



CONFERENCE *CIRCUIT*

The West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

Issue # 3 • Saturday, June 15, 2019



*“We bring the table
outdoors because
not everyone
is in the church.”*

—Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Teaching, Historic Questions among today’s highlights

By Mark Smith

The mission of the church is clear: Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19a). The United Methodist Church has embraced Jesus’ command, stating that the church’s mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Book of

Friday morning began with Communion outside the West Meditation Chapel. People crowded into the space to pray for and receive forgiveness. Together, we recalled the night Jesus shared his final meal with his disciples. Lines wrapped around the plaza, and friends old and new passed the peace. Communion will served again this morning at 7:45 a.m. behind the Chapel.

Discipline—2016, ¶120).

Ken Willard, Director of Discipleship, Leadership, and congregational Vitality, will lead a teaching time concerning

Continued on page 2

Circuit Highlights

Jim Berner honored.....	p2
Historic Questions	p3
Mission = Discipleship.....	p3
Photos from Friday	pp 4-5
Friday business highlights	p6
Tom Bone’s daily cartoon	p6
Keeping our promise to flood survivors.....	p7

Saturday Schedule

7:45am	Holy Communion with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball (Outdoors near Meditation Chapel)
8:15am	Prayer and Praise
8:45am	Discipleship Time with Ken Willard
10:00am	Business Session
12:30pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Answering the Historic Questions (Order of the Day)
2:30pm	Business Session
5:30pm	Dinner
7:30pm	Business Session/ Evening Prayer



More on the web!

You can read much more about the stories featured in the Conference Circuit by visiting our award-winning website, wvumc.org/news. Use your smartphone camera to scan the code at left to go directly to our news page!



Retiring Conference Treasurer Jim Berner (l) receives an engraved chalice from Council on Finance and Administration Chair Ken Ramsey (r) with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball (c).

Berner honored for 25 years of service as Conference Treasurer

By Pam Braden

Jim Berner has served the West Virginia Conference for 25 years as conference treasurer and director of administrative services. On Friday, four bishops honored his service as a preacher, treasurer, golfer, and minister.

Berner is credited with ensuring that pastors in the conference have health care insurance and well-funded retirement pensions. He taught church leaders to manage their budgets and called us to be good stewards of church finances.

By continuously improving financial record keeping, Berner improved systems that require, as he terms it, “third grade math,” to determine church apportionments.

In his remarks, Jim quipped about each of the bishops with whom he served and joked about his travels and eating hot dogs in every corner of the state. Berner said his father wanted him to be a banker but his Heavenly Father wanted him to be conference treasurer.

Jim’s wife Beth and other family members joined him at the Friday business session as he was honored for his 25 years of service.

The conference is indebted to Jim for a career of service, integrity, honesty, and leadership.

Read more about Jim Berner’s career and retirement on our website at <https://www.wvumc.org/2019/01/conference-treasurer-jim-berner-to-retire/>.



Today’s business

Continued from page 1

the disciple-making process of the local church at 8:45 a.m. this morning in Wesley Chapel.

Prior to Willard’s teaching time, attendees may receive Holy Communion outside of the West Meditation Chapel and can participate in a time of praise and prayer in the main Chapel.

Conference Lay Leader Rich Shaffer will address the laity.

Much of the rest of the day will be spent in business session.

Interspersed among the business of the Conference there will be opportunities to celebrate, including the 150th Anniversary of the United Methodist Women.

Ordinands and newly commissioned Provisional Members will be asked the Historic Questions as a special Order of the Day.

During the report of the Council on Finance and Administration, Jamion Wolford will be presented for election as the new conference treasurer, succeeding Jim Berner, who is retiring.

The recipients of the One Matters and Denman Awards will be announced as part of the day’s agenda.

The day will conclude with evening prayer.

Thursday Night Discussion Questions Available

Hard copies of the discussion questions from Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball’s Thursday night presentation are available in the entryways to Wesley Chapel and can be found on our website:

https://www.wvumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019.23Thursday-Night-Questions_06132019.pdf

Candidates for ordination, commissioning to answer 'Historic Questions'

