

Becky Delurey, *Bishop Hagiya's administrative assistant*
Laura Jaquith Bartlett - *Conference Secretary*
Paul Cosgrove - *Conference Chancellor/Parliamentarian*
Wendy Woodward - *Agenda Chair*
Mary Foote - *Lay Leader*
The folks who do our captioning for hearing impaired
Jeremy Smith - *Worship Coordinator*
John Mars & Meridian UMC - *Opening Worship*
Michael Benischek, Oregon City UMC - *Memorial Service*
Rich Fuss & Grants Pass-Newman UMC - *Commissioning & Retirement Service*
Warren Light & U of O Wesley Foundation - *Closing Service*
Anna Eckelbarger Salas and Jill Adamore - *Youth Coordinators*
Warren Light and Jeanne Knepper - *Legislative Coordinators*
Dan Benson - *Floor Manager and Page Coordinator*
Ardis Letey - *Visual Art*

And a special thanks to all the volunteers who contributed time and energy to help in so many ways. Wendy also expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire annual conference for Bishop Hagiya's leadership as he has presided over our session.

INVITATION TO 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Hagiya announced that the 2017 Annual Conference will be held jointly with Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest, June 15-17 (or 18th), 2017. Erin Martin and David Nieda (district superintendent of the Vancouver District in PNW) issued a joint invitation for next year's annual conference session at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach.

Erin moved that the 2017 Annual Conference be held at the Red Lion.

Passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Laura Jaquith Bartlett, conference secretary, moved that the 48th session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference be adjourned *sine die* following our closing time of prayer and praise; and that the daily proceedings of this Annual Conference be printed as the official minutes in the Journal, with such editorial corrections as are necessary.

Passed.

CLOSING WORSHIP (3:00 pm)

A brief service of prayer and praise was held to close out the Annual Conference, led by Warren Light and students at the University of Oregon's Wesley Foundation.

Clergy Session

Thursday, June 16, 2016

9:00 am

MICAH Building—Salem First United Methodist Church

Linda Quanstrom called the Clergy Session to order at 9:05 am. She introduced those at the head platform: Bishop Grant Hagiya; Linda Quanstrom, BOM chair; Clay Andrew, BOM chair-elect; Jeff Lowery, BOM deacons/elders registrar; Dan Wilson-Fey, BOM conference relations registrar; Laura Jaquith Bartlett, conference secretary.

Linda led in an opening prayer.

Bishop Hagiya thanked all of us who served as members of the host annual conference in providing significant leadership and hospitality for General Conference 2016. He reported that many bishops told him that this was the most welcoming and hospitable GC they had ever experienced.

Laura Jaquith Bartlett made the following motions:

- a) that ministers of other denominations currently serving within the bounds of OR-ID be allowed to be present without voice or vote; an individual minister of another denomination may be allowed voice upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the session.
- b) that clergy members of other annual conferences, who are currently serving within the bounds of OR-ID (under par. 346.1) be allowed in clergy session, with voice but no vote.
- c) that our sound and video technician be allowed to be present in the room without voice or vote.

Passed.

[Unless otherwise noted, each question below was voted on and approved. For a complete record, see the Business of the Annual Conference report on pages 167-183 of this Journal.]

The bishop asked this historic question of the members and superintendent of each district:

Q 17. Are all the clergy members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration?

Sage District: Yes.

Crater Lake: Yes.

Cascadia: Yes.

Columbia: Yes.

Jeff Lowery introduced Richard Shewell, candidate for provisional membership on the elder track. Ric read his Theology of Ministry Statement. Jeff read the biographical information for Anna Cho, candidate for provisional membership on the elder track. Anna was not present, so we moved ahead.

Q28. Who are elected as provisional members and what seminary are they attending, if in school?

Richard Albert Shewell, St. Paul School of Theology

Clay offered a prayer for Ric.

Q53. Elders retiring this year

April Hall Cutting, Craig Hall Cutting, Jonathan Karl Enz, Jody E. Felton, James Daniel Frisbie, Rinya Linnette Frisbie, William Leonard Gates, Edward Hoadley, Jon Franklin Langenwalter (12/31/2015), Gregory Matson Lindsay, Allen Charles Trachsel

Q56. Local Pastors retiring this year (for information only)

Tu'inauvai Fuapau, Robert R. Reasone

Barbara Nixon offered a prayer for the retirees.

Q18. a) Who constitute the Administrative Review Committee?

