



## Bishops Ask for Hold on Sexuality Debate

By Heather Hahn and Sam Hodges (UMNS)

The Council of Bishops asked General Conference to delay a debate on homosexuality at this gathering of the denomination's top legislative assembly until a proposed commission can study church regulations.

Instead, the bishops asked for the body's permission to name a special commission that would completely examine and possibly recommend revisions of every paragraph in *The Book of Discipline* related to human sexuality. The commission would represent the different regions of a denomination on four continents as well as the varied perspectives of the church.

*The Book of Discipline* is the denomination's governing document.

"We accept our role as spiritual leaders to lead The United Methodist Church in a 'pause for prayer'—to step back from attempts at legislative solutions and to intentionally seek God's will for the future," Ough said.

The bishops also suggested they might call a special General Conference in 2018 or 2019 to deal with such proposals, said Council of Bishops President Bishop Bruce Ough in announcing the report. Ough also leads the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area.

Other bishops stood behind Ough as he read the statement.

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, a delegate from the Great Plains Conference, moved later in the morning that General Conference support the bishop's creation of a commission and a special General Conference to deal with sexuality issues.

Hamilton called the bishops' ideas "our best chance of finding a long-term solution."

A substitute motion by the Rev. Chappell Temple, Texas Conference, supported the creation of the com-

mission but called for General Conference to go forward with voting on sexuality petitions. To postpone, he said, would cause "more confusion."

But in what may have been a telling vote, the delegates voted against the substitute. Hamilton's motion was still before the delegates when they broke for lunch.

Just before that break, the Rev. Don Underwood, North Texas Conference, spoke for Hamilton's motion.

"We cannot solve this issue legislatively," said Underwood, a six-time General Conference delegate. "We've tried over and over again, and we've failed."

The United Methodist Church's sexuality debate has seemed to be reaching a breaking point, especially as more countries including the United States have legalized same-sex marriage. Many U.S. United Methodists have publicly officiated at same-sex weddings in defiance of *The Book of Discipline*'s ban.

As General Conference got under way, more than one hundred clergy and clergy candidates in the U.S. and one in the Philippines came out as gay. The denomination bans the ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals."

At the time, African bishops made clear they were encouraging delegates not to budge on church teachings, which define marriage as between a man and woman. Since 1972, *The Book of Discipline* has asserted all people are of sacred worth, but the church considers the practice of homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching."

There has been talk of possible schism in the hallways, and legislation is on the table that would allow congregations to disaffiliate from the denomination with their property. That legislation has been pushed by

(Continued on page 2486)

## Agenda for Thursday, May 19

The agenda for the day is now available in the Daily Christian Advocate in English, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili. Please see pages 2484 - 2485 for the agenda in each of these languages.



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## Worship Leaders for May 19, 2016

Prelude: **Cherokee Choir; Oklahoma Indian  
Missionary Conference**

Call to Worship: **Matt Miofsky; Missouri  
JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto; California-Pacific**

Prayer for Illumination: **Jodi Cataldo; Dakotas**

Scripture Reader (French): **Christine Schneider-Oesch;  
Switzerland-France-North Africa**

Scripture Reader (English): **Millicent Yambasu;  
Sierra Leone**

Scripture Reader (Kiswahili): **Alfred Njau; Tanzania**

Scripture Reader (Portuguese): **Rita Curiminha;  
Western Angola**

Sermon: **Bishop John Yambasu;  
Sierra Leone Episcopal Area**

Introduction of Commission: **Thomas Kemper;  
General Secretary, General Board  
of Global Ministries**

Presentation of the Missionaries:

**Judy Chung; General Board  
of Global Ministries  
Catherine Whitlatch; General Board  
of Global Ministries**

Examination of the Missionaries: **Bishop Hope Morgan  
Ward; President, General Board  
of Global Ministries**

Commissioning of the Missionaries:

**Bishop Hee-Soo Jung; Wisconsin  
Episcopal Area  
Bishop Hope Morgan Ward; Raleigh  
Episcopal Area  
Bishop John Yambasu; Sierra Leone  
Episcopal Area  
Mande Muyombo; General Board  
of Global Ministries  
Douglas Martin Swanney; Connexional  
Secretary, The Methodist Church,  
Great Britain  
Olusimbo Inge, General Board  
of Global Ministries**

### 6:10 P.M. closing devotions

Call to Worship: **Tonya Harris; California-Pacific**

Scripture Reader: **Susan Leonard-Ray; South Carolina**

Reflection Reader: **Nathaniel Bishop; Virginia**

## Thursday, May 19

**6:30 A.M.**

Committee on Agenda and Calendar

**7:00 A.M.**

Seminary Student's Briefing

**8:00 – 9:00 A.M.**

Worship

Preacher: Bishop John Yambasu

**9:00 – 10:00 A.M.**

Opening Prayer

• Reports (as needed):

- o Committee on Courtesies and Privileges
- o Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision
- o Committee on the Journal
- o Committee on Agenda and Calendar
- o Committee on Presiding Officers
- o Monitors

Recognition of Retiring Bishops

Presentation of New Episcopal Leadership Team

Calendar Items & Conference Business

Vital Congregation Moments (9:55 A.M.) (5 minutes)

**10:00 – 10:20 A.M.**

*Morning Break*

**10:20 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Opening Prayer

200th Anniversary: Death of Francis Asbury

Calendar Items & Conference Business

60th Anniversary: Ordination of Women (12:29 P.M.)

**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 Jeremiah Park

**2:00 – 4:00 P.M.**

Opening Prayer

Recognition of retiring Judicial Council Members

Introduction of new Judicial Council Members

Calendar Items & Conference Business

Recognition of Neil M. Alexander (3:58 P.M.)

(2 minutes)

**4:00 – 4:20 P.M.**

*Afternoon Break*

**4:20 – 6:10 P.M.**

Opening Prayer

Calendar Items & Conference Business

Report from the Committee on Peace

*Korean Association of The United Methodist*

*Church* (6:00 P.M.) (10 minutes)

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

**6:10 – 6:30 P.M.** Closing Devotion

**6:30 P.M.** Adjournment

## Quinta-feira, 19 de Maio

**6h30**

Comissão da Agenda e Calendário

**7h00**

Instruções para Estudantes de Seminários

**8h00 – 9h00**

Culto

Orador: Bispo John Yambasu

**9h00 – 10h00**

Oração de Abertura

• Relatórios:

- o Comissão sobre Cortesias e Privilégios
- o Comissão sobre Correlação e Revisão Editorial
- o Comissão sobre o Jornal
- o Comissão da Agenda e Calendário
- o Comissão sobre Oficiais Presidentes
- o Monitores

Reconhecimento dos Bispos Reformados

Apresentação da nova Equipa de Liderança Episcopal

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

Momentos de Congregação Vital (9h55) (5 minutos)

**10h00 – 10h20**

*Intervalo de manhã*

**10h20 - 12h30**

Oração de Abertura

200o Aniversário: Falecimento de Francis Asbury

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

**12h30 – 14h00**

*Folga para almoço* — por conta própria

**12h40 – 13h10**

Serviço da Santa Ceia (Oregon Ballroom, 203)

Presidente: Bispo Jeremiah Park

**14h00 – 16h00**

Oração de Abertura

Reconhecimento dos Membros Reformados do Conselho Judicial

Apresentação de novos Membros do Conselho Judicial

cial

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

Reconhecimento de Neil M. Alexander (15h58) (2 minutos)

**16h00 – 16h20**

*Intervalo de tarde*

**16h20 – 18h10**

Oração de Abertura

Itens de Calendário e Assuntos da Conferência

Relatório da Comissão sobre a Paz

*Associação Coreana da Igreja Metodista*

*Unida* (18h00) (10 minutos)

**17h00** – Limite diário para impressão do DCA

**18h10 – 18h30** Encerramento da Devoção

**18h30** – Adiamento



**Jeudi 19 mai****6h30**

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

**7h00**

Briefing pour Séminaristes

**8h00 – 9h00**

Culte

Prédicateur : Mgr John Yambasu

**9h00 – 10h00**

Prière d'ouverture

• Rapports :

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

Reconnaissance des évêques qui vont à la retraite

Présentation de la nouvelle équipe du leadership

épiscopal

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

Moments clés de la Congrégation (9h55) (5 Minutes)

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

Prière d'ouverture

200<sup>e</sup> Anniversaire : Décès de Francis Asbury

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 Jeremiah Park

**14h00 – 16h00**

Prière d'ouverture

Reconnaissance des membres du Conseil judiciaire

qui vont à la retraite

Présentation des nouveaux membres du Conseil

judiciaire

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

Reconnaissance de Neil M. Alexander (15h58) (2

minutes)

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

Prière d'ouverture

Ordre du jour et travaux de la Conférence

Rapport du comité sur la paix

*Association Coréenne de l'Église Méthodiste**Unie* (18h00) (10 minutes)**17h00** — Délai quotidien pour l'impression du DCA**18h10 — 18h30** Dévotion de clôture**18h30** Ajournement**Alhamisi, Mei 19****6:30 Asubuhi**

Kamati ya Ajenda na Kalenda

**7:00 Asubuhi**

Maelezo kwa Wanafunzi wa Seminari

**8:00 – 9:00 Asubuhi**

Ibada

Mhubiri: Askofu John Yambasu

**9:00 – 10:00 Asubuhi**

Maombi ya Kufungua

• Ripoti:

- o Kamati ya Hisani na Mapendeleo
- o Kamati ya Mahusiano na Marekebisha ya Machapisho
- o Kamati ya Jarida
- o Kamati ya Ajenda na Kalenda
- o Kamati ya Maafisa Wasimamizi
- o Wangaalizi

Kutambua Maaskofu Wanaostaafu

Kuwasilisha Jopo Jipya la Uongozi wa Uaskofu

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

Vipindi vya Makutano Muhimu (9:55 A.M.) (Dakika

5)

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

Maombi ya Kufungua

Maadhimisho ya 200: Kifa cha Francis Asbury

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

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

Ibada ya Ushirika Mtakatifu (Oregon Ballroom, 203)

Msimamizi: Askofu Jeremiah Park

**2:00 – 4:00 Alasiri**

Maombi ya Kufungua

Kutambua Washiriki Wanaostaafu wa Baraza la

Mahakama

Utambulisho wa Washiriki wapya wa Baraza la Ma-

hakama

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

Kumtambua Neil M. Alexander (3:58 P.M.) (Dakika

2)

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

Maombi ya Kufungua

Vipengee vya Kalenda na Shughuli za Kongamano

Ripoti kutoka Kamati kuhusu Amani *Ushirika wa**Korea wa Kanisa la Muungano wa Methodisti*

(6:00 Jioni) (Dakika 10)

**5:00 Jioni** – Muda wa Mwisho wa Uchapaji wa DCA

Kila Siku

**6:10 – 6:30 Jioni** Maombi ya Kufunga**6:30 Jioni** Ahirisho

United Methodists who support the current church teachings on homosexuality.

“We share with you a deep commitment to the unity of the church in Christ our Lord,” Ough told the multinational assembly.

“Within the church, we are called to work and pray for more Christ-like unity with each other rather than separation from one another. This is the prayer of Jesus in John 17:21-23.”

### Just Before Scheduled Debate

The bishops presented this recommendation near the beginning of a plenary when General Conference delegates expected to take up possible changes to *The Book of Discipline* regarding ministry with LGBTQ individuals. The initials stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning.

Ough said the bishops continue to hear from many people “that our current *Discipline* contains language which is contradictory, unnecessarily hurtful, and inadequate for the variety of local, regional, and global contexts.”

One of those plans proposed is a “Third Way” submitted by the Connectional Table, a denomination-wide

coordinating body. During the past three years, the body has sought compromise in this emotional debate.

The bishops asked delegates and other United Methodists at the multinational gathering to spend the allotted debate time instead in prayer and confession.

The council made its report after General Conference delegates made a nonbinding request that bishops offer a path forward out of the “painful condition” for the church in this long-simmering debate over sexuality.

Bishops usually complain that they resemble “potted plants” during General Conference sessions. As a body, they usually sit silently on the dais during plenary sessions unless it is one of their turns to preside.

Ough said the bishops were honored to receive the delegates’ invitation. Half of the 864 delegates are clergy and half are lay.

“As far as we can discover, this is the first time that a General Conference has ever made such a request of the Council of Bishops, and we have accepted this request with humility,” Ough told the gathering.

Mathew Pinson, chair of the North Georgia Conference delegation, said he liked the bishops’ idea.

However, he said he thinks delegates owe it to the church to take a vote on legislation related to homosexuality. That the commission will “have the voice of this



Bishop Bruce R. Ough reads a statement about sexuality and the church from the denomination’s Council of Bishops on May 18 at the 2016 United Methodist General Conference in Portland, Ore. Photo by Paul Jeffrey, UMNS.

General Conference to help folks know where the church stands today to frame that discussion.”

## The Council Was Not Unanimous

The bishops’ statement did not receive the unanimous vote of the council’s members, Ough acknowledged. But the support was overwhelming, he said.

He added that unanimity is not required for unity.

Greater Northwest Area Bishop Grant Hagiya, whose area is hosting this General Conference, served on the writing team. He said more traditional bishops are worried about a “time out” for discernment that includes a moratorium on church trials.

“I think they’re worried that it will open the door for all kinds of violations,” he said.

“I think that if we force this body to deal with those legislative issues, it’s going to be hurtful and harmful, just as it was in the past. I think we’re trying to find a new way, a creative way”

The bishops do not have a vote at General Conference. They do have the authority to call for a special session of the General Conference, a possibility last considered to address the worldwide economic crisis of 2008. The bishops in 2009 ultimately opted not to call a session that time.

Now the bishops’ request is in General Conference’s hands.

“Strengthening the unity of the church is a responsibility for all of us,” Ough said.

## Potential Next Steps

It is unclear whether or how complaints against clergy will move forward, if they are accused of violating *The Book of Discipline*’s prohibitions related to homosexuality.

The bishops’ statement said: “We will continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another—including ways to avoid further complaints, trials, and harm while we uphold the Discipline.”

The Judicial Council, the denomination’s equivalent of the U.S. Supreme Court, may offer some clarity on the question when it comes to gay ordination.

General Conference delegates, by 490 to 308, voted to refer to the denomination’s top court a question of whether General Conference or annual conferences have the main authority to set ordination standards. The Rev. Jeremy Troxler of the Western North Carolina Conference made the motion to refer.

Ahead of General Conference, the Baltimore-Washington, New York, and Pacific Northwest conferences’ boards of ordained ministry announced that they would not consider sexual orientation in determining a clergy candidate’s fitness for ordination.

*Hahn and Hodges are news reporters for United Methodist News Service. Kathy L. Gilbert contributed to this story. Contact them at (615) 742-5470 or [newsdesk@umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org).*

## Errata in DCA

### Errata

**Pages 2372-2373:** On the agendas under 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. worship, Bishop James Swanson, Sr. was misidentified as James Swanson, Jr.

### Addendum

Don Reasoner, Director of Interpretation Services for the General Board of Global Ministries, has requested the following addendum to the article on “Interpretation and Translation at General Conference” on pages **2378-2379**:

A number of interpreters at General Conference are graduates of Africa University, and many of them are donating their honorariums to help with Scholarships at Africa University.

## Announcements

### Volunteer Ushers Needed

On Friday, May 20, there will be an offering for the marshals and pages. We need 15 to 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 served. To volunteer, or to receive more information, e-mail Dick Hooton at [revshoot@gmail.com](mailto:revshoot@gmail.com), or text him at 318-475-2596.

The marshals andpages 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!

# An Offering for a Way Forward

**Galatians 3:25-29 (NRSV)**

<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Your bishops were honored to receive the request of General Conference to help lead our United Methodist Church forward during this time of both great crisis and great opportunity. As far as we can discover, this is the first time that a General Conference has ever made such a request of the Council of Bishops, and we accept this request with humility.

We share with you a deep commitment to the unity of the church in Christ our Lord. Yesterday, our president shared the deep pain we feel. We have all prayed for months and continue to do so. We seek, in this kairos moment, a way forward for profound unity on human sexuality and other matters. This deep unity allows for a variety of expressions to coexist in one church. Within the Church, we are called to work and pray for more Christ-like unity with each other rather than separation from one another. This is the prayer of Jesus in John 17:21-23.

## UNITY

We believe that our unity is found in Jesus Christ; it is not something we achieve but something we receive as a gift from God. We understand that part of our role as bishops is to lead the church toward new behaviors, a new way of being, and new forms and structures, which allow a unity of our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” while allowing for differing expressions as a global church. Developing such new forms will require a concerted effort by all of us, and we, your bishops, commit ourselves to lead this effort. We ask you, as a General Conference, to affirm your own commitment to maintaining and strengthening the unity of the church. We will coordinate this work with the various efforts already underway to develop global structures and a new General Book of Discipline for our church. Strengthening the unity of the church is a responsibility for all of us.

## PRAYER

We accept our role as spiritual leaders to lead the UMC in a “pause for prayer”—to step back from attempts at legislative solutions and to intentionally seek God's will for the future. As a Council of Bishops, we will lead the church in every part of the world in times of worship, study, discernment, confession, and prayer for God's guidance. We ask you, as a General Conference, to join us in this effort, beginning this week. We were moved by the sight of delegates praying around the table, and we hope these efforts will continue. As your bishops, we are ready to join you and to lead you in these times of prayer.

## PROCESSES

We have discussed in-depth the processes that might help our church heal and move forward—up to and including the possibility of a called General Conference in 2018 or 2019. We have not finalized our plans for such processes, but we will keep working on options we have heard from many of you, and we will keep reporting to this General Conference and to the whole church.

## NEXT STEPS

We recommend that the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality and refer this entire subject to a special Commission, named by the Council of Bishops, to develop a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality. We continue to hear from many people on the debate over sexuality that our current Discipline contains language that is contradictory, unnecessarily hurtful, and inadequate for the variety of local, regional, and global contexts. We will name such a commission to include persons from every region of our UMC, and we will include representation from differing perspectives on the debate. We commit to maintain an ongoing dialogue with this commission as they do their work, including clear objectives and outcomes. Should they complete their work in time for a called General Conference, then we will call a two- to three-day gathering before the 2020 General Conference. (We will consult with GCFA regarding cost-effective ways to hold that gathering.)

## CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS

We will continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another—including ways

to avoid further complaints, trials, and harm while we uphold the Discipline. We will continue our conversation on this matter and report our progress to you and to the whole church.

Today, as a way of beginning to find our way forward, we suggest that in place of the allotted legislative time we spend 1–2 hours of plenary time in prayer, confession, and exploration of a creative way forward. The bishops are prepared to provide questions to guide your conversations. Your conversations will be the first step to a way forward.

## Another Person's Good Is Ours as Well as Theirs

We are all of one body. Whatever good others have makes them in some way able to do that good that we should have done or at least that we should desire to have done.

*From The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions,  
compiled by Francis Asbury and first published in 1792.  
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## Some Helpful Suggestions As You Prepare to Depart

Sisters and brothers, the Local Host Committee greets you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We want you to know that we hold you in our hearts and in our prayers as you prepare to leave Portland and travel to your homes.

In order to make departure go as smoothly as possible, we offer the following information and suggestions:

- There will not be storage for luggage at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC). Please check it at your hotel, or plan to keep it with you on the day of your departure.
- Delegates will receive a MAX light rail pass for their return trip to the Portland International Airport (PDX). The details of how these will be distributed will be available from the Commission on General Conference. The multi-day passes you received expire on May 20.
- To get to Portland International Airport (PDX), you need to take a MAX Red line train heading to the airport.

- From the downtown hotels, board a Redline train headed to the airport.
- From hotels near the Oregon Convention Center (OCC), board a Redline train heading to the airport.
- You should plan to give yourself one hour to get to the airport.
- You should plan to arrive at the airport at least two hours before your flight is scheduled to depart in order to move through the security checkpoint.
- There are many dining and shopping options at PDX, both outside of the security checkpoints and within the secure areas.

If you have questions or need additional information, see any volunteer wearing a green vest. They will assist you.

We wish you safe travels and Godspeed as you depart,

**The 2016 General Conference  
Local Host Committee**

## Thirtieth Anniversary of *Disciple Bible Study*

In celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of *Disciple Bible Study*, delegates watched a brief video featuring Bishop Richard and Mrs. Julia Wilke at the Institute for Discipleship at Southwestern College. Bishop and Mrs. Wilke were the authors of *Disciple*, which has reached more than three million people in the last 30 years.

Bishop Wilke was back at General Conference Thursday after breaking his left arm in a fall on Wednesday. Mrs. Wilke passed away earlier this year.

Their son, Dr. Stephen Wilke, invited delegates to a party at 7 P.M. in Oregon Room 201 tomorrow evening. Presiding Bishop McAlilly invited everyone who has been involved in *Disciple Bible Study* to stand; approximately two-thirds of the room stood.

*Disciple I* is a thirty-four-week study that utilizes a theme each week for study and reflection. Participants spend seventeen weeks with the Old Testament and seventeen weeks with the New Testament. Each study group is made up of 12-14 participants led by one or two facilitators, either a clergy or a trained lay person. Participants who complete the full study read eighty-five percent of the entire Bible. The classes meet weekly for 2 ½ hours. *Disciple I* is a prerequisite to all subsequent *Disciple* affiliated studies, which take *Disciple* graduates deeper into selected portions of Scripture. The *Disciple* ministry now includes *Disciple II, III, and IV*.

*Disciple Fast Track* is a new addition to the *Disciple* family developed by Susan Fuquay, daughter of Richard and Julia Wilke. It takes participants through a thorough introduction to the Bible in twenty-four weeks instead of the traditional thirty-four weeks. The class meeting length has also been adjusted to allow for shorter meeting times. *Disciple Fast Track* is not a replacement for the original; it is simply another option for those seeking a Bible study for busy lifestyles.

Additions to the *Disciple Bible* ministry include BeADisciple and BeADisciple Academy. BeADisciple offers online studies, workshops, and courses on a variety of ministry, formation, and leadership topics that are accessible to all people regardless of their location.

The BeADisciple Academy is a global online faith-building fellowship for high school or college-age students who want to go deeper in their faith lives and leadership skills, including social media, webinars, videos, and other web-based initiatives. Both the high school and collegiate sessions run for two 12-week intervals in the fall and spring.

*Disciple* helps people fall in love with the Bible and come to know it better. It draws people together to study and grow closer to God. We celebrate the gift of *Disciple Bible Study* to the church.

## Young People's Statement of Unity

The following statement was read by Anne Jacob, young adult co-chair, Division on Ministries With Young People, during a moment of privilege in the plenary session on May 18, 2016. The statement was released after the Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly in 2014.

