

North Georgia Annual Conference

Nancy Ricciadi

(Nancy figures out her voting device next to Carl Martin at the conference.)

I'll share in more detail when I get over being brain dead or have a sleepless night. (I doubt the last one will happen soon.)

I could do church 7 days a week. Worship was absolutely amazing!!! Seeing so many friends from around the conference was a real treat. I think at least half of our UMW mission trip group to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky were there, along with former pastors, a Kilpatrick Elementary teacher friend, Emmaus friends, many other UMW friends, a church friend's teen, a former Nature Camp camper, and probably others I'm omitting at the moment. Voting was a total ordeal and often very frustrating.



I have known for years I am a Methodist at heart. I have my frustrations and disappointments from time to time, but there's no place I'd rather be.

I am absolutely amazed at the transparency of the organization and the patience bestowed on all, no matter what their persuasion. One big shock for me was that anyone could go to a microphone and address the whole conference on any issue of concern, ask any question, or even propose an amendment, etc. You can even propose a resolution if you turn it in by the deadline.

We had a Methodist from Northern Ireland speak to us several times who spent many years of his life dealing with the conflicts between the Protestants and Catholics. That makes the divisions in our church seem rather minor. However, we need to have serious conversations to survive as a denomination and love each other with our differences.

I love the United Methodist Church and came home much more hopeful about our future together. There are amazing things going on all over North Georgia. God is working in mighty ways. If we can't see this through our limited view we need to ask God where we should be serving.

There is a place for your unique way of ministering in our church! Seek it out.