

**The official Journal of the
46th Annual Conference Session,
June 6-8, 2013
and last session (Uniting Conference)
Aug. 22-24, 2013 of the
Nebraska Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church**

Successor to all previous Annual Conferences in Nebraska
of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and
The Methodist Church and their predecessors since 1853.

Held

**St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Lincoln, Nebraska
June 6-8, 2013
&
Bicentennial Center
Salina, Kansas
August 22-24, 2013**

Bishop Scott J. Jones
Great Plains Area, Presiding

Darlene Hall, Secretary



Mary Lou Reece & Bishop Scott J. Jones
Assigned Bishop — Great Plains Area
September 1, 2012



GREAT PLAINS EPISCOPAL AREA
The United Methodist Church
www.greatplainsumc.org

To the Nebraska Conference:

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 Nebraska 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.

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Bishop Brian Mass, Nebraska Synod Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America, Dr. John Holbert and Bishop Scott J. Jones