



colleague

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

Preparing a New Generation of Christian Leaders

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Speakers Urge Exploration Participants To Take God's Word to Their Generation

VICKI BROWN



Bishop Robert Hayes Jr. prays with a young man during Saturday evening's commitment service at Exploration 2011. During the service, 172 young adults signed cards saying they feel God is calling them to ordained ministry.

SPEAKER AFTER SPEAKER TOLD YOUNG adults attending Exploration 2011 that The United Methodist Church needs them to carry God's word to their own generation—and speaker after speaker

assured them that God will equip and support those who accept that call.

Shalom Agtarap, the 28-year-old pastor of Ellensburg First United Methodist Church in Washington State, told the

650 people attending the national event in St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 11-13, that she had been where they were now.

“Your impulse, if it was like mine, might be to go home on fire for God—only to let the flame smolder and die when finals week rolls around next month,” Agtarap said. “I want to encourage you this morning—that despite the frustrations you might be experiencing in your personal life; the barriers you’ve run into following God’s whispers; the doubts you encounter in your spiritual life—God is not through with us yet!”

The culmination of the discernment event sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry was

Methodist Church and had given his life to Christ. He spoke of how grateful he was that someone had been able to bring the gospel to his son.

“I believe the next 15 years will be more transformative for The United Methodist Church than the last 50 years,” he said, adding that they might be wondering “Why me?”

“God doesn’t call the equipped; God equips those who are called,” he assured participants as he preached during the commitment service. “So often, the call doesn’t make sense, but the distance is made up by your faith. Tonight God is calling somebody here.”

“This generation belongs to you, not to me,” Hayes said.

the church has no future without them. “The people who are going to teach us how to do church for this generation are sitting in this room,” Hamilton said in the opening worship.

He spoke of his own daughter who no longer attends church despite growing up in a home where church was a central part of life.

“Who’s going to reach my daughter’s generation for Christ? Who is going to reach your generation for Christ? Who’s going to reach the generation who are 4-year-olds right now? It won’t be people my age,” Hamilton said. “The church has no future without you. We’ve been in decline every year since I’ve been born. If we continue the path we’re on,

“God doesn’t call the equipped; God equips those who are called.”

Saturday night’s commitment service, when 172 young adults signed a card saying they felt called to ordained ministry. Another 131 said they were still discerning, and 26 said they were not called to ordained ministry.

“I have felt God’s spirit throughout this event,” said DJ del Rosario, GBHEM’s director of Young Adult Ministry Discernment and Enlistment. He said the names of those who committed to ordained ministry will be sent to their annual conferences so clergy there can follow up.

Bishop Robert Hayes Jr. and the Rev. Adam Hamilton both told personal stories to illustrate why younger elders and deacons are needed. Hayes, episcopal leader of the Oklahoma Area of the UMC, spoke of his son, Eric, who left the church, telling his father that church wasn’t relevant. Then one night, he got a call from Eric, who told him that he had just attended a contemporary worship service at a United

Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the 18,000-member United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., told Exploration participants that

one day the church will simply be an exhibit in a museum.”

He said people will say “once there
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Kathy Gilbert/UMC.com

Young adults at Exploration 2011 remembered their baptism by dipping their hands into water at Friday night’s worship service.

Technology and Social Media Add Layers to Exploration 2011

Blogging, tweeting, and QR codes added new levels of connectivity to an event for young adults considering God's call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, allowing instant connections and real-time discussions about sermons, workshops, and small groups.

Emily Oliver, associate director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, Florida Annual Conference, brought a group of 35 college students and seminarians to Exploration. She said Twitter allowed her to stay connected to her group throughout the event.

"I was sitting in the room listening to Adam Hamilton surrounded by only a few, but watching online my entire group of 35 based on their Twitter feeds. I could tell what they were thinking, what was resonating with them, I was tweeting back. We were almost having our own small group in the middle of worship," Oliver said. "Just to be in the middle of that, to be able to hear who had a challenge or a pushback at the time, that makes me feel more connected."

The event hashtag, #explo2011, was projected on the wall throughout the event and was on most pages of the program book. Twitter users can search using a hashtag to find all Twitter comments filed with that hashtag.

A number of participants were pleased that organizers of the event recognized that young adults are more comfortable with technology and social media. Some, however, expressed concern that social media could create distance.

Anitta Milloro, a student at North Central College, said she is an avid Facebook user and felt the effort to use social media was "really cool," but worried that it was a little impersonal. Some other participants said they actually like the act of writing down someone's contact info with a pen and paper rather than scanning a QR (Quick Response) code. Each participant had a QR code on their nametag that could be used to exchange contact info by simply scanning the code with a smart phone.

In addition, all the seminaries and other exhibitors had a QR code that participants could scan to get exhibitors' Web sites and other information.

Isabel Willetts, a student at Florida State University, thought social media extended the reach of the event. "It kept people on the outside posted about what's going on here," she said.

Bishop Robert Schnase, episcopal leader of the Missouri Area, who served Holy Communion on Sunday morning, led a workshop and spent the weekend talking with young adults attending the event. He called the approach "invigorating."

"The QR codes are really creative. It gives an instant quality to everything," Schnase said. He said he was excited to see such

new and creative approaches at a United Methodist event.

GBHEM's DJ del Rosario said the idea was to reach more people and add additional levels. GBHEM sponsors Exploration, which is held every other year for young adults considering God's call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. (Del Rosario is on Twitter as @pastordj.)

"The tweets provided a running feedback, and we actually made adjustments based on things that were tweeted. We also learned from Twitter that some incorrect information was given out at a workshop, so we were able to correct that," he said.

