

THE SADDLEBAG

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009



Reverend Adam Hamilton Leads Learning Sessions

Friday was the occasions of three special teaching and learning sessions led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding and lead pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection by Kansas City. Their church grew from 4 people in 1990 to over 12,000 members with an average worship attendance of over 7,500 in 2008. Church of the Resurrection's mission is to "reach non-religious and nominally religious people and helping them become committed followers of Jesus Christ."

In the first session, "What Leaders Do and Why," Reverend Hamilton talked about how leaders set the tone of the church in how they conduct themselves. They are responsible for discerning, clarifying, championing, and casting God's vision of the congregation.

If the church doesn't change, innovate, or improve, Rev. Hamilton says, it will die. He used vinyl records, 8-track tapes, cassettes, CD's and an iPod to illustrate how listening to music has changed. Similarly, churches need to retool to keep reaching new generations who use iPods, not vinyl records.

After some humorous reflections by Kelly Sisney, professional Christian comedienne from the Church of the Resurrection, Rev. Hamilton gave his second session: "Effective



ADAM HAMILTON GREETES AUDIENCE

Worship and Preaching." He said that the church should give the pastor at least five hours every week to planning worship and ten additional hours every week to prepare sermons. The pastor and worship leaders should engage the congregation with passion, regardless of the worship style.

When talking about preaching, Rev. Hamilton said that the aim of preaching the Word of God is to "do everything a sermon can do to accomplish the mission of the church." This means sermons should be interesting, inspirational, and should lead to a call to action. A sermon that would reach non-churched and nominally churched people begins with the preacher exploring the human condition and then asking what the Bible says about it.

Last evening, Rev. Hamilton delivered his talk on "Evangelism and the Case for Methodism." He gave tips for preparing the church for visitors and ways to bring visitors into membership and discipleship. Additionally, he explored why he believes that United Methodism offers the world the best hope for a relationship with Christ.

DVD's of Rev. Hamilton's presentation can be ordered by calling Linda Smith at the Conference office: 1-800-849-4433, ext. 238.

TODAY'S AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ 7:30AM - Communion, Hilton Ballroom B
- ◆ 10:00AM - Closing Worship and Fixing of Appointments, Greenville Convention Center



FOLLOWING CONFERENCE:

- ◆ Find a Wrap-Up edition of The Saddlebag newsletter, covering Saturday's proceedings, only available online tomorrow.
- ◆ Videos, blog, Saddlebag newsletters and more available at www.nccumc.org. Click on the Annual Conference banner at the top of the page.
- ◆ Order DVD's of the Worship Services (including Ordination) or Adam Hamilton's Sessions for a small fee. Go behind the stage in the Communications room and pick up an order form.

Conference Discusses and Votes on Constitutional Amendments

The Annual Conference discussed and voted on thirty-two amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church yesterday morning. After all the Annual Conferences have voted, the Council of Bishops will look at the total aggregate vote throughout the Conferences and certify the totals. The following table represents the votes counted by electronically-scanned ballot cards. For each amendment, the greater number of votes is highlighted.

Amendment 1	Yes: 237 No: 815	Amendment 17	Yes: 396 No: 640
Amendment 2	Yes: 297 No: 742	Amendment 18	Yes: 217 No: 816
Amendment 3	Yes: 218 No: 830	Amendment 19	Yes: 634 No: 384
Amendment 4	Yes: 154 No: 896	Amendment 20	Yes: 219 No: 815
Amendment 5	Yes: 218 No: 832	Amendment 21	Yes: 218 No: 814
Amendment 6	Yes: 279 No: 758	Amendment 22	Yes: 700 No: 338
Amendment 7	Yes: 224 No: 823	Amendment 23	Yes: 161 No: 886
Amendment 8	Yes: 638 No: 400	Amendment 24	Yes: 213 No: 821
Amendment 9	Yes: 644 No: 399	Amendment 25	Yes: 219 No: 818
Amendment 10	Yes: 157 No: 892	Amendment 26	Yes: 156 No: 889
Amendment 11	Yes: 217 No: 829	Amendment 27	Yes: 214 No: 823
Amendment 12	Yes: 218 No: 829	Amendment 28	Yes: 215 No: 820
Amendment 13	Yes: 215 No: 835	Amendment 29	Yes: 221 No: 812
Amendment 14	Yes: 222 No: 830	Amendment 30	Yes: 220 No: 830
Amendment 15	Yes: 255 No: 784	Amendment 31	Yes: 221 No: 829
Amendment 16	Yes: 224 No: 825	Amendment 32	Yes: 220 No: 827

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Clergy Counseling/Consultation Cut

An amendment to the 2010 budget was presented by the Commission on Clergy Counseling and Consultation that generated heartfelt discussion on the floor of Conference yesterday morning. The amendment would have restored \$63,300 to budget line item 45 to which the 2008 Annual Conference had allotted \$158,720. After reviewing a standing vote, the bishop ruled that the amendment was defeated.