### STATEMENT OF UNITY

"There has been increasing talk of schism of the United Methodist Church in recent months. Many say that the issue of homosexuality is so contentious that it will inevitably split our Church. We, as the young people of The United Methodist Church, would like to say that we do not desire a divided Church. "The Church that we have taken our places in is called to a ministry that includes so much more than this one issue. There are

genuine, passionate perspectives on all sides of the issue and though we disagree, we have committed ourselves to loving, faithful discussion on this subject. Part of the beauty of our Church is that there has always been room at the table for a wide range of theological diversity within our connectional church family. As Wesley said, 'May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?' "We urge everyone to seek solutions that promote our global unity as the United Methodist Church, rather than focus only on the issues that divide us, so that we may faithfully live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

By The Global Young People's Convocation & Legislative Assembly Manila, Philippines



# GBHEM Shares Leadership Development Report, Hosts Higher Education Night at General Conference

PORTLAND, Ore., May 18, 2016 – More than 2,000 General Conference attendees gathered in the Portland Ballroom on Monday night for Higher Education Night 2016, a celebration of United Methodist-related educational institutions that are shaping the faith, vocations, and commitments of students at more than 1,000 learning institutions around the world.

Sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education (GBHEM), Higher Education Night began after the close of Monday's plenary session following the agency's report. General Conference 2012 charged GBHEM with strengthening leadership development through three new initiatives: The Central Conference Theological Education Fund, the Seminary Indebtedness Task Force, and the Young Clergy Initiative. During its plenary presentation, the agency reported on the progress of those efforts, the partnerships developed around them, and some of its accomplishments from this quadrennium. Dr. Kim Cape, general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, spoke, reminding delegates that, "Education is an act of love."

At the end of the plenary session, the Africa University choir sang and led guests to the Portland Ballroom where they were greeted by the sounds of the Lydia Patterson Institute Mariachi band. Exhibitors lined the concourse outside the ballroom and shared information about GBHEM's higher education efforts throughout the global United Methodist connection, including the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities (IAMSCU), and the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC).

Inside the ballroom, guests enjoyed hors-d'oeuvres and were treated to interactive exhibits detailing the agency's 150-year history in higher education. An elegant floating ribbon sculpture, which represented the United Methodist cross and flame, drew attendees to the center of the ballroom where they were invited to write prayers for the future of UM higher education on a prayer ribbon. Choirs from the following United Methodist-related schools and universities performed from three stages throughout the evening: Martin Methodist College, Central Methodist University, Wiley College, Randolph-Macon Academy, Shenandoah University, SMU-Perkins School of Theology, Boston University, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Lydia Patterson Institute, and Africa University.

Several presidents from UM-related institutions were in attendance, including Roderick Smothers, president of Philander Smith College. "Higher Education Night was absolutely amazing," he said. "All in one room, all in the name

of higher education, it's truly phenomenal. As a president of a United-Methodist affiliated institution, it means the world to me."

Rosalind Fuse-Hall, president of Bennett College, spoke of the event's unifying effect, "We had all the choirs from our various campuses singing in harmony, which brings us all together."

Ted Brown, president of Martin Methodist College, agreed, noting the positive relationship-building experience for delegates and students. "We had delegates in the room, and the delegates are so excited about what is happening on our college and university campuses and at our theological schools."

Students found joy in both the opportunity to praise through song and in fellowship with one another. "Higher Education Night was a lot of fun," said Wesley Gately, a student at Washburn University. "There was great music, great food, and I was able to sit and talk with other college students."

Africa University student and choir member Elvine Nkhata said, "We have this gospel that we share with the people to give them hope, to give them life, and to tell them that God is doing something."

Alex Moore, a choir student from Shenandoah University, said, "Being here at General Conference and being able to sing...I feel blessed."

Not lost on the students was the life- and world-changing effects of a United Methodist education. Nelson Furtado, seminary student at Candler School of Theology said, "The higher education that I received from the Methodist church has helped me to grow into ministry and helped me to grow as a person."

Derrick Scott, III, director of the Campus to City Wesley Foundation captured the spirit of Higher Education Night when he said, "It is vital to have strong higher education across the connection, in every annual conference for the sake of the next generation and the leadership of our church."

A brief video recap of Higher Education Night can be found here: <https://youtu.be/ZX8DQF0iHGQ>.

About GBHEM: As the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's mission is to prepare global leaders for a global church and the world. Every elder, deacon, and licensed local pastor benefits from our training and candidacy programs. Many young adults find help in clarifying their vocation and God's call on their lives through our leadership and discernment programs. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @GBHEM.

# Election Results from Monday, May 16

## Judicial Council

Lay:

**Ruben Reyes**

**Deanell Reece Tacha**

**Lidia Romoa Gulele**

Clergy:

**Øyvind Helliesen**

**Luan-Vu Tran**

Lay Alternates:

**Warren Plowden**

**Kent Fulton**

**Joe Wesley Kilpatrick**

**Ronald Enns**

**Ronald Miller**

**Jacob Apari Lawan**

Clergy Alternates:

**Tim Bruster**

**Angela Brown**

**Diana DeWitt**

**F. Belton Joyner**

**Katherine Austin Mahle**

**Gregory Stover**

## The Commission on the General Conference

Secretary-designate of the General Conference:

**Gary Graves**

Africa Central Conference Members:

**Betty Katiyo**

**Mills Maliwa**

North Central Jurisdiction Members:

**Gary George**

**Beth Ann Cook**

Northeastern Jurisdiction Members:

**Joseph DiPaolo**

Philippines Central Conference Members:

**Phebe Cosmiano**

South Central Jurisdiction Members:

**Laura Merrill**

**Juliette Spencer**

Southeastern Jurisdiction Members:

**Steven Furr**

Western Jurisdiction Members:

**Marie Kuch-Stanovsky**

## University Senate

CEOs:

**Kasap Owan Tshibang**

**Nathanael Ohouo**

Other Relevant Positions:

**Bill Arnold**

**David Watson**

## Divisions Stir Up Corruption

“Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition,  
there is disorder and everything that is evil”  
(James 3:16).

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.

# Missionaries and Church and Community Workers Scheduled to be Commissioned on May 19

Twenty five of the 29 missionaries being commissioned today are global missionaries who will serve in international placements. The other four are Church and Community Worker missionaries who will serve in the United States in rural and urban areas of economic scarcity.

Below are listed the missionaries' names, their home annual conferences or churches, and their places of mission service.

## Global Missionaries

**Patrick Abro**, Côte d'Ivoire Annual Conference, assistant health board coordinator, North Katanga Episcopal Area, Democratic Republic of Congo

**Michael Arteen**, House of Bread Church, Palestine, chaplain and director of spiritual life at Bethlehem Bible College

**A. Broncano**, Philippines East Annual Conference, coordinator for English language program for the United Methodist Mission, Southeast Asia

**Douglas Childress**, Upper New York Annual Conference (USA), pastor of international ministry and teacher at the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary, Tallinn, Estonia

**Eden Fletcher**, Methodist Church in Britain, coordinator of education, resources, and administration for the United Methodist Mission, Southeast Asia

**Leo Garcia**, Methodist Church in Cuba, professor at Quéssua School of Theology, East Angola

**Florence Kaying**, North Katanga Annual Conference, Democratic Republic of Congo, maternity and child health nurse practitioner for the Mozambique Episcopal Area, Mozambique

**Hector N. Laporta**, Methodist Church of Peru, professor at Dr. Gonzalo Baez Camargo Methodist Seminary in Mexico City, Mexico.

**David McCormick**, Louisiana Annual Conference (USA), administrator of Chicouque Rural Hospital, Mozambique

**Elizabeth McCormick**, Louisiana Annual Conference (USA), pharmacist for Chicouque Rural Hospital, Mozambique

**Jennifer Moore**, Church of the Nazarene, Maryland (USA), Christian education with the Serbia-Montenegro-Macedonia Provisional Conference, Macedonia

**Jean Mwenze**, North Katanga Annual Conference, professor at Banyam Theological Seminary, Nigeria

**John Nday**, North Katanga Annual Conference, agricultural coordinator for Cambine Mission, Mozambique

**Jim Perdue**, Iowa Annual Conference, missionary for global migration, Central America and Mexico, Central American University, El Salvador

**Marcel Sachou**, Côte d'Ivoire Annual Conference, church planter and pastoral mentor in the Central African Republic

**Desiree Segura-April**, Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, resource person for children at-risk ministries, Nicaragua

**Küllü Tõniste**, Upper New York Annual Conference (USA), assistant professor at Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary, Tallinn, Estonia

**Josh Van**, California-Nevada Annual Conference, ministry with Vietnamese migrant workers for the Methodist Church in Malaysia

**Aaron Vandersommers**, East Ohio Annual Conference (USA), chief operations officer for the Church of Christ in the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Mary Vandersommers**, East Ohio Annual Conference (USA), community development consultant for the Church of Christ in the Congo, DR Congo

**Ryan Williams**, Watermark Community Church, Dallas, Texas, teacher at United Methodist English-speaking School of Lubumbashi, DR Congo

**Stacey Williams**, Watermark Community Church, Dallas, Texas, teacher at United Methodist English-speaking School of Lubumbashi, DR Congo

**D. Yang**, Minnesota Annual Conference (USA), congregational development specialist, United Methodist Mission, Southeast Asia

**Mike Zdorow**, Florida Annual Conference, pastor of Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, Moscow, Russia

**Henri Zombil**, North Katanga Annual Conference/Florida Annual Conference, health services administrator, Sierra Leone Annual Conference

## Church and Community Worker Missionaries

**Jennifer Henneman**, New Mexico Annual Conference, program director, Faith Community Health Connection, Columbus, Ohio, USA

**Amy Purdom**, Virginia Annual Conference, mentoring program coordinator, House of the Carpenter, Wheeling, West Virginia, USA

**Linda Stransky**, Holston Annual Conference, executive director, Jubilee Project Inc., Sneedville, Tennessee, USA

**Anna Troy**, Rio Texas Conference, outreach coordinator for Partners in Ministry, Youth Empowered to Succeed, Laurinburg, North Carolina,

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# Report of the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision

## Concerning Calendar Item Number 5

On Wednesday May 17, the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision asked the Judicial Council to review our draft report on calendar item 5. In a memorandum 1317, the Judicial Council indicated that it could not rule on the draft report because the report is an internal communication between the General Conference and the bodies it has created. "Having adopted Calendar Item 5, the General Conference is responsible for the content of what it has approved," the Judicial Council said.

Here is the CCER Report on Calendar Item 5.

On Monday, May 16, the General Conference approved Petition number 60274, which was calendar number 5. The petition, entitled Comprehensive Plan for Africa, authorizes the creation of five more episcopal areas in Africa by 2020. The approved language in this calendar item states: "As an integral part of this plan, the number of episcopal areas in Africa shall increase from 13 to 18 after the 2020 General Conference. Such increase shall be included in the budget of the Episcopal Fund for the quadrennium 2021-2024."

The Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision believes that this approved calendar item 5 is in contradiction to Paragraph 16 of the Book of Discipline and to the Judicial Council Decision 1312 printed in the DCA on Page 1835.

The decision from the Judicial Council stated in part: "Paragraph 40 of the Constitution authorizes jurisdictional and central conferences to determine the names, numbers, and boundaries of annual conferences and episcopal areas. Paragraph 48 authorizes each College of Bishops to arrange episcopal supervision within its jurisdiction or within the region of its central conference, but does not authorize bishops to set the names, numbers, or boundaries of episcopal areas. Paragraph 16 of the Constitution authorizes the General Conference to establish both a uniform method for electing bishops in jurisdictions and a connectional method for funding the episcopacy, thereby giving the General Conference authority for setting the number of bishops in each jurisdiction."

The Judicial Council went on to say "the General Conference, which determines the number of bishops to be elected by the central conferences, fixes a uniform basis for the election of bishops in the jurisdictional conferences and provides for the funding of the bishops so elected, thereby determining how many bishops there will be in each jurisdiction. (§ 16)"

Therefore, the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision asks: "Was the intent of the General Conference to authorize funding for five more bishops in Africa or to create five more episcopal areas in Africa?"

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*The following items were released by the Judicial Council on May 18, 2016.*

### **SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING**

## **JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEMORANDUM 1317**

IN RE: Inquiry from the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Review Regarding Petition 60274, Calendar Item 5, Approved by the 2016 General Conference

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On May 16, 2016, the General Conference voted to adopt Calendar Item 5, which brought Petition 60274 from the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters to the plenary. Calendar Item 5 contained the original Petition as submitted. By a vote of 678-128, the General Conference approved the Calendar Item.

Petition 60274 included the provision that "...the number of episcopal areas in Africa shall increase from 13 to 18 after the 2020 General Conference." The Petition added that this "...increase shall be included in the Episcopal Fund for the quadrennium of 2021-2024."

On May 17, 2016, the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision of the General Conference asked the Judicial Council to review its draft report to the General Conference. The draft report asks the General Conference to clarify its intent in adopting the Calendar Item 5. Noting Decision 1312, in which the Judicial Council ruled that only the General Conference has authority under the Constitution to determine funding for a specific number of bishops (§ 16) and only the Jurisdictional or Central Conference has authority under the Constitution to determine the number of episcopal areas (§ 40), the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision poses a question in its draft report to the General Conference: "Was the intent of the General Conference to authorize funding for five more bishops in Africa or to create episcopal areas?"

### **JURISDICTION**

The Judicial Council does not have jurisdiction.

### **DIGEST**

According to the 2012 Book of Discipline the General Conference (§ 2610.2[a]) or a body created or authorized by the General Conference (§ 2610.2[c]) may petition the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision. See Judicial Council Decisions 884, 885, 887. However, the Judicial

Council does not have jurisdiction over internal communications between the General Conference and a body created by the General Conference.

The draft report from the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision is such an internal communication.

Having adopted Calendar Item 5, the General Conference is responsible for the content of what it has approved. Under ¶ 2609, an appeal from a majority of the members of the Council of Bishops or an appeal by one-fifth of the General Conference delegates could be used to bring a request to the Judicial Council regarding the constitutionality of a General Conference action. But a draft report to the General Conference from one of its committees is not an appropriate mechanism for doing so.

### **SUBJECT TO FINAL EDITING**

## **JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DECISION NO. 1318**

IN RE: Referral from Judicial Administration Legislative Committee Regarding ¶¶ 363.1, 2701.5 and 2706.5c3

### **DIGEST**

The three amended paragraphs, 363.1, 2701.5 and 2706.5c3, as acted upon by the Judicial Administration Legislative Committee are unconstitutional.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The Judicial Council received a referral on May 17, 2016 from the Judicial Administration Legislative Committee. On May 14, 2016, this committee had voted to adopt amended Petition #60804, Just Resolution ¶ 363.1, Petition #60806, Just Resolution ¶ 2701.5, and Petition #60807, Just Resolution ¶ 2706.5(c)3. After approval of these three pieces of legislation, they voted to refer these petitions to the Judicial Council for review. The vote to refer was more than 1/3 of the members meeting the requirement for referral in ¶ 2609.4.

In relevant part, each of the petitions states that:

"...When the complaint is based upon chargeable offenses found in 2702.1 within the statute of limitations, and the clergyperson against whom the complaint was made acknowledges to the bishop within the course of the process seeking a just resolution, that he or she did in fact commit a chargeable offense (2701.2), then any final just resolution must include the clergy person being suspended without pay, for no less than one full year, from all ministerial duties and functions, including membership, staff position or formal leadership role in any district, annual



conference, or general church board, agency, committee, commission, council, or office, for a period of prayerful reflection in his or her covenantal vows to God and to The United Methodist Church...

In addition to the referral from the chair of the Judicial Administration Legislative Committee, nine members of the Judicial Administration Committee filed a brief.

## ***JURISDICTION***

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under ¶ 2609.4 of the 2012 Discipline and under the precedence of Judicial Council Decision 887.

## ***ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE***

The full paragraphs under consideration as amended are requesting a mandatory penalty when a just resolution is sought under any (emphasis added) judicial complaint found listed in ¶ 2702.1 and the person acknowledges to the bishop that he/she did in fact commit a chargeable offense. The authority for setting the penalty would rest with the bishop in each instance. Paragraph 20, Article IV, of the Restrictive Rules of the Constitution asserts:

The General Conference shall not do away with the privileges of our clergy of right to trial by a committee and of an appeal; neither shall it do away with the privileges of our members of right to trial before the church, or by a committee, and of an appeal.

Paragraph 2711.3 gives the trial court the authority to set the penalty. The fair process provisions of ¶ 2701 provide the limits of this responsibility. Unless the respondent voluntarily agrees to a Just Resolution to promote healing among all parties, a penalty may only be affixed after the respondent has been found guilty of an offense by a trial court. Judicial Council Decision 1201 makes it clear that the right to assess penalties resides only with the trial court.

Under ¶ 363.1, a just resolution is the goal of the bishop during the supervisory response process at the start of the complaint process. "A just resolution is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities, achieving real accountability by making things right in so far as possible and bringing healing to all parties." The supervisory response process is not part of any judicial process and does not include legal counsel or a verbatim record. The complaint at this point in the process is considered as an allegation. (¶ 363.1b) The concluding paragraph of ¶ 363.1(c) states: "A process seeking a just resolution may begin at any time in the supervisory process or complaint process. This is not an administrative or judicial proceeding." Thus, to add a specific penalty for any complaint at this point in the process is not constitu-

tional as it denies the right to trial and appeal (¶ 20).

Just Resolutions can be initiated at any point in the judicial complaint process as stated above. A Just Resolution process is an attempt by the church to deal with each complaint in a fair way and with the guarantee of confidentiality. Each Just Resolution takes into account the particularities of the individual case. A Just Resolution at the start of Judicial Proceedings is defined in ¶ 2701.5. The goal is to repair any harm to people and communities, to achieve accountability by making things right, and bring healing to all parties. A Just Resolution may be sought to prevent the situation from going to trial. "Church trials are to be regarded as an expedient of last resort" (¶ 2707). A Just Resolution is an alternative way of handling chargeable offenses.

In the proposed amended versions of ¶ 2701.5 and ¶ 2706.5c3 the call for a specific penalty in creating a just resolution is also unconstitutional as it denies the clergy person the specific right to trial and appeal. Additionally, since the amended versions of the petitions refer to all the chargeable complaints under ¶ 2702.1 and require the same penalty to be assessed, the ability to deal individually with each chargeable offense listed is denied. This same right for trial needs to be offered in the process of establishing a Just Resolution at all phases of the trial process.

Under provisions of this proposed legislation the bishop becomes the "trier of fact", unilaterally determining a violation of church law and imposing the proposed penalty. Judicial Council Decision 1296 clarifies the process that includes the Committee on Investigation. Just Resolutions are not intended to produce monolithic decisions, but, rather, conclusions to which all parties agree. The mandatory dimension of the petitions compromises the intent of the Just Resolution process. See also Judicial Council Decisions 799 and 1156 for further interpretation of separation of powers.

Further, ¶ 33 of the Constitution states that "The annual conference is the basic body in the church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote... on all matters related to the character and conference relations of its clergy members...". The change of status of the clergy person (suspension) required by these petitions clearly negates the authority of the clergy session of the annual conference. These petitions transfer that authority from the annual conference to the General Conference and that transfer is unconstitutional.

## ***DECISION***

The three amended paragraphs, 363.1, 2701.5 and 2706.5c3, as acted upon by the Judicial Administration Legislative Committee are unconstitutional.

# General Commission on the Status and Role of Women Monitoring Report

As we continue in plenary, we have been led carefully by members of the Council of Bishops. They have presided graciously as they have led us through our day's business.

One particular star of inclusion is **Bishop Janice Riggle Huie** who was very careful to be sure that everyone knew "where we are" in the process. In addition, she called for the body to vote again on one particular piece of legislation when it was pointed out that it should have been announced that a previous vote required affirmation by two-thirds of the body. Inviting the delegates to put on their headphones to be about the work while others sang outside the bar, she acknowledged that we work within an institution that is not all of one mind or voice.

A second star of inclusion is **Bishop Patrick Streiff**, who presided in French (not his first language). He gave us the opportunity to experience the work of the conference from the perspective of those who must depend on the translators and the use of headphones to do this work. Perhaps that experience will help us to better work together. In addition, Bishop Streiff's patience with the technologies we use made it possible for people to have their voices heard. "Please wait while we clear the queue

... Please wait while we give people a chance to enter the queue." Thank you so much.

That said, we still have ways in which we can do better as the body of Christ. In our sessions, those speaking have been primarily from the United States (approximately 77%) with less said by delegates from the Central Conferences (approximately 23%). And within both the voices of women were far fewer (approximately 27%) than those of the men (73%). It is very hard, with the current system, to see whether women want to speak. Please remember it is important that we hear as many voices as possible before decision making.

And finally, a quick word about letting people speak for themselves. We have observed, and have had reported to us, that there have been incidents of "mansplaining." Simply put, it is to explain something to someone, typically a man to woman, in a manner regarded as condescending or patronizing. Doing this discounts the voice of the speaker. In our conversations with one another, let's allow people to speak for themselves, and when more clarity is needed, let that person speak for him or herself.

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# Vital Conversations Report from The General Commission on Religion and Race

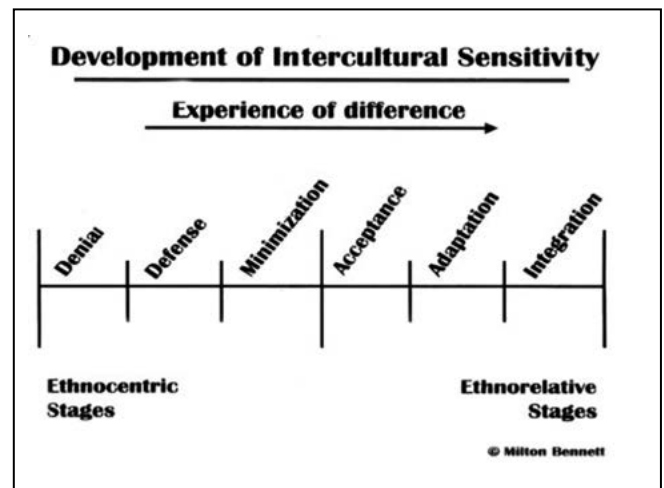
To shape and be a worldwide church requires a level of intercultural communication and competency that is demanding and at times difficult. We are experiencing many aspects of being a global church that for years our denomination has been seeking. It is hard, intentional work that begins within each of us. There are not only continental differences of perspective, but also regional differences within continents. There are layers of differences within annual conferences and even within each district. To recognize our differences means that we acknowledge that there is more than one story and more than one cultural reality out of which perspectives are shared.

Unity in the church does not mean uniformity or, even as we heard from the Bishops, unanimity. If our structures, polity, social perspectives, and priorities only fit a church of the past, then there will be inevitable tension as together we seek to form a relevant church for the future. No longer can one group define reality for the whole.

