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***Bishop Scott Jameson Jones
and Mary Lou Reece***

New beginnings create new opportunities. The creation of the Great Plains Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is that kind of new beginning. Many things will change in our life together. All of these create new opportunities for greater faithfulness and fruitfulness for God.

A great deal of energy has been expended by the Transition Team, Dream Teams, working groups and conference staff to plan for this new entity. The plan of organization we approved at the Uniting Conference August 22-24, in Salina, Kansas was the covenant guiding and shaping this new ecclesial reality.

All of the work will be for nothing if we do not seize this new beginning as a new opportunity for greater service to Christ. We must take seriously the mission, calling and priorities of the new Great Plains Conference and find

ways to live out our service to the best of our abilities.

What we will accomplish together will be by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We need to pray daily for the power to flow through us and shape our thoughts, words and deeds.

This is the last Journal of the Kansas East Annual Conference. It marks the end of a particular way of being a connectional church in this part of God's work. We have celebrated our accomplishments and remembered our saints. We have thanked God for our many blessings. There is something a little painful in saying goodbye to a community that has shaped us for so long. Yet, what God has done through us in the past will not be lost. We hope to carry forward the best of the Kansas East, Kansas West and Nebraska Annual Conferences. We will be enriched by the traditions and experiences of each one. We will learn from each other and together find new ways of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I am deeply grateful for this conference and all it has meant to its laity, clergy, congregations and missions. What God will do through us in years to come will be based on all that has been accomplished through us and our foremothers and forefathers in the past. As bishop of all three conferences, I have learned much from each one and been blessed by each one in many ways. May we all seek God's blessings so that we can bless others in the name of Christ.



The Kansas East cabinet (left to right):
Kibum Kim, Kay Scarbrough, Mike Chamberlain,
Bishop Scott Jones, Dennis Ackerman, Claudia Bakely

1. LEADERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Officers of the Kansas East Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc. (through December 31, 2013)

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B. Other Conference Leadership and Staff

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Small group conversations on Friday afternoon helped members learn more about the transition to the Great Plains Conference.

Cabinet Contacts with Boards and Agencies

1.

Dennis Ackerman

1. Conference Leadership Team
2. Diversity and Advocacy
3. New Church Development
4. Nominations
5. Saint Paul Course of Study Board of Advisors
6. Wesley KU Board

Mike Chamberlain

1. Conference Leadership Team
2. Finance and Administration
3. Sexual Ethics/Protection Policies Implementation Team
4. Board of Pensions and Health Benefits
5. HOLA

Kay Scarbrough - Dean of the Cabinet

1. Conference Leadership Team
2. Personnel
3. Human Resources
4. Sessions and Rules
5. Joint Committee on Incapacity
6. Episcopacy Committee
7. United Methodist Homes Board of Trustees
8. Youthville Board of Trustees
9. Washburn Campus Ministry Board

Claudia Bakely

1. Conference Leadership Team
2. Board of Trustees
3. United Methodist Campus Ministry in Kansas
4. Conference Council on Youth Ministries
5. Asbury Park Board of Trustees
6. Emporia State Campus Ministry Board
7. Kansas State Campus Ministry Board

Kibum Kim

1. Conference Leadership Team
2. Lay Ministry
3. Board of Ordained Ministry
4. United Methodist Rural Fellowship
5. Pittsburg State Campus Ministry Board
6. Ethnic Local Church Concerns