

The proposal is a plan to unite the two Indiana conferences.

According to the Design Team plan, the goal of the new conference is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Williams said, “The Imagine Indiana Design Team believes that stronger congregations, better stewardship of God’s resources, and a united voice for Christ working in and through The United Methodist Church across Indiana are the expected results of this new plan for a new Indiana Conference.”

Mykrantz said, “The plan calls for the focus of the new Indiana Conference to be on congregations, their pastors, members and to the un-churched who live in our communities. The design team believes the new conference will be more conducive to responding to the needs of congregations than the two existing conferences.”

The complete hour-long Web cast is archived online at www.inareaumc.org and can be viewed anytime using media software and a broadband Web browser.

For more information about the Imagine Indiana process, log on the www.inareaumc.org and click on Imagine Indiana.

Both Indiana Conferences top Jurisdiction’s VIM lists for volunteers, money

Lorna Jost, coordinator of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission program for the North Central Jurisdiction, recently announced to Bishop Mike Coyner that the two Indiana Conferences surpassed any other in UMVIM teams and volunteers for the year 2007. North Indiana came out on top with South Indiana a close second.

Jost complimented the Indiana Area saying, “Thank you all for your leadership and tireless work through this United Methodist mission program.”

The North Indiana Conference provided 2,980 volunteers (or 24 percent) from a total of 12,402 volunteers for the North Central Jurisdiction of the UMC.

The South Indiana Conference provided 2,234 volunteers (or 18 percent) from a total of 12,402 volunteers for the North Central Jurisdiction of the UMC.



Wesley Foundation leads volunteers in sixth winterization event

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – More than 230 volunteers participated this past fall at Purdue University in the Wesley Foundation’s Six Annual Winterization on Nov. 11. The volunteers assisted 93 homeowner ready their homes for the winter by raking leaves, cleaning windows and clearing out gutters. Three months in planning, Wesley Foundation leaders were assisted by a dozen other campus organizations. For more information about Wesley Foundation, log on to www.wesleyfoundation.org or call 765-743-5066.

Hoosier United Methodist NEWS is designed for use with church newsletters or worship bulletins, bringing news of the United Methodist state and world “connection” home to congregations. It is a free service of Indiana Area United Methodist Communications, www.inareaumc.org. We welcome your comments and questions via e-mail: editor@inareaumc.org; or by post: Editor, *Hoosier United Methodist News*, 1100 W. 42nd St., Suite 210, Indianapolis, IN 46208. Daniel R. Gangler, editor

Appointment listings at www.inareaumc.org

Invention pours water on thirsty people around the world

A family in southern Indiana is providing safe drinking water mixed with a generous portion of “living water” to parched people around the world.

New Life International, a nonprofit Christian ministry started in the 1970s by Byron and Yvonne McGuire in Underwood, Ind., is the birthplace of the McGuire water purifier, a system that turns unsafe water into safe drinking water using salt and a 12-volt battery.

Their eldest son, Duvon McGuire, invented the system which produces chlorinated water and destroys viruses and bacteria. The water purifiers have provided thousands of gallons of safe drinking water for people in more than 60 countries.

“What we are trying to do is not just bring safe water on a humanitarian level, but as Christians to also be the salt that makes people thirsty for living water,” said Duvon McGuire, a member of New Chapel United Methodist Church, Jeffersonville, Ind.

Operated on a 12-volt power supply, the system can provide enough water for 10,000 people and can disinfect up to 50 gallons of water per minute—all using less electrical power than a normal street light. One purifier potentially can save an entire village for as little as a penny per person, per day.

McGuire’s invention got its first real-life test in 1998 when Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras. A family member working as a missionary in Honduras told him



A UMNS photo by Scott Stockton.

United Methodist Duvon McGuire demonstrates his water purification invention as villagers install a system in Ndola, Zambia. Using salt and a 12-volt battery, the systems have provided thousands of gallons of safe drinking water for people in more than 60 countries.

that the hurricane had left behind a severe water crisis.

Packing up 30 of his purifiers, McGuire took them to Honduras for use in schools, churches and orphanages. Since that time, the Christian outreach ministry started by his parents has become one of the largest to provide safe water to the world.

Indiana's Black United Methodists endorse Beard for episcopacy

Black United Methodists in the Indiana Area encourage North Central Jurisdictional delegates to support the Rev. Dr. Frank Beard for the episcopacy. Beard currently serves as superintendent of the Kokomo District in the North Indiana Conference.

South Indiana Conference Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), North Indiana Conference Black Methodists for Church Renewal and the Black United Methodist Pastors (BUMP) of the Indiana Area recently gave their joint endorsement for Beard.

According to SIC BMCR Caucus Chairman, the Rev. James C. Anyike, "Dr. Beard has rendered faithful and diligent servant-leadership to the Church for many years. Having personally served as a pastor in the North Indiana Conference, I've observed how his gifts and graces enhance the life of the Church in the Conference and Indiana Area. Just as he is a blessing to the Indiana Area, we believe he will be a blessing to the total Connection."

Beard has led the North Indiana Conference Delegations to two General Conferences and serves on several connectional boards and agencies, including on the General Board of Discipleship. He also serves this year as the president of the North Indiana Conference's Cabinet.

Oakwood Inn, property returns to church

SYRACUSE, Ind. – Members of the Oakwood Foundation for Adult Ministries board announced Wednesday, March 19 they returned the property, formerly known as Oakwood Park, to the North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. The foundation said it was no longer able to operate the Oakwood Christian Retreat & Conference Center in Syracuse as an adult Christian ministry.

Oakwood, on the northwest shore of Lake Wawasee in northern Indiana, includes the 77-room Oakwood Inn and restaurant, program center, academy center, a chapel and 42 acres dominated by tall oak trees.

The North Indiana Conference Board of Trustees officially received the property on March 19 in accordance with Oakwood Foundation by-laws and the action of the 1993 North Indiana Conference session of the church, when the Oakwood Foundation took possession of the property.

In court documents, the Oakwood Foundation said it would complete its commitments to existing customers by continuing operations of the ministry through Labor Day of this year with financial assistance from the North Indiana Conference. The foundation will cease activities at Oakwood on Sept. 1. Individuals and groups who wish to visit and use the facilities need to make arrangements with Oakwood to do so before Labor Day.

United Methodist Men set new strategies, elect officers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – In the same year that the ministry of United Methodist Men is celebrating its 100th anniversary, annual conference presidents of United Methodist Men learned of new methods to reach men in the next 100 years.

Meeting Feb. 28-March 2, the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) of United Methodist Men, also elected new officers and set plans for their 2009 national gathering to be held in Nashville after a long tradition of meeting at Purdue University.

To help churches launch new efforts in men's ministry, the commission has established a process whereby men can become "Men's Ministry Specialists."

The 10th national gathering will be held July 10-11, 2009, at Belmont University in Nashville. The two-day event will include speeches by Chicago Area Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and Kevass Harding, pastor of Dellrose United Methodist Church in Wichita, Kansas. A planning team is negotiating with other nationally known speakers and singers. An informal worship service will be held on Sunday, July 12 for those remaining in the Nashville area.

Imagine Indiana Web cast brings more than 1,000 viewers

INDIANAPOLIS – Lights, camera, Imagine Indiana. Six members of the Imagine Indiana Design Team took to cyberspace Sunday evening, March 30 for Indiana Area UMC's first Web cast. It originated in Bishop Mike Coyner's office in Indianapolis.

The results were impressive. The Web cast was viewed by more than 1,000 United Methodists gathered in 30 Web cast down site churches. Another 138 computers were also plugged into the hour-long Imagine Indiana Report summary including a half-hour of questions and answers.

Producer Winton Long of The Omni Centre of Carmel, Ind. said, "Out of the 168 computers connected to the Web cast, 164 stayed with the entire program. That's rare. I have never seen that high of a percentage to stay with a program." Long and his wife, Sandra, run Omni Centre and are members of the Carmel UMC.

At the beginning of the program, both conference lay leaders Kayc Mykrantz of Logansport, the lay leader of the North Indiana Conference and Ike Williams of Carmel, the lay leader of the South Indiana Conference were joined by Kokomo District Superintendent Frank Beard for a 20-minute summary presentation of the Imagine Indiana Design Team report.



Photo by Together

Imagine Indiana Design Team members (from left) Frank Beard of Kokomo, Ike Williams of Carmel and Kayc Mykrantz presented a summary of the Imagine Indiana live Web cast on Sunday evening, March 30, from Bishop Coyner's office in Indianapolis.