Tweets that used the event hashtag, #explo2011 or #gbhem were posted on a large-screen monitor outside the event office, so people could stop by and see what other were saying even if they didn't have a smart phone or a tablet computer to follow the feeds.

"That added a level of accountability, since we didn't filter the Twitter feed," del Rosario said.

Four young clergy were asked to be official bloggers during the event.

One of those bloggers, Jeremy Smith (on Twitter as @umjere-my and his blog is <http://hackingchristianity.net>) said he counted 122 Tweets about Adam Hamilton's comments during his 90-minute sermon. "That's more than one Tweet per minute. That provided a running commentary," Smith said.

Smith, an associate minister at First United Methodist Church in Checotah, Okla., said the blogging about the event adds a third conversation, as well as connecting people in the UMC with what was going on at Exploration.

"The first conversation is the presenter and yourself. The second conversation is you reflecting on what the presenter said. The third is me or another blogger reflecting about what the presenter said," Smith said. "That encourages reflection by offering a different point of view."

Amy Wills, a senior at Ohio State who just enrolled in the candidacy process for ordained ministry, said the hashtag was good and that the use of social media recognized that young adults are a high-tech generation, but also adds that technology can create relationship barriers. "We have to work on face-to-face relationship building, too," she said.

Tiffania Willetts, a participant from the Florida Annual Conference who is a student at Princeton, said the use of technology set a tone. "It's a very genuine effort to say we understand where you are coming from."

—Vicki Brown

Joey Butler/UMCom contributed to this story.

were people called Methodists, and they had a vision for changing the world, but something happened to them.”

“If you’re unwilling to listen and say yes, the church has no future. We need people willing to be pastors, music leaders, missionaries, youth pastors, and great lay leaders.”

In addition to attending worship services, young adults at the conference attended workshops on topics such as what to expect in ministry and being a young adult in ministry. They gathered in small groups to discuss what they had heard and spent time praying in the sacred space area, where they could walk a labyrinth or sit in a quiet space for silent prayer. And they could speak with representatives from the 13 United Methodist seminaries.

Alex Harriman, a Virginia Tech junior from Apex, N.C., said the event solidified his belief that God is calling him to ordained ministry. “Last night [the commitment service] everything kind of clicked,” he said.

Brian West, a third-year student at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, who is on the elder track, said he first came to Exploration in 2003 when he was beginning to feel called to ordained ministry. He thought it was fitting that he was back as a seminary representative to talk to young adults considering God’s call since Exploration had helped him discern his own call.

“Coming to Exploration I found a sense that not only was God with me in the process of discerning my call but that my call was to ordained ministry which sounds like it stopped there, but it didn’t. So I struggled with that a lot—not only because I’m struggling with this call that I had no idea about—but I was also 16 years old. What do you do when you’re 16 knowing not only do you have to get a bachelor’s degree,



Kathy Gilbert/UMCom

The Twitter hashtag was projected on the wall during worship service at Exploration.

Read the blogs at:

- **Anna Guillozet** (<http://ramblinganna.blogspot.com/>, on Twitter as @TheAnnaG).
- **Justin Halbersma** (<http://methodistjustin.com/>, on Twitter as @justinhalbersma).
- **Melissa Cooper** (<http://www.revcooper.com>, on Twitter as @revmelissa).
- **Jeremy Smith** (<http://hackingchristianity.net>, on Twitter as @umjeremy).

Follow GBHEM on Twitter at www.twitter.com/gbhem and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gbhem.

but you also have to get a three-year seminary degree?”

Anthony Waley, a college junior from Salisbury, Md., said Sunday morning that he is still trying to discern his call as Exploration drew to a close, but said he does feel God is calling him to work with youth. He is not sure if he wants to be ordained.

Anitta Milloro, a student at North Central College, said this was her second Exploration event. She said this time, she knew what to ask the seminary representatives and had spent a lot of time getting information, even though she’s still trying to figure out what she is going to do.

“I have a passion for mission and also for church planting,” Milloro said.

—*Brown is associate editor and writer, Office of Interpretation. Joey Butler/UMCom contributed to this story.*

In Church, As In School, Seniors Rule

JOEY BUTLER

There’s long been talk of the “graying” of United Methodist congregations, but the same can now be said of its pastors.

The annual report on clergy age trends in The United Methodist Church
(continued on page 6)



A group of 35 college students and seminarians from the Florida Annual Conference attended the national event sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for young people, ages 18-26, to help them respond to their call into ordained ministry.

Florida Conference Focuses on Young Peoples' Call

The population of Florida took a noticeable dip the weekend of November 12th, as a good portion of its citizens ventured to St. Louis for Exploration 2011.

A group of 35 college students and seminarians from the Florida Annual Conference attended the national event sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for young people, ages 18-26, to help them respond to their call into ordained ministry.

Two years ago, the conference began to focus on reaching out and guiding young people into ministry through campus ministries, summer camps, social media, and events like Exploration.

“We believe that God is still calling people to leadership in The United Methodist Church, and that includes young people,” said Emily Oliver, associate director of the Center for Clergy Excellence. “It can sometimes be hard for young people to discern a call when they may not have ever seen a young clergy person before, so it's hard for them to imagine themselves in that role. We need to pay extra attention to helping them hear and discern that call, and get started in the process.”

The conference sponsored The Hannah Project (www.flumc2.org/pages/detail/1878), which encourages and rewards local churches that celebrate a culture of call with their young people. Churches are asked to celebrate a Call to Ministry Sunday, “adopt” a seminary student, pay 100 percent of Ministerial Education Fund apportionments, and find ways to financially support candidates for ministry.

Erin Giblin, a member of New Horizon United Methodist in Southwest Ranches, said, “The Hannah Project encourages churches to preach sermons about calling, to talk about

calling in youth group. In my church, I'm one of three candidates for ministry.”