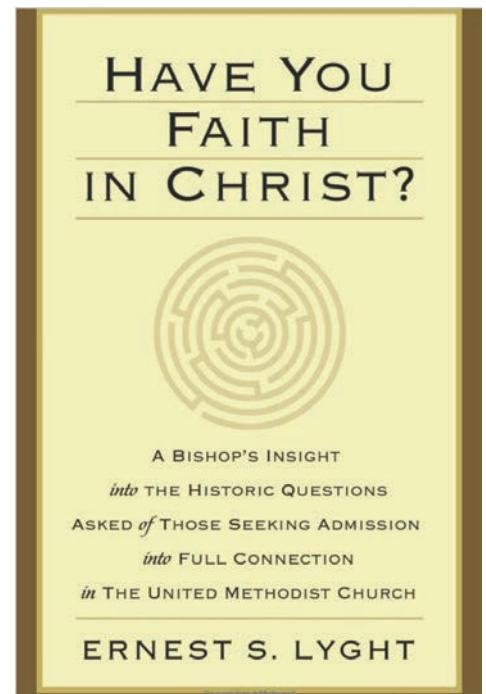
By Lawrence Rebelo

For many years, people being commissioned and ordained in the United Methodist Church have followed in a tradition dating back to sometime during the 18th century when John Wesley would ask a set of questions to all of those wishing to become preachers in the Methodist movement.

This afternoon at 2 p.m., the candidates for ordination and commissioning will stand before Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and the body of the West Virginia Annual Conference to answer Wesley's Historic Questions.

Wesley created a list of 19 questions which are an outward declaration of readiness for ministry. They also are meant for personal reflection throughout ministry.

Candidates in the West Virginia Conference are guided deeper into understanding of the historic questions through a book written by former WVUMC Bishop Ernest S. Lyght titled **Have You Faith in Christ?**



Mission = Discipleship: Willard to offer this morning's teaching time

By Pam Braden

When he speaks at 8:45 a.m. today, Conference Director of Discipleship, Leadership, and Congregational Vitality Ken Willard will talk about mission and vision.

The mission of the church in the world is to "go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). In the West Virginia Conference, our mission is to "discover, develop, and deploy passionate spiritual leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Our vision is to be a Christ-led spiritual breath of fresh air that changes the world.

While mission explains what our organization does now, vision is future-oriented. The vision reminds us that we are not there yet. We still have work to do.

We are ALL called.

Willard says that while every church has a Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, the



committee's work often stops after the nominations are closed. But nominating people is not enough.

We have to develop leadership, he adds. As church leaders are aging, there is a need to mentor young Christians into leadership.

Willard is a "numbers guy." He will tell us about our mission field in West Virginia with some statistics that will convince us that we need to make disciples of homeland (Gen Z) and millennial (Gen Y) generations.

Willard is excited about learning the history of West Virginia. He is even more excited about the future and asking, "What's next?"

Willard came to the West Virginia Conference staff last fall. He brings a wealth of experience in teaching church leaders to coach and develop new leaders. He is an author, speaker,

and teacher. His book, *Time Management for the Christian Leader or How to Squeeze Blood from a Turnip*, is available on Amazon.

Photos From Friday at Annual Conference





Friday business session highlights

By Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary

- Conference heard from Dr. Walter Lee from South Carolina, ambassador for the Black College Fund, and Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson, Global Board of Higher Education Ministries Assistant General Secretary, The Black College Fund & Ethnic Concerns.
- Supported changes made to the insurance program and supported the pensions report.
- Began work on the Equitable Compensation report which will be continued on Saturday.
- Loretta Young, who is the new chair of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), presented the bishop an award for the conference's support.
- We celebrated the work of our Disaster Recovery Team and collected offerings of money and supplies for continued efforts on behalf of flood survivors.
- We celebrated the lives of 39 clergy, clergy spouses and surviving spouses who have died since last Annual Conference.
- We recognized and celebrated 34 retirees.
- Elected the General Conference Delegation:
Clergy: Amy Shanholtzer, Jeff Taylor, Lauren Godwin
Laity: Judi Kenaston, Rich Shaffer, Erin Sears

You can own original art from the Annual Conference



You can own an original cartoon drawing from the 2019 Annual Conference by artist Tom Bone, as published in the Conference Circuit.

Tom is a former contributor to the Bluefield Daily Telegraph and has been the Annual Conference's official cartoonist for many years.

A silent auction of Tom's Annual Conference cartoons is under way in the Wesley Chapel Narthex. Place your bids by Noon on Sunday.

At Tom's request, all proceeds will go to the Bishop's Appeal for Disaster Recovery.

United Methodist Day at the Ballpark

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball invites you to come to the ballpark for a good cause!

A Homerun for Flood Survivors

\$4 of every ticket sold goes to Bishop's Appeal for Disaster Recovery

Sunday, July 21 - 2pm Ticket \$10 or Ticket + Food Bundle \$15

Appalachian Power Park, Charleston
Visit wvumc.org for more details

We're live streaming!

...And the world is watching!

