



# IOWA CONFERENCE

## Edition of

# THE UNITED METHODIST REPORTER



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'Green'**

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April 4, 2008  
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## General Conference Delegates Share Hopes, Dreams and Perspectives

*(Recently we asked members of the General Conference delegation to share their hopes and dreams for the worldwide gathering, what they project the major issues to be and how they imagine the future of The United Methodist Church will be shaped by the assembly.)*

*Philip Carver, Head of the Delegation  
(First-elected Laity)*

It is my hope that there will emerge a strengthened sense of purpose to make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world. Key issues include how we will intentionally reach out to new people in new places, especially younger adults and how we will function as a global organization. As an outcome of the General Conference I hope we will reaffirm our unity in our common mission and strengthen our ability to be a transforming presence in our communities as instruments of God's peace.



**Phil Carver**

*Barrie Tritle, (First-elected Clergy)*

It is a real honor to be elected to attend

General Conference. I think about all of the legislation that has come to me to review and I hope and dream of a church where we are united in our ministry for Jesus Christ. The Connectional Table and the Council of Bishops have set forth four major focus areas that we can unite us in ministry around responding to Wesley's principles of doing no harm, do good, and stay in Love with God. These focus areas are 1) Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and world including new young clergy and training our laity for ministry. 2) Crating new places for new people by starring new congregations and renewing existing ones. 3) Engaging in ministry with the poor as and expression of our discipleship. 4) Stamping our killer diseases by improving health globally with emphasis on HIV/AIDS and malaria.

In addition to this attempt to align our time, energy and resources on these four focus areas many other issues will be faced by General Conference. These include issues like



**Rev. Barry  
Tritle**

defining the Global Nature of the Church and how should we structure the church for this reality, How shall we order ministry to simplify it and make it more open to younger clergy, and help persons exit ministry with grace, a new social creed from the General Board of Church and Society on the 100th anniversary of our current Creed, how do we respond to the State of the Church study done by the Connectional Table, Do we reduce the number of Bishops in the United States as we continue to lose members, and shall we move forward with a new Hymnal, and should we have a Faith and Order commission to address a number of theological issues that continue to divide us as a church.

*Diane Wasson Eberhart (Clergy)*

I pray that this General Conference brings us together in unity in Christ around important ministry issues. The four areas of emphasis— leadership development, congregational growth, global



**Deacon  
Diane Was-  
son Eberhart**

health, and poverty are areas that can unify us to make a difference in our communities and the world. I think that the Study of Ministry continues to evoke much discussion. The proposal to reorganize General Conference, making the 5 U.S. jurisdictions into a regional body, similar to the church's central conferences that exist outside of the United States is also an interesting one. I bring the perspective of serving as an Ordained Deacon to this delegation, as well as bringing knowledge I have gained serving the last eight years on the General Board of Higher Education. I bring experience, this being my fourth General Conference. I also bring an open heart and willingness to dialogue with others. I pray this will be a General Conference where we pull together in order to share the good news of Jesus those in need, make plans to alleviate hunger and poverty, and to create a system to develop leaders to make disciples for the transformation of the world!

**General Conference Delegates  
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## Ministries and Programs at Trinity to Be Highlighted At General Conference

The ministries of Trinity United Methodist Church (Des Moines), Las Americas Comunidad de Fe and the programs of Children and Family Urban Ministries will be featured at the 2008 General Conference. The segment, one of many video pieces scattered throughout the 10 day gathering, from April 23–May 2, includes interviews with Rev. Diane McClanahan (Trinity), Rev. Barb Dinnen (Las Americas) and staff and others who relate to the congregations and CFUM programs.

The Trinity and Las Americas congregations work in partnership with each other. Nearly a year ago there was a shift from two separate worship services in the respective languages, to one bi-lingual service each Sunday morning. The bi-lingual services enable participation by all, as portions of sermons, hymns and prayers are projected in Spanish when English is being spoken, and vice versa. On the Sunday that one of the

worship services was taped Las Guitaras de Mexico provided the music. The sermon was delivered in English and translated into Spanish. Holy Communion was offered, as it is each week. The gathered community formed a circle around the sanctuary, at the conclusion of the worship time, offering community notices and sharing prayers in both languages. Attendance at worship is about 70, split fairly evenly between the two congregations. Sunday School for children and youth is done together, and adults break apart in their own language groups for Adult Christian Education.

