



# WEST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 9-12, 2008 LAKESIDE

## *Basketballs and Rallies*

*By Bishop Bruce R. Ough*

The West Ohio Conference delegates to our recent General Conference bid \$80,000 to purchase a basketball used by Bishop Thomas Bickerton as he came to the podium to deliver a report on the *Nothing But Nets* campaign.

This campaign, which has raised over \$20 million to date, is a partnership between The United Methodist Church, *Sports Illustrated* magazine, the National Basketball Foundation (NBA Cares), the United Nations Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This campaign is designed to purchase and distribute chemically-



*Bishop Thomas Bickerton (left) passes a basketball, signed by United Methodist bishops, to Bishop Bruce Ough at the 2008 United Methodist General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.*

treated mosquito nets to malaria infested areas of the world, particularly Africa. Each \$10.00 net saves a life.

During his report, Bishop Bickerton announced to the General Conference, on World Malaria Day, that The United Methodist Church will receive a \$5 million grant from the United Nations Foundation with support from the Gates Foundation to undergird our church's global health initiative to fight malaria and other diseases of poverty.

When William H. Gates, Sr., co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, addressed the General Conference, he announced he would match the top bid. Now, **our** basketball is worth \$160,000. When all the other annual conference bids were added to this amount, the total raised was nearly \$430,000 – which will become 43,000 nets and more than 43,000 lives, mostly children, saved from the ravages of malaria.

On May 17, nearly 400 persons gathered at Waverly Grace United Methodist Church for the first annual Shawnee Valley District “Rally in the Valley.” The Rally was the culmination of the district’s mission focus on Vietnam.

One dollar at a time, the congregations of nine of the poorest counties in the

West Ohio Conference raised funds to establish a United Methodist Church Center in Vietnam. This center will serve as The United Methodist Church’s headquarters in Vietnam and as a training and resource center for the 63 UMC congregations in Vietnam. Conference headquarters must be established before The United Methodist Church can be recognized by the Vietnamese government.

The Rally in the Valley was filled with Spirit energy. Vietnam, and other veterans, were honored. Karen Vo-To, one of our missionaries in Vietnam, spoke of the transforming impact the United Methodist Church is having in the country. The offerings from local churches were received. A district came of age – a district with a clear



*Shawnee Valley District church members contribute over \$117,000 to SE Asia at “Rally in the Valley”. A WOC photo by Diana Hall.*

*(Continued on page 3)*

***What do a basketball auction and a district rally have in common?***



*Bishop William Willimon*

## *Bishop William H. Willimon*

The **Reverend Dr. William H. Willimon** leads the 157,000 Methodists and 792 pastors in North Alabama. For twenty years he was Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Christian Ministry at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. He is the author of nearly sixty books. His *Worship as Pastoral Care* was selected as one of the ten most useful books for pastors in 1979 by the Academy of Parish Clergy. In 1996, an international survey conducted by Baylor University named Bishop Willimon one of the Twelve Most Effective Preachers in the English-speaking world.

His articles have appeared in many publications including *The Christian Ministry*, *Quarterly Review*, *Liturgy*, *Worship* and *Christianity Today*. He is Editor-at-Large for *The Christian Century*. He has written curriculum materials and video for youth, young adults, and adults. A 2005 study by the Pulpit and Pew Research Center found that Bishop Willimon is the second most widely read author by mainline Protestant pastors.

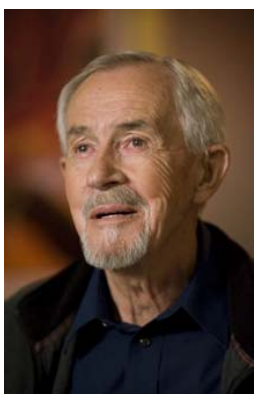


*Rev. Rudy Rasmus*

## *Rev. Rudy Rasmus*

**Pastor Rudy Rasmus** is an urban prophet. For 15 years he has led the St. John's United Methodist Church in Texas with his wife Juanita. In this brief span of time the couple has transformed the spiritual landscape and the face of poverty in Downtown Houston. Beginning with 9 existing members in 1992, St. John's has grown to over 9,000 members (3,000 of the total either are or were formerly homeless) in fifteen years into one of the most culturally diverse congregations in the country where every week people of every social and economic background share the same pew. They attribute the success of the church to a compassionate congregation who has embraced the vision of tearing down the walls of classism, sexism, and racism and building the bridges of unconditional love, and universal recovery.

