



10:35 a.m.
The colleges will report.

The Call

2 p.m.
Holston will welcome a special guest from the East Africa Conference.



June 11, 2008

HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE EDITION

www.holston.org

Wednesday SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise indicated, all activities are inside Stuart Auditorium.

7:45 a.m.
Worship and Communion
(Memorial Chapel)

8:30 a.m.
Reports:
• Nominations
• Equitable Compensation
• Pensions
• Direct Invoicing
• Cabinet
• Council on Finance and Administration: Budget approval

10:15 a.m.
Break

10:35 a.m.
Reports:
• Holston Conference colleges

11:30 a.m.
Direct Invoicing "Listening Post"
(Terrace Auditorium)

11:35 a.m.
Awards and recognition:
• Youth Ministry Institute graduates
• Francis Asbury Award
• Denman Evangelism Awards
• Cabinet Recognitions
"Enjoying Our Life Together"

Noon
Lunch

2 p.m.
Sending Forth Service
Bishop James Swanson
Hope for Africa Children's Choir
Doug Richesin and Beth Burkey
• Licensing of local pastors
• Fixing of appointments
• Adjournment

'They will know us by our love'

After final-day decisions, worship begins at 2 p.m.

A series of reports will kick off at 8:30 a.m., including the final hearing on the 2009 budget. For reference, the Council on Finance and Administration report begins on page 57 of the "Book of Reports."

The Direct Invoicing Task Force will recommend direct invoicing effective Jan. 1, 2010. After the report, members may ask questions at a "listening post" in Terrace Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members will vote on the direct invoice recommendation at Annual Conference 2009.

At 11:35 a.m., the Francis Asbury Award for higher education and the Denman Evangelism Awards will be presented.

Please bring your church's offering and your personal offering for Sudan to the Sending Forth Service at 2 p.m. The conference goal is \$125,000. As the body lifts up its partnership with the East Africa Conference, a children's choir that has won wide recognition for their joyous voices will sing.

Bishop James Swanson will preach on "Staying in Love

with God." Sixteen persons will receive their local pastor licenses. After the fixing of the appointments, conference will adjourn. ■



8:30 a.m.
The Cabinet will report that three churches are discontinued and one church has merged, for a new total of 906 churches.

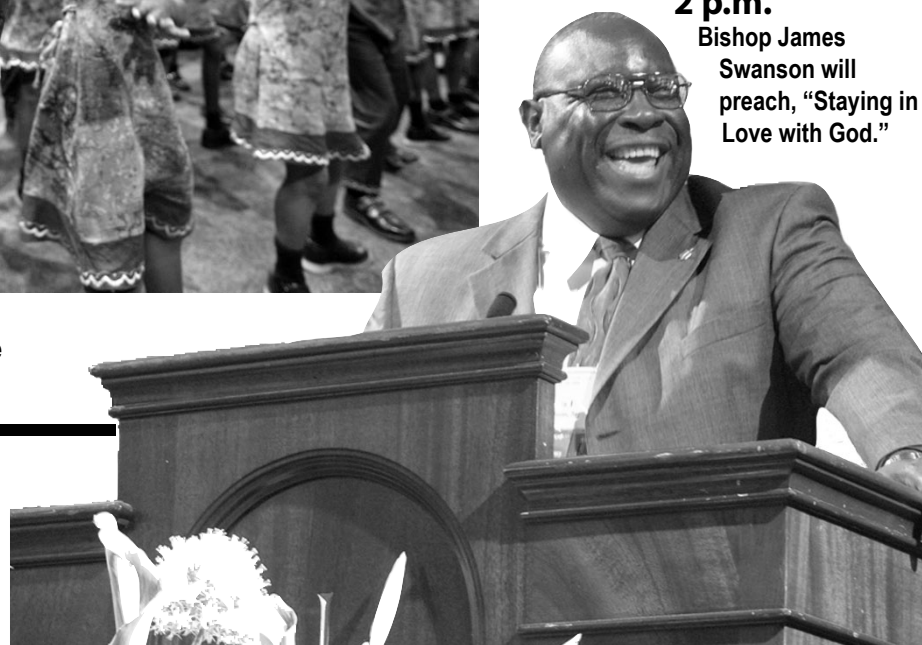


2 p.m.
The Hope for Africa Children's Choir will sing at the Sending Forth Service. UMNS photo by Paul Jeffrey



2 p.m.
Doug Richesin and Beth Burkey will sing at the Sending Forth Service.

2 p.m.
Bishop James Swanson will preach, "Staying in Love with God."



Bishop Swanson's Sending Forth message:

Stay in love with God

Knowing that his time with the disciples was growing short, Jesus took them aside to talk to them. I call this his Farewell Address.

Recorded in John chapters 13-18, Jesus intended for his words to hold the disciples together and compel them to continue his mission. He began by speaking of his relationship with his disciples and their relationships with each other. Jesus said:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John later picks up on this theme and states the obvious: "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

Our ability to love each other flows from our being in love with God. John Wesley understood this so

well when he said, "What then is the mark? Who is a Methodist, according to your own account?" I answer: A Methodist is one who has 'the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him; one who 'loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength.'" Wesley declared, "This is a Methodist!"

So as we prepare to leave Lake Junaluska, I am compelled to remind you to go home and Offer Christ to all as a faithful response to a "love of God shed abroad" in your heart "by the Holy Ghost."

How can we see poverty, despair, broken families, distorted values, hurting, hunger, homelessness, and people living without love – and say we love God – without offering them Christ?

How can we sit in our pews on Sunday and not see, even in our midst, people who need to hear from and

experience God more deeply?

Each time a roll number drops, another person is in need of Christ. We must practice the means of grace: prayer, fasting, Bible study, Holy Communion, and fellowship within and without the church. We must do this so our spiritual batteries will be recharged. By staying in love with God, we stay in love with our neighbors, our co-workers, our kinfolk, and the strangers. Then they will know us by our love ... by our love ... by our love.

Go, and as you go, practice doing no harm, doing good – and staying in love with God.

James E. Swanson, Sr.

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Offer Them Christ