Many of the group members were able to attend Exploration 2011 thanks to churches paying their airfare or registration, which amounted to about \$450 per student.

“The average young adult's going to be able to do maybe one thing like that per year—and they have ski trips, mission trips, other things toward their major. We wanted to make it a little more reasonable for them to get here,” Oliver said.

Drew Weseman, a second-year Duke Divinity School student from Gainesville, came to Exploration to represent Duke and be a small group leader. He said it was interesting for him to be on the other side of the discernment process.

“It's strange when you realize that you're still in the midst of the discernment process and don't have everything figured out,” Weseman said. “It's good to be able to tell students that they don't have to have it all figured out when they go to seminary, that seminary is just as much a part of the discernment process as anything else.”

In her work, Oliver also visits all the Florida students at seminary and writes them personal notes during finals, along with a \$5.00 Starbucks gift card.

“We make sure to make personal connections with all our seminary students, so they feel called to come back to the Florida Conference and not go somewhere else. I feel like I'm in ministry with these people as they go through their process; I see them as my congregation.”

—Joey Butler

Vicki Brown contributed to this story.

(www.churchleadership.com/pdfs/Clergy_Age_Report_2011.pdf) reveals a widening age gap. The report was recently released by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Even though there are more young elders, deacons, and local pastors than 10 years ago, their numbers are dwarfed by elders in the 55-72 age range—951 compared with 8,790. Reflecting a trend that began in 1995, the number of elders in the 35-54 range continues to decrease.

From the 1970s to 2005, there was a continuous decline in the percentage of young adults as active elders. The past six years have seen a gradual increase.

“After that long of a decline, for it to turn up in terms of numbers and percentage is fairly significant given the past trends,” said Lovett Weems, project director of the study. “But the numbers



Vicki Brown/GBHEM

Shalom Agtarap, 28, and pastor of First United Methodist Church in Ellensburg, Wash., said, “It’s encouraging to see there are many paths to ministry now.”

ordained later. The abundance of older clergy we have might reflect that,” said del Rosario, 34.

history. They comprise about 6.2 percent of all local pastors.

- There was a dramatic increase in

“The conferences that have the highest proportion of young clergy tend to have plans to introduce young people to a life of ministry.”

are very modest, and they’re not enough to counterbalance the large numbers of middle-age clergy that are moving into the older group.”

Age Gap

In recent years, the denomination has increased its efforts to help young United Methodists discern and act on their call with events such as GBHEM’s Exploration event, which is now held every other year.

DJ del Rosario, GBHEM’s director of Young Adult Ministry Discernment and Enlistment, said one explanation for the age gap harkens back to a recurring theme he’s heard from pastors.

“When young people come to them and tell them they’re interested in pursuing ministry, many pastors tell them to go do something else first, then get

Among the 2011 study’s findings:

- For the second year, the total percentage of elders ages 55-72 is the highest in history. In 2010, they represented half of all elders; this year it is 52 percent. As recently as 2000, this age group represented only 30 percent of active elders.
- The median age of elders remains 55—the highest in history, first reached in 2010.
- The number of under-35 elders increased from 946 in 2010 to 951 in 2011, now 5.61 percent of the total number of elders. That’s the highest number and percentage of elders under 35 in more than a decade.
- There are 455 young local pastors, more than any time in recent

the percentage of young clergy who are women. Ten years ago, men outnumbered women by a ratio of 2:1. Today, women comprise almost 40 percent of elders under age 35.

Though the increase in the number of young elders hit a 10-year high, some might be discouraged because that rise reflects only five more pastors. However, the study shows that young people are pursuing a number of different ministry options.

Shalom Agtarap, 28, and pastor of First United Methodist Church in Ellensburg, Wash., said, “It’s encouraging to see there are many paths to ministry now. Some may feel called but don’t want the burden of so many years of school.”

April Casperon, director of admissions at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, agrees.

“A seminary education can cost \$60,000. A pastor in their first appointment is going to make far less than that,” Casperon, 30, said. “Many may decide against pursuing the elder track.”

One area of decline for younger clergy is in the number of deacons. After years of increase, there was a slight decline, but Weems pointed out that those numbers could be deceptive. Most of the data was compiled through United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits statistics, and deacons are often in employment settings where they have a pension plan not covered by the denomination.

Casperon is one of those deacons not counted in the study. Since her main job is at a seminary, she is not in the United Methodist pension system.

She takes a more “glass-half-full” approach to the modest increase in young clergy.

“I have another friend in a unique ministry that wouldn’t be counted in this survey, so I find even the small gains encouraging because I know there are even more young clergy out there than are in this report,” she said.

Top 10 List

The Oklahoma Annual Conference, for the first time, topped the list of conferences at 9.84 percent, the highest percentage of young commissioned and ordained elders. Other conferences in the top 10 included: Holston, Mississippi, North Alabama, Kansas West, Central Texas, Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, and Northwest Texas. Half of those conferences are making their first appearance in the top 10.

The conferences that have the highest proportion of young clergy tend to have plans to introduce young people

to a life of ministry. That can include developing youth as camp leaders or through mission trips. It can be by offering summer internships. For another conference, it may be the campus ministry program.

“Conferences that do better aren’t necessarily those that have demographics working for them; there is some reason or effort there,” said Weems. “Holston, for more than 20 years, has had a program [Resurrection] that draws thousands of youth every year, and there is a call to ministry component. Texas is in the top 10 for first time, and they have made concerted efforts for many years prior to showing this gain.”

—Butler is editor of *Young Adult Content* at *United Methodist Communications*.

Annual Conferences, Churches See Campus Ministry as Vital for Leadership Development

From a community living with a rule of life at the University of Alaska-Anchorage to a more traditional Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota, annual conferences are supporting new efforts to reach college students. And, the Florida Annual Conference has an ambitious five-year plan to start three new campus ministries in the next five years.

