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GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

Preparing a New Generation of Christian Leaders

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Strengthening the Global Church Through Education

The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development

F. HERBERT SKEETE AND BENJAMIN OLIPHINT



Bishop F. Herbert Skeete



Bishop Benjamin Oliphint

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is being presented with an unprecedented opportunity to help develop principled leaders for the church and the world. Of all the world's Christian denominations, The United Methodist Church alone has the unique resources and depth of knowledge necessary to help guide an emerging and powerful growth in Christian congregations in a way that can shape the future of

communities, regions, and nations across the globe for decades to come.

The church is poised to do this through a bold new initiative—the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD). Through the fund and our unique connectional system, we will both develop leaders and dramatically strengthen the role of 775 Methodist-affiliated secondary schools, colleges,

The Methodist
GLOBAL
EDUCATION FUND

www.gbhem.org/mgef

universities, and theological schools in 69 countries as a force for global stability and progress.

For the first time, the denomination will create an integrated strategy for leveraging its vast educational resources to promote global progress and stability.

The initial steps to do that are a drive to raise \$1.5 million in 2007 and put structures in place in Africa and Latin America for the fund. Structures for the other three regions—Asia, Europe, and the United States—will follow. The three-pronged partnership approach calls for the fund to underwrite the costs of technical assistance to improve and strengthen schools and to provide on-site mentoring for professional development and scholarship support for leadership development.

New Congregations Present Great Opportunity

This is the right time, as Christian congregations are growing rapidly in countries around the world, with churches worldwide welcoming more than 1.4 billion members. Across the globe, Methodist congregations are also dramatically expanding, with more than 10 million members worldwide.

These thriving Methodist congregations will foster communities guided by tolerance, a concern for others, and a profound commitment to building local, valued-based societies and institutions. They will create a powerful contrast to the conflicts that are currently filling much of the world with political and social struggles defined by cultural and religious intolerance and violence.

If we can find a way to help guide these growing Methodist congregations—these new centers of faith—we can also help guide the wider social communities in which they are located. We can literally impact the future of our globe.

Through the Methodist Global Education Fund, we have the opportunity to foster a powerful sense of global “connectedness” that could allow millions of Methodists worldwide to share their knowledge, their energy, and their faith. In turn, they can become the leaders of congregations, communities, businesses, and eventually, nations.

These new congregations do not want large financial handouts. They see themselves as members of a global Methodist family and are firmly focused

(continued on page 4)



THE GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY is developing the detailed plans required to tap into the incredible power of its worldwide educational system.

GBHEM knows the experts in leadership development; it understands the needs of the emerging congregations and the capabilities of the Methodist-affiliated educational institutions. Particularly during the complex start-up phase, GBHEM is uniquely suited to serve as the first-steps coordinator for a program of the magnitude and importance of the Methodist

members, working from their home countries and educational institutions, will be dedicated to providing precisely the high-impact mentoring that the requesting institution needs to create an outstanding leadership development program.

Partnership will be woven throughout the process, with each requesting institution funding its own program and the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development covering the cost of the technical assistance.

How It Will Work

Global Education Fund for Leadership Development.

The 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church authorized the creation of the fund, planned as a four-year, \$4 million project. The fund adopts a three-pronged approach of technical assistance and sharing, on-site mentoring to assist in program development and implementation, and scholarship support.

A true partnership among participating institutions, the fund will be implemented with a shared vision, shared responsibilities, and shared costs. It will be conceptually divided into five regions—Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the U.S.—with each region able to raise or pool funds and disburse them to approved sites and programs. Each region will interconnect with the others as they share expertise and assist in developing program components.

• The Technical Assistance Program

From around the world, Methodist-affiliated institutions (individual schools, colleges, universities, or theological schools) will request assistance in creating leadership development programs that will address local needs for clergy or lay leaders. Framed by clearly defined goals, basic program design, and estimated costs, the requests will be carefully evaluated by a committee composed of a senior level representative from the appropriate region, Board members, and senior staff from GBHEM. When the request is approved, GBHEM, drawing on extensive knowledge of the Methodist educational network, will help form the technical assistance team.

Each team, selected from the finest experts available, can help guide the creation of the best possible program. Team

• The Methodist Scholars Program

The Methodist Scholars Program will place, when requested, an outstanding Methodist leader on-site at the requesting institution. These seasoned leaders—120 over a four year period—will act both as model leaders and hands-on mentors to the local institutions as they develop the most effective clergy and lay leadership development programs. Available for placements from 6 to 24 months, the scholars might serve as faculty members, chaplains, or administrative leaders.