James Parr Philipson, Kim Fields, Brett Strobel

Alternates: Deborah Pitney

Q18. b) The Conference Relations Committee (§635.1d)?

Mark Bateman, Jane Hill, Ron Jones, Tim Overton-Harris, Carol Seckel

Q19. Who are the certified candidates? (see list in the BAC)

Q20. Who have completed the studies for the license as a local pastor, are approved, but are not now appointed? Doreen Barlow.

Q21. Who are approved and appointed as local pastors? (see list in the BAC)

Q21. c) Students from other annual conferences or denominations serving as local pastors and enrolled in a school of theology listed by the University Senate.

Heather Riggs

Q25. What clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations have been approved to serve appointments in Oregon-Idaho? (see list in the BAC)

Q26. Affiliate member without vote.
Douglas McGaughey

Q38. Who are transferred in from other annual conferences and other Methodist denominations? We welcomed David Beckett (West Ohio), Julia Nielsen (West Ohio), Benjamin Hartley (Eastern Pennsylvania)

Clay offered a prayer for all those persons coming from another annual conference or denomination who are coming to serve here in Oregon-Idaho.

Q46. b) Withdrawn from ministerial office?
Elke Sharma

Q48. Dan Wilson-Fey lifted up the names of those clergy who have died in the past year:
Retired Associate Member: Stacy Samuel Hance
Retired Elders: Robert Deal, Meredith Groves, Sidney Harris, Denis Lawrence, Linda Layne, Laurence Loftus, Charles McCarthy, Benjamin Owre, Gary Ross, James Thompson, Raymond Thompson.
Dan offered prayer.

Q50. Who are on leave of absence?
A1: Personal, five years or less
Kathy Abend, Janet Burkhart, Leslie Hall, Melissa Harkness, Steve Mitchell, Joyce Sluss

Dan offered prayer.

Q52. Who have been granted medical leave?
Philip Kearse

Q64. Who constitute the Committee on Investigation?
Jane Hill and three to be nominated by the bishop;
Alternate: Larry Abell

Q73. Who are the associate members, provisional or full elders approved for appointment to less than full-time service? (see list in the BAC)

Q77. What elders (full connection and provisional), associate members, and local pastors are appointed to extension ministries for the ensuing year? (see list in the BAC)

The work on the BAC was pronounced complete!

Linda read a letter that the Board of Ordained Ministry crafted at its meeting yesterday, concerning qualifications the Board takes into account when considering candidates for ordained ministry. Linda also made it clear that the BOM is not of one mind on this issue, but the Board members are committed to treating one another with respect and care, regardless of our opinions.

Karen Shimer offered the final report about the Conference Clergy Emergency Fund, which voted to disband in November of 2015. The majority of participants in the Fund chose to donate their credit to the Oregon-Idaho Retirement Fund. The rest of the monies were disbursed as follows: UMCOR (24%), Imagine No Malaria (12%), Farmers Fund (12%), Oregon-Idaho Retirement Fund (43%).

Linda announced the regional trainings for the next quadrennium concerning sexual ethics for clergy. Those attending the clergy session received a flyer with more details.

Todd Bartlett and Kate Conolly, co-chairs of the Order of Elders, gave a report. They announced the dates for the next Order gathering, which is October 18-20, 2016, at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center. The theme is Embodying Compassion.

Jeff Lowery and Joyce Sluss, co-chairs of the Order of Deacons, offered a report of the Order. They lifted up the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Order of Deacons! They led the room through a game of “Deacon Trivia” to see how much we’ve learned in the last 20 years (deacons and spouses of deacons were ruled ineligible to offer answers to the quiz!).

Duane Anders asked if the clergy session would be willing to make a similar statement to the letter read by the Board of Ordained Ministry, affirming that the Clergy Session of Oregon-Idaho supports the full inclusion of any candidate for ministry.

Brett Strobel made the motion that we act on Duane’s suggestion. Seconded.

Eilidh Lowery moved to amend by eliminating the phrase, “neither our own Board” and replace with the phrase “neither our own clergy.” Seconded.

Donna Pritchard moved to amend by changing the phrase, “*Like our denomination, neither our own Board nor our own Conference membership or our Clergy Session is of one mind in this statement...*” to “*Like our denomination, neither our own clergy session nor our own conference membership is of one mind...*” And to further amend by changing the paragraph that begins “*We hold our candidates*” to: “*We commit to participate fully in the ministerial covenant with our colleagues of all sexual orientations and gender identities.*”

Marshall Wattman-Turner moved to refer the matter to the BOM, to come back with a recommendation about a process to deal with it that would not be a simply up/down vote. Seconded.