New campus ministries are also being started at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh and Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. A mission-based campus ministry is underway at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Jenny Smith, who is appointed half-time to a new campus ministry at the University Alaska-Anchorage, said she was amazed at how little spiritual presence she found on a campus of 14,000 students.



GBHEM and Social Media

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry now has 394 followers on Twitter, including 12 lists (which means more than one person get the tweets) and 342 “like” our Facebook page (facebook.com/gbhem). We are tweeting all news releases and posting on Facebook.

Our use of social-networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter pushes information out to new audiences and existing constituencies. You can follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube by clicking on the respective bugs positioned on our home page (www.gbhem.org).

“Many students arrive from the lower 48 and have great difficulty finding other Christians. I know many students would enjoy an inclusive, mainline ministry option. Our job is to make sure they know about it on such a big campus. . . . We’ll give out free lunch every first Monday of the month, and churches will take turns supplying the food. The other strategy is personal invitation. We’ll put up posters in high traffic areas, but we firmly believe personal invitation is the way,” said Smith, who is also a part-time associate pastor at Anchor Park UMC, one of the churches involved in funding and starting the ministry on campus.



Photo courtesy of Wesley Foundation

Students from the Wesley Foundation at Florida International University/Miami-Dade College during a retreat at Fort Myers, Fla. The theme of the retreat was “Overcome.”

Many of those involved in new ministries are clear about the importance of being on campus for The United Methodist Church.

Bishop Sally Dyck, episcopal leader of the Minnesota Annual Conference, believes campus ministry plays a vital role in providing an opportunity for worship, study, and outreach that can help shape the critical decisions made during college years. There may be many voices helping young adults think about what their career might be, but who is helping them respond to the deeper question of what God is calling them to be and do?” she asked.

David Fuquay, director of the Gator Wesley Foundation at the University of Florida and director of the Florida Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, agrees.

“With fewer students coming to campus with a religious background, Wesley Foundations are best stationed as mission organizations focused on reaching a new, more diverse generation with whom our local United Methodist congregations are struggling to connect,” Fuquay said.

The Florida International University/Miami-Dade College Wesley Foundation launched in 2009 as a sort of pilot project using the model of a new church start is thriving, he said. Under that model, the campus ministry gets full funding the first year. At the end of three years, the campus ministry must apply for funding to the conference just as all Florida campus ministries do.

A campus ministry at Florida Gulf Coast University will launch in 2012, while Florida Atlantic University, Nova Southeastern University, and the University of Tampa are being considered for future starts.

Funding Comes From Many Sources

Many of the new campus ministries have a mix of funding, although most are getting some money from the annual conference. Several of the Wesley Foundations expect their Board of Directors to help with fund raising.

Pastors involved in starting new campus ministries said the members of their churches understand that while

such ministries can benefit the church and the world, their own churches are not likely to be filled with young adult college students.

“This is not some thinly veiled church growth idea,” said Tom Gildemeister, chair of the Tennessee Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry and one of the pastors involved in starting a campus ministry at Belmont University in Nashville. Belmont was formerly affiliated with the Southern Baptist Church.

“People kept saying it was a good idea, but there wasn’t any money,” he said. But there were 250 to 400 self-identified United Methodists on the campus and West End UMC and Belmont UMC both had significant ministries with Belmont students already. This year, the Tennessee Conference approved \$30,000 for half-time staff and full-time ministry—a 5 percent increase in the higher education budget.

Catherine Phelps, a Belmont senior involved in the new ministry, said she wanted to help create an organization that provided a distinctly United
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Keys to Creating a Diverse Campus Ministry

PAUL MASSINGILL

Understanding context is critical in creating a diverse Christian community on campus. Florida International University and Miami-Dade College are both large, multicultural, multi-campus schools primarily serving commuter students. Almost 80 percent of students at FIU went to high school in Miami; more than 85 percent of both student bodies are non-Anglo; and of the almost 200,000 students at these schools, less than 2,500 live on campus. What this means is that for most students, their lives do not center around school or the campus. They live at home and have family expectations and commitments; they often work jobs, many of them full time. Those who are already following Jesus belong to (and serve in) local churches; they start college with “community” already (friends from high school). This affects everything about our ministry—when and where and how we program, what we expect of our leaders, and how we reach out on campus.

When I was hired 2½ years ago to launch this new ministry, I was concerned how a 35-year-old white guy with terrible Spanish would do in this setting. Because many of my students speak another language at home with their families and in their homogenous, often culturally specific churches, they were looking for a diverse, English-speaking Christian community. And because they were raised in Latin and Caribbean cultures with a good deal of respect for age and authority, that too worked to my benefit.

Diversity Is a Commitment, Not a Goal

When we launched this new ministry, we did not set out to be diverse. We set out to reach students for Jesus on our campuses, which happen to be very diverse. But we also have as a core commitment that following Jesus and being in Christian community requires us to be in relationship with those who are “different” than we are. *And this commitment is reflected in our leadership.* On our leadership team (staff and students), we have young adults who describe themselves as Cuban, Haitian, and Jamaican. We have two women who are originally from Guatemala and Peru. Three of our primary prayer warriors are from Trinidad, Zambia, and rural Kentucky. We are committed to reaching out to all different kinds of people—a commitment reflected in who is up front, who is making decisions, and who is offering leadership. We also reach out to different communities of people within the larger student body.

Focus on Jesus and Be Biblical

Few people in south Florida are United Methodist, and most young people don’t understand and don’t care much for denominational differences and identities. What they do care about is who Jesus is and trying to understand what the Bible says. So in worship and small groups, we talk a lot about Jesus, use a lot of Scripture, and encourage people to be themselves.