This program will enable dynamic, senior-level Methodist educators to directly impact the future of leadership development at educational institutions around the world.

The fund will cover the travel costs of the scholar as well as his/her benefits, while the host institution will provide the scholar's direct compensation and cover local expenses.

• The Methodist Global Education Scholarship Program

The finest leadership development program must have quality students. And any effort to recruit the best students must have a mechanism to provide scholarship assistance whenever it is needed.

John Wesley understood that truth when he founded Kingswood School in 1748. He knew that the poor children of coal miners could also become dynamic Christian leaders, dedicated to serving others.

The Scholarship Program will be administered at the regional level, with the fund providing direct scholarship funds to institutions participating in the Technical Assistance and Scholars Programs on a matching-grant basis.

The third component of scholarships will ensure that the finest students, whatever their financial circumstances, are enabled and encouraged to attend. Through fund-assisted scholarships, student will grow and mature, ready to begin what will become their lifelong impact on their churches, their communities, and the world.

—Ken Yamada

on being equal partners, contributing in whatever way they can to the strengthening of the church's impact in the world. The MGEFLD will help these emerging Christian centers flourish with capable leaders, while expanding their regional education capacities.

Spreading the Gospel Through Education

We are acutely aware that The United Methodist Church's educational institutions are a powerful resource.

For more than 200 years, The United Methodist Church has played a key role in developing educational institutions around the world and spreading the gospel through education. We brought new disciples to Jesus Christ by founding centers of learning that transformed communities and regions. The American educational landscape would look much different today without the hundreds of schools founded by Methodists. In Africa, United Methodist-founded Africa University has become one of the most dynamic educational institutions on the continent, graduating more than 2,000 principled leaders in the last 10 years alone.

These centers of learning form a

for high academic quality but also for the values they encourage.

Those values are anchored in service to others, in a commitment to justice supporting equality, and in the power of reconciliation to overcome differences. In today's conflict-burdened world, the impact of such leaders will be critical to any effort to build a better future.

Imagine, for just a moment, the impact of new leaders in countries around the world who truly understand the famous dictum of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism:

*Do all the good you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
By all the means you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.*

In today's world, we desperately need such leaders.

Learning and Holiness Combine

John Wesley believed that a child was born biased toward evil. "The bias of nature is set the wrong way: Education is designed to set it right. This by the

the right time and right opportunity to improve and strengthen the Methodist educational infrastructure, reshape and develop an appropriate leadership development program by uniting with a common purpose and responsibility, sharing expertise, and combining resources.

If we do that, every Methodist-related educational institution will serve as a vital instrument supported by the connectional system that the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development will fashion. By linking the enormous reservoir of knowledge available through Methodist-affiliated schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools, we can create and fortify educational programs across the globe to train clergy, lay, and community leaders whose wisdom and understanding can be transformational.

Through the MGEFLD, we will be defining an unprecedented model—local impact with regional direction, linked by a worldwide, interconnection of knowledge and expertise—that may well set the stage for a new paradigm of global connectedness, with the global United Methodist Church as the facilitator.

We can help develop the next generation of Methodist leaders around the globe, fashioning a better future for the church and the world.

network that can share information with an impact that will be without parallel—especially if leveraged to create leadership development programs that will provide leaders who are guided by Christian faith and Christian principles.

The leaders developed through such programs would bring a unique perspective to any organization they help to direct, whether church-connected or secular. They would do so because Methodist-affiliated educational institutions have earned a reputation not only

grace of God, is to turn the bias from self-will, pride, anger, revenge, and the love of the world, to resignation, lowliness, meekness, and the love of God." And as Charles Wesley's hymn so clearly defines it:

*Unite the pair so oft disjointed,
Knowledge and vital piety;
Learning and holiness combine, . . .*

This is what makes a Methodist education and Methodist-affiliated schools so distinctive and different. It is

Visionaries and Partnerships Needed

What is particularly exciting is that the 2004 General Conference established the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development, and it is now designated as a World Service Special Gift. (See box on page 5.)

That means that each of us, as Methodists and Christians, are free to make our own decision about this initiative. And that is as it should be.

