

Bill McAlilly is endorsed as candidate for Bishop

Jackson, MS- The Mississippi Conference delegation to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conference has unanimously endorsed the candidacy of Rev. Bill McAlilly for the office of Bishop. McAlilly has been a delegate to five Jurisdictional and four General Conferences and will lead the 2012 Mississippi delegation.

At a recent meeting of the delegation Rev. Joe May addressed the members regarding the endorsement. "Evangelism is about getting the good news out," said May. "It is our privilege and joy as a delegation to get the good news out about Bill McAlilly."

McAlilly has served the United Methodist Church in a wide variety of ministry settings all leading to congregational growth. . .from a small congregation in the Mississippi Delta to a new church start in the suburbs of Memphis, to a new congregation in Madison, MS where the membership grew from 550 to 1200 during his six year ministry.

Under his leadership as pastor of one of the state's largest congregations, First United Methodist Church, Tupelo, MS, the church expanded its outreach ministry to serve over 5000 people annually through the Helping Hands organization and began the Delta Mission Partnership by helping to revive a small church congregation in the Mississippi Delta. In addition, he led the church in a building program, which included a 36,000 square foot addition for ministry.

In 2006, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward appointed McAlilly to the Seashore District to lead in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Through his leadership many homes and churches were rebuilt and restored, and the District created a space for displaced persons giving them hope through ACTS: A Community of Transformation and Service. Working closely with UMCOR, he was involved in improving hurricane preparedness through the construction of buildings to store supplies and to provide housing for United Methodist volunteers.

He leads the heart of the church into the heart of mission as evidenced by his call to the MS Gulf Coast and in forming a partnership between Seashore District and the Methodist Church of Nicaragua, now a mission emphasis of the Mississippi Conference.

McAlilly has demonstrated an ability to be a calming voice in the midst of tense debate from the local church to the MS Annual Conference to the floor of General Conference. He serves as a member of the Holy Conferencing Task Force leading toward General Conference 2012 and was a contributor to the book, *The Gift of Unity*, written by Bishop Scott Jones.

He was instrumental in designing the Residency in Ministry for Provisional members in the Mississippi Conference and has taught Course of Study in Mississippi and at Candler School of Theology. He has served on the Board of Ordained Ministry, chaired the Conference Relations Committee and the Evangelism Committee and most recently has lead New Church Development.

Turner Arant, lay delegate from Indianola, MS, has worked with McAlilly throughout his ministry. Together, McAlilly and Arant will guide the Mississippi Conference to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

"I have known Bill for many years. We have worked together on the General Conference level for almost 15 years," said Arant. "He is a man of high character, very good in administration, and an excellent preacher. I believe he will uphold the beliefs of the United Methodist Church. I believe he will enforce the discipline. I plan to support Bill McAlilly because I am convinced he will make a great Bishop."

Rooted deep in the heart of Methodism from family origin, the 55-year-old is a second-generation United Methodist clergy who grew up in parsonages across the Mississippi Conference. He was educated at Millsaps College where he received the Pendergrass Medal for Preaching and earned a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

McAlilly is married to Lynn Barkley, a public school teacher. They have two grown children, Chris and Laura. Chris is a pastor in the Mississippi Conference and his wife, Millie, is a social worker. Laura and her husband, Nate Paulk, serve on the staff of Servants in Faith and Technology (SIFAT), an International Training Center and mission camp in Lineville, AL. They have one grandson, James Thomas McAlilly.