Pastor Rudy is the author of a new book entitled "Touch: Pressing Against the Wounds of a Broken World" which profiles his unique brand of faith sharing and radical hospitality and a new music project (the book's sound track) entitled "The Pastor Rudy Experience" on Spirit Rising Music.



*Bishop Rueben Job*

## *Bishop Rueben Job*

**Bishop Rueben P. Job** is a retired bishop of the United Methodist Church and one of the outstanding leaders in spiritual formation within the church. Bishop Job served as a bishop in the Iowa area, as the world editor of the *Upper Room* and as associate general secretary of the board of discipleship -- as well as being a pastor, chaplain, district superintendent, and conference staff person. He is the author of numerous books, including *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*; *A Guide to Spiritual Discernment and Three Simple Rules*.

In *Three Simple Rules*, Rueben Job offers an interpretation of John Wesley's General Rules for today's readers. This insightful work calls us to mutual respect, unity and a deeper daily relationship with God with its simple but challenging look at three commands, "do no harm, do good, stay in love with God."

*Special Guests at Annual Conference*

## Basketballs and Rallies

*(continued from page 1)*

sense that with God’s help “mountains can be moved one shovel, one basket, one cart at a time.”

What do a basketball auction and a district rally have in common? They are two of many channels God is using to transform the world. Basketballs and rallies are being used by God to save lives and spread scriptural holiness across a far away land. Basketballs and rallies are expressions of God’s love. They are expressions of God’s love being perfected in us. They are two of many ways we are loving God and loving our neighbors.

The miracle has begun. It will continue as we receive our **Love First Offering** at Lakeside on June 10 and 11. Our goal is to receive \$210,000 – a miraculous outpouring of \$70,000 for *Nothing But Nets* (now \$80,000 so we can pay for **our** basketball) and \$140,000 for Cambodia and Vietnam.

I invite you and your church to be a part of this **Love First Offering**. There is still time to experience the joy of giving. I believe in the miraculous power of Love First. As the author of 1 John reminds us: “Beloved, since God loves us so much, we also ought to love one another.” May it be so!

## Love Offering: Fighting Malaria with Nets

Every 30 seconds a child dies in sub-Saharan Africa because of malaria. 9 out of 10 deaths caused by malaria occur in Africa. One \$10 bed net can keep an entire family safe from malaria transmission for up to four years.



## Hoover Auditorium Program Highlights

For a detailed listing, go to [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

### Sunday, June 8

- *Laity Session*

### Monday, June 9

- *Memorial & Communion Service, led by Bishop William Willimon*
- *Advance Specials Presentation, David Malloy*
- *Episcopal Address by Bishop Ough*
- *“Three Simple Rules”, presentation by Bishop Rueben Job*

### Tuesday, June 10

- *Praise & Worship Service with Love Offering*
- *Teaching—Rev. Rudy Rasmus*
- *Laity Address, Bruce Boyd*
- *Worship Celebration of the Laity, Bishop William Willimon*
- *Ministry Fair*
- *Net Games*

### Wednesday, June 11

- *Praise & Worship Service*
- *Teaching—Rev. Rudy Rasmus*
- *Igniting Ministry Partnership, Emily Reece*
- *Retirement & Credentialing Service, Bishop Ough*


### Thursday, June 12

- *Praise & Worship Service*
- *Cabinet Report*
- *Fixing of the Appointments*
- *Legislation*
- *Closing Worship*

### Throughout the week:

- *Ministry Moments & Connectional Reports*
- *Committee & other Conference Reports*
- *Recommendations & Legislative Action*

WEST OHIO CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008  
NOTHING BUT NET GAMES

**Stats: Bruce R. Ough**

- Spiritual Leader for 218,000+ Methodists
- Provides Leadership for 1,150+ churches
- Elected as Bishop in 2000
- Graduate of North Dakota University
- Received MDiv from Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- Married to Char Ough
- 3 children: Lance, Stuart & Matthew
- 2 grandchildren: Dashua & Caitum

## Net Games—Tuesday, 5-7pm

Tuesday evening of Annual Conference week, from 5-7pm, the park area along the waterfront at Lakeside will become a paradise of games for adults and children. The Net Games event will help raise awareness and funds for the Nothing But Nets Campaign.