How to Give

YOU CAN GIVE TO THE METHODIST Global Education Fund for Leadership Development by sending a check along with your name, address, your church's name and address, and the name of your annual conference to your church treasurer. In the memo line, mark your check: Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development, World Service Special Gift Number 05-06-04.

Or mail your check and the accompanying information directly to:
GCFA

The United Methodist Church
1 Music Circle North
PO Box 340029
Nashville, TN 37203-0029

For information about the fund, contact: Ken Yamada, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 615-340-7398, kyamada@gbhem.org.

When God presents an opportunity, it is up to us to recognize its importance. It is up to us, individually, to take the action necessary to choose our response; and, in doing so, demonstrate our commitment to a vision that will shape the future of the worldwide Methodist Church.

We can help develop the next generation of Methodist leaders around the globe, fashioning a better future for the church and the world. The possibilities are astounding. The opportunity and the knowledge are there. The support of visionaries like you is all that is missing.

Partnerships are about a shared sense of commitment to reach a goal. There are congregations and institutions and communities willing to partner with

us in developing principled Christian leaders. All it takes to make that happen are partners who are willing to commit to this cause and provide the funding necessary to begin the process.

It is a rare opportunity. We invite you to join us in shaping the future of the global Methodist Church and the leaders who will help guide its destiny.

Retired Bishops F. Herbert Skeete and Benjamin Oliphint both served tenures as president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Skeete served from 1984-88, while Oliphint was Board president from 1988-92.

Spring Board Meeting Focuses on Youth Culture

VICKI BROWN

A NEW GENERATION OF PREACHERS MUST write the essence of the gospel so it will sink in even in our frenzied modern

society, Arthur Jones told directors of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry at the spring meeting.

“It may mean that we learn how to become very good at Pod-casting and Internet church. It may mean that we learn how to evangelize differently and be in ministry with the poor differently,” Jones said in his sermon during the opening worship of a Board meeting that focused on the culture of youth and young adults.

Jones, a young adult seminarian who is a member of the Board, preached on the scripture Habakkuk 2:1-5 (NRSV), which refers to making the message of God “plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.”

“In Habakkuk’s time, they were about to face exile,” Jones said. “Even though physical exile is not a real threat for Americans, I promise we are running. . . . We like fast cars and fast planes. It takes us no more than eight



The Rev. Jerome King Del Pino (center) talks with Caleb Parker (left) and Arthur Jones before the opening worship service of the spring Board meeting. Parker is a member of the United Methodist Student Movement Steering Committee. Jones, a young adult seminarian who is a Board member, delivered the sermon.

Photos by Vicki Brown/GBHEM

hours to cross the Atlantic, once a two-month journey. We like all of our things fast, running from class to class, and meeting to meeting.”

Jones said preaching the gospel in the modern world does not mean being passive or maintaining the status quo.

“We must preach the essence of the gospel to a new and different society so that people can understand and then live differently,” he said.

“Is this not the mission of the Board? Our goal is to transform lives so they themselves can spread the gospel,” Jones said.

“If we do our job right and preach the gospel so that the frenzied people can read it, then those who read it will be able to run with it,” he said.

Members of both the Division of Ordained Ministry and the Division of



Caleb Parker, a member of the United Methodist Student Movement Steering Committee, takes notes on his laptop during the spring Board meeting. Parker was part of a panel discussion about the church and young people.

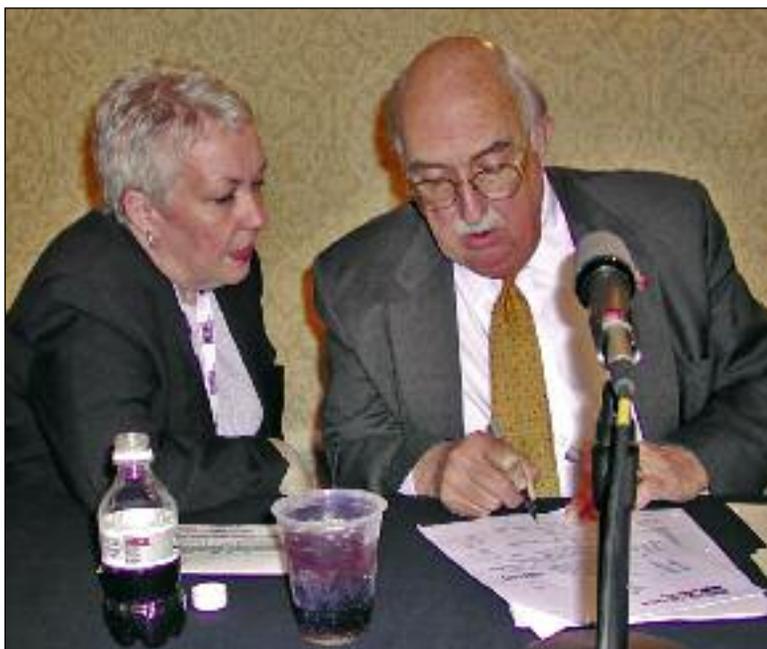
Preaching the gospel in the modern world does not mean being passive or maintaining the status quo.

