Delegates Re-Elect Officers at Chesapeake Constituency Session

At the Third Quinquennial Constituency Session of the Chesapeake Conference, held Sunday, May 20, at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., 267 regular delegates and 164 delegates-at-large met to elect officers for the 2012-2016 term. Delegates re-elected (pictured left to right)

Eduardo Muñoz, treasurer; Rick Remmers, president; and Kleyton Feitosa, executive secretary.

“It is an honor to be invited to serve in leadership for the next quinquennium,” said Remmers. “The combination of exciting opportunities and associated challenges will require a constant reliance on Divine wisdom. I value the prayers of our members as we move forward.”

Church growth has been steady, averaging 424 new members each year, and this year topped 14,000. Eight new congregations were accepted into the sisterhood of churches. The Maryland churches include Annapolis Spanish, Beacon of Light (Salisbury), Frederick Spanish, Laurel Maranatha Spanish, Mizo (Burtonsville), Northeast (Baltimore) and South Carroll (Westminster). New Castle Spanish in New Castle, Del., also became a church.—Story by Samantha Young
DECLARACIÓN OFICIAL: El comité ejecutivo de Columbia Union convoca una reunión especial de la constituyente para autorizar la ordenación sin tener en cuenta el género

En su reunión del 17 de mayo, el comité ejecutivo de Columbia Union recibió un informe del comité ad hoc, al que se le asignó estudiar el tema de cómo afirmar a la mujer en el ministerio.

Después de examinar el informe (que sigue a continuación), el comité votó:

1. Reconocer su responsabilidad de actuar moral y éticamente al expresar un compromiso inflexible para ordenar a personas cualificadas para el ministerio del evangelio sin importar el género, y

2. Convocar una reunión especial de la constituyente con el propósito de autorizar la ordenación al ministerio del evangelio sin importar el género, y

3. Fijar la fecha de la reunión para el 29 de julio de 2012, a las 10:00 a.m., en Maryland, en una localidad que será determinada más adelante.

CLICK HERE TO READ THE STATEMENT IN ENGLISH

Community Services Director With “Can-Do” Attitude Dies

Ron Wylie, executive director of Potomac Conference’s Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW), passed away last Tuesday. Wylie became part-time executive director of ACSGW in 2004, and led the not-for-profit coalition of seven churches doing community services and development in Silver Spring and Takoma Park, Md., “with vision and enthusiasm,” says Les Pitton, ACSGW chairman.

Wylie leaves behind wife, Junamae Wegner; son, Rod and his wife, Nicole, and two grandsons, Jacob and Brayden. Margaret Pascoe, his first wife, preceded him in death. Wylie’s funeral was held Monday, May 21, near his home in Marriottsville, Md. There will be a memorial service for him at Chesapeake
Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., where he was a member. The service will be Wednesday, May 30, at 11 a.m.

Click here to view a recent video of Wylie talking about his work with ACSGW.—Story and photo by Taashi Rowe

READ MORE

Union Names Outstanding Administrators, Educators

The Columbia Union’s Office of Education recently named its 2012 Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Administrator award recipients. Pictured clockwise is Brian Kiddleson, principal of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md., and Elisa Maragoto, principal of New Jersey Conference’s Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School in Piscataway. Both were named outstanding administrators.

Cathy Tomlinson, principal and teacher at New Jersey Conference’s Cohansey Christian School in Bridgeton, and Allegheny East Conference’s Sheresa Woodson, a teacher at the Ephesus Adventist School in Richmond, Va., were recognized as outstanding educators.

Calling the winners “richly deserving,” Hamlet Canosa EdD, the union’s vice president for Education, confessed that “the task of determining who would actually be selected was, like in years past, a difficult one.”—Story by Taashi Rowe

Click Here to Learn Why They Teach

100 Cleveland Hispanics Trained for Evangelism

Some 100 Hispanics in the Cleveland area recently completed four intense weeks of evangelism instruction. Ohio Conference’s Cleveland First Hispanic and Ebenezer churches marked the end of the sessions
with a solemn closing ceremony where at least 70 members received a special distinction for attending every class.

