

## **WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010**

In June, the United Methodist Annual Conference was held in the La Crosse Center. It opened with the band “Accoustic Grace” from Chippewa.

One speaker advised saying “Yes to God” and using responsible freedom. We should see our clergy as partners, not “parents.” We must work to build and support healthy relationships.

Sunday evening the Ordination of Elders was held. There were six elders ordained including William Bush from Richland Center. The visiting Bishop of the Korea delegation gave the sermon.

On Monday, we started discussing action items that we would vote on. We covered 26 action items—passing all but one. One church closed this year.

The new Associate Lay Leader, Deanna Shinko, was introduced.

Throughout the conference, different missions were recognized including ones in Wisconsin, the U.S., and internationally. The Hmong mission in Milwaukee is actively running a community center with many different activities.

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, Wisconsin has given over \$357,980 to the Haitian Earthquake Relief Fund. One church runs a homeless shelter, others are involved with helping Habitat of Humanity or working neighborhood gardens.

The 2008 Flood Recovery Program is still processing, approving, and delivering relief for damages incurred

There were several controversial items for discussion on the agenda and in small groups. Throughout the convention, we had conversations on how we deal or should deal with homosexuality within the church.

Throughout scripture (Leviticus 19:33 & Matthew 25:38–40), we see evidence of God’s call to welcome the sojourner and that God cares for them. The Council of Bishops in the United Methodist Church called upon President Obama and Congress for just and humane immigration reform to end human suffering of immigrants.

The Council of Bishops ask that this reform include:

- providing a pathway to citizenship,
- reunifying immigrant families separated by raids,
- increasing the number of visas for short-term workers,
- extending legal protection to all workers to preserve their human rights as workers
- eliminating privately operated unregulated detention centers
- and ending all indiscriminate raids.

The Health & Welfare Ministries served over 50,000 people in Milwaukee alone last year.

Liberty Pole UMC received a Certificate of Recognition for paying 100% of our apportionment.

During the convention, pastors were given recognition for long years of service. Our district supervisor, Sam Royspps, was recognized for 25 years of service. Twenty-two retirees were recognized. Ten people were licensed as new local pastors, two elders transferred in from other states, three were commissioned as deacons, and ten were commissioned as a provisional elders.

During the convention, we ran into Barry Yarbrow and Bob & Donna Kenas. Their families are doing well.

The Ingathering Collection filled most of a truck. The totals are posted on the bulletin board in the back of our church.

I wish to thank you for allowing me to represent you at annual conference.

Sandy Marohl  
Liberty Pole UMC  
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