Higher Education heard presentations on the culture of youth and young adults.

Julie O’Neal and Jay Clark, staff members of the Division on Ministries with Young People at the General Board of Discipleship, talked about characteristics of Generation X and the Millennial Generation, the 69 million young adults ages 18-30.

“Young adults are spiritually fed by a variety of worship styles,” O’Neal said. “They want to find and meet God on their terms.” And that means, she said, that the challenge for the church is not to do “one-size-fits-all worship.”

Medea Saunders, director of the Wesley Foundation at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, said the church can no longer leave young adults out of church for 10 or 15 years and expect them to come back when they face tragedy or death.



The Rev. Mary Ann Moman, associate general secretary of the Division of Ordained Ministry, confers with Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey during a Board plenary session.



Linda Green/UM News Service

A troupe from Ernest Newman United Methodist Church in Nashville, dances during the Board's closing worship service.

“Our youth and young adults live in a world where tragic experiences are the norm. Don’t expect young people to come back when they are broken because they don’t know they are broken,” she said.

Caleb Parker, a member of the United Methodist Student Movement Steering Committee, said young people want “spiritual security, somewhere to go to provide some answers.”

O’Neal agreed, saying young adults are spiritual, but that their faith does not mean they go to church.

The Rev. Meg Lassiatt, director of student ministries, vocation, and enlistment, said the spirituality of young people presents a great opportunity for the church. “If youth and young adults see the church as a place where they find meaning and explore their spirituality and faith,

they are more likely to find ways within the church to live out their faith through lay or ordained ministry.”

Paul Perez, a probationary member of the Detroit Annual Conference, said that as the son of a Mexican-American father and Dutch mother, much of his life has been spent trying to determine his own identity. And he noted that some aspects of youth culture, such as moving home to live with parents after college, might be frowned on by a dominant American culture that downplays connection to family but is more accepted in the culture of second- and third-generation immigrant families.

“Young people are hungry to tell their story to whomever will listen,” Perez said. “They are hungry to share their lives and connect with people. Our heritage as a church is one of small groups and sharing our stories with

each other. Unfortunately, in the church and society, there isn’t a place where we ask each other, ‘How is your soul?’”

Vicki Brown is associate editor and writer in the Office of Interpretation.

Board Increases Scholarships, Loan Amounts

THE AMOUNT OF MONEY A UNITED Methodist college student may borrow annually from a denominational loan fund will double to \$5,000 beginning in August 2007, while the interest rate for repayment will decrease to 5 percent.

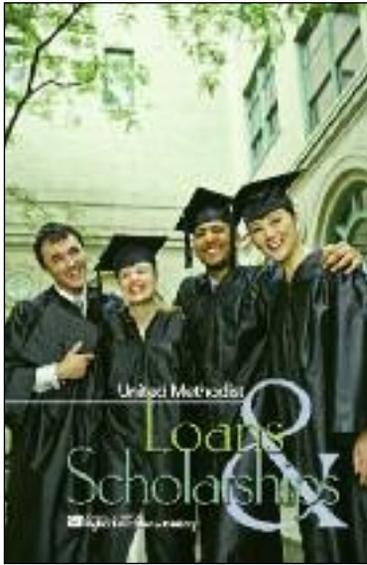
“We believe that increasing the amount that can be borrowed will bring an increase in the number of loans requested. We have had a decrease, we think, in part because the amount is so small,” said Carolyn Briscoe, who chairs the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry’s Loans and Scholarships Committee.

The Board’s action, she said, recognizes the increased cost of college and university tuition and incidentals and will help students buy more than books. It also will help the Office of Loans and Scholarships fulfill its mission. “We need to be as generous as we can in preparing the next generation of Christian leaders,” said Briscoe.

