

Monthly Update

July 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In this Monthly Update we continue to present information on what happened at the 2012 General Conference and implications for the future of our United Methodist Church.

The Fourth of July as we celebrate the birth of our country reminds me of President Ronald Reagan and brings to mind his accomplishments and various anecdotes from his life. To repeat what I'd written in a 2004 letter, he was truly a great man. I remember the media would give him a hard time on some issue or ask how he thought he had the right answer. He would say, "You can find most of the answers in this book right here" holding up the Bible.

Just some examples of his insights are:

- + "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."
- + "Great nations which fail to meet their responsibilities are consigned to the dust bin of history. We grew from that small, weak republic which had as its assets spirit, optimism, faith in God and an unshakeable belief that free men and women could govern themselves wisely. We became the leader of the free world, an example for all those who cherish freedom. If we are to continue to be that example -- if we are to preserve our own freedom -- we must understand those who would dominate us and deal with them with determination."
- + "Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose."
- + "The most terrifying words in the English language: I'm from the government and I'm here to help."
- + "The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant; it's just that they know so much that isn't so."
- + "Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong."
- + "I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress."
- + "The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination."
- + "The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program."
- + "It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first."
- + "Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."
- + "If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."
- + "No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

I believe that we are at one of the most crucial times in the history of our beloved nation. Please continue to pray for our country, as I hope that each of you has a memorable and safe Fourth of July as we cherish America's heritage.

In His service,

Allen O. Morris
Executive Director

July 2012 Update

Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports.

In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness -- these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens The mere Politician, equally with the pious man ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. ... [L]et us with caution indulge the opposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

--George Washington (1796)

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The Good Stuff UMC Foundation Hosts Conversations

The UMC Foundation (UMCF) has been working for years to reduce administrative duplication and redundancies with the general Church. Since 2003, UMCF has hosted a regular opportunity for development staff related to general agencies of The UMC. The General Agency Development Staff (GADS) Roundtable serves to gather for the exchange of ideas, sharing of resources and partnering for cost savings and ministry enhancement. Eleven development staff from several UM general agencies gathered in Nashville on Apr. 29. The various groups represented included Africa University; General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM); General Board of Discipleship (GBOD); General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (GCCUIC); General Commission on UM Men (GCUMM); General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA); General Commission on Communication (UMCOM); the UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR); the Women's Division-GBGM; and the Upper Room.

During this event, staff had a chance to meet one another, give updates on current initiatives and programs, and share challenges and best practices that they have developed. Presentations included non-traditional revenue sources and the direction that GCFA is taking to look at ways to increase visibility and revenue for church ministries and ways for the general agencies to grow, adapt to and be relevant in our rapidly changing culture. The group has met once again since General Conference and planning future gatherings. – Sharon Clapp, GCFA, as reported in UMNewScope, June 20, 2012

Of Interest

+ Message to ALL Christians in America from Pastor John Hagee of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Greetings to all of our Salt Covenant Partners and friends across the nation and around the world.

First, I want to express my profound appreciation to President Barak Obama for doing what all of the Republican candidates have not been able to do for months: he unified the Bible-believing church in America in one week over the issue of abortion. When the President ordered the Catholic Church to provide contraceptives to prevent the birth of new life, he hit a nerve in the heart of every true Catholic and Evangelical. Being a politician, he will attempt to compromise his position until after the election and then release the full power of government to force the church to obey the state.

Think about this! If he made this bold statement before the election, consider how brutal he will be if he is re-elected!

I have said it before and I will say it again: the election on November 6, 2012 for the office of President is the day of decision for America. Four more years of Obama will bring absolute socialism to America. Our children and grandchildren will never know the greatness of America that we have experienced. THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN!

+ + +

FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER

I am asking the Christians of America to join us in 40 days of prayer for this Presidential election. These 40 days of prayer will begin on September 28, 2012. You can do it individually or in groups, but prayer is the most powerful force God has given us to bring our nation back to righteousness. I'll be saying more about this as the year progresses, but mark it on your calendar and start telling your family, friends, and church members NOW about the 40 days of prayer.

Sincerely,

Pastor John Hagee

+ + +

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, seek my face,

and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin,
and will heal their land. – 2 Chronicles 7:14

+ Drinking by college students contributes to an estimated 1,825 deaths, 599,000 injuries and 97,000 cases of sexual assault each year in the United States, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. United Methodist-related Oklahoma City University has introduced a bachelor's degree program in addiction studies that it hopes will put a dent in these statistics. "The degree is designed to help combat one of our nation's most widespread and destructive problems," said Peter Messiah, director of the school's addiction-prevention efforts.