The two congregations work together to offer ESL classes and citizenship classes. A weekday children's Christian Education program is offered during the ESL classes. Both congregations have learned that together they are more than the sum of the two parts. "Neither seeks to assimilate the other, but to celebrate our diversity and the unity that comes as a result of worshipping and serving



**Reed Galin visits with staff of the after-school program**

with one another."

United Methodist Communications sent one of its field producer/reporters, Reed Galin, to experience a typical Tuesday at the corner of College and 8th Street. He met children who come from the Moulton School, across the street from Trinity, for safe haven and homework programs, spoke with some of the nearly 120 people who came for "super club,"

and visited with participants in the English as a Second Language program and citizenship classes that are held in the evening.

The ministries and programs at Trinity create unique mission opportunities. In addition to the churches that provide the evening meals on a rotating basis, six nights per week, Confirmation and other groups regularly visit. Mission week experiences fan out into the community to care for the neighborhood, which is 25% Anglo, 25% Hispanic; 25% African-American and 25% Asian. A special relationship has been developed, of late, with First Ankeny United Methodist Church. Musicians, puppeteers and skilled carpenters have participated in worship and cared for needs in the nearly 100 year-old building.

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The Iowa Conference Edition is published every other week.



Church gathering in the Fellowship Hall



New efficient thermostat

## Making Churches "Green" Creates Mission Possibilities

by Wendell Saunders

The United Methodist churches throughout the state and country need attention to help preserve our natural resources, reduce the carbon dioxide emissions that they contribute to the world and to allow our financial resources to be put to better use to help the people of the world.

The United Methodist Church buildings throughout the United States are a by their nature "mature buildings" because of the maturity of Methodism in the United States. The Immanuel United Methodist, in the Beaverdale area of Des Moines, is no exception. The original brick veneered building was built in 1925 with major expansions in 1967 and 2004. The facility has over 36,000 square feet of floor space the equivalent size of 30 homes in the Beaverdale area! The church has a major impact on carbon emissions that contribute to global warming in the world. In addition to the negative impact on the environment, utility costs to heat and cool The building consumes from 5 to 10% of The annual budget!

Commercial/public buildings in the United States are the single largest contributor to carbon emissions in the United States. These buildings use more natural resources and therefore pollute more than all the personal dwellings and automobiles combined in the United States. The church asked, "What can we do to reduce our impact on global warming?" When we added the new addition in 2004 we took the first step to improve the environmental health and reduce The impact on global warming by creating a new space that was as sustainable as we could afford. We also upgraded the heating/cooling system to improve the temperature management of the existing facility.

### Improvements were needed

Improvements on three fronts were needed. Air conditioning is the single largest consumer of electrical power in all churches. Electrical power must be generated in Iowa by power plants that are predominantly coal fired (70%) in the state. The burning of coal is a major contributor to carbon emissions and global warming. Secondly, the over consumption of fossil fuels, in this case natural gas, to heat churches in the winter, especially 2007/2008 is and will continue to be a costly and wasteful use of a scarce resource.

Experts agree that we have a finite and limited amount of natural gas supply that will be exhausted in 30 to 50 years! Lastly, we had to consider how to reduce our electrical consumption throughout the church for lighting.

Immanuel began energy improvement planning by reviewing how and when each room in the building was used throughout the week. We examined the usage hourly for all 168 hours in the week to determine when a room would be occupied so the heat or A/C would be active. When the plan was reviewed we were able to use the computer managed control system to only heat or cool an area based on the nine zones that were created when we updated the heating cooling system in 2004. In the summer of 2006 we realized an electrical consumption savings of over 10%, from 2005, by using a zoning system and closing the doors to the un-cooled areas to keep the "cool air" in the occupied areas.

This is our first winter to fully use the same management system to control the heating of the church but we believe that even with the very bad winter we will show a significant cost savings and reduction in carbon emissions.

Electrical lighting in most churches and ours especially was a major target for a reduction in energy usage. Incandescent light bulbs consume about three times as much electrical energy as a fluorescent bulb. When our last remodel was completed we replaced all of the fixtures in the main sanctuary with energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. The fixtures we replaced, installed in 1967, had 12 incandescent bulbs in each fixture. In early 2007 the trustees had a work day during which we searched out every incandescent bulb in the church and found over 100 bulbs that we replaced with energy efficient fluorescents.