The result has been a wonderfully rich theological diversity within our community. Some of the students connected to our ministry have backgrounds in United Methodist churches. But we also have students who consider themselves agnostic, Catholic, Pentecostal, Baptist, non-denominational, and a whole array of other things. There are people who shout and dance during our worship gatherings, and there are people who prefer the quiet stillness of prayer and liturgy around the Communion table. We have students who don’t (yet) believe women should be ordained pastors in community with female staff and student leaders who are discerning calls to ordained ministry. And we can do this because our focus is on Jesus. What they hear me preach and teach is “United Methodist” because that is who I am and how I’ve been theologically formed. However, we really make an effort to focus on Jesus and the Word ahead of particular denominational politics or specific doctrinal positions. Two more quick thoughts:

- **Embrace the messiness.** In a diverse community, people are going to disagree and misunderstand each other. The leadership has to be comfortable enough within these tensions—and comfortable enough in their own skin—to resist the urge to try and please everyone.
- **Work hard . . . and pray even harder.** Starting a new ministry will make you a believer in the power of prayer. I am so blessed with a group of students and leaders in our ministry who have a passionate commitment to prayer.

There is so much we still have to figure out about this new ministry and this unique context. But I am grateful to be in a community that reflects the diversity of God’s kingdom, and I am grateful to be part of an annual conference that has a strong commitment to reaching young people for Christ and starting new ministries. Please pray for us and check out our Web site (www.fiumdcwesley.org) if you want to know more!

—Massingill is pastor and executive director,
Florida International University and Miami-Dade
College Wesleyan Foundation in Miami, Fla.

Methodist presence for the students who come after her.

Jon Disburg, senior pastor at Anchor Park UMC in Anchorage, Alaska, said he realized The United Methodist Church had no presence on the University of Alaska-Anchorage campus and that Smith was passionate about working

“With fewer students coming to campus with a religious background, Wesley Foundations are best stationed as mission organizations.”

with young adults. “We thought this was the time, and we had the right person with the right gifts,” he said. The church agreed to contribute \$40,000 toward the new campus ministry.

“I think it was a great benefit to our church to put ourselves out there to do mission with young adults at a time when we were struggling economically. We see this as a ministry that provides a nurturing presence at an important time in the lives of young adults,” he said.

The conference is giving \$3,000 toward the ministry and seven other churches are involved and considering what they can contribute in funding.

J. Cody Nielsen, campus minister for the brand new Wesley Foundation at the University of Minnesota, believes campus ministry is in a new age.

“While I personally believe we need to be supporting our campus ministries with apportionment dollars, I also believe we are in an age of professional fund raising. This campus ministry is provided by a variety of sources, including local giving, individuals making financial commitments, grants, apportionment dollars, and other opportunities as they become available,” he said.

Donna M. Dempewolf, a member of the new Wesley Foundation’s Board of Directors, said the Minnesota Annual Conference appropriated more than \$90,000 for the new ministry, money

that came from the long-ago sale of Wesley Foundation buildings when the campus ministry was shut down.

Bridgette Young Ross, GBHEM’s assistant general secretary for Campus Ministry and College Chaplaincy, said she thinks it is encouraging to have new campus ministry starts. “District superintend-

ents, annual conferences, local churches are seeing themselves as instrumental in the start-ups. It’s encouraging that these churches and conferences are finding new and different ways of doing ministry with students and are seeing those ministries as part of the work of the church of making disciples for Jesus Christ.”

Churches, Conferences Experiment With New Models

The approach at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh is to have student peer ministers who work under the supervision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America campus minister, said John Hobbins, pastor of Oshkosh First United Methodist Church. “The ministry has seven or eight peer ministers, and four of them are United Methodist,” he said. Other churches involved are Wesley UMC, Algoma Boulevard UMC, and Waukau UMC.

Carl Gladstone, director of the Young Leaders Initiative in Detroit, said Catalyst, a ministry at Wayne State University, is a pilot program working with a small group of students. The students spend some time learning about the strengths and weaknesses of Detroit and volunteering at nonprofit or church programs.

Then, each student gets \$100 to start a new project or work with an existing one. “It’s completely student

led. Some will show real leadership; others just want to be connected,” Gladstone said. Funds were left over from a now-defunct Wesley Foundation. The group, which consists of a core group of 12 to 15 and up to 50 students who have been involved in projects, meets at coffeehouses.

—Vicki Brown

African Theological Institutions Form Association

SHARAI NONDO

MUTARE, Zimbabwe—The first-ever African Association of United Methodist Theological Institutions was officially launched at the Africa University campus on Sept. 6, 2011. The event was witnessed by members of the African College of Bishops and deans of faculties and heads of United Methodist-related theological institutions in Africa. The launch coincided with the annual African College of Bishops meeting.

“The formation of this association will enable us to retain our identity as The United Methodist Church in Africa,” said the Rev. Dr. Beauty Maenzanise, dean of Africa University’s Faculty of Theology.

Bishop Gaspar Domingos, president of the Africa Central Conference concurred, saying the association was being formed at the right moment in Africa’s development. “African wisdom needs to be collected and at this moment, Africa needs information which is contextual to its history, identity and struggles.” Bishop Domingos added. He said for a long time, African students of theology were taught and conditioned to quote western theologians, but he was optimistic that this association would help to promote the referencing of African theological thinkers.



The Rev. "Guy" Mande Muyombo, director of Kamina Methodist University, at the first meeting of the African Association of United Methodist Theological Institutions.

Bishop Eben Nhwatiwa, resident bishop of the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area, added that the formation of the association would see the expansion of the theological education on the African continent.

