



Five elected to Judicial Council

By Linda Bloom (UMNS)

United Methodists from Norway and Mozambique are among the new members of the denomination's Judicial Council.

Delegates to General Conference 2016 filled open positions for two clergy and three lay members on the nine-member council during elections on May 16.

The new clergy members are the Rev. Øyvind Helliesen of Norway and the Rev. Luan-Vu Tran of Lakewood, California. Elected as lay members were Ruben Reyes of Manila, Philippines; Deanell Reese Tacha of Lawrence, Kansas, and Lídia Romão Gulele of Maputo, Mozambique.

Judicial Council members are elected for eight-year terms, and four council members elected or re-elected in 2012 are still serving those terms.

Current clergy members are the Rev. J. Kabamba Kiboko from Southern Congo and currently a member of the Texas Conference, and the Rev. Dennis L. Blackwell, Greater New Jersey Conference, serving his second term. Current lay members are N. Oswald Tweh Sr., of the Liberia Conference in Africa and Beth Capen, New York Conference, serving her second term.

New members

Helliesen is a district superintendent and dean of the cabinet in the Norway Annual Conference. He is a member of the Central Conference Council, European Methodist Council and World Methodist Council. He is an editor of the Northern Europe and Eurasia Book of Discipline.

Born in Vietnam and raised in Switzerland, Tran is the pastor of Lakewood (California) First United Methodist Church. He has served churches in Southern California since 2002 and is a member of the California-Pacific

Conference. His degrees include one from Harvard Law School.

Reyes is beginning his second term on the Judicial Council. He is a retired justice of the Philippines Supreme Court and former presiding justice of the Philippines Court of Appeals. Currently, he is lay leader of Central United Methodist Church in Manila.

Tacha, a member of First United Methodist Church in Lawrence, Kansas, was appointed a federal judge on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in 1985. She has served for more than a decade on the board of trustees at Saint Paul School of Theology.

Gulele became an attorney in 2008 and is a member of the Legal Association of Judicial Women in Mozambique. She has served as chairperson of the Women's Project Committee and president of young adults in the Maputo West District, Mozambique South Annual Conference.

Clergy elected as alternate members for Judicial Council are, in order, the Rev. Tim Bruster, the Rev. Angela Brown, the Rev. Diana DeWitt, the Rev. F. Belton Joyner, the Rev. Katherine Austin Mahle and the Rev. Gregory Stover.

Lay alternate members are, in order, Warren Plowden, Kent Fulton, Joe Wesley Kilpatrick, Ronald E. Enns, Randall Miller and Jacob Apari Lawan.

The Judicial Council is required to review each decision on a point of law made by a bishop during an annual conference session. Other cases come from lower church courts or from an official body of the church requesting a declaratory decision as to the legality of a particular action. The Judicial Council usually receives several requests during General Conference for declaratory decisions

Bloom is a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York.

Agenda for Tuesday, May 17

The agenda for the Daily Christian Advocate is now available in English, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili. Please see pages 2276-2277 for the agenda in each of these languages.



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Worship Leaders for May 17, 2016

- Prelude: **Mark A. Miller; Guest Organist**
- Introduction of Ecumenical Guests: **Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Ecumenical Officer, Council of Bishops**
- Introit: **Combined Seminary Choirs; Boston University, Perkins, Candler**
- Call to Worship Litany: **Amy Lippoldt; Great Plains**
- Anthem: **Combined Seminary Choirs; Boston University, Perkins, Candler**
- Scripture Reader: **Reginald Clemons; Texas**
- Sermon: **Bishop Ivan Abrahams; General Secretary, World Methodist Council**
- Confession Prayer Leader: **Clay Andrew; Oregon-Idaho**
- Confession Prayer movement models:
**Randal Miller; California-Nevada
Lydia Henry; Oregon-Idaho**
- Brief history of the founding of the AMEC:
Alfred T. Day, III; General Secretary, Archives and History
- Thanksgiving for the Uniting Church of Sweden:
Bishop Christian Alsted; Nordic-Baltic Episcopal Area
- Thanksgiving for the Moravian Church:
Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar; Boston Episcopal Area
- 6:10 P.M. closing devotions**
- Scripture Reader: **Abraham Arpellet; Côte d’Ivoire**
- Reflection Reader: **Patricia Rogers; North Georgia**

Peace and Love Will Reconcile Differences

If there may be peace and love between God and his saints, then surely, notwithstanding these things, the saints may be at love and peace among themselves.

From The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions, compiled by Francis Asbury and first published in 1792. Abridged and updated edition copyright © 2015 by Abingdon Press.

Tuesday, May 17

6:30 A.M.

Committee on Agenda and Calendar

7:00 A.M.

Seminary Student's Briefing

Committee on Reference

8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Worship

Preacher: Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams

General Secretary, World Methodist Council

Methodist Church of Southern Africa

Ecumenical Introductions

200th Anniversary: Birth of the AME Church

10:00 – 10:20 A.M.

Morning Break

10:20 – 12:30 P.M.

Opening Prayer

• Reports (as needed):

o Committee on Courtesies and Privileges

o Committee on Credentials

o Committee on Correlation and Editorial

Revision

o Committee on the Journal

o Committee on Reference

o Committee on Agenda and Calendar

o Committee on Presiding Officers

o Monitors

Consent Calendars

Calendar Items & Conference Business

12:30 – 2:00 P.M.

Lunch Recess – on your own

12:40 P.M. – 1:10 P.M.

Service of Holy Communion (Oregon Ballroom, 203)

Presider: Bishop William McAlilly

2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Opening Prayer

Recognition of Retiring Bishops

Presentation of new Episcopal Leadership Team

Calendar Items & Conference Business

4:00 – 4:20 P.M.

Afternoon Break

4:20 – 6:10 P.M.

Calendar Items & Conference Business

“Missing in Action” – United Methodist Men

5:00 P.M. – Daily Deadline for DCA Printing

6:10 – 6:30 P.M. Closing Devotion

6:30 P.M. Adjournment

Terça-feira, 17 de Maio

6h30

Comissão da Agenda e Calendário

7h00

Instruções para Estudantes de Seminários

Comissão sobre Referência

8h00 – 10h00

Culto

Orador: Bispo Ivan M. Abrahams

Secretário Geral, Conselho Mundial Metodista

Igreja Metodista do Sul de África

Apresentações Ecuménicas

200.º Aniversário: Nascimento da IMA

10h00 – 10h20

Intervalo de manhã

10h20 – 12h30

Oração de Abertura

• Relatórios:

o Comissão sobre Cortesias e Privilégios

o Comissão sobre Credenciais

o Comissão sobre Correlação e Revisão Editorial

o Comissão sobre o Jornal

o Comissão sobre Referência

o Comissão da Agenda e Calendário

o Comissão sobre Representantes Presidentes

o Monitores

Calendários de Consentimento

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

12h30 – 14h00

Intervalo para o almoço — por conta própria

12h40 – 13h10

Serviço da Santa Ceia (Oregon Ballroom, 203)

Presidente: Bispo William McAlilly

14h00 – 16h00

Oração de Abertura

Reconhecimento dos Bispos Reformados

Apresentação da nova Equipa de Liderança Episcopal

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

16h00 – 16h20

Intervalo de tarde

16h20 – 18h10

Itens de calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

“Perdidos em Acção” — Homens Metodistas Unidos

17h00 – Prazo diário para impressão do DCA

18h10 — 18h30 Encerramento da Devoção

18h30 – Adiamento

Mardi 17 mai**6h30**

Comité en charge du programme et de l'ordre du jour

7h00

Briefing pour Séminaristes

Comité de la référence

8h00 – 10h00

Culte

Prédicateur : Mgr Ivan M. Abrahams

Secrétaire général, Conseil méthodiste mondial

Église Méthodiste du Sud de l'Afrique

Présentations ecuméniques

200e Anniversaire : Naissance de l'AME Church

10h00 – 10h20*Pause du matin***10h20 – 12h30**

Prière d'ouverture

• Rapports :

- o Comité en charge des Courtoisies et Privilèges
- o Comité en charge des titres
- o Comité en charge de la corrélation et la révision éditoriale
- o Comité en charge du journal
- o Comité de la référence
- o Comité en charge du programme et de l'ordre du jour

o Comité des Présidents de séance

o Moniteurs

Blocs de résolutions

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

12h30 – 14h00*Pause-déjeuner* – Chacun pour soi**12h40 – 13h10**

Service de la Sainte Communion

(Oregon Ballroom 203)

Président : Mgr William McAlilly

14h00 – 16h00

Prière d'ouverture

Reconnaissance des évêques qui vont à la retraite

Présentation de la nouvelle équipe du leadership

épiscopal

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

16h00 – 16h20*Pause de l'après-midi***16h20 – 18h10**

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

« Missing in Action » (Disparu au combat) —

Hommes Méthodistes Unis

17h00 — Délai quotidien pour l'impression du DCA**18h10 – 18h30** Dévotion de clôture**18h30** Ajournement**Jumane, Mei 17****6:30 Asubuhi**

Kamati ya Ajenda na Kalenda

7:00 Asubuhi

Maelezo kwa Wanafunzi wa Seminari

Kamati ya Marejeleo

8:00 – 10:00 Asubuhi

Ibada

Mhubiri: Askofu Ivan M. Abrahams

Katibu Mkuu, Baraza la Kimataifa la Methodisti

Kanisa la Methodisti la Kusini mwa Afrika

Utambulisho wa Kiekumeni

Maadhimisho ya 200: Kuzaliwa kwa Kanisa la AME

10:00 – 10:20 Asubuhi*Mapumziko ya Asubuhi***10:20 – 12:30 Asubuhi**

Maombi ya Kufungua

• Ripoti:

- o Kamati ya Hisani na Mapendeleo
- o Kamati ya Stakabadhi
- o Kamati ya Mahusiano na Marekebisho ya Machapisho
- o Kamati ya Jarida
- o Kamati ya Marejeleo
- o Kamati ya Ajenda na Kalenda

o Kamati ya Maafisa Wasimamizi

o Wangaalizi

Kalenda za Idhini

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

12:30 – 2:00 Alasiri*Mapumziko ya Chakula cha Mchana* – kivyako**12:40 Adhuhuri – 1:10 Adhuhuri**

Ibada ya Ushirika Mtakatifu (Oregon Ballroom, 203)

Msimamizi: Askofu William McAlilly

2:00 – 4:00 Alasiri

Maombi ya Kufungua

Kutambua Maaskofu Wanaostaafu

Kuwasilisha Jopo Jipya la Uongozi wa Uaskofu

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

4:00 – 4:20 Alasiri*Mapumziko ya Alasiri***4:20 – 6:10 Jioni**

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

“Hawaonekani” – Wanaume wa Muungano wa Methodisti

5:00 Jioni – Muda wa Mwisho wa Uchapaji wa DCA
Kila Siku**6:10 – 6:30 Jioni** Maombi ya Kufunga**6:30 Jioni** Ahirisho

Announcements

Book Signing for Three Authors of the Africa Ministry Series Complimentary Books

We welcome all delegates and visitors to a book signing for three authors of the Africa Ministry Series who are delegates among us on Tuesday, 12:30pm-1:30pm, in the Discipleship Ministries display area: Bishop Eben Kanukayi Nhiwatiwa of the Zimbabwe Area, Rev. N'day Bondo Mwanabute of the North Katanga Area of the DRC, and Rev. Rhoda Manzo of Nigeria. Those who come to honor these three authors will have opportunity to greet them, hear about their books, and receive free autographed copies for as long as the supply lasts.

Their books are three of 14 titles in the Africa Ministry Series, published in English, French and Portuguese by Discipleship Resources, International, a unit of Discipleship Ministries devoted to resourcing Central Conferences.

Bishop Nhiwatiwa, a former lecturer in homiletics and church history at Africa University, authored two volumes on preaching in the African context entitled *Why We Preach* and *How We Preach*, for pastors, as well as instructors in homiletics.

Rev. Bondo is a member of the Faculty of Theology of Africa University, where he teaches UM Polity. Rev. Bondo authored *Moving Together in Harmony: An Updated Polity for the United Methodist Church in Africa*.

Rev. Rhoda Manzo is a pastor and member of the faculty of Banyam School of Theology. Rev. Manzo authored *Premarital Counseling in the African Context* (working title). This newest title is not yet available.

Volunteer Ushers Needed

On Friday, May 20, there will be an offering for the Marshals and Pages. We need 15-20 volunteer ushers to help collect this offering at the end of Friday morning's Plenary Session. People who have previously served as Marshals or Pages are especially encouraged to serve. To volunteer, or to receive more information, email Dick Hooton at revshoot@gmail.com, or text him at 318-475-2596.

The Marshals and Pages attend General Conference at their own expense, and perform an important service for delegates and others. Please let them know how much they are appreciated!

Errata in DCA

The Vital Conversations Report from The General Commission on Religion and Race was inadvertently omitted from the Daily Christian Advocate Vol. 4, No. 6 on Monday, May 16. That report is printed on page 2287 of today's issue, just before today's Vital Conversations Report.

Pages 2074 and 2076: The correct spelling of the name of Judicial Council Nominee number 120 is LaTrelle Easterling.

Page 2158: The name of the clergy member from Africa is correctly spelled Adilson Leitão Silvestre de Almeida.

Page 2201: The petition number for Calendar Item 331 is 61046.

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United Methodist Women Celebrate 150th Anniversary in Plenary

By Yvette Moore

United Methodist Women members from across the Portland area gathered at General Conference to mark their 150th anniversary with a day of celebration, advocacy, and recommitment to mission with women, children and youth on May 16.

“United Methodist Women Day” opened with the consecration of twenty-three new deaconesses and home missionaries, a lay office administered by United Methodist Women and dedicated to service ministries that alleviate suffering, injustice, and build the global community through the church.

These helping vocations cover a broad range of needs. This most recent class of deaconesses and home missionaries includes a maternal-child health registered nurse who works with low-income families; a local church food program coordinator; a photojournalist who reports on justice issues and develops materials for community ministries addressing these needs; and a computer technology consultant who views his work as a special kind of chaplaincy because, “Computer usage can be one of the biggest drivers of emotional and spiritual crises in both secular and non-secular environments,” explained new home missionary John David Jessup Petterson.

The morning service dedication was followed by a noontime rally for clean water as a human right across the street from the conference center. Nearly 300 people participated in the rally to oppose the poisoning of natural waterways and public water delivery systems that is harming communities from Flint, Michigan, to Latin America to Liberia, Africa.

Rose Farhat of Liberia spoke at the rally, calling on global partners like United Methodist Women to help pressure Firestone Rubber to repair the damage it has done to streams and rivers in her country.

“Firestone dumped waste into streams and rivers where poor people fish and get drinking water,” Ms. Farhat said. “There’s extreme poverty in this community so the people now have no clear water source. Firestone

promised to provide a water treatment plant to provide clean water but that has not happened. Pressure Firestone to build those water treatment plants.”

The day culminated with a forward-looking multimedia plenary celebration that rehearsed United Methodist Women’s historic beginnings and followed a continuum of mission outreach answering the question, “What happens when women organize for mission?”

“What happens when women organize for mission? The needs of women, children, and youth—who are the ‘least of these’ in every society—not only get on the table, they are placed front and center on the table,” said presenter, Yvette Kim Richards, president of the United Methodist Women board.

Young United Methodist Women members were active throughout United Methodist Women Day, advocating for clean water, serving as volunteers and participants, and on the stage and the scenes of the plenary celebration

“Women still need to organize for mission in the 21st century,” said Annabelle Bricker, a young United Methodist woman who participated in the plenary presentation. “In the coming quadrennium, we will focus our mission outreach on maternal and child health, ending criminalization of communities of color and income inequality and climate change.”

Yvette Moore is director of communications for United Methodist Women.

Divisions Hinder Our Graces

Here is the reason for the deadness, coldness, emptiness, barrenness, and spiritual emptiness—you are not joined.

From *The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions*, compiled by Francis Asbury and first published in 1792. Abridged and updated edition copyright © 2015 by Abingdon Press.

Two Ambassadors of God's Love Share Young People's Address

By Kay DeMoss

(UMNS) While only two young people spoke on the General Conference stage Saturday morning, thousands more stood with them. Chelsea Spyres and Peter Cibuabua began their witness by identifying themselves as “ambassadors sharing young people’s voices from around the world.”

That voice declared the uncompromising nature of God’s love and grace for all people.

“The objective of this message is to help you, our brothers and sisters in the church, to understand how widely and deeply the young people are engaged in Christ’s journey with energy and love,” they said.

They then listed challenges their generation faces as well as the solutions for building the church.

“Maybe God stops whispering and starts to yell,” Spyres said as she called persons to move beyond their personal intentions and goals in order to listen to “new voices longing to be heard.”

She reminded the assembly of each individual’s uniqueness. “How would the church grow,” she asked, “if we encouraged each person to discern their calling, to

discern where God is leading them to make a difference in the world? If we listened before we spoke?”

Cibuabua said young people’s programming is usually one of the lower line items on a conference budget.

“In this way, young people are marginalized in the church,” he said, listing ways the world’s young people are victimized by violence, war, disease, poverty, racism, sexism, and child trafficking. Even so, he added, “Young people are shaped by the good news of Jesus Christ.”

Spyres challenged the church to give God’s transformational love a chance. “No matter where you stand on questions of human sexuality,” she said, “we are called to love, and love before anything else.” She asked all present to accept people “as God created them to be” rather than “trying to conform them to who we think they should be.”

Cibuabua noted that today’s young people treat issues like homosexuality “out loud.” He asked others to do so also, “with compassion and love, no matter what might happen.”

The two young people lifted up The United Methodist Committee on Relief, outward-reaching congregations and The Young African Leaders Summit as examples



Peter Cibuabua of the Central Congo Conference (left) and Chelsea Spyres of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference (second from left) celebrate with other presenters at the conclusion of the young people’s address at the 2016 United Methodist General Conference in Portland, Ore. Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS

of transformational love at its best. “We are a church of action, a church that lives out our call to service,” Spyres said. “It is this kind of response that draws young people into the church.”

Other voices of youth were raised onscreen — how the church is weak as well as how it gets it right. Other young people who had also submitted videos during the yearlong process that produced the address sat on the stage.

Cibuabua offered a takeaway in the form of a new slogan for young people: “Today First, Tomorrow Then,” instead of saying, “Young people are the church of tomorrow.”

The remarks on stage concluded with a call to unity and an invitation to continued conversation across generations. “More than anything,” Spyres remarked, “we hope you will connect with the young people in your own life and ministry.” Postcards were made available to delegates wishing to share words of encouragement and support; these may be dropped off at the Young People’s Lounge in the Convention Center.

Their Stories

These two young people were nurtured, live and serve half a world apart; yet, they professed a common message, “Be like Jesus and build relationships and love before anything else.”

Spyres grew up in Delaware and now serves as a missionary in Detroit. She explained that she began attending her home congregation at a young age with her grandmother, Nana. Church camp and mission work followed during her teen years. Spyres spoke of her appreciation for the nurture she continues to receive from her home congregation in Newark, Delaware. “That family of faith allowed me to see how powerful the body of Christ can be, when the church is looking outwardly more than inwardly,” she said.

What she learned from them about “the power of relationships” carried her to commissioning as a Global Mission Fellow (US2) in 2014. She credits her service at NOAH Project in downtown Detroit for showing her how powerful love really is. “Every day I get a glimpse of the Kingdom here on earth through a bagged lunch and stories shared.”

Cibuabua is from Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. His faith story began in a Muslim household.

“But it happened that I began studying in one of the United Methodist schools in my home village,” he said. His decision to start attending a United Methodist church made him “like a stranger in my own house.” Eventually,

he was baptized and confirmed. Like Spyres, Cibuabua notes, “I loved the preaching about love and grace.”

Today Cibuabua is the evangelism chairperson and president of the young people’s ministry in his conference, showing others “when we have love, we can live above and beyond any situation with a neighbor.” Teaching English, speaking on the Methodist Radio and cleaning the church “are still my favorite work in life,” he noted.

Let Listening Continue

Just as the young people’s address ended with an invitation to listen, it began with listening. In a press conference held soon after their address, Spyres and Cibuabua recounted the many phone calls that linked them over the past seven months.

They began writing last October aided by Skype and Google Docs. Given the eight-hour time difference between Detroit and Kinshasa, that involved, “many nights and many days,” according to Cibuabua.

The two reviewed all videos that others submitted to the Young People’s Ministry of Discipleship Resources. “We wanted to make sure that this was more than just our two voices,” Spyres explained.

A common theme emerged from their listening: “Our prayer for General Conference is that everyone listen and come together around their differences in a healthy way.”

Cibuabua and Spyres’s personal stories and the recorded voices of many others provided the starting point for the young people’s address.

Carl Gladstone, regional staff person for the Young People’s Ministries Division of Discipleship Ministries, developed and supported the process that shaped the young people’s address. After young people submitted videos, a couple of rounds of online discernment and voting resulted in the choice of Spyres and Cibuabua as the in-person speakers at General Conference.

“We are fully aware we could have had 50 people on stage and still not represent everyone. But I think we did a pretty good job of bringing those voices to Portland,” Gladstone said.

The Young People’s Ministry is making the voices of young people witnessing to the church available by podcast or Twitter #umypa.

Kay DeMoss is the senior editor-writer for Michigan Area Communications.

Deaconesses and Home Missioners Consecrated at General Conference

by Tara Barnes

Twenty-six deaconesses and home missionaries were consecrated Monday May 16, 2016, on the plenary floor of The United Methodist General Conference. The newly consecrated deaconesses and home missionaries come from across the United States as well as the Philippines. The service was a culmination of answering and discerning a call to full-time vocation in lay ministry.

“The deaconess process has been life-changing and life-fulfilling,” said newly consecrated Deaconess Robin Ridenour. “The most important part about consecration is that I am becoming part of a family of men and women doing the work of love, justice and service.”

“I’ve been in candidacy for about five years...I can’t wait to see what God has in store for me next!” said Martha Lundgren, consecrated deaconess.

Deaconesses and home missionaries are laywomen and laymen called to be in a lifetime relationship with The United Methodist Church in full-time vocation in cutting-edge, servant ministry. Nearly 200 women and men currently serve as deaconesses and home missionaries in the United States, and 450 serve in the Philippines. Around 50 individuals are presently in a discernment process, engaged in a time of listening to God’s call and fulfilling candidacy requirements, including theology classes.

The lay diaconate is a long-standing tradition in Methodism in the United States. In 1888, the Methodist Episcopal Church established the Office of Deaconess. Women could not become ordained ministers in the Methodist Church until 1956, so becoming a deaconess was one way women could answer their call to mission and ministry when other roads were blocked. Although deaconesses were always connected through the church, they maintained independent and autonomous work on behalf of people on the margins of society. Today, the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner is one of the few avenues available for laity called to ministry.

As You Go, Call All

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey (Louisiana Conference), Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, (United Methodist

Church in Germany), and Bishop Pedro Torio Jr. (Baguio Episcopal Area in the Philippines), performed the consecration and were joined by United Methodist Women General Secretary Harriet Olson, United Methodist Women President Yvette Richards, Harris College President Cristina Mañabat, Regional Missionary and Deaconess Emma Cantor, Deaconess Clara Ester and Home Missioner Gary Locklear.

“These servants before us today have already accepted Christ’s invitation into grace, and this relationship compels them out into the community to proclaim the gospel of grace and salvation in word and deed,” said Ester during the ceremony. “They hold true to their motto of serving neither for gratitude nor reward but from gratitude and love; their reward is that they may serve.”

The Scripture focus for the worship service was Matthew 22:1-14, the Parable of the Wedding Banquet. Harvey’s message, “Appropriate Attire Required,” spoke of the “one size fits all” garment of grace we all must to wear before we can attend the God’s banquet, referring to the parable told in the Scripture.

“This parable, like all of Jesus’ parables, is another one of those stories of reversal, when the world’s values are turned upside down,” Harvey said. “When entering into the story, we are challenged to come as we are but not stay that way. We have each been personally invited to this banquet. We have been invited and expected to do something that even the world might not be expecting. Will we honor the host by taking the grace-lined garment off that rack and put it on?”

In three stations the bishops, United Methodist Women, and deaconess representatives consecrated the women and men to a lifetime of Christ-like service under the authority of the Church. The new deaconesses and home missionaries received their scarves and their mandate.

“The robe is ready for you,” said Harvey. “There is one here for each of you. So let’s put it on and dance; because there’s a party going on.”

New Deaconesses and Home Missioners

Logan Alley

Baltimore-Washington Conference

Roberta Boyd Bragan

New England Conference

Brenda Brown

North Carolina Conference

Deborah Lynn Byrd

Tennessee Conference

Melissa Iutzi Calvillo

Great Rivers Conference

Melanie Dewey

Oklahoma Conference

René Grant

North Georgia Conference

Kim Devon Harris

Minnesota Conference

Maria Rose McCall Dommerich Hase

Desert Southwest Conference

Amanda Howe

New England Conference

Choong-Hee Lee

Greater New Jersey Conference

Jamie Lynn Marie LeJeune

Mississippi Conference

Martha Louise Lundgren

Desert Southwest Conference

Alethea McGavaran

Pacific Northwest Conference

Halina Mui

Greater New Jersey Conference

Jane Ann Murray

Tennessee Conference

John David Jessup Peterson

North Georgia Conference

Ruth Pierre

Florida Conference

Robin Ridenour

California Nevada Conference

Helen Ryde

Western North Carolina Conference

Julie Ann Smith

Rio Texas Conference

Laura Young

Texas Conference

Linda Mae Young

Western North Carolina Conference

Filipina deaconesses

Kaye Celyn Caigle

Sheena Camille Calma

April Grace Martinez

Divisions Violate the Law of Love

Division is against the solemn charge and
command of God and of Jesus Christ.

From *The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions*,
compiled by Francis Asbury and first published in 1792.
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Report of the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy

Report and Recommendation for Missional Exception for the Northeast Jurisdiction to Retain Nine Episcopal Areas

On May 12, 2016, after electing new officers for the next quadrennium, the Interjurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy (IJCOE) met to address one single issue. That issue was encompassed in a report presented by Bonnie Marden, outgoing chair of the IJCOE and chair of the Northeast Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy.

Following the report and lively discussion, Gary George, North Central Jurisdiction, East Ohio, moved that the IJCOE recommend to 2016 General Conference that it grant the missional exception for the NEJ to retain Nine Episcopal areas for 2016 to 2020. The motion was properly seconded, and following discussion, the motion passed for presentation to the General Conference.

The following serves as a request from the Northeast Jurisdiction (NEJ) as well as the rationale and support for the exception, which is being sought and should be granted to the NEJ.

The IJCOE's support of the missional request of the NEJ for the retention of nine (9) episcopal areas for the coming quadrennium is a vote of confidence and recognition of the promising missional efforts being implemented in the Northeast. This vote of support is also a testament to the Connection, which exists across jurisdictional and regional boundaries.

Following General Conference 2012, the entire Northeast was devastated by Super Storm Sandy. That storm, which has been termed by some as the storm of the century, saw the entire Northeast experience winds that reached 115 mph. This massive event covered a geographic area enveloping the whole of the NEJ and left in its path damage to property, which is still being addressed today and in total fatalities, which were listed as 285. In the face of this natural disaster, the Churches of the Northeast Jurisdiction served as places of support and relief as the church buildings and the people known as United Methodists became places and centers for missional relief, training, and provision of much needed daily necessities. Coming out of General Conference 2012, no one could project that the excitement of working on the vitality of congregations and concentration of resources throughout the Northeast would be focused on caring for the communities and the people that felt the

pain this storm brought. However, this was not a time of decline, but a time of revival, revival in the understanding of what the vineyards of missional service can be. In many cases by embracing this understanding it meant accepting the need to creatively rebuild and retune programs and approaches to meet new realities.

In order to understand what is possible for the Northeast Jurisdiction, it is critical to examine facts about this area as a rich missional field.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction contains four (4) of the top ten (10) Metropolitan Areas in the United States, six (6) of the top twenty-five (25) Metropolitan Areas, and these regions impact seven (7) of our Annual Conferences (NY, EPA, Pen-Del, GNJ, NE, WPA, BW). This creates leadership opportunities for witness and voice in regional and global arenas (social, economic, political, justice, and so forth) that are becoming more present in our jurisdiction. When the NEJ provides leadership in these settings, the whole denomination is positively impacted. In addition, the NEJ will encourage the Council of Bishops to explore options to ensure that the whole church benefits from the voice and witness opportunities available in these metropolitan areas, which have the potential to absolutely impact the country and the world as well as our mission and ministry.

Numbers alone do not serve as a measure of the effectiveness of the ministry taking place in the NEJ. Membership numbers have not been used in congregational research or assessment for almost two decades because they are not good indicators of vitality, mission, or community impact. Persons impacted by church outreach and missions are ignored by this metric. In addition, membership statistics are not used consistently around the globe. Church growth professionals use average worship attendance as a more useful metric. Still, financial commitments in the NEJ are strong. As the NEJ is just beginning to see an upswing in highly vital congregations, the Jurisdiction seeks to invest in ministry rather than spend resources on realigning or redesigning jurisdictional areas. As of 2014, the NEJ had the highest increase in Highly Vital Congregations (10 percent with United States average 8 percent) moving from 11 percent to 21 percent, and along with other jurisdictions is seeing 31 percent of the congregations growing (United States average 30 percent).

