

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE CALL!

Annual Conference this year is at the University of Redlands and **Pastor Rich LaShure, Wes Hensley, and myself** have just completed our registration procedures. This local church sends one clergy person (Rich) and two lay delegates (Wes and I). However, you can be a visitor to the annual conference if you would like to go. You may go in person, the University of Redlands is located at 1200 W. Colton Ave. in Redlands (92374), or you may go vicariously and listen in on-line. The link for the conference website will be posted on <http://www.cal-pac.org> and will be active during the Annual Conference from Thursday June 17 through Sunday June 20. The theme for the conference this year is: **New Ministries and New Places for New People.** A diversity of events are planned and if you talk to any one of your representatives there, you will find that we all go to different things and therefore have a different experience at the conference.

The Bishop (**Mary Ann Swenson**) has asked us to read a book for conference this year to focus our discussions and energy. She has done this each year I have gone to the conference. Unlike past years though, this book, ***God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action*** is a book created by the Bishops of the United Methodist Church and includes a plan for group study and some liturgical passages. I anticipate some focus on the issues raised in the book to be discussed in our congregation in the coming year. What are those issues? Well, in anticipation, I have read:

God's creation is in crisis. Our neglect, selfishness, and pride have fostered poverty and disease, environmental degradation, and the proliferation of weapons and violence. The bishops of The United Methodist Church urgently call all United Methodists and people of goodwill around the world to confront these global threats to God's creation. Use this resource to raise awareness through worship and congregation-wide study, encouraging individuals to get involved and responding to the call that leads to transforming change.

If you have concerns about our church or you have questions about what the Annual Conference is and what happens there, please talk to us. We will be reading our preliminary reports and preparing to vote on budgeting considerations and other suggestions made by conference committees in the next few weeks, but look forward to our reports. We go to further our service to Christ and to be better equipped to transform the world and make disciples.

Your servant,
Laura Lei Miller

I took this picture on the conference floor last year with my cell phone of Wes and Rich.