“Today we are better prepared and better equipped to share our faith,” said one participant. At the end of the program, Peter M. Simpson, the district pastor, made a final call for consecration. It was also a call to action. He challenged attendees to seek new souls and rescue the lost. Dozens promptly answered the call by approaching the altar to light a candle in acceptance of the challenge. Simpson says these new evangelists will be vital to an upcoming evangelism campaign.—Story by Peter M. Simpson

Pennsylvania Conference President, Wife Donate Concordance

Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, and his wife, Jeanne, associate Ministerial secretary, recently donated a rare Bible concordance used by early Adventist pioneer Joseph Bates to Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Tennessee. The book contains notes written by Bates, and Seventh-day Adventist heritage scholars consider it an historically valuable artifact.

The concordance originally belonged to Jeanne’s great-grandfather, an Adventist pastor. The Hartwells graduated from Southern in 1978. “We knew this was an important piece of Adventist heritage and wanted the concordance to be accessible for research and enjoyment by scholars, historians and church members,” Jeanne said.

The Hartwells are pictured presenting the concordance to Gordon Bietz (left), SAU president, and Joe Mocnik (right), director of the McKee Library.—Story by Tamyra Horst

New Principal Named for Takoma Academy

Carla Thrower was recently named as the new principal at Takoma Academy (TA) in Takoma Park, Md. Thrower will be in
familiar surroundings as she and her husband, Donald, are parents of a TA graduate, with another child enrolling soon. She most recently served as an adjunct professor in the Education Department at nearby **Washington Adventist University**.

Thrower says her passion is educational ministry, and she is always looking for new ways to integrate faith into the learning experience. With expertise and interest in analytics, she also seeks to provide resources and lesson plans that will improve teacher performance and ensure students from all backgrounds are academically achieving at their highest level. Thrower holds three master’s degrees in administration and supervision, curriculum and instruction and math and science instruction.—*Story by Tiffany Doss*

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**Shenandoah Valley Academy Announces New Principal**

This fall Travis Johnson will take the helm at **Shenandoah Valley Academy** (SVA) in New Market, Va. Hailing from Ogden, Utah, Johnson is committed to making sure students reach their full academic and spiritual potential. He approaches teaching and administrative duties with high energy and a committed focus. He holds a bachelor’s in business administration and master’s in teaching.

In just five years of teaching, plus another year in Japan, Johnson has been successful in raising academics in his classrooms, improving Iowa Test of Basic Skills scores from an average of 22 to 54 percent. Johnson says he’s ready for a new challenge wherever God leads. His vision for SVA is to recreate an engaging and successful environment that will bring stability and growth.—*Story by Tiffany Doss*

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**Parkersburg Sabbath Highlights Children and Youth**

Mountain View Conference’s **Parkersburg** (W.Va.) church recently devoted an entire Sabbath service to children and young people. The Pathfinders, Adventurers and Eager Beavers recited their laws and pledges. As the Pathfinders presented their pledge to God, they broke down the Pathfinder law.
and pledge into smaller segments and explained how they would serve God and others.

The Eager Beavers (pictured) gave the Bible reading and sang “Jesus Loves Me.” The Adventurers sang the “Butterfly Song” and helped their leader, Amy Fullmer, with a story, which paid tribute to the mothers in the congregation.

“There is such a great group of children and young people at Parkersburg church,” said Beth Ackman, Pathfinder director. “The Lord has blessed this church with younger folks who are sharing the soon coming of our Lord, and it has been a blessing for me to be a part of this work.”—Photo by Victor Zill

Highland View Students Tour National Crime Museum

Ophelia Barizo, science teacher at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., recently led the Forensic Science class through a tour of the National Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington, D.C. The group of 18 students and chaperones spent two hours exploring the elaborate images and interactive displays, reading about the ages and history of crime and punishment.

“It was so much fun! I really liked the simulations,” said senior Ellie Bonilla. “We learned plenty of valuable information on the various fields and positions offered to those involved in forensic science.”

HVA’s Forensic Science course is the first of its kind offered at any Adventist academy in the North American Division. The course applies science and technology to criminal and civic laws and covers major disciplines in forensic science, such as chemistry, mineralogy, anthropology, pathology, serology, biotechnology, computer forensics, toxicology and others.