– UMNS Daily Digest, June 1, 2012

+ Fewer than 6 percent of United Methodist clergy are under the age of 35. One of the biggest problems facing young clergy is burnout. With these two issues in mind, the Western Pennsylvania Annual (regional) Conference began a mentoring program in which a retired pastor is assigned to young clergy to support and nurture them. That was five years ago. So far, the efforts of the Rev. Brian Bauknight, who came out of retirement to become a mentor, seem to be working. As one young pastor put it, the mentoring program "helped us get used to not being the Lone Ranger."

– UMNS Daily Digest, June 1, 2012

+ ***Fortnight4Freedom***

[Note: This is in support of the Roman Catholic Church in response to the recent demands that they provide medical care that is against their conscience. This is important because attacks against the religious freedom of any one denomination is an attack against the religious freedoms of all of us. – AOM]

Saturday, June 23, 2012

Dear Marriage Supporter,

As many of us gather in houses of worship across the nation this weekend, I hope you'll join me in taking a moment to remember our nation in prayer. Here is a suggested Christian prayer from Fortnight4Freedom.org:

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator, through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—
for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—
this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has prepared and collected numerous resources for individuals and churches across the nation at www.Fortnight4Freedom.org. And it's not just for Catholic churches! If your church is not already a part of this groundbreaking new initiative, I urge you to share Baltimore Archbishop William Lori's letter of invitation with your pastor this weekend.

As Archbishop Lori suggests, I hope you will set aside some time during these two weeks to pray for religious liberty both here and abroad, and will take advantage of this moment to explain the importance of religious freedom to your own children and grandchildren.

And then join with churches from every faith tradition on July 4th as we celebrate our heritage with the ringing of bells from coast to coast!

Faithfully,
Brian S. Brown, President,
National Organization for Marriage

+ ***Retirement Reversal Prompts Response from Episcopacy Committee***

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe announced June 1 that he was retiring voluntarily (after serving only one term as a bishop.). But late on the afternoon of June 5, just before the conclusion of the North Texas annual conference session, he declared that he was reversing course. He was being forced out, he told conference members, and he had decided to fight all the way to the Judicial Council if he has to.

On June 8, the chair of the South Central Episcopacy Committee, Don House, released a statement sharing information, usually held as confidential, about the reasons for the committee's decision to request Bledsoe's voluntary retirement. The committee met on June 10 to consider the question of involuntary retirement.

If the South Central Jurisdiction episcopacy committee votes to compel Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe's retirement, and he appeals, he will remain as the North Texas Conference bishop until the Judicial Council renders a ruling.

If the Judicial Council upholds an involuntary retirement, the Council of Bishops, in consultation with the episcopacy committee and cabinet, could fill the vacancy with a retired bishop. Or the South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops could call a special session of the jurisdictional conference to elect and appoint a new bishop.

– Heather Hahn, UMNS, as reported in UMNewScope, June 20, 2012; UMNS Daily Digest, June 1, 2012

(UM) Bishops

+ ***It's the Time of the Season for Meeting***

Now that the 2012 General Conference has ended, UM leaders across the nation turn to jurisdictional and annual conferences coming up this summer. The first U.S. annual conference sessions began May 17 in the Detroit and Eastern Pennsylvania annual conferences. The annual conference meetings wrap up in the United States with the Virginia Annual Conference session June 22–24.

The first annual conference session in the central conferences was Feb. 2–6 in Eastern Angola. Based on current data, the central conferences annual conference meetings wrap up Dec. 14–16 with the East Zimbabwe session. U.S. jurisdictional conferences meet in July every four years, following General Conference. The main purpose of jurisdictional conferences, which involves twice as many U.S. delegates as General Conference, is to elect and assign new bishops. Fourteen U.S. bishops and two central conferences bishops will retire this year. The North Central, South Central and Western jurisdictions each will lose a bishop's position, while the Congo Central Conference will gain a bishop.

– As reported in the May 23, 2012 edition of NewScope

+ New U.S. bishops will be elected during jurisdictional conferences July 18–21. Central Conferences will meet at various dates ranging from August to December 2012, and will elect or re-elect six bishops. The Central and Southern Europe central conferences will not meet until March 2013, but they will not be electing a new bishop.