Board members also approved withdrawing \$2 million from the scholarships and loans fund to provide scholarships for seminary students, Women of Color scholars, and its popular Gift of Hope: 21st Century Scholars Program.

Gift of Hope

The Gift of Hope project was created in 1998 as a four-year program to give scholarships to deserving United Methodists not attending one of the 109 United Methodist-related colleges



United Methodist college students can borrow up to \$5,000 from a denominational loan fund beginning Aug. 1, double the \$2,500 per year previously allowed. The interest rate on the loans will drop from 6 to 5 percent.

and universities. Briscoe said the program has been continued using proceeds from investments of the student loan fund because so many eligible undergraduate students demonstrated their leadership capabilities in the local church and campus ministries.

The Board also established a \$500,000 endowment to help the loans office award a minimum of 700 annual scholarships and continue the Gift of Hope in perpetuity.

Board members also voted to rename the program “The Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope: 21st Century Scholars Program” in honor of the late education advocate who was instrumental in creating it. Layman, of Carlisle, Pa., saw the need for future church leaders to be well educated and to have opportunity to receive training. She died in 2005.

“Karen believed for years the church was an opportunity for people to not

only express faith but to also broaden horizons,” said Jay Layman, upon learning of GBHEM’s tribute to his late wife. “My wife never wanted to call attention to herself, but it is nice to have her remembered.” Their daughter, Anna, a second-year student at Duke Divinity School, is fulfilling her mother’s desire to develop well-educated church leaders.

Women of Color and Seminary Students

Board members also created a \$500,000 endowment for the Women of Color Scholars Program to support four students in 2007 and ensure the annual support of a minimum of 10 women of color pursuing doctorate degrees in religious studies.

The genesis of the endowment was the 2006 Women of Color Consultation in Chicago, where participants collected a faith offering to establish a scholarship fund. The program provides up to \$10,000 a year to women of color pursuing a Ph.D. or Th.D.

Created in 1988, the Women of Color Scholars Program grew out of concerns from professional women at United Methodist seminaries and theological schools about the lack of women of color on their faculties.

To grant more scholarships to seminary students, GBHEM also increased its Special Seminary Scholarship Fund by \$1 million for students up to age 30. The fund was created in 2005 and the added money will help an additional 25 students in 2007-08, bringing to 75 the total number of seminary students receiving annual scholarship support. Briscoe hopes that, as the fund grows, a minimum of 100 young seminarians someday will receive scholarships.

—Linda Green
United Methodist News Service

Consultation Examines Ruling on Pastoral Authority

A RULING ABOUT PASTORAL AUTHORITY BY the highest court of The United Methodist Church revealed conflicts over church membership criteria, ecclesiology, and the authority given to appointed leaders.

Those conflicts were explored as pastors, bishops, theologians, seminary deans, and denominational staff members gathered Feb. 15-16 in a consultation dealing with implications of Judicial Council Decision 1032 in the case of a Virginia pastor who blocked a homosexual man from church membership. The consultation was sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, which oversees the church’s licensed and ordained leadership.

The Rev. Edward H. Johnson, senior pastor of South Hill (Va.) United Methodist Church, was placed on involuntary leave of absence in June 2005 by a vote of fellow clergy of the Virginia Annual Conference after he refused to receive the homosexual man into membership, saying the man would neither repent nor seek to live a different lifestyle. The Judicial Council ruled in October 2005 that United Methodist pastors have authority to decide who becomes a member of a local church and reinstated Johnson. Johnson has since been appointed pastor at Dahlgren (Va.) United Methodist Church.

Specifically, the Judicial Council ruled that “the pastor in charge of a United Methodist Church or charge is solely responsible for making the determination of a person’s readiness to receive the vows of membership.” The word *solely* has especially generated emotionally and politically charged

Gay Man Received Into Membership

On March 11, the pastor of South Hill (Va.) United Methodist Church granted membership to the gay man whose 2005 denial of membership by the Rev. Edward Johnson, the previous pastor, prompted controversy across the denomination on the issues of homosexuality and pastoral authority.

The Rev. Barry Burkholder accepted the man's transfer of membership from a Baptist church to South Hill (Va.) United Methodist Church. "The Judicial Council's ruling says that the pastor of the church is the person in authority to determine whether an individual is ready to receive the vows of membership," Burkholder told United Methodist News Service.

"And having spoken with this individual and his having professed Christ as his savior, his belief that Jesus Christ died for his sins tells me that he is ready to receive the vows of membership."