President-elect of the association and long-time proponent of the need for an African theological association, Professor Kasap Owan said the objectives of the association were to create common programs and structures in all theological institutions of The United Methodist Church in Africa. Capacity strengthening in the areas of library development, staff development, and development of doctoral programs and exchange programs would be some of the priority areas for the association.

"This association will aim to coordinate the teaching of Methodist theology on the African continent, and we count on the support of the leadership of the global church to make this initiative possible," he said.

The Rev. Rena Yocom, assistant general secretary for Clergy Formation and

Theological Education in the Division of Ordained Ministry, GBHEM, said the association would enhance and coordinate the work of theologians belonging to The United Methodist Church in Africa.

Leaders of the association were elected from the three Central Conferences of the church which are the Africa Central Conference, Congo Central Conference, and West Africa Central Conference. Professor Owan, president of Katanga Methodist University, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was elected as president. The Rev. Yatta Young, from the Liberia Annual Conference and dean of Gbarnga School of Theology, was elected vice president. Julio Vilanculo, an Africa University alumnus and director of Mission and Theology at Cambine Mission Center, Mozambique, was elected as secretary.

The following were elected as Conveners of Languages for the respective annual conferences: French: Lody Pungumbu; Portuguese: Andre Feijo; English: Isaac Kyambadde; and member-at-large, Maraidzo Mutambara, a lecturer at Africa University's Faculty of Theology.

Seven representatives from theological institutions of the respective United Methodist annual conferences in Africa attended the historic meeting: Maenzanise; the Rev. Sanda Sanganza, Africa University lecturer; the Rev. "Guy" Mande Muyombo, an Africa University alumnus and director of the Kamina Methodist University in North Katanga, DRC; and the Rev. Kimba Evariste, also an AU alumnus and president of Kabongo Methodist University in North Katanga, DRC.

The newly formed association supported a petition going to the General Conference in April, 2012, that would form a Central Conference Theological Education Fund which would be apportioned to respective annual conferences. Such a fund could be used for the development of theological schools, Course of

Study materials; development of libraries and contextually developed resources; scholarships, faculty development, as well as support for associations, networks of faculty and schools and new approaches to theological education.

The proposal includes the creation of a committee of persons named by the Central Conferences to provide oversight to the policies/procedures/disbursements of the Central Conference Theological Education Fund in Africa. It would be elected by the Council of Bishops and would include one person from each episcopal area, selected from the African College of Bishops, Boards of Ordained Ministry, and theological schools. There would also be representatives of GBHEM and GBGM. The proposal would make a total of \$5 million available in the 2013-2016 quadrennium, and would be administered by GBHEM.

— *Nondo is the Acting Director of Information and Public Affairs at Africa University.*

Ken Yamada Reflects On Years of Work in Global Higher Education

MARTA W. ALDRICH

In his 32 years with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry—with the last six focusing on global initiatives—Ken Yamada has traveled five million miles and circled the world 190 times on behalf of the church. His career has been dedicated to widening access to higher education, improving the quality of education at Methodist-related colleges and universities, and launching United Methodist initiatives for developing principled Christian leaders around the world. Now 76, he retired on October 31, Yamada reflected during a recent interview about his work, particularly the church's role in an increasingly global culture.

You were educated at a Methodist university in Tokyo and have dedicated your life to extending that same opportunity of higher education to others around the world. How did your years at Aoyama Gakuin University affect your life work?

I was raised in a Buddhist family, and my experience at Aoyama Gakuin really molded me. It broadened my perspectives and gave me empathy for others. I was a child when I experienced the bombing of Japan during World War II. At the university, I learned about reconciliation, justice, and service for others. I became a Christian. A quality higher education that is rooted in the church is a mission I firmly believe because that's what I came from.

Describe the focus of your work in higher education during recent years.

GBHEM provides technical assistance that helps our institutions troubleshoot everything from school structure to financing, curriculum, quality faculty, managing enrollment, and the physical campus.

What are some of the challenges in delivering this technical assistance?

It is increasingly important that our technical assistance, especially through the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD), be tailored to the culture that surrounds each institution across the world. Pushing the U.S. model doesn't work anymore because there are so many cultural differences, and people no longer assume that the American model is always best. So we created five regions for the MGEFLD—Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the U.S. The regional approach to leadership development through our educational institutions is outstandingly successful right now. Also, our assistance is designed to help institu-

tions become self-sustainable because when the money flows from the U.S., there are always control issues. So our technical assistance includes developing the local funds and local fund raising.

You were instrumental in establishing Africa University, which has been a major initiative for the church. What was the impetus for the school opening in 1992 in Zimbabwe?

The continent of Africa had been torn up so much during the colonial period. And I think that also Africa's rich natural resources have been sucked up by nations that deliberately did not give educational opportunities to indigenous Africans. They did have elementary school and all that, but kept educational opportunities low so they could have control. There are a number of other universities in Africa, but Africa University was a first for The United Methodist Church. Symbolically and also substantively, it gives enormous hope to young people who want access to higher education sponsored by the church.

You have been part of the development of Africa University since the beginning. When you see how far it has come, what are your thoughts?

Africa University is really a success. The denomination ought to be very proud of what they have done. When we developed the master plan, there were seven goals: create a university with seven colleges; develop the university campus; reach enrollment at 1,200 coming from all over Africa; build a permanent endowment fund of \$40 million, which is 5 percent of spending; get to where at least 50 percent of the operational funds—tuition, room-and-board, all that—would be generated locally; achieve a high reputation for Africa University; and debt free. By 2006, we accomplished all of those goals.

What is the next step for higher education and leadership development in Africa?

