

Grace United Methodist Church
Charge Conference Minutes
October 17, 2007

The conference was called to order by the Rev. Duane Miller, District Superintendent, Detroit East District at 7:20 p.m. Rev. Miller shared how the church (charge) conference has evolved through the years and that it is considered more than just an annual business meeting. It is worship in a spiritual setting. Rev. Miller led in devotions using the theme for the 2007 conferences, "Doing God's Will), based on Matthew 7: 21-29. He was emphatic that Bible study and prayer are the foundations to everything. Church and individual growth and maturity must have these as their foundations. As he travels from church to church, he is shocked at how many United Methodists are not part of a Bible Study, Small Group, or even an Adult Sunday School Class. Rev. Miller ended the devotional time with prayer.

Committee on Lay Leadership – Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel

Rev. Zundel highlighted new nominees to various leadership positions and noted several positions still open. The conference affirmed all nominees for the 2008 leadership slate. Rev. Miller authorized and empowered the Lay Leadership to continue in their search for leaders for approval by the Administrative Council.

Membership Report – Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel

One and two year inactive lists reviewed. Question from the floor concerning inactive who are possibly attending college either home or away. Rev. Miller shared that even those should have attended at one time or another while at home. He shared that studies show that once someone has been inactive for 2 years, it is doubtful they will return. The conference approved the removal from the church roll, all listed as being inactive for 2 years.

Recommendation of Candidates for Ordained Ministry – Melody Cavasoz

The Staff Parish Relations Committee recommended Mary Louise Owen for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. The process for ordination and criteria/requirements for candidacy according to the UM Discipline was shared by Melody. Mary shared her background and spiritual journey that has led her to this calling. A ballot vote was taken, according to the Discipline. Mary was affirmed as a candidate for ordained ministry.

Recommendation of Pastoral Support for 2008 – Ron Powers

The Administrative Council recommended as compensation and financial support for the Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel for 2008:

Salary - \$50,533.88

Household Furnishings Allowance - \$3000.00

Accountable Reimbursement - \$1000

All recommendations were affirmed

Lay Speaker Recommendations – Ron Powers

The following recommended for continuance as UM Lay Speakers

Certified Lay Speaker

Mary Owen, Cindy Wert, James Westlake Linda Farrell

Local Church Lay Speaker

Mike Bradshaw

All recommendations were affirmed

District Superintendent Comments

Rev. Miller spoke of a Detroit East District wide youth activity where youth gather at churches and days on a rotating basis. He encourage Grace participate.

Rev. Miller also talked about the Conference's covenant with Liberia. He asked for support for his trip to Monrovia in April/May 2008 to build a district parsonage. Financial and volunteer support is needed.

Questions/Comments from the Floor

Q: "How can we as a congregation voice our concern about things we do not agree on with the United Methodist Church?"

A: Keep open communication by praying and voicing your concern with representatives to the General Conference.

The 2007 Charge Conference was ended with prayer at 9:06 pm.