

Among many other agenda items during the five-day event, conference members:

- were moved in a powerful way as they sat in a cloak of darkness as Bishop Thomas Bickerton continued to preach with a flashlight shining on his face during a power outage at the Ordination Service. The light of cell phones helped Bishop King preside over the ordinal rites of the 14 persons being ordained.
- were led by Dr. Steven Manskar, director of Wesleyan Leadership at the General Board of Discipleship, in three Bible studies focusing on the importance and role of small groups in spiritual formation.
- heard about exciting ministry taking place with new congregations, revitalized congregations and Hispanic ministries during the New and Revitalized Congregational Development report.
- passed several notable motions: a motion to study the feasibility and cost-saving implications of reducing the number of districts by at least one; a motion to look into reducing the Annual Conference session by one day; and a motion to study the feasibility of providing conference delegates with the option of receiving all possible conference materials electronically in lieu of paper materials.
- approved an amended church professional misconduct policy.
- approved an \$11.75 million budget – which is a reduction from 2011 – for mission and ministry for the next year and also approved a reduction in the remaining 2011 budget.

Delegates Elected to 2012 General & Jurisdictional Conferences

Clergy-General Conference

1. Robert Beckum
2. Bob Moon
3. Ben Martin
4. Jim Cowart
5. Denise Walton

Laity-General Conference

1. Larry Price
2. Carl Childs
3. Bill Hatcher
4. Kelly Roberson
5. Allison Eastin

Clergy-Jurisdictional Conference

1. Buddy Cooper
2. Don Adams
3. Hal Brady
4. Marcia Cochran
5. Brad Brady

Laity-Jurisdictional Conference

1. J. Taylor Phillips
2. Miriam Hagan
3. Sunshine Bird
4. Richard Shinhoster
5. Marianne Wright

Clergy-Alternates

1. Shane Green
2. Jimmy Cason

Laity-Alternates

1. Gloria Morgan
2. Charlene Black

A complete appointment book as well as full coverage of the 2011 Annual Conference Session can be found at www.sgaumc.org.

South Georgia Annual Conference Session

June 5-9, 2011

Tifton, Georgia

Never  ALONE
Acts 2:42

www.sgaumc.org

2011 South Georgia Annual Conference Session

More than 1,200 United Methodists felt God's presence during the 2011 South Georgia Annual Conference session, held June 5-9 in Tifton, Ga.

Whether it was through warm greetings and friendly smiles, in the bright sun and blistering heat, or through the blinding dust storm and power outage, one thing was for certain: they were never alone.

"In God's kingdom, no one is alone," said Bishop James R. King, Jr., episcopal leader of the South Georgia area. "In God's Kingdom everyone deserves to be loved."

With a theme of "Never Alone," Bishop King proclaimed that there is "no place to hide in the Kingdom of God; there is no place to hide in true fellowship."

Bishop King challenged clergy and laity alike to "recommit yourselves to Jesus being the Lord of your life. And recommit yourselves to true fellowship so that as the world grows more Christlike no one will ever be alone."

Even the visuals on stage reminded conference members of the importance of fellowship. The stage set was reminiscent of Leonardo da Vinci's painting 'The Last Supper,' with a live portrayal of Jesus and his disciples in every worship service.

Special Offering: Imagine No Malaria

South Georgia United Methodists joined hands and hearts to give more than \$75,000 in a single special offering for Imagine No Malaria. Churches were asked to take up a special offering prior to Annual Conference and bring the money with them to Tifton. Churches came bearing checks, and hundreds of conference attendees donated while at the Annual Conference session.

Imagine No Malaria is a ministry of the people of The United Methodist Church to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. With a goal of raising \$75 million to improve health infrastructure and empower a sustainable victory over the disease, Imagine No Malaria is the United Methodist Church's opportunity to rethink how it reaches beyond the church, opening doors to those who need it most. (www.imagenomalaria.com)

A Healthier Me: Body, Mind & Soul

Continuing with the fellowship theme of Never Alone, on Wednesday morning clergy and laity gathered together for a 5K run/walk around the ABAC campus while others did aerobic exercise and body prayer/yoga at the conference center. Others sat together in workshops focused on the Sabbath and healthy eating or communed with God in a Healing Prayer Walk. All of this was part of "A Healthier Me: Mind, Body & Soul," an intentional time that encouraged people to take care of themselves and to live a healthier lifestyle.

2011 South Georgia Annual Conference Session

Worship Leadership

Along with Bishop King, worship leadership was provided by Bishop Thomas Bickerton in the Ordination Service, Dr. Hal Brady in the Memorial Service and Dr. Steven Manskar in the Bible studies.

Service of Ordination

During a Service of Ordination June 6 one person was ordained as a Full Conference Member/Deacon (John Keith Legan) and thirteen people were ordained as Full Conference Members/Elders:

R. Grant Abernathy	Bruce Russell Sack
Dorsia A. Atkinson, Jr.	Vicki Patrice Scott
Stephen Alexander Brinkman	Randall L. Smith
Jim Wright Dominey	Stephanie McGhin Smith
Sally Kozma Flowers	Matthew Charles Waldron
George Thomas Martin IV	Reginald Wayne Williams
Autrey Franklin Morris	

Service of Commissioning

Seven clergy entering into a probationary relationship with the conference were commissioned, six as elders and one as deacon (Julia Norman). Andy R. Brownley, John Pierce Drake, Hubert Guy Mathis, Jr., and Joseph Edward Morrison, Jr. were recognized as associate members of the annual conference. Those being commissioned were:

Joshua Brad Bizzell	James R. Morrow
Benjamin James Gosden	Adam Michael Ricker
Lauri Christine Hartley	Chad Ryan Watkins

Retirement Recognition

Eighteen retired clergy were recognized and given an opportunity to speak to the conference on June 8. Eight pastors were recognized for serving fifty years in ministry. Those retiring were:

James D. Aycok	James R. Hancock, Jr.
Hal Newton Brady	Brenda L. Iglehart
Robert Thomas Davies	Bernard Sonny Mason
Rev. Monte Sue Diebolt	F. Wayne Mitchell
Gordon B. Dukes, Jr.	James Allen Nelson
Claudia Evelyn Hatcher Duvall	Robert Wayne Poston
James Richard Duvall	Byron J. Scott, Jr.
Nathan Carl Godley	Anthony H. Smith
Jairo E. Franco	Mabel Victoria Waye

Service of Remembrance

Twenty-seven clergy and clergy spouses who died in the past year were remembered during a Memorial Service on Tuesday.