The NEJ College of Bishops has engaged in leadership development this quadrennium using a process

consultant and through Corporate Learning experiences with the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy. The focus is consistently on furthering the mission of the church, making disciples, and engaging all levels of the church in hands-on life-giving missions and ministry dedicated to making disciples of Jesus Christ. The NEJ leadership has covenanted to focus on congregational vitality and leadership development that furthers the mission of the church. This includes, for example, exploring ways Area boundaries can have some permeability so that resources are shared and gifts mobilized in new ways to enhance stewardship and discipleship at all levels.

The NEJ currently and historically supports very strong participation in general church apportionments, including the Episcopal Fund where it has lead the jurisdictions in support.

Financially driven realignments consistently correlate with lower giving and require the shifting of resources (personnel and financial) from missions to management and restructuring. The greatest dips in giving to the connection have occurred in the conferences impacted by realignment or mergers during the past two decades. Because mergers can be directly correlated to reductions in members, vitality, and finances, they negatively impact mission and ministry. In NEJ, it is evident from past experience, creating larger Areas has not led to increased vitality, as three conferences were merged from four creating New England and Upper New York and impacting two other conferences. More specifically, organizational reductions or realignments reduce Lay roles and opportunities, negatively impacting those who bear the most responsibility for supporting and sustaining local ministries. As a jurisdiction, we wish to sustain our strong giving and avoid events that would challenge this proven strength.

The NEJ has provided significant ethnic diversity to the Council of Bishops and this jurisdiction contains significant racial diversity that requires leadership and voice

in the denomination. After decades of diversity and Bishop Mathews' retirement and the death of Bishop Martin D. McLee, the active NEJ College 2016 will include no African Americans. Reduction within the jurisdiction would mean we would anticipate one election in 2016. At the same time, the strongest and most vital conferences are the most diverse. These more urban regions will experience a loss of diverse voice in leadership and will desire more diversity than will be possible especially if we experience a reduction.

The population density and variety in the NEJ requires diverse and accessible leadership to respond to and partner with mission opportunities (including ethnicity, ability, culture, language, and so forth). For example, growing Hispanic and Korean ministries are hindered by the lack of colleagues in episcopal leadership roles. Denominational growth requires more diversity in leadership (beyond the Episcopacy also), but Bishops can greatly strengthen the voices of ethnic communities within our church.

One African 2012 General Conference delegate asked why we would reduce leadership in the United States and risk further decline in resources for the global church? This question is well received. This quadrennium the NEJ has been very grateful for the various retired bishops who helped the New York Annual Conference following the death of beloved Bishop McLee. There is no doubt that his passing and the instability created seriously impacted the New York Annual Conference. Having had four different bishops this quadrennium has limited the stability and tested the vibrancy of the New York Annual Conference. To their credit, and by the grace of God, they have emerged ready and willing to engage in meaningful ministry with a yearning to make disciples.

With the challenges and opportunities described above, the desire for stability and growth for the NEJ in 2016 has never been stronger. The impact of the current

Jurisdiction	2005-2008	2009-2012	2013-2015	Average
North-Central	86.98%	89.93%	95.42%	90.77%
North-Eastern	93.55%	94.12%	95.24%	94.30%
South-Central	94.61%	91.93%	91.20%	92.58%
South-Eastern	92.13%	88.35%	91.73%	90.73%
Western	80.31%	78.44%	89.92%	82.89%

formula has been to distract us from mission and ministry and to consume leadership time and energy in ways that do not spread the gospel or strengthen our mission to change the world. At the same time, significant experiments and deep conversations about how to best serve God and the church and to make the best use of the leadership talents and gifts available is occurring. The NEJ believes it is in the best interest of the global church, the Jurisdictional Conference, and the people of this jurisdiction to continue nine (9) Episcopal areas to this blessedly diverse region of God's church.

The NEJ is hopeful is that the calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world will continue to be the clear call. The focal points that give depth to the work to be and that is being done include:

- Significant work is forecast for planning and boundary breaking that will dictate missional engagement by the College of Bishops and Conference leaders, which is already underway, creating strategic opportunities for disciple-making.
- With a jump-start on 2016, a quadrennium of stability strengthens the missional development of the major metropolitan areas and the jurisdictions ability to adjust strategically.
- Great energy and legislative proposals for a comprehensive overview of assignments and leadership decisions are coming before this General Conference.
- New Churches are emerging in new places for new people as energy and resources have been dedicated to new church starts.

This is a time of faith in ongoing works that raises the sense of expectation for future growth and vitality in

the Northeast. Now is not the time cut off the efforts and dynamic potential for outcome that is and has been in the works. A jurisdiction with a heart of growth and implementation rather than reactive response to the fear of decline will serve to shift the paradigm and claim victory for God's people in the NEJ. With the help of God and exciting leadership coming from an infusion of creativity and steadfast focus on projects that are in the works, the harvest should be plentiful and the hands to gather that harvest are prayed to be many. If there is a need for a reduction in 2020, then the NEJ will be in a position to be well prepared for such a change and not be limited to the timing that puts in place a reduction from one quadrennium to three (3) months after General Conference.

There is ample reason for the NEJ to be allowed to retain its ninth Bishop. What is presented here serves as just a glimpse into the reasons for doing so. Pursuant to the *Book of Discipline*, Paragraph 404 and notification by GCFA of membership statistics triggering a formula based recommendation to General Conference 2016 for eight (8) Episcopal Areas in the Northeastern Jurisdiction as of September 1, 2016, the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy submits this request, with the recommendation from the IJCOE, to the General Conference seeking support for a missional exception allowing for the continuation of nine (9) Episcopal Areas based on the mission realities and opportunities.

This report is the collective work of Bonnie Marden, Rev. Ellis Conley, Demetrio Beach and Frederick K. Brewington. The content of the original version of this report was approved by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy on February 5, 2015.

Vital Conversations Report From The General Commission on Religion and Race

Editor's Note: This report was intended for the Monday, May 16, 2016 issue of the Daily Christian Advocate (Vol. 4, No. 6). It was inadvertently omitted due to a technical error. The report for Tuesday, May 17 is found on page 2288.

From every nation under heaven . . . each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. . . . In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

Acts 2:5-6, 11 (NRSV)

What might a new Pentecost stirring look like at General Conference 2016 here in Portland? The church as the body of Christ is God's spiritual/relational creation. The Church as denomination and connectional institution is our continuing effort to shape and order our shared life to most effectively live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

How might our relationships and trust be deepened if every delegate continually listened to other voices using the headsets, rather than deferring that practice primarily to non-English speaking delegates?

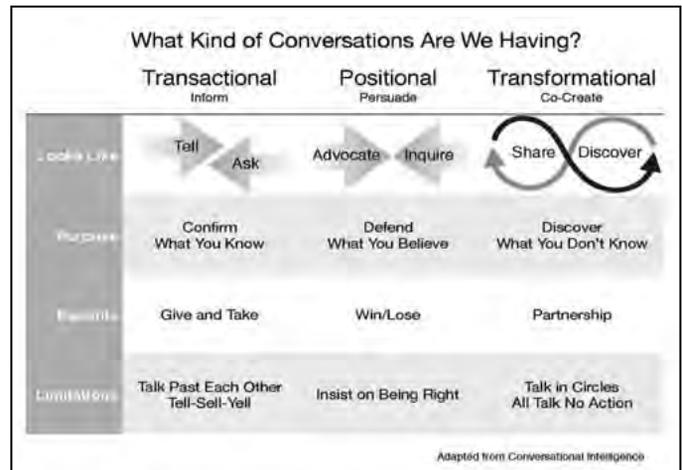
In what ways might this enable us to enter into the vital conversations needed to shape our future?

To enter into authentic relationship challenges each of us to set aside preconceived assumptions and any effort to appropriate that which belongs to the other.

The ministry of the General Commission on Religion and Race has three priorities: supporting and leading vital conversations, developing interculturally competent leadership and ministries, and promoting institutional equity. We define vital conversations as ones that develop authentic relationships and where lives, churches, and communities are transformed.

We encourage honest, respectful, and holy conversations at General Conference on how the Church can better challenge racial/ethnic/tribal and cultural bias and institutional injustice. We must talk about what divides us as well as how people of Christian faith can build bridges based on the uniting love of Jesus and a commitment to institutional equity in a worldwide Church.

Many vital conversations are beginning to take place in legislative committees, in hallways, and over meals. Several delegates reported that in legislative committees, when self-monitoring occurred, there were points of awareness when votes were taken about whether or not translation was being given sufficient time for all to be a meaningful part of the conversation. In at least two instances delegates used the self-monitoring question as an opportunity to have vital conversations about how to respect our cultural diversity. One social media posting from a delegate indicated that their sub-committee, which had delegates from multiple countries, engaged a three-hour conversation about their "different local contexts, beliefs, Scriptural interpretations, and life experiences" as it related to the legislation they were considering. Delegates entered into new and deeper places of friendship and understanding through engaging vital conversations.



A Pentecost stirring is beginning to take place here in Portland, at this General Conference. How large it grows can be impacted by how willing each of us is to continue in our self-monitoring and our intentional efforts in learning from each other. Pentecost is about vital conversations, in multiple languages and voices that lead to transformation.

Vital Conversations Report From The General Commission on Religion and Race

May 17, 2016

As we move more directly and deeply into the coming days of plenary sessions, the General Commission on Religion and Race (G CORR) encourages delegates, reserves, visitors, and advocates to remember that our witness to the world is impacted by how we engage one another during this time. We are challenged to do the hard work of entering into authentic relationship with one another, setting aside preconceived assumptions and bias.

In the Advance DCA, Volume 1 Handbook for Delegates, page 26, G CORR offered a visual picture of the Four Layers of Diversity in the UMC. Each of those layers is active and reflected in the delegates at this General Conference more than ever before. The four layers are: personality, internal dimensions (including race, gender, age, ethnicity), external dimensions (including income, geographic location, education, and work experience), and organizational dimensions (including status or position, clergy/laity, and so forth.). Often, we focus on personal and organizational differences in the heat of discussion, missing the substantial impact internal and external identifiers have in influencing what priorities each delegate has based on their own experience, reality and culture.

Today, we offer reflections from delegates speaking about the complexity and layers of diversity in a worldwide church. We share from two voices, one from the North Central Jurisdiction in the U.S. and two from the Central Conferences, specifically from the Southern Africa Central Conference.

When asked, "Why does diversity matter in the UMC and what has been your experience as a delegate?" the initial response makes it clear that what priorities a person brings to the discussion may not be directly related to the specific legislation at hand.

"I am a human rights lawyer from Mozambique, from the Mozambique South conference. As a delegate I work as a member of the church. But basically I help other women to know their rights as a woman because in Mozambique I work on a lot of problems affecting the women."

- Lidia Romao Gulele, Mozambique South Conference

Factors of gender, geographic location, and work experience are important lenses of understanding and shaped one's reality. When considering the gift and challenges of diversity here at General Conference 2016, Lidia further states,

"I can understand English but, I cannot say no translation for me. Some people when they discuss those (legislation) are English speakers, this sometimes trouble me. I need to understand very well because as you know I'm the only one here that belongs to this commission. So I have to understand very well. As you see I can give answer and response but I want to understand everything, because this will come down to my annual conference. We come here with the responsibility to have all information and then I have to transmit what I learned here."

Contextual priorities based on multiple factors of internal and external understandings and realities of each delegate's life impact not only how one votes but how delegates relate to one another. A willingness to listen to the words being spoken and awareness of what is also not being said is essential to growing in our intercultural communication as a conference and a church.

A voice from a U.S. delegate gives witness to this level of listening that can bring transformation to our decision-making processes:

"Diversity matters in the UMC because it enriches us as a church. Diversity matters because we, in the spirit of John Wesley, we are altogether Christians. Diversity is in our DNA. I believe that as we embrace diversity we embrace God. It matters because without it our understanding of God would be diminished."

In my subcommittee, I had a deeply enriching conversation about human sexuality and I learned a lot from a broad spectrum of contexts and interpretations of scripture and doctrine. As a result of that holy conversation, I have grown in my understanding of others and myself. It was a gift to me to be a part of this experience."

- Melanie Carey- Detroit Central Conference, North Central Jurisdiction

These are signs of hope. The vision of Pentecost is not yet realized and there is more to do. May we enter the next few days with honesty and humility, seek to develop authentic relationships, and lead the church and transform the world.

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women Monitoring Report

We ended our first week of primarily legislative committee time with a few more wonderful—and some not-so-wonderful—examples of inclusiveness. First, we want to recognize the stars:

Bethany Amey of Greater New Jersey, mistakenly named in an earlier report, now correctly deserves recognition. Bethany, while chairing the Church and Society I legislative committee, never called on people by name, even when she knew them. In that way, a chair doesn't imply connection to specific people or any particular positions. Bethany seemed to do that intentionally, which was much appreciated. Some of the other chairs called on some people by name and not others, a few calling on men by name, but women more vaguely, such as “the woman at the back table.” If all names are known, they can be used fairly, but it is often impossible to know everyone's name. In those cases, it is a “best practice” for chairs to equalize the session by using no names at all, which is what Bethany did – a subtle but notable equalizer.

We would also like to recognize **Isaac Chukpue-Padmore** of Liberia. He was one of the sub-committee chairs in the Local Church legislative committee. Many in that room appreciated his use of inclusive “humankind” language when praying. It stood out because it was so rare. We also want to note his regular and active invitations to make sure that everyone had a chance to speak.

There were two legislative committees that also warrant recognition. The **Faith and Order** legislative committee ran business in ways that delegates and monitors described as civil and kind, despite the deep disagreements about petitions assigned to them. They even finished their work on time, graciously thanking each other, chair and delegates alike, for being inclusive. A Central Conference delegate in the **Independent Commissions** legislative committee made a powerful comment as well. He said that because a few petitions came late to the group, referred from other committees, he and some other non-English speaking delegates had not had a chance to study them as carefully as they would have liked. Still, because they had developed a sense of trust in the legislative committee, he was willing to trust his sisters and brothers and their explanations of the issues. That sense of trust started on the very first day, in the Christian Conferencing session, and carried through their work right to the end.

There have been some problems as well: gendered language, speaking for others, and insensitivity. All of these impact our ability to work with full inclusiveness.

In regard to **gendered language**, some have referred to women delegates as “girls.” In another case, when a woman identified her work as farming some thousands of acres, the chair later referred to her as a “farmer's wife.” In the first case, adult women are reduced to the status of a child, and in the second, a woman is seen only as a partner (which she may or may not be), and not as a professional in her own right. Rarely do such speakers MEAN to demean, and women have frankly gotten quite used to these references, so rarely are they met with objections. As the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, it is our job to speak up and try to make us all aware of what these seemingly kind, but also subtly negative messages convey. We also ask for more attention to gendered God language. There's nothing wrong with using “Father” for God, but if that's all we hear, it is simply not inclusive of God's richness, as described in the Bible. Many here yearn for more diversity in the ways we talk about not only humans, but God.

Regarding **speaking for others**, monitors have observed delegates reading from scripts that seem not to be their own, and at least once not on the topic being discussed. It was the bad timing that made it stand out. They have also observed American delegates getting up after non-English speaking delegates have made a speech, to rephrase or summarize what has already been said. There have also been a number of older male delegates interrupting and/or speaking over younger female delegates. Unlike the stars named above, we don't want to name anyone here, but hope this gentle reminder will be received by everyone, as we ALL try not to speak for anyone but ourselves.

There have been quite a few **insensitive** comments, probably more than we can count. The worst example was after a heated debate about Native American mascots. A bit later, having moved on to another topic entirely, one delegate got up and introduced himself as from Atlanta and as an unashamed fan of the Braves. Ouch! Why did that seem like a good idea? While everyone is entitled to his/her position on the issues discussed here at General Conference, we must all be gentle with each other, careful to communicate our opinions and ideas as messages, not using them as weapons to do harm. Another example has happened more than once – delegates

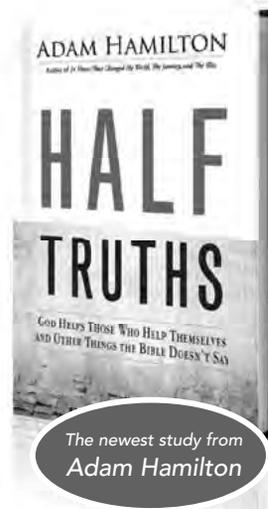
apologizing for hurting someone else, but not saying “I’m sorry I hurt you by saying” this or that, but rather, saying “I’m sorry YOU were hurt by what I said.” Again, to make sure everyone feels welcome and a full member of the body, we need to beware of language that shuts others down. Apologies are ALWAYS welcome, but not for someone else’s feelings. We can only apologize for our own words and actions.

Finally, when one of the monitors gave the report in one of the committees, noting that some of the women delegates had reported feeling bullied by others, one male delegate leaned over to a woman near him, snickering, and said, “That wasn’t me, was it?” Indeed, sir, it MAY have been you. And bullying is NOT funny. In general, we would request that everyone put their own egos aside and seek better to understand the position, the ideas, and the feelings of others. Saying you were “just kidding” doesn’t help, and it cannot fall to the targets of the jokes to continually explain what is and isn’t funny.

So: women are women, not girls, just as men are men, not boys. Women who farm are farmers, not wives of farmers. Women can speak for themselves. And please don’t interrupt or make jokes when some feel bullied. We often laugh to be polite and so YOU don’t feel bad, but it’s really not funny.

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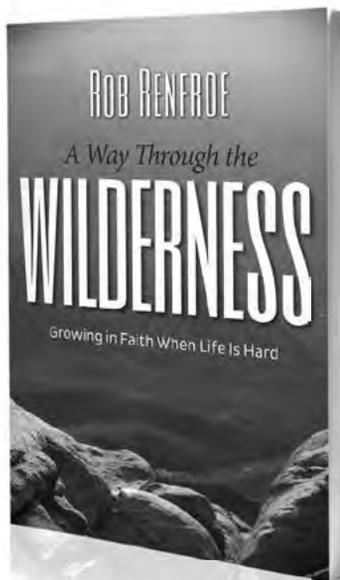
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Motion and Substitute Motion about an Alternative Legislative Process for the 2020 General Conference

The following motion was made by Judi Kenaston, West Virginia Annual Conference and Chair of the Commission on the General Conference, in the plenary session on May 16, 2016. The motion reads as follows:

I move that the General Conference request that the Commission on the General Conference develop an alternative legislative proposal to bring to the General Conference 2020 and, if possible, that a synopsis of this proposal be available prior to the 2018 annual conferences so that Annual Conferences may become familiar with the process and provide feedback. Further that the Commission be empowered to make all the preparations to implement such a plan in 2020.

The following motion was made by Mary Huycke, Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, on May 16, 2016. It was made as a substitute motion for the motion Judi Kenaston made. The motion reads as follows:

We direct the commission of the General Conference to identify by 2018 an alternative discussion based process for handling legislation that is effective in a variety of cultural contexts; test that process in a minimum of 6 conferences, 3 of which are outside the United States; and bring the results and a proposal to the 2020 General Conference to approve for usage.

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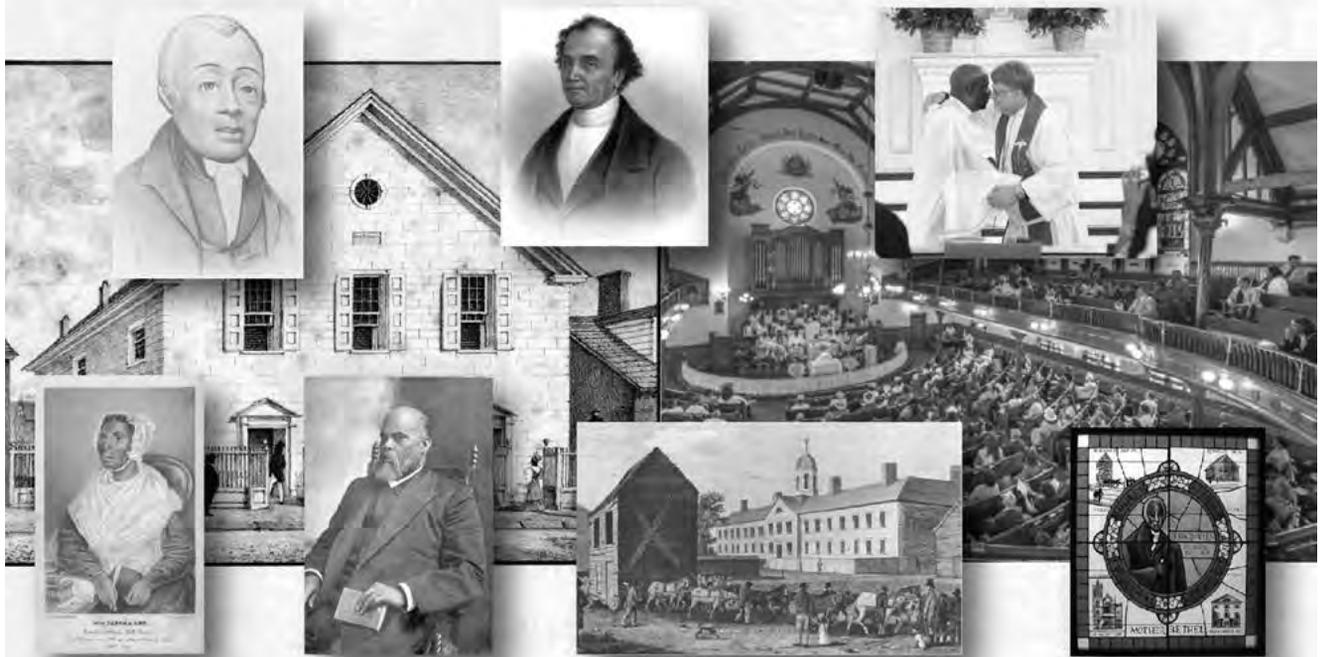


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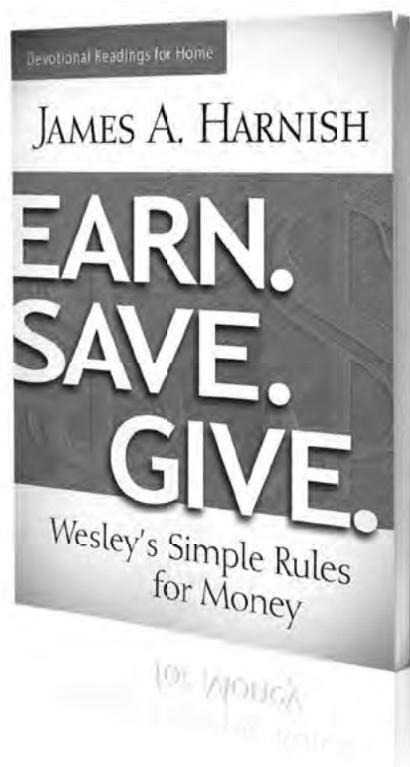
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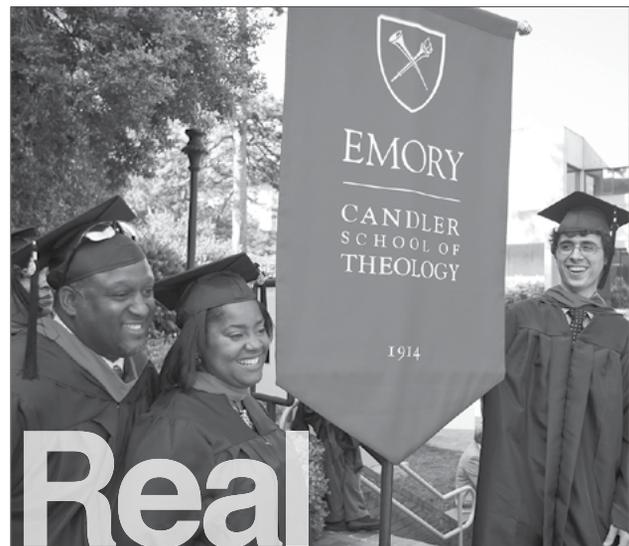


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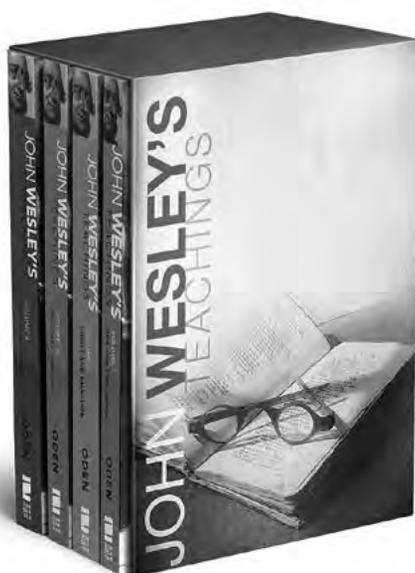
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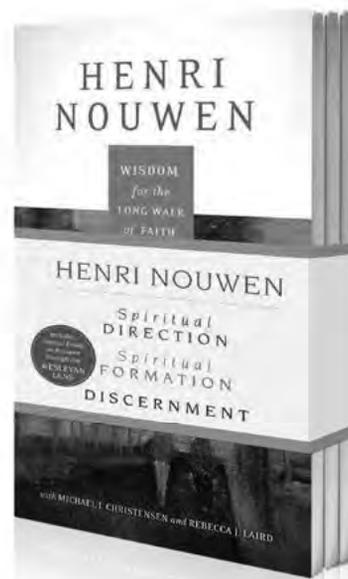
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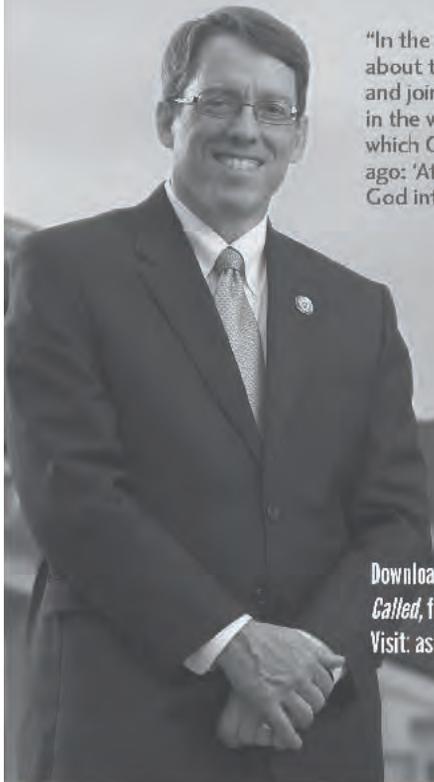
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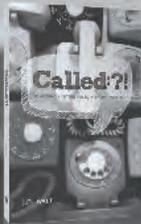
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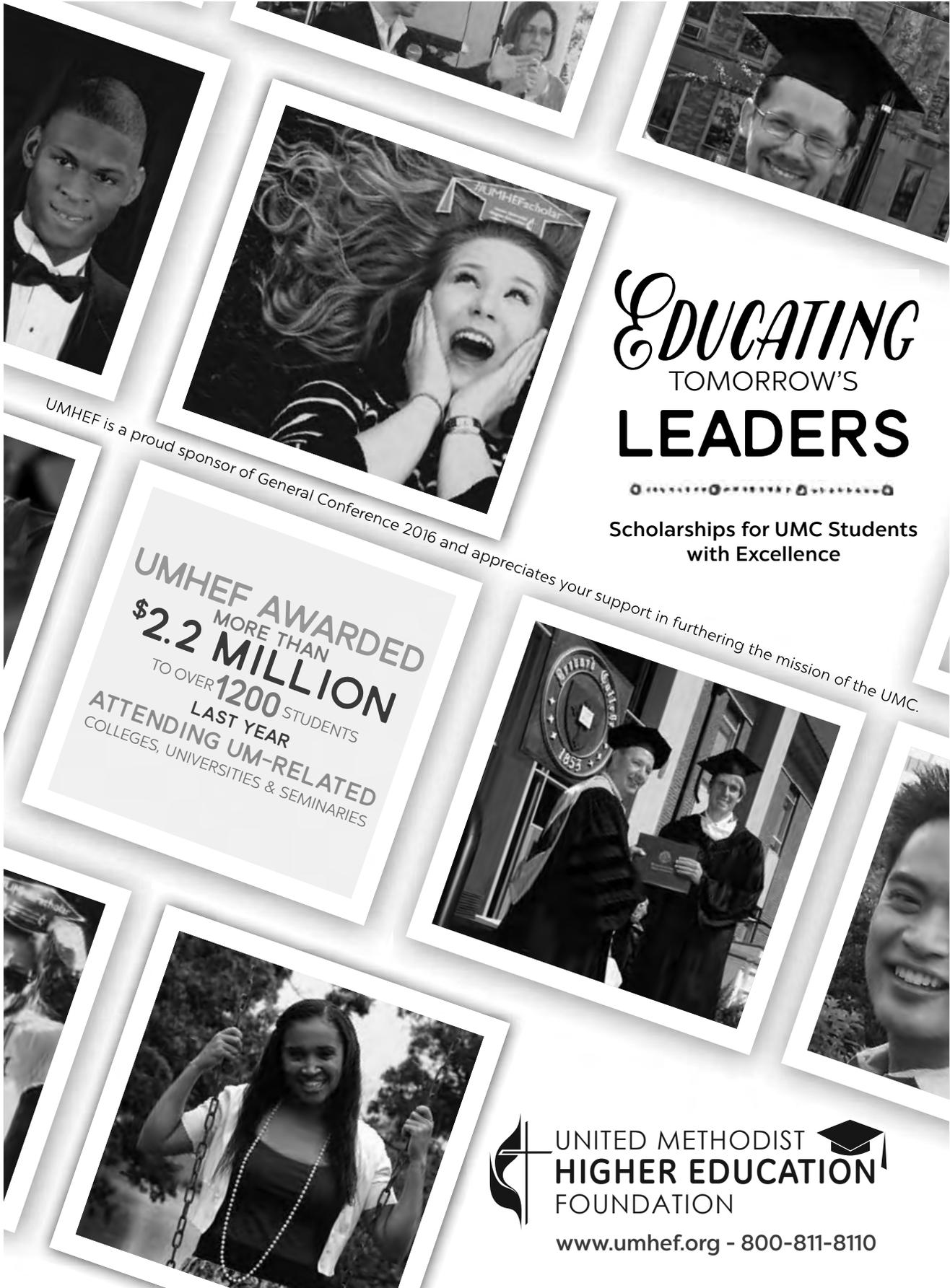
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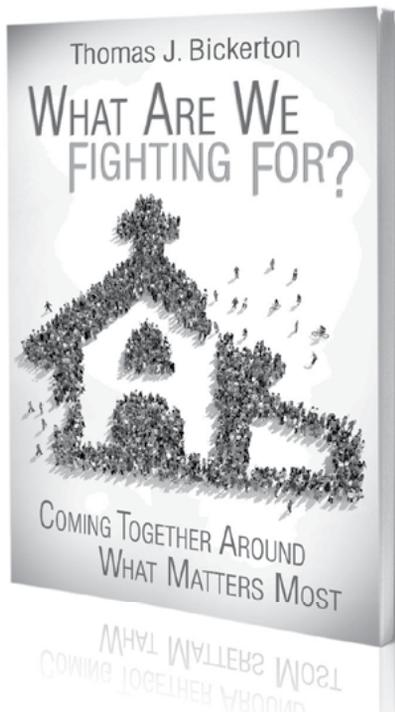
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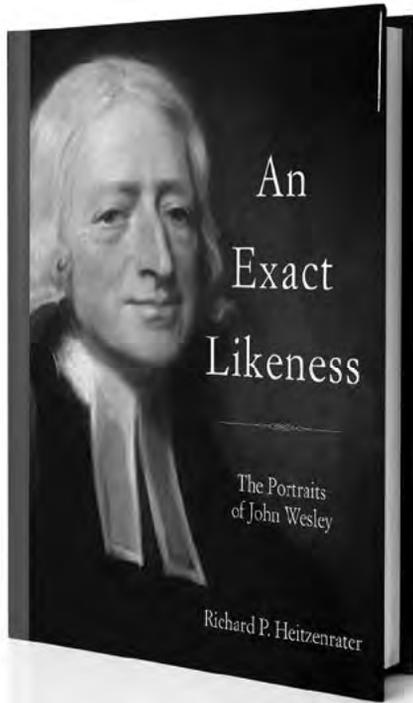