It is our goal to provide educational access to all people. With Africa University as an anchor, we are developing the network for our first distance-education center—offering a master's of business program in Mozambique. Now we're also setting up the distance-education center in Congo. Also we work with a Japanese corporation to develop the mosquito net production in Tanzania, and now they hire 6,000 Tanzanians to make mosquito nets. We want people to become self-sufficient.

What is the role of technology in these changes?

Our plan is someday to develop a distance-learning network to all of Africa and also other places. Distance education is not just computer based. A radio station can be an important delivery system. We have distance education in the Philippines that we just established two months ago. We are working on a radio station in the Philippines in Baguio. Also, because of language issues, we are linking Methodist University in São Paulo, Brazil, with schools in Angola and also Mozambique where Portuguese is also spoken. There is the E-Academy, which uses technology to provide Methodist studies to clergy and seminary students in Europe. We're going to bring that model to Congo.

What is the status of the International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges, and Universities, or IAMSCU, which is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year.

We now have some 700 schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries and nearly one million students enrolled in these schools all over the world. We

had the sixth conference of the association this year, and it was really exciting to see our connection working in this way. The association was established by our denomination in 1991 to help foster cooperation of our Methodist institutions around the world.

The National Association of Schools & Colleges of The United Methodist Church, or NASCUMC, was created in 1976 to foster the common good among all higher education institutions in the U.S. What are the strengths and challenges for UM-supported higher education in the U.S.?

I think NASCUMC has been a good instrument. The problem is our educational pipeline has been broken, or perhaps is rusted. It used to be local church pastors would encourage young people to go to the Methodist schools and Methodist seminaries, so there was a pool of highly trained Methodist leaders going into our local churches. That pool has been drying up. So this national association is extremely important to impart a value system of Methodism. I think the denomination must claim these as Methodist institutions and say we will support you. It's not just finances; it's moral support that these institutions need.

Last July, the first joint conference of IAMSCU and NASCUMC was held in Washington, D.C. What came out of that?

There is now more discussion about linking our schools programmatically. We celebrate our connectionalism, but we are asking ourselves why we aren't doing more at programmatic levels, such as dual-degree programs and programs to transfer credits at institutions around the world.

We are a global world with an increasingly global economy, global



Vicki Brown/GBHEM

Ken Yamada, special assistant to the General Secretary for Global Education and New Initiatives, was recognized at GBHEM's August Board meeting for his years of service. Yamada (center) retired this year. He is shown with Kim Cape, general secretary, and Bishop Marcus Matthews, Board president.

communications, and global technology. How important is it that the church gets this right and thinks globally moving forward?

It is very important, but we are far behind on how we can make a difference. We must become a global church with more than just our rhetoric. We need to have real substance about what that means. Our biggest problem, I think, is that our church is moving away from being a mission-driven church to a money-driven church. If you have a strong mission-driven church, money will chase you. But if you become a money-driven church, with the mission becoming secondary, you have less outcome. In the 1800s, when the United States was developing and without much money, people believing in Christ and believing in the church gave nickels and dimes and that's what built Methodist universities, hospitals, orphanages. Today, the church is far better off financially, but we are losing our mission roots.

In July at the gathering of NASCUMC/IAMSCU, you received a new award that was named in your

honor, the Ken Yamada Distinguished Leadership Award, also known as the Flame of Excellence. Over the years, you've also received honorary degrees, had buildings named after you, and songs sung in your honor. What do you hope is the legacy of your work?

I am honored by these things, but I am really more comfortable working in the background. I think my biggest reward has been to see the young people who have enjoyed the benefits from a higher education through the church. This is what drives me.

—Aldrich is a reporter, writer, and editor based in Franklin, Tenn.

Philippines Holds Clergywomen's Consultation

VIDA GRACE T. SISON

Clergywomen are no longer outsiders, instead they are "inside outsiders," Kim Cape told 206 clergywomen from the Manila, Baguio, and Davao Episcopal Areas in the Philippines in her

keynote address to a gathering of the Philippines Central Conference clergywomen.

The Rev. Cape said that 55 years ago “We were outsiders . . . we could not serve churches, but we couldn’t vote at annual conferences, we had no guarantee of appointment, we didn’t have to be paid minimum wages.” Cape, general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, said things have changed significantly since 1956, when the General Conference voted to grant full clergy rights for women. She noted that there was no woman bishop in the Philippines yet and expressed hope that this, too, will change.

The theme of the conference, held Oct. 5-7 in Baguio, was “Clergywomen: Lift Up, Level Up, Lead On!”

Citing Queen Esther as an example of being an inside outsider in the royal court of Persia during a time when Jews were persecuted, Cape said that clergywomen have become inside outsiders for such a time when there is war, violence, injustice, and consumerism in our world. She reminded the participants that as inside outsiders, Jesus Christ “calls us to follow as his disciples the way down a path that leads to regularly being crucified.”

“God help us if we do not lose our lives for Christ’s sake in order to create a world that is softer, kinder, a more peaceful place where swords are beaten into plowshares,” she prayed.

Learnings at the Consultation

The consultation was first-ever national gathering of UM clergywomen in the Philippines—from local pastors and provisional elders to ordained deacons and elders. GBHEM provided financial support to allow more clergywomen to attend and participate in the consultation. Nerissa S. Palafox, a former district superintendent led the consultation planning team.



“Clergywomen: Lift Up, Level Up, Lead On!” was the theme of the Philippines Central Conference Clergywomen’s Consultation attended by 206 clergywomen from the Manila, Baguio, and Davao Episcopal Areas of The United Methodist Church in the Philippines.

HiRho Park, GBHEM’s director of Clergy Lifelong Learning, gave the first lecture about church administration and polity, as well as reporting on legislation that the Study of Ministry Commission will submit to the 2012 General Conference.

“Glory to God for clergywomen who hold up half the church!”

