

2017 UNYUMC Annual Conference Daily Notes Friday, June 2, 2017

- **First study session**

The Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean — an ordained United Methodist pastor in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and professor of youth, church, and culture at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey who served as the study leader at the 2017 Upper New York Annual Conference session — held her first study session on June 2. The session focused on missional entrepreneurship and how churches can become entrepreneurial.

- **Monitoring Report**

The monitoring report reviewed the participation results of speakers from the floor during the plenary sessions on June 1. Some of the results included: 38 percent were male clergy; 21 percent were male laity; 19 percent were female clergy; 14 percent were female laity; 95 percent were white; and 5 percent were minority.

- **Budget**

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb announced the amendment to the Consent Calendar to add the budget was in order, so both were supported. A call for reconsideration of the Consent Calendar was not supported, so the Consent Calendar and budget therefore remained supported.

- **Trustees Report**

The Trustees Report reviewed the purchase of the new building and the fact that from start to finish, the project ended up being over \$12,000 under budget. The report also reviewed the discontinuation of six churches across the Conference, the renewal of the church insurance program that through negotiations was able to be done without increasing premiums, a new water sensor program available for free for the next three years for 627 qualifying churches across the Conference, and the fact that Walsh Duffield, along with Church Mutual, have proposed a series of risk management and preventative maintenance seminars which we are planning on conducting later this year, either with in-person meetings around the State or by webinar presentations.

- **Study session two**

The Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, held her second study session “Doing a New Thing: The Church of No Excuses” in the afternoon on June 2. She focused on the new spiritual communities and how churches can be open to change. She said churches need an understanding of our times and the wisdom to determine how to respond. Rev. Dean also discussed the three categories of churches — Fresh, Flipped, and Fuzzy.

- **Black College Fund**

The Black College Fund address began with James Cogman singing *This Little Light of Mine*. A Certified Lay Servant in the Baltimore Washington Conference is currently pursuing his Masters in Divinity at Yale University. He attributes his many successes to the Ministry Shares that help support the Black College Fund.

- **GCF&A Report**

Rick King of the General Council on Finance & Administration awarded Bishop Webb for the work the Conference has done to support the missions across the Connection. Bishop Webb reminded the crowd how amazing it is that they paid 100 percent of their General Church apportionments for the first-time in UNY history. He said this staggering fact gives us a reason to dance and asked the band to play a song to dance to. They played *Build Your Kingdom Here*.

- **Commission on a Way Forward**

Scott Johnson was asked to speak about his involvement on the Commission on a Way Forward—a committee that was formed by the Council of Bishops to help resolve the division on the topic of sexuality in the United Methodist Church. Scott admitted he was hesitant when he was selected to be on the Commission, but now “their integrity as they have approached this incredibly challenging task has given me hope,” he said.

- **Resolutions**

Two resolutions were presented and discussed. Resolution UNY2017.12, renamed A Rejection of Schism was not supported after much discussion by a vote of 482 to 452. UNYAC2017.A, New Delegates for the 2019 Special Session of General Conference was also not supported.

To see more coverage of the 2017 Annual Conference session, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AC17news>.