



Clint Brake receives the Harry Denman Evangelism Award for laity.

DENMAN AWARDS GIVEN:

The Harry Denman Awards in evangelism were presented on Sunday, named for the Methodist who started the Foundation for Evangelism which has carried out many vital evangelism programs in our denomination:

LAITY AWARD: The laity Denman Award was presented to Mr. Clint Brake of the Hillsboro NH UMC. Clint is active in many ways in his local church. He was recognized for his passion for music and the ways he uses it to share the good news of Christ and to raise money for those in need.

CLERGY AWARD: The clergy Denman Award was presented to a pastor from Northern Maine, the Rev. Ellen Beairsto, of Vanceboro - a church with a passion for need-oriented evangelism, both within the church and the surrounding communities. She has a special concern for children, and her outreach to children has reached many.

For more awards, see back page.

Welcome, Vermont!

After much discussion and affirmation of the proposal to include Vermont churches within the New England Conference boundaries, the 2008 Annual Conference overwhelmingly voted to welcome Vermont if the Jurisdictional Conference approves of the move.

District Superintendent John Blackadar gave the background for Resolution 209A which helps pave the way for the Vermont churches that are now part

of the Troy Conference to join our New England Conference. The Superintendent explained that the resolution, if passed, would be forwarded to the Jurisdictional Conference Boundaries Committee in July for action. The Troy Conference has already voted affirmatively its willingness to move forward with the plan for Vermont



If approved by the Northeast Jurisdiction in July, the New England Conference boundaries will soon include Vermont.

churches to join New England, rather than becoming part of the larger merger of four Conferences, including Troy, which is being proposed by those conferences. The Troy vote lacked only 4 votes to be unanimous.

If approved by Jurisdictional Conference, the present Troy Conference would be divided along the state border between New York and Vermont, with those east of the border going to the New England Conference, and those West of the boundary going to a newly formed conference including upstate New York.

As discussion on the resolution proceeded, a number of suggestions were made by conference members of how to welcome the Vermont churches. Rev. Blackadar affirmed that it is the conference's intention to work at including representatives of the Vermont churches in all areas of the life of the New England Conference, once those churches have

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Nets Challenge: Tri-State Rules!

The Tri-State District kept its lead and kept possession of the Bishop-signed basketball during the District Nothing But Nets Challenge.

Annual Conference offerings plus Nothing But Nets fundraising projects reported to date throughout the Conference tallied a whopping \$66,893.91—that's **6,689** nets!

Says Mike Davis, Tri-State District Co-Superintendent, "the real winners are the children and families in Africa who will be protected

against malaria through the use of bed nets raised in this challenge."

Tri-State	\$18,451.50
Metro Boston Hope	\$14,046.59
Connecticut Western MA	\$ 6,871.00
Northern Maine	\$ 4,722.19
Mid-Maine	\$ 4,308.17
New Hampshire	\$ 4,512.60
Rhode Island/SE Mass	\$11,550.01
Central Mass	\$ 2,431.85
TOTAL:	\$66,893.91
<i>Includes offerings plus projects reported to date</i>	

In Brief

SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD: The Social Justice Award was given to Rosa Capella, age 83, for her



Rosa Capella

works of mercy and for social change.

A pacifist, Rosa was

born in Cuba and now serves Christ through education and health ministries in Nicaragua. She has been an activist for anti-war and social justice causes in many ways. She in many ways has embodied Christ's call to bring good news for the poor, relief from oppression and to work on behalf of those affected by economic injustice. After receiving the award she told the Conference, "you really need to go forward and on the path; the path to hope..." she said, explaining that you make this path as you walk it. "There is no open path, you open the path as you go."

URBAN MINISTRY AWARD:

The Kim Jefferson Urban Ministry award was given to a long time urban practitioner, the Rev. Donald J. Rudalevige. Don thanked the conference, and remembered with fondness his own contacts with Kim Jefferson. "What we're about" he said, "is to serve all people in all walks of life."

EPISCOPAL NOMINEES: The conference endorsed two Episcopal Nominees with their votes and with great applause: **Rev. Linda Campbell-Marshall** and **Rev. Aida Irizarry-Fernandez**

The SpiritNET Daily News from Annual Conference. Articles by Michael Stotts and Alexx Wood. Photos by Alexx Wood, Yong Ja Kim, and Joanna Mueller

See all the daily news reports at www.neumc.org/AC08news.

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officially been added to the NEC. A number of affirmations were made with regard to the welcoming of the Vermont churches. Several Conference Members did raise questions about what kind of an impact such churches would have on our churches and pastors, along with concerns about such items as the number of part-time appointments being increased, the possible impact to pensions, and district boundaries - all issues, says Blackadar, that remain to be discussed and worked out in the event that Jurisdictional Conference approves the new conference boundaries. "This resolution is not designed to spell out details - that process doesn't begin until we hear from Jurisdictional Conference. We are simply sending a message of hospitality to Vermont, and making sure that the Northeast Jurisdiction

hears our desire to welcome Vermont churches."

After the Bishop led the Conference in prayer, the Conference overwhelmingly affirmed the adoption of the resolution to welcome Vermont churches into the New England Conference. The Northeast Jurisdictional Conference meets from July 13-18 in Harrisburg, PA.



Rev. John Blackadar presents Resolution 209A to the New England Conference.

Closing Worship Celebrates Youth

The closing worship of the 2008 New England Annual Conference celebrated Confirmands and youth from around the conference, ending on a joyful note with the youth serving Communion to Conference participants as we were all sent back into our communities and the world to *cast our nets widely!*



Photo by Joanna Mueller

Conference Actions for Sunday, June 15, 2008

Resolution 118, the 2009 Conference Budget, was passed.

The Leadership slate and committee rules in Resolution 215 and 215 were passed.

Resolution 209A regarding affirming a welcome to Vermont churches was passed.

Resolution 212 regarding making evangelism a priority was passed after some "friendly amendments were made and accepted.

Resolution 213 was passed, discontinuing the Berlin United Methodist Church in Coos County, New Hampshire, and merging the church with the Berlin United Church of Christ (effective Nov. 2007).

THE 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE will meet from June 18-20, 2009 at Gordon College. Our special guest for this upcoming Annual Conference session will be ADAM HAMILTON!

See neumc.org for more info on all these resolutions