The games are all pay-to-play events and tickets will be awarded as prizes (for adults & kids) that can be redeemed at the prize booth. Bishop Ough Sports Cards can be earned with 5 tickets! Nothing But Nets T-Shirts

will be available for sale as well. Game highlights will include Dunk Tank, Basketball Knock-Out, Mini-Golf, Shuffleboard, Wii gaming area, Kids obstacle course, Duck Pond, and several large inflatables.

Throughout the week look for challenges and spontaneous promotional games with the District Superintendents, the Bishop and even Lakeside staff.

And beware of Mosquitoes—Swat, the pesky life-sized mosquito will require a dollar to prevent attacks.

## Ministry Fair—Tuesday, 5-7pm

This year's Ministry Fair has a specific focus—illustrating what churches of different sizes and in different locations across the conference are doing to make Disciples of Jesus Christ. You'll see displays and have the chance to talk with members of individual congregations which are excelling in one or more parts of the Core Process. See what Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Faith Forming Relationships, and Risk Taking Mission & Service look like in a variety of settings. Some of the featured UMC churches—like Greenville Evangelical and Ginghamburg—are well known across the Conference, while others like Mt. Nebo and Elberon are less known yet excelling in ministry.



*Karen & Ut Vo-To, missionaries from Vietnam, will be at the Ministry Fair.*



*Nicholas & Esther Gitobu, missionaries from Cambodia, will be at the Ministry Fair.*

Now located on Walnut Street, between Second & Third Streets, the Ministry Fair will have a variety of resource exhibits—all illustrating the Core Process. Displays will include Faith Forming Relationships by The General Board of Global Ministries, School of Christian Mission and Otterbein Homes. Our four Conference Partnerships and the West Ohio Hunger Task Force will feature Risk Taking Mission and Service. Emergent Worship displays will also be on hand.

Emily Reece, trainer from Igniting Ministries, will demonstrate Radical Hospitality by providing Welcoming Workshops at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Representatives from Mexico and missionaries from South East Asia, and graduates of Africa University will also be under the Ministry Fair Tent. Come and see what is going on across the Conference and around the world, and what you can take home to enhance your ministry.

### New This Year at Annual Conference . . .

A new **Food Court** will be open from 11:30am—1:30pm each day with carry-out lunches on sale from many of the food vendors at Lakeside. You can sit on the picnic tables around the food court or take your lunch elsewhere. The Food Court will be on Walnut Street between Second & Third.

**Hospitality Tents** will be situated outside Hoover Auditorium, on the lawn facing Walnut Street. These tents will serve as gathering places for you to speak with presenters, meet our special guests, have books signed, and ask questions of the authors of recommendations.

West Ohio Communications will be busily preparing **Daily Video Updates** for the people back home. Visit the West Ohio Conference website at **www.westohioumc.org** where we'll post a video of each day's highlights, as well as other information.

## *Igniting Ministry to Kick-Off Partnership with West Ohio*

**D**uring the next four years, West Ohio will partner with United Methodist Communications to implement and help track the impact of Igniting Ministry. Welcoming training and certification, special advertising test activities, and many free resources will be part of this arrangement.

At this year’s annual conference session, Igniting Ministry will provide FREE doorhangers with the theme “Share your Gifts” and a space to promote your church’s ministries. The doorhangers have a short survey on the back, asking the people of your community about ministries they’d like to see the church offer and encouraging them to bring it to church. The survey is a built-in way to track how many people respond to your message.

We hope that you will support this effort in these ways:

- Pick up your free doorhangers at the Ministry Fair at Annual Conference and plan how you will distribute them to friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors (FRAN) in your community. Remember, the doorhangers are first-come, first-served, so get them early before they’re all gone.
- Participate in one of the workshops offered Tuesday evening (5:30 & 6:30 p.m.) at the Ministry Fair at Lakeside. Emily Reece, Director of Program and Training for Igniting Ministry at United Methodist Communications, will be on hand to lead us in some welcoming conversations and activities, share “Open hearts” resources, and answer your questions.

