501.324.8000