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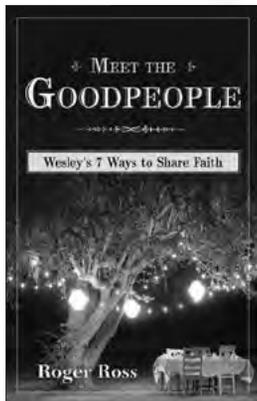


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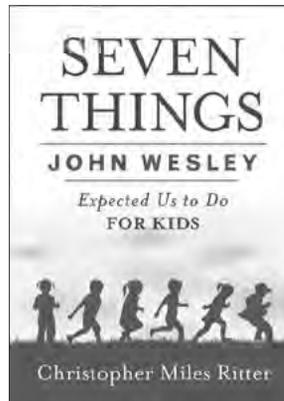
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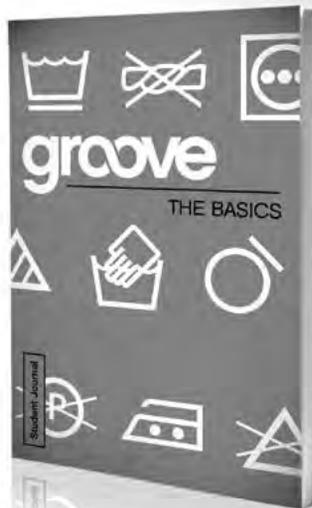
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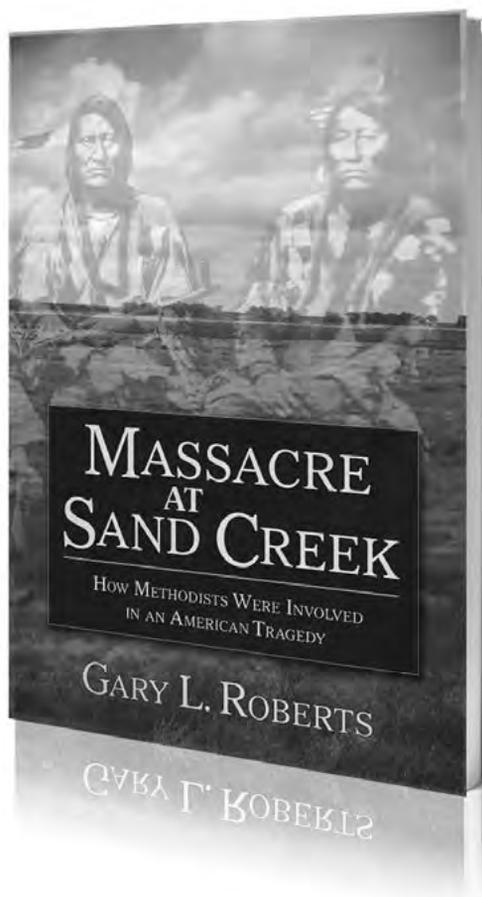
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There are three different consent calendars:

- **Consent Calendar A** contains calendar items involving *disciplinary* changes for which the legislative committee recommendation is to *adopt*
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- **Consent Calendar C** contains *any calendar item* for which the committee recommendation is to *refer*.

Calendar items with a minority report *cannot* be placed on any consent calendar. Items with financial implications or items dealing with the Constitution cannot be placed on Consent Calendars A or B, but they *can* be placed on Consent Calendar C because there would be no financial or constitutional implications.

Rule 33(7) Removing a Calendar Item from the Consent Calendar

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Consent Calendar A05

138-CB45-¶161.K-A-G

Subject: Ministry With Those Who Have Experienced Abortion

Petition: 60681-CB-¶161.K-A-G
Membership: 84; Present: 68;
For: 59; Against: 6; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 5/14

Change the title: "Ministry with" instead of "Ministry to . . ."

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

175-GM26-¶1313.1f-A

Subject: Administration of UMDF

Petition: 60588-GM-¶1313.1f
Membership: 80; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:
delete paragraph 1313.1f

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

473-CA10-¶164.A-A-G

Subject: Basic Freedoms and Human Rights

Petition: 60395-CA-¶164.A-A-G
Membership: 83; Present: 63;
For: 59; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

474-DI25-¶650.2-A-G

Subject: Conference Young Adult Ministry Council Membership

Petition: 60074-DI-¶650.2-G
Membership: 96; Present: 80;
For: 71; Against: 8; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 5/14

1. delete "selected by the district council on ministries." On the third line.

2. Delete "racial and ethnic persons with goal of achieving at least fifty-fifty ethnic and majority membership" on the 5th and 6th line and add "an equal number of persons with respect to race, ethnicity, gender and social status"

Delete Amend ¶ 650.2 as follows:

2. Membership—The membership of the council shall be young adults (as defined by annual conference or episcopal area). It is recommended there be one young adult elected by each district of the conference selected

by the district council on ministries. There may also be members at large nominated by the conference nominating committee. It is strongly recommended that the membership of the council include racial and ethnic persons with the goal of achieving at least fifty-fifty ethnic and majority membership;

an equal number of persons with respect to race, ethnicity, gender and social status as defined by annual conference or episcopal area, as well as persons of both genders to ensure inclusiveness. Those serving...

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

475-DI30-¶672.2b-A-G

Subject: District Council on Youth Ministry Membership

Petition: 60075-DI-¶672.2b-G
Membership: 96; Present: 78;
For: 66; Against: 4; Not Voting: 8;
Date: 5/14

Delete ¶ 672.2.b and replace as follows:

b) an equal number of persons with respect to race, ethnicity, gender and social status as defined by the annual conference or episcopal area.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

476-FO21-¶101-A-G**Subject: General Book of Discipline**

Petition: 60276-FO-¶101-G

Membership: 73; Present: 67;

For: 62; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;

Date: 5/14

Amend as follows:

In Roman numeral V. Retain "Preface, Pre-

amble, and"

Add afterPart VII of the General Book of Discipline... "For the work on Part VI, Chapter 2 (The Ministry of the Ordained) and Chapter 3 (The Superintendency) of the 2016 Book of Discipline, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will work in consultation with the Commission for the

Study of Ministry, and for Part VI, Chapter 5 (Administrative Order) of the 2016 Book of Discipline, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will work in consultation with the Connectional Table."

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Consent Calendar B05**298**-CB27-R3371-A-G**Subject: A Charter for Racial Justice Policies in an Interdependent Global Community**

Petition: 60253-CB-R3371-G

Membership: 84; Present: 69;

For: 60; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:

1. revise title: A ~~U.S.~~ Charter for Racial Justice Policies in an Interdependent Global Community

2. revise wording in paragraph beginning "In principle..."

Adding to this reality, the success of some prominent people of color has contributed to the erroneous but widespread belief that America is in many ways a "post-racial" society where race is seldom a factor in the opportunities and outcomes in people's lives.

3. revise wording in paragraph beginning ""The damage..."

Consistently, African Americans, Hispanics, Latino, Asians, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders have been humiliated by being given jobs, housing, education, medical services, transportation services, and public accommodations that are all inferior.

4. reword point #8 at the end of petition:

Facilitate nomination and election processes that include all racial groups by employing a system that prioritizes leadership opportunities of people from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the ongoing legacy of racial injustice. Use measures to align our vision for racial justice with actions that accelerate racial equality.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

305-CB40-R3182-A-G**Subject: Human Cloning**

Petition: 60401-CB-R3182-G

Membership: 84; Present: 72;

For: 66; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:

amend subparagraph 2, sentence 1 by adding to the original petition:

new subparagraph should read:

"We call for a ban on therapeutic, medical, research, and commercial procedures which generate unused embryos for the purpose of cloning including the making of embryos for experiments or stem cells.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

354-GM57-R9999-A-G**Subject: Condemnation Of Terrorist Acts Of ISIL**

Petition: 60910-GM-R9999-G

Membership: 80; Present: 55;

For: 50; Against: 3; Not Voting: 2;

Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:

Change the Title to "Condemnation of Terrorist Acts of ISIL"

Strike the last two paragraphs beginning with "Be it further resolved..."

In addition, amend the text as follows:

The United Methodist Church condemns terrorist acts of the Islamic state in Iraq and the Levant, commonly referred to as ISIL, also known as Daesh or ISIS, that violate The United Methodist Church's principles found in the Book of Resolutions

against minorities based on religious or political differences. The violent acts of ISIS

ISIL are evil and The United Methodist Church calls for all nations to oppose, dismantle, and disarm ISIS

ISIL. The United Methodist Church does not condone any attempt to declare or recognize ISIS

ISIL as a State, with diplomatic relations, and supports the continued effort to bring relief to the captive people of that region to restore a viable and sustainable society.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

477-CB53-R9999-A-G**Subject: Global Health and Rights: Eradicating Sexual and Gender-based Violence**

Petition: 60451-CB-R9999-G

Membership: 84; Present: 71;

For: 54; Against: 8; Not Voting: 9;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

478-DI6-R2102-A-G**Subject: Readopt Resolution**

Petition: 60081-DI-R2102-G

Membership: 95; Present: 79;

For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 5;

Date: 5/13

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

479-DI31-NonDis-A-G**Subject: Services for the Ordering of Ministry**

Petition: 60108-DI-NonDis-G

Membership: 96; Present: 78;

For: 65; Against: 10; Not Voting: 3;

Date: 5/14

The General Board of Discipleship petitions the General Conference to adopt the "Services for the Ordering of Ministry in The United Methodist Church, 2017-2020" as the ordinal of The United Methodist Church, effective January 1, 2017. [Text of ordinal is available in Volume 2, Section 1 of the Advance Daily Christian Advocate.]

Add the following:

Page 537- line 2317

Omit "the big bang" and add "creation"

Afetr line 1388 on page 519, 2290 on page 537 2872 on page 549 add:

Leader: Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done you will.

We have broken your law,
We have rebelled against your love,
We have not heard the cry of the needy
Forgive us, we pray,
Free us for joyful obedience
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Leader: Hear the Good news
Christ died for us while we were yet sin-
ners, that prove God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, You are for-
given!
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, You are
forgiven!

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

480-DI35-R9999-A-G
Subject: Native People and The UMC
Petition: 60849-DI-R9999-G
Membership: 96; Present: 80;
For: 75; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 5/14

Amend the following:

Bottom of page 5, line beginning in 2007....correct book name to: "United Nations declarations on the rights of Indigenous Peoples"

Page 18 under section D: addition to the line that begins Thomas White Wolf Fassett. Following Fassett ADD

(a resource sponsored by United Methodist Women),

Page 19, 2nd paragraph begins The Annual Conference ADD

"In the United States" following the phrase Boards of Ordained Ministry

Page 21 under economic development section, very last line add sentence

United Methodist Women will continue to make available "Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" by Thomas White Wolf Fassett.

Page 22 second paragraph following General Board of Church and Society add

By insertion, General Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women

Page 22 under Education section

1st line following

The General Conference endorses and supports.... DELETE "the funding"

Page 23 very last sentences

Replace the word "invest" with "pursue investments of funds...."

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

481-DI42-R3084-A-G
Subject: Reducing the Risk of Abuse of children and other vulnerable persons in the church

Petition: 60086-DI-R3084-G
Membership: 96; Present: 81;
For: 76; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 5/14

Amend Resolution 3084 as follows:

1. Second line on the 2nd paragraph delete the word ~~online~~ and add the word including online after the word exploitation.

2. Delete the word ~~racial~~ on the 4th line and add racial ethnic

3. A. Local churches Item #2

Remove strike through on this sentence (use of application forms, interviews, reference checks, background clearance, and so forth) and delete the words that include interviews and background checks.

4. A. Local churches Item #3

Remove strike through on the following: ~~such as having two or more nonrelated adults present in classroom or activity; leaving doors open and installing half-doors or windows in doors or halls; providing half monitors; instituting sign-in and sign-out procedures for children ages ten or younger; and so forth;~~

and change the word guidelines with the policies on the last line

Tragically, churches ~~are~~ have not always been safe places for children. Child sexual abuse, online

exploitation including online, and ritual abuse occur in congregations of all sizes and geographical locations, churches, both large and small, urban and rural. The problem cuts across all economic, cultural, and ~~racial~~ racial ethnic lines. ~~It is real, and it appears to be increasing.~~ Most annual conferences can cite specific incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation within churches. Virtually every congregation has among its members adult survivors of early sexual trauma.

A. Local churches should:

1. develop and implement an ongoing education plan for the entire congregation and its leaders on the reality of child abuse, risk factors leading to child abuse, and strategies for prevention;

2. adopt comprehensive screening procedures (use of application forms, interviews, reference checks, background clearance, and so forth) that include interviews and background checks for ~~workers (paid and unpaid)~~ all adults directly or indirectly involved in the care of children and youth;

3. develop and implement safety procedures for church activities such as having

two or more nonrelated adults present in classroom or activity; leaving doors open and installing half-doors or windows in doors or halls; providing hall monitors; instituting sign-in and sign-out procedures for children ages ten or younger; and so forth; that meet or exceed Safe Sanctuaries@ ~~guidelines~~ Policies.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

482-FO22-R9999-A-G
Subject: Study of Ecclesiology Document - Wonder, Love, and Praise
Petition: 60033-FO-R9999-G
Membership: 73; Present: 67;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended by substituting with the following:

The Committee on Faith and Order proposes a period of study to stimulate and aid theological reflection throughout the church on the identity and mission of The United Methodist Church.

The Study and response process in the coming quadrennium will involve these elements:

1. A teaching document on ecclesiology will be made available electronically through www.umc.org, www.gbhem.org, and www.gbod.org along with a brief study and response guide to facilitate study of the document. These documents will be translated into the language of the General Conference.

2. Each resident bishop will be asked to arrange for congregationally-based studies of United Methodist ecclesiology between June 2016 and December 2017 involving approximately ten percent of both the laity and clergy of her or his episcopal area. Resources for the study will be provided by the Committee on Faith and Order.

3. Responses will be solicited from specific groups who may have particular expertise in ecclesiology, including: faculty from United Methodist seminaries and schools of theology, general agency staff, pan-Methodist theologians and officials; and other selected ecumenical partners.

4. All United Methodists will be invited and encouraged to offer feedback on United Methodist ecclesiology.

5. The Committee on Faith and Order will design processes to solicit and receive these responses.

6. The Committee on Faith and Order will be responsible for evaluating the study process, considering the responses received, and will offer appropriate action to the 2020 Gen-

eral Conference. The Committee on Faith and Order will send to the 2020 General Conference a theological teaching document on ecclesiology for adoption as an official document of the church, comparable to *By Water and the Spirit* and *This Holy Mystery*.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

483-GM43-R3107-A

Subject: Deletion

Petition: 60322-GM-R3107

Membership: 80; Present: 62;

For: 55; Against: 3; Not Voting: 4;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

484-GM44-R4131-A

Subject: Deletion

Petition: 60323-GM-R4131

Membership: 80; Present: 62;

For: 59; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

485-GM45-R5034-A

Subject: Deletion

Petition: 60325-GM-R5034

Membership: 80; Present: 80;

For: 57; Against: 2; Not Voting: 21;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

486-GM46-R6011-A

Subject: Deletion

Petition: 60326-GM-R6011

Membership: 80; Present: 59;

For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Calendar Items R05

218-MH86-¶408.1b-A-G

Subject: Mandatory Retirement of CC Bishops

Petition: 60974-MH-¶408.1b-G

Membership: 97; Present: 74;

For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

487-CA112-R5061-O-G

Subject: Readopt Resolution

Petition: 60540-CA-R5061-G

Membership: 83; Present: 83;

For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 83;

Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

port to help them stay in their homes and be successful." before the last sentence and after the sentence beginning "We commit."

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

489-CB5-¶161.B-N-G

Subject: A Third Way - Marriage

Petition: 60784-CB-¶161.B-G

Membership: 83; Present: 72;

For: 41; Against: 30; Not Voting: 1;

Date: 5/13

Committee Moves to Not Support

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

490-CB6-¶161.F-N-G

Subject: Human Sexuality

Petition: 60824-CB-¶161.F-G

Membership: 84; Present: 65;

For: 33; Against: 32; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

491-CB46-NonDis-A-G

Subject: Withdraw from Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Petition: 60837-CB-NonDis-G

Membership: 84; Present: 71;

For: 44; Against: 25; Not Voting: 2;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

492-CB47-R3204-A-G

Subject: Deletion

Petition: 60838-CB-R3204-G

Membership: 84; Present: 71;

For: 47; Against: 20; Not Voting: 4;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

493-CB48-¶162.J-A-G

Subject: Equal Rights

Petition: 60777-CB-¶162.J-G

Membership: 84; Present: 71;

For: 47; Against: 21; Not Voting: 3;

Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Minority Report

Laurvick, Bradley David — 10579

Sherfey, Shannon Marie Haszard — 11006

Maka, Mele — 10026

Chattin, Terri Rae — 10400

Easterling, LaTrelle Elaine — 11195

Stickley-Miner, Deanna E — 10343
 Armstrong, Jacob Clark — 11384
 Lyall, Alka — 10006
 Nibbelink, James Charles — 10897
 Wright, Karen Kallstrom — 11102

J) Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Sexual Identity—Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons; no one should be denied them due to sexual orientation or sexual identity. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. We see a clear issue of simple justice in protecting the rightful claims where people have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, and other such lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation are committed to opposing and speaking out against any form of violence, coercion, ridicule, stigmatization or marginalization directed toward individuals on the basis of their past or present sexual identity or sexual orientation.

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /

494-CB49-R2041-A-G

Subject: Church to Be in Ministry to Persons of All Sexual Orientations

Petition: 60891-CB-R2041-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 71;
 For: 56; Against: 13; Not Voting: 2;
 Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /

495-CB51-¶162.J-A-G

Subject: Criminalization of Homosexuality

Petition: 60886-CB-¶162.J-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 71;
 For: 36; Against: 33; Not Voting: 2;
 Date: 5/14

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /

496-CB52-R9999-N-G

Subject: Rights of All Persons

Petition: 60898-CB-R9999-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 71;
 For: 37; Against: 32; Not Voting: 2;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

497-CB58-R2025-N-G

Subject: Responsible Parenthood

Petition: 60249-CB-R2025-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 71;
 For: 38; Against: 31; Not Voting: 2;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

498-CB60-R2021-A-G

Subject: Adoption in a Global Context

Petition: 60398-CB-R2021-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 71;
 For: 46; Against: 24; Not Voting: 1;
 Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:

Following, "in their care", add:

Support regulations and policies that enable all qualified persons, regardless of sexual orientation or marital status, to become adoptive parents.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /

499-CB62-R9999-O-G

Subject: Non-Discrimination in Disability Compensation

Petition: 60019-CB-R9999-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 84;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 84;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

500-CB72-R3083-O-G

Subject: Eradicating Abusive Child Labor

Petition: 60399-CB-R3083-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 84;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 84;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

501-CB77-R9999-O-G

Subject: Suicide: A Pastoral Response

Petition: 60454-CB-R9999-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 84;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 84;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

502-CB101-¶161.J-O-G

Subject: Abortion

Petition: 60746-CB-¶161.J-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 84;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 84;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

503-CB130-¶161.F-O-G

Subject: Human Sexuality

Petition: 60835-CB-¶161.F-G
 Membership: 84; Present: 84;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 84;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

504-CO32-¶15-N-G

Subject: Representation to General Conference by Episcopal Area

Petition: 60196-CO-¶15-C-G
 Membership: 82; Present: 76;
 For: 39; Against: 22; Not Voting: 15;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

[] Adopted [] Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

505-CO51-¶502.1-N-G
Subject: Young People's Representation

Petition: 60172-CO-¶502.1-G
 Membership: 82; Present: 76;
 For: 37; Against: 31; Not Voting: 8;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

506-CO65-¶511.5e-N-G

Subject: Formula Adjustment

Petition: 60067-CO-¶511.5e-G
 Membership: 82; Present: 65;
 For: 42; Against: 23; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

507-CO66-¶652-N-G

Subject: Joint Committee Membership

Petition: 60182-CO-¶652-G
 Membership: 82; Present: 65;
 For: 54; Against: 9; Not Voting: 2;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

508-CO103-¶500-O-!

Subject: Progressive Jurisdictional Solution – Forming the New Jurisdiction

Petition: 61026-CO-¶500-!
 Membership: 82; Present: 82;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 82;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

509-DI23-R2121-A-G

Subject: Teen Sexual Identity and Suicide Risk

Petition: 60896-DI-R2121-G
 Membership: 96; Present: 81;
 For: 68; Against: 12; Not Voting: 1;
 Date: 5/13

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

510-DI51-R9999-A-G

Subject: Names Demeaning to Native Americans

Petition: 60851-DI-R9999-G
 Membership: 96; Present: 82;
 For: 67; Against: 12; Not Voting: 3;
 Date: 5/14

Delete the last paragraph and substitute it with:

Therefore, be it resolved through this action of the General conference, The United Methodist Church calls upon all general agencies and related organizations to be intentional about raising awareness of the harm caused by some sports teams through the use of mascots and/or symbols promoting expressions of racism and disrespect of Native American people.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

511-FA63-R9999-N-G

Subject: Educational Campaign about Hewlett Packard

Petition: 60867-FA-R9999-G
 Membership: 70; Present: 58;
 For: 38; Against: 17; Not Voting: 3;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

512-FO18-¶304.3-N-G

Subject: A Third Way - Qualifications for Ordination

Petition: 60781-FO-¶304.3-G
 Membership: 73; Present: 67;
 For: 34; Against: 30; Not Voting: 3;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

513-GA42-¶705-N-\$-G

Subject: Representation on General Church Bodies

Petition: 60929-GA-¶705-\$-G
 Membership: 80; Present: 66;
 For: 51; Against: 15; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Moves to Not Support

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

514-GA52-¶404-O-G

Subject: Standing Committee Report

Petition: 60556-GA-¶404-G
 Membership: 80; Present: 80;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 80;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

515-GM61-R3086-O

Subject: Children's Sabbath

Petition: 60250-GM-R3086
 Membership: 80; Present: 80;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 80;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

516-GM62-R3444-O-G

Subject: The Status of Women

Petition: 60256-GM-R3444-G
 Membership: 80; Present: 80;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 80;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

517-GM63-R3089-O-G

Subject: The Girl Child

Petition: 60264-GM-R3089-G
 Membership: 80; Present: 80;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 80;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

518-GM64-R9999-O-G

Subject: Religious Freedom: Grounded in Love

Petition: 60309-GM-R9999-G
 Membership: 80; Present: 80;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 80;
 Date: 5/14

Committee Takes No Action

Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

519-IC43-R9999-N-G
Subject: Confronting Twenty-First-Century Anti-Semitism
 Petition: 60926-IC-R9999-G
 Membership: 49; Present: 41;
 For: 32; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Moves to Not Support
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

520-IC44-R9999-N-G
Subject: Same Sex Marriage in United Methodist Churches
 Petition: 60866-IC-R9999-G
 Membership: 49; Present: 42;
 For: 26; Against: 16; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Moves to Not Support
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

521-JA43-¶2702.1-O-G
Subject: A Third Way - Chargeable Offenses
 Petition: 60763-JA-¶2702.1-G
 Membership: 60; Present: 60;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 60;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

522-JA52-¶2711.3-O-G
Subject: Mandatory Penalty
 Petition: 60810-JA-¶2711.3-G
 Membership: 60; Present: 60;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 60;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

523-LC2-¶244-N-G
Subject: PPRC for Charge
 Petition: 60056-LC-¶244-G
 Membership: 68; Present: 65;
 For: 45; Against: 17; Not Voting: 3;
 Date: 5/13
 Committee Moves to Not Support
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

524-LC13-¶258.2-N-G
Subject: PPRC Membership on Multiple-Point Charges
 Petition: 60055-LC-¶258.2-G
 Membership: 68; Present: 65;
 For: 36; Against: 24; Not Voting: 5;
 Date: 5/13
 Committee Moves to Not Support
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

525-MH43-¶341.6-N-G
Subject: Deletion
 Petition: 60787-MH-¶341.6-G
 Membership: 96; Present: 77;
 For: 39; Against: 38; Not Voting: 0;
 Date: 5/13
 Committee Moves to Not Support
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

526-MH114-¶324.6d-O-G
Subject: Advance Course of Study
 Petition: 60001-MH-¶324.6d-G
 Membership: 97; Present: 97;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 97;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

527-MH119-¶416.7-O-G
Subject: Supervisory Files
 Petition: 60060-MH-¶416.7-G
 Membership: 97; Present: 97;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 97;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

528-MH178-¶354.3-O-G
Subject: Family Leave
 Petition: 60644-MH-¶354.3-G
 Membership: 97; Present: 97;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 97;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

529-MH185-¶619.2-O-G
Subject: Remove Restriction on Conference Treasurer Attending Cabinet Meetings
 Petition: 60666-MH-¶619.2-G
 Membership: 97; Present: 97;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 97;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

530-MH197-NonDis-O-G
Subject: Study of Number of UM Seminars
 Petition: 60934-MH-NonDis-G
 Membership: 97; Present: 97;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 97;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

531-MH202-¶32-O-G
Subject: Elimination of Provisional Status for Clergy
 Petition: 60999-MH-¶32-C-G
 Membership: 97; Present: 97;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 97;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

532-MH208-¶310-O-G
Subject: A Third Way - Amend Footnote
 Petition: 61035-MH-¶310-G
 Membership: 97; Present: 97;
 For: 0; Against: 0; Not Voting: 97;
 Date: 5/14
 Committee Takes No Action
 Adopted Not Adopted Date /
Brought To Floor by Rule 34(3).

Corrections to the Calendar

138-CB45-¶161.K-A-G

Subject: Ministry With Those Who Have Experienced Abortion

Petition: 60681-CB-¶161.K-G

Membership: 84; Present: 68;

For: 59; Against: 6; Not Voting: 3;

Date: 5/14

Change the title: "Ministry with" instead of "Ministry to . . ."

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

Moved from Consent Calendar A04 to Consent Calendar A05

Correction Reason: DCA Correction

175-GM26-¶1313.1f-A

Subject: Administration of UMDF

Petition: 60588-GM-¶1313.1f

Membership: 80; Present: 67;

For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;

Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:

delete paragraph 1313.1f

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

Moved from Consent Calendar A04 to Consent Calendar A05

Correction Reason: reported incorrectly out of committee (missing subcommittee amendment to delete paragraph)

298-CB27-R3371-A-G

Subject: A Charter for Racial Justice Policies in an Interdependent Global Community

Petition: 60253-CB-R3371-G

Membership: 84; Present: 69;

For: 60; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:

1. revise title: A U.S. Charter for Racial Justice Policies in an Interdependent Global Community

2. revise wording in paragraph beginning "In principle..."