Daniel C. Arichea Jr., interim bishop of the Manila Episcopal Area and translations consultant of the Philippine Bible Society, discussed the differences between literal and meaning-based translations and defined ways of interpreting biblical texts. He pointed out that biblical interpretation is the process of carefully studying the biblical text in order to understand its meaning and relevance.

Dorcas Lumba, a medical doctor, advised the clergywomen that they should take good care of their physical well being and as well as their spiritual wellness referring to 3 John 1:2. She mentioned ways to lead a lifestyle of physical and spiritual wholeness and wellness.

Benoni Silva-Netto, a faculty member at Union Theological Seminary in

Cavite, and a former district superintendent in the U.S., encouraged the clergywomen to debunk such myths such as men’s ordination, sacred vocation, and missionary condescension that still pop up in the church.

He urged them to design new paths and said one of the means to do this is to identify some areas of specialization in ministry that can support more adequately the mission of the church.

Garlinda Burton, general secretary of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, told Filipina clergy to “claim their place as Christ’s ambassadors to the whole world, as agents of change in the name of Jesus Christ.” She said she hopes to see a woman bishop in the Philippines someday.

Nizzi S. Digan, chair of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Clergywomen Association (AAPIC), delivered the morning worship message on the second day. She expounded on the theme of the consultation by defining what clergywomen should do to “lift up, level up, and lead on.”

A Future with Hope

In the closing service, Bishop Juan challenged the clergywomen “to rise above our difficulties and struggles and try your best to aspire for greater things.”

He prompted them to lift one another through prayers, combine discipline and compassion, and stand shoulder-to-shoulder leaving no one behind.

Palafox said the next step is to organize the clergywomen by episcopal area and then formally organize at the national level so that they will be able to make an action plan for the 2013-2016 quadrennium.

Maritez Cruz, an elder from Manila, shared her thoughts on the consultation: “Finally, United Methodist clergywomen in the Philippines have found their collective voice through their shared inclusive experience. Now, we can begin the even more daunting task of reaching out to more of our sisters who were not privileged to attend the gathering. Glory to God for clergywomen who hold up half the church!”

—*Sison is executive secretary of the Philippines Central Conference Board of Christian Education and Communications.*

Nascimento Named Special Assistant for Global Education

Amos Nascimento, a native of Brazil and an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Washington, will serve as special assistant to the General Secretary for Global Education and New Initiatives.

Dr. Nascimento succeeds Ken Yamada, who retired Oct. 31 after 45 years of service in United Methodist higher education. He began work at GBHEM on Nov. 1.

“We are fortunate to secure Dr. Nascimento who has extensive and deep knowledge and experiences in multi-cultural and multi-language education and leadership development,” said General Secretary Kim Cape. “He grew



Amos Nascimento

up in a dedicated Methodist family in Brazil and his commitment to Methodist education and work of GBHEM is extraordinary. I am confident that Dr. Nascimento will further strengthen and carry out the church’s mission in higher education in a substantive way.”

He received his undergraduate degree in music at Escuela de Musica Eduardo Carambula in Argentina, a Master of Arts in Sociology of Religion at Universidade Methodist de São Paulo, Brazil, and a Doctor of Philosophy at J. W. Goethe University in Germany. He did additional graduate studies in philosophy at Phillips University in Germany, ethics and political theory at University of Campinas in Brazil, and theological studies at ISEDET School of Theology in Argentina.

Nascimento has been involved in the work of GBHEM and has worked with Yamada as a consultant to the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development for several years. He serves as Chair of the World Methodist Council’s Education Committee.

Nascimento’s work will include helping create institutional partnerships between those in developed and developing nations, as well as seeking resources for the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development. That program aims to provide technical assistance in higher education governance and administration for the purpose of improving and strengthening Methodist schools, colleges, univer-

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sities, and theological schools.

He reports directly to Kim Cape and serves as a member of GBHEM’s executive staff.

Ludlum Joins DHE

Beth Ludlum has accepted a position as director of Student Faith and Leadership Formation in the Division of Higher Education. She begins work on Jan. 30, 2012.

Ludlum will provide leadership in development of programs, resources, and networking tools for vocational discernment and leadership development of students in United Methodist campus ministries and schools, colleges, and uni-



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versities. Additionally, she will design, implement, and maintain a strategic plan for an online presence specifically related to pre-college and college students as a means of connecting them to UM collegiate ministries, higher education institutions, and other higher education resources. She will report to Bridgette Young Ross, assistant general secretary for Campus Ministry and College Chaplaincy.

Ludlum is currently director of recruitment at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. At Wesley, she has gained valuable experience in networking with United Methodist campus ministers, chaplains, and student leaders around the country. Additionally, she has knowledge and experience in leadership development, workshop facilitation, and resource development.

She has had opportunities to preach in churches and in college worship settings, lead workshops at youth gatherings, lead college students on mission trips, and participate in a pilot program



Beth Ludlum

as part of a team that developed and implemented a vocational discernment curriculum for congregational use. Ludlum believes God's call on her life is to devote her gifts and ministry to students and to the chaplains, pastors, and educational institutions that help them develop into passionate, faithful leaders.

Ludlum received her bachelor's degree from Kansas State University and is scheduled to receive her Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in May, 2012.

Upcoming Events

Spring Board Meeting

March 15-17, 2012

Native American Ministries Sunday

April 22, 2012

General Conference

April 24 - May 4, 2012 • Tampa, Fla.

Higher Education Night at General Conference

April 30, 2012 • Tampa, Fla.

World Communion Sunday

October 7, 2012

Fall Board Meeting

October 11-13, 2012

UMSM Student Forum

November 9-11, 2012

Student Day Sunday

November 25, 2012

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