Legislation changes polity, but relationships change people. Change is most genuine when we begin with awareness of our current intercultural capacity. Dr. Milton Bennett (2004) created the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (DMIS) to describe the many ways in which people can react to cultural differences. Stages include:

From Denial to Defense: The person acquires an awareness of difference between cultures.

From Defense to Minimization: Negative judgments are depolarized, and the person is introduced to similarities between cultures.



From Minimization to Acceptance: The person grasps the importance of intercultural difference.

From Acceptance to Adaptation: Exploration and research into the other cultures begins.

From Adaptation to Integration: Person develops empathy towards the other cultures.

The question we invite you to meditate upon as you pray and talk with others is:

*In considering what might be needed to move forward as a denomination in a diverse world, where do you see yourself, and where do you experience us as a church in this ongoing process of mutual discovery?*

## Divisions Keep Others from God's Ways

There is much sin in divisions because they are a means to keep others away from God's ways.

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.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON CENTRAL CONFERENCE MATTERS 2016-2020 – Nominations for election in 2016

	Bishop	Clergy	Lay
Africa	Jose Quipungo	* Adilson Leitso Silvestre de Almeida, West Angola	* Khuliswa Masiso, South Africa
(Africa 2 additional)	-----	---	* Simon Mafunda East Zimbabwe
Central and Southern Europe	Patrick Streiff	* Petr Prochazka	* Cissy Namukose East Africa
Congo	*New Bishop	Kimba Evariste, North Katanga	*Christine Schneider-Oesch
(Congo 1 additional)	-----	----	Kasongo Mutombo, South Congo
Germany	Rosemarie Wenner	* Anne-Marie Detjen	* Tunda Kosongo, East Congo
North Central	*Gregory Vaughn Palmer	Rev. Kim Reisman	Christine Flick
Northeastern	*Thomas Bickerton	* Terri Rae Chattin	*Jodi Cataldo
Northern Europe and Eurasia	*Eduard Khegay	*Jorgen Thaarup	Fred Brewington
Philippines	Ciriaco Francisco	* Noel Syjuco Cua	Andreas Elfving
South Central	Earl Bledsoe	* Amy Lippoldt	* Gideon Salatan
Southeastern	Mary Virginia Taylor	* Rev. In-Yong Lee	* Jill Wondel, Missouri
West Africa	Benjamin Boni	*Frances Charley	* Andrew Postell, North Georgia
(West Africa 1 additional)	-----	* Christopher Marshall, Liberia	* Napoleon G. Adamu
Western	*Elaine Stanovsky	Kah-jin Jeffrey Kuan	----
GBGM	John Yambasu	*Deanna Stickley-Miner	*Mele Maka
CCUIC – CC Bishop	(not yet named)	----	*Timothy Crisler
* NEW members			----

# Agency Council of Bishops Nominations and Appointments

## Nominations for General Council on Finance and Administration

Bishops:

**Bishop Michael McKee**

**Bishop Minerva Carcaño**

North Central Jurisdiction:

**Valerie Willis**

**Steven Court**

Northeastern Jurisdiction:

**Kenneth Ow**

**Judy Colorado**

South Central Jurisdiction:

**Reggie Clemons**

**Dustin Petz**

Southeastern Jurisdiction:

**Christine Dodson**

**Delmar Robinson**

**Steve D. Wood**

**W. Z. Riddle**

Western Jurisdiction:

**Karen Oliveto**

Central Conference Members:

Africa: **Djoman Mathurin Adjrahe**

Europe: **Per Endre Bjørnevik**

Philippines: **David Ballon Farala**

## Appointment to Connectional Table

**Bishop Christian Alsted**

## Appointment to General Board of Church and Society

Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

**New North Katanga Bishop**

Additional Bishops:

**Bishop Sally Dyck**

**Bishop Peggy Johnson**

**Bishop Hope Morgan Ward**

New South Central Jurisdiction Bishop

New Western Jurisdiction Bishop

## *Nominations for Central Conference Members:*

Africa Central Conference:

Central and Southern Europe:

**Kristof Hecker**

Congo:

**Nyande Philomene**

Germany:

**Tilman Stich**

Northern Europe and Eurasia:

**Kari Hay, Norway**

Philippines:

**Nancy Caluya Nicolas**

West Africa:

**Manuel Joao Andre, W. Angola**

## Nominations for General Board of Discipleship

Central Conference Members:

Africa:

**Hermance Akpes**

Europe:

**Barry Sloan**

Philippines:

**Rose Beverly Jerusalem**

Bishops:

Central Conference Bishop:

**New German Bishop**

Additional Bishop:

**Bishop Mark Webb**

Division on Ministries with Young People:

**Bishop Julius Trimble**

## **Nominations for General Board of Global Ministries**

Central Conference Bishop (Europe or Philippines):  
**Bishop Pedro Torio**

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops (Northeastern  
Jurisdiction, South Central Jurisdiction, or Western  
Jurisdiction):  
**Bishop Hee-Soo Jung**  
**Bishop Thomas Bickerton**

## **Appointed to Committee on Deaconess and Home Missioner Service**

**Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson**

## **Nomination for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**

### *Central Conference Members:*

Central Conference Bishop:  
**Bishop Eduard Kheday**

Layman:  
**Louis Roi Aboua**

Laywoman:  
**Prescilla Soriano**

Alternate Member:  
**Forbes Matonga**  
**Alan Mashimba Gurupia**  
**Christof Voigt**

### *Appointed Bishops:*

Central Conference Bishop:  
**Bishop Eduard Kheday**

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops:  
**Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball**  
**Bishop William McAlilly**

### *Appointed Members of University Senate:*

CEOs:  
**Kah-Jin Kuan**  
**Jan Love**

Other Relevant Positions:

**Rock Jones**  
**Javier Viera**

## **General Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

Bishops Elected by the Council of Bishops:  
**Bishop Paul Leeland**  
**Bishop Robert Schnase**

Nominations for Jurisdictional Members:

**Gray Southern\***  
**Thomas Parkinson**  
**Teresa Keese**  
**Ed Tomlinson**  
**Cedric Bridgeforth**  
**Feliza Mariano**

## **Appointed to the United Methodist Publishing House**

### *Bishops:*

Class of 2020:  
**Bishop Gregory Palmer**

Class of 2024:  
**Bishop Rodolfo Juan**

Class of 2028:  
**Bishop Jonathan Holston**

### *Central Conference Members:*

**Eliseo C. Balisi**  
**Klaus Ulrich Ruof**



## **Nominated for the General Commission on Archives and History**

### ***Central and Jurisdictional Conference Members:***

Central Conference Members:

**Imingcio Dalig Plang**

**Judit Lakotos**

Jurisdictional Conference Members:

**Ted Campbell**

**William Bobby McClain**

**Steven Yale**

**Gray Southern\***

**Linda Schramm**

**Joe DiPaolo\***

**Matthew Loyer**

**Chris Brown**

**Anne Pollard**

### ***Bishops:***

Central Conference Bishop:

**New African Bishop**

Jurisdictional Conference Bishop:

**Bishop Jeremiah Park**

## **Appointed to the General Commission on Communication**

### ***Bishops:***

Central Conference Bishop:

**Bishop John Wesley Yohanna**

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops:

**Bishop Cynthia Harvey**

**Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor**

### ***Central Conference Members:***

**Munashe Furasa**

**Reiner Puno**

## **Appointed to the General Commission on Religion and Race**

### ***Bishops:***

Central Conference Bishop:

**Bishop Gabriel Unda**

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops:

**Bishop Earl Bledsoe**

**New SEJ Bishop**

### ***Central Conference Member:***

**Framer P. Mella**

## **Appointed to the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**

### ***Bishops:***

Central Conference Bishop:

**New Liberian Bishop**

Additional Bishop:

**New North Central Jurisdiction Bishop**

### ***Central Conference Members:***

Africa:

**Lidia Gulele**

Europe:

**Berit Westad**

Philippines:

**Phebe Crismo**

## **Appointed to the General Commission on United Methodist Men**

Central Conference Bishop:

**New Congo Bishop**

Jurisdictional Conference Bishops:

**Bishop Gary Mueller**

**Bishop James Swanson**

Central Conference Members:

**Carlos Manio**

**Tarmo Lilloja**

# 2016 Summer Season Highlights

## Ocean Grove, New Jersey

### Sunday Services in the Great Auditorium



**June 12 - 10:30am**  
**Dr. Cleo LaRue**  
Princeton Theological  
Seminary, Princeton, NJ



**June 19 - 10:30am**  
**Dr. Wess Stafford**  
Compassion International,  
Colorado Springs, CO



**June 26**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Dr. Tim Kimmel**  
Family Matters,  
Scottsdale, AZ



**July 3**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Brother Roy Lauter**  
New Hope International  
Ministries, Wilmore, KY



**July 10 - 10:30am**  
**Dr. Barry C. Black,**  
U.S. Senate Chaplain,  
US Senate Chaplain,  
Washington, DC



**July 10 - 7:00pm**  
**62nd Annual**  
**Choir Festival**



**July 17**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Lee Strobel**  
Woodlands Church,  
Woodlands, TX



**July 24**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Rev. Dr. Duffy**  
**Robbins**  
Eastern University,  
St. Davids, PA



**July 31**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Rev. Dr.**  
**Tom Tewell**  
Macedonian Ministry,  
Atlanta, GA



**August 7**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Dr. R.T. Kendall**  
R.T. Kendall Ministries,  
Hendersonville, TN



**August 14**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Skip Heitzig**  
Calvary Chapel,  
Albuquerque, NM



**August 21**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Dr. Tom Long**  
Emory University,  
Atlanta, GA



**August 28 - 10:30am**  
**Dr. David Ireland**  
Christ Church,  
Rockaway, NJ



**August 28 - 7:30pm**  
**Annual Sacred**  
**Masterwork**  
**Concert**



**September 4**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Dr. Mitch Glaser**  
Chosen People Ministries  
New York, NY



**September 11**  
**10:30am**  
**Lt. Colonel**  
**David E. Kelley**  
Salvation Army

### Bible Hour In Bishop Janes Tabernacle Starting at 9:00am



**June 20-25**  
**Pastor Rob Cruver**  
Zarephath Christian  
Church, Zarephath, NJ



**June 27-29**  
**Dr. Tim Kimmel**  
Family Matters  
Scottsdale, AZ



**June 30 - July 2**  
**Pastor Ray Tate**  
Life Chapel  
Pt. Pleasant, NJ



**July 4-9**  
**Brother Roy Lauter**  
New Hope International  
Ministries, Wilmore, KY



**July 11-16**  
**Pastor**  
**Christian Andrews**  
Park Church  
Tinton Falls, NJ



**July 18-23**  
**Rev. Roger Casey**  
First Presbyterian Church  
Milford, PA



**July 25-30**  
**Rev. Dr.**  
**Duffy Robbins**  
Eastern University  
St. Davids, PA



**August 1-3**  
**Rev. Dr.**  
**Tom Tewell**  
Macedonian Ministry  
Atlanta, GA



**August 4-6**  
**Rev. David Cotton**  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Manasquan, Manasquan, NJ



**August 8-13**  
**Jay Seeger**  
Creation Education  
Center



**August 15-20**  
**Dr. Paul Maier**  
Western Michigan  
University, Michigan



**August 22-27**  
**Dr. James**  
**W. Fleming**  
Biblical History Center  
La Grange, GA



**Aug. 29 - Sept. 3**  
**Pastor Bill**  
**Beckelman**  
Calvary Chapel  
Coastlands  
Eatontown, NJ

### Camp Meeting Week Sunday, July 31 - Sunday, August 7

**Monday, August 1,**  
**Tuesday, August 2 - 7:00pm**  
**Dr. Tom Tewell**  
Macedonian Ministry, Atlanta, GA

**Wednesday, August 3 - 8:00pm**  
**Ocean Grove**  
**Summer Band Concert**  
"Hymns of the Faith"

**Sunday, August 7**  
**10:30am & 7:00pm**  
**Dr. R.T. Kendall**  
R.T. Kendall Ministries, Hendersonville, TN

### Continuing Education

**June 27 & 28**  
**7:00-8:30pm**  
**Dr. Tim Kimmel**  
Held in the  
Bishop Janes Tabernacle

**August 8 & 9**  
**7:00-8:30pm**  
**Jay Seeger**  
Held in the  
Bishop Janes Tabernacle

**August 11 & 12**  
**9:30am-5:30pm**  
**Global Leadership**  
**Summit - Live Simulcast**  
Held in the Youth Temple

**August 22-26**  
**10:30am - noon**  
**Dr. James W. Fleming**  
**Miracle Stories of the Bible**  
Held in the Community Room

**September 17**  
**9:00am - 4:15pm**  
**Beth Moore**  
**Live Simulcast**  
Held in the Youth Temple



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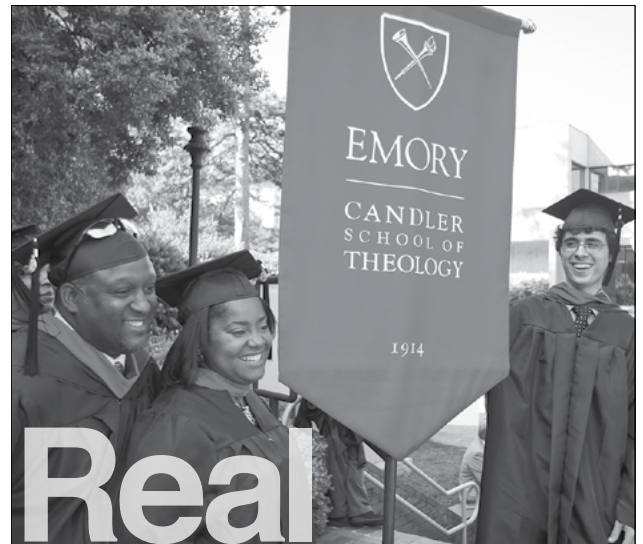


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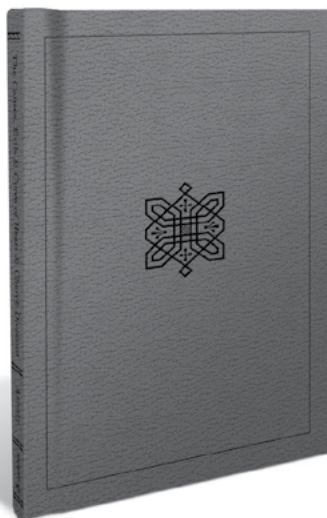


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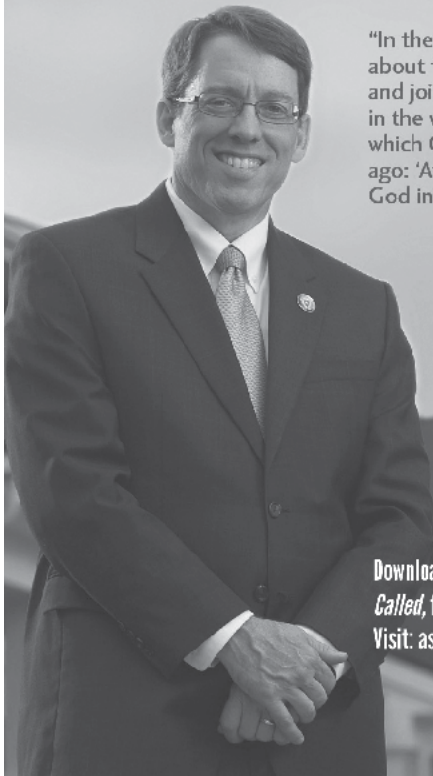
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- 2,922 receiving benefits

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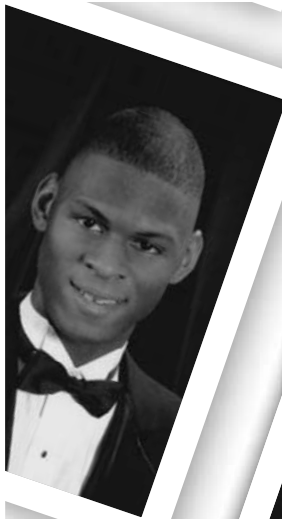
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## Proceedings of the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church

**Tuesday Afternoon,  
May 17, 2016**

*(continued from page 2478)*

OK. We, We gotta—I'm going to let you all handle that. Alright. Just a moment here. Gere is going to make an announcement and then we'll go to the next numbered item. We will be right ready. Stay right here.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: I'm going to ask Dick Hooton to come to the stage. Come to the stage quickly, Dick Hooton.

Friends, it is unethical to vote with more than one voting device. It is a violation of the Rules of the General Conference. A delegate has been observed voting five devices. This does not represent Christian behavior.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, we're going to move forward now to Calendar Item 441.

### *Pacific Island Ministries*

KRYSTL DAWN JOHNSON: Alright, the item before you is the Pacific Islander Ministry Plan. This can be found on p. 2213. Page 2213 in the *DCA*, listed as Calendar Item no. 441. It also can be found on p. 857 of the *ADCA*, Petition No. 60333. The committee voted to adopt this petition with a total of fifty-three votes in favor, no votes against, and one abstaining member. We recommend adoption and approval because this ministry plan resources, strengthens, and advocates for the growth of Pacific Island churches and ministries within the United States.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. Let's try the voting devices

again shortly. Is there any discussion on Calendar Item 441? I think you're ready to vote. Calendar Item 441; please vote now—yes to approve and no to oppose.

BISHOP JANICE HUIE: Okay, I think we still must be having difficulty, so I'm gonna go with the cards again. If you would approve Calendar Item 441, would you lift your green card? Thank you. If you are opposed, would you lift your card? Thank you, then the Calendar Item is approved. Thank you. We'll go to Calendar Item 442.

KRYSTL DAWN JOHNSON (Eastern Pennsylvania): The next petition before us is found on p. 2213 of the *DCA*, listed as Calendar Item No. 442, it can be found on p. 856 of the *ADCA*, Petition No. 60332. The committee voted to approve and adopt this petition unanimously with fifty-two votes in favor and zero votes against.

Our rationale for the petition is that it asks for approval and re-adoption of the national plan for Hispanic-Latino Ministry. This plan is currently being carried out in at least forty-nine annual conferences in the United States. Hispanics are the largest non-European ethnic group in the U.S. The committee recommends adoption.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. We're on Calendar Item 442. We'll try the voting devices again. Is there any discussion on Calendar Item 442? Oh, just—OK. They're telling me that I could just go to the cards, and we're have some difficulty, technical difficulty. So, the old-fashioned way here. I don't see anyone wishing to speak. If you would wish to, if you are in favor of Calendar Item 442, would you raise

your card, please? Thank you. If you are opposed, would you raise your card? Thank you. Then Calendar Item 442 is approved. Alright.

*[Voting by placard]*

CHARLES S. G. BOAYUE (Detroit): We want to place before you, Calendar Item 438, which is in the *DCA*, p. 2213, and the *ADCA*, p. 866. The committee recommends adoption of this item with one amendment. The request was for \$240,000. The committee approved to recommend \$120,000, a reduction of 50%.

I want to say, before we place the vote that we had a healthy discussion about this petition. The General Secretary of GBGM and the proponents of this petition shook hands and agreed. The \$120,000, was something they could work with, within the budget of GBGM. So, we recommend adoption of the amended petition.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. This is before you. Calendar Item 438 as it's been amended. Is there discussion? Are you ready to vote? If you would approve Calendar Item 438 as it's printed in front of you, would you raise your cards, please? Thank you. Are there any opposed? Thank you. Then it passes. Thank you.

*[Voting by placard]*

### *Accessibility Grants for Churches*

BOAYUE: Our next item, Calendar Item 436. In the *DCA*, p. 2213, Petition No. 60339, and in the *ADCA*, p. 861, Accessibility Grants for Churches. The committee voted sixty-five in favor, one against, with an amendment. If you look in your *DCA*, p. 2213, the words of the

amendment are printed there. Basically, there was a statistic giving of 56 million people with disabilities in the United States. That was amended to say, "There are more than 1 billion people living with disabilities in the world, of which 56 million live in the United States, according to the United Nations." The amendment was considered friendly, just to give a global scope of reference to the immensity of the need. We recommend adoption of the amended petition.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. It is before you. Is there any discussion? This is Calendar Item 436. Any discussion? I don't see any. If you would approve Calendar Item 436, would you raise your green card, please? Thank you. If you are opposed, would you raise your card? Thank you. It is approved. Thank you very much. Alright, we turn to Calendar Item 435.

BOAYUE: Bishop and friends, I would like to beg your indulgence to introduce the vice-chair of our committee who is name is not there for the persons screening the names. But I would like to invite David Wilson, vice-chair of Global Ministries, to present this petition.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you.

### *U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation*

DAVID MARK WILSON (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): Thank you, Charles. David Wilson, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Clergy. I'm presenting Petition No.; excuse me, Calendar Item No. 434, found on p. 2212. Petition No. 60198, and can be found in the ADCA on p. 856. The subject is, End Coalition Support.

BISHOP HUIE: OK. Be sure that it's not the number I called. So, just be careful here. We've moved one. It's for Calendar Item 434. I'm

just repeating what David said. Calendar Item 434.

WILSON: Thank you, Bishop. We the committee voted forty-one for, and twenty-two against. And, we agreed with the rationale for this particular petition, which is the rationale that you can find on p. 856 and there is also a Minority Report, Bishop.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. That's properly before us. Alright, when we have a Minority Report, the way that our General Conference rules read, you'll need to choose between the main report and the Minority Report and that's the one we perfect. Does someone wish to present the Minority Report? Who will present that?

BOAYUE: Bishop, I believe the presenter of the Minority Report is in the house. There, there.

BISHOP HUIE: Oh, here he comes. Thank you. It's mic. 5.

ARMANDO CONTRERAS ARELLANO (East Ohio): Bishop and members of the General Conference, I am the—

BISHOP HUIE: Could you give us your name and where you are from, please?

ARELLANO: I'm sorry, Bishop. Armando Arellano, East Ohio Conference.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you.

ARELLANO: Well, we have submit to you the Minority Report for some issues. The Global Ministries help found the U.S. campaign in 2001, as an interfaith, human rights-based coalition. The U.S. campaign seeks equal rights for all under international law and seeks to address U.S. Policy that does not live up to this important principles.

In 2008 and 2012 General Conferences, an identical petition was submitted and both, at both times it was overwhelmingly defeated. So, General Conference has twice affirmed membership in the U.S. Coalition. The U.S. campaign seeks to end human rights violation and this

is actually neither pro-Palestinian nor pro-Israel, but pro-equal rights for all.

The U.S. campaign seeks to end conflicts and human rights violation, which is equal rights for both Palestinian and Israel. By withdrawing from the coalition, we are withdrawing our commitment to be an agent of peace and justice. By withdrawing the Global Ministries membership from the U.S. campaign, we are giving up any hope that one day there will be peace and harmony between the Palestinian and Israel.

