

# *THE WATERCOURSE*

FLUME - Florida United Methodist Evangelicals in the Wesleyan Orthodox Tradition

**JUNE 2015 –PRE-CONFERENCE EDITION**



## ELECTION SPECIAL

WELCOME TO DAYTONA BEACH!

We will be electing nine General Conference delegates who will be going to Portland, Oregon next year, and deciding the course of the United Methodist Church over the next four years. As conservative evangelicals, we want to encourage the election of as many biblically obedient, faithful Wesleyan United Methodists as we can.

See the next pages for the Election Process and our recommendations for delegates.

We will also be electing nine delegates for the Jurisdictional Conference next summer in Lake Junaluska. This conference most importantly elects new bishops, and determines assignments for bishops for the next four years. Seven reserve Jurisdictional Delegates will also be elected.

See the included articles on:

**The Election Process (pp.2-3)**

**Who Will You Vote For? (pp. 4-5)**

**Resolutions and Petitions (p. 5 - 6)**

**FLUME/Asbury Dinner & Guest Speaker (p. 6)**

# Election Process

FLUME is recommending the candidates below, in order to increase our chances of electing as many conservative candidates to General Conference as possible. We need to keep our egos and feelings out of this, and elect as many people with the values we share as possible. Our full list of Recommended Nominees can be seen on the next page. That list includes moderates and some liberals we believe will be easier to work with next year in Portland. For the first few ballots, we are recommending nine names for General Conference:

Ballot#	Name	R/S	Age
112.	Russ Graves	WM	60+
131.	Rachael Sumner	WF	30-39
136.	Tiffania Icaza Willets	HF	21-29
135.	Alexia Michelle Valle Velez	HF	<21
124.	Marie Anne Pierre-Louis	HaF	50-59
TBD	Ron Coleman	BM	60+
128.	Rhonda Smith	WF	60+
117.	Rushing Kimball	WM	21-29
108.	Martha Gay Duncan	WF	60+

This list includes old and young, white, black, Hispanic and Haitian, and is as diverse as anyone could hope for. At the same time, they all share conservative, Wesleyan values and theological perspectives.

After each ballot, we receive updates with the numbers of votes cast for each name according to this scheme from our Standing Rules:

1st ballot - All names receiving votes will be read.

2nd – 4th ballot - First 25 names will be read.

Remaining ballots - First 10 names will be read.

We must honor the will of the Annual Conference as to the votes cast. Vote for the nine above on the first ballot. On every subsequent ballot, vote for whomever from the full list received the most votes on the previous ballot.

**Florida United Methodist Evangelicals** <http://flumevangelicals.com>

# Election Process

After the first nine delegates are elected to General Conference, we will begin again by voting for nine delegates to Jurisdictional Conference. Please vote for whomever may be left from the original nine and then for the next candidates on the list, until all delegates have been elected.     **FULL LIST:**

Ballot#	Name	R/S	Age
112.	Russ Graves	WM	60+
131.	Rachael Sumner	WF	30-39
136.	Tiffania Icaza Willets	HF	21-29
135.	Alexia Michelle Valle Velez	HF	<21
124.	Marie Anne Pierre-Louis	HaF	50-59
TBD	Ron Coleman		BM 60+
128.	Rhonda Smith	WF	60+
117.	Rushing Kimball	WM	21-29
108.	Martha Gay Duncan		WF 60+
TBD	Barbara Stricklin	WF	50-59
133.	Lana Taylor	WF	60+
101.	Rodney Akers		WM 60+
113.	Rod Groom	WM	60+
TBD	Lenny Schultz		BM 60+
105.	Michael Coffee	WM	60+
125.	Geary Rowell		WM 60+
102.	Dusty Bailey	WM	30-39
121.	Paulette Monroe	BF	60+
119.	Molly McEntire	WF	21-29
127.	Derrick Scott		BM 30-39
114.	Jeremy Hearn		WM 30-39
134.	Rex Taylor	WM	60+
TBD	David Lundahl	WM	60+
122.	Ted Mosteller		WM 60+
137.	Alice Williams	WF	60+

# **Who Will You Vote For?**

Of course, we would like all of you to vote for the conservative delegates we recommend this year. Nevertheless, whoever you vote for, make sure your election decisions are bathed in prayer. Pray for wisdom and for discernment in making and voting for delegates. Learn as much about them as possible, and look to the covenant we adopt at annual conference to reflect our wholeness and our diversity in age, race, gender and theology. To that end, we suggest that you find out each delegate's opinion in these four areas:

## **What About the Authority of Scripture?**

Does Scripture have any moral force in the delegate's opinion? Or is it just a collection of stories, sayings and principles, which are just old-fashioned? Of course, we at FLUME believe that when we read the Bible prayerfully in the Holy Spirit and in proper context, it is the word of God and the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice.