Student Jessica Callahan, Marci Corea, Makhela Libebe and Mackenzi Hall are pictured viewing an autopsy demonstration at the museum.—Story by Autumn Banks
Spotted: Two New Union Executive Committee Members

The 2011-16 Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee recently voted to accept two new members. Claudya Hernandez is the communication director for Potomac’s Langley Park Spanish church in Langley Park, Md. Natalie Chandler directs the Pennsylvania Conference’s Harrisburg church Adventurers and chairs the Harrisburg Adventist School Board.

Chandler is pictured left, while Hernandez is pictured right.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.

MARYLAND
May 27: The Glenridge church in District Heights, Md., is hosting a Spring Banquet at the Le Fountaine Bleu, 4-8 pm. Tickets are $36 for ages 13 and over, $30 for ages 4-12 years. For tickets and questions, contact Natalie Williams at (301) 377-8614.

NEW JERSEY
July 25-29: The Allegheny East and New Jersey conferences will sponsor the Alliance of Prison Ministry Organizations and Affiliates (APMOA) 22nd annual convention in East Rutherford, N.J. Themed “Compassion in Action: Building Bridges of Hope,” there will be more than 25 Prison Ministries and community services workshops. Speakers will include C.D. Brooks, former speaker/director for the Breath of Life broadcast; José H. Cortés, New Jersey Conference president; J. Alfred Johnson II, director of Adult Ministries for the North American Division; and Charles Cheatham, Allegheny East Conference president. For more information or to register, click here or call (201) 896-0500.

PENNSYLVANIA
May 24-June 7: The Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia is offering a Thursday evening vegetarian cooking class from 7-9 p.m. On May 24, the class will cover appetizers/hors d’oeuvres, on May 31 it will be raw foods and on June 7, desserts. For more information or to register, click here.
WEST VIRGINIA
August 19-September 2: Mountain View Conference’s fourth annual Wellness Camp will take place at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. For an early bird rate of $695, payments are due by July 2. Early bird spouses pay $550 and early bird Wellness Camp alumni only pay $500.

Those who meet the regular deadline of July 16 will pay $795 plus $650 for spouses. Wellness Camp alumni who meet the regular deadline will pay $600. For more information, call the conference office at (304) 422-4581 or click here.

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To send us a news story, email us at visitor@columbiaunion.net. The deadline for all submissions is 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

Stay Connected:

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Forget previous vote
Delegates re-elected Kleyton Feitosa, executive secretary; Rick Remmers, president; and Eduardo Muñoz, treasurer. The officers are pictured with their wives Delma Feitosa, Shayne Remmers and Elsy Munoz.

"It is an honor to be invited to serve in leadership for the next quinquennium," said Remmers. "The combination of exciting opportunities and associated challenges will require a constant reliance on Divine wisdom. I value the prayers of our members as we move forward."

Eight new churches were accepted into the sisterhood of churches. The Maryland churches were Annapolis Spanish, Beacon of Light (Salisbury), Frederick Spanish, Laurel Maranatha Spanish, Mizo (Burtonsville), Northeast (Baltimore) and South Carroll (Westminster). New Castle Spanish in New Castle, Del., also became a church.

Church growth has been steady, averaging 424 new members each year, and the day before the constituency session, membership topped 14,000.

The financial stability of the conference during the recession was one of the highlights of the quinquennium. This is due to members faithfully returning tithe and accumulating a strong reserve fund over the years in anticipation of an economic crisis, said Muñoz.

Delegates voted seven conference priorities for 2012-2016, focusing on conference leadership, youth ministries, outreach, Christian education, diversity, spiritual growth and stewardship. These priorities came out of a conference-wide survey of constituents, elders and pastors.

"The spirit of cooperation and support of the conference was outstanding," said Feitosa of the delegates. "My sincere and heartfelt prayer is that God will continue to inspire and empower us to grow His kingdom in our territory."
COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval.

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DECLARACIÓN OFICIAL
Para publicación inmediata
17 de mayo de 2012

El comité ejecutivo de Columbia Union convoca una reunión especial de la constituyente para autorizar la ordenación sin tener en cuenta el género

En su reunión del 17 de mayo, el comité ejecutivo de Columbia Union recibió un informe del comité ad hoc, al que se le asignó estudiar el tema de cómo afirmar a la mujer en el ministerio. Después de examinar el informe (que sigue a continuación), el comité votó:

1. Reconocer su responsabilidad de actuar moral y éticamente al expresar un compromiso inflexible para ordenar a personas cualificadas para el ministerio del evangelio sin importar el género, y
2. Convocar una reunión especial de la constituyente con el propósito de autorizar la ordenación al ministerio del evangelio sin importar el género, y
3. Fijar la fecha de la reunión para el 29 de julio de 2012, a las 10:00 a.m., en Maryland, en una localidad que será determinada más adelante.