Isaiah 65:25 says, "The wolf and the lamb will graze together." By withdrawing our membership, we are withdrawing our commitment to be an agent of instrument and peace. By withdrawing our commitment and membership, we are giving up our hope and witness, and peace, and love between the Palestinians and Israel. By withdrawing our membership, we are simply abandoning one of the Wesleyan ways of life, which is social holiness through social justice and equal rights.

It is my hope that delegates to the 2016 General Conference will affirm tirelessly, our commitment to be a part of a coalition that seeks peace and justice for both the Palestinians and Israel. I still believe that The United Methodist Church will never abandon our Wesleyan commitment to social holiness that seeks and promotes justice and peace and equal rights to all people. So my dear brothers and sisters—

BISHOP JANICE RIGGLE HUIE: (*unintelligible*) Thank you. Friends, we're looking up here as I read this, these, this petition, this minority report is simply the opposite of the majority report, so that means it's not a valid minority report. If you wanted to vote against it, you simply vote down the minority, the majority report. Let me say that again. If you oppose the majority report, you



would simply vote no. So I'm going to rule that the minority report is not a valid, in other words, not a valid minority report, so I'm going to rule it out of order, and then, if you disagree with the majority report, you would vote no. Do you understand how it works here? Are we OK? Alright, we're back on the main motion now, which is the Calendar Item in front of us, 434. 434, and the floor is open for discussion. You heard the maker of the motion. The, so, the people, I see three people wishing to speak against, which is now the motion. Calendar Item 434, I'm gonna look, call them in the order I see them on the screen. Elizabeth Corrie, mic. 6, and if Lisa Bender at mic. 5 will get ready to speak. These are both speeches against, and then I will have heard two speeches against, so I'll come back to a speech for. Alright. So Elizabeth Corrie, please.

ELIZABETH WARDEN CORRIE (North Georgia): Thank you, Bishop. Elizabeth Corrie, North Georgia Annual Conference, laity. I have personally been a member of the U.S. campaign to end the occupation. I have sat alongside our general board staff that represent us at these meetings, and what I'm most proud of is the interfaith cooperation that happens in this coalition. Jewish, Muslim, Christian, other religions and nonreligious people who care about a just peace for both Israelis and Palestinians work together in this coalition for nonviolent change.

It is also an organization that best represents the diversity of both the United States and Israel/Palestine. The leadership includes African Americans, Latinos/Latinas, White Americans, Israelis, Palestinians, Jewish Americans, Muslim Americans, and all different people, young and old.

This coalition is a very important way that our church stands in

a meaningful way for a just, peace in Israel/Palestine. Our Christian, Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters are watching us today and hoping that we are remembering the full body of Christ in this conference. So I ask that we prayerfully consider voting no against this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. This is a speech against. And Lisa if you would just stay where you are, I'm gonna take a speech for, and then, I'll do you right after so that I can stay balanced as much as possible. So Kelly Robier at mic. 3, if you'll come forward, and then, following that, I'll come to you, Lisa.

KELLY ALLISON ROBIER (Baltimore-Washington): Kelley Robier, Baltimore-Washington Conference.

BISHOP HUIE: Sorry for the mispronounce on your name.

ROBIER: Oh no, you're fine. That I sometimes looks like an L. So, I am speaking for the withdrawal of the U.S. campaign on the following reasons. This campaign seeks to "isolate Israel culturally, socially, and economically and advocates for comprehensive boycotts, divestment, and sanctions BDS." This is not calling for selective divestment for companies and corporations that are directly involved with the illegal occupation. It's calling for divestment, boycotts and sanctions of all Israeli goods and corporations. It seems to me that there could be a better way to advocate our position against the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories, rather than simply blaming one nation, Israel, for the harm and the violence that is seen on both sides of the argument. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. I'll go now to Lisa Bender, speaking against.

LISA DROMGOLD BENDER (Susquehanna): Thank you, Bishop. I'm Lisa Bender, Susquehan-

na Conference, laity, and I speak opposed to the majority. My son lived in Ramallah, in the West Bank in Palestine, for nine months in 2011 and '12, and we heard his stories for many months, and then we went over and spent one week in his apartment and experienced the occupation for ourself. We lived with the shortages of water and electricity, going in and out of the checkpoints, seeing the wall; and we encountered the Israeli soldiers daily, and we experienced intimidation. I came home with many questions, and I started to do research. I researched from all perspectives, learning about both sides, and one of the most helpful sources was the U.S. campaign.

This coalition, as has been pointed out, does many things and includes groups from, who represent social justice, religious groups, and legal groups, and the, including Jewish Voice for Peace, and other Jewish groups. They have a very strong position against anti-Semitism. I especially appreciate the way I can use their resources to contact my legislators on human rights issues and the easy forms that they provide so that I can contact my legislators. I urge you to support this organizations that's working in many ways to end the occupation and to bring peace to the Holy Land. So, I ask that you would oppose this majority report.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. I'm gonna take another speech for, and then we'll see where the body is. Frederick Sayeh, mic. 6, please, speaking for.

FREDERICK S. SAYEH (Liberia): Thank you, Bishop. I'm Frederick Sayeh from Liberia Annual Conference. Bishop, members of the General Conference, I was fortunate to have visited Israel and Palestine recently. When you get them together you realize that both nations, Israel and Palestine,

they are in a complicated conflict, where they hurt themselves. And so, I support the majority report not to allow The United Methodist Church shift a one-sided guilt against Israel. The conflict in the region can only be successfully and positively resolved by Israel and Palestine alone. Speaking of BDS, you realize when you make a visit that even the BDS will have a trigger negative effects on Palestinians who are working in the Israelis old companies. And so, I'm asking this General Conference to join me to support the majority report to vote yes to that report, because The United Methodist Church should take a pastoral action but not an action that will shift guilt against the people of Israel. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you. We've heard three speeches for, three speeches against. I'll ask the committee if they want to make a closing statement, and then, we'll be ready to vote.

(pause)

CHARLES S.G. BOAYUE (Detroit): Our committee voted forty-one in favor and twenty-two against. We were divided. So, we yield to the wisdom of the General Conference.

BISHOP HUIE: All right, thank you. So, we are at Calendar Item 434. If you'll take out your voting devices, I think we'll need these. Oh, we're, they're not, we're placards, friends. We're gonna have to, this is placards. So, I'm gonna do my best here, and I've got people up here helping. If you are in favor of Calendar Item 434, would you raise your placard please?

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: OK. They say they can do this. So, I know this is going to be a divided vote, and I don't want any question about it, so we're gonna try this with the devic-

es. So, if you would take your voting devices out. Alright. If you are in favor of Calendar Item 434, would you vote yes? If you are opposed, would you vote no? Please vote now. Thank you.

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: All right. The 434 is, does prevail. You can see the vote there. I'll ask that you clear the queue, so that we can start again. Let's clear the queue on all of this. Now, please continue. We go to Calendar Item 435, I think.

[Yes, 478; No, 318]

### *Taskforce on Israel/Palestine*

BOAYUE: Yes, thank you, Bishop. Our next calendar item is 435, found on DCA p. 2213. That item in the ADCA is also found on p. 892. Taskforce on Israel/Palestine. This petition requests the General Boards of Church and Society and Global Ministries to collaborate in creating a taskforce to do some research and to provide advice to missionaries and volunteers in mission and other United Methodist churches that desire to visit the region of Israel and Palestine. The committee's vote was in favor, fifty-eight, against, four. There were no amendments. We recommend that you adopt.

BISHOP HUIE: All right. Thank you. Calendar Item 435 is in front of you. Is there any discussion? We're going to use the placards, if you don't mind. They are fairly quick. If you are in favor of Calendar Item 435, would you raise your placard now? Thank you. If you are opposed, would you raise your placard?

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Then, it is sustained. It is approved. It prevails. Thank you. So, let's move to the

next calendar item. And by the way, I do see that there is, in the queue Matt Idom, wishing to speak. When I finish with these from Global Ministries, I'll come and pick that one up. [Voted by placard]

DAVID MARK WILSON (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you.

### *Pathway for Peace in Palestine and Israel*

WILSON: Our next item is petition, excuse me, Calendar Item 92, Petition No. 60205, found on p. 2104 in the DCA. Again, excuse me, Petition No. 60205 can be found on p. 890 in the Advance DCA, and, Bishop, this is one that had been removed from the consent calendar.

BISHOP HUIE: All right.

WILSON: And the committee voted fifty-nine for, and five against.

BISHOP HUIE: All right. So, it is before you. Do you wish to speak to it?

WILSON: The committee had some great debate on this particular petition. There are several dealing with topic of Palestine and Israel, and this particular petition that speaks of a need to seek restorative justice and conversation. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: All right. Thank you. So, Calendar Item 92 is before you. Is there discussion? Alright, seeing none, I think you're ready to vote. We'll use the placards. If you are in favor of Calendar Item 92, would you raise your card please?

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. If you're opposed, would you raise your card?

(pause)

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. Then, Calendar Item 92 is approved. [Voted by placard]

BOAYUE: Bishop, this is the conclusion of this part of Global Ministries report. We'd like to thank the General Secretary, the Cabinet and Board of Global Ministries, and especially the missionaries who are out there on the front lines. Thank you very much.

BISHOP HUIE: Well, and thank you. Let's give them, this concludes theirs for today.

*(applause)*

BISHOP HUIE: We appreciate your good work. Thank you. Thank you. And Ministry and Higher Education, if you all'll come, those of you who are bringing those reports, and in the meantime, I'll call on Matt Idom, mic. 3.

MERLE MATTHEW IDOM (Texas): Thank you, Bishop. Matt Idom, Texas Annual Conference, clergy. Bishop, I may be here to make a motion, but I'd like to ask a question. Is it my understanding that the action we took earlier to ask for leadership from our Council of Bishops is expected to be returned back to us in the morning?

BISHOP HUIE: That's our understanding.

IDOM: In that case, I make the following motion: I believe that that is not fair to that body to ask you to have that ready by tomorrow morning. I'm not sure, and I would ask for the wisdom of this body, if it is prudent for that decision, or that leadership, to be asked for during the heightened intensity of General Conference, and I would move that you submit that to us as an Advent statement during the season of Advent.

BISHOP HUIE: All right. He made that a motion. I was going to speak and say it was a nonbinding, remind us it was a nonbinding resolution to begin with. Just to clarify, since you made it a motion, is there a second out there?

*(pause)*

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. I heard a second. I'm just gonna handle this and see where the body is on it. Is there discussion? What's your point of order?

MARK R. HOLLAND (Great Plains): Mark Holland, Great Plains Conference. I believe this was duly passed by the body and requires a motion to reconsider by someone who voted for it before it can be back on the floor.

BISHOP HUIE: You are exactly right, and I stand corrected. Thank you very much. So, that's out of order. Thank you. I apologize for that. Let's move on now to Higher Education, to Ministry in Higher Ed. Thank you.

*(pause)*

*(Bishops conferring on stage)*

BISHOP HUIE: OK, sorry, we're just, stay close here. We had something, we had this moved. Alright, I beg your pardon. We've moved these things. Thank you.

*Welcoming the Migrant*

BETHANY LIN AMEY (Greater New Jersey): It's no problem. Good afternoon. I am Bethany Amey from Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, and I am the chair of Church and Society A. We will be moving to DCA p. 2206, Calendar Item No. 383. It can also be found on your ACDA p. 360. This is Petition No. 60403, Welcoming the Migrant to the United States. The committee recommends that you adopt this petition. It was voted, the petition was supported by a vote of forty-eight to ten. The rationale is that this petition is an update to an existing resolution, and while focused particularly on ministry within the United States, it was done in coordination with The United Methodist Immigration Task-

force. This is a companion resolution to the global migration petition that has already been adopted on Consent Calendar B04. The committee recommends that you adopt this petition.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. Calendar Item 383 is before you. Is there discussion? I am seeing none. You would need to be in the queue, and I don't see anyone. So, I think you are ready to vote, and we will use the placards since that's moving us along. If you would vote to approve Calendar Item 383, would you raise your placard, please? Thank you. If you are opposed? Thank you. It is approved. Thank you very much.

*[Voted by placard]*

AMEY: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, alright, thank you very much. Now, now we'll go to Kim Ingraham.

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): Bishop and members of the conference, I want to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for the work of the Ministry and Higher Education and Superintendency Committee, the ways we interacted with one another and conducted our business, and I am particularly grateful for the leadership team. Sergei Nikolaev was the vice-chair. Joe DiPaolo was the secretary. And then we had five sub-committee chairs: Joy Barrett, Ken Nelson, Yed Angoran, Jisun Kwak, and Alice Williams. Thank you.

*Care of Episcopal Area During Bishop's Medical Leave*

Our first petition is found on the DCA p. 2217, 2217. It is Calendar Item no. 469. It's found in the ADCA on page 1151. It's Petition 60128. The petition allows for a bishop to take a medical leave for not more than six months in consultation with the Area Committee on the Episcopacy, and with the approval by the

College of Bishops, the Jurisdictional or Central Conference Committee on the Episcopacy, and the Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops. The petition indicates a process by which the Episcopal Area will be cared for during the leave period. This process insures that a bishop has a chance for healing and that the Episcopal Area is covered in his or her absence. It delineates what should happen if the bishop is not able to return at the end of the medical leave and deletes language that is outdated regarding travel expectations for bishops. The committee recommends adoption and voted seventy-five for and zero against. But it didn't go on the Consent Calendar because of the financial implications.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. So, Calendar Item 469 is before you. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, I think you are ready to vote. If you would approve Calendar Item 469, would you raise your placard, please? Thank you. Those opposed, would you raise your placard? Thank you. It is approved. Thank you.  
[Voted by placard]

### *Equitable Compensation for Retired Bishops*

INGRAM: Our next item is found on DCA p. 2217, 2217. It is Calendar Item No. 470. It can be found in the ADCA on p. 1149, and it is Petition No. 60127. This petition allows retired bishops to receive equitable compensation for their current work. The current reading of *The Book of Discipline*, in effect, penalizes bishops with longer service to the church by reducing compensation for the special assignment by the amount of the retirement benefits the bishop is receiving. The financial implications are already included in the current budget. The committee recommends adoption and voted seventy-one for and one against, and

this too has financial implications, so it didn't go on the Consent Calendar.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. So Calendar Item 470 is in front of you. I do see someone wishing to speak in favor of this. So, will William Shillady mic. 6.

WILLIAM S. SHILLADY (New York): Thank you, Bishop. Bill Shillady, New York Annual Conference. I definitely speak in favor of this since the New York Annual Conference had a tragedy when our Bishop Martin McLee died very unexpectedly. So, I was very grateful for the previous resolution that we passed because it helped to clarify the sick leave of a bishop. But in our case, when Bishop McLee passed, we had the wonderful service of Bishop Neal Irons, Bishop Ernest Light, and then the permanent interim Bishop Jane Allen Middleton who the New York Annual Conference would agree deserves as much money as possible for filling in to bring us out of the grief and move us forward. So, I'm in favor of this resolution.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you very much. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak here? I'm not seeing anyone. I am thinking you are ready to vote. Are you ready? Alright, if you are in favor of this Calendar Item No. 470, title, Special Assignments, would you raise your placard, please? Thank you. Are there any opposed? Thank you. It is so approved. Thank you very much.  
[Voted by placard]

### *Term of Office For Bishops*

INGRAM: For this next calendar item, I invite Jisun Kwak to join me. She was the sub-committee chair that considered this petition. It is found in the DCA on p. 2216, 2216. It is Calendar Item No. 460. It is found in the ADCA on p. 1082, and it is Petition No. 60510. There is an amendment that I want to share

with you. You will see it. Then in the section that starts paragraph 406, which in the ADCA is on p. 1083, just insert the words "beginning in 2020," "beginning in 2020," after the title, "Term of Office." This petition limits the tenure of a bishop in the Central and Jurisdictional Conferences to a term of eight years and then a bishop can be reelected for an additional eight year term. At the time of retirement, a bishop continues to be a bishop and becomes a member of an annual conference of their choosing, with the consent of the presiding bishop. A retired bishop will have all of the powers, duties and privileges of a retired elder as long as he or she is in good standing. Implementing a limited tenure for service as bishop increases the accountability of an episcopal leader. It also provides consistency in both Jurisdictional Conference and Central Conferences. By beginning this change in 2020, it allows us to be fully prepared in terms of finances and its impacts, such as the deployment of bishops at the Jurisdictional level. This proposal will not affect the bishops currently on the council. The committee recommends adoption and voted fifty-six for and thirty against.

BISHOP JANICE RIGGLE HUIE: Alright, thank you. Then the matter is in front of you, so I'll ask for conversation and there are people in the queue, so—and let me begin by calling on Ellis Conley, mic. 4. This is a speech against the Calendar Item, against the proposal.

ELLIS EVINS CONLEY (West Virginia): Bishop, members, and friends of the General Conference. The root of this petition is the mistrust of episcopal leaders and the desire to control and manipulate our bishops making them church staff members rather than episcopal leaders. Ever since the birth of Methodism in this country, there

were voices and attempts to limit the tenure of Francis Asbury. He led in ways only years later were fully appreciated. The issue of term limits for bishop is a veiled attempt to make them little more than lap dogs who either do our bidding, appoint us where we want to serve, lead like we want them to lead, serve how we want them to serve, and silence whatever prophetic voice they might have for us; because if we don't like the prophets, we don't meet to stone them as in the Old Testament; we just don't reelect them. Their tenure and assignment in our Annual Conference would degenerate to pacifying the clergy and lay powerbrokers, some of whom desire to be elected bishops and others who by their constant complaining begin the continued referendum on their bishop.

Yes, episcopal leaders need to be held accountable. Processes are in place to care for those issues but not always each of us across the connection agree with those procedures. A move to term limits does set limits. It limits the ability of bishops to be leaders in church revitalization, reorganization, strategic planning, ministry to the poor and marginalized, and speak to the halls of secular power. Instead, it puts them on a hamster wheel of continually placating, patronizing, and running for reelection, lining up support for election years down the road.

Our fear and suspicion of our episcopal leaders is nothing new, but it's shortsighted and only a veiled attempt to make our bishops lap dogs who do our biddings, on a short leash at that. Such legislation would lessen the role of leadership, eliminate prophetic voices, and guarantee the election of persons facing ministry as their next step—as facing retirement in their next step in ministry; plus, eliminating the passion and relevancy that younger leaders provide. Bishops also play an important

role in carrying the corporate and historical perspectives of sage long-termed leaders. I'm grateful for the episcopal leaders whom I've been privileged to serve under appointment. I do not fear their leadership. I fear my desire to always want to control those who have set aside to call us to gospel, biblical leadership, vision, and collegial discipleship. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. OK, friends. So, what we've got—that is a speech against that we just heard. That's a speech against now. Just let me say in the queue, I have two points of order, inquiry, or information that I need to deal with. There are several people asking to speak on either side of this. There are also a couple of amendments. So, if you'll be patient here for just a moment, let me deal with the points of order or inquiry. I'll deal with those first, and then I'll move to a couple of these others.

So, Rukang Chikomb, I'm sorry that I'm saying your name so poorly, that would be mic. 2. Following that, Jean Hawxhurst. It must be—is it on the subject that we are on now? Alright, and so, would she also go be ready at mic. 4. Yes sir?

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Bishop, Rukang Chikomb, North-West Katanga. I'm used to my name being misspelled; you are forgiven, no problem.

Bishop, as a point of clarification, I would like to know, I heard something like eight, then vote again eight; can you give me the exact limit time? What is those number of years?

*(Bishop confers on the stage)*

JISUN KWAK (Greater New Jersey): The term of the first election would be eight years, and the bishop can be re-elected another eight-year term; maximum sixteen years.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. Alright. Jean Hawxhurst. Sorry.

JEAN G. HAWXHURST (Kentucky): It's OK. It's Hawxhurst.

BISHOP HUIE: Hawxhurst. Alright, thank you.

HAWXHURST: And I may be out of order but it is a question for my own understanding. We current choose our ecumenical officer from retired bishops. Where would be get our ecumenical officer if this passes?

BISHOP HUIE: She's asking about within the Council, the ecumenical officer and actually a couple of others come from retired bishops. She's asking where would those persons come from?

KWAK: The Council of Bishop may assign those ecumenical bishops to be serving on the Council together and then those bishops may be called as a residential bishop.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. Those were both points of inquiry. I'm going to catch—I'll call on Laura Merrill, mic. 5. This is a motion to amend. And then I will go hear a speech for.

LAURA ANNE MERRILL (Rio Texas): Thank you, Bishop. Laura Merrill, Rio Texas. I move to amend this Petition No. 60510, to delete everything after the reference to ¶48, article 4. Delete everything from ¶50 to the end.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, is there a second? Alright, I heard a second. So, you're free to speak to it.

*Motion to Amend*

MERRILL: Thank you. As we discussed this in our legislative committee, we, several of us felt like this was a petition that combines many different things that changes to the way we elect and the way bishops serve. I'm sorry, I should have written this down. I think the first two paragraphs deal with the question of the membership of retired bishops on the Council of Bishops. The follow-

ing paragraphs deal with everything from term length to the reelection in between terms. We have heard from Central Conference representatives that of course we have many different lengths of episcopal terms even within the same continent. I think, my opinion is that this petition just tries to do many things in one petition, and that to try to instead deal with just the question of retired bishops on the Council of Bishops is one place to start and I would just recommend that we take the other two issues out of this petition.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you. So, we're on the amendment. So, I need you to clear the queue, and we're hearing speeches made now for and against the amendment. So, if you wish to speak for or against the amendment, you can use your tablet to sign up in the queue. The amendment is to delete everything except the first two disciplinary paragraphs. Everything below the second paragraph. That's the amendment in front of us. Alright. Is there discussion here? I don't see anyone. Are you ready to vote? Alright. Take your voting devices out. I'm told they are up and ready to go, so let's try this again. If you would approve the amendment, would you vote "yes." If you are opposed, would you vote "no." Please vote now.  
[Yes, 308; No, 435]

BISHOP HUIE: Alright the amendment is defeated. We're back on the main motion which is the Calendar Item No. 460 as it currently stands. We've had one speech opposed to it. Are there, do other people wish to speak to this? Oh, and, yes, I've got here in the queue, there is the first one to come up, Alex Shanks, mic. 1.

ALEX ARTHUR SHANKS (Florida): Alex Shanks from Florida. I'd like to make a motion to refer this petition to the Interjurisdictional

Committee on Episcopacy. And, if I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, alright, there's a second.