### Action item list

Each day we find new areas that can be improved in our church to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. The following action item list might help your church to be wise stewards of the resources that the Lord has provided to us.

- Heat and cool only occupied areas by closing doors and adjusting thermostats for savings in unoccupied areas
- Schedule church meetings in appropriately sized rooms so the smaller rooms are heated or cooled as needed

- Adjust thermostats at the end of the work day to conserve energy when the church is unoccupied
- Replace all incandescent bulbs in every room with energy efficient fluorescents
- Do the things your mother reminded you to do: close the doors and turn off the lights when you leave an area
- Install proximity sensing light switches that automatically turn out the lights in unoccupied areas
- Repair/replace weather-stripping on all outside doors to conserve energy- Immanuel has 14 outside doors; the newest doors were in the poorest condition.
- Replace obsolete fluorescent fixtures in Sunday school rooms. New fluorescents, with solid state ballasts, will reduce energy usage by as much as 50%.
- Recycle every bit of waste possible. Paper and cardboard are especially costly energy consumers to produce so it is important to recycle these items.
- Eliminate the use of Styrofoam, plastic and paper products from church kitchens. The plastic items originate from "fossil fuels"; they waste energy and most end up in the land fills.
- Eliminate the use of "bottled water." Individually bottled water containers (plastic) use four times the water in the bottle to produce and only 20% of the bottles are ever recycled!

What if every church took these few steps to reduce their energy usage, carbon emissions, and wasteful use of their financial resources? Financial resources could be put to better use to help the poor, disenfranchised and needy in our communities. And then, would Jesus not, "Well done, good and faithful servant?"



Recycling containers

# General Conference Delegates Share Hopes, Dreams and Perspectives

*Continued from front page*  
*Sue Ney (Laity)*

I have several hopes and dreams for this General Conference. I hope for energy each day; I dream that the Conference will truly be responsive to God's will; I look forward to the time spent with the Iowa delegation as well as new relationships with people outside the Iowa Conference; and most of all, I look for a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ. I bring both wisdom and innocence to the Iowa delegation. I have good background knowledge of the Church, the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions, but I am completely unaware of the rigor of being a delegate. I also bring along my sense of humor and optimism as well as endless energy! Until the Conference is concluded and we look at the legislation that is passed or not passed, we will not know the long-term impact.



Sue Ney

*Christina Backeun Sung (Clergy)*

I hope and pray that this General Conference will be the turning point in the UMC history; radically turn to Jesus Christ and claim the authenticity of the Scriptures as the Word of God as did John Wesley. I see the key issues as homosexuality, proposal for U.S. becoming a Central Conference, and how the UMC can be united in the midst of difference and make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. I will hold up Jesus Christ's Mission in the world, rather than to just satisfy a single group's desire. If we do not have radical change to Christ, the UMC has no hope for the future. Because I believe the hope of the UMC, its renewal and revival does not come only by structure change or program but in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We had once, the fire of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God but along the way, we lost it. It is time to recapture it. Someone said that it is insane if we do the same thing and expect different outcome.



Rev. Christina Sung

*Wesley S. K. Daniel (Clergy)*

My hope and prayer is that we will collectively and keenly listen to Spirit as decisions are made... I pray we will spend significant amount of time discussing ministry issues that will propel and move us forward to be about the task of making and maturing Christian disciples who will transform the world. I pray we will make decisions that will deliberately help us become a vital and living movement in the 21st century. The key issues to come before the General Conference include: Four areas of collaborations: (1) Leadership development (younger clergy leadership in US); (2) Congregational



Rev. Wesley S. K. Daniel

development (new faith communities and revitalizations in US); (3) Ministry with the poor (emphasis on children and poverty); and (4) Global health initiative (addressing poverty and preventable diseases). Additionally: Global nature of the church; Episcopacy studies; Criteria for membership; Study of ministry; Measuring pastoral effectiveness; Social justice issues. I believe I bring gifts of vision and leadership, prayer, sensitivity to all sides of the issues, discernment and collaboration as we seek to make decisions that are in the best interest of the future of denomination. Concerning the future of the Church, I see this session of the General Conference being critical in the sense that, there will be significant discussions, plans and proposal that will shape and impact the global nature of the United Methodist Church.

