

Director of Justice and Peace Institute to present Mendenhall Lecture

DePauw announces Mendenhall Lecture speaker for Nov. 5 event

By Ken Owen

GREENCASTLE, Ind. (DePauw) – Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, director of the Denver-based Justice and Peace Institute and associate professor for social ethics at the United Methodist-related Iliff School of Theology, will come to DePauw University on Wednesday, Nov. 5, to present the fall Mendenhall Lecture. De La Torre's speech, "The Ethical Response to the Use of Religion in Politics," will follow the U.S. presidential election and begins at 7:30 p.m. in Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church, 307 Simpson Street in Greencastle on the campus of DePauw. The event is free and open to all.



Torre

The focus of De La Torre's academic pursuit has been social and political ethics within contemporary U.S. thought, specifically how religion affects race, class and gender oppression. His is a liberationist approach that uplifts the marginalized in U.S. society and challenges structures of oppression.

St. Mark's Carmel collects 2,500 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls

St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Carmel, Ind., recently hosted a drive of gently worn shoes for Soles4Souls Inc., a non-profit organization that gives away shoes to the hurting worldwide.

According to Soles4Souls Inc., Americans have 1.5 billion pairs of unworn shoes lying in their closets. The charity can use these shoes to make a difference in the lives of people worldwide.

St. Mark's called upon the community and was fortunate to collect more than 2,500 pairs of shoes for all ages, from flips-flops to tennis shoes, high heels, work boots and more.



St. Mark's volunteers worked to load boxes containing more than 2,500 pairs of shoes donated during the Soles 4Souls Shoe Drive. Pictured left to right are Larry Goens, Lia Goens, Chris Hankins, Jim Campbell, Mark Bartel, Mike Gospel, David Smyth, St. Mark's Missions Coordinator Liz Rix and Leonard Sheats.

- Nancy Canning, St. Mark's UMC, Carmel

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Hoosier United Methodists establish new Indiana Annual Conference

More than 2,000 Hoosier United Methodist conference members and guests from across Indiana established the new Indiana Annual Conference by uniting the two former North and South conferences during a joint special session in Indianapolis on Saturday, Oct. 4. Indiana Area Bishop Michael J. Coyner convened the special session.

The Rev. Cindy Reynolds, chair of the 13-member Transition Team introduced six recommendations and a series of resolutions which brought the new conference into being.

Coyner called for separate votes from each of the conferences by a show-of-cards of the 1,688 voting members present. The resolutions were overwhelmingly approved at 2:22 p.m. establishing the new conference.

The new conference elected trustees, members to interim committees, a conference secretary and five conference directors.

Features of the new conference include:

- ◆ Forming clergy into covenant groups and all 1,200 congregations into ministry clusters of four to nine congregations for support, outreach to their communities and accountability to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;
- ◆ Dissolving 18 districts and establishing five resource centers to support the



Photos: Erma Metzler, Indiana Conference

Bishop Mike Coyner consecrates communion elements during the first worship service of the new Indiana Annual Conference Oct. 4 in Indianapolis following business which unified the two Indiana conferences.

work of 10 districts; and

- ◆ Creating a new conference structure including a Conference Leaders Team and establishing a new conference center in Indianapolis. The team will be chaired by the bishop and includes representatives from all aspects of the conference at the same table.

The inaugural Indiana Annual Conference will convene its first session at Ball State University in Muncie, June 25-28, 2009.

Can these bones live?

In his first sermon to the new conference, Coyner asked members, “Can these bones live?” based on Ezekiel 37:1-14.

“That’s not an organizational question, it’s a spiritual question. Can this new Indiana Annual Conference be alive? The answer is found in the question of Ezekiel,” said Coyner. “The answer is yes, by God’s spirit. That’s our answer today.”

Coyner emphasized two aspects of the new conference. He encouraged congregations to join a ministry cluster to work together, as well as continue development of clergy cluster groups which already are springing up across the state.

Other goals he emphasized included streamlining leadership and transforming members and congregations to re-focus more clearly to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Indiana and the world.

“Yes, God wants this new conference to be an effective tool for God’s ministry. It’s up to us - but it’s not all up to us. The answer is yes, by God’s spirit,” said Coyner. “The gentle spirit of God will make us into the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church.”

Following his sermon, Coyner led in the ritual of Holy Communion, which concluded the session.

Full story including officers and directors coming in *Hoosier United Methodists Together* in print and online at www.inareaumc.org.

Ingathering at Special Session

In preparation for the special session, Hoosier United Methodists were encouraged to bring flood bucket clean-up and health (personal hygiene) kits to contribute to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Springfield, Ill., a ministry of the Illinois Great Rivers Conferences.

According to Gary Peterson, of Fort Wayne and disaster response coordinator of the North Indiana Conference, the ingathering was overwhelming. Members brought 430 flood buckets, more than 1,000 health kits and school items to the Indiana Area-based Operation Classroom for schools in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Hoosier United Methodists completely filled a 35-foot truck from



Photo: Matthew Oates, Indiana Conference.

Indiana United Methodists collect flood buckets for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Springfield, Ill., during the special session of the Indiana North and South Conferences in Indianapolis.

the Illinois center. Flood buckets which could not fit into the truck were divided among Calumet District people who were taking the kits to one of the two United Way Volunteer Response Centers in Munster and Portage in northwest Indiana, to assist flood survivors recovering from mid-September flood damage.

UE to increase nursing enrollment, scholarships

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (UE) - Beginning next year, the University of Evansville’s Department of Nursing will create more scholarships - and expand its student capacity - in an attempt to help battle the nation’s nursing shortage.

Enrollment in the 2009-10 freshman nursing class will be increased to 40 students, up from the current maximum of 25. And, thanks to the generosity of contributors to UE’s U-Envision 2010 Campaign, each of those students (and each of the 40 students in classes to follow) will be eligible for new National Need for Nurses Scholarships that total up to \$72,000 each over the course of four years.

Hoosier elected secretary of Discipleship board

A Hoosier will continue to lead the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) directors for the next four years (2009-2012). During an organizational meeting held in Nashville, Tenn. Sept. 23-27, the Rev. Frank Beard, superintendent of the Kokomo District, was elected the board’s secretary.

The directors also elected Virginia Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, president; newly elected bishop of the Denver Area, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, vice president; and GBOD’s chief administrative officer/treasurer, the Rev. Charles Carnahan, treasurer. The board is comprised of 58 members from the five jurisdictions and central conferences outside the United States, plus one liaison representative from the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, and one member without vote from among the member churches of Churches Uniting in Christ. For more information, log on to www.gbod.org. Indiana Bishop Mike Coyner, who led the GBOD these past four years (2004-2008) as president, will be serving the General Commission on Finance and Administration during this quadrennial term.



Beard

Loan fund names Babcock as field representative

The Indiana United Methodist Loan Fund recently announced that Bob Babcock, of Danville, Ind. and a member of the Danville United Methodist Church, will be joining the Loan Fund staff as a Field Representative. Babcock now serves the Indianapolis West and Terre Haute Districts of the South Indiana United Methodist Conference. He can be reached at 317-745-7513 or by e-mail at bobbabvm@aol.com.

For more information about the loan fund call toll free 866-669-2327 or 765-664-2327 or log on www.niumf.org.



Babcock