SHANKS: I think this is a complicated matter that involves a long standing, the nature of our episcopacy and I think the correct group to study this and to come back with a proposal to General Conference 2020 is the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, so they can review all of the notes and these petitions and help us make the correct decision for the future of the church. The tenure of bishops is something that we have long standing dealt with, and it appears to me that this is an effort to deal with the accountability of bishops and that is correctly dealt with by the Committee on Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. So referring to them to deal with this petition and the issue of accountability for bishops, seems to be prudent at this time.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. So what's before us now is a motion to refer to the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. So, we clear the queue. So the people, if you wish to speak to the motion to, if you wish to speak on the motion of referral, you would need to sign up in the queue again. So, this is a motion to refer. Do people wish to speak to this? Alright, I've got two points of order. Actually, just one. So, Gary George, mic. 5, it's a point of order or parliamentary inquiry. Mic. 5.

GARY MARK GEORGE (East Ohio): Bishop, Gary George, East Ohio, clergy, and to Alex Shanks could I ask this question? Alex you referred to the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. As you may know, we were organized for this quadrennium just last Thursday. Are you making this a matter of referral to the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy while we

are still here at General Conference, or at some other time?

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, let's go back because we need to ask the maker of the motion. Mic. 1.

SHANKS: The intent of the motion would be to refer it to the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy to bring back a recommendation to General Conference 2020.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. Alright, that was a point of clarification, so we're on the motion refer. I'm going to take now a speech against. Kevin Goodwin, mic. 6. And then I will go to Ande Emmanuel, which is mic. 2. That'll be a speech for.

KEVIN G. GOODWIN (Peninsula-Delaware): Kevin Goodwin, lay member, Peninsula-Delaware Conference, also a member of the Interjurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. I believe if this was referred to us we would have a constitutional crisis because none of the stuff that would be discussed is within the jurisdiction of that committee to discuss. So, I would be against this amendment.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. In favor of the amendment, mic. 2, Ande Emmanuel.

ANDE IKIMUN EMMANUEL (Southern Nigeria): My name is Ande Emmanuel, clergy delegate from Southern Nigeria Annual Conference. Bishop, I have a question. Before I, I need to be sure of what he is saying before I speak for. If I'm right, I can go ahead with my question.

BISHOP HUIE: OK, yes, you may ask your question.

EMMANUEL: He is making the reference to Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. My question is what happens to the part that has to do with Central Conferences.

BISHOP HUIE: Let's ask the maker of the motion to refer.

SHANKS: The issues before us in the petition, the majority of them, are not changes to the current way Central Conferences deal with tenure of bishops, and that's the issue that I think is the primary change by the petition, and so, that's why we are referring it to that committee.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Yes, sir.

EMMANUEL: OK. I decline, if that is, to speak on this.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you. Alright. Now I have several people who wish to speak against the motion to refer. So, I'm, I'm going to just pick them up in the order they are coming on my screen. Tshimbu Muyombo, Muyombi, sorry, mic. 4. Oh, I was going right there. OK, but mic. 3. I think it's 4. Yeah, here we go.

TSHIMBU JETHRO MUYOMBI (South Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, Bishop, for the privilege to speak. My name Tshimbu Muyombi, conference of South Congo. I would like to speak against. I believe that the question to refer this is a refusal to treat certain things that we are trying to treat now and find a solution. This was discussed in the committee and they found a compromise to bring it to the plenary session. I do not think that it's a good idea to send this to another small group. So, I propose that we would please vote on this and find a solution once and for all.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. Alright. How many? We've had two speeches for, two speeches against. There are a number of other people who wish to speak against, but I'd be happy to entertain someone moving the previous question, and there is somebody on the screen who will move the previous question, 'cause I think you're ready to vote. Mr. William Hatcher, mic. 6. My screen, the queue says you wish to move the previous question, and

have had two speeches for and two speeches against, so that's a valid request.

WILLIAM STANLEY HATCHER (South Georgia): Bishop, Bill Hatcher, South Georgia, lay. I move the previous question.

BISHOP HUIE: On what? On the motion to refer or on . . .

HATCHER: On all that is before us, ma'am.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, so the question is moved on all that is before us. So, when we move the previous question, that means that he is proposing that we vote, that you vote, on everything that is before us, which will be the motion to refer, plus the original petition that being proposed here. And, it means the discussion is over on all things. Are you with me? Everybody? That's what previous question means. So, if you are ready to stop the discussion and move to voting, first on the motion to refer, and then second on the main motion, that's what, what he, that's what he is proposing. Alright if you would take out your voting devices. This is non-debatable, it take two-thirds. If you would take out your voting devices. If you are in favor of the previous question on voting on all that's before us, would you vote "yes." If you are opposed, please vote "no." Please vote now.

[Yes, 659; No, 149]

### *Motion to Refer Defeated*

BISHOP JANICE RIGGLE HUIE: Alright, you have affirmed, approved to the previous question. So we'll be voting first on the motion to refer. We go straight to voting. If you would refer the petition, the calendar item to the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, if you're in favor of that, you would vote "Yes," if you're opposed, you would vote "No." Please, vote now.

[Yes, 246; No, 553]

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, it is not referred. You can see that. It is not referred. So we're on the Calendar Item itself. There is no more discussion, this is Calendar item 460. It is before you. Are you following me? OK. So, we're ready to vote. If you would approve Calendar Item 460, please vote "Yes." If you oppose it, please vote "No." Please, vote now.

(*vote in process*)

(*Bishop conferring on stage*)

### *Episcopal Term Limits Not Accepted*

BISHOP HUIE: I should have told you this ahead of time, my colleagues are reminding this, me, this is a matter of the constitution, and so it takes a two-thirds vote to, it's not a majority vote, it's a two-thirds vote. And it fails if my math is correct.

Alright I am being told my math is correct, so it takes a two-thirds majority because it would involve a constitutional amendment, and while it had a majority vote, it did not have a two-thirds vote or sometimes called a super majority, so the motion fails. Alright. Thank you, let's go the next calendar item.

### *Deacons and the Sacraments*

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): The next item is found in the DCA on p.2216, 2216. It's Calendar Item 462. It is found on the ADCA on p.1116, and it is Petition No. 60489. There are amendments, the most helpful way to identify the amendment is by looking in your ADCA on p. 1116. It's in the right-hand column, and the amendment is to delete at the very bottom of that page, the second to the last line where it says, "the church...." Cross-out everything in that line and the next line until you get to the word, "preside." And

then that would be replaced with the words, “and offering the means of grace to the world, the resident bishop of the annual conference in which the deacon is appointed, may authorize the deacon to preside . . .” and so the sentence will read like this: “For the sake of extending the mission and ministry of the church, and offering the means of grace to the world, the resident bishop of the annual conference in which the deacon is appointed may authorize the deacon to preside at the celebration of the sacraments.”

In our growing and changing world, deacons are engaged in innovative and diverse ministries beyond the walls of our churches extending the church into communities. In this, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Order of Deacon, we celebrate these ministries of The United Methodist Church, as deacons bridge church and world they are living out the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Deacons are in ministry with people who may never walk through the doors of a church. They encounter pain, brokenness, and need by people who want and need to know the grace of God as experienced through the sacraments. This petition allows the resident bishop to authorize a deacon to preside at the celebration of the sacraments when the bishop determines that the deacon needs authority to preside so that the church may offer the sacraments and a place where sacraments may not otherwise be available, the committee recommends adoption as amended. Sixty people voted for, and sixteen people voted against.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you very much. On my screen, I’m showing that we have a point of order, or point of parliamentary in-

quiry, or information. So I’m gonna call on Joseph Daniels Jr., mic. 2. And if you’ll please explain to us the point of information, or point of order, what are you, if you could tell us what you’re seeking.

JOSEPH WAYNE DANIELS (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, Joseph Daniels, Baltimore-Washington Conference. I am calling a point of order to request that we have reconsideration of the vote on Petition 60510, which was the term of bishops. I believe if we had the information about it being a two-thirds vote before hand, that that would be appropriate for the body. This is the second time in our voting today that that has not happened and I think it’s very, very important. The other thing is that, there are those of us who were on the sub-committee for this particular petition from all across the globe who worked very hard on this many, many hours. There was a lot of misunderstanding on the floor. I for one was one who want to speak for clarity’s sake upon it, because it is something that has been done very respectfully, requesting accountability, consistency, and flexibility within the whole realm of episcopal tenure, and I do believe it’s something that should be reconsidered and dealt with fairly.

### *Revote for Episcopal Term Limits*

BISHOP HUIE: I think the way to handle this, I want to be respectful and I didn’t. I was in error by not announcing that sooner, ahead of the vote. The body voted to stop debate, so were not gonna go back on that. But what I will do is take the vote again, with everyone understanding that it takes a two-thirds vote. I want to be fair to everyone. So it would mean, if you’ll . . . Pardon?

*(Bishop conferring on stage)*

BISHOP HUIE: Yes, we need to . . . If you’ll just . . . , so I’m gonna say to the body, we’re gonna hold right here with the calendar item in front of us, and since he’s raised the point of order about, regarding Calendar Item 460, The Tenure of Bishops, we will take the vote again on that. I’ll try to be very clear, and then will come back and pick up this item that we’re on having to do with the study of ministry. So will you hold there, Kim? Alright. Thank you, sir.

Alright, now in order for us not to get more confused, let me try to be very clear. So, we are going to revote item, Calendar Item 460. 462. 460, sorry; my help here. So, Calendar Item 460, which is the tenure of bishops. You already voted to stop conversation, so we’re not gonna have any more debate. You will remember that since this requires a constitutional amendment, it takes a two-thirds majority. The Calendar Item 460 is in front of you. And the proposal here is for term limits, you see. You remember all of that conversation we just had. Are you ready to vote? Alright, take out your voting devices. If you would approve Calendar Item 460, you would vote “Yes.” If you do not approve Calendar Item 460, you would vote “No.” Please, vote now.

*[Revote Calendar Item 460: Yes, 482; No, 332]*

BISHOP JANICE HUIE: OK. It does not meet the two-thirds requirement, and therefore it fails. Therefore it fails. So we’re going to return now to where we were a moment ago, which has to do with Calendar Item 462, Calendar Item 462. So, Kim, if you could re-state it so we can get everybody back on the same page that would be helpful. Thank you all for your patience on that and I apologize again for not mentioning it sooner.



*Return to Debate on Deacons  
and the Sacraments*

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): Calendar Item 462. I indicated there was an amendment. I'll just read what it sounds like in the final change. So the sentence will read like this: "For the sake of extending the mission and ministry of the church and offering the means of grace to the world, the resident bishop of the annual conference in which the deacon is appointed may authorize the deacon to preside at the celebration of the sacraments. This allows the resident bishop to authorize a deacon to preside at the celebration of the sacraments."

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. So I've got in the queue normally where we are would be open for discussion. There's one person wishing for a point of order or parliamentary inquiry. I'm gonna hear that, and then I'll go to speeches. So if I could hear from Sharletta Green on Mic. 4. And this is a point of order or inquiry?

SHARLETTA GREEN: Yes. Sharletta Green, West Virginia. Just a question about when there is a question about rules, do we not have to state what rule it is that's in question?

BISHOP HUIE: You don't have to state which rule if you have a . . . I'm sorry I'm. Oh, Gere's telling me that if it's an in-house rule, meaning it is a General Conference rule, we would expect you to say like rule and give the number, but if it's something having to do with *Robert's Rules of Order*, you would simply just raise it like the gentleman did a few minutes ago.

GREEN: OK. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Now, what we have I've got two speeches against. I'm gonna go to Dixie Brewster first and she's Mic. 2, and this will be a speech against the calendar

item. And then there's a move to amend; I'll come there. Thank you.

DIXIE BREWSTER (Great Plains): I would speak against this and the reason being is because becoming an elder is . . . I hold elders in high regard, and I believe it's a great opportunity for them and something for them to offer the sacraments. It's very serious. Even though the bishops can allow deacons to do that within this, I still would vote against because I think our elders have a very deserved opportunity in offering the sacraments; and I would see best that that would stay in order to do. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you. Alright, I'm gonna take a speech for, and then there is a motion to amend and I'll go there. So, Iosmar Alvarez-Alfonso, Mic. 4.

IOSMAR ALVAREZ-ALFONSO (Kentucky): Iosmar Alvarez, Kentucky Conference. I speak in favor. I am an elder, and I've really believed that deacons go almost, I mean, they go through the same process of elders, same requirements. At the moment of ordination is a different. They are ordained to do different things, so I don't see why preventing them to do this. I really believe that people deserve to participate in the table of Christ, and we have more people ordained to do so, more opportunities for the table of Christ to be open in the world.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you. That was a speech for. Now, I'm gonna turn to Marquice Hobbs. There's a move, a motion to amend. Mic. 3.

MARQUICE HOBBS (Texas): Thanks, Bishop. Marquice Hobbs, Texas Annual Conference. I make a motion to amend this petition. If you will follow me where it says, "in offering the means of grace to the world." Right after that I would like to say, "the district superintendent may request the residential bishop of

the annual conference." So, it's just to add, "the district superintendent may request," and if I have a second, I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP HUIE: Is there a second? I think I heard, didn't I hear? OK. Thank you. Please go ahead.

HOBBS: Yes. This is because in the current *Book of Discipline* it reads, "in the absence of an elder, district superintendent may request," and so I think that we should keep with the mechanics. It does not take away the power of the bishop or a deacon doing so. I think deacons having sacramental authority in presiding over the sacraments is a necessary addition to their ministry because often times they are in places where people have given their lives to Christ and they are wanting to be baptized in that hour. They're in ministry with persons who need to receive the Lord's communion and be at that table for the forgiveness of sin and so their ministry calls for this.

However, I want to make sure that we keep with the mechanics of how things have been and in addition, if we just allow this to say, a bishop may grant a deacon. What if down the line we don't have one of the great bishops that we have today and there's a bishop who is decides to go left and to do what they decide they wanna do. And so it's just to prevent things in the future with the skeptical nature that I have, being a philosopher, but is also to make sure that we keep with the mechanics. I think the district superintendents should request that a deacon does so, I mean that a bishop provides or grants that sacramental authority, just to keep with the mechanics and to make sure that we don't have, somewhere down the line, somebody abusing our intent here.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. So this is a motion to amend by adding these words, and which

would involve the superintendent. We need to clear the queue because the conversation, the discussion now is on the amendment only, not on the main motion right now. So if you, and let's clear the queue. If you would, hang on just a second so I can get it clear, and then if anyone wishes to speak for or against the amendment, I'll hear those and they will come back to the main motion. Alright, I don't see anyone wishing to speak for or against the amendment. Does that mean you're ready? Oops, here we go. Alright, so Thomas Lank wishes to speak against the amendment. Steve Wende wishes to speak for, so Mic. 4 and Steve if you'll come to Mic. 3. That will be one on each. First the speech against. Steve Lank. Thomas Lank, sorry.

THOMAS LANK (Greater New Jersey): Thank you, Bishop. Thomas Lank, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. I rise to speak against the amendment. I appreciate the spirit in which it was offered in trying to protect deacons from the changes and whims in the episcopacy. However, I think we're not immune from that even with the district superintendent, and in fact, it adds another layer in which there could be a road block put up. And so I would rather rely on the deacon's relationship with the bishop than relying on two relationships where it could go wrong.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. Alright. Steve Wende, Mic 3. This is a speech for.

STEVE WENDE (Texas): Thank you, Bishop. Steve Wende, Texas Conference. I wanna invite the delegates to actually think about the words of the amendment. Marquice is a brilliant individual. He came up with the amendment. I think it's a great one because, as a full elder, I've been doing it forty years, I think some of the finest ministry in our church is done by the deacons.

Having said that, bishops are overloaded. The intent of the amendment is to let the team be the team, to honor the district superintendent's role, honor the bishop's role. If the bishop decides to go left, you know what, I bet every D.S. goes left with the bishop. They work for the bishop. And that's a good thing. The intent of the amendment is to provide closer communication, closer accountability, and provide a needed, needed tool for our deacons in ministry.

BISHOP JANICE RIGGLE HUIE: Alright, thank you. We've had two speeches for and David Bard wishes to speak against, mic. 5. And then Mr. Hatcher, I'm gonna come to you because you wanna move the previous question.

DAVID ALAN BARD (Minnesota): David Bard, Minnesota Conference. I'd like to speak against this amendment. I was a member of the Study of Ministry Committee and we considered that language very carefully. I'm not quite sure what it means to have bishops go left. That's a little confusing to me. However, as someone who is a district superintendent, I appreciate that you want to strengthen that relationship. However, sometimes deacons have two superintendents they relate to: one in their primary appointment, that appointment to which a bishop appoints them, and one in a potential secondary appointment. I think it works better to stay with the language proposed by the Study of Ministry Commission and give bishops the authority to authorize deacons to preside at the sacraments. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Thank you very much. That's a—so we're ready for Mr. Hatcher, if you'd go to mic. 6.

WILLIAM STANLEY HATCHER (South Georgia): Bishop, Bill Hatcher, South Georgia, lay. I move

the previous question on all that is before us.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you very much. We've had, just so you remember on the amendment we've had two speeches for and two speeches against, so it's eligible now to, to move the previous question. Previous question's not debatable, so, and it takes a two-thirds vote. So take out your voting devices, please. If you are in favor of the previous question, which means we'll end discussion on all that is before us, both the amendment and the main motion, if you are in favor of that would you please press one (1). If you are opposed to that and wish to keep considering, press two (2). Please, vote now.

[Yes, 711; No, 89]

That is a two-thirds majority for us to vote on all that is before us. So what is currently before us to begin with is the amendment, the Hobbs Amendment, to add the words which involve the superintendent in this. So, if, again, take your voting devices out. If you are in favor of the amendment, please vote "yes" or no. 1. If you are opposed, vote "no." Please, vote now.

[Yes, 396; No, 401]

OK, so it is defeated. You all wanna keep talking here. Oh, wait a minute. No, no, the amendment's defeated. Sorry, my, my you can tell I'm gettin' tired up here. I, but it's almost time for a break.

The, the main motion is defeated. The main motion is defeated. Nope, wait, wait, wait, wait.

*(Conferring with other bishops and murmuring)*

We have a lot of people gettin' confused up here. It is, I was right. The amendment is defeated, so the amendment to add the words is defeated. What is before us now is the main motion which comes from the

committee and is, and is the Calendar Item 462 as it's been presented. Alright?

*(Bishop conferring on stage)*

There's no debate. We're done with the debate. We do have people asking for points of order. So, let's try these, these are points of order or they may be inquiry or information. You need to use your keypad. Alright, so let me take all of these. This'll take a minute. Mande Muyombo, mic. 3. And behind that, David Livingston, mic. 2.

MANDE MUYOMBO (North Katanga): Thank you, Bishop. I just wanted to ask the committee, I know that in history, we used to have the Order of Deacon. And then, you had to be ordained as a deacon, and then you'd be ordained as an elder. You know, two tract. In fact, in some Central Conferences, we are still doing it.

So, my question is, because using the word administration presiding when we deal with orders, they are critical questions. What was the rationale behind having the Order of Deacon in full connection and the Order of Elder in full connection? So, I would really like the committee to enlighten us on that. Thank you.

*(Bishop conferring on stage)*

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): So the decision was made in 1996. I can't speak to the rationale in that conversation that happened in 1996. What I can explain is that the Order of Deacon and the Order of Elder is a difference in a call to ministry and the way the ministry gets lived out in the church and in the world.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright, thank you. Let me go to mic. 2.

DAVID SCOTT LIVINGSTON (Great Plains): David Livingston, clergy, Great Plains. Thank you,

Bishop. I didn't think we'd had the two speeches for and the two speeches against that we need before calling the question in order, for the main motion.

BISHOP HUIE: It was the call for the, it was for, on all that is before us.

LIVINGSTON: But—

BISHOP HUIE: And so when he said, when he made his motion for all that is before us, even though we hadn't had two speeches for and two speeches against on the main motion, that superseded it, because that's what the body voted, on all that is before us.

LIVINGSTON: I don't have my rule book in front of me, but I thought earlier we had talked about requiring two speeches for and against before calling the question was...

BISHOP HUIE: And we did have . . .

LIVINGSTON: . . . in order.

BISHOP HUIE: . . . two speeches for and two speeches against on the amendment. And then when he asked for, he made the motion for the previous question, he made it for all that is before us, so that took precedence over the, having to have two speeches on every single thing that went before us. Does that make sense? I think that's correct.

LIVINGSTON: I understand what you're saying. It doesn't make sense to me, but if that's the rules, that's the rules.

BISHOP HUIE: I think that is correct. That is correct. Alright, and I think we have Charles Parker, and mic. 3.

CHARLES ARTHUR PARKER (Baltimore-Washington): Charles Parker, Baltimore-Washington Conference, clergy. Two points of order, Bishop. One, both on this matter and on the tenure of bishops, you failed to give the Chair or the maker of the

motion the final word and the rules require that. I would also appeal to the body for your, to challenge your ruling on whether or not the two speeches for and against have been made for the motion that's on the floor.

BISHOP HUIE: Well, I think we cannot, we're not gonna go back and redo all of that because that's past. If you want to appeal the ruling of the Chair on the number of speeches for the previous ones, I'm happy to, I mean, that'll be up to the body to either, to sustain the Chair and say you're, or not to sustain the Chair. So, you heard me give the rationale for, that the gentleman moved the previous question on all that is before us. We'd had two speeches for, two speeches against on the amendment. We've had, and and in my understanding, then it was on all that is before us. You voted for that and so that's what I ordered. I believe that is correct. Now, you're welcome to offer your point of view. Let me getcha back here, and then we'll ask the house whether or not the house will sustain the Chair.

BISHOP HUIE: Mic. 3.

CHARLES PARKER (Baltimore-Washington): I think I made the point, Bishop, which is simply, that my understanding, my read on the rules would be that we have not had two speeches for and against the motion that's on the floor.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you. So, if we're gonna put this on the screen, take out your voting devices. If you would sustain the chair, please vote one (1), yes. If you would not sustain the chair, please vote two (2), no. Take out your voting devices. You ready? If you would sustain the chair, please vote one (1) for yes. If you would not sustain the chair, please vote two (2) for no. Please, vote now. *[Yes, 609; No, 196]*

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. The chair is sustained, and we'll keep going. Friends, I apologize if I'm not being clear enough or if I've missed a step here. We're certainly, all of us up here, trying to let the will of the body emerge out of the whole, and I apologize if I've missed something here and wanna be respectful of the body's decision. Thank you for sustaining the chair. Now let's come back and you're certainly welcome to make a closing statement here. Calendar Item 462.

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): Thank you. Deacons are serving in communities and ministries where they meet people and offer the love and grace of God. This petition allows the possibility for the sacraments to be made available as deacons extend the church into the world. The committee recommends adoption.

*Deacons Given Limited Ability to Provide Sacraments*

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. It's before you. This is Calendar Item 462. It's properly before you. If you would support Calendar Item 462, you would vote one (1) for yes. If you oppose it, you would vote two (2) for no. Please vote now.  
[Yes, 639; No, 168]

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Calendar item 462 is sustained. It's approved. Thank you very much. Friends, it's time for a break. Some of you may have been thinking that already. We're ready to take, we've got a couple of items here and thank you. If you'll hold steady, we have a Judicial Council report. Just hold steady here for just a moment, and then we'll take a break. Gere?

