



Humbleheart Messenger

"Contending For The Christian Faith"

Special Edition
Summer
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"But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you; and the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you. Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; and let the fish of the sea declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?" (Job 12:7-10)

Follow up on the February 2009 special edition concerning The Clergy Letter Project and its endorsement by The United Methodist Church



Report on the United Methodist Church Western Pennsylvania - 2009 Annual Conference Petition #71: "On Evolution and Intelligent Design"

By C. J. Preston (Coordinator CFS)

Most of you are aware that in 2008 the General Conference of the United Methodist Church accepted, virtually by fiat [without the knowledge or consent of most local pastors and laity], cosmological, geological, and biological evolution as factual truth and not in conflict with theology. They endorsed the Clergy Letter Project that promotes Darwinian evolution, and went on record opposing the introduction of any faith-based theories such as Creationism or Intelligent Design into the science curriculum of public schools. They are not alone. Both the SE Florida Diocese of the Episcopal Church and the SW Washington Synod of the ELCA have adopted similar rulings.

God is separating the sheep from the goats and these churches will be torn apart from the inside out over this issue. But evolution is only one symptom. Rebellion against God's Word is the disease, and reviving the Authority of Scripture must be the cure.

If you think because you or your church do not believe "such nonsense" and that you don't need to be involved in trying to combat the incursion of evolution into the Church at large, think again. Its influence is already impacting local public school board decisions and other municipal regulations across the country.

The precedent setting language changes made in the UMC Book of Discipline could very well be used to bring the long anticipated Supreme Court challenge to give "scientific inquiry" blanket rights under the First Amendment. This opens the door for full permanent funding of Embryonic Stem Cell Research and legalization of biomedical technologies like Human Cloning and Bioengineering. To question a scientist's methods and

conclusions or impede his research in any way could become a hate crime under existing US law.

Petition #71 was drafted to emphatically reject the theory of evolution in the church, affirm Creationism / Intelligent Design and ask the 2012 General Conference to remove all relevant 2008 language changes in the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions.

Legislative endeavors like this are so mired in minutia and endless technical details that most people simply walk away and will not get involved. This has given our opponents a great advantage in recruiting "stealth" delegates, electing "sympathetic friends": into key leadership positions, the ability to push petitions quickly and quietly through committees and in taking control of the floor debates and votes.

During the floor debate on P#71, [now listed as P#74] some of our delegates were shocked and stunned into silence by the scathing speeches given by the evolutionists, one a Professor of Theology who stated:

**"Don't let them fool you that these Whereas' [Scripture, facts, statements of historical creeds or constitutional church doctrine that form the rationale for the petition] are not important because they don't go to the General Conference. If you start with flawed premises you end up with flawed conclusions."*

**"There are no attendant philosophies or social applications tied to evolution. It is pure science."*

**"How ridiculous that they should claim that we do not reexamine our ethical convictions as our understanding of the natural world increases. Of course we do! 600 years ago people believed germs and disease were a punishment from God. Would they have us go backwards?"*

**"I read the Bible differently than they do. My class on Creation is six months long. To say evolution is not true is to disenfranchise all my dear colleagues and scientist friends who are good, devout, moral Christians and cast them out of the Church."*

**"We must protect inclusiveness within the Church at all costs"*

**"Evolution is an unproven theory? ...Creation is the unproven theory!"*

**"Why are these people bringing this to Annual Conference? My understanding is that the rules allow for individuals to petition General Conference directly. If they believe this, let them take their petition there, because there is no agreement here."*

How would you have answered these charges – in a civil and Christ like manner? Over the coming months we hope to educate, equip, and empower the Church to prevail against such attacks.

Below you will find a short report on what happened to P#71 at the 2009 WPAAC. [You can find a copy of the petition under CFS Info at www.humbleheart.org] It is written as a sports analogy. We are not trying to make light of such a serious and complex subject, cynically portraying it as a political football game. But rather we are trying to make the topic informative and easy to understand for as many people as possible. Please pass it along.