Adding to this reality, the success of some prominent people of color has contributed

to the erroneous but widespread belief that America is in many ways a "post-racial" society where race is seldom a factor in the opportunities and outcomes in people's lives.

3. revise wording in paragraph beginning ""The damage..."

Consistently, African Americans, Hispanics, Latino, Asians, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders have been humiliated by being given jobs, housing, education, medical services, transportation services, and public accommodations that are all inferior.

4. reword point #8 at the end of petition:

Facilitate nomination and election processes that include all racial groups by employing a system that prioritizes leadership opportunities of people from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the ongoing legacy of racial injustice. Use measures to align our vision for racial justice with actions that accelerate racial equality.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

Moved from Consent Calendar B04 to Consent Calendar B05

Correction Reason: Correction from Amendment that was not printed in the DCA

305-CB40-R3182-A-G

Subject: Human Cloning

Petition: 60401-CB-R3182-G

Membership: 84; Present: 72;

For: 66; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:

amend subparagraph 2, sentence 1 by adding to the original petition:

new subparagraph should read:

"We call for a ban on therapeutic, medical, research, and commercial procedures which generate unused embryos for the purpose of cloning including the making of embryos for experiments or stem cells.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

Moved from Consent Calendar B04 to Consent Calendar B05

Correction Reason: amendment left off

DCA publication

354-GM57-R9999-A-G

Subject: Condemnation Of Terrorist Acts Of ISIL

Petition: 60910-GM-R9999-G

Membership: 80; Present: 55;

For: 50; Against: 3; Not Voting: 2;

Date: 5/14

The Petition is amended as follows:

Change the Title to "Condemnation of Terrorist Acts of ISIL"

Strike the last two paragraphs beginning with "Be it further resolved..."

In addition, amend the text as follows:

The United Methodist Church condemns terrorist acts of the Islamic state in Iraq and the Levant, commonly referred to as ISIL, also known as Daesh or ISIS, that violate The United Methodist Church's principles found in the *Book of Resolutions*

against minorities based on religious or political differences. The violent acts of ISIS

ISIL are evil and The United Methodist Church calls for all nations to oppose, dismantle, and disarm ISIS

ISIL. The United Methodist Church does not condone any attempt to declare or recognize ISIS

ISIL as a State, with diplomatic relations, and supports the continued effort to bring relief to the captive people of that region to restore a viable and sustainable society.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

Moved from Consent Calendar B04 to Consent Calendar B05

Correction Reason: Corrections to DCA report

Removed from the Consent Calendar

218-MH86-¶408.1b-A-G**Subject: Mandatory Retirement of CC****Bishops**

Petition: 60974-MH-¶408.1b-G

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following people:

Tshibang, Owan Kasap
 Mukaz, Dieudonne Rufum Waranakong
 Kambandja, Simeon Kasongo Kashala

Kanzal, Lutgarde Chiteng Mutombu
 Kasong, Isidore Mwindamb
 Chikomb, Rukung
 Kafweta Malezu, Gaston
 Chikut, Andre Mwayimb A Karumb
 Nawej, Simon Rubemb
 Bwalya, Laishi
 Mulonda, Obed Bupe
 Takasongo, Jean Kasongo

Tolonge, Paul Ohekele
 Walo, Pauline Mukumadi
 Kassongo, Stanislas Kasuedi
 Ngongo, Maurice Kikomba
 Kandjo, Albert Djamba Lohata
 Mbangala, Henri Mangu
 Okudi, Benjamin Lundula
 Kapend, Daniel Mbaz Kapwapu

Non-Calendarred Items Brought To Floor Rule 34(3)

487-CA112-R5061-O-G**Subject: Readopt Resolution****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Park, Jong Woo
 Robier, Kelly Allison
 Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger Elise
 Kazadi, Betty Musau
 Ow, Kenneth
 Moore-Koikoi, Cynthia Michelle
 Taylor, Cynthia Ann
 Parker, Charles Arthur
 Moore, Charles Eric
 Chattin, Terri Rae
 Angulo Rodríguez, Félix Natalio
 Carpenter, Kelly Jo
 Goddard, Kimberly Mustard
 Holley, James Delray
 Wilson, Carol Elaine
 Cantrell, Robert Wilson
 Tate, John Robert
 Wright, Karen Kallstrom
 Hall, Rebecca Jo
 Ortiz, Héctor Felix

Brim, Jay
 Oliveto, Karen Phyllis
 Laurvick, Bradley David
 Lebrón Malavé, Dórlimar
 Campbell, William Martin
 Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger Elise
 Lippoldt, Amy E

490-CB6-¶161.F-N-G**Subject: Human Sexuality****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Wright, Karen Kallstrom
 Lyall, Alka
 Chattin, Terri Rae
 Stickley-Miner, Deanna E
 Benz, Dorothee Elisabeth
 Bindl, Helene
 Laurvick, Bradley David
 Sherfey, Shannon Marie Haszard
 Isbell, Sara Lynn
 Howell, James Comer
 Preuninger, Colleen Hallagan
 Maka, Mele
 Westad, Audun
 Nibbelink, James Charles
 Greer, Virginia Leigh
 Rogers, Patricia Alice
 Detjen, Anne Marie
 Layman Knox, Anna Elizabeth
 Gross, Gregory Dean
 Shillady, William S

Howard, George Glenn
 Wilson, Carol Elaine
 Laurvick, Bradley David
 Layman Knox, Anna Elizabeth
 Easterling, LaTrelle Elaine
 Detjen, Anne Marie
 Briggs, Margie Marie
 Flick, Christine Dagmar
 Landrock, Steffen
 Philipp, Werner Eberhard
 Dannenberg, Kai Uwe
 Knöller, Johannes
 Bindl, Helene
 Schroeckenfuchs, Stefan

489-CB5-¶161.B-N-G**Subject: A Third Way - Marriage****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Harrison, Richard Thomas
 Crouch, Timothy Charles
 Parks, Linda Moore
 Hearne, Richard Bailey
 Davis, Mary Jan
 Carpenter, Kelly Jo
 Henderson, Ronald D
 Christensen, Faye Blanch
 Bard, David Alan
 Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha J
 Clark, Doris Faye
 Bridgeforth, Cedrick D
 Carey, Melanie Lee
 Armstrong, Megan Marie

496-CB52-R9999-N-G**Subject: Rights of All Persons****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Lank, Thomas Albert
 Chattin, Terri Rae
 Stickley-Miner, Deanna E
 Guy, Beverly Ann
 Parker, Charles Arthur
 Daniels, Joseph Wayne

497-CB58-R2025-N-G**Subject: Responsible Parenthood****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Amey, Bethany Lin
 McEntire, Molly Rebeccah
 Cantor, Emma Alamin
 Ester, Clara Jean
 Catterson, Evelyn S
 Wright, Varlyna Donae
 Williams, Rosa M.
 Kwak, Jisun
 Lank, Thomas Albert
 Ehninger, Judith Kay
 Murphy, Tonya
 Hieronymus, Sandra (Sandy) L
 Johnson, Amy L
 Gilbert, Mary Lynne
 Burton, Jennifer Louise
 Lanier, Tonya A
 Lee, In-Yong
 Mann, Karon Sue
 Smith, LaNella D
 Carey, Melanie Lee

499-CB62-R9999-O-G**Subject: Non-Discrimination in Disability Compensation****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Bridgforth, Cedrick D
 Forrester, Gregory Alan
 Miller, Randall Harlan
 Greer, Virginia Leigh
 Kreutziger, Sarah Sloan
 Sherfey, Shannon Marie Haszard
 Stikes, William Henry
 Johnson, Scott Lamont
 Wright, Karen Kallstrom
 Lanier, Tonya A
 Allen, Emily Ruth
 Cantrell, Robert Wilson
 Cauffman, Shirley Marie
 Zilhaver, Robert Frank
 Carpenter, Kelly Jo
 Easterling, LaTrelle Elaine
 Campbell, William Martin
 Wilbur, Lorene Betty
 Chang, We Hyun
 Hewett, Rebecca U

500-CB72-R3083-O-G**Subject: Eradicating Abusive Child Labor****Labor****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Stickley-Miner, Deanna E
 Lank, Thomas Albert
 Chattin, Terri Rae
 Guy, Beverly Ann
 Parker, Charles Arthur
 Daniels, Joseph Wayne
 Howard, George Glenn
 Wilson, Carol Elaine
 Matthis, Morris Franklin
 Laurvick, Bradley David
 Detjen, Anne Marie
 Easterling, LaTrelle Elaine
 Layman Knox, Anna Elizabeth
 Briggs, Margie Marie
 Flick, Christine Dagmar
 Landrock, Steffen
 Philipp, Werner Eberhard
 Dannenberg, Kai Uwe
 Knöller, Johannes
 Bindl, Helene

501-CB77-R9999-O-G**Subject: Suicide: A Pastoral Response****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Lank, Thomas Albert
 Chattin, Terri Rae
 Stickley-Miner, Deanna E

Guy, Beverly Ann
 Parker, Charles Arthur
 Daniels, Joseph Wayne
 Howard, George Glenn
 Wilson, Carol Elaine
 Matthis, Morris Franklin
 Laurvick, Bradley David
 Layman Knox, Anna Elizabeth
 Detjen, Anne Marie
 Easterling, LaTrelle Elaine
 Briggs, Margie Marie
 Flick, Christine Dagmar
 Landrock, Steffen
 Philipp, Werner Eberhard
 Dannenberg, Kai Uwe
 Knöller, Johannes
 Bindl, Helene

502-CB101-¶161.J-O-G**Subject: Abortion****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Furr, Steven Paul
 Seay, Jessica Moffatt
 Wussow, Thomas (Tom) Roderick
 Hoffman, Richard Christian
 Best, Gregory Tyler
 Hagan, Daniel Scott
 Savage, Charles Walter
 Harper, Caleb Jeffrey
 Zimmerman, Leanna Kay
 Alstott, Richard Anthony
 Nicklas, Cara Sue
 Morrison, Norma
 Rubenking, Darcy Lynn
 Heeren, Rebecca Lea
 Reaves, Timothy Lloyd
 Marshall, Christopher Ganneh
 Sparks, Stephen Lawrence
 Sledge, Lauren Frances
 Britton, Fred Shell
 Mujinga, Jacquie Kainda

503-CB130-¶161.F-O-G**Subject: Human Sexuality****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Temple, Charles Chappell
 Miles, Rebekah L
 Levingston, Kenneth R
 House, Donald (Don) Reed
 Clemons, Reginald Gerard
 Matthis, Morris Franklin
 Kim, Sergey
 Nikolaev, Sergei
 Starodubets, Yulia
 Bruster, Timothy Keith
 Marden, Bonnie L
 Chang, We Hyun
 Trammell, Benjamin David

Wende, Stephen Paul
 Hobbs, Marquice Tremayne
 Hamilton, Adam Joseph
 Bryant, Danny C
 Jordan, Shayla Allyssa RaeAnne
 Idom, Merle Matthews
 Erwin IV, Edgar Lee

504-CO32-¶15-N-G**Subject: Representation to General Conference by Episcopal Area****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Pridgeon, Jeremy Kimble
 Bass, James Alan
 Frye, William Randall
 Baliyanga, Marc
 Kassongo, Stanislas Kasuedi
 Many, Pierre Diamba
 Mafunda, Simon
 Kalumba, Eric Nkulu
 Allen Grady, Howard Davidson
 Haller, Laurie Ann
 Riddle, William Zachary
 Maganda, Laura Uetimane
 Mukalay, Gertrude Mwadi
 Scott, Vernon Craig
 Jernigan, Jeff S.
 Njau, Alfred Kundasai
 Gbloh, Daisy
 Loeb, Carol K
 Bakawe, Thomas Azanchi
 Britton, Fred Shell

505-CO51-¶502.1-N-G**Subject: Young People's Representation****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Dyson, Drew Adair
 Reisman, Kimberly Dunnam
 Vega-Perez, Eunice
 Caterson, Evelyn S
 Lank, Thomas Albert
 Ester, Clara Jean
 Colorado, Judy C.
 Wright, Varlyna Donae
 Crise, Katie Elizabeth
 Harper, Caleb Jeffrey
 Dawson, Katie Z
 Gallo Seagren, Lilian
 Carver, Philip H
 Milford, Brian Kent
 Dick, Daniel Robert
 Dick, Barbara Anne Buehler
 Spencer, Juliet Padgham
 Kreutziger, Sarah Sloan
 Burgess, Gail L
 Sears, Erin Elizabeth
 Williams, Rosa M.

506-CO65-¶511.5e-N-G**Subject: Formula Adjustment****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Jernigan, Jeff S.
 Finley, Margaret Jane
 Scott, Vernon Craig
 Gonyi, Wilson Gana
 Lawan, Jacob Apari
 Dunah, Isa Audu
 Adamu, Doris Jenis
 Yusuf, Christy Bulus
 Bwalya, Laishi
 Stikes, William Henry
 Schroeder, Philip Daniel
 Pinson, Mathew
 Pridgeon, Jeremy Kimble
 Fuller, Gary
 Wende, Stephen Paul
 Seth, John William
 Tomlinson, Kyle Edward
 Postell, Andrew Lewis
 Baliyanga, Marc
 Lomperis, John Scott Anders

507-CO66-¶652-N-G**Subject: Joint Committee Membership****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Vianese, Carmen F.S.
 Crouch, Timothy Charles
 Davis, Mary Jan
 Parks, Linda Moore
 Oliphint, J Clayton
 Carpenter, Kelly Jo
 Jackson-Sears, Jill Ann
 Henderson, Ronald D
 Hearne, Richard Bailey
 Ross, Owen K
 Moore-Koikoi, Cynthia Michelle
 Engelhardt, Carolyn Hardin
 Bruster, Timothy Keith
 Harkrider, John Thomas
 McIver, Steven Mark
 Wier, Brenda Wilson
 Alfred, Darlene Rochelle
 Greenwood, Lisa G
 Toler-Debus, Gretchen Faye
 Bard, David Alan

508-CO103-¶500-O-!**Subject: Progressive Jurisdictional Solution – Forming the New Jurisdiction****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Adams, Andrew Stephen
 Davis, Bobby Dewayne
 Isbell, Sara Lynn
 Wolfe, Bunny D
 Hamilton, Adam Joseph
 Damron, Douglas Alan
 Slaughter, Michael Barrett
 Moots, Philip R
 Heckaman, Christopher Todd
 Brownson, William H
 Grace, Roger L
 Schonert, Steven Lee
 Rohlfs, Carl Walter
 Brim, Jay
 Welborn, Teresa Gayle
 Thompson, Ralph Gene
 Hanson, Jay David
 Collier, Theodore Cody
 Briggs, Margie Marie
 Wilson, David Mark

511-FA63-R9999-N-G**Subject: Educational Campaign about Hewlett Packard****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Anderson, Zachary Lee
 Kuch-Stanovsky, Marie Louise
 Carver, Philip H
 Crise, Katie Elizabeth
 Maupin, Lisa L
 Jefferson Bell, Cheryl
 Green, Oliver D
 McEntire, Molly Rebeccah
 Armstrong, Megan Marie
 Ingram, Kent P
 Amundson, Tyler Flint
 Gately, Wesley Neil
 Livingston, David Scott
 Jordan, Shayla Allyssa RaeAnne
 Holland, Mark R
 Fowler, Courtney Meria
 Tukutau, Havea Hikule o
 Palmer, Douglas William
 Lebrón Malavé, Dórlimar
 Hamilton, Adam Joseph

512-FO18-¶304.3-N-G**Subject: A Third Way - Qualifications for Ordination****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Harrison, Richard Thomas
 Crouch, Timothy Charles

Parks, Linda Moore
 Hearne, Richard Bailey
 Davis, Mary Jan
 Carpenter, Kelly Jo
 Henderson, Ronald D
 Christensen, Faye Blanch
 Bard, David Alan
 Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha J
 Clark, Doris Faye
 Bridgeforth, Cedrick D
 Carey, Melanie Lee
 Armstrong, Megan Marie
 Brim, Jay
 Oliveto, Karen Phyllis
 Laurvick, Bradley David
 Lebrón Malavé, Dórlimar
 Campbell, William Martin
 Lippoldt, Amy E
 Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger Elise

513-GA42-¶705-N-\$-G**Subject: Representation on General Church Bodies****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Miles, Rebekah L
 Sparks, Stephen Lawrence
 Millar, Karen L
 Jernigan, Jeff S.
 Kufarimai, Tiwirai
 Scott, Robin Bradley
 Lyles, Steve
 Kilpatrick, Joe
 Tomlinson, Kyle Edward
 Wood, Steven
 Finley, Margaret Jane
 Stikes, William Henry
 Dyke, Lynn Ann
 Rosario, Ileana Rosario
 Yaku, Eli Sule
 Auta, John Pena
 Jen, Mike Dio
 Adamu, Napoleon Grummetti
 Arant, Andy Turner
 Gipson, Mattie Dickens
 Crisler, Timothy Earl

514-GA52-¶404-O-G**Subject: Standing Committee Report****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Kilpatrick, Joe
 Reaves, Timothy Lloyd
 Childs, Michael Franklin
 Sledge, Lauren Frances
 Jernigan, Jeff S.
 Dunnam, Maxie D
 Alstott, Richard Anthony
 Levingston, Kenneth R
 Morelli, Paul Michael

Morrison, Norma
 Childs, Carl Espy
 Cowart, James Arch
 Price, James Larry
 Moon, Bob Mark
 DiPaolo, Joseph Frank
 Hatcher, William Stanley
 Rubenking, Darcy Lynn
 Heeren, Rebecca Lea
 Tomlinson, Kyle Edward
 Fuller, Gary

515-GM61-R3086-O

Subject: Children's Sabbath

Brought To Floor by the following people:

Amey, Bethany Lin
 McEntire, Molly Rebeccah
 Reisman, Kimberly Dunnam
 Cantor, Emma Alamin
 Ester, Clara Jean
 Locklear, Gary W
 Catterson, Evelyn S
 Wright, Varlyna Donae
 Williams, Rosa M.
 Kwak, Jisun
 Lank, Thomas Albert
 Ehninger, Judith Kay
 Gilbert, Mary Lynne
 Johnson, Amy L
 Burton, Jennifer Louise
 Hieronymus, Sandra (Sandy) L
 Murphy, Tonya
 Bank, Wayne Herbert
 Mann, Karon Sue
 Lanier, Tonya A

516-GM62-R3444-O-G

Subject: The Status of Women

Brought To Floor by the following people:

Amey, Bethany Lin
 McEntire, Molly Rebeccah
 Reisman, Kimberly Dunnam
 Cantor, Emma Alamin
 Ester, Clara Jean
 Locklear, Gary W
 Catterson, Evelyn S
 Wright, Varlyna Donae
 Williams, Rosa M.
 Kwak, Jisun
 Lank, Thomas Albert
 Ehninger, Judith Kay
 Gilbert, Mary Lynne
 Johnson, Amy L
 Burton, Jennifer Louise
 Hieronymus, Sandra (Sandy) L
 Murphy, Tonya
 Bank, Wayne Herbert

Mann, Karon Sue
 Lanier, Tonya A

517-GM63-R3089-O-G

Subject: The Girl Child

Brought To Floor by the following people:

Amey, Bethany Lin
 McEntire, Molly Rebeccah
 Reisman, Kimberly Dunnam
 Cantor, Emma Alamin
 Ester, Clara Jean
 Locklear, Gary W
 Catterson, Evelyn S
 Wright, Varlyna Donae
 Williams, Rosa M.
 Kwak, Jisun
 Lank, Thomas Albert
 Ehninger, Judith Kay
 Murphy, Tonya
 Johnson, Amy L
 Gilbert, Mary Lynne
 Burton, Jennifer Louise
 Hieronymus, Sandra (Sandy) L
 Lanier, Tonya A
 Lee, In-Yong
 Mann, Karon Sue

518-GM64-R9999-O-G

Subject: Religious Freedom: Grounded in Love

Brought To Floor by the following people:

Amey, Bethany Lin
 Green, Oliver D
 Anderson, Zachary Lee
 Maupin, Lisa L
 Jefferson Bell, Cheryl
 Sumner, Rachael Preston
 Dodge, David Allen
 Shanks, Alex Arthur
 Bell, Elyse Jeanette
 Hernandez, Reynaldo Bucacao
 Riss, Timothy J
 Brewington, Frederick K
 Shillady, William S
 Chin, Noel Newton
 Lebrón Malavé, Dórlimar
 Oduor, Ralph R
 Chang, We Hyun
 Marden, Bonnie L
 Smartt Sears, Denise A
 Engelhardt, Carolyn Hardin

519-IC43-R9999-N-G

Subject: Confronting Twenty-First-Century Anti-Semitism

Brought To Floor by the following people:

Loeb, Carol K
 Brewster, Dixie K
 Sparks, Stephen Lawrence
 Mulongo, Joseph Ndala
 Kaunda, Collins Bentry
 Morelli, Paul Michael
 Wood, Steven
 Shinkle, Thomas Craig
 Zilhaver, Robert Frank
 Graves, William Russell
 Hoffman, Richard Christian
 Jernigan, Jeff S.
 Cook, Beth Ann
 Dominick, Michael Duane
 Morrison, Norma
 Rubenking, Darcy Lynn
 Arnold, Bill T
 Heeren, Rebecca Lea
 Seth, John William
 Rohrs, Katherine Susan
 Perry, Joy L

520-IC44-R9999-N-G

Subject: Same Sex Marriage in United Methodist Churches

Brought To Floor by the following people:

Loyer, Milton W
 Jones, Beth E
 Salsgiver, Thomas L
 Miller, Layne Maree
 Layman Knox, Anna Elizabeth
 Horton, Margaret Anne
 Keller, Dennis Raphael
 Heil, Warren Alexander
 Lake, Matthew Earl
 Smith, Blenda Elisabeth
 Vianese, Carmen F.S.
 DiPaolo, Joseph Frank
 McNabb, Meredith Leigh
 Sweet, Marthalyn Kellogg
 Preuninger, Colleen Hallagan
 Chattin, Terri Rae
 Park, Jong Woo
 Parker, Charles Arthur
 Sheetz, Brian D.
 McGhee, Delaine K

521-JA43-¶2702.1-O-G**Subject: A Third Way - Chargeable****Offenses****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Harrison, Richard Thomas
 Crouch, Timothy Charles
 Parks, Linda Moore
 Hearne, Richard Bailey
 Davis, Mary Jan
 Carpenter, Kelly Jo
 Henderson, Ronald D
 Christensen, Faye Blanch
 Zabel, Judith Kreager
 Bard, David Alan
 Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha J
 Clark, Doris Faye
 Bridgeforth, Cedrick D
 Carey, Melanie Lee
 Armstrong, Megan Marie
 Brim, Jay
 Oliveto, Karen Phyllis
 Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger Elise
 Laurvick, Bradley David
 Lebrón Malavé, Dórlimar

522-JA52-¶2711.3-O-G**Subject: Mandatory Penalty****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Sledge, Lauren Frances
 Kilpatrick, Joe
 Levingston, Kenneth R
 Alstott, Richard Anthony
 Steiner, Chris E
 Grant, Holly Jean
 Graves, William Russell
 Sumner, Rachael Preston
 Cook, Beth Ann
 Land, Amy Louise
 LaSalle, Opal Ann
 Sparks, Stephen Lawrence
 Hedgepeth, Mitchell B
 Dunnam, Maxie D
 Frye, William Randall
 Harrington, Mary Anne
 Gipson, Mattie Dickens
 Ottjes, James H
 Zimmerman, Leanna Kay
 Beasley, Zachary Carl

523-LC2-¶244-N-G**Subject: PPRC for Charge****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Hoffman, Richard Christian
 Hanson, Jay David
 Price, James Larry
 Cowart, James Arch

Hatcher, William Stanley
 Moon, Bob Mark
 Childs, Carl Espy
 Procházková, Lenka
 Miller, Diane M
 Christensen, Faye Blanch
 Nichols, Sarah Malloy
 Shahan, Alyson Elizabeth
 Conley, Ellis Evins
 Finegan, Mary Ellen
 Shaffer, Richard Allen
 Carby, Shirley Yvonne
 Sears, Erin Elizabeth
 Osborne, Marilyn Ruth
 Stuart, Farley E
 Kenaston, Judith Modlin

524-LC13-¶258.2-N-G**Subject: PPRC Membership on Multiple-Point Charges****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Hoffman, Richard Christian
 Hanson, Jay David
 Price, James Larry
 Cowart, James Arch
 Hatcher, William Stanley
 Childs, Carl Espy
 Moon, Bob Mark
 Miller, Diane M
 Procházková, Lenka
 Christensen, Faye Blanch
 Shahan, Alyson Elizabeth
 Nichols, Sarah Malloy
 Temple, Charles Chappell
 Conley, Ellis Evins
 Finegan, Mary Ellen
 Shaffer, Richard Allen
 Carby, Shirley Yvonne
 Kenaston, Judith Modlin
 Stuart, Farley E
 Osborne, Marilyn Ruth

525-MH43-¶341.6-N-G**Subject: Deletion****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Schroeckenfuchs, Stefan
 Damron, Douglas Alan
 Davis, Mary Jan
 Roberts, Deidre Jo
 Hurlbert, Daniel D
 Kuan, Kah-Jin Jeffrey
 Nelson, Kenneth Lee
 Knöller, Johannes
 Huycke, Mary Kohlstaedt
 McNabb, Meredith Leigh
 Gross, Gregory Dean
 Mudge, William A
 Beard, Frank J

Barrett, Joy Anna
 Johnson, Amy L
 Tritle, Barrie Michael
 Clark, Doris Faye
 Cohen, Dale Robin
 Dodge, David Allen
 Russell, Timothy J.
 Tay, Harris Kodjie Glover

526-MH114-¶324.6d-O-G**Subject: Advance Course of Study****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Tritle, Barrie Michael
 Dawson, Katie Z
 Carver, Philip H
 Rubenking, Darcy Lynn
 Rothlisberger, John Charles
 Milford, Brian Kent
 Eberhart, Diane G Wasson
 Morrison, Norma
 Heeren, Rebecca Lea
 Shinkle, Thomas Craig
 Scott, Vernon Craig
 Grace, Roger L
 Thompson, Martha Fridy
 Moots, Philip R
 Heckaman, Christopher Todd
 Rohrs, Katherine Susan
 Perry, Joy L
 Cook, Karen M
 Troxler, Jeremy Issac
 Gregory, Sharon J

527-MH119-¶416.7-O-G**Subject: Supervisory Files****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Grant, Holly Jean
 Vargo, Jessica H
 George, Gary Mark
 Walsh, Scott Thomas
 McGhee, Delaine K
 Laguardia, Denis Tabuzo
 Sheetz, Brian D.
 Exiomo, Edwin Rey De Vera
 Perez, Manuel Perez
 Cristobal, Evangeline Justo
 Carlos, Eduard Vicente
 Cosmiano, Phebe Namoca
 Caducoy, Elizabeth Lugares
 Equila, Egmedio Balbona
 Luat, Elizabeth Jill Casupanan
 Cantor, Emma Alamin
 Lilleoja, Tarmo
 Bridgeforth, Cedrick D
 Arellano, Armando Contreras
 Hernandez, Reynaldo Bucacao

528-MH178-¶354.3-O-G**Subject: Family Leave****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

McNabb, Meredith Leigh
 Bailey, Marshall Siddons
 Merrill, Laura Anne
 Trefz, Rebecca
 Bard, David Alan
 Swenson, Sara Ann
 Zabel, Judith Kreager
 Hurlbert, Daniel D
 Schroeckenfuchs, Stefan
 Matonga, Forbes
 Chingonzo, Annie Grace
 McMillan, Samuel (Duncan) D
 Berlin, Thomas Martin
 Honeycutt, Jane Denise
 Rogers, Patricia Alice
 Kuan, Kah-Jin Jeffrey
 Miofsky, Matthew Thomas
 Dodge, David Allen
 Aspey, Amy Barlak
 Dawson, Katie Z

529-MH185-¶619.2-O-G**Subject: Remove Restriction on Conference Treasurer Attending Cabinet Meetings****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Allen, James (Jim) R
 Bryan, Robert Lawson
 Furr, Steven Paul
 Luna, Patricia Adele
 Bryars, Paul Lawrence
 Moots, Philip R
 Brownson, William H
 Brown, George Mead
 Handy, Stephen E
 Henry, Jackson Wayne
 Rogers, Timothy Julian
 Heyward, Joseph E
 Salley, James Henry
 Lightsey, Herman B.
 Dease, Robin
 McClendon, William Timothy
 Perry, Joy L
 Arnold, Bill T
 Nicholls, Lewis Dunn
 Love, Julie Hager

530-MH197-NonDis-O-G**Subject: Study of Number of UM Seminars****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Kilpatrick, Joe
 McMillan, Samuel (Duncan) D
 Dunnam, Maxie D
 Reaves, Timothy Lloyd
 Childs, Michael Franklin
 Sledge, Lauren Frances
 Jernigan, Jeff S.
 Alstott, Richard Anthony
 Morelli, Paul Michael
 Levingston, Kenneth R
 Morrison, Norma
 Perry, Joy L
 Childs, Carl Espy
 Cowart, James Arch
 Moon, Bob Mark
 DiPaolo, Joseph Frank
 Hatcher, William Stanley
 Rubenking, Darcy Lynn
 Heeren, Rebecca Lea
 Tomlinson, Kyle Edward
 Fuller, Gary

531-MH202-¶32-O-G**Subject: Elimination of Provisional Status for Clergy****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Rogers, Timothy Julian
 Nelson, Kenneth Lee
 Haselden, Leslie Powell
 Heyward, Joseph E
 Dease, Robin
 Lightsey, Herman B.
 Knowlin, Tiffany Denise
 Jeter, Narcie Jo McClendon
 Cheatham, Laurence Michael
 Arant, Athon Melton
 Leonard-Ray, Susan Paige
 Braddon, David Verne
 Allen, James (Jim) R
 McClendon, William Timothy
 Sweet, Rebekah Beth
 Bridgeforth, Cedrick D
 DeVille, Terrel Jones
 Zilhaver, Robert Frank
 Morelli, Paul Michael
 Stahlman, Vicki Jean

532-MH208-¶310-O-G**Subject: A Third Way - Amend Footnote****Brought To Floor by the following people:**

Harrison, Richard Thomas
 Crouch, Timothy Charles
 Parks, Linda Moore
 Hearne, Richard Bailey
 Davis, Mary Jan
 Carpenter, Kelly Jo
 Henderson, Ronald D
 Christensen, Faye Blanch
 Zabel, Judith Kreager
 Bard, David Alan
 Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha J
 Clark, Doris Faye
 Bridgeforth, Cedrick D
 Carey, Melanie Lee
 Armstrong, Megan Marie
 Brim, Jay
 Oliveto, Karen Phyllis
 Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger Elise
 Laurvick, Bradley David
 Lebrón Malavé, Dórlimar

Rule 34. Report of Non-Calendar Items

- (1) In addition to calendar items to be presented to the plenary, each legislative committee shall report all items not presented in the following categories:
- (a) Petitions not acted upon because another petition dealing with the same subject was acted upon.
 - (b) Petitions not supported by the legislative committee. The committee shall report the vote of the committee.
 - (c) Petitions assigned to but not considered by the legislative committee.
- (2) These reports shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate.
- (3) Any twenty (20) delegates may have an item in (1)(b) or (1)(c) above presented to the plenary by having such a request on file with the Secretary of the General Conference by 3:00 p.m. of the day the item first appears in the Daily Christian Advocate. Reserve delegates may sign requests to present an item in (1)(b) or (1)(c) above only while seated as voting delegates. Such items shall be called up in the regular order of business while the chair of the relevant committee is on the platform. Those supporting consideration of said items shall select one of their number to present the item to the plenary.
- The form to bring a Non-Calendar Item to the plenary can be picked up in room B119 and returned to room B117.