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of General Conference): The Judicial Council has received three additional requests for decisions. One, a request for the Judicial

Administration Legislative Committee regarding petitions 60804, 60806, 60807. Two, a request from the Committee on Correlation, an editorial review regarding Calendar Item 5. And three, a request from the General Conference regarding petition 61057. Persons who wish to file briefs on these matters should submit them to the Secretary of the General Conference no later than 6:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. That doesn't give you much time. And I'm also going to tell you that when you submit them to Gary Graves, he's my designee to receive them. Thank you.

BISHOP HUIE: Alright. Thank you. And friends, I want to thank all of you. You've done a great job. This has been a complex afternoon, working through a lot of different calendar items with major implications for the life of the church. You've hung in here, and I want to say how grateful I am to each one of you. Thanks for the folks behind the chair, too, who've done such a great job here helping me.

*(applause)*

If I may, let me close us with prayer and you are in break. Let us pray: Holy God, thank you. Thank you for these dear people who've sat here so patiently this afternoon because they love you and they want to extend your reign on Earth as it is in heaven. Thank you for their wisdom, for their insight, for their love for one another, and most especially, for their love for you and their neighbor. Be with them now in this moment of refreshment and renewal, that they might continue to do the work to which they've been called. In Christ's name, we pray this. Amen.

*(music)*

**Tuesday Evening,  
May 17, 2016**

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: I ask you to come in and take your seats. We would like to start in one minute, please.

*(pause)*

Please come in so we can begin our work for the second part of the afternoon session. Please come in and take your seat.

*(pause)*

Sisters and brothers, let us be in order. Please come in, take your seats that we can begin our deliberations this afternoon.

My name is Patrick Streiff. I come from the episcopal area of Central and Southern Europe. I am a native of Switzerland. Behind me will assist me, Bishop Scott Jones. *(cheer)* I also choose him because in a moment I will switch to the French language, and I know that he understands and can follow directly what I see and say in French. And Max Whitfield, is also backing me up, and I thank my two colleagues for that.

So, I ask you in a minute to start to get your translation equipment if you do not understand French when I change to the French language. And I will do my best to be clear and where needed to add a few clarifying English words. We will see how well it works. Perhaps during the time of this afternoon, I will also decide to go back to English. We will see. Let me also share that the other members of the council of bishops are now in prayerful consideration of the task you have given them to prayerfully consider how we can best lead as episcopal leaders during this time together.

Now, I will switch to French.

BISHOP STREIFF *(simultaneous interpretation)*: So, I will start in French with a prayer.

My name, my first name, Patrick, is a first name that comes from an Irish saint. That Irish saint was very well known for sharing the gospel in his country and he carried a pictorial with a prayer that he carried throughout his life, and I would like to pray this prayer. Let's pray to God.

Christ, be with me. Christ, be in me. Christ, be behind me. Christ, be in front of me. Christ, be next to me. Christ, gain me. Christ, console me. Christ, restore me. Christ, my foundation and my cover. Christ in safety and in danger. Christ, in the hearts of all of those who bleed. Christ in the words of the friend and of the foreigner. Amen.

This is a trial for all of us, including for myself, to preside in French. As I said yesterday, my native language is not French. Swiss-German is my native language, but you would have a hard time understanding me. But, we try to make this presiding moment. We try to use a different language besides English, and I thank you for your open minds and for your good will.

And now, we will start with our first item in our agenda. We will then have a variety of petitions that will come from the legislative committee for Higher Education.

### *License for Pastoral Ministry*

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): Once again, I am Kim Ingram. Our next item is in the *DCA* p. 2107, 2107. It is Calendar Item No. 129. In the *ADCA*, it can be found on p. 1091, and it is Petition No. 60355. The group of five petitions that we will review next standardizes the voting percentages for the committees who approve candidates for licensing, provisional membership, and full membership. The denomination continues to require a high level of effectiveness and excellence

for clergy elected to membership. Additionally, the current voting percentages to approve candidates for licensing, provisional membership, and full membership vary from a simple majority to two-thirds and to three-fourths majority vote. This group of petitions sets a high approval standard for credentialing by establishing a required three-fourths majority vote, and provides consistency by eliminating confusion related to voting percentages required by district committees on ministry, boards of ordained ministry, and the clergy session. This specific petition requires a three-fourths majority vote to approve candidates for a license for ministry by the district committee on ministry, the board of ordained ministry, and the clergy session of the annual conference. The committee recommends adoption and voted fifty-six for, and eighteen against.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) I have a first person that would like to speak, for. Laurie, mic. 1.

(*pause*)

Yes, please.

LAURIE HALLER (West Michigan): My name is Laurie Haller. I'm from the West Michigan Conference. I'm speaking in support of this motion. In The United Methodist Church, we can no longer afford mediocre pastoral leadership. Our churches are begging us, please give us a good pastor, we need a great leader, we want to do whatever we can to be vital and to reach out to our communities, but to do that we need pastors who are capable. I think three-quarters of making that standardized all along the process is a wonderful way in which we can say to our congregations and to our pastors, we're raising the bar. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you.

Mic. 6, Mr. or Mrs. Mims, a speech, against.

GENE MIMS (Virginia): Gene Mims, Virginia Conference. I rise to speak against it. Not so much because of the numbers, but I think I should still remain a majority, a plurality, rather than a majority when it comes to voting. I'd serve on a committee, and I've seen some good men or good people that've come before it, and for whatever reason, they might have been nervous or what have you, and because of that some people might have voted them down. But the fact that we did get a plurality, we've got some outstanding pastors out there, particularly serving as local pastors, so, local licensed pastors. So, I would stand against this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. Charles Parker, mic. 3.

CHARLES PARKER (Baltimore-Washington): Charles Parker, Baltimore-Washington Conference, clergy. I have the great gift of being able to chair our board of ordained ministry in our conference right now, and we have used this higher three-quarters bar for a number of years and what it has done as a team of board of ordained ministry colleagues is really force a very high level of being on the same page. It's forced us to engage in some very, very meaty debate about our candidates and some meaningful debate and has allowed us to make sure the consensus was at a very high level that I think made for better choices and for healthier dialogue. So, I would speak in favor.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Yes. I have another speech against. Mic. no. 2, please.

OWAN KASAP TSHIBANG (North-West Katanga): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Kasap Owan, conference in North-West Katanga,

Katanga conference, annual conference. Bishop, I am against this petition. For example, somebody is in a theological school, he has a degree, he has a bachelor or a master; now, in order to be ordained, to have a license, he needs to be elected with a majority of three-quarters; it's just too much. I think we need to make it lighter, easier. We need pastors that are well trained, but I think that a majority of three-fourths is too much.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) We have two people who spoke for, two people who spoke against and now somebody would like to move for an amendment. Mic. 2.

### *Motion to Group Five Petitions*

MARK HOLLAND (Great Plains): Bishop, Mark Holland, Great Plains. I would move to combine items 129, 130, 131, 132, and 133. They are all for the same action with different orders, and my guess is since they all passed on a similar vote in the committee that they're all going to pass, or be defeated, in a similar vote here, and we could combine these five issues and take care of them all together.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) This is somewhat in order, but it's really not an amendment to this particular petition. You are asking to regroup several petition, petitions and to vote on them as a group.

HOLLAND: Yes, Bishop; there's no option on the pad for combining petitions.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Is there support for this motion? Is there a second for this motion? Is there a second? I heard you, thank you. So once again, could you list the petition numbers, the numbers of the petitions that you would like to regroup? What are the petition numbers or the calendar items?

HOLLAND: They're all on the same page. If you put up the screen before that showed the page number, it's nos. 129, 130, 131, 132, and 133. They're all grouped together on the same page.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, and now we are only going to discuss on whether we agree to combine those four petitions into one final vote. So are we going to vote on those four petitions all together? You can speak either in favor or against this grouping. 129, 130, 131, 132, and 133? Or 2? OK, so 129, 130, 131, 132, 133. 129, 130, 131, 132, and 133, that's five. So, one speech, for; one speech, against, but please your speech has to pertain to the regrouping of the petition. Tshimbu Muyombi has the floor, mic. 4, please.

TSHIMBU MUYOMBI (South Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, Bishop, for giving me the floor. Jethro Muyombi from South Congo Annual Conference. Bishop, I believe that this should come from the chair of the conference. Are we behind, in terms of our schedule or is there a real issue that requires for us to regroup all these petitions? It is very important for us to analyze the petitions in a very flexible manner, so that we understand what we adopt, what we don't adopt. So, combining, combining them all together will not enable us to analyze each petition in order to vote. So, this is a speech against the regrouping of all these petitions.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) There is another speech, for, mic. 3.

FORBES MATONGA (West Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. I am Forbes Matonga, from Zimbabwe West Annual Conference. The intent is to standardize. So, if you look at the petition, they are trying to say everywhere we want these two-thirds. So, I think when we group them, we

save our time, and then we work on something that we know that is just bringing these things to a standard, we don't have two-thirds here, three quarters over there. That is the major intent that is behind this.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Rukang Chikomb, South-West Katanga. Once, again (*speaking in another language, translation not coming through*)

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) I am sorry...

CHIKOMB: I can go back now.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Not now I'm sorry.

CHICKOMB: I can go back.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) No, no don't.

CHICKOMB: Bishop, is it possible to ask the question to the chair of committee for this petition what was the outcome of the vote before we combine them?

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) An answer to that question, please.

KIMBERLY TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): The committee voted for 56, and 18 against, on all of them.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) The vote was exactly the same in the legislative committee. There is one person who wants to speak against, John Auta, mic. no. 1.

JOHN PENA AUTA (Central Nigeria): John Auta, Bishop, from Nigeria. I decline.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) There is a person who is asking, Simon Mafunda, asks that we vote on everything, mic. 2.

SIMON MAFUNDA (East Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. I am Simon Mafunda, of the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference. I rise to move the previous question and all that is before us. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. I think that you already know what this procedure is. To move the previous question we need a two thirds majority, and if it is approved, we will then vote on everything in front of the assembly. First of all, on grouping, combining your petitions, and if you approve that, then we will vote the grouping of petitions. So first, you will say whether we are going to close the discussion. Are you ready to vote on moving the previous question and closing discussion? Can we now vote? Now you may vote. [Yes, 723; No, 36]

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You have approved combining the five petitions. I remind you, once again. I remind you, once again, the nos. on these calendar items are. Thank you. We have simply agreed to move the previous question. Now you need to vote on whether or not you are in agreement with grouping these five petitions together, Calendar Items 129, 130, 131, 132, and 133. So, now, please vote whether you agree to combine these five petitions. Vote now. [Yes, 714; No, 59]

(pause)

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You have agreed to group them together. The next vote will be all of these petitions, 129, 130, 131, 132, and 133 combined. So as soon as the screen appears, I would ask you to please vote on all of these petitions. Vote now please. [Yes, 665; No, 97]

(pause)

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You have approved all of these petitions. Thank you. There is an item on the agenda

of David Dodge, mic. 2. If that is still current, I do not know. David Dodge.

DAVID ALLEN DODGE (Florida): This is David Dodge of Florida Annual Conference. Bishop, I think the moment probably has passed. There was the a necessary amendment to one of those grouped petitions in order to bring one other part into conformity that the subcommittee had over, and the full committee had overlooked. I think we may be beyond it now. So, it is what it is. OK. We leave it to 2020 to fix it.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. Let us now clarify. The queue. Let's clean the queue for the people who spoke, asked to speak earlier. Now we are moving to a new point.

### *Mentoring for Clergy Candidates*

INGRAM: Our next petition is found in the DCA on p. 2106, two thousand one hundred and six. It is Calendar Item No. 125. It is found in the ADCA on p. 1135. It is Petition 60491. The petition requires mentoring for candidates from the time they are certified, until they become a local pastor or provisional member. The many ministry processes all value peer learning where a clergy with experience walks alongside a new person in ministry. In this particular case, the mentoring is being provided for persons after they become certified candidates, until the time they are appointed as local pastors or approved as provisional members, at which time, mentoring is already required. The mentoring may be through an individual relationship or through a group experience. The committee recommends adoption. The committee voted fifty-seven for and twenty against.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF (*simultaneous interpretation*): There is a point of information, Steven,

mic. no. 4, and then I will receive speeches from people who wish to speak for or against this petition. Steven Zekoff, mic. no. 4, if it is still relevant.

STEVEN ZEKOFF (Wisconsin): Point of inquiry, Bishop. And thank you for the correct European pronunciation. My American friends know me as Zekoff. My inquiry is since the presiding officer is presiding in French this afternoon, could the technicians change the voting screen to French?

(laughter)

BISHOP STREIFF (*simultaneous interpretation*): Well, it's better than that they would ask for it into Bulgarian, where your family is from originally because then we would have even more trouble!

(laughter)

ZEKOFF: Love to invite my colleague, Mikhail, from Bulgaria to come up and give this back to you, request in Bulgarian, if he would.

BISHOP STREIFF (*simultaneous interpretation*): Thank you. So we are at Calendar Item 125. No one requested to speak in favor. Derrick Porter, mic. no. 6.

DERRICK PORTER (Peninsula-Delaware): Derrick Porter, Peninsula-Delaware Conference. I wanted to speak to, wanted to speak for this, but to identify that we're talking about group mentoring. As it was read, that was not mentioned. We're talking about group mentoring. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you for that clarification. Currently, I have no one asking for the floor. It would appear that you are ready to vote. Yes? So. If you are in favor for, press one (1); if you are against, press two (2). Vote now please. [Yes, 686; No, 70]



BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You approved. You approved. Now let's move to the next petition.

### *Extension Ministry in Higher Education*

KIMBERLY INGRAM (Western North Carolina): The next petition is found in DCA, p. no. 2107. It is Calendar Item No. 126. It is found in the ADCA on p. 1092, and it is Petition No. 60651. These next two petitions have the same intent. It is to allow for a specific category of extension ministry that would include appointments as students in research doctoral programs and persons who are serving as instructors or professors or administrators in colleges, universities, and theological schools affiliated with The United Methodist Church. This specific petition allows for the service of local pastors to include this particular extension ministry appointment. This would encourage the strengthening of relationships between The United Methodist Church and various higher education institutions, and would allow a certain category of students to meet the service requirement of provisional membership, while also working on a doctoral degree. The committee recommends adoption. The committee voted fifty-four for and twenty-six against.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. I have a first speech for Mr. Tshibang, mic. no. 2 please.

OWAN TSHIBANG (North-West Katanga): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, Bishop. Owan Tshibang, Katanga, North-West Katanga. I am for this petition because for somebody who is doing a PhD studies and could then be sent somewhere. If you have somebody who does not have an appointment after their PhD, that would be a source of unsettling, unsettlement,

so he really needs to be in touch and in contact with his church, his or her church. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) This was a speech for. I do not see anybody else who would like to speak. So it seems that you are ready to vote. There is now somebody who would like to speak against. Beth Jones, mic. 5. And if you would like to speak for or against afterwards please register in the system.

BETH E. JONES (Susquehanna Conference): Thank you, Bishop. Beth Jones, Susquehanna Conference, United States. I had a question about this particular petition that allows for someone in provisional membership to serve that provisional membership while a student. Maybe I'm a little unclear. How would that person's effectiveness in ministry for the local church be evaluated during that time? I guess that would be my concern with this particular petition, so I would be not in favor. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Well this was a question. At the same time, I'm not sure if you would like to answer that question?

INGRAM: I would because I confused us. I could explain why, but you don't really need to know. So right now we are on the petition related to local pastors. The next one will be about the provisional members. Right now, it is about local pastors. I'm sorry about that.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you for the clarification. I have another person who would like to speak for. Mr. Kuan, mic. no. 4.

KAH-JIN JEFFREY KUAN (California-Nevada Conference): Jeffrey Kuan, California-Nevada Conference. I speak for this petition and the implication that it will also be for the other petitions that come up. This is very important for

theological education. We continue to face a shortage of United Methodists for our seminaries and well as schools of higher education. This would enable those who are called to ministry not to do, not to lose their years of ministry service. The current practice is that if they are appointed to school, their years of service are not counted toward their retirement, as well as their retirement benefits. So I urge you please to vote for this petition and for the others that are coming up.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. So, we had two speeches for, one against, and now we have a motion for an amendment. Bill Arnold, mic. 4, please.

BILL T. ARNOLD (Kentucky): Thank you, Bishop. I very much support this idea and will support the motion, but I think I'd like to amend it as follows. The last sentence, so, I move to amend by deleting the last sentence beginning, "These extension ministries may also include . . ." and following. If there's a second, I'll speak to that.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Yes. So, you can speak.

ARNOLD: Thank you. I serve in this extension ministry and believe the *Discipline* is clear as it is. I very much appreciate the way the motion is now to allow students to have a specific place for appointment, but I don't believe the last sentence is really necessary. And so I amend to delete it.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) So, the amendment would be to remove the last sentence, to delete the last sentence. So this is the amendment, the only amendment for debate. There is a point of order. Lonnie Chafin, mic. 3.

LONNIE ARTHUR CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Conference, Laity. Bishop, it's a question, not a point

of order. Did I understand that the CRSP defined benefit credit per year of service would be added as a cost to each annual conference for those persons appointed in this manner?

KIM TYREE INGRAM: I am not a benefits expert.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Can somebody answer this question?

CHAFIN: Bishop, may I ask permission of the body for General Secretary Barbara Boigegrain to address the General Conference in order to answer this question?

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Here to answer—so, in order to allow for somebody from the Board of Pensions speak, you need to allow. Do you agree? Please show your green placards if you agree for somebody to come from the Board of Pensions to speak. [*Voting with placards*]

BISHOP STREIFF: This is very clear. Is there anybody against? So, who can answer the question about the Board of Pensions? Who can speak about this subject? Mic. 1 or 4. And while the General Secretary comes here, please repeat your question. Please just repeat your question, and then we will listen to the answer.

CHAFIN: Thank you, thank you, Bishop. Would this cause an annual conference the cost of another CRSP defined benefit year of service for each clergy person appointed in this manner? And is it different than what would accrue if they were appointed to a ten school, an appointment that already exists?

BISHOP STREIFF (speaking in French): Please.

### *Secretary Boigegrain Clarifies Issues*

BARBARA BOIGEGRAIN (General Secretary, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits): This is Barbara Boigegrain, Gen-

eral Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This has not come to our attention as having impact on the plan, so at this time, based on the information that we have, it would not necessarily add service. But, I would like to request time to research this better. Our attorneys are here and we can answer this question within a little bit of time. They do not have translation equipment, and they cannot understand the discussions or the questions, so I need some time to sit with them and try to identify a definitive answer.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you for this answer. There is another point of order. Mr. Brownson, mic. 4.

WILLIAM H. BROWNSON (West Ohio): The prior question was my question.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) This was the same question. So that was the same question. So, you can now decide if you would like to wait for a debate, move for a debate later. If you would like to postpone this for a debate, or if you actually have all the answers that you require. Now, there is a motion to postpone. Mic. 2.

CHRISTINE DODSON (North Carolina): Bishop, I'm Christine Dodson, North Carolina Conference. I'd like to move to refer this to the General Board of Pension.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Is there a second for this motion? Yes, there is a second. Do you wish to discuss this? Are there discussions, or are you ready to vote? Please vote if you would like to refer to the Board of Pensions. If you are voting for the Board of Pensions to come back to give you an answer, vote now, yes or no.

(*pause*)

Oh, please wait. The voting process is not open yet.

(*pause*)

Five more seconds before the technicians get the system ready.

(*vote in process*)

Oh, OK, well it's very clear. You have approved to refer this to the agency so that they can provide us with the answers, and as soon as they are ready, we will get back to this petition.

[*Yes, 581; No, 104*]

INGRAM: The next petition does the same thing. It's just for provisional members.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) I think it would be best to wait to get the answer and take that petition up again later as well. Do you have another petition?

### *Report for Local Church Support for Candidates for Ministry*

INGRAM: Yes, thank you. The next petition is on DCA p. 2106, 2106. It is Calendar Item No. 122. It can be found in the ADCA on p. 1091, and it is Petition No. 60626. This petition requires that for continuation of one's candidacy, he or she must provide a report that indicates whether his or her local church is supporting them spiritually and financially. The district superintendent can then express gratitude to the local church and encourage it to provide care and support for the candidate. Educational debt burdens many clergy as they begin ministry. This would ensure that churches are aware of the responsibilities and obligations of a candidate for ministry and would encourage financial and spiritual support by the church. The committee recommends adoption. The committee voted forty-five for and thirty-five against.

BISHOP STREIFF (speaking in French): Thank you.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF (*simultaneous translation*): Thank you, we have clarified. The queue has been cleared. So, I would ask if you have anything on this new petition, please register in the system, so that you can speak in favor or against, or if you wish to raise a question. I am holding a short moment to give you the opportunity to put in your name. See if anyone wishes to speak.

(Pause)

No one. So I invite you to vote. Hold on one second, there is someone who would like to put something into the system. Alright. Amy Lippoldt, mic. 2, to speak against.

AMY LIPPOLDT (Great Plains): Thank you, Bishop. Amy Lippoldt, Chair of the Great Plains Board of Ordained Ministry. I wholeheartedly appreciate the sentiment of this petition, and am also worried about the debt that students carry. However, I believe that the *Discipline* will function better when we make it smaller, instead of larger; when we have less requirements, instead of more. We have candidates complaining to us all the time about how long and complicated our system is and this just seems one more report, one more thing that we have to hound candidates about to get, and will cause us as many headaches as it does encourage the kind of conversation about debt reduction that it's intended to do. I feel like we can do that in other more helpful ways besides another form. So, I would encourage you to vote no.

BISHOP STREIFF (*simultaneous translation*): Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak about this petition? Yes, there is someone who would like to speak in favor of it. It is Kimberly Woods; mic. 2.

KIMBERLY WOODS (Illinois Great Rivers): Thank you, bishop.

Kimberly Woods, lay delegate, Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. I would speak in favor of this petition. I am a recent seminary graduate and a candidate for ministry and it has been difficult financially to go through the process, and yes, it is a process with a lot of steps, but financial assistance is one I would gladly encourage, especially because my local church that I came out of, while it is smaller, it has had a habit of supporting candidates in the past, but then not continuing to do so. So, it's kind of been back and forth as to who they support financially and who they don't, and it would be nice across the board for them to say, "We support all of the candidates, especially for churches that are encouraging people and younger people to go into ministry." It's nice to show their support in every way possible. So, I would recommend supporting this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF (*simultaneous translation*): Thank you. We have one person for and one person against. There is no one else in the system. I think you are ready to vote. Yes or no to approve this petition. Let's get the system up. There we go. So, as soon as we see the countdown, you will be able to vote. Now, you may vote.  
[Yes, 452; No, 361]

BISHOP STREIFF (*simultaneous translation*): You have approved that petition. Thank you.