*Edward Kail (Clergy)*

I hope that the 2008 General Conference will find ways to transcend the divisions that arise from personal and factional commitments, ideologies and agendas, and focus on our identity and mission as the people of God in Jesus Christ. I hope that every piece of legislation considered will be questioned for how it will contribute to the new birth of the church in every place. Beyond the typical "hot button" issues of homosexuality, abortion, and doctrinal loyalty, there are other issues that may be even more crucial for the church's future: the global nature of the UMC and how it will be reflected organizationally; the stewardship of the UMC and how it can release God's resources to accomplish God's work in the world; the spirituality of the UMC and how its Wesleyan roots can be reclaimed, revitalized and activated. The 2008 session will be my 6th General Conference. I hope that means that I have some wisdom born of experience to offer. It helps to have a good working sense of the entire process of a general conference, including how to effectively advocate for an idea or proposal through the legislative process. This General Conference could position the United Methodist Church to have major impact on communities around the world, as it makes decisions about the role of the United States' church in world Methodism. We could unleash immense spiritual power throughout the connection through a commitment to pursue God's mission in "the United Methodist way."



Rev. Ed Kail

*Twila Glenn (Laity)*

It is my hope that this General Conference will feel different, because of the intentional effort to put important ministry initiatives and a vision for a global church before the assembly in compelling ways before we start slogging through legislative committee meetings. I truly believe that delegates want to



Twila Glenn

be inspired to be the church God wants us to be, and not get bogged down in bureaucracy. I think this new format—along with the exciting focus that it will bring to these compelling ministries—will help us do that. I hope that we will spend a lot of important time on the proposals around moving our denomination away from its "United States-centric" orientation and toward a more truly global orientation.

I also expect that another key area of discussion and work will be the proposals for new collaboration among all parts of the denomination around the four ministry focus areas. This approach has both budget implications and organizational implications. But perhaps most important, its effectiveness will depend on the willingness and the capacity of local congregations and annual conferences to engage in full partnership with each other and with the general agencies in order to accomplish the exciting and challenging goals we will be asked to adopt.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve on the Connectional Table during this quadrennium. This has been an opportunity to watch and work closely with the two initiatives that I mentioned. I feel very strongly about them both, and hope that this close knowledge of both the proposals themselves and the processes through which they were developed can serve the delegation and Iowa United Methodists well. It is my profound hope that we emerge from the 2008 General Conference with the tools in hand to embark on a journey toward a truly global expression of our denomination and how we present and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world.

*Dennis Coon (Clergy)*

I hope we will witness the coming together of the personal and social aspects of the gospel. I am looking forward to experiencing something so radical in worship, during legislation, or outside the schedule that will shake the foundation of the church. The key issues will include: Human sexuality; Poverty; Re-structuring the world wide church; Divestments; Ethnic initiatives. The church will learn to prioritize its focus and then engage in faithful ministries. We will be shaped by honoring and learning from effective pastors/laity. We will understand and live out the essence of what Dr. Weems calls the "Wesleyan power of being an evangelical church in a liberal tradition."



Rev. Dennis Coon

*Beverly Nolte (Laity)*

My hope for the upcoming General Conference is that there is a sense of unity among delegates over the more important issues facing the church. In the past GC's there

has been too much time and energy spent around irresolvable and divisive issues. The key issues will be proposals of restructuring the United Methodist Church, health care for clergy and lay employees, work of mission and ministry with ethnic groups as the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries, resolutions coming from all UM Boards and Agencies and budgetary concerns to name a few. Probably the oldest lay delegate from the Iowa Conference to General Conference, I would hope to bring extensive knowledge of the workings of the church from various perspectives and experience from serving in and through the church from the local level to the denominational level. The future of the UM Denomination is shaped by legislation and resolutions reviewed and passed that may have far reaching implications for both short term and long term durations.