Non-Calendar Items - Reject in Favor of Petition

Discipleship

60894 (DI21-R2121-I-!-G): Teen Sexual Identity and Suicide Risk:
ADCA Page #585, Reject in Favor of Petition # 60896
Membership: 96; Present: 81; Votes For: 75; Votes Against: 6; Not
Voting: 0

Non-Calendar Items - Not Supported

Church and Society 2

60820 (CB8-¶161.F-N-G): A Third Way - Human Sexuality: ADCA
Page #303
Membership: 84; Present: 71; Votes For: 40; Votes Against: 30;
Not Voting: 1

60887 (CB50-¶162.J-N-G): Right to Marry: ADCA Page #322
Membership: 84; Present: 71; Votes For: 38; Votes Against: 31;
Not Voting: 2

60845 (CB56-R9999-N-G): Holiness and the Human Body: ADCA
Page #395
Membership: 84; Present: 71; Votes For: 39; Votes Against: 32;
Not Voting: 0

Local Church

60812 (LC20-¶2500-N-G): Disaffiliation: ADCA Page #1043
Membership: 69; Present: 63; Votes For: 35; Votes Against: 27;
Not Voting: 1

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Proceedings of the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church

**Monday Morning,
May 17, 2016**

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT:
I invite you to stand because we are going to a party, and it's just not any party; we are invited to God's party. All the world is welcome at this party. When you hear the invitation to come to God's party, respond in your own first language with these words: "All the world is welcome at the party".

YVETTE RICHARDS: All of you who are thirsty, come to the water.

NORA COLMENARES:
(Speaking in Spanish)

ALL: All the world is welcome at the party.

RICHARDS: Whoever has no money come by food and eat without money at no cost by wine and milk.

STANISLAS KASSONGO:
(Speaking in French)

ALL: All the world is welcome at the party.

RICHARDS: Why spend money on what is food and your earnings on what doesn't satisfy?

COLMENARES: Come to God's party.

ALL: All the world is welcome at the party.

RICHARDS: Listen carefully to me and eat what is good. Enjoy the riches of the feast.

KASSONGO: *(Speaking in Swahili)*

ALL: All the world is welcome at the party.

RICHARDS: Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone to find the wedding banquet.

JULIO VILANCULOS: *(Speaking in Portuguese)*

ALL: All the world is welcome at the party.

(music)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
Please be seated.

DEB WILLIAMS: Let us pray. Dear God who is both our savior and host, we come to join your party, the party of love and grace where all are welcome. God, you are the source of all life and the fount of all mercy. When you throw a party, it's a major celebration. We are invited to your feast, but we pray that you will empower us to go out to the streets and the back alleys, to the tiny villages and to the urban centers to spread the word that you have invited everyone to your party. And when we falter, God, doubting the authenticity of our own invitation, play the music a little louder, blow the fragrance of your fresh bread and wine out the door on the wind of the spirit and give us the courage in Jesus Christ to claim our own place at your welcome table. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

(music)

MOLLY VETTER: Jesus responded by speaking again in parables. The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared for a wedding party for his son. He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party but they didn't want to come. Again he sent other servants and said to them,

TIM MCCLENDON: "Tell those who have been invited, look the meal is all prepared. I butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything is ready. Come to the wedding party."

VETTER: But they paid no attention and went away, some to their

fields, others to their businesses, the rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them. The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire, then he said to his servants,

MCCLENDON: The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren't worthy. Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.

VETTER: Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found both good and evil. The wedding party was full of guests. Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes. He said to him,

MCCLENDON: "Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?"

VETTER: But he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants,

MCCLENDON: "Tie his hands and his feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth."

VETTER: Many people are invited but few people are chosen.

BISHOP CYNTHIA FIERRO HARVEY: The wedding planning had gone without a hitch. Mr. and Mrs. King had hired the best wedding planner in all the land. The save-the-date cards had gone out six months in advance just as was recommended, and the formal hand-engraved invitations had been mailed eight weeks in advance, just as the planner had told them. Mr. and Mrs. King cordially invite you to the wedding of their son, that the enclosure

card for the RSVP was included and just below the acceptance line was this italicized print: appropriate attire required. It was time the party. The best food was prepared, the cassava, los tacos, el assado, the shrimp and grits, the carving station with the perfectly prepared prime rib, the most beautiful flowers adorned every table, the most amazing highly sought after band was tuning up. The best champagne was being poured into the champagne flutes ready for the toast, and the wedding cake sat in the middle of the room like a trophy, and the photographers were poised and ready to photograph each guest as they arrived. It was time to party.

BISHOP CYNTHIA FIERRO HARVEY: So Mr. King sent all the king's horses and all the king's men to gather up their guests. But despite all the right planning, some things began to go terribly wrong. The guests refused to come. But not willing to give up on the party, Mr. King sends out another round of horses and men to let the guests know just what kind of party they would be missing: the best flowers, the best food, the best champagne. It's ready! Things really began to fall apart. Not only do they refuse to come, but to add insult to injury, they make light of the invitation. They're just too busy.

Now this is when I wish I was preaching from Luke's version of this parable, rather than Matthew's. Luke's guests were much more polite. They just regretfully declined. In Matthew's version, some of the invited guests even killed Mr. King's servants. No one kills anybody in Luke's version. But this is the world of Matthew's gospel, not Luke's. And in Matthew, the story just gets darker and darker. The king sets cities on fire and kills the intended guests. That'll make me think twice the next time I decline a wedding invitation. But still not willing to

give up on the party, Mr. King asks the servants to go out one more time. This time, he asks them to go to the edge of town and invite everyone. And I take that to mean everyone. The good, the bad, the fit, the misfit, the rich, the poor, those the elite of the day viewed as "throwaways." The kind of folk that don't get invited to many parties. Everyone. This invitation excluded no one. The guests arrive and are treated to a banquet, a banquet like no other. The finest of everything. There's laughter, the music is loud, and the dance floor is full. Can you hear the music? "Celebrate good times, come on!" Can you hear it? "'Cause I'm happy . . ." Can you hear all that? Can you hear the celebration? Can you hear your favorite song? I hear mine. "We are family. I got all my sisters with me."

Then the parable comes to a jolting halt. The music stops. The room is silent as the host notices the unlucky guest who isn't wearing the wedding garment. Now, I'm from Louisiana, and we have a party every year that we call "Mardi Gras." Others call it "Carnival." And the dress code is clear. Women must wear ball gowns to the floor—no short dresses, no tea-length dresses. The invitation is clear. A dress to the floor is required for the ladies. And men must wear a tuxedo. A black tuxedo. This is not a "black-tie optional" kind of event. My invitation to this year's Mardi Gras Ball was pretty clear that if you are not wearing properly attired clothes – if you didn't have a dress to the floor, wearing a tuxedo – you would not be allowed into the ball. Surely, surely a woman in a tea-length dress or a man in a business suit at the Mardi Gras Ball wouldn't experience the same fate as our guest at this banquet. The ill-dressed man had no excuse. You see, the host always provided the guests with the appropriate wedding

garment or robe. At weddings in the ancient Near East, there was a rack of robes available at the entrance for anyone who needed a robe. Like there is at a fancy restaurant that requires men to wear jackets, so those late-comers - the fit, the misfit, the ones from the edge of town, the ones from the other side of the tracks, from El Barrio, the people that spoke a different language, the poor, the prostitutes, yeah, those. They were provided appropriate wedding attire. I envision our unlucky guest in cut-off jeans and a tee-shirt, bellyin' up to the bar. And it's not as if he had to rent a tuxedo he couldn't afford. The robe is right there. All he had to do was put it on.

Now early hearers of this parable might have had less difficulty with the inappropriately dressed guest than we do today. When they heard robe, they heard baptismal robe. You see in baptism in the early church, candidates for baptism, after being immersed in the waters of their baptism, would be brought up out of the water and clothed in a robe that signified their new life in Christ, that they were a new creation, participants in a new order. They would know that this guy had committed more than a clothing faux pas. He had come to the party but failed to show honor to the host. He makes light of the occasion by failing to put on that garment of righteousness - the robe that is one size fits all and is available to anyone willing to put it on. It's hanging right there at the entrance. No alterations needed. Friends, I'm not sure it's about the robe at all. Because we can wear the right clothes and still not be properly attired.

God invites God's people - you and me - to come as you are but not to stay that way. We are to respond in faithful obedience. Our showing up at this party, our standing before God, is about our willingness to

receive, to put on God's grace. Now like any good preacher, Matthew crafted this parable to speak to his specific congregation. A church with two factions – Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. So imagine his coming into the fellowship hall, with the center aisle and folding chairs on each side, filled with his contentious congregation. The only thing both groups had in common was that neither one thought they had to do anything except criticize the other. The Jews said, "We have Abraham as our father. We could rest on our religious pedigree." And the Gentiles said, "Oh, we are saved by Grace with no need to adhere to rituals of the Jews." So as Matthew walks down that center aisle toward the front, to share this parable, he hears the Jewish Christians on one side, trash talking the Gentile Christians on the other, "We were here first." And the Gentiles responding to the Jews with their trash talk, "Yeah, but God saved the best for last."

The banquet, the one in the parable and the banquet we gather for here in Portland, is a call to a new life, a new way of being. This banquet is for those who have showed up ready to put on the wedding garment, the robe of righteousness. It's for those who are ready to do something new, to become something new. It's for those for whom it matters that we are different. At the end of all this, this parable, like all of Jesus' parables, is another one of those stories of reversal. When the world's values are turned upside down. When entering into the story, we're challenged to come as we are but not stay that way. We have each been personally invited to this banquet. We have been invited and expected to do something that even the world might not be expecting. Will we honor the host by taking that grace-lined garment off that rack and put it on?

Our host for this banquet, the one we call General Conference, is a God who is God even in, and especially when, things get contentious. When we start drawing lines in our imaginary fellowship hall or convention center, when we get so hell-bent on proving that we are right and they are wrong, our host to this banquet is a God who demands that we put on the wedding garment of righteousness. It is not optional. Our host is the one who said it is no longer enough to give lip service, it's time for you to work together to do something to honor our work. It's time to honor our host and bear fruit, for God's sake. This invitation is an urgent one, and there is no excuse for not showing up, and we cannot leave our grace-lined garment on that rack. It matters. It matters that we are robed in the robe of righteousness, of faithfulness, and that we wear our robe like it matters. Our host is a one who calls us and empowers us to disturb the system, maybe even disturb our own human condition and put on that robe of righteousness, the robe of grace, the robe that is the outward and visible sign of our response to God's deep faithfulness for God's people. This could just turn the world upside down.

Friends, this is what it means to be people of the cross, people of the Resurrection, Easter people, Pentecost people, people who are ready for a reversal, a world that is just turned upside down, a world that is transformed, a world where all God's people experience an abundant life in Christ. Could our banquet right here at General Conference be sign and symbol of the heavenly banquet by the power of God? Could it advance God's kingdom on earth as in heaven? Could our banquet be a banquet where there is no more crying or no more pain? Could this be the banquet that's filled with things that really, really matter, like a world free

from addiction, where families are built on love and trust that defies the headlines, where children do not die of diseases that could be prevented, a world where parenting is a joy, not a burden, a world where children go to bed with full bellies, a world where woman don't have to sell their bodies or themselves to survive, a world where children are safe in our schools, where everyone is paid a fair wage, where everyone is honored, respected, and heard—where we mean it when we say that "we are all God's children,"

(applause)

--where loved ones are free from random mass shootings, where terrorists are no more—a world turned upside down. I'm convinced that if we are willing to erase those imaginary lines in our imaginary fellowship or conference floor and put on that robe provided for each and every one of us, regardless of where we are from—central conference, the United States, whether we're progressive or conservative, gay or straight, rich, poor, Black, White, Latino, Filipino, fit or misfit, broken or not—we will experience transformation that will turn the world upside down. The robe is ready for you. There is one right here for each of us, so let's put it on and dance because there's a party going on.

(applause)

MOLLY VETTER: (California-Pacific): You're invited to speak your responses in your first language. Let us pray. Dear God, You have invited us all to your wedding feast, but we have turned our backs and walk away.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

VETTER: You envision a banquet where all are welcome, but we don't want to sit next to those we call unworthy.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

VETTER: You instruct us to spread the welcome to everyone, but we are too busy with our church tasks.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

VETTER: You lovingly prepared a wedding robe so that we can celebrate with wild abandon, but we refuse to put it on.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

VETTER: God, forgive us for our stubborn denial of the depth and breadth of your grace. Forgive us when we judge those whom you have invited to the feast. Forgive us when we are too busy, too angry, too proud to join in the celebration of your all-encompassing love.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

(music)

VETTER: We know God that your love for us is so great that you sent your only son to personally deliver the invitation to your party. It is through Christ that we come to understand that everyone belongs at the table. It is only through Christ that we finally know we ourselves are truly welcome at your banquet. It is through Christ that we have hope, that we have new life, that we have forgiveness. It is through Christ that we are forever celebrating as forgiven and beloved party goers.

(music)

CLARA ESTER (Alabama-West Florida): Jesus tells the story of a king whose party needs guests, and the king needs servants to take the invitation out to the streets, so that everyone knows they are welcome in the celebration of God's love and mercy. Deaconesses and home missionaries are among those servants today. From the time that the modern deaconess movement was born in Germany in 1836 to 1888 when the office of deaconess was first added to the Methodist Episcopal Church and continuing today.

These faithful servants act as agents of God's invitation to those who may not know that they are indeed welcome at God's party. These servants before us today have already accepted Christ's invitation into grace. This relationship compels them out into the community to proclaim the Gospel of grace and salvation in word and deed. They hold true to their motto of serving, neither for gratitude nor reward, but from gratitude and love. Their reward is that they may serve.

Consecration of Deaconesses and Home Missioners

HARRIET JANE OLSON (General Secretary, United Methodist Women): Bishop Harvey, Bishop Torio, and Bishop Wenner, I present to you, and all who are witnesses to this holy moment, the following candidates to be consecrated to the office of deaconess and home missionary on behalf of The United Methodist Church: Maria Rose McCall Dommerich Hase, Choog-Hee Lee, Jamie Lynn Marie LeJeune, Amanda Howe, Ruth Pierre Jean Pierre, April Grace Martinez, Sheena Camille Calma, Kaye Celyn Caigle Englet, Logan Kathleen Alley, Brenda B. Brown, Melanie Dewey, Martha Louise Lundgren, Alethea McGavaran, Halina Mui, Robin Tamara Ridenour, Julie Ann Smith, Laura Denise Young, Linda Mae Morrison Young, Helen Ryde, John David Jessup Peterson, Jane Anne Murray, Kim Devon Harris, René Grant, Melissa Iutzi Calvillo, Deborah Lynn Byrd, Roberta Boyd Bragan.

BISHOP PEDRO M. TORIO JR.: Friends in Christ, we rejoice that you have responded to God's invitation to devote your lives to servant ministry as deaconesses and home missionaries. God's invitation is transformative, and our response can be no less extraordinary. In the

varied ministries in which the Holy Spirit will lead you, you will testify to the infinite love of God in Christ Jesus. Such a lifetime vocation confers a great privilege; it also lays upon you a solemn responsibility. What you have pledged alone with God in consecrating your lives to this service, we ask you now to declare publicly.

Do you sincerely believe that you have been led by the Spirit of God to engage in this lifelong work of love, justice and service and to assume its responsibilities?

CANDIDATES: I do so believe.

BISHOP TORIO: Will you be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, in mutual relationship with the communities you serve, and in all other means of grace available to you?

CANDIDATES: I will endeavor so to do.

BISHOP TORIO: Will you earnestly seek to carry forward your ministry call in sincerity and in love under the direction of the Church?

CANDIDATES: I will, God being my helper.

GARY LOCKLEAR (Home Missioner): The Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner includes mutually supportive ministry as a part of a covenant community. Will you accept responsibility for participation in the deaconess and home missionary community?

CANDIDATES: I will, God being my helper.

EMMA CANTOR (President, DIAKONIA Region Asia-Pacific): By joining the deaconess and home missionary office, you will become part of the ecumenical world diaconate that reaches out in service to all parts of the earth. Do you commit to a lifetime of loving and supporting your sisters and brothers as a part of the world diaconate?

CANDIDATES: I will, God being my helper.

DR. CRISTINA N. MAÑABAT (President, Harris Memorial College): The design of the deaconess and home missionary pin is based on the pin of the Wesley diaconate of England. The cross with arms of equal length represents the spread of Christianity in the four directions. The circle is symbolic of the gospel throughout the earth and stands for eternity, without beginning and without end. A reminder also of the inclusiveness of God's love. Let the wearing of this pin be a sign of your commitment to serve neither for gratitude nor for reward, but from gratitude and love.

BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER: Let us pray. Most Gracious God, source of all mercies, anoint these, your servants, with your Holy Spirit, enrich them with your praise, and strengthen them to accept your invitation to the journey that lies ahead. May their labors glorify your holy name as they enter into a lifetime commitment to ministries of love, justice, and service. Through your child, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP CYNTHIA FIERRO HARVEY: Won't you stand. Sisters and brothers of the whole church, I commend to you these persons whom we have consecrated on this day into a lifetime of Christ-like service under the authority of The United Methodist Church. In this holy moment, we too are called to renewed consecration of our lives to Christ as we pledge the support of our prayers and mission.

ALL: We thank God for your willingness to serve as deaconesses and home missionaries of The United Methodist Church. Together, we are people of God called to God's mis-

sion of inviting all the world into the joy and celebration of Christ's grace.

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP HARVEY: Yeah! Yeah! You've received your invitation. The banquet is ready. The band is tuned up. So put on your robe, because your host is expecting you this morning. Let's party!

(music)

(applause)

BISHOP LARRY M. GOODPASTER: Alright, Conference, let us begin to make our way to our seats, as we begin our morning session.

(pause)

BISHOP LARRY M. GOODPASTER: Alright, sisters and brothers, let us be in order as we begin our work for this morning. We have been led in worship and that time of worship carries us into our session together here. I invite you as we begin this time to a moment of prayer. The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Holy God, for the gift of your Spirit, who at Pentecost came and gave birth to a movement, we pray for that same Spirit to rest upon us this day as we continue to worship and praise, as we continue to do business, as we continue to share in the good news of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Now, sisters and brothers, we are going to move through the next hour and with the assistance of bishops Palmer and Weaver, we will guide you through this morning. According to the agenda, we have several items, several reports that are listed, and we are going to begin with those. And

so, I call on the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges as we begin.

Committee on Courtesies and Privileges

CATHERINE SUE SULLIVAN (Texas): Sue Sullivan, Chair Committee on Courtesies and Privileges. We have four items this morning.

First, we received a request from reserve delegates from Upper New York Annual Conference to consider a designated seating area for all reserve delegates in the main plenary room of General Conference and the legislative committee rooms close to, but outside the bars of these rooms. Our committee recommended that they submit this request to the Rules Committee of the Commission on General Conference.

Second, today we would like to celebrate the 105th birthday of Joe Dyer from Campground United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina. (His picture is above there.) He has been a lifelong Methodist and has been a member of Campground United Methodist Church since the early 1950's. We appreciate his contributions to our society and continued vital interest in the United Methodist Church.

Third, we've received a resolution for prayer for Christians under persecution and for those committing the persecution; that was received from Joe Sedheimer, Church of Cross, West Ohio, as presented by Delegate Chris Steiner of West Ohio. The Committee of Courtesy and Privileges agrees with his request for us as a body to fast and pray, as we are able, for all human beings, particularly those persecuting followers of Jesus Christ.

And fourth, we received a request from Sam Royappa, delegate from Wisconsin Annual Conference. He wants us to remember the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in India is in their session in South India. They began their

conference yesterday. The Methodist in India was part of the Methodist Church in Southern Asia, a Central Conference of the United Methodist Church until 1981, when that became autonomous affiliated since then.

In 1976, United Methodist Church status General Conference in Portland, Oregon, the motion was passed for their autonomous status, so let us celebrate and pray for their general conference as they do their business in a different part of the world.

And this concludes our report.

BISHOP GOODPASTER:

Thank you very much, and we will continue to celebrate and to be in prayer with all of these concerns that have been lifted to us, especially to our sisters and brothers in India as they gather in their general conference. Thank you very much.

Turn now to the Committee on Credentials. No report. And there is no report from the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision. Committee on Journal?

Committee on the Journal

RANDY LEE BIGGERSTAFF (Missouri): Good morning, General Conference.

ALL: Good morning!

BIGGERSTAFF: Now, the Journal report. Please turn to p. 2151, where you will find the Errata for today. Also included is a clarification from the story "Delegates say No to Rule 44," on p. 1921 in the May 13th *Daily Christian Advocate*. We want to bring your attention to the change in the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy under the Southeastern Jurisdiction, Steve Lyles has replaced Scott Young Selman as the lay member from North Alabama. This is reflected on the new list on p. 2156, 2156. The monitoring report from the General Commission on the Religion and Race was not included in today's *DCA*, and the conference is working

on a way to get this resolved. This completes our report. Thank you.

BISHOP GOODPASTER:

Thank you, Randy. We'll note those. Committee on Reference.

Committee on Reference

CHARLES WALTER SAVAGE (North Georgia): Good morning, Bishop. Good morning General Conference. The report of the Committee on Reference is found on p. 2153, of today's *DCA*. Bishop, this report is properly before the body.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: This report is before you and requires an action. If you will take out your voting devices, we will be receiving and adopting this report from the Committee on Reference. If you will adopt this report, press one (1) for yes and two (2) for no; and we are going to continue what we started on Saturday of 25 seconds. I think you did really well with that on Saturday. We will see if the Sabbath has helped us move that along perhaps. So, at 25, please vote now. And you have adopted the report. [Yes, 729; No, 12]

SAVAGE: Bishop, I'd like to request a moment of personal privilege, please.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Alright, sir.

SAVAGE: Thank you. I'd like to ask the members of the Committee on Reference to please stand and be recognized for their hard work. These meetings began at 7 o'clock every morning that we've been here and we actually met on Monday; so, if they would please stand.

(applause)

Thank you very much, thank you and be blessed.

BISHOP GOODPASTER:

Thank you. Turn now to the Committee on Agenda and Calendar.

Committee on Agenda and Calendar

TRACY SMITH MALONE

(Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop and good morning, everyone. The Committee on Agenda and Calendar recommends the schedule for this week that was printed in the first *DCA* with just two small changes. This schedule begins on p. 1663; again, p. 1663.

One change is that the Committee on Agenda and Calendar will meet at 6:30 A.M. each morning instead of 7 o'clock A.M.

The other change is that on the schedule for tomorrow, Tuesday, May 17th, on the same page under the 10:20 Morning Plenary Session, the facilitation group report should be removed. Because Rule 44 was not approved by the General Conference, the facilitation group report is no longer scheduled.

I would also like to announce at this time that I have been informed that we cannot do the elections for general agencies or the standing committee on Central Conference because the information needed has not yet appeared in the *DCA*. We will find time later this week to do the work of elections.

TRACY SMITH MALONE

(Committee on Agenda and Calendar): Bishop, I move the adoption of the schedule for this week with the changes I have described.

BISHOP LARRY M. GOODPASTER: Alright, this report and the adoption of the agenda for the week with those two changes is before you. If you will take out your voting devices. If you will approve this agenda for the week as the committee has recommended, you will vote one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP GOODPASTER: And you have adopted the agenda with those changes.

[Yes, 755; No, 18]

MALONE: In addition to the orders of the day listed on the cover of today's *DCA*, the Committee on Agenda and Calendar plans to hear reports from the following legislative committees: the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, Global Ministries, Conferences, Independent Commissions, Financial Administration, Church and Society A, General Administration, and Ministry and Higher Education, and Superintendency.

We will plan to hear as many of these reports as time allows, and any remaining items will be considered for future scheduling by the Committee on Agenda and Calendar.

Bishop, I would now like to invite Susan Brumbaugh, our Coordinator of Calendar, to come forward to guide us in voting on the consent calendars, those that are printed in Saturday's *DCA*. She would also share calendar information that is printed in today's *DCA* and will orient us to other calendar items printed in today's *DCA*.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Thank you. Susan.

SUSAN M. BRUMBAUGH (New Mexico): Good morning. Let's begin by preparing to vote on the consent calendars that were printed in Saturday's *DCA*. Before we get there, as a reminder, consent calendars that begin with the letter A contain items relating to *The Book of Discipline* that the legislative committee recommends to adopt where ten or fewer committee members voted against the committee's recommendation. Consent calendars that begin with the letter B contain non-disciplinary items that the legislative committee recommends to adopt where ten or fewer committee

members voted against the committee's recommendation. And consent calendars that begin with the letter C contain items that the legislative committee recommends to refer to an agency or group, where ten or fewer committee members voted against the committee's recommendation.

So, today's first consent calendar that you'll be considering appears on p. 2099 of the *DCA*, that's two-zero-nine-nine. This is yesterday's *DCA*. Two, not yesterday, Saturday. It all runs together. Two-zero-nine-nine is the page number. In the middle of that page is Consent Calendar A03 containing disciplinary items. This is A03 that we are considering. Six items have been removed from Consent Calendar A03. I'm gonna tell you what page numbers they appear on, followed by the item number that was removed on that page, so that you can make note of them. We are already on p. 2099. On that page, items 27 and 29 were removed. Can cross those out. Twenty-seven and twenty-nine are no longer on the consent calendar.

On p. 2101—two-one-zero-one—Item 51 was removed. That's Item 51. On the next page, 2102—two-one-zero-two—Calendar Items 68 and 77 were removed. 68 and 77. On the next page, 2103—two-one-zero-three—Calendar Item 82 was removed. Eight-two. All of those items were printed in today's *DCA* as regular calendar items that can be scheduled for future days.

The remaining items on Consent Calendar A03 are before you.

MALONE: Wanna give you just a few moments to make sure you have those noted before I motion for approval.

(pause)

MALONE: Bishop, I move approval of Consent Calendar A03.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Consent Calendar A03 is before you. I, I know that we continue to remind us that the *Daily Christian Advocate* is printed only in English, and I hope those of you who do not have English as your first language have had an opportunity over the weekend to look at these. Consent Calendar A03 is before you. I'll give you just another moment before we take the vote.

(pause)

BISHOP GOODPASTER: If you will adopt Calendar Item A0, Consent Calendar Item A03 with noting the six that have been removed, please vote one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP GOODPASTER: And it has been adopted.