Failed.

Voting moved to the Pritchard amendment.

June Fothergill moved to keep the sentence: *We hold our candidates to high standards for fitness, readiness and effectiveness in ministry.* Seconded.

Jeanne Knepper moved to amend by substituting: “*We hold ourselves to high standards...*” Seconded.

Passed.

Voting moved to the Fothergill amendment as substituted.

Passed.

Voting moved to the Pritchard amendment as substituted.

Passed.

Voting moved to the E. Lowery motion as substituted.

Passed.

The question was called. Seconded.

Passed.

Voting moved to the main motion as amended. The text of the letter to be voted on is:

We the Clergy Session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference believe this is a crucial time to declare how we operate in our work with those called by God into ordained ministry.

Because we have been a Reconciling Conference since 1996, because we have seen the gifts and graces for ministry in LGBTQ persons and have seen these same gifts too often denied, and because we hope to help lead change in our denomination’s policy regarding LGBTQ persons in ordained ministry, we welcome all candidates as children of God as they discern God’s call and claim upon them for ordained ministry.

We hold ourselves to high standards for fitness, readiness, and effectiveness in ministry. We commit to participate fully in the ministerial covenant with our colleagues of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

*Like our denomination, neither our own clergy session nor our own conference membership is of one mind in this statement, and so, we pray for the Spirit of God to continue to move in our **board** Oregon-Idaho Clergy Session*, our conference and our denomination.*

Passed.

[*Note that the final sentence was later amended to replace the word “board” with “Oregon-Idaho Clergy Session” in an adjourned session on Friday afternoon, June 17.]

John Grimstead asked for a decision of law from Bishop Hagiya. The question, as presented in writing, is: “Bishop, is the statement adopted by the clergy session in keeping with the Book of Discipline?”
Seconded.

The bishop instructed that a vote was needed to take this action, with 20% voting in favor in order to affirm the action.

Upheld. [27-81]

Anna Cho arrived at the Clergy Session so we returned to Question 28. Jeff Lowery introduced Anna, who read her Theology of Ministry Statement.

Q28. Who are elected as provisional members and what seminary are they attending, if in school?
Richard Albert Shewell, St. Paul School of Theology [voted on earlier in the Session]
Anna Cho, Claremont School of Theology

Clay offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

Bishop Hagiya closed in prayer at 11:24 am.

ADJOURNED CLERGY SESSION JUNE 17, 2017

Bishop Hagiya called the clergy session into order at 5:08 pm. He asked the body for permission to allow our tech staff to stay in the room so that we might have sound and video support. Permission was granted.

The bishop asked the conference secretary to read John Grimstead’s request (from June 16) for a decision of law from the bishop, then Laura read the Clergy Session statement as it was passed by the clergy session.

The bishop reported his belief that the statement is aspirational in nature. The key line is the last phrase in paragraph 2: “...we welcome all candidates as children of God as they discern God’s call and claim upon them for ordained ministry.” Welcoming all candidates is not a statement against the Discipline. He finds no violation of the Discipline. His ruling is that it is constitutional.

The bishop also noted that all our deliberations are confidential, so we are bound by that covenant of confidentiality, which means that this statement cannot be shared beyond the clergy session.

Ruth Marsh moved that this statement be made public upon a vote of this body. Seconded.

Peggy Luckman moved to amend the word “board” to “Oregon-Idaho Clergy Session.” Seconded.
Passed.

Voting moved to the Marsh motion as amended.
Passed.

John Grimstead moved to appeal the bishop's ruling to the Judicial Council. Seconded. The bishop asked for a standing vote to determine if one-fifth of the voting body would support the appeal. The vote was 13 in favor, 58 against, and 11 abstentions, so the appeal was not supported. [NOTE: subsequent research uncovered Judicial Council Decision 1244, ruling that the phrase "when such appeal has been made by one-fifth of that conference present and voting" in paragraph 2609.6 is null and void, so this vote was unnecessary.]

Christina Thompson offered prayer.

Bishop Hagiya asked if the body would be interested in establishing a task force to help guide further conversation on this issue, with some action points for moving forward. The bishop asked for those interested in being on the task force to come let him know.

The bishop ended the session at 5:28 pm.

