

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

- learned more about The Advance and covenant relationships with missionaries from Ms. Rachael Barnett from The General Board of Global Ministries.
- were greeted by Mr. Charlie Coleman, an ambassador for the Black College Fund, who expressed appreciation for the support The United Methodist Church and the South Georgia Conference gives him and the 16,000 students through the Black College Fund.
- heard John Wesley moments by Rev. Dave Hanson throughout conference in which these concise and powerful mini-sermons reminded attendees of our Wesleyan roots.
- had the opportunity to spend time at the Georgia Agrirama for a time of food, fun, and fellowship. Agrirama is Georgia's Museum of Agriculture and Living History Museum.
- approved a \$12.4 million budget for mission and ministry for the next year.

A complete appointment book as well as full coverage of Annual Conference may be found at www.sgaumc.org.



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South Georgia Annual Conference Session

June 6-9, 2010

Tifton, Georgia



www.sgaumc.org

2010 South Georgia Annual Conference Session

Fellowship, worship, Bible study and celebration marked the 2010 South Georgia Annual Conference session, held June 6-9 at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center in Tifton, Ga. Bishop James R. King, Jr., episcopal leader of the South Georgia area, presided over his second Annual Conference session in South Georgia.

Meeting under the theme of "Sowing the Word," this year's Annual Conference session allowed the nearly 1,200 attendees several opportunities to open the scriptures and share in the richness of God's Word. Woven throughout the conference were testimonies that encouraged and exhorted members to sow the Word of God into their lives and into the lives of others.

In his sermon, "soWhat?" Bishop King proclaimed that clergy and laity are to sow the Word of God to a world that is aching to hear the words of Life.

"Positive persistence pays," he said. "Growing God's kingdom – sowing seeds – does not just happen; it's not automatic. Every seed you sow will not bear fruit. But the ones that fall on a spiritually mature heart will. Be faithful; be encouraged. Sow the word of God."

Special Offering: United Methodist Committee on Relief

Prior to this year's conference, congregations were encouraged to take up a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Together South Georgia United Methodists had the privilege of making a significant difference, collecting over \$43,000. The money will be sent to UMCOR, undesignated, so that it can be used to provide immediate assistance and urgently needed resources while other financial gifts and supplies are gathered. It was also announced that as of May 1 the people of the South Georgia Conference have given \$494,398.72 to UMCOR for relief and recovery in Haiti. "Thank you, South Georgia, for opening your hearts and giving more than a half a million dollars to UMCOR in the last few months," said Bishop King. "This is one more way we are partnering together to grow a more Christlike world."

A Healthier Me: Body, Mind & Soul

On Tuesday morning, clergy and laity engaged in "A Healthier Me: Mind, Body & Soul," an intentional time that encouraged people to take care of themselves and to live a healthier lifestyle. Nearly 40 people gathered at the ABAC track to run or walk while others did aerobic exercise and body prayer/yoga at the conference center. Countless people lingered at their hotel to rest a little longer or to work out in the exercise room. Others spent the morning in an intentional time of prayer and devotion. Nearly 100 people attended workshops focusing on Sabbath, "scream-free" living, healthy eating, physical and spiritual health, and wellness.

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Worship Leadership

Along with Bishop King, worship leadership was provided by Rev. Jim Cowart in the Sunday Night Service, Bishop Richard Looney in the Ordination Service, Rev. C. Dick Reese in the Memorial Service and Bishop Richard Wilke in the Bible studies.

Service of Ordination

During a Service of Ordination June 7 six people were ordained as members in full connection:

Barry Shane Giddens
Thad Gregory Harvey
Matthew J. Hearn

Billy Lee Kimbrel
Jonathan Daniel Smith
David Ray Wood

Service of Commissioning

Seven clergy entering into a probationary relationship with the conference were commissioned, six as elders and one as deacon (Stacey Harwell), on June 7. Whit Kirkland was recognized as an associate member of the annual conference. Those being commissioned were:

Carrie H. Austin
Thomas W. Carruth
Tony Gary Crosby
R. Jason Dillard

John Arthur Fugh, Jr.
Stacey Irene Harwell
Whit Kirkland
Daniel Underwood

Retirement Recognition

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

Donna Ashworth
Gary Carter
Edwin Chase
J. Randall Daniell
Paul Dupree
James Ford
Jimmy Gilbert
Marvin Goodman

Isaac Moon
Richard Newton
C. Dick Reese
Ron Register
William Reinheld
William Strickland
Charles Whatley
Mark Zeitlin

Service of Remembrance

Thirty clergy and clergy spouses who died in the past year were remembered during a Memorial Service on Tuesday. Rev. Dick Reese was the preacher for the service and in honoring the deceased, said, "They heard the call, they have served faithfully, and God has called them home."