El comité aprobó la moción por un voto de 34-6, con una abstención.

“Creo que esta acción representa el deseo de nuestro comité de encaminar la misión hacia delante, y estamos convocando esta sesión especial para facilitar una conversación más amplia”, dijo Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión, al explicar la necesidad del aporte de la constituyente general.

Para ayudar a la feligresía a entender la perspectiva del comité, los líderes publicarán en el mes de julio, un número especial de la revista de la Unión, *Visitor*. Éste proveerá un estudio exhaustivo de pautas bíblicas, históricas, y del Espíritu de Profecía en cuanto a la función de la mujer en el ministerio.

Contact:
Celeste Ryan Blyden, Communication Director
Tel: (410) 997-3414; Email: cryan@columbiaunion.net

En el internet. Desde nuestra sede en Columbia, Md., trabajamos para avanzar y ejecutar la misión de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en el centro de los Estados Unidos--preparar a un pueblo para el pronto regreso de Cristo.

En esta página compartimos historias emocionantes de cómo Dios está obrando en las iglesias hispan hablantes. ¡Necesitamos su ayuda en mantener actualizada esta página! Le invitamos a enviarnos sus historias y noticias en inglés y español a Visitor@columbiaunion.net.
Espíritu Santo, tanto sobre la mujer como el hombre que predica el mensaje de Dios (Creenencias fundamentales 14 y 17).

Se nos manda que practiquemos la justicia en nuestras acciones y relaciones (Miqueas 6:8).

Todo lo que contiene la Biblia se relaciona a los conceptos representados en tres palabras: la Creación, la Caída, y la Redención. Este continuo provee el esbozo natural de la historia bíblica. En Edén, Dios creó al hombre y la mujer con igualdad, tanto espiritual como relacional, y ambas son necesarias para reflejar plenamente la imagen de Dios (2º Corintios 5:17-20).

D. En varias ocasiones a través de la Escritura, Dios eligió a mujeres para dirigir a su pueblo (Débora, Ester, Julda, Ana, las cuatro hijas de Felipe, Febe, Junias, etc.).

LA HISTORIA: Como iglesia mundial que valora la dirección de Dios en su historia,
reconocemos las siguientes características importantes:

A. La iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día fue cofundada por una mujer, Elena G. de White, que permanece como una voz conductora y fidedigna.

B. En la sesión de la Asociación General del 5 de diciembre de 1881, se hizo una moción: “Se acuerda que las damas que posean las calificaciones necesarias para llenar ese cargo pueden, con perfecta propiedad, ser separadas por ordenación para la obra del ministerio cristiano”. Informado en Review and Herald, 20 de diciembre de 1881. No parece haber registro de ninguna decisión.

C. Elena G. de White escribió el 9 de julio de 1895, en Review & Herald, de un ministerio en que las mujeres que se entregaran a él, “deberían ser separadas para esta tarea por la oración y la imposición de manos”.

D. Willie White ordenó a diaconisas el 6 de enero de 1900, en Australia. En 1975 se tomó un voto de ordenar a las diaconisas en una sesión de la Asociación General. En 1985 se reafirmó el voto y en el 2010 se registró en el Manual de la iglesia. La ordenación de mujeres como ancianas se aprobó en 1975 y se reafirmó en el Concilio Anual en 1984.

E. La Asociación General votó autorizar que la mujer sirva como pastoras (1990).

F. Dieciséis mujeres pastoras ya han sido ordenadas en China. Estas mujeres están desempeñando una función importante en el rápido crecimiento de la iglesia en su país, y la División de Asia Pacífico Norte de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día reconoce sus ordenaciones.

DIVERSIDAD EN LA UNIDAD: Como iglesia mundial que valora la diversidad en la unidad:

A. Afirmamos que la diversidad en la unidad es parte de la orden divina para la creación, redención, y restauración de la iglesia. (Efesios 4, Juan 17, 1º Corintios 12:12).

