

Among many other agenda items during the four-day event, the Annual Conference:

- Celebrated the ministry of the laity at the annual Laity Banquet, featuring the 2nd Annual “Mary Ellen Bullard Leadership Address” with Dr. David Stevens as the guest speaker;
- Received an offering of over \$49,000 for the Central Conference Pension Initiative and heard an update from Mr. Dan O’Neil, CCPI Managing Director;
- Participated in the UMCOR relief kit drive yielding 2,375 kits headed for Haiti. Churches also provided funds to cover shipping costs and numerous bulk supplies. Special thanks to Coleman American Moving Services for their generosity in providing the truck and sign, as well as for transporting the kits and supplies to the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana;
- Celebrated the two winners of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award: Mrs. Frances Snell of Asbury UMC in Ozark, Ala. (laity); and Dr. Jerry Dooling of Sylvan Grove UMC in Midland City, Ala. (clergy);
- Recognized Christina Hale as the 2010 AWF UM Foundation Scholar;
- Established an \$11.4 million budget for mission and ministry for 2011, down 35.6 percent from 2010. The decrease is due in large part to the conference’s 2009 adoption of directly billing for clergy and lay employees health insurance and pension, as well as a slightly more than 9 percent cut from conference Connectional Ministries;
- Celebrated Rev. John Weaver, Bradford’s Chapel UMC, Tuskegee, Ala. receiving the Francis Asbury Award for his work in the area of campus ministry;
- Recognized Ms. Esther Felt of St. Luke UMC in Pensacola, Fla. for earning her certificate as a Christian Educator;
- Honored Mrs. Ruth Gynther as the 2010 “Alice Lee Award” recipient;
- Celebrated Mae Edwards UMC (Milton, Fla.) as the winner of the Local Church Heritage Award;
- Enjoyed Sunday afternoon gospel music courtesy of churches within the Demopolis District
- Recognized Andalusia FUMC (Andalusia, Ala.) as the recipient of the Bishops Award of Excellence in Scouting;
- Greeted clergy serving in extension ministries;
- Served as a host for the Upper Room Living Prayer Line;
- Recognized newly licensed local pastors;
- Introduced a new WalkingWorks program for AWF Conference health insurance participants aimed at fostering healthier lifestyles;
- Greeted David Malloy, Annual Conference Liaison for The Advance. In 2009, the AWF Conference contributed over \$262,000 to The Advance and as of today has contributed over \$496,000 to the Haiti Relief fund;
- Fixed pastoral appointments, which may be found at www.awfumc.org/2010apt
- Celebrated over 148,000 members of the Alabama-West Florida Conference; and
- Announced the 2011 session of the AWF Conference will meet June 5-8 at Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery, Ala.

Membership stands at 148,803 down 1071 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 69,324, up 179. Church school attendance stands at 31,123, up 294.

Alabama-West Florida 2010 Annual Conference



Partnership in the Gospel Nurturing Disciples



The
Alabama-West Florida
Conference
United Methodist Church

2010 Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference

The 2010 session of the Alabama–West Florida (AWF) Annual Conference was held June 6-9 at Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Ala. Bishop Paul L. Leeland presided over his second annual conference with the theme of “Partnership in the Gospel: Nurturing Disciples.” Throughout the conference, ways in which clergy and laity are nurturing disciples were highlighted.

Special Mission Offering Recipient: CCPI

Prior to this year’s conference, Bishop Leeland urged the churches of the AWF conference to receive a special offering for the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI). Mr. Dan O’Neil, CCPI Managing Director, was present at Annual Conference to share an update of the ministry. The people of the AWF Conference responded by contributing over \$49,000.

Opening Worship

The 2010 Annual Conference session was opened on Sunday evening, June 6, with a mass choir made up of close to 200 voices from throughout the conference. Bishop William Morris, who previously served as resident bishop of the AWF Conference, delivered the sermon: “This Is The Day.”

Service of Ordination & Commissioning

For the first time in the history of the AWF Conference, more women than men were ordained at the 2010 service of Ordination & Commissioning. Four deacons and 13 elders were ordained as members in full connection; and one provisional deacon, and two provisional elders were commissioned during the service on June 7 at First United Methodist Church of Montgomery, Ala. Bishop William Morris preached an inspiring sermon: “Who’s Calling.” An offering for the Ministerial Education Fund was taken, totaling over \$2,600.

Service Remembers the lives of Clergy & Clergy Spouses

Twenty-four clergy and clergy spouses who died in the past year were remembered during a Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion on Monday, June 7. Dr. John Ed Mathison delivered the sermon: “Stirring Up Your Memory.”

Retiring Clergy Honored for Years of Service

Seventeen clergy retiring this conference year were honored on Monday, June 7. Together, they represent 370 years of combined service to the United Methodist Church.

Special Guests

Dr. David Stevens, author of *Jesus, M.D.*, delivered the 2nd Annual “Mary Ellen Bullard Leadership Address” during Tuesday’s Laity Banquet. He shared his thoughts on nurturing disciples from the perspective of a Christian physician, while learning from the Great Physician.

Dr. Mickey Eford, Professor Emeritus of Biblical Interpretation, Duke Divinity School, led the conference in two morning Bible studies: “Is Morality Still Relevant” and “What Kind of Leaders Does the Church Need?”

Rev. Grace Imathiu, pastor of Brown Deer UMC, Brown Deer, Wis., provided two teaching sessions on Tuesday, June 8, discussing how to be “Bethany” churches.

Other Matters

Resolutions: The Annual Conference adopted four resolutions during the 2010 session. Two resolutions dealt with gambling in the state of Alabama. One resolution advocated for the continuation of the National Day of Prayer, and one resolution dealt with tax reform in Alabama. The complete text of all adopted resolutions may be found at www.awfumc.org/ac2010

Oil Spill Weighs Heavily on Conference: Throughout the conference, Bishop Leeland encouraged moments of prayer concerning the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. “As the days have unfolded, each of us has watched the news that has continued to increase our anxiety and uncertainty about the impact of this disaster on our environment and our people. This is the time for us to be the Church and not give into despair.”

He encouraged those in attendance to find ways to link resources and help those in the affected areas with financial and emotional struggles. He expressed appreciation for all those that are leading the conference in response efforts and for the particular sacrifices of the coastal churches who are already directly affected by the oil spill. Rev. Neil McDavid, Director of Connectional Ministries, has invited churches in the AWF Conference to contact him if they would like to partner with a church in the area directly affected by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. These partner churches will provide prayer support for those dealing with circumstances surrounding environmental and economic stress as a result of the spill.

Full coverage of the 2010 Annual Conference at
www.awfumc.org/AC2010
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