The following bishops are retiring this year:

+ North Central Jurisdiction: Linda Lee, Wisconsin Conference

+ Northeastern Jurisdiction: Ernest S. Lyght, West Virginia Conference; Jane Allen Middleton, Central Pennsylvania Conference; Peter Weaver, New England Conference

+ South Central Jurisdiction: Charles N. Crutchfield, Arkansas Conference; William W. Hutchinson, Louisiana Conference; Ann Brookshire Sherer-Simpson, Nebraska Conference; D. Max Whitfield, Northwest Texas and New Mexico Conferences

+ Southeastern Jurisdiction: Alfred Wesley Gwinn Jr., North Carolina Conference; Charlene Kammerer, Virginia Conference; Timothy Whitaker, Florida Conference; Will Willimon, North Alabama Conference; Richard J. Wills Jr., Memphis and Tennessee Conferences

+ Western Jurisdiction: Mary Ann Swenson, California Pacific Conference

+ Central Conferences: Hans Växby, Eurasia Episcopal Area; Leo Soriano, Davao Episcopal Area

Bishops are permitted to serve up to three consecutive four-year terms in one episcopal area. In each jurisdiction, a committee on episcopacy reviews the bishop's work and character and proposes a new assignment. The Jurisdictional Conference then has the ability to accept or reject the assignment. Bishops elected at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conferences will begin their new assignments Sept. 1.

– Emily Snell for UMNS, as reported in the May 23, 2012 edition of NewScope

(UM) General Conference 2012.

+ *New wrinkle in appointment security*

[Note: This is included in a great bit of detail since we in Concerned Methodists believe this to have been the only piece of legislation passed at the 2012 General Conference that is harmful to the future of our church and poses a great danger.]

Supporters of guaranteed appointments for United Methodist clergy have a new reason for hope.

The Rev. L. Fitzgerald "Gere" Reist II, secretary of the General Conference, informed the Council of Bishops late June 11 that the language in the 2012 Book of Discipline "does not eliminate the security of appointment for elders." But, other denominational leaders question Reist's interpretation of what the 2012 General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking body, accomplished when it met April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Fla. At issue are two potentially contradictory sections of the Book of Discipline, The United Methodist Church's law book.

The 2012 General Conference deleted in the book's Paragraph 337 the required security of appointment for elders in good standing. The changes allow a bishop to recommend an elder be put on transitional leave. However, the assembly left Paragraph 334.1 intact. The latter paragraph says: "Every effective elder in full connection who is in good standing shall be continued under appointment by the bishop ..."

Some bishops contend that General Conference did not so much eliminate security of appointment as modify it. "Someone having an appointment is not the same thing as them being appointed to serve a church," Indiana Area Bishop Michael Coyner said in an email to bishops that he shared with United Methodist News Service. "Transitional leave is an appointment and so is a part-time appointment."

Ultimately, Reist and Coyner agree the Judicial Council – the denomination's equivalent of the U.S. Supreme Court – must decide the matter. Questions regarding the elimination of security of appointment will go before the Judicial Council at its next meeting in October, and this debate could come under consideration. "My statement to the Council of Bishops was not a statement of law but a statement of the fact of the language remaining in the BOD," Reist told the United Methodist News Service.

What happened at General Conference

The Higher Education and Ministry legislative committee – the first stop at General Conference for appointment-related petitions – voted 68-7 in favor of changes to Paragraph 337. Those changes include:

- Removing the requirement that elders "be continued under appointment"
- Allowing a bishop to recommend to the annual conference's board of ordained ministry that an elder be placed on transitional leave if "a missional appointment is not available"
- Requiring a bishop to initiate the complaint process if an elder is found ineffective
- Mandating each annual conference name a task force to develop a list of criteria to guide bishops and cabinets as they make "missional appointments"
- Requiring cabinets to report to the board of ordained ministry executive committee the reasons clergy have not received full-time appointments as well as the age, ethnicity and gender of elders who have not received full-time appointments

"The intent of the (Higher Education and Ministry) legislative committee was clear, even if our action was not as clear as our intent, and the intent was the elimination of the language of security of appointment," said the Rev. David Alan Bard, the committee's chair. He is pastor of First United Methodist Church in Duluth, Minn. He also echoed Coyner's statement that appointment to transitional leave "still constitutes an appointment." Because of the legislative committee's overwhelming support for the changes, the petition went on the General Conference consent calendar. The consent calendar is a tool used by General Conference to expedite legislation wherein recommendations from legislative committees with no more than 10 votes in opposition are grouped and approved together. A motion to reconsider the item on May 1 failed by a vote of 564 to 373.

On May 4, General Conference delegates approved a motion to ask the Judicial Council whether the removal of security of appointment passes muster under the denomination's constitution.

What about 334.1?