Thanks for sharing in this partnership. If you have questions, feel free to contact Igniting Ministry at 877-281-6535 or look for information at the United Methodist Communications booth at annual conference.



Community to serve a  
If you want to share your  
hers, the people of The  
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ment. Find out about the  
ve're meeting people's  
area - and help us find  
serve.

Share your Gifts.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Help us understand what services you think our community needs:  
(Please check all that apply)

After school programs  
 Marriage counseling  
 Teen activities  
 Day care for elderly  
 Hunger relief  
 Homeless shelter  
 Tutoring  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring your response to the Open House.  
We look forward to meeting you!

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Emily K. Reece, Program and Training Director of Igniting Ministry, works with annual conferences and local churches to serve their needs for training and resources related to Igniting Ministry, the Advertising and Welcoming Ministry of The United Methodist Church. She also oversees the development of resources local churches use to implement marketing and welcoming strategies.



As part of the team’s leadership, she provides general oversight and direction for the entire Igniting Ministry effort. In that capacity she oversees the creative development work of the advertising agency-of-record, acts as liaison to other general agencies of the church, and directs the research efforts that measure the ministry’s success.

## Legislative Recommendations

for details and full text visit [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

Item:	Submitted By:	Title:
Recommendation #1	Connectional Ministries Alignment Task Force	Structural Alignment
Recommendation #2	Council on Finance & Administration	Calendar Year 2009
Recommendation #3	Episcopal Residence Committee	Episcopacy Residence Committee Report
Recommendation #4	New Church Start Development Team	New Church Start/Satellite
Recommendation #5	Commission on Equitable Compensation	2009 Clergy Compensation
Resolution #6	Creation Care Task Force	Care for Creation: Local Church Response
Resolution #7	Creation Care Task Force	Advocacy Regarding Care of Creation
Resolution #8	Anti-Gambling Taskforce	Resolution Against Gambling in Ohio
Recommendation #9	Board of Pension and Health Benefits	
Resolution #10	Board of Pension and Health Benefits	Resolution on the Central Conference Pension Initiative
Recommendation #11	Rev. Dr. Reginald Olson	Words Have Consequences
Recommendation #12	Rev. Dr. Reginald Olson	Read, Study and Learn
Recommendation #13	Rev. Dr. Reginald Olson	Sexual Relations of all Persons
Recommendation #14	Ethnic Clergy Recruitment Committee	Vision/Mission Statement on Diversity & Inclusion
Recommendation #15	Conference Treasurer's Office	Conference-wide Workers Compensation Group

### From the Treasurer's Abacus...

Although the Conference Treasurer's office oversees the financial operations of the conference, it also provides staff support for the Board of Trustees and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. All of these areas have proposals and reports to the 2008 Annual Conference.

The Rev. Stan Sutton, conference treasurer, will report that in 2007 receipts on apportionments were down, but through cost-cutting the conference realized a slight increase in reserves. The change from a cash basis to an accrual basis in the districts and the comprehensive audit of the districts consumed an enormous amount of time and energy in late 2007 and early 2008.

The proposed balanced conference budget represents an increase of 1% over 2008, well below the expected rate of inflation. The format of the Conference Benevolence section of the budget has been changed to reflect the pro-

posed changes in the structure of Connectional Ministries.

**For the first time in its history, the members of the West Ohio Conference will be voting on their district budgets as required by the Book of Discipline.**

The Conference Treasurer's Office has submitted a proposal (Recommendation #15) for a conference-wide Workers Compensation Group. This plan would reduce costs and paperwork for most congregations and help to assure all pastors and local church employees are properly covered. It would also guarantee that no church would be expelled from the group if it filed claims. The plan would be mandatory for local churches, but the coverage would be guaranteed.

In addition to its regular report the board is also recommending Resolution #10 for the support of the Central Conference Pension Initiative.

