

annual conference



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Holston Annual Conference raised \$121,644 for mission work in Brazil, sent 6,300 supply kits to Liberia and Zimbabwe, adopted a domestic-violence ministry, and elected delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

The theme was “Boldly, Passionately, Joyfully Making Disciples of Jesus Christ,” based on a vision statement adopted by the 2006 conference. Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. presided over the meeting of 1,114 clergy and 921 lay members representing 910 churches in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia. The four-day conference was held June 10-13 at Lake Junaluska Assembly in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

The Annual Conference addressed 10 resolutions, including one requiring domestic-violence education for clergy and establishing advocacy and policy for congregations.

“The deafening and disabling silence that has surrounded the abuse of women, children, youth and elders is being broken,” the adopted resolution states.

Bishop Paulo Lockmann, resident bishop for the Rio Conference, preached at a service that included an offering for two Brazilian ministries: Evangemad and the School of Missions. In addition to \$121,644 raised for Brazil, members also gave \$50,125 for children’s ministries in Holston and in Africa. Following opening-night music by the Latvian United Methodist Youth Choir, members gave a love offering of \$4,547.

The annual “hands-on mission project” was celebrated with applause and cheering, as Holston’s 12 districts more than doubled their goals for supplies donated to schools in Liberia and Ishe Anesu in Zimbabwe. More than 6,300 kits containing food, clothing, health and school supplies were loaded into two tractor-trailer trucks and dispatched to Africa, with Bishop Swanson’s prayer for safe passage.

Hindered by invalid ballots and low attendance, the election was barely completed in time for Wednesday afternoon’s Sending Forth Service. Among the 28 delegates elected, only one is a current resident of Virginia. Two are African-Americans. One is a young adult, and one is a youth member. Four are current district superintendents, and three are former district superintendents. One deacon is represented.

LEFT: The Rev. Dorothy Watson Tatem of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference preaches “One minus ego equals zero” at Sunday night’s opening worship service. Photo by Buzz Trexler, special to The Call

The Bluegrass Disciples of Maryville District sing at the Celebration of Worship Service on Tuesday night.

Photo by Buzz Trexler, special to The Call



Charles Maynard (pictured with a virtual Bishop Swanson) gives the audience a much-needed laugh on Wednesday afternoon.



Glenda Eastridge, lay member at Green Meadows UMC, Maryville District, studies candidates for the election.

Photo by Buzz Trexler, special to The Call



Ernestine Siebo, daughter of the Rev. Sam Siebo of Gray UMC, Johnson City District, lights the Christ Candle at opening worship.

Photo by Buzz Trexler, special to The Call



Delegates

Lay delegates elected to General Conference are: Bob Lockaby of Harrison, Tenn.; Casey Graves of Ooltewah, Tenn.; Del Holley of Knoxville, Tenn.; Anne Travis of Knoxville, Tenn.; Jean Henderson of Cleveland, Tenn.; Joyce Moore of Bluff City, Tenn.; Paul Brown of Johnson City, Tenn.

Clergy delegates elected to General Conference are: H. Eddie Fox of Nashville, Tenn.; Al Bowles of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Carol Wilson of Maryville, Tenn.; W. Randall Frye of Johnson City, Tenn.; Dennie Humphreys of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Kim Goddard of Abingdon, Va.; Jerry Russell of Maryville, Tenn.

Lay delegates elected to Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference are: Becky Hall of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Ginny West Case of Maryville, Tenn.; Teddy Stevens of Piney Flats, Tenn.; Matthew Park of Cleveland, Tenn.; Steve Hodges of Sneedville, Tenn.; Jay Garrison of Knoxville, Tenn.; James Ferguson of Knoxville, Tenn.

Clergy delegates elected to Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference are: Angela Hardy Cross of Kingsport, Tenn.; Stella Roberts of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Charles Lippse of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Mark Flynn of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Jonathan Jonas of Knoxville, Tenn.; Lynn Hutton of Knoxville, Tenn.; Nathan Malone of Hixson, Tenn.



Bishop James Swanson pauses on the sweltering hot Annual Conference stage.

Photo by Annette Spence, The Call



The combined choirs of First Baptist Church of Chilhowie and Chilhowie UMC sing at the Sending Forth Service on Wednesday.

Photo by Annette Spence, The Call

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