## **Does the Delegate Want to Change the Book of Discipline? What and Why?**

Except for the Constitution and the Restrictive Rules, many parts of the Discipline change every four years. This is due to operational and legal concerns in our complex modern society. However, in the Social Principles and elsewhere, there are moral provisions that have stood the test of time and holiness in living out our faith. Do you want our traditional, Wesleyan stances on morality to change? Does the delegate? What should change in the Discipline in their view, and why?

## **Should We Agree to Disagree?**

Since we have a variety of viewpoints on sexual morality and on who should be ordained to serve as our pastors, agreeing to disagree seems only to reflect what is actually true among United Methodists today. But what would be the result of "agreeing to disagree?" Only United Methodism, out of all the traditional "mainstream" denominations of Christianity, has maintained traditional biblical stances on sexuality and morality. Do you want these to change? Over the last 15

years, every other denomination that has “agreed to disagree” or otherwise compromised on their denominational statements of morality has very quickly followed up by relaxing restrictions on marriage and ordination. The Book of Discipline is our rulebook/lawbook about what is acceptable in the conduct of the lives of our churches. What should be allowed? What not? Where does the delegate stand?

### **Should We Adopt a Separate Structure for the Church in the United States?**

There are many suggestions for changing our church structure for the church. Some have merit. Some have not. When discussing differences in needs and in worship, some suggest we allow the American church to not be held accountable for differences in the way we conduct our lives and determine our moral principles, separate from the decisions of the worldwide church. Where does the delegate stand on these matters?

Whoever you decide to vote for, make up a list, and watch the returns. People on your list further down may start to get votes, and you may have to change to them in order to get some people you prefer elected. See the article earlier in this letter called “Election Process” that helps you understand this.

## **Resolutions and Petitions**

There are five resolutions and four petitions to General Conference this year, beginning on page 174 of your workbook. Unfortunately, the four petitions (starting on page 180) were later ruled as having been submitted too late. We should have considered them as resolutions and submitted them according to those timelines. We will have the opportunity to ask the assembled delegates Wednesday afternoon to allow us to review the four recommended petitions, discuss them and vote on them later on in the week, but that will take a 2/3 vote in our favor. Please be there to help us have a good hearing for these petitions.

For our analysis and recommendations on the resolutions and petitions, go to <http://flumevangelicals.com/petitions-to-general-conference/>.

Blessings to all,

FLUME Steering  
Committee



**Wednesday Dinner June 10, 2015** *Directions from Bethune-Cookman University to Covenant United Methodist Church 3701 South Clyde Morris Blvd. Port Orange 32929*

*Depart Mary McLeod Bethune Blvd toward N MLK Blvd*

*Turn right onto N MLK Blvd. Drive toward US-92/Intl Speedway Blvd*

*Turn right onto US92/Intl Speedway Blvd, go 0.8 mi to SR-5A/S Nova Rd*

*Turn left onto SR-5A S/S Nova Rd, drive 2.1 miles to SR-400 W*

*Turn right onto SR-400 W/Beville Rd, go 0.7 mile to S Clyde Morris Blvd*

*Turn left on S Clyde Morris Blvd/CR-483. Drive 1.7 mile to church.at 3701.*

**Wednesday Dinner June 10, 2015** - Florida United Methodist Evangelicals/Asbury Theological Seminary – 5:30 pm – 6:10 pm Covenant United Methodist Church 3701 S Clyde Morris Blvd, Port Orange, FL 32129 re **DINNER PORTION SOLD OUT!**

Guest speaker: 6:10 pm Dr. Wendy Deichmann, President – United Theological Seminary -- **Non-meal participants may join us in the sanctuary at the church at no charge.** For more information about this event, contact FLUME at [info@flumevangelicals.com](mailto:info@flumevangelicals.com)

**Florida United Methodist Evangelicals** <http://flumevangelicals.com>

*"FLUME, as an orthodox evangelical network, can serve as a watercourse with the help of the Holy Spirit to funnel the transforming waters of the evangelical heritage and Wesleyan traditions of The United Methodist Church throughout the churches and congregations of the Florida Conference."*