

'And Are We Yet Alive'

Why do we always sing that song at Annual Conference?

By Dean B. McIntyre

It happens at this time of the year all over the world at Methodist and United Methodist sessions of annual conference and other gatherings. We gather together – clergy and laity, members, guests, and friends – we stand and sing lustily and with good courage the great Charles Wesley hymn, “And Are We Yet Alive.”

It is a moment of celebration of our common heritage and common mission, and the ties that bind us in the faith and the connection, and it is a moment of thanks to God for the experiences we have had since our last gathering.

Where did the custom arise of singing this hymn at the opening of our conferences? “And Are We Yet Alive” first appeared in the Wesleys’ 1749 hymnal, “Hymns and Sacred Poems.” In 1780 John included it in his “A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodist” as the first hymn in the section titled, “For the Society ... at meeting.” It was John himself who began the custom of opening the annual meeting of Methodists



Holston clergy and laity will join to sing the traditional “And Are We Yet Alive” shortly after 8:30 a.m. on Monday morning. But why?

by singing this hymn. The practice was picked up by Methodists around the world and it largely continues today. There is no requirement that this be the opening hymn at annual conference, but it is, indeed, a cherished custom. ■

Dean B. McIntyre is director of music resources, General Board of Discipleship. Copyright © 2005 The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Nashville Tenn.; website www.umcworship.org. Used by permission.

Additions to Report No. 16 Committee on Nominations

Clergy and lay members: Please bring the following information with you to the Tuesday morning business session, 8:30 a.m. in Stuart Auditorium.

Book of Reports

| Page # | Committee/Team/Board | Position | Name (District) |
|--------|--|--|--|
| 116 | Congregational Development | Vice-Chairperson Vacancy, Lay woman | Dwight Kilbourne (CH) Patricia Jones (TA) |
| 117 | Discipleship Team | Vice-Chairperson Vacancy, Lay man Vacancy, Clergy Vacancy, Clergy | Glenda Gray (JO) Bill Graybeal (AB) William Pace (CH) Janet S. Richardson (AB) |
| | <i>Proposal by Rules and Order to add six (6) additional members to Discipleship Team:</i> | Clergy Clergy Lay woman Lay woman Lay man Lay man | Reese Fauscett (CH) Laura B. Wyke (AB) Leah Burns (KN) Martha Jones (KI) Sean Glenn (MO) Mitchell Kinder (CL) |
| 117 | Missions Ministry Team | Chairperson | Curtis McKee (CH) |
| 118 | Nurture Ministry Team | Vice-Chairperson Vacancy, Clergy Replace Kathy Galyon | Betty Furches (JO) Peyton Rowlett (OA) Julie Baumgardner (CH) |
| 119 | Outreach/Advocacy Ministry Team | Vacancy | Carolyn Jackson (CH) |
| 120 | Stewardship Ministry Team | Vacancy | Nancy Deal (AB) |
| 121 | Committee on Rural Churches | Vice-Chairperson | Archer Coppedge (CL) |
| 121 | Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team | Vacancy, Lay woman | Janet Gertner (CL) |
| 122 | Wesley Institute Board | Secretary | Jane Taylor (AB) |
| 124 | Personnel Resources Committee | Replace Kathy Hoard Secretary, replace Kathy Hoard | Angel Norman (MA) Angel Norman (MA) |
| 124 | Equitable Compensation | Vacancy, Clergy woman | Kim Isley (KN) |
| 126 | United Methodist Men | Scouting Coordinator, replace Allan Marshall Prayer Advocate, replace Gary Westmoreland | Keith Smith Fielden Sanders |

Special EVENTS

Sunday, June 12

4-6 p.m. – First-time Appointees Annual Conference Orientation: Terrace Auditorium

6:15 p.m. – Fellowship Time: Outside Stuart Auditorium

9 p.m. – Storytelling & Folk Dancing: Nancy Weldon Open Air Gym

Monday, June 13

7 a.m. – Cabinet Breakfast: Terrace Room 316

8 a.m. – Fellowship Time: Outside Stuart Auditorium

12:15 p.m. – Holston Retirees Luncheon: Terrace Dining Room*

12:30 p.m. – Deacon & Diaconal Ministries Luncheon: Sunset Inn

12:30 p.m. – Holston Methodist Federal Credit Union Luncheon: Terrace Room 316

12:30 p.m. – Outreach Advocacy/Peace with Justice Luncheon: Jones Cafeteria, Back Room

5:30 p.m. – CCFA Dinner: Terrace Room 316

Tuesday, June 14

7 a.m. – Extension Ministries Breakfast: Terrace Room 316

7 a.m. – Holston Renewal Breakfast: Lambuth Inn, International Room

7 a.m. – Tennessee Wesleyan Alumni Breakfast: Terrace Room 319

7 a.m. – United Methodist Men Breakfast: Sunset Café, Harrell Center

8 a.m. – Fellowship Time: Outside Stuart Auditorium

12:30 p.m. – Board of Higher Education Luncheon: St. Clair Home

12:30 p.m. – Clergywomen's Luncheon: Jones Cafeteria, Back Room

12:30 p.m. – Drew Alumni Luncheon: Terrace Room 319

12:30 p.m. – Ministers' Spouses Luncheon: First Waynesville UMC

1-2 p.m. – Local Pastors Meeting: Lambuth Inn, Room 100

3 p.m. – Ice Cream Social: Outside Stuart Auditorium

5:30 p.m. – Candler Alumni Dinner: Sunset Café, Harrell Center

5:30 p.m. – Duke Divinity Alumni Dinner: Terrace Room 316

5:30 p.m. – Missionaries Dinner: Lambuth Dining Room**

9 p.m. – Reception in Honor of Ordinations: Harrell Center Auditorium

Wednesday, June 15

7 a.m. – Emory & Henry Alumni Breakfast: Sunset Inn

7 a.m. – Hiwassee College Alumni Breakfast: Terrace 316

7 a.m. – Society for Biblical Studies: Terrace 319

12:30 p.m. – Asbury Seminary Alumni Luncheon: Terrace Auditorium A & B

12:30 p.m. – Wesley Seminary Alumni Luncheon: Jones Cafeteria, Back Room

12:30 p.m. – Young Adult Luncheon: Harrell Center Porch

* During the Holston Retirees Luncheon, Terrace guests not participating in this meal will dine at Lambuth Inn or Jones Cafeteria.

** If you need tickets to attend the Missionaries Dinner, see Bonnie Howard at the Stuart Auditorium registration desk, immediately following Sunday night worship.