B. Afirmamos la dirección de Dios en utilizar los talentos de las mujeres para la misión de la iglesia. “Cuando ha de realizarse una obra grande y decisiva, Dios escoge a hombres y mujeres para hacer su obra, y ésta obra sentirá la pérdida si los talentos de ambas clases no son combinados”. (El evangelismo, pág. 343).

C. Entendemos que “debe haber lugar para reconocer la necesidad de la legitimidad de la adaptación de pólizas y procedimientos locales que facilitan la misión de la iglesia sin disminuir la identidad mundial, la armonía y la unidad de la iglesia” (Reunión del consejo de la Asociación General en la primavera de 2012, informe 116-12G).

D. Celebramos nuestra diversidad de cultura, género, y etnicidad.

E. Reconocemos que ‘La distribución de autoridad y responsabilidad en la iglesia, junto con el reconocimiento de que ‘la autoridad recae sobre la feligresía’, presentan desafíos importantes en hallar un equilibrio entre autoridad centralizada (decisiones de la iglesia mundial) y la autoridad local (decisiones de la constituyente) en las iglesias, las Asociaciones, y las Uniones.

“A la misma vez, la iglesia ha trabajado para preservar la unidad, el efecto del crecimiento de la iglesia ha aumentado el conocimiento de la diversidad y su lugar correspondiente en una comunidad mundial. Esperar que cada entidad de la iglesia mundial busque y funcione exactamente igual a las otras entidades de este tipo, puede convertirse, a su vez, en un impedimento para la misión. El desarrollo de diseños estructurales en la historia de la iglesia indica que la unidad se debe establecer en fundamentos más sólidos que la uniformidad” (Reunión del consejo de la Asociación General en la primavera de 2012, informe 116-12G).

F. Reconocemos que “diferentes elementos de autorización organizativa están distribuidos entre los varios niveles de la organización de la iglesia,...las decisiones sobre la ordenación de los ministros se le confía a la Unión/Misión…” (NAD Working Policy B 05, 6).

G. Reconocemos que la ordenación es para la iglesia mundial (NAD Working Policy L 40 and...
L 45 05). Además reconocemos que los ministros ordenados no pueden funcionar fuera del territorio de la organización que le otorga su credencial, a menos que haya sido invitado a desempeñarse como tal.

Nota: Todas las referencias de la Biblia son de la Versión Reina Valera Contemporánea.
Columbia Union Executive Committee Calls Special Constituency Meeting to Authorize Ordinations Without Regard to Gender

At its May 17 meeting, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee received a report from an ad hoc committee assigned to study how to affirm women in ministry.

After discussing the report (included below), the committee voted:

1. To recognize its responsibility to act morally and ethically by expressing unyielding commitment to ordain qualified persons to the gospel ministry without regard to gender, and
2. To call a special constituency meeting for the purpose of authorizing ordination to the gospel ministry without regard to gender, and
3. To set the meeting date for July 29, 2012, at 10 a.m., at a location to be determined in Maryland.

The committee approved the motion by a vote of 34-6, with one abstention.

"I believe this action represents our committee’s desire to move the mission forward, and we are calling this special session to facilitate a wider conversation," said Dave Weigley, union president, explaining the need for input from the larger constituency.

To help members understand the committee’s perspective, leaders will publish a special July issue of the union paper, the Visitor. It will provide an in-depth review of biblical, historical and Spirit of Prophecy guidelines concerning the role of women in ministry.

Contact:
Celeste Ryan Blyden, Communication Director
Tel: (410) 997-3414; Email: cryan@columbiaunion.net

Report of the Columbia Union Ad Hoc Committee
Affirming Women in Ministry

Women in Seventh-day Adventist ministry are being affirmed through appreciation, recognition and representation at many levels in the church. This needs to be continued and increased. The most significant confirmation, however, requires the action of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee.

The affirmation of women in ministry in the Adventist church has both a moral and ethical imperative based on Scripture, church history and our diversity in unity.

SCRIPTURE: As a global church that values the authority of Scripture, we acknowledge that:

A. Scripture is clear that the end-time church is blessed with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all believers (Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:17-18), with the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9) and through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, both women and men preach God’s message (Fundamental Beliefs 14 and 17).

