

Reporter receives awards from Christian press

Staff Reports, Apr 28, 2006

The *United Methodist Reporter* has received six awards from the Associated Church Press, including a second-place Best in Class award for national newspaper.

The ACP is an international professional organization of journalists who work in religion communication. Its "Best of the Christian Press" awards were presented April 25 in Orlando, during the organization's annual convention.



Awards represent work done in 2005 by Robin Russell, managing editor; Bill Fentum and Susan Scheib, associate editors; Kristin Del Mul, senior designer; and Andy James, director of digital media.

The annual competition drew more than 1,000 entries in 70 categories.

Judges said the *Reporter* overall "has the look and editorial presence of a thoroughly professional news staff. Clean layout, coupled with strong headlines, flow naturally into well-written articles. This is an exceptional publication."

Judges also gave the UM Portal, an innovative Internet home page for churches and individuals, an Award of Merit for best ancillary product, saying it was "excellent" and "visionary," and should have a "far-reaching and positive impact."

Sarah Wilke, UMR Communications' CEO, said, "We couldn't be more proud of our people. From our writers to our designers to the folks on the press, everyone has pulled together to provide publications the United Methodist Church can celebrate. We are grateful to the ACP for this recognition."



In writing categories, regular columnist Andrew C. Thompson received an Award of Excellence for three Gen-X Rising columns: "Are churches falling prey to 'Cafeteria Christianity'?" (June 3), "To escape material fixations, seek spiritual shock therapy" (Oct. 7) and "Canceling Christmas: A megachurch failure" (Dec. 30).

Judges said Mr. Thompson "fearlessly stakes out his point of view and defends it eloquently."

Managing Editor Robin Russell received an honorable mention for her Dec. 2 feature story, "Letters from Dad."

Designer Kristin Del Mul earned an Award of Merit for newspaper design, which judges described as "easy to navigate" and "modern and relevant."

Ms. Del Mul also received an honorable mention for her design of an April 15 article, "When Tall Ships Carried the Gospel."