All of our business and worship sessions at Annual Conference are broadcast

LIVE online! Be sure to let your congregations back home know they can tune in by visiting wvumc.org/ac2019. And please remember, everything said on the conference floor is being broadcast and recorded. All sessions will be available following conference on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/wvumc



We made a promise to flood survivors...we're still keeping it.

Continuing to respond with love ... for as long as it takes

West Virginia United Methodists are keeping our promise to survivors of the June 2016 floods by continuing our commitment to stay at work until every family is in a safe, secure home.

Members of the Conference Disaster Recovery team appealed to Conference attendees to continue to persevere in the mission by donating to the Bishop's Appeal for Disaster Recovery, and to continue to volunteer their time in service. Monies collected will help match recent UMCOR grant funding.

Learn more about Disaster Recovery and the Bishop's Appeal at <https://www.wvumc.org/disaster-response/disaster-recovery/>.



Students unload flood buckets delivered to Conference from the Potomac Highlands District.



Members of the Conference Disaster Recovery team.



Buckets lined up awaiting the special offering for the Bishop's Appeal for Disaster Relief.



Rev. Bonnie MacDonald helps pass buckets for donations.



Dan (l) and Sue Lowther (r) prepare to load donated items on the New Vision Depot truck.

SCHED gives you mobile access to AC2019

The Conference Communications Team is excited to share with you for the second year in a row an app that we think you'll find quite handy as you participate in this year's Annual Conference. It's called **SCHED** (pronounced SKED), and it is the conference agenda...online, interactive, and customizable for you. You can view SCHED on your cellphone, tablet, iPad, mobile device, laptop, or desktop computer.

To view/access/utilize SCHED, go to this website: <https://wvumc19.sched.com> (note: it will not work if you use "www"). There you can view the agenda, and you can register (SIGN UP) and log in to create your custom calendar.

To learn more about using the SCHED app, visit our website at wvumc.org/news



The Conference Circuit

P.O. Box 2313
Charleston, WV 25328
Conference Phone: 304 344-8331
Email: wvumc@wvumc.org

Resident Bishop: Sandra Steiner Ball
Email: sssteinerball@wvumc.org

Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff:
Rev. Dr. Bonnie G. MacDonald
Email: bmacdonald@wvumc.org

Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality:
Ken Willard
Email: kwillard@wvumc.org

Communications Director: Deborah Coble
Email: dcoble@wvumc.org

Communications & Marketing Specialist: Joe Webb
Email: jwebb@wvumc.org

Photography coordinator: Jonathan Nettles, Little Kanawha
Email: nettlesjk@gmail.com

Editor: George Hohmann, Midland South
Email: g.hohmann48@gmail.com

Communications Chair: Cheryl George, Potomac Highlands
Email: pastorcheryl@mail.com

Communications Staff Intern: Caitlin Ware
Email: caitlineware@gmail.com

Graphic Design: Cassie Kile, Little Kanawha
Email: cassie.kile@asburyseminary.edu

Conference Communications Team

District Communication Coordinators

Kerry Bart, Western
Email: kerrfunk1@gmail.com

Jennifer Greene, Little Kanawha
Email: jennifergreene09@gmail.com

George Hohmann, Midland South
Email: g.hohmann48@gmail.com

Dusty Merrill, Mon Valley
Email: DustyMerrill@GenesisLite.com

Scott Mapes, Northern
Email: spsmapes09@gmail.com

Scott Mayberry, Southern District
Email: umpastor7@gmail.com

Jim Minutelli, Wesleyan
Email: minutellij@gmail.com

Melissa Paugh, Potomac Highlands
Email: melissahillmt@gmail.com

Judy Pysell, Greenbrier
Email: judyypysell@gmail.com

At-large members

Maria Wiblin, MonValley
Email: maria.wiblin@gmail.com

Brad Bennett, MonValley
Email: PastorBradBennett@gmail.com

Jake Steele, Northern
Email: jacobsteele714@gmail.com

AC2019 Contributors/Correspondents

Rachel Bennett, MonValley

Tom Bone, Southern

Pam Braden, Little Kanawha

Margaret Harrison, Western

Katherine Huffman, Wesleyan

Val Huffman, Wesleyan

Lynn Mayberry, Southern

Paula McGrew, Wesleyan

Glen Pysell, Greenbrier

Lawrence Rebelo, MonValley

Don Ryan, Midland South

Mark Smith, Wesleyan

Whitney Stilgenbauer, Greenbrier

Connect with us at #WVAC19!



www.wvumc.org



facebook.com/wvumc



instagram.com/wvumc



youtube.com/user/wvumc



twitter.com/wvumc

Hashtag your social media posts using #WVAC19