[Yes, 763; No, 27]

BRUMBAUGH: On the next page, 2104—two-one-zero-four—is Consent Calendar B03 containing non-disciplinary items. P. two-one-zero-four, Consent Calendar B03.

Calendar Item 92 has been removed from this consent calendar. That's ninety-two, and it now appears as a regular calendar item. All of the items on Consent Calendar B03 are correct as printed, except for Calendar Item 92, which was removed.

MALONE: Bishop, I move that we accept the actions on Consent Calendar B03.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Calendar Item Consent Calendar B03 is before you. Again, a few moments as you take a look at those items, knowing that Calendar Item 92 has been removed. It is before you. If you will adopt Consent Calendar B03, please vote one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Please vote now.

Well, hold on a second. I don't think we did that quite right, so

we're going to clear the voting machines and start over on Calendar Item B03. Hold on. Everybody take a deep breath. Give your voting devices a break. Are you ready? Vote one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP GOODPASTER: And you have adopted this consent calendar. Susan?

[Yes, 765; No, 21]

SUSAN M. BRUMBAUGH (New Mexico): The last consent calendar is on the next p., 2105. That's p. two-one-zero-five. This is consent calendar C03, which contains referred items. P. 2105, consent calendar C03. The single item on consent calendar C03 is correct as printed, was not removed.

TRACY SMITH MALONE (Northern Illinois): Bishop, I move that we accept the action on consent calendar C03.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Thank you. Consent calendar C03 is before you. Give you a moment before we take the vote. If you will adopt this consent calendar, please press one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP GOODPASTER: And you have adopted that consent calendar.

[Yes, 775; No, 12]

BRUMBAUGH: So now, as a point of information, I want to bring your attention to several lists that were printed in today's *DCA*. Turning to p. 2185—two-one-eight-five—you will see new consent calendars. On p. 2205, two-two-zero-five, is a list of regular calendar items that can be scheduled for plenary discussion as early as tomorrow, in addition to regular calendar

items from previous days. And, lastly, there are two lists of non-calendar items that you should review. On p. 2222—two-two-two-two—is a list of petitions not supported by the legislative committee. On p. 2226—that's two-two-two-six—is a list of petitions not considered by the legislative committee.

I again remind you that items can be removed from the consent calendar or non-calendar items can be calendared by submitting the appropriate form with twenty valid signatures to my office in B117—one hundred seventeen—by 3:00 today. Also note that there are a handful of petitions still finishing paperwork from the committees that will be printed in tomorrow's *DCA*. And lastly, a lot of people worked a very long day Saturday, and there may have been mistakes in how the committees' actions were documented. I encourage committee members to closely review the calendared items to ensure they are accurate as printed. If you see an error that substantively changes the intent of the committee, please notify your committee chair, who can work with our office to correct the error in tomorrow's *DCA*. This is all information for the body.

MALONE: Thank you, Bishop. That concludes our report.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Thank you very much. I turn now to the Committee on Presiding Officers.

Committee on Presiding Officers

JUDITH KREAGER ZABEL (Minnesota): Good morning, church! Judy Zabel, Committee on Presiding Officers. I wanted to remind you that our officers today are Bishop Goodpaster, Bishop Coyner, Bishop Stanovsky, and Bishop Wenner. Tomorrow, our presiding officers will be Bishop Bickerton, Bishop Huie, and Bishop Streiff. This con-

cludes our report, Bishop. Thank you for your service.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Thank you very much. I turn now to Erin Hawkins for our monitoring report.

GCCOR Monitoring Report

ERIN M. HAWKINS (General Secretary on the General Commission on Religion and Race): Good morning. My name is Erin Hawkins. I am the General Secretary on the General Commission on Religion and Race. Our celebration of Pentecost Sunday yesterday reminds us that the miracle of Acts 2 was not only in the international gathering's ability to speak in multiple languages, but in the fact that, in the midst of the diversity, each believer was able to hear the mighty acts of God being proclaimed in their own tongue. The General Commission on Religion and Race, in consultation with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, is offering a question for your reflection. Please get your voting pads ready to respond to our monitoring question of the day.

Self-Monitoring Question

As you enter into the second week of General Conference, are you prepared to experience the mighty acts of God being proclaimed in unexpected ways? Press one (1) for yes and two (2) for no. Bishop?

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Please vote now.

(pause)

[Yes, 729; No, 55]

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Hallelujah.

HAWKINS: May the same Spirit that descended upon the early church like tongues of fire descend upon this gathering, empowering us

to speak and to hear in bold, new ways. Thank you.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Amen. Thank you. Thank you, Erin. We come now to a time of report from the four areas of focus that have been so much of a part of our life together and our mission around the world. So, I turn now to those who will be bringing this report for us.

MATTHEW THOMAS MIOFSKY (Missouri): General Conference, my name is Matt Miofsky, and I represent the 12 ½ million members who found a home in The United Methodist Church. Through my local church in Saint Louis, I've claimed my call to make disciples through starting new churches, reaching out with multiple services, practicing innovative ministries, and engaging younger and more diverse people. I join clergy and laity from around the world who work to invite others to follow Jesus. I invite lay and clergy to light the candles that are on our tables.

OLUJIMI WESLEY BROWN (North Georgia): Hello. My name is Olu Brown, North Georgia Annual Conference. I'm representing the church planters in The United Methodist Church. Every day, we engage with people in our communities to start and grow vital congregations where we share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

MARTHA DELORES MARTIN (Baltimore-Washington): Hello. My name is Delores Martin, Lay Leader from the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. I represent the many men, women, and children whose lives have been changed through a relationship with Christ and the people of The United Methodist Church. A hot meal, a safe place, a bed in which to sleep, and a chance to learn and grow have made all the difference. Best of all, I found a faith community where I am welcome.

DR. OLUSIMBO IGE (GM, Executive Director of Global Health): Hello. I am Dr. Simba Ige. I am the executive director of Global Health for Global Ministries. I represent the thousands of health-care workers around the world who work tirelessly in ministry to save lives. We have made major strides towards ending death from preventable diseases of poverty through the work of The United Methodist Church. Now we are in a place to do even more.

BISHOP GRANT HAGIYA (Greater Northwestern Episcopal Area): What is God calling us to do and to be, individually and as the people called United Methodist today? This question, which comes to every generation of Christians, and posed nearly a decade ago at the 2008 General Conference, focuses our current journey.

We heard Jesus' call to "follow me." As the body of Christ we answered a resounding "yes."

Our expression of love for the gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to align our priorities and come together around four areas of focus. These four areas united us then and now. Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world; creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations; engaging in ministry with the poor; stamping out killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

Now we might use different terms to describe our work in these areas, but what matters is the action we took in our communities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Throughout the connection we have realigned mission and ministry to meet these challenges and the results, they are something to celebrate.

Four Areas of Focus

(video)

BISHOP HAGIYA: Overall the four areas of focus have had a big impact on how we proclaim, lead, nurture, and send United Methodists into the world. By working in these areas we have created a forum for greater collaboration. New lines of communication among agencies, annual conferences and local churches. A process that ensures better stewardship of denominational funds and better alignment of mission and ministry at all levels of the church. The goal is to make disciples.

SUSAN HENRY-CROWE (GBGS, General Secretary): God calls us as disciples of Jesus Christ to live our faith and lead by example. When we do this, we become difference makers in the world. This is important because leadership is central to everything we do as a church.

This quadrennium we have seen collaboration at its best, focusing on building future leaders to fulfill the mission of the church. Agencies have provided unique opportunities for training, both in person and online. Cultural competency, communicating faith, spiritual formation, increasing church vitality, and equipping disciples for mission and ministry are just some of the skills provided through the collaborative work in this focus area.

As Wesleyan disciples, we as the people of The United Methodist Church reach out to our neighbors and surround them in a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in their trust of God and be found faithful in their services to others. We also pray that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life. And you have been up to the challenge. Many of you have taken ministry to where

people need it most and often. This is well beyond the church walls.

As we move forward, we will continue to develop laity and clergy leaders who make a difference and re-define ways to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Over the next four years, The United Methodist Church will engage three million plus people who are interested in making a world-changing difference. We commit to creating a culture that provides opportunities for people to explore their calling and supports them in doing so. The church connects people with local and global opportunities to answer God's call.

EMILY INNES (North Carolina): In the area of creating new places for new people, we have learned that disciple-making is not a program from which to graduate or retire, but a way of life that is learned, shared, and lived by people who follow Jesus.

Disciple making isn't easy. We know this to be true in the United States where congregations had zero professions of faith in 2013. Seventy percent of congregations in the U.S. had no baptisms. We must aspire to do better.

We believe that we must create a culture of discipleship across the denomination creating a mindset and a heart that motivates and feeds us to continue the work of disciple-making because it is who we are and not what we do. In order to sustain our mandate to make disciples, we need fertile ground from which new faith communities and new disciples grow. Why is this important? Creating new places for new people is an essential part of the equation of disciple-making. We create a culture of disciple-making through spiritual and leadership development that leads to faith-sharing and community transformation.

With a focused emphasis on ministry with the poor, we remember the importance of Christian discipleship, rooted in relationships with communities around the world who struggle daily with poverty. John Wesley said, "One great reason the rich in general have so little sympathy for the poor is, they so seldom visit them. Hence, it is that one part of the world doesn't know what the other suffers." Truly to love our neighbors we must first know one another. Our struggles, joys, gifts, and challenges. Rooted in these relationships, United Methodists engage in meaningful and transformational ministries with people and communities in poverty. These ministries break down barriers of division, distrust and despair to create relational rather than transactional ministries that reflect God's saving love for all.

EMILY D. INNES (North Carolina): Grounded in these local realities, in the stories of people affected by broken economic, political, educational, and social systems, we continue our ministry of advocacy for policies that embody God's economy of abundance, where all God's children have access to resources to live fully into their potential.

In the area of global health, we have experienced the power of uniting around a common cause, such as striving to raise \$75 million through annual conferences and congregations in the Imagine No Malaria campaign. We have seen the church become a significant voice around the table in the United Nations and the Gates Foundations and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

Partnerships enlarge our capacity to save lives. We have accomplished unprecedented success in community health through programs, through the conference bodies, health boards in Africa, where more than 3 million people have received

prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. This success is a springboard for hospital and clinic revitalization and integrated community health programs.

BISHOP GRANT HAGIYA: These God-sized results, blessings through the four areas of focus are indicators of vital congregations. We've learned that when congregations engage in the four areas of focus they become healthier, more effective, and more vital in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Since 2010, we have tracked the five markers of vitality: disciples in worship, new disciples, disciples in small groups, disciples engaged in mission, and disciples giving to mission. As we work together, we see changed lives and transformed mission through vital congregations. We thank all of you for your faithful ministry. It is making a difference. We look forward to what God has in store for our ministry of making disciples and growing vital congregations to transform the world.

Four Areas of Focus 2020 Goals

Folks, we serve an amazing God, who can do more than any of us could ever ask or imagine. Faith in our God compels us to dream big through increased vital congregations throughout the church. Here are our 2020 God-sized goals:

MATTHEW THOMAS MI-OFSKY (Missouri): I'm proud to share that together, as The United Methodist Church, we will develop principled Christian leaders through a commitment to recruit, train, and engage 3 million-plus difference makers to transform the world as they put faith into action.

OLUJIMI WESLEY BROWN (North Georgia): Together we will follow John Wesley's charge to take the church to the people. In the area

of new places for new people we will form 1 million new disciples who profess their faith in Jesus Christ.

MARTHA DELORES MARTIN (Baltimore-Washington): We will follow Christ's command to be in ministry with the poor as we commit ourselves to growing partnerships across the church. We will build 400 vibrant, faith-filled communities where we address issues of poverty.

PIERRE DIAMBA MANYA (Central Congo): Together as the people of The United Methodist Church we will reach 1 million children around the world with life-saving health interventions.

BISHOP HAGIYA: Here and now we recommit to model what it means to live as disciples of Jesus. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven. Amen.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Amen. Thank you. Thank you.

(applause)

Update on Vital Congregations

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Now we have an update on vital congregations, so a vital congregation moment.

LIBERATO C. BAUTISTA (North Philippines): Sometimes it is a challenge for light to shine through a veil of injustice. This is especially true for the Lumads, indigenous peoples of southern Philippines. Today, government-supported development aggression is driving the Lumads from their ancestral lands. In April, farmers, many of whom are Lumads, took refuge in Spottswood Methodist Center in Kidapawan. Their peaceful demand for rights to feed their families was met with bullets. Three were killed, nearly a hundred wounded, scores arrested. Theirs is a story of climate change, anti-farmer policies, government neglect, and greed, all

wrapped up in a continuing tale of injustice.

(video is shown)

BISHOP LARRY M. GOODPASTER (Charlotte Episcopal Area): Another part of the world that calls for our prayers. We have about ten minutes before our scheduled break, and I want to try to get at least one calendar item in, but before we do that, I want to turn to our conference secretary for an announcement regarding consent calendar that we just adopted.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Conference Secretary): When you voted on Consent Calendar A03, the wrong item number was announced for one of the removed items. For your information, turn to p. 2101. I'm sorry. Yes. That's correct. P2101. It was Item 52 that was removed from the calendar. Item 52 was removed from consent calendar A03. Item 51 remains on consent calendar A03. Item 52 is the item that was removed. Item 51 remained on the calendar. It was adopted in the vote that you took. Item 52 is the one that will be considered later.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: And it was printed correctly.

REIST: It was printed correctly.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Thank you. I have a couple of people who are requesting the microphone. Narcie Jo Jeter to mic. 1, and Steven Wende, if you will be prepared at mic. 3.

NARCIE JO JETER (South Carolina Conference): Narcie Jeter, South Carolina Conference, point of information. I would like to ask the Secretary of the General Conference why we haven't translated *The Book of Discipline* nor *The Book of Resolutions, Resolutions*, in all of the language, languages, of our member congregations when we are committed to being a global church. I witnessed the frustration of our

French-speaking brothers and sisters when they didn't know the context on which they were voting. This to me is an issue of justice. I would like to refer the matter for cost and time analysis to GCFA or whatever appropriate bodies so that we, as a body, can vote for or against this before this General Conference ends. If this takes a motion to refer, I do move this request.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: You have jumbled a couple of things there.

JETER: Yep.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: You asked for a point of information, which is what we need to take.

JETER: OK.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: And by doing that you cannot make a motion at the same time.

JETER: Right.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: So I want to turn first to the secretary to respond to your question.

JETER: OK.

REIST: As some people will know, I have repeatedly stated that it is irrelevant to produce the ADCA in multiple languages when the Book of Discipline and *The Book of Resolutions* is not printed and available in those languages. However, it has been the wisdom of the General Conference to make the choice in budgeting to provide the ADCA but not to provide *The Book of Discipline* nor to provide *The Book of Resolutions*. The cost of those factors must be included in a General Conference budget if such action is to take place.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: So, thank you for your question. We cannot take your motion. I'm confident that we will, we heard your concern and we'll pass that along to not only the committee and the council that you referred, but to the publishing house and others and follow up on that. Thank you very much. Steve Wende at mic. no. 3.

*Motion to Limit Plenary
to Prayer, Legislation,
and Elections*

STEVEN WENDE (Texas Conference): Yes, sir. Steve Wendé with the Texas Annual Conference. I rise to make a motion that may or may not be in order, but that's gonna give it a shot.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Well, you can try it.

WENDE: All plenary sessions shall be limited to opening and closing prayers, legislative business, and necessary elections until all the resolutions before us have been considered. And if it's in order, and there's a second, I'll explain it.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(unintelligible)*

BISHOP GOODPASTER: It is properly before you. You may speak to it.

WENDE: My motion is painful because the presentation we just had was marvelous. And touched all of us, I think. And we will have others scheduled, and those are so important, but I rise to make this motion with a heavy heart because our General Conference in recent quadrennia has a marvelous record of receiving beautiful and meaningful reports and a terrible record of actually finishing the work before us. Last quadrennium, last General Conference, left people enraged with how much good work had been done by the delegates, but was left on the floor, never addressed. I, for one, would be delighted to stay 'til midnight Friday night hearing all the presentations we have not had the opportunity to hear during the week, knowing that we are now hearing the presentations and celebrating the finishing of our legislative work as a General Conference. That's the point of my motion. Thank you.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Thank you, Steve. Before you leave the microphone, I want to ask you to read your motion one more time for the body, and then bring a copy to the secretary.

WENDE: Yes, sir. All plenary sessions shall be limited to opening and closing prayers, legislative business, and necessary elections until all the resolutions before us have been considered.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: All right. That is what is before us at this point, if you will bring a copy of that or give it to a page, so we can have it here at the desk. I have a point of information or parliamentary inquiry to interrupt this process from Sergey Kim at mic. 2. And a motion to amend from Richard Alstott at mic. 1. So Sergey, if you will go to mic. 2, and Richard to mic. 1.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia Annual Conference) (simultaneous interpretation): Dear Bishop and dear conference, dear delegates. I have a question about the calendar. P. 2185 . . .

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Excuse me, Sergey. If you will hold that just a moment. We have a motion on the floor we need to deal with. We'll come back to you and to your question about the calendar. If you will just hold on, and I will come back to you. Thank you. Richard Alstott at mic. no. 1 for an amendment.

RICHARD ALSTOTT (Indiana Annual Conference): Richard Alstott, Tony Alstott. I either offer an unnecessary amendment or a friendly one, to include the words, "and petitions."

BISHOP GOODPASTER: To include the words, "and petitions" . . . where are you . . .

ALSTOTT: "Resolutions and petitions." And that may be unnecessary, maybe the intent was to have both, but I understand those are separate.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(unintelligible)*

BISHOP GOODPASTER: The amendment is before you to add the words "and petitions." That is what is before us, is the amendment. Any . . . what I need to do at this point is to ask us to clear the queue, cause we can only discuss the amendment right now. So the amendment, yes, clear the queue.

(pause)

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Now, if you would like to speak for or against the amendment, you can log in now. Speaking for the amendment, the original maker of the motion, Steven Wendé, at mic. 3.

WENDE: Yes sir. I accept that as a very friendly amendment. Thank you.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Well, thank you, but the amendment is the property of the body, and I'll take that as a speech for the amendment. The amendment is before you.

(Pause)

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Lonnie Chafin at mic. 3.

LONNIE CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Thank you Bishop, Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Conference. I rise to move to refer this matter to the Agenda, to the Committee on the Agenda. There may be time to do all that is before us so this may be a kind of a moot matter, so I would hope that we would allow the committee agenda to do their work in balancing the importance of talk of what ministry we want to set out for ourselves and what petitions that most need to be addressed; so, I would move that we refer this to the Committee on Agenda to learn tomorrow how imperative this might be.

BISHOP LARRY GOODPASTER: OK, there is a motion to refer.

UNIDENTIFIED: Sir, I'm sorry.

CHAFIN: Refer the amendment and the original motion.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Thank you, Lonnie. I understood it to be refer the whole matter which would be both. So that motion is before you, anyone wishing to speak for or against the motion to refer. Speaking against, Sergey Kim, mic. 2.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia) (simultaneous interpretation): I am against. I do not support this referral. We shouldn't refer that to Committee on Agenda. The motion that was made by the brother before us, before me, because I think we're here with the first purpose to amend the petitions and resolutions that were before us. This is our main agenda. So, I am for limiting all our presentations and reports but just stick to the resolutions and petitions.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: OK, thank you very much. Speaking for the motion to refer: Jean Hawxhurst at Mic 4.

JEAN G. HAWXHURST (Kentucky): Thank you, Bishop. I do rise to speak in favor of referral because there are many ecumenical guests that are coming tomorrow to be with us, and I believe that the group that's working on the agenda would need to be able to recognize them.

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Thank you. I have several people wishing to speak for; I need someone who is willing to speak against referral.

(pause)

BISHOP GOODPASTER: Alright, I am going to put the vote. We've had a speech for, speech against; the motion is to refer. Please get out your voting devices. If you would refer both the main motion and the amendment to the Committee on Agenda to bring back their re-

port, you would vote one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. This is on a motion to refer the motion and the amendment. Please one (1) for yes, two (2) for no. Please vote now.

[Yes, 534; No, 279]

BISHOP GOODPASTER: And you have referred this matter. We are three minutes past your break time so we are going to be at in break until 10:20. Thank you very much for your work this morning.

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: If you could find your way to your seats, please. Delegates and guests, if you would find your way to your seats. In the spirit of the one who brought the proposition that we only do business, we want to at least do business during the time that we are scheduled.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I'm Elaine Stanovsky. I'm the bishop in the Mountain Sky Area, centered in Denver, Colorado, and it is a pleasure to be here today. Backing me up are my colleagues, Bishop Bickerton and Bishop Middleton.

I preached yesterday on Pentecost Sunday, and it was interesting to try to tell the story, the good news story of the General Conference, when people had been watching our live stream. Many people did not see good news in the two-day battle over the rules, but I tried to say that among us are those who come motivated by the concern for terrorism around the world and those who come motivated, concerned about the refugee and immigration crisis in various countries and those who come animated by inclusion of persons with a variety of sexual identities and expressions and those who, and there are those who come motivated by indigenous rights. There are those who come motivated

by climate change, and we're all in one room waiting for that fresh wind of the Holy Spirit. It's no surprise that it is difficult to learn to speak one language or to hear in our own voices. And so, this morning, I want us to open with a moment of prayer, and I want us to all participate in the prayer, and as we move into this time of prayer, I want to let you know of a, of a sorrowful passing yesterday. Lilia Fernandez who was a long-time UMCOR head of refugee and immigration work, died in hospice care, and so we celebrate her life and her great service to people on the margins and crossing margins in our great world. We give thanks for her life and service and, if you would, hold her in prayer also.

But, what I want us to do for the opening prayer is to pray, eyes open, really looking at the people around us and praying the prayer that we share together from the words of Jesus, our Lord's Prayer. So, if you would, take a moment, look at the people, imagine what concerns animate each one's presence here, and join me in prayer in the language that you choose.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Thank you.

We have an important piece of leadership discernment to participate in together. The bulk of the work that we'll do in this session is election of those persons found on pp. 2076—two-zero-seven-six—and 2077 in your DCA, and it's just important for us to remember that these are leaders who will guide the work of the church in significant ways over the

next four years, and so we want to be prayerful and careful in the way that we do this work and the way that we discern leadership.

Instructions for Election Balloting

I'll just tell you, I am a little nervous about the election process using our voting machine, and so there are those who are prepared to lead us through this process carefully; but, I also just appeal to your very best patient selves today as we go through this. I am confident we can do it. We just need to be really paying attention and be attentive as we do so.

So, as we prepare for this, I'd like you to turn to p. 1971, which is several days ago, and to Rule 16, which gives us our guidance about how we conduct elections, and I'm simply going to read this to you because it is important for us to know what, in particular, what you might be tempted to do that would invalidate your ballot. We don't want to have invalid ballots if we can help it. So, "for any election requiring balloting by the plenary, an election shall occur when the number of ballots cast for a nominee meets or exceeds the required percentage of the total valid ballots cast. A ballot is valid if it meets the following standards." So, listen up on this. This is important.

"First, it is cast by a voting delegate or a properly seated reserve delegate.

"Second, it contains votes for the same number of nominees as there are vacancies to be filled," and I want you to be really clear about this. If there are three vacancies, you must vote for three different names of persons who have been nominated for your ballot to be valid. If you vote only for one when there are three vacancies, your vote will not count. If you vote for two when there are three vacancies, your vote will

not count.

"Third, every name receiving a vote has been properly nominated according to the provisions." So, the names of those nominated will be projected on the screen, and those are the people that you can vote for. If you vote for somebody else—if you had a great thought overnight about who could serve in this capacity and you put a new name on the list—you won't have your ballot counted.

"Four. No more than one vote is cast for the same nominee." So, if there are three vacancies and you put the same name in two slots or you vote for the same name twice, your ballot will be invalid.

"Five. No vote is cast for a person who has already been elected," and we'll be as good as we can with the projection to make sure that the names of persons who have already been elected are no longer among those that you are to choose between.

Alright, then I'm going to turn to Sara Hotchkiss, whose is going to give us our instructions for voting. Welcome, Sara.

SARA HOTCHKISS: Thank you, Bishop Stanovsky. We actually have one ballot before we practice that we would like to go ahead with and I will turn to you, Bishop Stanovsky, on that one. That is a ballot that we will be doing just a "yes" and "no" on the slate. So, I will return back to you, Bishop Stanovsky, and do more explanation when we move to the more complicated ones.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, so the first, we have a sample ballot to practice on, and the question that we'll pose to you to vote on is "What are your two favorite continents?" Now, you don't have to be from your favorite continent. Right? But we're gonna, so do we have this? Do we have this slide to project?

Excuse me. I have, I have a

request, I have a point of order or parliamentary inquiry or information, and so, if LaTrelle Easterling would proceed to mic. 6, tell us what your concern is.

LATRELLE EASTERLING (New England): Thank you, Bishop. LaTrelle Miller Easterling, with New England Conference, Clergy Delegate. On p. 2076 under Judicial Council Nominees, I just want to bring it to the body's attention that my last name is misspelled. It should be E-A-S-T-E-R-L-I-N-G. LaTrelle Easterling. Thank you.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you for that correction. And there's a point of order, parliamentary inquiry or information from Rukang Chikomb. If you could proceed to mic. 2.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katonga): Bishop, Rukang Chikomb from North-West Katonga. Just a point of clarification. You said you have to vote for the number of the nominees. My question is probably a clarification. Are you gonna tell us it vote—

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Yes.

CHIKOMB: There's an open of this number?

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you for the question. Yes, we'll be very clear about how many vacancies there are, and we will vote for each of those vacancies separately. So, I'll say, "Please cast your vote for the first position. Please cast your vote for the second position. Please cast your vote for the third position." But, the ballot will only be completed when we've cast votes for all three of the vacancies in each category. That is to say for the number of vacancies in each category, 'cause they vary. Alright?

(Bishop conferring onstage)

OK. Alright. So, we had a little miscommunication up here. Sara Hotchkiss is gonna give us the in-

structions about how to cast ballots, and then we will conduct the sample ballot.

HOTCHKISS: Hello, everyone, again. So, we will be doing electronic voting with our voting devices for our balloting today. So, we will have some ballots that will be yes-no ballots when you vote if it's for a slate, a "yes" or "no" slate. But we also have ballots with a list, and you will be entering a three-digit number for each person you wish to elect. I will be now walking you through this process, and we will have a practice ballot. We will make selections for one candidate at a time. The list of candidates will appear on the screen. You will make your selection by entering the three-digit candidate number for the person you wish to elect and press the send button on your handset. Your handset will then confirm your selection has been received. You will have thirty seconds to enter your selection. If you make a mistake or wish to change your selection, simply reenter a three-digit candidate number and press send again. Only your last selection will be tabulated.

As a reminder, what Bishop Stanovsky reviewed with you, if you vote for a candidate twice during the balloting, your ballot will be disallowed. Also, if you do not vote on every slide, your ballot will be disallowed.

So, let's conduct a practice ballot in order to make sure everyone is familiar with the process. So, I will now turn back to Bishop Stanovsky for the practice ballot.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you very much, Sara. Alright. I have a point of order, so we're gonna hold on the ballot. João Graca, can you go to mic. 1, and if Mande Muyombo goes is prepared at mic. 3 next. But first, mic. 1. João Graca, and teach me how to pronounce your name.

JOÃO GRACA (West Angola):

(*pronouncing name*)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: João Graca

GRACA: That's grace in English.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Um-hm.

(*laughter*)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: And you are from?

GRACA: From West Angola—

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you.

GRACA: Annual Conference. (*simultaneous interpretation*) Well, confused about the explanations because I feel that voting for three people at the same time may be a little bit complicated. So, if in this exercise will help us vote, then I would appreciate it. Thank you.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you very much. And now we have Mande Muyombo at mic. 3.

MANDE MUYOMBO (North Katanga): Thank you, Bishop. Mande Muyombo, North Katanga. I just want to appeal to the business manager. There are some timetable in terms of reimbursement and other item sort of issues that conflict with the proceedings of General Conference. There are several Central Conference delegates who are right now trying to get reimbursement, and this important practice is going on. Thank you.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you. Alright. So, we're gonna move to this vote for your favorite continent to test whether we have learned what we need to know to be able to elect these important offices for the next four years. So, you see, here is the slide. Your choices are Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, Australia, and Antarctica. You're going to vote for two. But you're gonna vote for them separately, so first, you're gonna take your election, your voting pad, and when I

say vote, you're going to pick, you're gonna put in, enter the number of the continent that you want to vote for. Is that clear?

So, take your pad and enter your vote.

(*sample ballot in progress*)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright. We voted for your first selection. Now it's time to vote for your second selection, so what is your second favorite continent? You may vote now. We need the numbers up again? We need the slide with the numbers up again. Alright, there was an error that occurred technically, so we're gonna begin again. If we can see the slide with the numbers for the continents. Your last votes were not registered for some mysterious reason.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: Would all of those persons with hot spots please turn them off? If you have a hot spot on your phone, if you have a hot spot on your pad, please turn it off.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, you see the choices again, then you're going to vote for your first selection of a favorite continent. In the end, you'll vote for two favorite continents, but right now we're voting for the first, so take your machine and please cast your vote for your first selection.