Sometimes, there are secret words that you have to pronounce, like "vote now," and when you do that and that is when that count down starts. My fault, sorry. Next time around. What's up next? The next Calendar Item is No. 123 on p. 2106, Petition No. 60627. You will find it on p. 1092. Emily Allen, mic. 4, will support this petition. The committee voted against. I will give the final

word to the chair of the committee to express the committee's opinion, but first, we will but hear from Emily Allen who was in favor.

### *Medical Disclosure of Candidates for Ministry*

EMILY ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. Emily Allen, California-Nevada Annual Conference, lay person. I bring before you a petition that talks about medical disclosures to district committees and conference boards of ordained ministry. This is particularly relevant in the United States where there are very strict rules of privacy around disclosing health and medical information, but the form that is used to give information to these committees has more medical information than is necessary for the committee to determine a candidate's fitness for ministry. This legislation would change that so that a doctor provides a letter confirming fitness or possibly outlining areas of accommodation needed for the candidate to serve well in a position. This also would draw on language already in *The Book of Discipline*, clarifying and making consistent policies here with The United Methodist Church's Non-Discrimination Policy on the basis of disabilities or diagnoses that do not otherwise hinder a person's ability to serve in the ministry to which they are applying. I believe that these are important so that the boards and district committees on ordained ministry receive the information they need to evaluate a candidate, but do not receive the information that is not necessary for their consideration, keeping other medical concerns private between candidates and their medical professionals. Thank you.

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. So that was in favor of this

petition. I see no one else in the queue to speak for or against. I will wait a little bit longer. Otherwise, I will give the floor to the chair of the committee to give the explanation against before you vote.

(pause)

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) So, now we will hear against and then we will vote.

KIM TYREE INGRAM (Western North Carolina): Ministry is demanding mentally, physically, spiritually, and in other ways. In evaluating fitness for ministry, a medical report is completed by the candidate and a physician, and gives information about one's medical history, and one's current medical condition as it relates to the candidate's ability to serve effectively in ministry. The report provides consistency for district committees, district committees on ministry, and boards of ordained ministry as they evaluate a candidate for ministry. It is one consideration for ministry along with the psychological assessment, credit and background checks, and other evaluative processes. The committee voted sixty-two for non-support and sixteen against non-support.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) To be completely clear: you are voting on the petition. The committee voted against the petition as a majority vote. If you agree with the committee, you need to vote "no." If you vote "yes," so if you press one (1), you are voting for that initial, original petition. I ask you to get ready to vote. Vote now please.  
[Yes, 294; No, 467]

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You voted with the committee a no vote, and there is another petition that is similar. I am once again asking Emily Allen. It is on the same page on the DCA, 2106,

Calendar Item 124, the Petition No. is 6063. It appears at p. 1115 of the ADCA, as it appears on your screen now. Emily Allen, you may speak in favor of the petition.

EMILY RUTH ALLEN (California- Nevada): Well, this is a little awkward, but my arguments are the same for this petition as for the last, and I again ask for your support to reduce the amount of medical information provided to just that necessary for determining fitness for ministry and no other information. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. I will give just a short time in case someone else wishes to speak to this petition. Otherwise once again, I will give the chair of the committee the floor. Ah, someone else would like to speak for. David Livingston, mic. 2.

DAVID SCOTT LIVINGSTON (Great Plains): Thank you, Bishop. David Livingston from the Great Plains. I served on the Board of Ordained Ministry for six years in our conference. I looked at all kinds of forms, health forms, and I don't recall at least ever once having one of those forms disqualify somebody from what they were asking for, and in addition, in hearing the speech from the committee, that wrapped-up the last petition, as I was listening to that, I didn't hear anything in that speech, in those comments, in those pieces, that we might find out on the health form that the doctor wouldn't provide in the kind of statement that this petition is asking for. This petition gives all of the information of Board of Ordained Ministry would need to know without, as Emily very-well stated, without giving additional information that could prove to be, prove to be discriminatory or unnecessary, and so I hope that we can make life a little bit easier on everybody and vote for this petition.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) That was the second person who has intervened for, there is another person who would like to speak for, but currently, I do not see anyone wishing to speak against, but I want to be sure. That we will give the final word to the chair. So mic. 5, Sara Swenson. Sara Swenson, mic. 5, please.

SARA ANN SWENSON (Minnesota): Hello, this is Sara Swenson from the Minnesota Conference. I just wanted to affirm the things that have largely been already said, but I think this change offers a really important mitigation against possible discrimination, conscious or unconscious, from committees who might be reviewing this. I think we can put our trust in physicians, in conversations with candidates, and ultimately that this is an important piece of legislation for opening up possibilities for ministry for those who might possibly be excluded based on physical information that doesn't pertain directly to their actual fitness for ministry. Thank you very much.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you, we've now heard three speeches for the petition, no one in the system has asked to speak against. So now I would give the chair of the committee the mic and then we will vote.

INGRAM: The medical report provides consistency among candidates in committees and it's just one of many sources of information that determines fitness for ministry.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) So, we are going to vote. You can vote now. Yes, if you support the petition. No, if you are voting with the majority, along with the majority. Vote now.  
[Yes, 385; No, 386]

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You voted with the committee against this

petition. I think this ends your work. We can applaud. Give a hand to the committee for the work that they have done.

*(applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
Thank you very much.

BISHOP STREIFF: *(simultaneous interpretation)* Then who is requesting something else? Philip Schroeder, mic. 6. And please state clearly what you are going to speak about.

PHILIP DANIEL SCHROEDER (North Georgia): Bishop, Phil Schroeder, North Georgia, clergy. I'd like to offer a substitute motion for an item that I believe is still before the body, because it was not referred and has not been subjected to final action by vote. It's No. 421, p. 2210, GCFA Report 1. Is that appropriate? P. 2210. It's called "Standing Committee on Strategy and Growth."

BISHOP STREIFF: *(simultaneous interpretation)* If you please, your request for a substitution would be in order at the time when this point is calendared.

SCHROEDER: OK.

BISHOP STREIFF: *(simultaneous interpretation)* So, when this will be a main motion, at that time you will be able to present your substitution, your request for substitution.

BISHOP STREIFF: The moment when this calendar item comes up, you can ask for a substitute motion.

SCHROEDER: Thank you, sir.

BISHOP STREIFF: *(simultaneous interpretation)* We now have a petition that is coming from Faith and Order. No, Church and Society, Church and Society, from Church and Society, and then there are petitions from General Administration.

BETHANY AMEY (Greater New Jersey): Thank you, Bishop. My name is Bethany Amey, lay delegate from Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

You will now be turning to DCA p. 2105, Calendar Item 108, can also be found on ADCA p. 245. We're on Petition No. 60876. The committee recommends that you, to adopt this petition with the amendments that are printed on p. 2105 in the DCA. The committee has amended the language in the final paragraph to now read, "It is strongly encouraged . . ." as opposed to "Be it further resolved . . ." The petition is an existing resolution that is being updated to reflect current realities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Again, this committee encourages this body to support this petition with the amendments. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP STREIFF: *(simultaneous interpretation)* So, if you would like to speak about this petition, please stand in line, which is often the queue. Nobody's in the queue. If nobody puts themselves in the queue, signs in in the queue, then we will proceed. It seems that you are ready to vote. Can we have the system, the voting system up? Please vote now.

*[Yes, 737; No, 33]*

So, you have accepted the petition. Thank you.

*(uninterpreted French)*

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP STREIFF: *(simultaneous interpretation)* Let's wait. Let's wait. Point of order. Emily Allen, mic. 4.

EMILY RUTH ALLEN (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. Emily Allen, California-Nevada Annual Conference. My point of order is that General Secretary Boigegrain is ready to address the question of pensions for appointments to academic settings, if we are willing to hear her speak now.

BISHOP STREIFF: *(simultaneous interpretation)* Thank you for

this update. Thank you for letting us know that she's ready. We will first take care of the petitions that are before us and then we will get back to that committee.

ALLEN: Thank you.

CORNELIA ANNE CLARK (Tennessee): Thank you, Bishop. My name is Connie Clark. I'm a lay delegate from the Tennessee Annual Conference and I bring today three petitions that are all related to different types of special Sundays that we celebrate in The United Methodist Church. I am joined by the subcommittee Chair who dealt with these matters, Rev. Inde Bondo, who will be presenting in just a moment.

### *Proposed Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday*

I begin with an item found on p. 2106 of the DCA, Calendar Item 119, p. 788 of the ADCA, Petition 60615. This petition amends ¶265.5 of The Book of Discipline to add Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday to the Special Sundays that may be celebrated in United Methodist annual conferences. We noted in the committee that the 2004 General Conference ruled that each annual conference may set aside such a Sunday. This amendment to *The Book of Discipline* simply formalizes that right. The recognition is still voluntary by each annual conference. The committee recommends adoption of the petition, and the committee vote was fifty-six yes, eleven no.

BISHOP STREIFF: *(simultaneous interpretation)* Who would like to speak on this petition? I will let you put yourself in the system. Sign up in the system if you would like to speak on this petition. It looks like you are ready to vote. Can we have the system up on the screen to vote? Vote now please.

*[Yes, 643; No, 95]*

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You approved this petition. Thank you.

CORNELIA A. CLARK (Tennessee): Thank you. The next . . .

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) One moment please. Just when I told you that you could vote, there was a person that had signed up in the system. So, I will try to pay attention and make sure that I give you enough time to sign up into the queue. If I proceed too fast, and you do not have enough time to sign up in the queue, please make a, raise your card, raise your green card, your placard.

CLARK: Thank you. To present Calendar Item 118, I'd like to introduce our subcommittee chair, Rev. Dave Bondo.

### *Proposed Women's Ministry Sunday*

MWANABUTE BONDO NDAY (North Katanga): The second item before us is found p. 2106 of the DCA and Item 118, p. 788 of the ADCA, Petition 60613. This petition amends ¶264 of the *Book of Discipline* to add Women's Ministry Sunday to the list of Special Sundays, which may be celebrated in each United Methodist Church without a churchwide offering. The rationale is there is currently a Men's Ministry Sunday. The role of women in the church should be recognized in the same way. The recognition is voluntary by each church. The committee recommends adoption of the petition with fifty-three for and fourteen against.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) There are now two point of order requests, mic. 6 please.

JAY BRIM (Rio Texas): Bishop, Jay Brim, layperson, from Rio, Texas. I have a parliamentary inquiry concerning the item we just passed. We were told from the podium

that this was going to be a matter that each annual conference could decide on their own whether they would have a day, but in looking at the petition, this is mandatory on all annual conferences to adopt a day VIM awareness. Since we received incorrect information on the petition, I raise this inquiry as to whether that invalidates the vote.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) One moment please.

(*pause*)

If somebody voted in favor with the majority, along with the majority, that person could also request to reconsider the vote, but only somebody who voted along with the majority, with the majority. I will wait for a few moments to see if there is another request for a point of order to request a reconsideration of the vote, but it has to be from somebody who voted with the majority.

(*pause*)

No one is in the queue. Therefore, the vote is accepted as we voted. There is another item on the Adilson Almeida, mic. no. 1.

ADILSON LEITÃO ALMEIDA (Western Angola): Thank you, Bishop. Adilson Almeida, clergy delegate, from Western Angola Conference, and mine was a point of order. I just feel a little cold here, and I would like if the people who are, could adjust the air condition. It is getting a little cold. Feeling a little cold. Thank you

(*laughter*)

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) And we are here in a cultural difference situation from where we come from, if we think that its rather cold, or not, but we have heard your request. Your point. Thank you. There are two other

points of order. I will take them, and then we will come back to the petitions. Marilyn Osborne, mic. no. 4.

MARILYN RUTH OSBORNE (Red Bird Missionary): Bishop, I don't know if I want to move to reconsider this. I did vote for this. But my question was the "shall" in there on the previous Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) For the moment, I can only take a motion to reconsider from someone who voted for. Otherwise, the debate is closed, because we have already voted.

OSBORNE: Can we reconsider this so that point can be clarified whether this is an absolute requirement or if it's a "may?"

BISHOP STREIFF: You can make the motion to reconsider and then, we will see.

OSBORNE: I move that we reconsider that petition.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) Is there a second? Yes.

(*Bishop conferring on stage*)

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) You may speak, if you wish to reconsider or not reconsider before the vote, but hold on one second. First, we need to clear the queue now. If you wish to speak about reconsidering the earlier vote to come back to this petition, please put your name into the system. It is only to discuss if you wish to go back to the petition that we have already voted on. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? Now, there is someone who wishes to speak. Timothy Riss, mic. 6, for; and after, I will, mic. 3, Chafin. Timothy Riss, for reconsideration, please.

TIMOTHY J. RISS (New York): Yes, bishop. I would like to know if it would make a difference in our voting if we understood that this was adding another mandatory Sunday to



the church's calendar for observing a special cause. I would just like to know if that would make a difference.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) For reconsideration, mic. 3, against.

LONNIE CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop. Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Conference. I speak against reconsideration. It says, "There shall be a Sunday, but there may be an offering." So, it doesn't require a special offering from every local church in support of VIM, but it does ask every local church to celebrate VIM Ministries in their context and reach it out. And, I think, given the practices of our local churches, that's probably a prescription we can all live with. And it would do well for us to celebrate Volunteers in Missions on one Sunday, whether there's an offering or not. So, I would move against reconsideration.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) Two for, one against. I could hear from a third person for. Steve McIver, mic. 4.

STEVEN MARK MCIVER (Central Texas): Steve McIver, Central Texas Conference, laity. I speak for revisiting this, because we were told it was an option for the Annual Conferences. Now, I would hope that our churches could celebrate their Volunteers in Mission more than one Sunday a month, but it should not be mandated by this body. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) Alright. So now, we are going to vote about the reconsideration of requests and come back to the prior petition. May we have the vote screen? Vote, now, please, to reconsider and come back to the petition previously before the body. [Yes, 345; No, 376]

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) You did not vote in

favor of reconsideration, which means that we are now moving forward to the petition. So, tell us once again, please, what is the Calendar Item? What is the Petition No.? So that we are all on the same page and know where we are at the present time?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Bishop.

MWANABUTE BONDO NDAY (North Katanga): The Petition is found on p. 2106 of the DCA, Calendar Item 118 and p. 788 of the ADCA. Petition no. 60613.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) That is the petition before us. We have now cleared the queue and so, you can, once again, put your name into the queue if you wish to speak about this petition. There is one person, against.

OSBORNE: Excuse me. We had a short explanation, if we may make that. I apologize.

BISHOP STREIFF: Wait, wait. (*simultaneous translation*) So please, give us your explanation first, and then we will look to see who will like to speak.

NDAY: This petition amends paragraph 264 of *The Book of Discipline* to add Women's Ministry Sunday to the list of Special Sundays, which may be celebrated in each United Methodist Church without a church-wide offering. There is currently a Men's Ministry Sunday. The role of women in the church should be recognized in the same way. The recognition is voluntary by each church. The committee recommends adoption of the petition.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) Thank you. I now recognize Shayla Jordan, mic. 2, to speak against, and João Graca to be ready on mic. 1, speaking in favor. First, Miss Jordan.

SHAYLA ALLYSA RAEAN-NEJORDAN (Great Plains): Shayla Jordan, Great Plains Annual Conference. I stand, I'm speaking against

this petition, not because I'm not in favor of women being in ministry. I'm a current woman in ministry, pursuing ordination in The United Methodist Church. However, I, there's already a UMW Sunday, and I think these Special Sundays would be more beneficial if the pastor could choose which ones they could do instead of making it mandatory. I think they would be more successful, and there's no point in making our *Book of Discipline* even larger with Special Sundays. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) Thank you.

JOÃO MANUEL DA GRACA (Western Angola): Yes, João Graca, West Angola Annual Conference. I would like to speak in favor because in West Angola and in other countries in Africa, this is already a reality. We have a day for women in our conference, which we celebrate vividly every year. So, I would encourage you to vote in favor of this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous translation*) I do not have any other persons in the queue for or against, but there is a question, a point of order. Napoleon Adamu, mic. 1. What is your request?

NAPOLEON GRUMMETTI ADAMU (Central Nigeria): Bishop, Napoleon Adamu, Central Nigeria Annual Conference. I'd like to make a parliamentary inquiry. Is it in order?

BISHOP PATRICK STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You can try.

ADAMU: OK. My parliamentary inquiry is referring to the agenda item we are pursuing right now. I say in my country, in my conference, we have various days for these activities. We have United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, and each of them have their days. Are we reinventing these calendar for the United Methodist churches? Is it that there

are certain places that do not observe this calendar activities?

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. I will let you speak from the committee.

CORNELIA ANNE CLARK (Tennessee): In light of the confusion that I might have caused on the last matter, I want to answer that question and further clarify. We are dealing with a different paragraph of the *Discipline* on this petition. It allows special Sundays without a church-wide offering to be approved at General Conference. It specifically says, "Special Sundays are not needed for these program functions to be implemented." They are recognitions or celebrations. The Sundays currently included are Heritage Sunday, Laity Sunday, Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, and Men's Ministries Sunday. So it is not an intent to interfere with United Methodist Men or United Methodist Women, who may indeed be recognized at some other time. It's simply to create the same kind of possible recognition that we have for Men's Ministries Sunday.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. Somebody else is in the queue to speak for in favor. Mic. no. 4.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you very much, Bishop, to give me the floor. I would like to speak for the day, the Mother's Day, because they do a lot of things for the church, and we need to be grateful. We have a Mother's Day in our country, and it works very well. They do a lot of things, and I support this petition. We must support this petition.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) Thank you. I think that you're ready to vote. Oh, there is somebody else in the queue to speak against. Maurice Ngongo, please go to mic. no. 2.

MAURICE NGONGO (Central Congo): (*simultaneous interpreta-*

*tion*) Thank you very much. From the annual conference of the Central Congo. I consider that we need to vote against this petition because it will create confusion. Within a single year there's gonna be two Mother's Days because in our conferences we have a recognized a day for Methodist mothers and what would prevent them from treating the same problems, the same issues. Why do they need two separate days? So I think that we should vote against in order to avoid confusion.

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) There are many other people. There are no other people. Nobody else will like to speak either against or for, therefore we are ready to vote. Can we have the system up on the screen? Vote now. Please.

[*Yes, 437; No, 321*]

BISHOP STREIFF: (*simultaneous interpretation*) You have approved the petition. Thank you very much. This closes our work on petitions. This concludes our work on petitions. I would like to cordially thank you for the work that you have accomplished, and I look forward, I'm actually very excited that everything worked out so well, although I chaired the session in French. I would like to thank our translators. I know that we were not able to go back to the issues that we referred to the board of pensions. This will get back to us tomorrow. We did not forget those questions. But before we move to the presentations about United Methodist Men, I would like to ask you to take a very few moments to pray. Your bishops are gathered to discern how they can be leaders in our church.

Let's pray to God: Lord, we pray to you. We pray for the Council of Bishops so that they have discernment. We pray for all of us. Open our hearts, our minds, open our hearts

and our minds to hear your voice, to hear your Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

BISHOP STREIFF: We come to the order of the day for the presentation of United Methodist Men.

### *United Methodist Men Celebration*

(*music*)

(*video*)

(*applause*)

BISHOP JAMES E. SWANSON SR.: We're here to serve your local churches, districts, and annual conferences, to bring men into a new and renewed relationship with Jesus Christ so that they can make more disciples, who in turn make more disciples.

GILBERT HANKE (Texas): Men's ministry is more than a monthly meeting, and scouting ministry is much more than just letting scouts meet in your church.

BISHOP SWANSON: Both these ministries can bring vitality to your local churches.

HANKE: We are here to partner with you. So for God's glory, please use us. Thank you. God bless you.

BISHOP STREIFF: Thank you for this presentation, and before we come to the point of evening devotion, our secretary has two announcements.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: One of our delegates has misplaced their blue phone, it has cracks on the face plate. If you see a blue phone laying around with cracks on the face plate, please take it to Lost and Found. Also a reminder, the Judicial Council has asked that anything that you wanna present to them needs to be in by 6:30, which is 15 minutes from now, and you can give it to Gary Graves. Thank you.

BISHOP STREIFF: Thank you, and I want to thank the two bishops who have stayed with me to assist me. Thank you so much.

(*applause*)

Let us continue in a worshipping moment.

(*transition to worship*)

TAYLOR BURTON-EDWARDS: Blessed are you whom God has called to this important work.

ALL: Blessed are we and blessed is the world.

BURTON-EDWARDS: Blessed are you who are burdened with the sorrows of this day. God is waiting here to embrace your pain.

ALL: Blessed are we and blessed is the world.

BURTON-EDWARDS: Blessed are you in this space and beyond who are hungry and thirsty. God offers abundant food and living water in this space and beyond. All are invited to God's table.

ALL: Blessed are we and blessed is the world.

BURTON-EDWARDS: Blessed are you who are learning how to live in the light of God's mercy. Mercy is yours. And mercy is available to the world.

ALL: Blessed are we and blessed is the world.

BURTON-EDWARDS: Blessed are you who are lost. God is already searching for you, and God's party is ready for everyone to come and rejoice.

ALL: Blessed are we and blessed is all the world.

(*music*)

ABRAHAM ARPELLET (Cote d'Ivoire): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Do not disdain the humblest of these, I assure you. The angels in heaven are constantly in the presence

of my holy Father. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them is lost, isn't he going to leave the ninety-nine and go in search of the one that is lost? And if he manages to find the lost one, I assure you, that sheep will bring him more joy than the ninety-nine others that were not lost. It is the same for your heavenly Father. He does not want a single one of his little ones to be lost.

This is the word of God.

PATRICIA ROGERS (North Georgia): Hear these words from our *Daily Prayer Guide*, written by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, ecumenical officer for the Council of Bishops.

PATRICIA ROGERS (North Georgia): Hear the words from our *Daily Prayer Guide*, written by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, the Ecumenical Officer for the Council of Bishops.

Today the United Methodist Conference welcomes ecumenical leaders from other Christian churches around the world. Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council (a body of 80 Methodist, Wesleyan, and related Uniting and United Churches, with more than 80 million members and 133 countries around the world) will proclaim the word. In addition, world leaders from other Christian communions including the Eastern Orthodox churches, Baptist churches, Pentecostal churches and the Roman Catholic Church will be present, all together in worship and prayer. All together in Christ. All together in response to Jesus' prayer for oneness.

