

North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church  
June 13-16, 2007

Clergy and Lay Delegates gathered for the second year in Greenville to worship, study, and conduct the business of our conference under the theme “Working in the Light of God.” Days were filled with reports, resolutions, and balloting to elect the clergy and lay delegation to represent us at the 2008 General and Jurisdictional conferences.

God’s hand was truly on us as we gathered for daily worship led by our Bishop Al Gwinn, Rev. Vance Ross, associate general secretary of the Discipleship Ministries Division of the General Board of Discipleship, and former bishop of our Annual Conference, Bishop Marion Edwards.

We saw many of our White Plains flock who were nurtured by our congregation over the years and later entered the ministry: Vito Bisogno, Jay Helms, Karl Neuschaefer, Ray Teague, M.B. “Tony” Collier, Mack McMillan, and Jim Whittaker will remain in their present appointments. Terry Buckner was appointed to begin a new church in Leland (Wilmington District). Former White Plains clergy Stuart Milton remains at Walnut Grove, Tommy Smith (what retirement?) at Coats, Ray Warren at Orange in Chapel Hill, Charles Morrison at Smithfield Centenary. Tom Hollis has moved from Garner to St. Francis, and Tommy Smith’s son, Paul, has left his position as a Wake County Magistrate to answer the Call and has his first pastorate at Wesley Chapel in the Fayetteville District. All send you their greetings! We welcome Edith Salazar-Veliz as the newly appointed associate pastor at White Plains. Of course the best news was that Ray and Kelly Lynn will be returning to White Plains as well!

Resolutions adopted by the Annual Conference addressed issues of hunger, abortion, gang activity, mental health reform, and human induced climate change. The most passionately debated resolutions concerned our taking a stand on the war in Iraq. After much debate and amendment, no resolution addressing the war was passed. However, the final day of the Conference, a motion was made and easily passed that we “pray and work for peace and for healing of all those affected by the war, friend or enemy, and to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our veterans and their families.”

Thank you for allowing us to represent you at Annual Conference. Most of the Conference reports and materials are available at the conference website, and the live streaming video through the internet was a popular point of access for those not in attendance. We encourage you to view the conference activities through [www.nccumc.org](http://www.nccumc.org) to see God’s love in action as our Conference is Working in the Light of God. You will be proud to be a Methodist!

- Becky Brown and Greg Wallace
- Lay Delegates to Annual Conference