B. We are commanded to practice justice in our actions and relationships (Micah 6:8).

C. Everything contained in the Bible relates to the concepts represented in three words: Creation, Fall, and Redemption. This continuum provides the natural outline to the biblical story. In Eden, God created male and female as equals, both spiritually and relationally, and both are necessary to fully reflect the image of God (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

D. Multiple times throughout Scripture God chose women to lead His people (Deborah, Esther, Hulda, Anna, four daughters of Philip, Phoebe, Junia etc.).
HISTORY: As a global church that values God’s leading in its history we acknowledge the following significant hallmarks:

A. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was co-founded by a woman, Ellen G. White, who remains an authoritative and guiding voice.

B. At the General Conference Session on December 5, 1881, a motion was made: “RESOLVED, That females possessing the necessary qualifications to fill that position, may, with perfect propriety, be set apart by ordination to the work of the Christian ministry.” Reported in Review and Herald, Dec. 20, 1881. It appears there was no record of any action taken.

C. Ellen White wrote in the July 9, 1895, Review & Herald, of a ministry that women, who gave themselves to it, should be set apart to this work by prayer and laying on of hands.

D. Willie White ordained deaconesses on January 6, 1900, in Australia. In 1975 an action was taken to ordain deaconesses at GC Session. In 1985 the action was reaffirmed and in 2010 it was recorded in the Church Manual. Ordination of women elders was approved in 1975 and reaffirmed at Annual Council in 1984.

E. The General Conference voted to authorize women to serve as pastors (1990).

F. Sixteen female pastors have already been ordained in China. These women are playing a significant role in the rapid church growth in their country and the Northern Asia Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists recognizes their ordinations.

DIVERSITY IN UNITY: As a global church that values diversity in unity:

A. We affirm that diversity in unity is part of the divine order for creation, redemption, restoration and for the church (Ephesians 4, John 17, 1 Corinthians 12:12).

B. We affirm God’s leading in utilizing the talents of women for the mission of the church. “When a great and decisive work is to be done, God chooses men and women to do this work, and it will feel the loss if the talents of both are not combined” (Evangelism, p. 469).

C. We understand that “there must be room to recognize the need for a legitimacy of local adaptation of policies and procedures that facilitate mission while not diminishing the worldwide identity, harmony and unity of the Church” (GC Spring Council 2012 116-12G Report).

D. We celebrate our diversity of culture, gender and ethnicity.

E. We recognize that “The distribution of authority and responsibility in the church, along with the recognition that ‘authority rests in membership,’ presents significant challenges in finding a balance between centralized authority (actions of the global church) and the more localized authority (actions of the constituency) in churches, conferences and unions.

“At the same time, the church has worked to preserve unity, the effect of church growth has enlarged the understanding of diversity and its rightful place in a worldwide community. To expect that every entity in the world church will look and function exactly like every other entity of its type may in itself become an impediment to mission. The development of structural designs in the history of the church indicates that unity must be built on a stronger foundation than uniformity” (GC Spring Council 2012 116-12G Report).

F. We acknowledge that “different elements of organizational authority are distributed among the various levels of denominational organization … decisions regarding the ordination of ministers are entrusted to the union conference/mission …” (NAD Working Policy B 05, 6).

G. We recognize that ordination is for the world church (NAD Working Policy L 40 and L 45 05). We further recognize that ordained ministers may not function outside the territory of the organization issuing their credential, unless invited to do so.

Note: All scriptural references are from the New King James Version (NKJV).

COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval.

Join in the discussion:

There are no comments.

Anonymous

Name: 
Email: 
Community Services Director With “Can-Do” Attitude Dies
Story by Taashi Rowe
Published 5/23/12

Ron Wylie, executive director of Potomac Conference’s Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW), passed away last Tuesday. Wylie became part-time executive director of ACSGW in 2004, and led the not-for-profit coalition of seven churches doing community services and development in Silver Spring and Takoma Park, Md., “with vision and enthusiasm,” says Les Pitton, ACSGW chairman.

Describing Wylie’s passing as a “tragic loss,” Pitton says, “Ron’s enthusiasm, can-do attitude and unique ability to see the forest beyond the trees, is what made him such a special person. He will truly be missed.”

Pitton marveled at Wylie’s ability to connect with community leaders, politicians and other agencies and associations. He also speaks highly of Wylie’s work at ACSGW. “It was under Ron’s administration that the cash drain was stopped, partial debt was paid and creative revenue programs were created,” Pitton recalls. “During Ron’s time leading the organization, he strengthened governance; established new board committees, committee charters, board self-evaluation surveys and term limits; and revised bylaws.”