Beverly Nolte

*Kae Tritle (First alternate, Laity)*

My dream is that the delegates at the Conference will focus on issues that pertain to the future of the church; how we can develop members who are disciples willing to work towards transforming the world for Christ rather than focusing on past issues that seem to divide us. This means not only doing the mission work that we are known for, but also learning how to deepen people's spiritual walk as well. I believe that my life-long experience as a United Methodist reflects an "ordinary persons" view. Most members in the pew are dealing with everyday life. As General Conference delegates, we do have to remember our local church's perspective and how our decisions are going to affect the functioning of our conferences, pastors and local churches. I hope to bring that perspective our delegation. Since 1968 when we became the United Methodist Church, we have been refining our identity and focus. I hope that out of this General Conference, that we can find a way to focus on what makes United Methodists distinctive from other denominations and then to use those particular characteristics help people within and outside our churches to deep their spiritual journeys and to live as a disciple of Christ.



Kae Tritle





## From the Bishop. . .

### Gregory Vaughn Palmer

Dear Resurrection People of Iowa:

I greet you in the name and spirit of the Risen Christ. We are now inside the forty day window that leads up to the 2008 General Conference. The General Conference of our church meets every four years. This year the nearly 1000, delegates (50% lay, 50% clergy) will gather in Fort Worth Texas April 23–May 2. These faithful delegates gathered from all the places on the globe where there are United Methodist Annual Conferences will act on over 1500 petitions and set the missional direction and budget for the denomination for the next four years (2009–2012). The Iowa Conference will have sixteen delegates seated throughout the General Conference. (You can find the names of the Iowa delegates elsewhere in this edition.) I ask that you hold all of the delegates to the



Gregory V. Palmer  
Bishop

*“We are set loose to declare in word and deed the power of the Risen Christ at work in us.”*

General Conference in your prayers. Pray for their good health and safety and for safe travel. Pray for wisdom and direction as they make important decisions. Pray for a nine days of **Holy Christian Conferencing**. What you pray for the delegates pray for the bishops

of the church, the hosts and planners, the worship leaders and preachers, other leaders of the United Methodist Church and all the people seen and unseen who will make the General Conference go.

John Wesley understood “**conferencing**” as a means of grace. He said “*By means of grace I understand outward signs, words or actions ordained of God, and appointed for this end to be the ordinary channels whereby he might convey [to mortals] preventing, justifying and sanctifying grace...*”

The theologian Ted Runyan suggests “*from the beginning conferring together or conferencing was the means of opening up new insights and possibilities that could not be arrived at singly*”.

Christian Conferencing is important and challenging work. This is true whenever we United Methodists attempt it locally, regionally or globally. The delegates to the General Conference and all of the members of the Annual Conferences have been asked to observe the following Guidelines for Holy Conferencing:

- Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable.
- As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.
- Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited.
- Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with that position.
- Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names or an excited and angry voice.
- Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.
- Make use of facilitators and mediators.
- Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God—not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

These guidelines will serve us well if embraced. Maybe how we United Methodists conference can practice and model something the church and the world need.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,  
†Gregory V. Palmer

## Missionaries to Visit Iowa Congregations

Drs. Lynn and Sharon Fogleman, commissioned General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) missionaries serving as family practice physicians at the Red Bird Clinic in southeastern Kentucky will be itinerating in the Iowa Annual Conference April 13–20, 2008. They will visit supporting churches who are in partnership with them in their work at Red Bird Clinic as well as visiting churches supporting Red Bird Clinic.

### Opportunities to visit Iowa congregations

Drs. Lynn and Sharon Fogleman are looking forward

to visiting Iowa Conference congregations and sharing their stories through worship and other presentations. Gatherings of women and/or men's groups, events with youth, conversation with pastors and mission leadership while sharing a cup of coffee and dessert or a potluck meal are wonderful opportunities.

To schedule a Fogleman visit during the week of April 13–20th, please contact Sue Hattel, Interim Conference Itineration Secretary/CSGM—Mission Education at: 563-556-1394 or at [shattel220@aol.com](mailto:shattel220@aol.com).

## Highlighted At General Conference

### Continued from front page

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## General Conference Delegates

### Clergy:

Barrie M. Trittle  
Brian K. Milford  
Karen Nichols Dungan  
Edward A. Kail

Diane Wasson Eberhart  
Christina Backeun Sung  
Wesley S.K. Daniel  
Dennis R. Coon

### Alternates:

J. Robert Burkhart

Jill L. Sanders

### Lay:

Philip H. Carver  
Susan C. Ney  
Lana L. Ross  
Twila M. Glenn

Inez Dawes  
Norma J. Morrison  
Jessica M. Ireland  
Beverly M. Nolte

### Alternates:

Kae E. Trittle

Jonathan T. Fell