Unity is a gift from God. Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and prayer make us one in Christ. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in and through Jesus Christ. There is one God, one faith, one hope, one baptism. We believe in Jesus and

honor his word, which calls us into unity and oneness. We are one body with many members, an important understanding. Jesus said that our unity, our oneness, our genuine love and respect for one another would enable the world to believe that he was sent by God. This year as I represented The United Methodist Church at The National Council of Churches, The World Council of Churches and The Parliament of World Religions, I experienced a sense of joy and hope that lifted my spirit and increased my resolve to live in accord with Jesus' prayer. Will you join me in praying, "That all may be one, so that the world may believe that you sent me."

(*music*)

All: (sung) Make us one Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit make us one. Let your love flow, so the world will know we are one in you.

DEBRA TYREE: Loving Lord Jesus we join our prayer with yours that we may be one, so the world may believe that God sent you to seek and save us all.

All: (sung) Make us one Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit make us one. Let your love flow, so the world will know we are one in you.

TYREE: Loving God, we are grateful for the blessings you give to us and to all of your children, in the diversity of your gifts may we rejoice in the unity of the giver.

All: (sung) Make us one Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit make us one. Let your love flow, so the world will know we are one in you.

TYREE: Loving Spirit, bind us together into one flock, many cultures, many colors, many traditions but one baptism, one Lord, one Spirit, make us one Lord. Amen.

All: (sung) Make us one Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit make us one. Let your love flow, so the world will know we are one in you.

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT:  
I invite you once again to take your prayer beads or your medallions or simply your fingers, whatever you choose to hold as we pray. I will guide us with words to a series of short prayer prompts and God will guide us through the Holy Spirit into community. Let us pray together.

We thank you, O God, for the gift of prayer and ask that you increase our joy in prayer, through your son, Jesus Christ.

*(pause)*

We offer thanks, O God, for those who share this life with us, with each bead, we give thanks for the people with whom we are connected in Christ.

*(pause)*

We offer thanks, O God, that you continue to work through us for the transformation of your world. With each bead, we pray for ministries around the globe where God is working to change lives.

*(pause)*

We offer thanks, O God, for our friends who are with us in good times and in bad times. With each bead we pray for those who have provided support in our lives.

*(pause)*

We offer thanks, O God, for your compassion that opens us up to new relationships. With each bead we pray for Christians throughout this room and throughout your world.

*(pause)*

Christ, we pray that your compassion will grow in us, as we grow in you, and now, we lift our voices together, in each in our own first language in the prayer you taught your first disciples.

ALL: *(praying the Lord's Prayer in multiple languages)*

BARTLETT: I invite you to stand for the blessing. And as this blessing is offered we invite you to sing this single note. Sing it on a hum, or on an ooh, and continue sounding this tone throughout this blessing.

BRIELLE OCOT: May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

DEANDRE JOHNSON: *(sung)*  
May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

MISSY WISE: May God's love dwell in you throughout every day.

*(music)*

MISSY WISE: May God's love dwell in you throughout every day.

DEANDRE JOHNSON: *(sung)*  
May God's love dwell in you throughout every day.

BRIELLE OCOT: May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

JOHNSON: *(sung)* May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

WISE: May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

JOHNSON: *(sung)* May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

OCOT: May all God's children know the blessing of unity,

WISE: And may we be unified by the blessings of all God's children.

*(music)*

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT:  
Go in peace. Amen.

### Wednesday Morning, May 18, 2016

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT:  
Please remain seated for the call to worship. On behalf of the whole church I ask you, do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of the world and repent of your sin?

ALL: We're trying.

BARTLETT: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness?

ALL: We want to, but it's difficult.

BARTLETT: Do you reject the evil powers of this world?

ALL: We are overwhelmed.

BARTLETT: Do you repent of your sin?

ALL: Help us, God. Save us from evil.

*(video)*

BARTLETT: This is the water on which God breathed and the spirit brooded. When God began creating us, all creeping things, all races, male and female.

SILVERIO SANCHEZ (North Texas): This is the water covered the earth deeper than the Himalayas when God wanted to start over. This is the foot of the rainbow that's meant to tell us God won't destroy the creation again.

CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL (Great Plains): This is the water of the River Jabbok where Jacob still wrestles with God.

BARTLETT: This is the water that opened at Moses' command when God led the people out of slavery.

BELL: This is the water by which Miriam and the women danced the rhythms of liberation.

BARTLETT: This water sprang from the rocks in the desert when the people started whining to go back to the way things used to be.

SANCHEZ: These are the waters of Babylon by which our ancestors sat down and wept, their harps and tongues silent from homesickness.

BELL: And this is the water that broke in a barn in Bethlehem.

BARTLETT: Out of this water John pulled the stunned Jesus from the River Jordan,

SANCHEZ: the day they saw the dove

BELL: and heard from deep within, the voice that said,

ALL READERS: "You are my beloved. In you my heart sings for joy."

BELL: This is where those men heaved and hauled nets until love came to town and called them to even harder work for even less pay.

SANCHEZ: This is the water that became wine at a wedding in Cana.

BARTLETT: Peter sauntered on this water, and then sank, and then was rescued, setting the pattern for a disciple's life.

SANCHEZ: These are the tears that fell that last night in the garden.

BELL: This is what Jesus thirsted for at the hour of his death.

BARTLETT: This is the tomb from which Christ blasted. This is the opening, this is the way.

BELL: This is the water that binds us to him when shame and sin and death and evil are destroyed.

SANCHEZ: This is the water that reminds us who we are and whose we are.

BARTLETT: And so, I ask you again, do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness?

ALL: Yes, we do.

SANCHEZ: Do you reject the evil powers of this world?

ALL: Yes, we do.

BELL: Do you repent of your sin?

ALL: Cleansed by the saving waters of Baptism, we do repent.

ALL READERS: Remember you are baptized and be thankful.

*(music)*

EUNICE VEGA-PEREZ  
(Greater New Jersey): *(speaking in Spanish)*

*(music)*

*(applause)*

BISHOP JAMES E. SWANSON  
SR.: My, my, my, my, my, my!  
Phew! Hallelujah! Thank the Lord.  
Amen. Amen. God Almighty, I am so tempted to just let you just praise God. But if I do that, you'll take up part of my twelve minutes. Amen. Well let's give God a hand clap of praise anyhow. Come on give him some praise. Come on.

*(applause)*

Come on give God some praise, Come on, give him some praise, give him some praise, give God some praise. Don't be ashamed to lift up the name. Give God some, Hey! Give God some praise in here. Walk with God's Holy name. God is in this house and he is great. God is great and God is greatly to be praised, and we bless his name on this wonderful glorious day as we gather once again as the people of God, to be a part of our corporate worship together.

Let us pray. Saturate us in this moment, dear God. Break away anything that might stop us from hearing you. And pour into us that which we need that might fortify us, that we might not be empty but be filled, so to that which seeks to devour us, possess us, and claim us against your will, might not have room to occupy us. In Jesus name we pray. May we all say, Amen.

ALL: Amen.

BISHOP SWANSON: I hope you listen well to the Scripture lesson that was read, and I would just say to you, this is not a Scripture to choose to preach from if you are desiring to hear the brand compliments from sermon critics. It is not a Scripture that you would preach from if you want to hear the acclaim of others or if you are afraid that someone might misunderstand you.

To talk about evil in this day and in this time when many of us,

which spend most of our time trying to explain what evil is, is a perilous, perilous undertaking. And so I want you to know this morning I'm not going to, in this little short minutes I have, try to undertake a debate with you about what evil is or whether or not demons exist at all. I'm not gonna deal with that, but I will say to you that if you read the Scripture closely, there is a strong indication, in fact I think, a warning on behalf of Jesus that teaches us that if we are the sons and daughters of God that we proclaim ourselves to be. We need to be fully aware that there is a force out there somewhere that seeks to destroy, to bring destruction, to impede, to disrupt, to take over, yeah, to even obfuscate your very soul and thus turning you away from following obediently in the footsteps of Jesus.

Our theme for this General Conference is "Therefore Go!" I love the sound of that, but however it falls my lot on this morning to warn you that if you're going to go, there is a shadow figure that follows you also because you need to know that while you go, evil is going also. You need to hear that and you need to be aware that, in this case, we can begin to talk about all of the structures and all of the other things that are out there, but in this text Jesus makes us aware that evil is personal.

You need to hear that? And you need to be aware that in this case, we can begin to talk about all of those structures and all of the other things that are out there, but in this text, Jesus makes us aware that evil is personal. It is not a Scripture for pointing fingers at other people. It is a Scripture for us to inspect our own lives. And for us to understand and to know that it's not that evil is so much let loose on the world, but that evil is let loose, undecidedly wants to be let loose, on us as individuals, and if

somehow evil can begin to operate in me, that evil then can infect me at a rate that it will pollute anything and everything that I touch.

Let me give you a few observations, cause I wanna make sure you understand this. What the Scripture is saying is that any Christian, Amen, y'all, any Christian is susceptible to becoming a harbinger of evil. Everyone is a candidate. Once, through God's prevenient grace, you come to know Jesus as the lover of your soul, and then through God's wonderful justifying grace, you are forgiven of your sins, then you stand in a state of being clean. The mistake that sometimes we make is that we then walk away from this Christ, thinking that because we have been justified, there is no more work. I beg to differ with you. That is when the work truly begins. And that work is a work of sanctifying grace. That is a work to push out of you all of the disruptive spirits that are part of your very existence, things that would destroy you, and destroy the whole entire body of Christ if you are not careful.

Because once these things have been driven out, the Scripture said that spirit goes all over the place seeking another place to inhabit. And having not found a hospitable host, that spirit comes back to find out if you kept your vow. And if you have not kept your vow, this evil is not passive. This evil is aggressive because this evil is like the old boll weevil of the south. It is looking for home, y'all, seeking a habitation. Evil is like anything else on this earth. It wants to be in an environment where it can grow, where it can thrive; and if you or I presume ourselves as a habitation, that is inviting and welcoming to evil, evil will set up shop in our homes. And this is what you need also know about evil. Evil is not content to be by itself. Amen. No somebody. Evil loves to party, and you can't party by

yourself. Amen. And so evil runs in a pack. So when evil finds a home that is hospitable, evil goes and gets its crew. Amen. Brings his whole crew with it.

And so it doesn't matter, my brothers and sisters, and this is the thing you've got to understand. Evil is so subtle, very subtle. It is sort of like what happen in the garden. Listen to the conversation that went on between the people in the garden and evil. Listen at the conversation that began to transpire between this evil and the people. Now, isn't it strange that God said you can eat from all of the fruit except that one fruit? I mean, I don't mean any harm. I'm not really trying to bother you, but it's kind of strange that God will let you eat of everything, but just that one fruit. I am not really trying to mess with you, but I want you to look at it, all of the fruit. God is some kind of selfish God, that God would keep one fruit only for God's self and not for you.

Or perhaps, maybe, God thinks God is better than you. It's how it comes, it's subtle, and then all of a sudden what you begin to do is to doubt whether or not God loves you. That's all evil needs to do with you, is to make you doubt that God loves you, and once you begin to doubt that God loves you or see the doubt, demon will go and bring another demon with you. And that's a demon of self-hatred and self-loathing because you didn't begin to believe that there is something defective about you. And why is it because you didn't feel your self-worth with the love of God. If you fill yourself up with the love of God when that doubt comes, you can reject it and say, but God so loved the world. Come on up with your Holy Ghost.

*(applause)*

That God gave his only begotten son. So no good gift would God

withhold from me. Come on up in here, Jesus.

*(applause)*

That demon then moves from hatred, self-hatred, and then goes into conniving and looking for temporary gods that we can put in ourselves to make us feel good about ourselves. Lord, I wish I had the time. I tell you little bit more about all those demons but I gotta close. Amen. Because I want you to understand here, that no matter how powerful evil might seem to be, we Christians do not have this kind of concept that evil is co-equal to God. We all believe that. Do we General Conference?

ALL: No.

BISHOP SWANSON: We know that greater is God who's within us than the god of this world. That the God we serve can do faithfully and wonderful things, that he has created us with power and might and that that Jesus who left on a cloud said, I go to be with my father but I give you power to do greater things than I have done. If you believe in this you are to stand on your feet and declare that: "evil you have no place in this time." Whoa!

*(applause)*

No place, no place. I cast you out. In the name of Jesus. I cast you out. In the name of Jesus; how dare you trouble the people of God? O my brothers and sisters, o my brothers and sisters, weeping may endure for a night, but joy, joy, joy, joy comes in the morning. Oh yes it does. It comes in the morning because the God we serve is on our side, and if God be for us, come on, y'all. I know we got disagreements, but we should not be in disagreement about God. Come on up in here, Holy Ghost.

*(applause)*



Who are you depending on any way? Are you depending on yourself?

ALL: No!

BISHOP SWANSON: Your political maneuverings?

ALL: No!

BISHOP SWANSON: Are you depending on God who rules on high? Oh! Bless his name.

*(music/applause)*

Cast him out. There is no rule. It's alright for you to disagree with me, but it's not alright for you to hate me. It's alright for you to plot, to win. It's alright for you to do that, but never use the weapons of Satan against the people of God.

ALL: Amen.

*(applause)*

BISHOP JAMES E. SWANSON SR: It's alright. We are Methodists. We gather every four years because we love to argue. But when we get through, we're going to get together and we're going to have a mighty, mighty good time.

*(applause and cheers)*

Bless God's holy name. Give God a hand clap. Hey! A praise in this house. Whoa! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Oh bless God's name. Thank you, Jesus. Thank ya.

*(applause and cheers)*

Twelve minutes up. Y'all do what you all want to do. Amen.

*(music)*

MISSY WISE: Y'all sing this song.

*(music)*

*(applause)*

DEANDREA JOHNSON: Let us pray. In this holy moment, O God, we reaffirm our commitment

to you, knowing that it is by your grace, only by your grace, that we stand here in this place, that we have come this far, and that we have yet a future to go. May your spirit, God, so fill us now that by your power, by your might, by your grace at work in our lives, and by your love that fills this whole earth, we may indeed be your people, your body, proclaiming the good news of your son, Jesus, who lives and reigns and is with us here in this place. So, we commit ourselves yet again to go where you lead. In Jesus' name. And all God's people said.

ALL: Amen.

*(music)*

KIM QUETONE SIMPSON (Central Texas): God of power and peace, you who travel with us every step of our journey, we ask you to continue to fill us with your Holy presence.

ALL: Forgive us, O God.

SIMPSON: Forgive us when we fail to acknowledge your indwelling presence as our journey lengthens and we run dry. Forgive us when we forget how much we need your living water. We find ourselves empty. We consume things that promise to satisfy but instead leave us unnourished and unhealthy.

ALL: Forgive us, O God.

SIMPSON: Help us remember that you are the perfect nourishment we need to fill us to the very edges of our being. Forgive us for leaving even a tiny corner empty of your love. Let us not leave a wisp of emptiness where evil might enter and thrive.

ALL: Forgive us, O God.

KIM SIMPSON (Central Texas): Remind us that we do not journey on our own. We pray that we would always choose Jesus as our guide and guardian, as our source of power to defend against the forces of evil. Forgive us when we try to do it on

our own, forgetting our baptismal vows that bind us to you forever.

ALL: Forgive us, O God.

*(silent prayer)*

SIMPSON: We long for oneness with you, O God, so that we are healthy and strong and full of love as we travel the paths of our lives. May we be so filled with the love and light of Jesus that all whom we encounter are influenced to your way: the way of peace, the way of justice, the way of mercy.

ALL: Forgive us, O God.

*(silent prayer)*

SIMPSON: We long for a world that is filled to overflowing with you, loving God. We pray that each of us would work toward that goal by moving in perfect unison with you, step-by-step, meter-by-meter, mile-by-mile. We cannot do it filled and fueled by anything except your abundant and perfect love. Amen.

*(music)*

STANISLAS KASSONGO (West Congo): *(prayer without interpretation)*

DEBRA TYREE: The United Methodist Committee on Relief celebrated its seventy-fifth birthday last year.

*(applause)*

Since its birth, UMCOR has been on the scene of countless disasters around the world, offering faithful, long-term recovery support. Every penny, every penny, given to UMCOR goes directly to relief efforts. Again, you'll have the opportunity to participate in the offering electronically. Instructions are on the screen so that you may safely text your donation on a smartphone or type in the link to donate on a tablet or computer. Help us continue UMCOR's celebration by support-

ing another seventy-five years of world-transforming ministry.

*(pause)*

DARLENE ROCHELLE ALFRED (Central Texas): Almighty God of truth and love, you are ever more powerful than evil. There is no trial, no pain, no violence, no evil that cannot be overcome through the strength of your goodness. When we believe that we are sinking into despair, you show us that you, God of the universe, are here.

*(music)*

D.J. DEL ROSARIO (Pacific Northwest): There is a God somewhere and it is you, the God of truth and love, the God who made the wounded whole, the God who was victorious even over death. Thank you, God.

DEANDRE JOHNSON: Let us stand together.

*(music)*

ALFRED: You, God, are going on the way with us. You, God, are with us through our journeys and into our nights. Even in our deepest torment, you, God, are with us. Merci, mon Dieu!

*(music)*

DEL ROSARIO: God, we thank you that you never leave us alone. You are with us in our struggles. And you call us to be with each other, embodying your love in every corner of the world. Asante, Mongu!

*(music)*

ALFRED: God, with you, we are not afraid of evil. You empower us through your love. With our hearts, one with Christ, we do not fear to take the next step. Obrigado, Deus!

*(music)*

DJ DEL ROSARIO (Pacific Northwest): God, if you are for us, who can be against us?

ALL: No one!

ALFRED: God, who gave us your own son, your own son's life. Will you, in fact, give us everything else that we need?

ALL: Yes!

ROSARIO: God, you have chosen us to be your agents of love in the world. Can anyone argue against that?

ALL: No!

LAURA JAQUITH BARTLETT: Can anyone or anything separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can hardship?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can distress?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can persecution?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can famine?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can corruption?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can hatred?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can poverty?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can malaria?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can war?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Can anything evil keep us apart from God's love?

ALL: No!

BARTLETT: Is there anything in all the heights, or the depths, or the corners of the earth that can ever possibly separate us from the all-encompassing, all-compassionate, all-merciful, all-victorious love of God?

ALL: No! No! No! No! No!

*(music)*

*(applause)*

DEBRA TYREE: God of goodness, even as we offer our thanks

for the abundance of our blessings, we also lift up grateful hearts for the opportunity to share our gifts with a world where evil continues to threaten your people. Guide us, we pray, so that every step we take is on your path of victorious love. In partnership with your son, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(music)*

BISHOP JAMES E. SWANSON SR.: And now, good people of God, leave this place of worship knowing that greater is God who is in you than any evil that might come against you or try to invade you. Cast it out, not in your name, but in the name of Jesus.

*(music)*

*(applause)*

*(music)*

BISHOP JOHN HOPKINS: Good morning conference. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. You know, I'm excited about today because I remember long time ago I learned when two or three are gathered together in Jesus' name, Jesus appears. And I felt like all week here we've had a Pentecostal experience where we've come together from all over the world and heard people testify about their experiences of Jesus in the midst of this General Conference--in the plenary, in the committee meetings, in the meals, as we've come together to experience Christ. And I'm looking for us experiencing Christ today, as we join together. And speaking of experiencing Christ, didn't you think the Holy Spirit was here when Bishop Swanson was bringing the word to us this morning?

*(applause)*

Wow! Wow! The worship team and Bishop Swanson need to be complimented for such a marvelous way to open this Wednesday service. I'm so grateful for them, so grateful. Before we begin our session this morning, I'd like to turn to Romans 12 about the marks of a true Christian. When I read these things I said, "These things are speaking to my heart." And as we begin this session, I hope it speaks to your heart. "Let love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good. Love one another with mutual affection, outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit. Serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering. Persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saint and extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought of what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Let us pray. O God as we come here to conference in the name of Christ, we confess that we would not be here had it not been for the body of Christ that reached out to us in our brokenness. Put us at the foot of the cross and let us receive your powerful salvation that let us stand up again and know that we are loved in spite of ourselves. And we can remember that love for about twenty-four hours and it slips away. So through the Wesleyan way we stay close to the means of grace that we might hear again that we are loved in spite of ourselves and at the foot of that cross, every one of us stands equal because of your love towards us. We pray this day that we

will move forward the work of your church so that when we leave this place people will say, "It was like a Pentecost, the spirit moved among them, they heard the testimonies of each other as they shared what Christ has done back home and they found other people rejoicing with them." And that we go forth and spread your gospel to a world that badly needs it. Bless us this day with your presence, in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

This morning we'd like to begin with some of the administrative items, and then we will turn to a celebration of Imagine No Malaria. We do not have a report from the Committee on Privileges, but I'd like to have a report from the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision.

### *CCER asks for Referral to Judicial Council*

Maidstone Mulenga (Baltimore-Washington): Good morning, General Conference. Bishop, my name is Maidstone Mulenga, clergy from Baltimore-Washington Conference. I stand before you as secretary of the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision. Yesterday, our committee asked the Judicial Council to review our draft report on Calendar Item No. 5. In a memorandum 1517, the Judicial Council indicated that it would not rule on the draft report because the report is an internal communication between the General Conference and the bodies it has created. The Judicial Council said this, and I quote, "having adopted Calendar Item 5, the General Conference is responsible for the content it has approved." So I am here to give you our report on Calendar item 5. Here's the report. On Monday, May 16, the General Conference approved Petition No. 60274, which was Calendar Item no. 5, the petition entitled "Comprehensive Plan for Africa" authorizes the

creation of five more Episcopal areas in Africa. The approved language in the calendar item says, "as an integral part of this plan, the number of Episcopal Areas in Africa shall increase from thirteen to eighteen after the 2020 General Conference, such increase shall be included in the budget of the Episcopal Fund for the quadrennium 2021-2024."

The Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision believes that this approved item is in contradiction to paragraph sixteen of *The Book of Discipline* and in contradiction to Judicial Council decision 1312, which was printed in the *DCA* on p. 1835. The decision from the Judicial Council stated in part, paragraph forty of the constitution authorizes jurisdictional and central conferences to determine the names, numbers, and boundaries of annual conferences and episcopal areas. Paragraph forty-eight authorizes each college of bishops to arrange episcopal supervision within each jurisdiction or within the region of its central conference, but does not authorize bishops to set names, numbers, boundaries of episcopal area. Paragraph sixteen of the constitution authorizes the General Conference to establish both a uniform method for electing bishops in jurisdictions and a connectional method for funding the episcopacy, thereby, giving the General Conference the authority for setting the number of bishops in each jurisdiction.

The Judicial Council wanting to say that the General Conference, which determines the number of bishops in, to be elected by central conferences, fixes a uniform basis for the election of bishops in the jurisdictional conference and provides for funding for the bishops so elected, thereby, determining how many bishops will be in each jurisdiction or central conference. So our question to the General Conference,

which acted on this is this, is this: Was the intent of the General Conference to authorize funding for five more bishops in Africa, or to create five more episcopal areas in Africa? