



Bishop Gregory Palmer, West Ohio Conference rocks the house during Saturday's evening worship service. Photo by Jeremy Africa

Today's highlights

- 8:30 AM Historic Questions
Deans Report
Appointment Setting
- 10:30 AM General Conference Report
- 11:45 AM Invitation to Explore
- 2:00 PM Michigan Area Ordination
- 4:00 PM DAC Departure
Dinner Break
- 6:00 PM Marking Sacred Time
- 7:15 PM WMC Plenary

78° SUNNY!

*“Peace be with you.
As the father has
sent me, so I send
you.”*

-John 20:21 *NRSV*

WE AIN'T GOT TIME TO DIE!

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

EAST LANSING, Mich. (MIC) -- Saturday was a day to prayerfully wrestle with what it means when God says, “Go!” DC Program Chair, Rev. Marsha Woolley, introduced evening worship by saying, “The day has been book-ended by Bishop Ott this morning, bringing the word we needed to hear. Our guest this evening is Bishop Gregory Palmer. We need to hear his prophetic voice.”

Palmer wished the Michigan Conference well as they, “join in partnership to leverage resources to make a difference in every city and hamlet in the state.” He added, “What you have already done is in the record books but the Lord has more in store for you.” Citing John 20:19-23, Palmer said, “Jesus says to a fearful people and to us as a fearful church, ‘Peace,’ when he could have said, ‘You sorry bunch of scaredy cats! You didn’t show one ounce of backbone!’” The Bishop assured conference members that, “While that’s how we are sometimes, that’s not how God does them or us.”

The core of the passage: John tells us that the spirit and the flesh are intermingled. “So you can’t say, ‘I am a social action Christian’ or ‘I am an evangelical Christian.’ Everybody ought to be able to tell about Jesus and everybody ought to be able to give the cup of cold water in his name.”

Palmer concluded with, “Mission is the whole enterprise. No slicing. No cherry picking. No dicing.” He urged the Michigan Conference to make the words of an old spiritual their new mantra: “We keep so busy working for Jesus that we ain’t got time to die!”





80 members to Annual Conference spent the day giving back to the city of East Lansing. Photo by Jeremy Africa

SENT TO BE HOPE

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

It was a day for putting “skin” on the 2016 Focus Word: “Send.”

In morning devotions retired Bishop Donald Ott, who served the Michigan Area from 1992-2000, propelled people from the Breslin Center and sent them out to consider ministries in their home settings. “The news that Michigan now has one conference will fade really fast unless the possibility it represents shows up in your body and mind,” he challenged. His benediction gave each member of conference the authority to re-baptize himself or herself at the faucet tonight. “Just start all over,” he encouraged. “You just might feel sent and in that moment you just might be the hope of the world!”

The TOM Talks (Transforming Outreach and Mission) that followed riveted members’ attention to ways Michigan’s pastors and laity are changing lives and transforming communities. Presenters included Marci Oliver (Children’s Defense Fund Freedom School); Rev. Jeremy Wicks (Lead Pastor of Millville UMC and Director of Dansville Community Center); Rev. Faith Fowler (Cass Community Social Services’ Tiny House Project); Valerie Mossman-Celestin (Co-founder Haitian Artisans for Peace International); Hoon-Yung Hopgood (State Senator and member of Lansing Central UMC); and Brandon Smith (Director of Spirit Journey).

Word artists from the House of Poetry also described their spiritual mission in verse. Jeremy Peters, pastor of Court Street Church noted that Flint residents have become “connoisseurs” of bottled water. “When she opens that water, I pray that she detects a bouquet of dignity.”

The Rev. Paul Perez, Director for Mission and Justice Engagement for the Detroit Conference noted: “These stories are of mission that refuses to replicate paternal, transactional systems that turn human persons into charitable objects. Instead they build mutual relationships of kinship and love.”



Bishop Donald A. Ott preaches at devotions. Photo by Jeremy Africa

After lunch more than 80 conference members were sent into the city of East Lansing to do hands-on mission at five locations. Afternoon Mission Fair displays and Mission Engagement panels deepened conference members’ understanding of what it means to be “sent”. Twenty-nine Michigan-based missionaries offered insights and inspiration to those wishing to get serious about the call to service issued by Bishop Ott: “We need the light reborn in us.” In his statement, shared by video, Senator Hopgood said, “Faith tells us to be aware of what is going on around us.”

SWEET TWEET O’THE DAY



Terri Reynolds @Ternione

Packing some meals with a little Methodist love! #MIUMC16 thanks for the opportunity Tri-county Dept of aging!!