*Rev. Stan Sutton, conference treasurer*

## COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT

*The Council on Development informs, counsels, and encourages individuals and congregations to respond to Jesus Christ with wise financial decisions and, when appropriate, assists them in making outright and deferred gifts to the ministries of The United Methodist Church.*

Visit our table located at the back of Hoover Auditorium during Annual Conference.

- Learn about our products and services
- Discuss ways we can offer value to you
- Hear the exciting happenings with *Strength for Today...Bright Hope for Tomorrow*
- Learn about the Endowment Investment Management Program

Visit, Learn, Discuss—Come See Us!

# Love Offering: Images from South East Asia

Last summer a team from West Ohio visited Cambodia and Vietnam. Part of this year's Love Offering will go towards this West Ohio Mission Initiative.



## Event Highlights

For a complete event listing with locations & times, go to [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

### Sunday, June 8

- Extension Ministers Gathering
- Board of Ordained Ministry Candidates
- Orientation for New Members
- WOUM Rural Fellowship Annual Meeting

### Monday, June 9

- Clergy Women's Breakfast
- Children's Home Donor Appreciation Breakfast
- Memorial Service Reception
- Duke Divinity School Luncheon
- Youth Workers Luncheon
- Urban Network Luncheon
- UM Advance Special Ministries Meeting
- Educational Opportunities Luncheon
- UTS Alumni Luncheon
- Asbury Alumni Dinner
- Preacher's Relief Society Banquet

### Tuesday, June 10

- Creation Care Breakfast
- Book Sale
- MFSA Annual Luncheon
- BMCR Luncheon
- MTSO Gathering & Picnic
- EFWO Luncheon
- Conference Chancellor Consultations
- Former D.S. Luncheon
- Retired Ministers' Association Annual Dinner
- White/Unearned Privilege Video Viewing
- Net Games
- Ministry Fair

### Wednesday, June 11

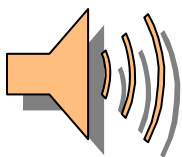
- Clergy Spouse Gathering
- Retiree's Luncheon
- White/Unearned Privilege Video Viewing

### Throughout the week:

- Prayer Room
- Clergy Directory Pictures
- Order of St. Luke, Communion Service
- Vacation Bible School
- Open Table

## West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church

32 Wesley Boulevard  
Worthington, Ohio 43085



### Trouble Hearing in Hoover Auditorium?

Small, wireless headsets designed to enhance the audio are available for you to use during any of the sessions of Annual Conference.

The headsets may be picked up free of charge at the information table in the back corner of the auditorium.

### Need More Information?

Go to [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org) and click on the Annual Conference link on the right side of the page. There you'll find forms for



ordering audio tapes, registering for vacation bible school at Lakeside, details about the Legislative Recommendations, and much, much more.

[www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

## 2008 Annual Conference Leadership

### Officers of the Annual Conference:

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, Resident and Presiding Bishop

Cabinet Officers: *Cyndy L. Garn, Henry L. Stringer, Thomas D. Hanover, Rae Lynn Schleif, Duane A. Anders, Thomas F. Tumblin, Randy W. Stearns, Joseph E. Bishman*

Lay Leader: *Bruce Boyd*

Assistant to the Bishop: *Joyce E. Fry*

Director of Finance and Administration: *R. Stanley Sutton*

Director of Council on Development: *Gregory K. Traucht*

Director of Office of Ministry: *L. Cean Wilson*

Director of Connectional Ministries: *George G. Howard*

Director, Camps & Next Generations Leadership: *Jill Moore*

Director, Communications: *Lisa Streight*

Director, Metro Ministries: *Gwendolyn Roberts*

Director, Mission & Justice Ministries: *Dee Stickley-Miner*

Conference Secretary: *L. Cean Wilson*

Conference Statistician: *Jack Frost*

### 2008 Annual Conference Planning Team Leadership:

*Terry Heck*, Planning Team Chair

*Joyce Fry*, Design Team Chair

*Jim Wilson*, Worship Team Chair

*Kurt Tomlinson*, Graphics Team Chair

*Grace Gerber*, Logistics/Hospitality Team Chair

*David Chivington*, Net Games Team Chair