The man has continued to worship at the South Hill Church and to participate in its music ministry. Meanwhile, Johnson has been appointed pastor at Dahlgren (Va.) United Methodist Church.

conversations throughout the church about pastoral authority and the power of United Methodist bishops.

The Rev. Jerome King Del Pino, general secretary of GBHEM, said the heated debate highlights the need for focused, careful, and continuing dialogue about the theological, ecclesial, and pastoral implications of the council's action.



Vicki Brown/GBHEM

Hendrik Pieterse, left, the Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell, and Bishop Timothy Whitaker listen to discussion on Judicial Council Decision 1032 during a two-day consultation in Nashville.

"The church craves clarity about how to understand and live out its mission that is coherent and compelling for an unbelieving world," said Del Pino. "Judicial Council 1032 has created a defining moment in the life of people called United Methodists."

Florida Conference Bishop Timothy Whitaker said reactions to the ruling

ship, pastoral authority, the nature of the church and the role of scripture.

Participants sought to model civil discourse and offered position papers to clarify the council ruling in relation to the denomination's *Book of Discipline*, Constitution, and Social Principles.

"Judicial Council Decision 1032 robs people of potential to be in

Judicial Council 1032 has created a defining moment in the life of people called United Methodists.

have exposed "weaknesses in the life of our church" and declared that "we have much work to do in examining and renewing our discipline of membership in the church."

Churchwide Conversation

The consultation was called to provide a "hospitable space" for churchwide conversation on the issue. Discussions centered on theological implications of how the decision relates to United Methodist understanding of member-

community," said the Rev. Martin McLee, pastor of Union United Methodist Church in Boston.

McLee said African-American churches have a different perspective on the meaning of fellowship based on Black culture. During worship, the invitation declares that the church's doors are open. Anyone seeking redemption through a leading of the Holy Spirit may come forward, receive the right hand of fellowship with the pastor, and gain entrance into the

faith community after taking their membership vows.

The Rev. Elaine Robinson, a professor at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas, said The United Methodist Church differs from other denominations because it “does not have clear ecclesiological standards.” In some traditions, “canon law is the equivalent of scripture in authority,” she said.

Robinson said *The Book of Discipline* also contains conflicting criteria for membership. “We don’t have the clarity in hierarchical lines of authority as do some traditions,” which can be both a weakness and strength, she said.

Added Robinson: “John Wesley would have found the idea of denying membership foreign.”

Theological Context

Presentations to the group sought to bring theological light to the consultation, which participants said was not designed to be a “referendum on homosexuality” but rather a focused debate on the nature, practice, and integrity of the church’s leadership. There was consensus that church membership is a means or form of grace and that the church exists by the grace of God.

The Rev. William (Billy) Abraham said the controversy suggests the court ruling represents “a vision of holiness that is rejected by a passionate minority within the church as a whole.”

Professor of Wesley Studies at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Abraham compared holiness with the denomination’s 30-year proscription that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. “Holiness rules out the practice of homosexuality,” shifting the debate to readiness for membership, executive authority of pastors, and “rival visions”

for the authority of power of bishops, he said.

The Rev. Gregory Stover, pastor of Armstrong Chapel United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, said the pastor’s authority to use responsible judgment in determining readiness for local church membership “plays a critical role in the pastoral work of providing spiritual guidance and counsel.”

McLee said the decision does not define “reasonable pastoral judgment” in giving the pastor discretion to determine membership readiness. Giving sole power to pastors is “troubling,” he said, because it disconnects the long-held partnership between laity and clergy.

“The United Methodist Church is a laypersons’ church. Ours, as clergy, is itinerant,” McLee said. “Pastors come and pastors go. Laity holds the church together.”

A Flashpoint for Other Issues

Abraham said the court ruling has become a “flashpoint” for other issues in the church. “We have got to grow up and realize that we are a church; we are not a movement,” he said.

Abraham said United Methodists are “ambivalent” about their status as a church, while priding themselves on placing spirituality above institutions. “We live and act like a church or a denomination, but we are not too sure we are one, or even want to be one,” he said, adding that Judicial Council Decision 1032 “explodes this mythology about ourselves.”

Hendrik Pieterse, GBHEM’s director of scholarly research and book editor, hopes the consultation prompts United Methodists around the world to engage in similar theological conversations. To facilitate further

discussions, consultation presentations and related issues are accessible at www.gbhem.org/asp/resourceLibrary.asp.

