2020 WEST OHIO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONFERENCE REPORT

Bishop Palmer's opening words

Revelation Chapter 21, verse 1

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Our old world is being renovated into a new creation that will last forever. People wearing masks are saying "I care about you!" God does not make things new, when everything is alright. Our challenge is to be the messengers of this NEW WORLD! <u>Be not afraid!</u> <u>God is with us!</u>

BUDGET (adopted)

1 million less for missions. This is a significant decrease.

6% reduction in funds for Districts. How does this effect churches? They are flat and not growing. Memberships are declining.

2019 memberships 16.7 million

2020 memberships 15.7 million

2021 Investing more in inhouse staff training.

Minimal financial pastoral support increased 2%

Motion passed: Delegate votes: 1322 YES 96.8 %   44 NO 3.2%

No recommended changes to retirement plans.

7% possible increase in health care estimates for 2021.

Motion passed: Delegate votes: 1272 YES 99.1%   11 NO 0.9%

There were 11 delegate votes taken on all procedural issues. New ministers were ordained. Active and retiring staff were recognized. The music was AWSOME!! Conference for the year 2021 may be at Lakeside, or it may be on line again. Our future is in our hands as we follow the path of Jesus.

Closing comments from Bishop Palmer

We are in the midst of a new creation. No longer are congregations to be served. We are now to be servants! Communities of servants! NOT self-serving congregations. We need to be a leader in anti-racism. Tell the truth and shame the devil who says "If you would just stop talking about racism, and covid-19 they would go away." Realign our resources and our efforts to connect with our communities. A band is made up of different instruments and different players. BUT they make one sound that is beautiful. We are in the middle of a mess. But Christians should be more excited than ever!!!   **Bruce Hodges, delegate**