However, he was most impressed by Wylie’s generosity. “Often, he would pay someone’s rent out of his own pocket just to help them get on their feet again. He assisted an employee’s grandchild with tuition so she could attend a [Seventh-day] Adventist school. That was Ron,” Pitton says.

“Ron Wylie was the epitome of the word ‘commitment’,” says Charles Tapp, senior pastor of the Sligo church [LINK sligochurch.org] in Takoma Park, Md., one of ACSGW’s founding churches. “He wasn’t about just talking. He lived his commitment to others.”

A trained lawyer who spent many years in federal service, Wylie went into private practice in 1987 and specialized in healthcare law and government relations. He was also active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He served on the boards of Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md.; Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md.; Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md.; Miracle Meadows School in Salem, W.Va.; the Adventist World Radio in Silver Spring, Md.; and many others.

He was the first president of the Columbia Union Adventist Attorney’s Association, now known as the Adventist Lawyers Association of Greater Washington. He also served as president of the Columbia Union chapter of the Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI) for several years, and served as a vice president of the national ASI.

Wylie leaves behind his wife, Junamae Wegner; son, Rod and his wife, Nicole, and two grandsons Jacob and Brayden. Margaret Pascoe, his first wife, preceded him in death.

Wylie’s funeral was held Monday, May 21 near his home in Marriottsville, Md. There will also be a memorial service at Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., where he was a member. The service will be Wednesday, May 30 at 11 a.m.

Click here to view a recent video of Wylie talking about his work with ACSGW.
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The Columbia Union’s Office of Education recently named its 2012 Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Administrator award recipients. Cathy Tomlinson, principal and teacher at New Jersey Conference’s Cohansey Christian School in Bridgeton, and Sheresa Woodson, a teacher at the Ephesus Adventist School in Richmond, Va., were recognized as outstanding educators.

Brian Kittleson, principal of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md., and Elisa Maragoto, principal of New Jersey Conference’s Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School in Piscataway, were named outstanding administrators.

Calling the winners “richly deserving,” Hamlet Canosa, EdD, the union’s vice president for Education, confessed that “the task of determining who would actually be selected was, like in years past, a difficult one.”

Why They Teach

Nominated by their principals or their conference superintendent, the award recipients, who, no doubt have left lasting impressions on students and fellow teachers, shared why they loved teaching.

Teaching is a gift, says Woodson, a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher with 18 years of teaching experience, 15 of which have been at Ephesus. She says, “When I think of my years of teaching, I have to thank God for giving me the opportunity to touch the lives of so many students.”

Cathy Tomlinson, this year’s second Outstanding Educator Award recipient, says, “My personal philosophy is to inspire students to do their best in all they attempt and provide opportunity after opportunity for each child to grow in academics and in a relationship with Jesus.”

Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, New Jersey Conference’s superintendent, says he nominated Tomlinson for the award because not only is she “a dedicated and loving Christian teacher whom we are very proud of … [she is also] a very innovative teacher who engages her students in meaningful learning. She coaches and partners with her students in the learning process. As a result, her students publish books, create outstanding artworks and are involved in the community.”

Elisa Maragoto, who won an Outstanding Administrator Award, says she derives a “personal sense of purpose in preparing my students for earthly success and witnessing their accomplishments. It’s also really rewarding and fulfilling to prepare them for eternity.”

Saint-Ulysse says he admires how Maragoto “leads her school in a Christ-like manner that is contagious. Her style of leadership results in a loyal and unified faculty and staff that should serve as a model to others. She is humble and a true servant leader.”

Outstanding Administrator Award winner Kittleson, who is completing his 19th year in Adventist education, says, “I am a principal because I am passionate about creating an environment where kids can flourish academically and develop a saving relationship with Christ.”

Carole Smith, Chesapeake’s superintendent, admires Kittleson’s willingness “to be a risk taker...
and embrace change as needed. He has high standards and is passionate about doing things well. He is quick to give the Lord credit for the success of school.”

In congratulating this year’s winners, Canosa said, “We are truly grateful for their respective vibrant, high-impact ministries and the many years of faithful service each has rendered.”

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