—Linda Green

United Methodist News Service



New Book Provides Guidance for Ministry Assessment

A NEW BOOK PUBLISHED BY THE GENERAL Board of Higher Education and Ministry offers guidance in holding support and accountability together in the practice of ministry.

Watching Over One Another in Love: A Wesleyan Model for Ministry Assessment, arose out of “a need and a conviction,” said the Rev. Gwen Purushotham, author of the new guide for ministry assessment. Purushotham is director of clergy supervision and accountability in GBHEM’s Division of Ordained Ministry.

“The need and the desire for holding together support and accountability with theological and spiritual integrity are pervasive

in our churches. Questions and concerns pertaining to issues of accountability in ministry practice surface regularly in conversations with bishops, district superintendents, local pastors, and ministry candidates,” Purushotham said.

Bishop Ann B. Sherer, resident bishop of the Nebraska Annual Conference, praised the book for its practical advice. “Gwen Purushotham speaks out of her experience as a former district superintendent to offer clear and practical ways for us to watch over one another in love, to hold support and accountability together, and to strengthen our covenant life,” Sherer said.

The Rev. Michelle Cobb, superintendent of the Lafayette District in the North Indiana Annual Conference, said the book will be a valuable asset to district superintendents, boards of ordained ministry, and staff-parish relations committees.

“This book presents a paradigm shift in the understanding of ministry assessment,” Cobb said.

Purushotham said this model is based upon the assumption that ministry assessment is itself a ministry, a way of “watching over one another in love.” She added that although the book is written for a local church context, the model is adaptable to a variety of other ministry settings.

“One of the challenges throughout was not to violate my own principles in presenting the model. There was a temptation to supply answers, even when questions that could assist the reader in coming to their own solutions were more appropriate,” she said.

Watching Over One Another In Love is the sixth book published under GBHEM’s comprehensive publishing strategy. By utilizing print-on-demand and other digital technologies, the Board holds down printing and warehousing

costs while still resourcing customers and constituencies in a timely way.

The five books published in 2006 are:

- *Courageous Past–Bold Future: The Journey Toward Full Clergy Rights for Women in The United Methodist Church* by Patricia J. Thompson
ISBN 0-938162-99-3
Price: \$24.95
- *Mentoring Into Vocation: Touchstones for the Journey* by Mark A. Fowler
ISBN 0-938162-95-0
Price: \$18.95
- *Meeting God at the Boundaries: A Manual for Church Leaders* by Lucia Ann McSpadden
ISBN 0-938162-96-9
Price: \$21.95

- *The Christian as Minister: An Exploration Into the Meaning of God’s Call* edited by Robert F. Kohler and Sharon Rubey
ISBN 0-938162-98-5
Price: \$6.00
- *Answering God’s Call for Your Life: A Look at Christian Calls and Church Vocations* by Robert Roth
ISBN 0-938162-94-2
Price: \$12.95

Order any of the books online at www.cokesbury.com, or call 1-800-672-1789.

Watching Over One Another in Love: A Wesleyan Model for Ministry Assessment, ISBN 978-0-938162-93-3, sells for \$11.95.



Chaplain Bill Killough

Soldiers in Kuwait Display Phone Cards Donated by United Methodists

Soldiers, who were given a day off to compete with each other in sports such as basketball and volleyball, hold up phone cards donated through the United Methodist Endorsing Agency of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Since the program started in 2003, the agency has distributed more than 10 million minutes worth of phone cards to United Methodist chaplains to distribute to soldiers to help them stay in touch with their families.

Journey Toward Ordained Ministry

The Journey Toward Ordained Ministry Mentoring Program is a GBHEM initiative aimed at supporting and encouraging a new generation of racial-ethnic students pursuing ordination as a deacon or elder. Scholars receive their education at United Methodist-related colleges, universities, and seminaries. GBHEM invests more than \$50,000 per year supporting these 10 students through seminary and ordination. The group met in Nashville in March. From left, back row: Eduardo Carrillo, Roberta Sonsaray White, Braulio Torres, Jerome King Del Pino, Demetrius Green, Juan Silva, and the Rev. Frank Estrada, mentor. From left, front: Catrena Talbert-Dyer, who is holding her son T.J.; Rocio Del Carmen Ramirez, Moonyoung Lee, Kotosha Seals, and Cameron Greer. Not pictured: DOM staffer Saul Espino.



Vicki Brown/GBHEM



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