(*test ballot in progress*)

(*pause*)

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: All right, we have some technical problem. The votes are not being recorded. So we're gonna pause here for a minute. We have a number of questions, people who would, are asking for the floor. So I'm gonna turn first to Joe Kilpatrick who should proceed to mic. 4, and lining up behind, six, excuse me, mic. 6, and then behind him, not be-

hind him, but . . . Tshimbu Muyombi at mic. 4. So first, Joe Kilpatrick.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): Two questions: When Sara Hotchkiss was giving some instructions, she said, “You can’t vote twice for the same person.” I just think that that needs to be clarified, because you do often want to continue voting for a person until they’re elected. But, so explain exactly what you mean (*unintelligible*)...

BISHOP STANOFSKY: Thank you very much.

KILPATRICK: The second the second question is: that in order to transmit the, your selection, that “send” button, I believe it’s the one on the right, top of the pad. Could you make that clear, please?

BISHOP STANOFSKY: Thank you for those clarifications. On each ballot, you can only vote for the same person once. On successive ballots, if the person is still properly nominated, you can vote, you can vote for the same person on the second ballot, if they haven’t been elected, that you voted for on the first ballot. I think that clarifies that piece. And the other is after you have cast, after you have entered the number of the person or the continent that you’d like to vote for, you must press the “send” button as we have been doing. Thank you for that reminder. And, mic. 4, make sure and give us your name and conference.

TSHIMBU JETHRO MUYOMBI (South Congo) (simultaneous interpretation): Thank you, Bishop. From South Congo Annual Conference. This is a request for information. If I remember properly, I think that we have sometimes twenty or thirty. I would like to know for these votes that seem to be somewhat combined or somewhat long, couldn’t we come back to that, over that decision for these votes that require a more specific approach?

BISHOP STANOFSKY: The election process is complex, and it involves the technical crew, and so I don’t believe that we can make that kind of adjustment at this time. This is the system that we have, and we’re gonna work with it until we get it to work right.

(*pause*)

BISHOP STANOFSKY: If, however, you want to extend the time that you have to cast your vote each time, we could extend back to thirty minutes, if somebody wanted to make that req—seconds, seconds, seconds—

(*laughter*)

BISHOP STANOFSKY: Somebody wanted to make . . .

I said on the second day that at this rate we’re gonna be home in August.

(*pause*)

BISHOP STANOFSKY: All right. They’re ready. So, we’re gonna try this trial ballot. You see the continents. You see the numbers next to the continents. When I tell you to vote, you’re going to enter the number of the, your first selection of favorite continent, and press send. And then you’re going to wait, and we’re gonna take the second selection of favorite continent afterwards. But first, cast your ballot for your first selection of favorite continent. Cast your ballot and press send.

(*pause*)

BISHOP STANOFSKY: All right. Now, using the, we need the numbers up again, please.

(*pause*)

BISHOP STANOFSKY: All right, we’re continuing to have technical problems. So, there’s some other inquiries and points of order. We’re gonna to take those. If Bar-

bara Dick would proceed to mic. 4. Sergey Kim proceed to mic. 2. And remember each time you come to the microphone, to state your name and your conference and what your point of order or information is. Yes?

BARBARA ANNE BUEHLER DICK (Wisconsin): Barbara Dick, Wisconsin laity. In the visual instructions we were given, the button shown was the power button, but we are only transmitting by the “send” button. So, I wonder if we need some clarity on the instructions.

BISHOP STANOFSKY: I’m gonna turn to Sara.

SARA HOTCHKISS (Business Manager of the General Conference): Let me see if I can have them pull that slide in just a minute, to put up the correct location of the button to hit. So, if you’ll excuse me for just a moment, I will go check with them on that.

(*pause*)

BISHOP STANOFSKY: While we are waiting for the answer to Barbara Dick’s question, I’m going to acknowledge Sergey Kim at mic. 4, 2, excuse me, 2, and ask William Campbell to proceed to mic. 6.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia) (simultaneous interpretation): Sergey Kim, from Central Russia. Dear Bishop, I was given word about my previous question I had about calendar item, consent calendar item, because it was my order, point of order according to the calendar. Or, or, actually I lined up again and put my name in the queue about the voting. So which one I should address now?

BISHOP STANOFSKY: We’re on the voting.

KIM: Now I understand. I removed my question because now I understand. (*unintelligible*) answered.

BISHOP STANOFSKY: Thank you very much. And, is William Campbell at mic. 6? And, those of

you who are coming—this does not apply to William—but those of you who are coming to the microphone multiple times, need to ask yourselves if other people in the body need their opportunity to bring their questions. Yes, William?

WILLIAM MARTIN CAMPBELL (New England): Thank you, Bishop. Scott Campbell, from New England. I know it says William. Some of us in the back corner are having a difficult time seeing the screen. We're wondering if it's possible to have the names and the numbers projected a bit bigger than they are? Thank you.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So, let me just make sure. It's the size of the projection? It's not the angle of the screen?

CAMPBELL: We are very far from the screen that is not backwards for us. We can see through a close screen, but everything is backwards. Yes, it's the size.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: The other place you can look for this is on pp. 2076 and 2077, where the numbers are printed next to the names. That may be the easiest way to solve the issue that you raise.

CAMPBELL: That will be helpful, but as persons are eliminated—

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Yes, OK.

CAMPBELL: We're going to need to follow the progress.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: I'll see what we can do.

(pause)

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: Alright, will the body permit me to take these elections in a different order so that there is something we can do? Nobody is shouting "No."

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So I am gonna ask you to turn to p.

1881, p. 1881, and get your placards ready. At the top of the page are the nominations for John Street United Methodist Church Board of Trustees for 2016. These were presented earlier. We simply vote these up or down, yes or no. So these are before you, they've been before you, for several days—since Friday.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Are you ready to vote?

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, were just gonna use the green cards; you're gonna use the green cards to vote "yes" or "no," but not at the same time. If you're ready to elect these as the trustees for the John Street United Methodist Board of Trustees, lift your green card. Thank you. All those opposed lift your card, same card. Any abstentions, lift your card. They are elected.

(applause)

John Street UMC Celebration

BISHOP STANOVSKY: And with that—with that, we're gonna turn to Rev. Jason Bradmacher from the John Street United Methodist Church in the New York Annual Conference for a little celebration. Welcome.

JASON P. RADMACHER (New York): Thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Good morning. My name is Jason Radmacher and I am the 161st pastor of John Street United Methodist Church in New York City.

(applause)

RADMACHER: On behalf of the people of John Street Church, the people of the Metropolitan District in the New York Annual Conference, I bring you sincere thanks

for this privilege of celebrating our 250th anniversary with you. For 2 ½ centuries, the people of John Street Church have aspired to embody the all-excelling love of Jesus Christ. Frankly, at times, we failed miserably and that's why you just elected our Board of Trustees, but even though we've fallen short at times, God has never let us go, and that is both humbling and inspiring. To celebrate, we prepared a short film for you that we're going to share with you now. If you'd like to learn more about John Street, you can check at our website, johnstreetchurch.org. Again, thank you for this opportunity, and may God continue to bless the people of the United Methodist Church.

(video is shown)

(music)

Return to Balloting Practice

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: We celebrate with you this great heritage that lives today and into the future. Thank you so much. Alright, friends, we've taken one action. Now we're gonna try the sample again. If our tech people could project, if we could project the continent choices.

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Oh, alright. Did everybody see the diagram that showed where the send button is on your voting machine? Alright. So, you see your choices. You see the numbers. Take your voting machine. Enter the number of your first selection of favorite continent and press send. You may vote.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright. You've made your first selection. We got confirmation that the

votes are coming in, so we're on the way here. Now, if you would take your voting machine. Enter the number of your second continent selection, favorite continent selection, and press send. Please vote now.

(pause)

Judicial Council Election Begins

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright. The ballot is complete, and we're awaiting the report of the ballot. Here you see, there were 742 valid voters. Required to elect was 372, and you see that there was no election. But, and so if we were, if this were a real example, well, can we do one more sample, one more iteration? Alright. If we could see the, the selections again. You know what, let's not do that. Let's proceed. I think you get the idea, so let's proceed to the first election. We're gonna move to the Judicial Council, and the recommendation from the platform is that you really both use the projected names and numbers, but you also refer to the pp. 2076 and 2077. And we'll try and be very clear each time there is an election and encourage you to circle or somehow mark the names of the people who have been elected, so that you don't vote for them another time. If we can see the names of those nominated, first we'll take the ballot for lay members of the Judicial Council. We will vote for three. There are three vacancies for lay persons on the Judicial Council. You see the *DCA* number, page number up there. Lay first. Alright. So those are very small and hard to read. So, I encourage you to turn to p. 2076 in your *DCA*. And I want to be really clear that all of the number, all of the lay nominated, both by the Council of Bishops and those lay nominated from the floor as you look at your picture, both

of those categories are there. All of those persons are eligible to be voted for. They were all properly nominated, and in a moment, we're going to ask you to vote one at a time for three of those persons. Now, I have some requests from the floor, so let me take a look at those. Alright, I'm going to ask Carol Loeb to proceed to mic. 5 and Adilson Almeida proceed to mic. 1. Be prepared to share your name, your conference, and what your point of concern or question is.

CAROL K. LOEB (Rio Texas): Bishop, my name is Carol Loeb from the Rio Texas Conference. When we were voting for the continents, we voted for one, and then we didn't get the results for that vote. So, many of us didn't know when we were voting for the second whether our continent won or not, so we didn't know if we could vote for it or not. I just don't want this to transfer over to the future nominations or voting.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: That's a really helpful clarifying question. So, you have to listen really carefully to this, 'cause it is confusing. Because there are two vacancies, the ballot is not complete until you have voted for two continents, so you won't receive the report of the first continent you voted for, because you have to vote for two before we have a complete ballot. So, to clarify, to translate that to the ballot we're going to take next, we have three lay vacancies on the Judicial Council. I will ask you to vote for one person, each of three times. You have to vote for a different person each of those three times. After you have voted for three different people, the ballot is complete, and we'll see the result of the ballot. Is that clear? So, the result that you saw on the continent question, was the combined, it included your votes, both your first selection and your second selection. We're at mic. 1.

ADILSON LEITÃO ALMEIDA (Western Angola): Bishop—

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Uh, huh. Your name and conference please.

ALMEIDA: This is Adilson Leitão Almeida, clergy from Western Angola, and my concern is about translation, interpreting.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Yes.

ALMEIDA: When Brother João da Graca from Western Angola spoke, I put my headphone, and I heard the translation in English, and it was very wrong. And I could see that the interpreter was telling you something different from what he was saying. So, I wonder whether we are all together. If the Portuguese people are not getting the rightful translation, then we have a problem. Thank you.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you for the concern. I'm sure that those who are translating will do their best to give accurate translation. And I think in any case where you feel that, if you are aware of it and feel that the translation has not fully represented the person speaking, you'll call that to our attention. Alright, I see Ron Enns is asking for the floor. If you would move to mic. 3 please.

RON ENNS (Northwest Texas): Ron Enns, Northwest Texas Annual Conference. Bishop, I was just wondering if we could get the number of invalid ballots that were cast on that test vote, to get an idea of how many people still don't understand the process.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, the suggestion is that we try that ballot again. Do you think we can get, we can, can somebody check with the tech people about whether we can report the number of invalid ballots as well? OK. So we're going to vote for continents again. I know. Let's—

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: It is not going to be easy to, it would take a great deal of technical time to report the invalid ballots, so we're not going to do that at this time. But, we will monitor whether the number of ballots seems to be generally reflective of the number of people in the room, and if there's a concern we'll try and address it. So, this time, I want you to vote for—nope, that's—no, we're going to stick with the one that we're on. Put the, put the continents up again, please. Can we get the continents up again?

(pause)

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: Alright, here we are. Take your voting machines. Make sure they are turned on. We are going to vote for our two favorite continents. If you would take your machine and enter the number of your first selection for favorite continent, and hit the send button. Cast your vote now.

[test ballot on favorite continent – first choice]

BISHOP STANOVSKY: We are still on your first ballot. We are going to vote for your second selection. If you would enter the number of your second favorite continent, and hit the send button. Please vote now.

[test ballot on favorite continent – second choice]

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, you see the tally here. We had 769 voters. Required to elect a favorite continent is 385 and we have an election. Africa, 405 votes. There were twenty-eight invalid ballots, and if our tech people can give us any idea of what was wrong with those, that would be helpful as well.

So, if this were an actual voting election process, we would now go back, and you would cast a ballot just for one continent, and it could not be Africa. It would be all of the others would be eligible for your vote, but we are not gonna go through that exercise now. So, we are back to p. 2076 with the nominations for the Judicial Council. We will begin with the three lay vacancies. As you look at p. 2076, all of the names 101 through 118 are properly nominated and eligible for your vote. There are the names projected. So, if you would take your voting machine, you enter the number of your first lay selection for Judicial Council, and hit the send button. Are you ready? Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, if you would now make your second selection of lay nominees for the Judicial Council. Enter the number, and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright. So, the vote for the second selection is closed. We had a little problem with the clock there. That had to do with me jumping the gun on inviting you to vote. So, we will correct that, but your votes have been received, and we will move now to your third selection of a lay nominee for the Judicial Council. If you would enter the number, and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

Reyes and Tacha Elected to Judicial Council

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Ten seconds left. Five seconds. Alright, the time is completed. I'll just warn you. We may have to do this ballot again, but we are gonna try to. We

should go ahead. Oh, we will, OK. So, here are the results of this ballot. Valid voters 738. Required to elect 370. So we have elected Ruben Reyes.

[546 votes]

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Deanell Reece Tacha. Tacha, thank you.

[437 votes]

BISHOP STANOVSKY: And we one remaining to elect. So, on your page, if you are looking at p. 2073, excuse me 2076, you should somehow mark no. 107 and no. 108 as having been elected. So, you don't want to vote for them again. If you vote for them again, your ballot will be invalid. And so, we are waiting. We are just taking a moment to wait for the names to come up again. The names, since they are projected, will no longer have those two who have been elected. And, while we are waiting, we are gonna have an announcement from the Secretary.

L. FITZGERALD REIST:

Actually, it's a request. I received a slip of paper about University Senate nominations. The person didn't sign it and I don't understand what they are telling me. So, if it's important and it effects the University Senate nominations, would that person please come to the platform so I can find out what it is.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, while we are waiting, Vernon Scott has requested mic. 4. If you would proceed to mic. 4.

VERNON CRAIG SCOTT (Iowa): Thank you bishop. Vernon Scott, Iowa Annual Conference. I think my confusion may have been resolved. The rules specifies that an election shall occur when the required percentage is determined, and I wanted to know if that meant fifty percent or a plurality of those voting or exactly what that meant. I think it

is fifty percent plus one, but please clarify. Thank you.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you for asking the question. It is a majority, fifty percent plus one. Some of the other positions that will be electing today require only a plurality. So, I will have to be clear about that. Thank you for the reminder. And, Sergey Kim at mic. 2.

SERGEY KIM (Central Russia): (simultaneous interpretation) I am talking about a second nominee and it was no name on the screen and as for me, I did not understand it when it was time to vote, so I waited when it was something on the screen and then I will (*unintelligible*) the counter on and it didn't happen. And other people around the table, a few people from our table did not—

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: I'm sorry that that happened. We are being as careful as we can to make sure everybody is on board and ready to take these votes. Both of the individuals who were elected were elected by a nice margin, so I don't think their election is in question and we'll try and make sure you have accurate information going forward.

Alright, we are ready to vote for the third lay member of the Judicial Council. We're still on *DCA*, p. 2076, and the names are projected. You will see there that the names of those who have been elected have been removed from the projected screen, but you want to make sure that you don't vote again for no. 107 or no. 108.

So, if you would take your voting machines, enter the number of the person that you would like to vote for, press the send button. Please vote now.

(*vote in progress*)

The ballot is complete. We'll await the results.

(*pause*)

Alright, here are the results. There were 813 valid voters. You're a learning community. Required to vote, 407. There is no election.

So, we will move right into another ballot. We're still on p. 2076. If you would take your voting machines. We are not voting for no. 107 or 108; they have already been elected. If you would cast—oop, not ready yet, sorry.

Alright, if you would enter the number of the person you would vote for. Hit the send button. Please vote now.

(*vote in progress*)

You have fifteen seconds left. You have five seconds left. The ballot is closed. We will await the outcome. Valid voters, 820; required to elect 411. There is no election. So, we will move straight into another ballot. If you would take your voting machines. We're not ready.

(*pause*)

During this pause, I'm just going to remind you what a beautiful church you are. It is lovely to see you there. You're being very patient with this process for which the presiding officer is deeply grateful.

Alright, we are ready. If you would take your voting machine, enter the number of the person you would vote for, press the send button. Please vote now.

(*pause*)

Gulele Elected to Judicial Council

You have ten seconds remaining. The ballot is closed. We await the outcome. Eight hundred fourteen valid voters; required to elect, 408. We have an election of Lidia Romoa Gulele.

[*Votes 418*]

(*applause*)

I just remind you that we aren't really in the habit of applauding during the General Conference, so I'd ask you to maybe just withhold your applause until we've completed the election of each group and then we can celebrate altogether as a body.

Return now to the clergy vacant seats on the Judicial Council on the same p. 2076. You'll see there the two categories again of those nominated for the clergy positions. First clergy nominated by the Council of Bishops and then clergy nominated from the floor. These are numbered 119 through 129. We'll wait for them to be projected.

Again, on this ballot, we have two vacancies, so we'll vote for two selections of clergy before we close the ballot and see the results. I see that we are not quite going to take this, though I see that Joe Kilpatrick is requesting something at mic. 6 and Steven Furr at mic. 4. If you would move to the microphones. First, mic. 6. Joe, this might have been here for a while, so if it's not current, just let me know.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): It's not necessary for me to speak now.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you very much. Others of you, if you've entered your name in the queue but the time has passed or the issue has been resolved, if you can go back in and remove your name from the queue, that would expedite our process. Mic. 4.

STEVEN PAUL FURR (Alabama-West Florida): Steve Furr, Alabama-West Florida. Bishop, when you took the vote totals; if we could have that up a little bit longer for some of us who sit in a corner—we just can't see the vote and

have time to look to see what order they're in.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you. So, the request is to keep the vote, the tally, the report of the votes projected longer so people can make sure and write them down. It just takes longer to get to the next ballot, so, but you're doing very well. We're being very patient. Alright.

So, we are back on p. 2076. We're awaiting the projection of the clergy nominees—there they are and you'll see that No. 120 still has the misspelled name but we know the correction. There should be an *s* after the *a* in Easterling. If you take your voting machines, you'll enter the number of your first election for a clergy member of the Judicial Council. You'll enter send. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: Alright, now you are going to enter your selection for the second position for clergy member of the Judicial Council. Take your machine. Enter the number of your second selection. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: The ballot is closed. We await the outcome. Valid voters 779; required to elect, 391. There is no election. So we will move straight into another ballot. All of the names nos. 119 through 129 are eligible for your vote. Can we have the projection once again? Oh, there, it takes them a moment to get it set up. There it is. Alright, so if you would take your voting machines. Enter the number of the first person you would select as clergy for the, for the Judicial Council. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, now if you would enter your second selection for clergy member of the Judicial Council. Enter the number of the person you would vote for. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(pause)

*Øyvind Elected
Judicial Council*

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright. The ballot is closed. We await the outcome. Valid voters 782; required to elect, 392. We have an election of Øyvind Helliesen. You're gonna teach us how to pronounce your name? Øyvind. Øyvind. Øyvind Helliesen. So, on your page, our tech team is gonna remove that name from the projected list. On your p. 2076 you're going to mark no. 121 in some way, so that you know not to vote for that person again. As soon as we have the projected screen, we will enter into another ballot.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, we're ready for another ballot. If you would take your voting machine, we're voting for one. Enter the number of the person you would vote for as clergy on the Judicial Council. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Here's the report of the ballot. Valid ballots cast, 818; required to elect, 410. We have no election. So, we'll go into another ballot. Take your voting machines. Enter the number of the person you would vote for as clergy member of the Judicial Council. Press—we're not ready. Not ready. Not ready.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So, the reason that we've, we're ha— part of—one of the reasons we are having these pauses was the request to leave the report of the ballot up long enough for people to write down the results. So, it's good to be patient and measured. We're ready now. If you would take your voting machines. Enter the number of the one person you would vote for as a clergy member of the Judicial Council. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(pause)

Tran Elected to Judicial Council

BISHOP STANOVSKY: The ballot is closed. We await the outcome. 821 valid voters; 411 to elect. We have an election of Luan-Vu Tran. Now you may celebrate the election of the Judicial Council. That completes.

(applause)

*Graves Elected Secretary of the
General Conference*

BISHOP STANOVSKY: We will move now on p. 2077, at the bottom of the left-hand column, to the election of the Secretary of the General Conference. I think we can do this with placards. This is a simple up or down vote, a yes or no vote. So, if you would take your placards. We will use the green placards. If you would elect Gary Graves as the next Secretary of the General Conference, would you please lift your green card? All those opposed, lift your green card. Are there any abstentions, green cards? Gary Graves is elected, and I want to introduce him.

(applause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Gary's wife, Jennifer, is here. Where is Jennifer? You all wanna meet Jennifer. You'll never see her again, because who would ever— We wish you well, and we ask blessings on you as you take on this significant responsibility for the whole church. Let's greet them again, with appreciation.

(*applause*)

Election of GC Commission Members Begins

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: We move now to the Commission on the General Conference. And while we're waiting to, to get the names up, we'll begin with the, we'll begin, we'll elect these in a number of categories. So by, we'll begin in, we'll take them in the order that they're listed on p.2077, so we'll begin with the Africa Central Conference. Where we have names, you see we're reading the different direction now. It's the Africa Central Conference nominations are numbered from 301 and then 309 through 311. So it's that top tier of names on p. 2077. And we'll be electing two from that list. While we're waiting for this to come up, I'm gonna take a couple of points, and then we'll have a prayer before we move forward. If Tonya Murphy would move to mic. 6 and Jonathan Razon would move to mic 3. Tonya first. Mic 6.

Youth Nominations Questioned

TONYA MURPHY (North Georgia): Bishop, Tonya Murphy, North Georgia, layperson. I'm not sure if I'm in order at this time. My concern is regarding the youth delegate.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Not knowing what your concern about the youth delegate is, I can't, I can't tell you whether it's in order or not. Is it related to the election of—

MURPHY: Yes. Yes, ma'am.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: OK. What, state your concern? Is it a point of order?

MURPHY: Yes, ma'am.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So can you tell us the rule that it, that you believe is being breached?

MURPHY: 511.1.b.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: OK. State your concern, your point.

MURPHY: My concern, Bishop, is that there are three nominees for youth member to the General Commission on General Conference. As listed on our nominations, all three are disqualified because they are not delegates or members of the General Conference. As I am aware, there may only be one youth delegate member to this General Conference out of almost nine hundred persons. That is my concern.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So, let me make sure I understand. Your concern is that the body, the annual conferences, did not elect people, very many people, who were eligible for these positions. Is that your concern?

MURPHY: That is correct.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: That's not really within the authority of this body to do anything about. Each of us in our own areas are responsible for ensuring that we bring a balanced and inclusive delegation, so that all of the positions that are designated can be filled. We really don't have any authority to act on this. Thank you for—

MURPHY: I have a possible solution, if I'm order.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: I don't believe you're in order after having brought the point of order. So, if someone else could bring it, that's a possibility. Let me turn to mic. 2. Is that right? No, I'm sorry, mic. 3. My apologies.

JONATHAN PIMENTEL RAZON (Northeast Philippines):

Jonathan Razon, clergy delegate.

I need a translator. (*simultaneous interpretation*) I want to, to add, to include some (*unintelligible*). In our table we only have two. I would like to request that we be given, because we were not able to, we were not able to vote, because we don't have papers.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: As I understand, the concern is that there were not sufficient placards at one of the tables for everyone to vote. This was a great example to bring that one on because, that concern on, because we had an overwhelming election, and the outcome would not have been affected if the placards had been there, but we certainly want to make sure that you have the placards that you need to vote. If you can let a page near your table know, I'm going to trust that the pages can figure out how to find colored cards for your use. And let me just say, if I have said, "vote with your green placard," and you don't have a green placard, vote with your yellow placard. Alright? I see one more point of order. This is Jennifer Ihlo at mic. 2. Ihlo, excuse me.

JENNIFER ELLON IHLO (Baltimore-Washington): Jen Ihlo, lay delegate from Baltimore-Washington Conference. Bishop, how will the alternates for the Judicial Council be identified or selected?

BISHOP STANOVSKY: I will find an answer to that question, but I don't have it off the top of my head. Thank you.

IHLO: Thank you.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright. We're ready to move into our elections of Commission on General Conference. We're back on p. 2077, and we'll begin with the Africa Central Conference members. We're to elect two. And again, there are the, there are the names that are projected and they are, they are numbers 301 and then 309 through 311. We'll vote

for two, but we'll do it one at a time. So if you take your voting machine. Take your voting machine. Enter the number of the, your first selection. Enter the number of your first selection for Africa Central Conference member of the Commission on General Conference. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright. Now you're going to cast your vote for the, your second selection for an Africa Central Conference member of the Commission on General Conference. Enter the number of the second person you would vote for. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(pause)

Katiyo and Maliwa Elected to Commission

BISHOP ELAINE STANOVSKY: 719 valid ballots, 361 to elect. We have two elections: Betty Katiyo and Mills Maliwa have been elected.

We move now to the North Central Jurisdiction. And, if you are on p. 2077, you'll see the nominees include no. 302 and then, nos. 312 through 316; we'll elect two.

(Pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Here we are. You see the names and the numbers, if you would take your voting machines, you're voting for two; no, wait, you're voting for one at a time. Enter the number of your first selection of North Central Jurisdiction member of the Commission on General Conference; press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, now you will make your second

selection for member of the North Central Jurisdiction for the Commission on General Conference. Please, enter the number of your selection; press the send button. Vote now.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, there were 685 valid ballots, 343 to elect. There's no election. So, we'll move right into another ballot. If you will, take your voting machines, enter the number of your first selection, and press send. Please vote now. Not ready yet? My apologies. Hold tight.

You know, I promised you a prayer before we began these elections of the Commission and I neglected to move back to that. So, let's pause now, as we wait for the readiness of the tech team and have a moment of prayer.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for each one that has already been elected to an important responsibility. Not only in our church, but in your kingdom. We give you thanks for their willingness to serve and we ask you to be a constant, enabling power in their lives, so that they are strong to do the work that comes their way. And, we lift to you, all of the names on the pages before us that have offered themselves in service. We ask that they would come to these positions with a servant's heart and that all those who are voting would have a discerning mind to recognize where your special calling and blessing falls, so that the people who fill these jobs, these responsibilities in the church, have the gifts to do it with your grace and wisdom. We pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, we are ready. We're, again, on the North Central Jurisdiction. We're electing two members of the Commission on the General Conference.

You see the numbers before you. If you would, enter the number of your first selection; press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, now if you would make your second selection, enter the number of your second selection from the North Central Jurisdiction; press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

George and Cook Elected to Commission

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, 719 ballots, 361 to elect. We have two elections: Gary George [406] and Beth Ann Cook [390]. Please hold your applause.

We turn now to the Northeastern Jurisdiction. On p. 2077, these are nos. 303 and 312 through 316; and we'll wait for them to be projected. Oh, I said that wrong. On p. 2077, the Northeastern Jurisdiction people, there are 303, and then, 317 through 319; my apologies.

We're ready. The names are projected. We're electing one from the Northeastern Jurisdiction, one only. If you would enter the name of the person for whom you would vote; press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, 795 ballots, required to elect 399. There is no election. We'll take another ballot. If you take your machines, enter the number of the person you would vote for; press the send button. Not ready. Hold that vote.

(Pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, we're ready now. So, on the North-

eastern Jurisdiction, we're voting for one. Enter the number of the person you would vote for; press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP ELAINE STANOVSKY: Valid voters 802. Required to elect 402. There is no election. We will go straight to another ballot. Take your voting machines. Enter the number of the person. We are not ready. I am not a learning presider. You are a learning body, and I am not a learning presider. Alright, we are ready. Take your voting machines. Enter the number of the person you would vote for. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

DiPaolo Elected to Commission

BISHOP STANOVSKY: 810 valid voters. 406 to elect. We have an election of Joseph DiPaolo [463 votes]. We move now to the Philippines Central Conference on p. 2077. Those nominated are nos. 304 and then 317 through 3, no. 304. I am not reading my own page. 304 is the nominee. OK we are ready. This is a simple "yes" or "no" vote. So, if you want to vote "yes" to elect the person by no. 304, you will press one (1). If you want to vote "no," against this person, you will press two (2). Please enter your vote now.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: [Phebe Cosmiano] Alright, we have elected by a vote of 784 to 22. Thank you very much. We move now to the South Central Jurisdiction, again on p. 2077. The nominees are nos. 305 and 306 and then 320 through 326. Take your voting machines. We are electing two. We will vote for them separately. Take your voting machines. Enter the number of the

first person you would vote for. Press the send button. It is not up on the screen. My apology. Alright we are ready. This is the South Central Jurisdiction. We will elect two. Enter the number of the first person you would elect. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, now, using your machine, if you would enter the number of the second person from the South Central Jurisdiction you would elect. Press the pound, press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

Merrill Elected to Commission

BISHOP STANOVSKY: 723 valid ballots. Required to elect 363. We have an election, Laura Merrill [375 votes]. We move the complete the balloting for South Central Jurisdiction. We will vote for one this time. You should take Laura Merrill off of your eligible list on p. 2077. It will take a moment to get the screen up.

(Pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, we are ready. We are electing the second member of the Commission on General Conference from the South Central Jurisdiction. You should not vote for no. 305 again. She has been elected. We vote for one. Enter the number of the person you would elect. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(Vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: 801 valid voters; required to elect, 401. There is no election. We'll vote again. Enter the number of the person. We're not ready. I always jump the gun.

(pause)

Now, I'm not really a singer. We're ready. You don't have to hear me sing. This is a blessing. We'll vote again for one. Enter the number for the person you would elect. Press the send key. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

Spencer Elected to Commission

BISHOP STANOVSKY: 796 valid ballots; 399 to elect. We have an election. Juliette Spencer. Alright, we turn now to the Southeastern Jurisdiction. We have one to elect. On p. 2077 you'll see, you know what, we're just gonna, it's gonna take a minute. It takes about ninety seconds to reset for the next election. I have a request for a point of order or parliamentary inquiry from Rukang Chikomb. If you would move to mic. 2.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North West Katanga): Rukang Chikomb, North West Katanga. Bishop, thank you. I have a question. You showing us the total and the amount we need to pass, but people are exiting. How are we knowing those people exiting too much, the total amount exact for somebody to go above? Are we counting those people exiting?

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So the number of valid ballots indicates how many people on the floor who are properly seated cast a ballot and the number to elect is half of that number so it changes with every ballot.

CHIKOMB: But people are getting out before the vote. How are we matching this number?

BISHOP STANOVSKY: People who are out of the room for the vote are not included in the number of the ballots cast.

CHIKOMB: How are we counting it?

BISHOP STANOVSKY: The machine counts how many ballots

come through your voting machine, so it's an actual count. It's an actual count of the number of people on the floor who cast a ballot.

CHIKOMB: Thank you.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you for the question. Are we ready? OK. We're turning now to the Southeastern Jurisdiction. You see the two names on the screen. They are also on p. 2077. You have to kind of make your eye do a little stair step on p. 2077. So you see the numbers there are 307 and 327. If you take your voting machines we're electing one. Enter the number of the person you would vote for. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

Furr Elected to Commission

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright we have 789 ballots cast, 395 to elect. We have an election of Steven Furr. We turn now to the Western Jurisdiction. There are—alright, we have a point of order or parliamentary inquiry from Havea Tukutau at mic. 3.

(pause)

I'm just aware that Havea, your name is in nomination so I want to make sure, I'm gonna monitor you really carefully to make sure that what you're bringing us is in order.

HAVEA TUKUTAU (Rocky Mountain): Havea Tukutau from Rocky Mountain Conference. And I'd like to remove my name from the ballot.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright. Thank you. You've heard the request. I think that's really a request not to vote for him.

(inaudible speaker)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: I think we'll proceed with the vote. If you can go ahead and use the projection

the way it was originally, you've just heard the request and encouragement not to vote for Havea. Alright, you see it? If you take your voting machine, enter the number of the person you would vote for. Press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

Kuch-Stanovsky Elected to Commission

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Ten seconds. The ballot is closed. There you see the results. 752 valid voters, 377 to elect. Marie Kuch-Stanovsky. That is an "n" in Stanovsky. I'm just saying.

(laughter)

Bishop Stanovsky says it's an "n", is elected. That completes our elections of the Commission on General Conference. I have a—yes, let's celebrate all of those who have been elected.

(applause)

Motion for Commission to Develop Alternative Legislative Proposal for 2020

BISHOP STANOVSKY: I have a request. Judy Kenaston would like to speak to us from mic. 4.

JUDITH KENASTON (West Virginia): Judy Kenaston, West Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop, I have a motion that concerns the commission. Is that in order at this time?

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Try it. We'll see.

KENASTON: I move that the General Conference request that the Commission on the General Conference develop an alternative legislative proposal to bring to the General Conference 2020 and if possible, that a synopsis of this proposal be available prior to 2018 annual

conferences so that the annual conferences may become familiar with the process and provide feedback. Further, that the commission be empowered to make all preparations to implement such a plan in 2020.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you. Is there a second? I hear a second. You'll get a copy of that to the secretary? Thank you.

KENASTON: Can I speak to it?

BISHOP STANOVSKY: You may.

KENASTON: We need to find a way to have legislative conversations with each other that don't involve our parliamentary maneuvering and I believe we are ready to do this. We've learned much about this process during this General Conference and I believe that that will assist the commission in its work. And the commission needs to be empowered to fully implement the plan so that when it is approved, that it can function. Thank you.

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: I'm watching for persons who might want to speak. I'm looking for a speaker opposed. I see, I recognize Mary Huycke at mic. 4 with an amendment. Mic. 1.

MARY KOHLSTAEDT HUYCKE (Pacific Northwest): Mary Huycke. Mary Huycke, Pacific Northwest. I request to amend by substitution.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Please.

HUYCKE: We direct the Commission of the General Conference to identify by 2018 an alternative discussion-based process for handling legislation that is effective in a variety of cultural contexts, then test that process in a minimum of six conferences, three of which are outside of the United States, and bring the results and a proposal to the 2020 General Conference for approval and usage. If I have a second, I will speak.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: I hear a second.

HUYCKE: I love the idea of finding a way to talk with each other. We know from yesterday's Pentecost story and our Pentecost personal experiences that the sign of the Spirit's presence is people coming together. When two or more are gathered, Jesus is with us. Having the General Conference identify some of the processes that our conferences are already using very successfully, both in and outside of the United States, would give them a chance to visit and identify what is already working, bring the best of what, of what they find, and test it ahead of time in a minimum of six (inside and outside), videotape the results, and bring it back to us prior to gathering in 2020, so we not only have a process we can all see and have a hand in making sure this is the best way for us to allow the Holy Spirit to move within our body.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, I want to make sure that you understand parliamentarily where we are. This is a motion to substitute a different proposal for the original motion that was made. The first action we would need to take is to substitute this for the original motion, and—

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So, we first determine which of these two motions you want to act on. It becomes the main motion, whether you want to go with the Kenaston motion first or whether you want to substitute the Huycke substitute.

(pause)

Alright, the motion to substitute is debatable, but you can't amend it. So, would you, the question before the body is, "Would you substitute the Huycke proposition for the Kenaston proposition?" I have speakers in queue, but I don't know if they are on this question. So, John Auta

wants to speak against, but it would need to be on the question of whether or not to substitute. Is that what you want to speak on, John? John's moving to mic.—he disappeared—1.

JOHN PENA AUTA (Central Nigeria): I am John Auta from Nigeria. I am speaking against this motion. This is an effort to get us back to Rule 44, which has taken a lot of our time.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Excuse me, I need to rule you out of order, unless you are addressing the question of whether to substitute this latest motion for the original motion.

AUTA: I am against substitution, Bishop.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Thank you. Alright, is there a speaker in favor, I have a point of order. Merle Idom, Idom Jr. at mic. 3.

MERLE MATTHEWS IDOM (Texas): Matt Idom, clergy, Texas Annual Conference. Bishop, could we hear both of those read?

BISHOP STANOVSKY: We could. As soon as I heard both, I'll just, I'm just going to chat with you a minute as my friends under the palaver tree. OK? I am concerned that both of these are long and somewhat complicated motions. We don't have them to project. You don't have them in front of you. So, as the presider, I would probably be happy if somebody stepped to a mic., put their name in a queue to defer consideration until tomorrow, when we could have them printed in the *DCA*. If that doesn't happen, I will try and get them read to you. Do we have copies of both of them?

(Bishop conferring on stage)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Is this Alex Shanks at mic. 1? No. Alex Shanks has asked to speak at mic. 1.

ALEX ARTHUR SHANKS (Florida): This is Alex Shanks from Florida. I move to table both of these

motions until tomorrow, so they can be printed in the *DCA*.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Is there a second? The motion to table 'til tomorrow is before you. I'm going to ask you to take your placards out, and I don't care what color it is. This will be a rainbow vote.

(laughter)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: If you would support the motion to table, please lift your card. All those opposed, the same sign. Any abstentions?

It's, it's tabled 'til tomorrow.

Alright, we've concluded our discussion on the matter before us, and so I want to ask that the queue be cleared at this time. Any of you who had points of order or points of information that were not related to the matter at hand, you'll need to enter, once the queue is cleared, you'll need to reenter your name.

Alright, the queue is now open, if you are waiting to enter.

Begin Election of Judicial Council Alternates

Alright, we are appreciative of the person who raised the question about the alternate members of the Judicial Council. We're going to return to elect the alternate members of the Judicial Council. We will elect three—we, I'm sorry, we elect six lay and six clergy—and we elect them by the same process we used before. It requires a majority election to elect these alternates, and so the tech team is aware that this is the direction we're moving. We'll await the names. We elect again from the same names that were in nomination earlier. So, again, we're back on p. 2076.

The lay election is ready, so we'll go back to the names that are listed here. These are in your *DCA*, again, p. 2076, nos. 101 through

118, with the exception of, we have removed from this list no. 107, no. 108, and no. 112, because they have already been elected. Alright? Mm-hm.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: So, take your voting machines. From those eligible for lay, to serve as lay alternate members of the Judicial Council, enter the number of the first person you would vote for. You're going to want to keep track of who you voted for, 'cause you remember, you can't vote for that same person a second time without invalidating your ballot, so you'll enter the number of the person you want to vote for. You'll press send. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: All right, let's move to the second selection of lay alternates to the Judicial Council. You can take your voting machine and enter the number of the second person you would vote for. Remember we're voting for six. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, take your voting machines. We'll vote for the third person out of six to serve as lay alternate to the Judicial Council. Enter the number of the person you would vote for. Press the send button. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, we're gonna cast ballots for, we're gonna cast our votes for the fourth lay person to serve as alternate to the Judicial Council. Enter the number of the person you would vote for. Press the send key. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, if you would take your voting machine, enter the number of the fifth person you would vote for as lay alternate to the Judicial Council. Press the send key. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, if you would take your voting machine, enter the number of the sixth person you would vote for as lay alternate to the Judicial Council. Press the send key. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

*Plowden, Fulton, Kilpatrick,
Enns, Miller Elected Lay
Judicial Council Alternates*

BISHOP STANOVSKY: There were 572 valid ballots, 287 to elect. We have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 . . . 5 elections. Warren Plowden is elected, Kent Fulton, Joe Wesley Kilpatrick, and Ronald Enns and . . . Randall Miller.

Warren Plowden - 424

Kent Fulton - 345

Joe Wesley Kilpatrick - 304

Ronald Enns - 298

Randall Miller - 288

BISHOP STANOVSKY: That leaves us one to elect. I'm gonna push ahead. I know we're at lunch time. I'm gonna push ahead and see if we can complete these lay alternates before we break. So, if you would take your voting machines, we have one more to elect. It will take a minute to set this up. It'll take some time to set it up. We need to remove all of the names of the five people that we just selected, so that we're sure that you're voting only for people who continue to be eligible. While we're waiting, let's just . . . this is one, I was gonna say I'm not really a singer, but I know that there are singers in the room, so if I start this, if I don't pitch it too low, you'll help me.

(song - Amen)

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: While we're waiting for the set-up, I just want to compliment the body. I always do this just as it comes up, but I want to compliment the body on the seriousness with which you have taken your work today. It deserves the care that you have given it, and you've done it in a really orderly and attentive way, so thank you very much.

Alright, we are ready. These are those who are eligible to serve in the last lay alternate position on the Judicial Council if you would take your machines, enter the number of the person you would vote for. Press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

(pause)

BISHOP ELAINE J.W. STANOVSKY: Alright, 803 to elect. No. 803 ballots cast. Required to elect, 403. There is no election, and it doesn't look to me like we are gonna have an election quickly. So, we will come back to this after lunch. Does the body want to take one more ballot?

(shouting from the floor)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, we're ready. Take your machines. Enter the number of the person you would vote for. Press send. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: 801 votes cast. 401 to elect. There is no election. Please take your voting machines. Not ready. Alright. Take your voting machines. Enter the number of the person you would elect. Enter the send. Hit the send button. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP STANOVSKY: Alright, 802 to, votes, we've got an election.

(appause)

Lawan Elected Lay Judicial Council Alternate

BISHOP STANOVSKY: 802 votes cast. Required to elect 402. Jacob Apari Lawan is elected, with 477 votes. So, you've completed your work, but please stay in order. We have some announcements to make. And, if Havea Tukutau would move to mic. 3 for the closing prayer.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): I would invite Duncan McMillan to please come to the platform. Duncan McMillan to the platform. E. V. Lapham or Lapham, I'm not sure: L-A-P-H-A-M. E. V. Lapham to the platform. Paul H. Cho, Paul H. Cho to the platform. Ntambue Joseph Kazadi to the platform. Ntambue Joseph Kazadi to the platform. The Committee on Agenda and Calendar will meet immediately following this plenary session at the beginning of the lunch break in Room C122. The Committee on Agenda and Calendar will meet immediately following this plenary session at the beginning of the lunch break in Room C122. I will hold the other announcements until later.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: I wanna say what a privilege it has been to sit in this chair with my helpful support behind and to the right. I ask God's blessing on the work that we have done this morning, and I apologize to the rest of the presiders that I have, and the committee, that we have left work unfinished today, but we've done our work well. We'll be back at a 2:00 return time. That shortens your time, but I know that you can eat and be back in your seats and ready to go at 2 P.M., and with

that, I turn to Havea Tukutau to bless our food and to adjourn. Wait a minute. Wait a minute, there's one more announcement. Excuse me.

REIST: My apologies. I overlooked one for a lunch date today. Gammon Theological Seminary luncheon will be today from 12:30 to 2 P.M. at the Embassy Suites, 319 SW Pine St., Portland. That's from 12:30 to 2. Well, it's not gonna start on time. Tickets will be available at the door. The Embassy Suites are a fifteen-minute light rail train ride, an eight Uber taxi ride, and a twenty-five minute walk across the river and downtown Portland. Special music will be provided by Bethel AME Church of Portland.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: And Havea Tukutau who is a youth, youth, youth, youth delegate from the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, will dismiss us with prayer.

HAVEA HIKULE O TUKUTAU (Rocky Mountain): Alright. Could you please join me in an attitude of prayer?

O Lord, thank you for bringing us here together from different countries and different cities, different cultures, and different languages to come together for this General Conference to do the work of God. O Lord, thank you for this beautiful day. Thank you for keeping us safe over this General Conference, and I ask you to bless us, and keep us safe for the rest of this General Conference. I ask you to bless those who are, who have fallen ill, and have become injured, and to bless them, and heal, and I ask for healing for them, O Lord. I ask you to watch over us as we depart from here to go to lunch. Bless our food, O Lord, and bring us back safely to do more work for you, O Lord. And, in your name we pray, O Lord. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

BISHOP STANOVSKY: We are in adjournment.

**Monday Afternoon,
May 17, 2016**

BISHOP MICHAEL J. COYNER: Let me call the conference together. We're going to start with an order of the day which is a report so let me advise you to take your seats as quickly as you can. My name is Bishop Mike Coyner. I'm currently serving in Indiana area after having served in Dakotas area and I'm backed up by two other class of 1996 bishops, Janice Huie from the Texas Conference and Jonathan Keaton from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. All three of us are retiring this year, but we're here to try to help you through this session.

As we get ready to begin with the call to order and the order of the day, which is a report on global social concerns, I invite you to pause and join me in prayer. Let us pray. God we thank you for this day though it's been a busy and full one already. We know we have much more work to do so we seek your guidance and your direction as we go about our business this afternoon. We know we're all having people rush back from lunch so we pray that you'll allow us to convene in peace and be guided by your spirit. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

As we gather, I would invite you to write down one piece of data somewhere on your table to share it with others not here yet, and it's a dollar figure. It is \$1,388.89. \$1,388.89. In my role as president of the General Council on Finance and Administration, I ask, what does it cost us to run General Conference? And the answer is, it costs \$1,388.89 per minute. I say that not to rush you or me, but to remind us not to, as John Wesley said, "Not to trifle our time."

So we begin with an order of the day this afternoon, and we will be ending this session with an order of

the day at 3:53. The order of the day now is a report on the Global Social Principles that the General Conference asked for. The 2012 General Conference referred this petition to the coordinating body at that time which is now the Connectional Table, so let me call upon Amy to respond. Amy?

Global Social Principles

AMY VALDEZ BARKER: (Executive Secretary, Connectional Table): Thank you Bishop. In 2012, the General Conference referred the Petition on the Revision of Social Principles to the coordinating body of the denomination. At that time, it was named the General Council for Strategy and Oversight. This defaulted back to the Connectional Table in our Rule of Coordinating Strategies for our Collective Mission.

The Connectional Table then partnered with the Secretary of General Conference and the General Board of Church and Society to begin this work by funding the initial hearings through the World Service Contingency Fund. GBCS took the lead and set forth the process that aligns this work with the work of the general *Book of Discipline* being done by the Standing Committee on Central Conference matters. We now turn to the leaders of this work as they present the process for revising our Social Principles for our world-wide mission.

REV. DR. SUSAN HENRY-CROWE: (General Secretary of the Board of Church and Society): Thank you. I am Susan Henry Crowe, General Secretary of the Board of Church and Society. I am pleased to be with you to discuss the work that Church and Society has engaged in over the last four years related to the Social Principles and where we see this work headed in the next four years.

The Social Principles are the seventy-three statements of the General Conference on a variety of social concerns with the gospel as the foundation and John Wesley as the visionary, these public positions offer a clear voice on behalf of United Methodists from around the world. Human rights, prison reform, living wage, ministry with the poor, care for all of God's people, health and wholeness, peace in justice, are values and positions included in the Social Principles. These public statements emerge from the will of the church and they reflect the pressing and relevant needs of the society as well as of the church.

This quadrennium, Church and Society has heard voices from many United Methodists across the connection that the Social Principles are vital to all aspects of their lives. Seven listening sessions were conducted involving two hundred United Methodists across the regions, jurisdictions, and conferences around the world. I want to give you a short glimpse into what this process has looked like over the last four years.

(video)

(proceedings interrupted by demonstration)

BISHOP COYNER: Friends, let me invite you to hold still. We have some folks who want to share their concerns. If you would remain seated and listen attentively. I understand they have said they will pass through. For those of you outside the U.S., these folks are with Black Lives Matter and they are concerned about violence, particularly police violence in our cities. So I would invite you to hold still. We are not leaving the arena, but we are going to sit and be patient and listen to hear what the concerns may be. Thank you for your patience.

(demonstration continues)

BISHOP COYNER: Let me invite the conference to come back to order. I'm gonna offer prayer in a moment for what we've experienced. Let me say again for those delegates who are from outside the United States who may not understand, this group, called Black Lives Matter, has a lot of concerns about violence in our cities, including violence as they perceive it by police against black citizens and

(proceedings interrupted by demonstration)

BISHOP MICHAEL J. COYNER: Let me invite the conference to come back to order. I'm gonna offer a prayer in a moment for what we have experienced. Let me say again for those delegates who are from outside the United States who may not understand, this group called, "Black Lives Matter," has a lot of concerns about violence in our cities, including violence as they perceive it by police against black citizens. And so, that's been part of their reason for wanting to express their concern. We share a lot of their value about love, not hatred. So, as we get ready to reconvene, we will go back in a moment to the order of the day we were on. I would like to invite us to be in prayer. To pray that, indeed, what they have chanted – "Love Not Hate" – might also be part of our message today as well. Let's pray.

God, we gather as your church in the midst of a world with a lot of hurt. There is hurt outside the church. There is hurt inside the church, and we have evidenced that in many directions this week. So, we pray, Lord, that love might, indeed, be the message we share with the world, and the message we receive from the world. We pray, O God, that love, not hatred, will be the way

because it is your way. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the One who came as the Prince of Peace to share with us his message of love. Amen.

Let me turn back to Susan who was in the midst of presenting the report about global social concerns.

*Return to
Global Social Principles*

REV. DR. SUSAN HENRY-CROWE (General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society): Thank you. All lives matter, and the sessions that we heard spoke of that. These sessions were a rich experience that reflected the gift of our connection in bringing different perspectives and voices to dialogue together about the pressing needs and issues facing our world today. We heard from individuals who said the Social Principles are why they were drawn to The United Methodist Church and others said engaging with the Social Principles have reignited their faith. The Social Principles empower United Methodists to bear witness to the gospel in communities. I want to share just one example of how the Social Principles impact the lives of people, and for that I want to turn to Rev. Paul Njuguna.

(video)

HENRY-CROWE: The General Board of Church and Society is committed to continuing the theological and ethical thinking in an open process to bringing newly revised social principles to the 2020 General Conference for consideration.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Point of order.

BISHOP COYNER: Sorry, I was in the midst of the order of the day. I cannot recognize you. I will recognize you when the report is finished.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: No, you are not in order. I'll call on you after the report is finished. Thank you.

HENRY-CROWE: Building on the learnings of the listening sessions, Church and Society will continue the process of revising the Social Principles with participation from United Methodists across the connection. Public hearings will be held around the world where many people will participate in order to give expression to the realities of our many contexts. As the voice of the church on pressing issues of the day, the Social Principles deserve a process that calls for nothing less than our best investment of resources, our time, our theological and our ethical thinking. Bringing revised Social Principles to the 2020 General Conference is an exciting mission. Together we can insure the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church become truly global. Thank you very much.

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. I did have a point of order now. A point of information related to the report, and Jennifer if you would go to mic. 2 please.

JENNIFER ELLON IHLO (Baltimore-Washington): My point of order is to correct a misstatement by the General Secretary when she referenced what the protesters had been chanting as, "All Lives Matter" when, in fact, they chanted, "Black Lives Matter." Thank you.

(applause)

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. Thank you. We turn now to the report of the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, who met over lunch to try to help us think through some of the issues referred to them, and they have a brief report. Tracy Smith Malone, I believe. Do you have that for us, please?

*Committee on Agenda and
Calendar Replies to Referral*

TRACY SMITH MALONE (Northern Illinois): Thank you Bishop, and good afternoon everyone. All of the members of the Committee on Agenda and Calendar met over the lunch break, and our sole agenda item was to discuss the matter that was referred to us. That matter being, to have all plenary sessions limited to opening and closing prayer and necessary business and elections, until all resolutions and petitions before us have been considered.

The committee hears the frustration behind the request, but we unanimously recommend that there be no changes to the schedule as approved this morning. We have several reasons for this recommendation, and we have some suggestions for how we can use our time more wisely. Among our concerns is that many of those involved in special reports and celebrations have traveled to General Conference for the specific days and times that these events were originally scheduled, and would not be able to rearrange their schedules to accommodate a change in the schedule. The Program Committee of the Commission on the General Conference worked very hard to grant time requests fairly and efficiently, and they intentionally spread the presentations over the course of the plenary sessions based on the feedback that was received from the 2012 General Conference.

The members of the Committee on Agenda and Calendar agree that hearing reports and celebrations provides the opportunities for delegates to learn about and celebrate things that are happening around the world, and that in many cases, what we hear can help inform our decisions as delegates on the matters that are before us. The members of the committee agree that we need to be better

stewards of our time, and we remind the body that scheduled plenary presentations that go over the time approved will have microphones and videos cut off.

We will work with the Committee on Presiding Officers to encourage presiding bishops to remind delegates who bring points of order to be more succinct.

The Secretary of the General Conference will work with those who are assisting the General Conference with technology in asking them to explore ways to be more efficient.

Mostly, the committee members would encourage delegates to choose more carefully how and when they bring points of order, questions, or motions to the body. Perhaps some points of order could be answered by checking first at your table. Speakers who are recognized are asked to limit introductory explanations, and speak directly to the point of order that they are raising.

Let us be better stewards of our time together.

The Committee on Agenda and Calendar recommends that we keep the schedule as it now stands.

Bishop that ends my report.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright

TRACY SMITH MALONE:

Let us be better stewards of our time together. The Committee on Agenda and Calendar recommends that we keep the schedule as it now stands. Bishop, that ends my report.

BISHOP MICHAEL COYNER: Alright, thank you. In the spirit of that report, I am going to move us back to finish the elections we were on this morning. So, I would ask the delegates to turn to p. 2076. We need to finish electing the clergy-at-large members of the Judicial Council. So, if you would turn to p. 2076 in the second column on that page, you see clergy nominated by both the Council of Bishops and from

the floor. We'll be voting as you did right before the break for the lay at large members. We will be voting for six. We'll be doing that in order, sequentially. So, I'd like to invite you to get your voting machines ready. And, there you see on the screen, all the clergy who've not yet been elected, who are eligible to be elected to be at large members of the Judicial Council. I hope you are all clear on what we will be doing. We will be voting sequentially; one at a time, one selection at a time. The first ballot will be for all six, and we'll see how the voting goes. So, if you would take your machines, enter your first selection, the number of the first person you wish to vote for; enter that selection, then press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

Election of Clergy Judicial Council Alternates

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, if you will now enter your second selection, the number of the second selection and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, thank you. If you will now enter the number of your third selection and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, if you will now enter the numbers for your fourth selection and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, if you will now enter the numbers for your fifth selection and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: Oops. Hold still. Let me ask our tech people if we're ready to do the sixth selection. They're checking to see what happened. Hang on.

(Pause)

BISHOP COYNER: I'm being told we are going to have to do this vote over again. I apologize. So, in just a moment, you'll start back making your first selection. There was a glitch in the software, apparently. I've now told you more than I understand about computers.

Alright, here we go again. If you would enter your first selection and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, if you would now enter the numbers for your second selection, and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, if you will now enter the numbers for your third selection, and press send. Please vote now.

(vote in progress)

BISHOP COYNER: We're in the middle of a ballot. Is this related to the ballot, sir? Let me ask you to go to the microphone, and I'll hear your concern; mic. 2.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Bishop, Rukang Chikomb, North-West Katanga. On our table, some machines are not functioning. You punch the number, it's not responding. The first one, the name never showed up, it showed received.

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, let me consult with our tech people to see what we can do.

CHIKOMB: Thank you.

(Pause)

BISHOP COYNER: I'm told, as long as your machine said received that means your vote was cast, even if it didn't show the name. If you're having trouble with that machine, I'd ask you to call a page and get a different machine. Could we have a page help this table, please?

BISHOP MICHAEL J. COYNER: Make sure he has a new machine. We are going to be ready to do four, I believe.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wait till he's got a—did he get his voting device?

BISHOP COYNER: Alright, he's got his device, so we're ready to have your fourth selection. Please enter the numbers, press send. Please vote now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He doesn't have his device.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: OK, before we do fifth, I want to make sure; sir, did you get your device? I cannot hear you, I'm sorry. You have to go to a mic. Mic. 2.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Rukang Chikomb, North-West Katanga. Bishop, it seems like we're talking too much on the microphone. We don't have the machine, but the message is like they received the machine and the vote went without us getting the machines.

BISHOP COYNER: They're bringing you a different machine it looks like right now. OK. So, we're ready to enter your fifth selection.

(Bishop conferring on stage.)

BISHOP COYNER: Are you ready, sir? I think he needs some assistance here, please.

(Bishop conferring on stage.)

BISHOP COYNER: I see. I'm getting the thumbs up sign, so let's proceed into your fifth selection. Press send. Please vote now.

(Bishop conferring on stage.)

BISHOP COYNER: Alright. Please enter the numbers for your sixth selection and press send. Please vote now.

(pause)

BISHOP COYNER: Thank you. The ballot's closed. While they are tabulating, I have a couple people with points of order. I apologize, I'm probably mispronouncing this name. Rukang Chikomb, if you would go to mic. 2 please. He's saying no; you're okay now? OK. Thank you. Jennifer Ihlo, is your still a new point of order, or is this left over in the queue? Mic. 2, please.

JENNIFER ELLON IHLO (Baltimore-Washington): I want to be sure that one, we remember we've got one more to elect on the lay delegate side for the Judicial Council.

BISHOP COYNER: They were elected before lunch, ma'am.

IHLO: Not the sixth one. It was?

BISHOP COYNER: Yes, it was. The body wanted to vote again and Bishop Stanovsky kept you in session and you voted. Shall I read the name of the person who was elected sixth, in case you missed it? Jacob Apari Lawan was the last lay alter-

nate elected. We're ready for results on the clergy side now.

Bruster, Brown, DeWitt, Joyner, Mahle, Stover Elected Judicial Council Alternates

546 valid, 274 required. It looks like we have 1-2-3-4-5-6 elected.

They would be elected in order. So, they'd be the ones listed: Tim, Angela, Diana, Belton, Katherine, Greg—that would be six.

I hear a call for point of order. Since you're not in the queue, I'll take you anyway. Mic. 2.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sir, if we voted for six, I don't think it's possible that 9 people got more than 50 percent, or is it just a plurality.

BISHOP COYNER: This is a majority vote, so we'll double check with the text to see if we have any kind of error here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

BISHOP COYNER: They're checking. It looked like the number of persons voting was lower than it has been; I wonder if that was a mistake in the report.

(Bishop conferring on stage.)

BISHOP COYNER: I'm told by the tech people that is an accurate voting count, that it's the invalid ballots that are not showing that would make up for the differential there. So, I am going to have to declare that was a vote that was passed and the top six vote-getters would then be the clergy alternates to Judicial Council.

(continued in next issue)

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