The legislation to eliminate security of appointment originated with the Study of Ministry Commission. In its report, the commission said the practice is not financially sustainable and "limits the ability of the church to respond to the primacy of missional needs." An earlier report estimated there are 784 more U.S. clergy than positions needed in the church.

The Higher Education and Ministry legislative committee voted unanimously against the commission's petition, which included changes to 334.1, and thus it never went before the full plenary.

The Rev. Amy Gearhart, a member of the Study of Ministry Commission, chaired the subcommittee that dealt with that petition. She is the senior pastor of Missouri United Methodist Church in Columbia. She said that petition was voted down because it also related to early ordination for elders, which the committee had decided to oppose.

Source of confusion

In the rush of General Conference, Reist said, it is difficult to track how each petition relates to other petitions and other parts of the Book of Discipline not under discussion. "This is the difficulty of making the objective of General Conference how much legislation we can pass rather than determining the quality of the legislation we pass," he said. His comment echoed what he said after the Judicial Council ruled an agency restructuring plan unconstitutional, undoing a major action of the General Conference.

The Rev. Gloria Kymn, a delegate from the Pacific-Northwest Conference and pastor of Maryville (Wash.) United Methodist Church, said she was sad that full General Conference plenary did not get a chance to discuss such a significant change to United Methodist tradition. "I am the local church pastor who feels like I'm on the frontlines of working with United Methodists every day," she said. "And I felt like my daily ministry was not important for this body, the general church, to talk about." She said Reist's concerns give her hope that perhaps clergy will have four more years to prepare for change and reflect better what it "really means to be effective clergy for The United Methodist Church."

The Rev. Thomas Lambrecht, vice president and general manager of Good News, has argued cases before the Judicial Council. He agreed with Reist's assessment of the Book of Discipline's language. "It is my understanding that, if a change is to be made in the Book of Discipline, that change must be made in all relevant paragraphs in order to become effective," he said. "I believe that means that the change to Par. 337 does not override the existing language of Par. 334.1. That would mean that the guaranteed appointment is still in place." Though often on differing sides, he and leaders of the progressive caucus, the Methodist Federation for Social Action, both had expressed concerns about the elimination of guaranteed appointments. With the elimination of guaranteed appointment in question, Lambrecht was philosophical. "I think this shows the level of complexity that is present in the Book of Discipline," he said. "It is so difficult for a body of 1,000 delegates (most of whom are not experts at church law) to make meaningful changes in the way our church functions."

Message to Council of Bishops

This is the full text of the message sent by The Rev. L. Fitzgerald "Gere" Reist II, Secretary of the General Conference, to the council:

The Book of Discipline 2012 does not eliminate security of appointment for elders. The amendments to paragraph 334 that would have mirrored the changes in 337 were not supported by the committee. They were not voted on in the plenary. The language of 334.1, "Every effective elder in full connection who is in good standing shall be continued under appointment by the bishop provided that if the elder is appointed to serve in an affiliated relationship in a missionary conference (§ 586) and that appointment is terminated by the bishop who presides in the missionary conference, then the responsibility for meeting this obligation rests with the bishop of the conference of which the elder is a member." remains in effect.

– By Heather Hahn; United Methodist News Service (UMNS), June 12, 2012. *Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for UMNS. <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=1wL4KnN1Lth&b=5259669&ct=11798635>

An interesting comment in a blog (discussion after the article itself) by, evidently, a member of the clergy:

Sometimes it seems that the sacrifices of being itinerant [Editorial note: "Having to move to a place at a certain time in obedience to the bishop's decision."] are completely ignored. From time to time I hear people compare our current discussion to the business world where people are not "guaranteed jobs." True. Most of the time, however, those business folks and their families are not dependent on the business to provide their housing. Some (perhaps many) churches use the housing as a justification to pay clergy less (after all, their housing is being provided). Is that true in the business world? Do businesses withhold income because they are providing housing? When clergy are "let go" they lose not only their job, but their home, and their social and spiritual structures. It is also difficult to simply "go to a new company" especially when you would have to rebuild from scratch.

Perhaps if GA [i.e., "guaranteed appointments"] are ended, we should begin (sic.) debating itinerant ministry and housing as well. Not having to deal with purchasing a house is nice, but it is a nightmare if you are ever appointed to transitional leave. At least if clergy owned their home, they would know they would have a place to leave...and perhaps some equity in that home. If ineffective clergy are the problem, where did all the ineffective clergy come from? They were trained in accredited seminaries. At some point they were affirmed by our churches. They were also "accredited" and ordained by our boards and bishops. Did they go from effective to ineffective over a few years or did they wake up one morning that way? Or were they always ineffective and our process was ineffective to discover it?