Trustees Present New Building Interior



Christine Dodson, Conference Treasurer, took the Conference on a virtual tour of the new United Methodist Building interior yesterday morning. By a motion from the floor and the acclamation of applause, the Conference commended the Trustees and approved their report.

Taizé Service Makes Space for Spirit

After a long day of conferencing, worshippers came to the Taizé service in Ballroom B of the Greenville Hilton to reflect on the day and be renewed. Elise Eslinger, special worship and music leader for Annual Conference, led them in short musical refrains and contemplative prayers. The Taizé style of worship is practiced by a monastic community in Taizé, France.

Special Awards Presented Friday

The following special awards were given yesterday and during Annual Conference:

Missions/Key Taylor Award: Wesley UMC of Rigelwood, Wilmington District. Reverend Bill Altman and Lay Leader Carroll Pearsall.

Laity and Clergy Evangelism Award: Reverend Eddie Hill of Sharon UMC, Wilmington District. Helen Little, Greenville, District.

Church and Society Kay and Jack Crum Award: The Sanford Circuit, Reverend James Malloy.

Saints of God Award for Stewardship and Service: Children of Macedonia UMC, Sanford District. Reverend Ron Scott.

Clergywomen's "Red Shoe" Award: Reverends Bill Simpson and Glenda Johnson.



CLERGY AND LAY TELLERS SCAN IN BALLOTS FRIDAY

Resolutions Moved to Today's Agenda

The Annual Conference was to consider four resolutions yesterday but that has been postponed to today's agenda. They will be the Substitute Resolution in Favor of Tobacco-Free Environments, the resolution on "Health and Wellbeing," the resolution regarding the criminal justice system, and finally the body will consider whether to ask every church to have a wheelchair available.

Pictures of All Clergy Required

Clergy are reminded to get their picture made today if they have not already. Olan Mills photographers are set up in the Greenville Hilton in the Boardroom from 8:30AM to 12:00PM. If you cannot get your picture made today, call Laura Bailey at the Conference office: 1-800-849-4433, ext. 264 to reach an Olan Mills representative in your area. Mention that we are contract number: 41924.

Special Offering for Laity Ministries

During the third presentation on Friday, a special offering was taken for Laity Ministries across our Conference. In all, \$6,106 was brought forth in gifts.

Friday Accountability Report

The Monitoring and Accountability Report for June 12th has both a celebration and a call to action. Reverend Ed Priestaf and Carolyn Hankins note that while there was a time that women were not allowed in ordained ministry, now about 25% of the clergy that have spoken at Annual Conference are women. The Committee celebrates that more of the laity that have been before the conference have been women. Yet we still have a long way to go since 51% of the population of North Carolina are women.

The authors of the Report remind us that "our diversity with regard to racial and ethnic persons...is very disappointing." One of our seven pathways is to end racism as we authentically expand racial and ethnic ministries. "If we as a church," they continue, "were to 'look like the neighborhood' in terms of our ethnic diversity, we would be reaching out to the community in such a way as to attract racial/ethnic persons to this wonderful United Methodist Church—not simply as subjects of mission but as brothers and sisters in Christ..."

The Committee on Monitoring and Accountability hopes that in bringing data to us we will find that "these facts will become our friends," to borrow a phrase from Rev. Adam Hamilton.

Lay Ministries of the Year From Across the North Carolina Conference

Burlington	Hillsborough UMC, Prayers and Squares
Durham	McMannen UMC, Reconciliation and Justice
Elizabeth City	Elizabeth City Churches, Mobile Food Pantry
Fayetteville	Solid Rock UMC, Solid Foundations, Inc.

Goldsboro	Garris Chapel UMC, Dana's Wardrobe
Greenville	Salem UMC, Children's Ministries
New Bern	Bethlehem UMC, Helping Hands
Raleigh	Fuquay-Varina UMC, Covenant Community Garden

Rocky Mount	Jackson UMC, Community Outreach
Rockingham	Hickory Grove UMC, Outreach Ministries
Sanford	Page Memorial UMC, White Christmas
Wilmington	Pine Valley UMC, Celebrate Recovery