

Conference body addresses all AC resolutions, petitions

With Saturday's lunch delayed by 30 minutes and an adopted motion to suspend Conference rules in favor of a more expedient deliberation period, the members of the Upper New York Conference address all Conference resolutions and the majority of the General Conference resolutions and petitions that were submitted for the Conference's endorsement. Those General Conference resolutions that were not addressed will be addressed by written ballot.

Because of a rule in the Organizational Motion that was approved on Wednesday, the eight resolutions and petitions related to human sexuality were voted on by paper ballot on Thursday, following approximately two hours of conversation circles.

The remaining Annual Con-

ference session and General Conference session resolutions and petitions were brought before the body on Saturday.

A series of motions and changes to the rules brought by the Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, The Rev. Steven Clunn, serving on extension ministry, and lay member, Matthew Williams, resulted in expedited debate and a vote on any resolution not addressed at Conference being taken by a mail-in written ballot.

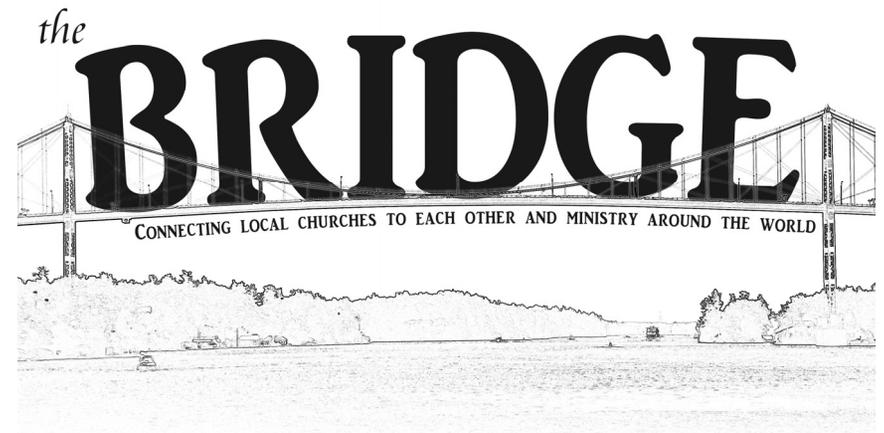
The motions also called for "an intentional moment of silent prayerful reflection" prior to voting for the resolution or petition.

To read the full results of discussion on resolutions and petitions visit: <http://tinyurl.com/unyacr>.

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The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

A LOOK INSIDE!

How successful was *Stop Hunger Now* during AC '15?

Page 2

Conference body addresses all AC resolutions, petitions

Page 4

JUNE 2015, VOL. 2

UNY Conference exceeds meal-packaging goal

There are more than one billion hungry people in the world today, and there is enough food in the world to feed everyone 4.3 pounds of food every day.

Stop Hunger Now (SHN) strives to end hunger by providing food and aid to vulnerable areas worldwide. At the 2015 session of Annual Conference, several hundred Upper New York volunteers of all age groups and abilities helped with *SHN's* mission on Thursday, May 28, at The Oncenter's War Memorial Arena in Syracuse.

"Once again, I'm encouraged by the way we included a time for hands-on service at Annual Conference," said the Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Director of Connectional Ministries. "Over 75,000 families around the world will have a nutritious meal because we United Methodist got together in Syracuse last month!"

Volunteers packaged 75,384 meals, exceeding the Conference goal of packaging 75,000 and the 2014 Annual Conference session meal-packaging total.

Each meal costs 29 cents and feeds one family. At this price, the Conference had to raise \$21,861.36 to reach the meal-packaging goal. The Conference has raised over \$21,000 – dona-

tions are still coming in – which helped purchase the materials necessary to package the meals. Church Mutual made a sizable donation, and its team members also packaged meals.

God's Gracious Gleaners and United Methodist Men helped notably, working tirelessly to set up for the event, package meals, and clean up at the event's conclusion.

At the beginning of both the lunch and dinner shifts, there were not enough volunteers due to other events going on. But once this was made known, volunteers flooded the War Memorial, according to Cherish McGowan, administrative assistant to Connectional Ministries.

"It's hard to articulate the feeling I got when I looked around the War Memorial and saw hundreds of people working together, each doing their assigned task, laughing, dancing, and contributing to such an important cause," McGowan said. "I think the event was a very positive, uplifting event for the Conference again this year, and I was very happy to be a part of it."

McGowan helped prepare the Conference for the event, beginning last fall. She got in contact with *SHN* to discuss the event, meal-packaging goals and costs,



packaging shifts, and more. She also worked closely with the War Memorial to insure volunteers had meals available to them – as the event took place during meal hours – and to discuss other event requirements as well as helping with fundraising.

"*Stop Hunger Now* is a focused, dedicated, and impressive organization," said McGowan. The organization has packaged 201,540,739 meals in total, and they serve 71 countries."

McGowan said the Conference currently does not know where the 75,384 meals packaged at the

2015 AC session will go, but in 2014, the packaged meals were sent to Haiti and Malawi, areas that are gravely affected by hunger.

"I would like to thank each and every person who helped to make this event the success that it was, whether by donating their time, money, or both," McGowan said. "We will be doing another meal-packaging event with *Stop Hunger Now* at some point in the future, and we look forward to having another successful and meaningful event."