1st Quarter for WPAAC Anti-Evolution Petition Fast Paced but Scoreless *(Week of June 11th 2009)*

Depending on how you look at things you could say we won, we lost and we broke even. The UMC General Conference runs on a quadrennial or a four-year cycle. From a sports analogy perspective, the last 90 days had us deep in the first quarter and the conference would be the last few plays. While it is certainly great to score enough points up front to be able to take it easy during the rest of the game, it usually doesn't work out that way, which is a good thing. Over confidence, misjudging the other teams strength, and not being flexible enough to allow the coach to make last minute play adjustments and substitutions can be costly mistakes in a high stakes game.

With just seven days to go before the conference, we were told that Petition #71, after being rewritten five times, was still not correctly written and would be tabled in committee on a technicality for incorrect form. At the time I was thinking this incident was just another obstacle being thrown in our path to challenge our resolve to get to the goal line with our first touchdown before the whistle blew. Looking back however, I can see this was a very pivotal moment orchestrated by the Head Coach to redirect our focus and allow Him to call a new last play for the first quarter.

Rather than risk having the committee try fixing the petition and opening the door to all sorts of changes, over which we would have no control, we opted to do an end run around the opposition with a "Hail Mary" pass. We completely withdrew P#71 and had 24 hours to submit a substitute bill in its place. The experienced pundits were betting that softening the Biblical language and being politically correct would greatly increase the odds of us achieving our ultimate goal of this petition passing through the committee intact and being placed on the legislative consent calendar for a simple yes vote to be sent to General Conference in 2012.

But that's not what happened. The Head Coach decided the petition's wording needed to be much more black and white, with no wiggle room. It could no longer be shades of interpretation. Now it was simply strength of belief in the Word of God. True or False! Right or Wrong! Yes or No! Defying conventional wisdom, we submitted a much more strongly worded and divisive petition than before.

You may think legislative sessions are boring but they are an exciting game to watch. The referee blew the

first call on the other team trying to amendment P#71 resulting in a recount that ended in a tie score. Three more times the ball was in play but the score remained tied. The referee was about to do a coin toss, when a missing player showed up and the amendment was defeated by one vote. The petition went on to pass in committee by 67-23, but it takes 75% approval to be put on the consent calendar. We scored 74.7%. Overnight the managers decided to give us the nod and we made the calendar.

After a huddle, the other team called foul and the petition was pulled off the consent calendar and brought to the floor for a 2/3's majority vote. We were down to the last play before the whistle. The other team's strength lay in their defense against our position. We still had two time outs. We could have kicked the ball by removing the Word of God and gone for a much easier 3 point field goal. We chose to run with the ball straight up the middle for the touchdown. The referee said we didn't cross the goal line and blew his whistle ending the first quarter without any appeal to the instant replay.

All in all, considering that we were a brand new hometown team scheduled to play our first game against the reigning national champs we did very well. If we had won that first goal I think we really would have lost a lot of momentum. We've had a chance to size up the other team and their playbook. We now have a very clear picture of what we are up against. The Head Coach says there needs to be some defensive and offensive strategy changes and we need to learn to keep our eye not on the ball but on the Captain of the Team, "Jesus." We will pull together and head into the second quarter assured that the battle is the Lord's and His zeal will accomplish it. ☐

For more information and assistance concerning this topic please contact: [CJP-CFS, P. O. Box 7214 Erie, PA 16510-7214
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Creation, the Foundation of Salvation – Tri-State Info
Otherwise contact Humbleheart Ministries

It is certainly without joy that we sometimes put forth information challenging our own Christian brothers and sisters. What is at stake that makes it necessary to do so? It is when the authority of God's Word is being set aside to appeal to a worldly view and popular opinion by those who choose to compromise "Scriptural Truth" in order to be accepted by others.

Darwinian evolution is a doctrine of demons inspired by the father of lies, the Devil. To commune with Jesus Christ you need to make a decision. "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons." (1 Corinthians 10:21) Creation is the foundation of Salvation.

MARANATHA!

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