– Response on the discussion of the above action by blogger "damuse"

+ *How the Book of Discipline comes to be*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – It's said that the two items no one wants to see being made are laws and sausages. Perhaps the United Methodist Book of Discipline, the denomination's law book, should be added to that list. It takes almost six months – and a process defined by the rules of the General Conference – before the denomination knows exactly what happened after its big legislative assembly.

– UMNS Daily Digest, June 21, 2012

+ *Ideas exchanged for vital churches*

EVANSTON, Ill. – Six weeks after the 2012 General Conference, denominational leaders met to discuss theories, best practices and challenges for increasing the number of highly vital United Methodist congregations. The Vital Congregations Initiative, which met on the campus of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary on June 12-13, included United Methodist bishops, pastors, laity, researchers, practitioners, leaders from various United Methodist boards and agencies and evangelism professors from United Methodist theological schools. – UMNS Daily Digest, June 21, 2012

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A soft answer has often been the means of breaking a hard heart. – Our Daily Bread, April 10, 2012

Global Outlook

*God writes opportunity on one side of the door
and responsibility on the other.*

– *Our Daily Bread*, April 11, 2012

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Sudan. As Genocide Passes One-Year Mark in Sudan's Nuba Mountains, IRD Urges Pressure on U.S. Government

“It is a moral outrage that the United States and the world have ignored this cry for help for an entire year.”

– IRD Religious Liberty Director Faith J.H. McDonnell

Washington, DC—Tomorrow marks the first anniversary of renewed attacks upon the Nuba Mountain people of Sudan. Victims of brutal genocide in the 1980s-90s, the Nuba are again under attack by Sudan's National Congress Party (NCP) government, based in the capital of Khartoum. Hundreds of thousands have been killed and displaced since Khartoum began attacks on the region on June 5, 2011. Currently 500,000 people are at risk of starvation, cut off from aid by Khartoum. Sudanese forces [have] continually bombed Nuba Mountain villages and burned homes, schools, and churches. The regime's Islamist militia, the “Popular Defense Force” staged a house-by-house purge of black, African Nuba. Church leaders particularly were targeted. Thousands have fled to refugee camps, others are hiding in caves.

IRD is urging church members to press the Obama Administration into action. Cross border aid from South Sudan must be delivered before the rainy season cuts off access. The northern Islamist regime also has violated the international sovereignty of South Sudan, as well as continuing attacks on disputed border regions and Sudan's other marginalized people groups. IRD Religious Liberty Program Director Faith J.H. McDonnell commented:

“Sunday, June 5, 2011 an e-mail informed me that war had begun in the Nuba Mountains. Sudan Armed Forces and militias deployed troops using heavy weapons, tanks, and a military air base. ‘We need quick action from the USA and the international community before another genocide occurs in the Nuba Mountains,’ it warned. It is a moral outrage that the United States and the world have ignored this cry for help for an entire year.

“One week after demonstrations started in Cairo's Tahrir Square, President Obama urged President Mubarak to step down. Why have the brutality and genocide by Sudan's President al-Bashir not caused Obama to make the same call on Sudan?

“The Arab uprising in Libya began February 17, 2011. By the 26th, the U.N. condemned Gadhafi's crackdown on the rebels as a violation of international law. By March 17, the U.N. had created the kind of no-fly zone for which the Nuba people have been pleading for a year. Not long after, the U.S. was using Tomahawk cruise missiles on the Gadhafi regime.

“The double standard is breathtaking, particularly since Egypt is now in the hands of the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafists.”

– IRD Religious Liberty Director Faith J.H. McDonnell; www.TheIRD.org

World Council of Churches. World churches send messages to Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO (UMNS) – Two World Council of Churches officials, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople and the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, have sent messages pressing for stronger commitments for ecological justice to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, which takes place June 20–22. The World Council of Churches program for Eco-justice organized a series of side events both at the Rio+20 and the People's Summit that preceded it. The council brings together 349 churches, denominations and fellowships including The United Methodist Church in more than 110 countries. [Note: One wonders what their definition of “eco-justice” is and how it can be put into effect. One also wonders over their having no sense of the spiritual lostness of people everywhere and of their pressing need to have Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. – AOM] – UMNS Daily Digest, June 21, 2012

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You are called to change your world. Be a world-changer.

Live long and finish strong.

Work is a blessing.

God uses ordinary people.

*Take the servant girl who told Naman about the Prophet Elisha
who could cure his (Naman's) cancer.*

It's not ability that makes the difference; it's availability.

– *Chaplain (LTC) Tim Atkinson*