WE ALSO CELEBRATE...

• The setting of appointments, which may be found at www.awfumc.org/apt2019

• Several award winners:
  - Local Church Heritage Award: Tanner Williams UMC
  - One Church Matters Award: Haleburg UMC
  - Francis Asbury Award: Lee Thomas of Millbrook FUMC
  - Mary Mildred Sullivan Award: Bishop David Graves
  - Harry Denman Evangelism Award: Rev. Dunford Cole of Campground UMC and Rutledge UMC (clergy); Amber Gay of Robinson Springs UMC (youth) and Matt Hull, youth director at Trinity UMC, Ft. Walton (lay)
  - Alice Lee Award: Geraldine Stiffler of Foley UMC
  - United Methodist Federal Credit Union Award: Rebekah Antonelli of Asbury Theological Seminary
  - Susanna Wesley Award for Excellence: Judy Reiter of Enterprise FUMC

• The approval of two resolutions and two standing rules

• The collection of hundreds of UMCOR kits and countless supplies

• A $9,606,334 million budget for mission and ministry for 2020, down 10% from 2019

• Over 130,000 members in our conference

• The 2020 session will be held June 7-10, 2020, at Frazer Memorial UMC
The 2019 Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference was held June 2-5 in Montgomery, AL, with the theme, “This We Proclaim.” Bishop David Graves, presiding over his third annual conference session since becoming the resident bishop, welcomed clergy and lay members to Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery.

A capacity crowd attended the Opening Worship Service held Sunday evening, June 2, in the sanctuary of Frazer Memorial UMC. A mass choir from around the conference, and led by Frazer Memorial UMC Music Director, Wayne Sigler, provided inspiring music for the service. Bishop Graves emphasized how honored the Alabama-West Florida Conference was to have two special guests this evening. Bishop Tracy Smith Malone of the East Ohio Conference and Rev. Eric Soard from the Tanzania Annual Conference were participants in tonight’s service. Bishop Malone preached her heartfelt sermon based on 1 John 1:1 entitled, “This We Proclaim,” which was appropriately titled to reflect the theme of the 2019 Annual Conference.

Wesley College, a part of Teaming with Tanzania, was the recipient of this year’s missional offering. Wesley College has quickly outgrown their current space in downtown Mwanza and plans have been made to build a new campus. We celebrate the collection of $41,020.33. Thank you!

For the third year, each day of conference began with morning worship services. These worship services, under the direction of Rev. Michael Precht of Crestview FUMC, incorporated various clergy, lay and spouses from around the conference.

Thirty-seven clergy and clergy spouses who passed since the 2018 AWF Annual Conference session were remembered during the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion. Bishop David Graves offered the opening prayer and Rev. Dan Morris of Gulf Breeze UMC delivered the inspiring and uplifting sermon entitled, “The Lamb Our Shepherd.” It was based on Revelation 7:9-17, which was read responsively by the congregation under the leadership of Rev. Richard Williams of Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery. Each individual name was read aloud by Dr. Olivia Poole of St. Luke UMC, Enterprise, AWF Commission on Archives and History Chair.

Eighteen clergy were recognized upon their retirement by Rev. Kathy Knight of Kingswood UMC during Monday’s order of the day. Rev. Doc Kirby of Pine Level UMC spoke on behalf of the retiring class. Back by popular demand was the “passing of the torch.” Rev. Brad Goode of Good News UMC, who was ordained an elder in full connection Monday evening, spoke on behalf of the newly ordained class, signifying new leadership in the conference. Together, these eighteen clergy have 434 years of service in our conference.

The Service of Commissioning and Ordination was held Monday evening in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Montgomery. The congregation represented family members and special friends of those being commissioned and ordained. The service included the commissioning of one provisional deacon and seven provisional elders and the ordination of two elders in full connection. Bishop Tracy Smith Malone preached a spirited sermon entitled, “The Courage of Conviction,” based on John 14:15-31. Over $1,600 was collected for the Ministerial Education Fund.

The Alabama-West Florida Conference elected ten clergy and ten lay delegates and four reserves to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The delegates are as follows:

**General Conference delegates**
- Larry Bryars, clergy
- Lisa Ausley, clergy
- Sung Kuk Hong, clergy
- Lester Spencer, clergy
- Steve Furr, laity
- Beverly Maddox, laity
- Gene Floore, laity
- George Mingledorff, laity

**Jurisdictional Conference delegates**
- Allen Newton, clergy
- Rurel Ausley, clergy
- Virginia Kagoro, clergy
- Doug Pennington, clergy
- Frank Moore, laity
- Notalsia Whiting, laity
- John Moneham, laity
- Robert Brooks, laity

**Reserves**: Misty Barrett (clergy), Matt Mobley (clergy), Tripp Gulledge (laity), Antonius Barnes (laity)

Bishop David Graves took intentional time to diligently thank those who were an integral part of annual conference during his Episcopal address and expressed what a collective effort it takes to make an event like this happen. Graves told of the trials of the past year from a hurricane to general conference to struggles with challenging personalities using the comparison of this and that, with that being the things that bring people and a conference down. “We take our eyes off of this, and focus on that,” he said. He referenced Mark 1:15 as what we proclaim. “If we focus on that, we are doomed,” he stated. Graves outlined several thriving churches, even through challenges like a pastor diagnosed with cancer or a church devastated from a hurricane. He mentioned numerous upcoming events and opportunities where we expect God to show up because this is what we proclaim.

For complete coverage of the 2019 Annual Conference session, visit www.awfumc.org/ac2019.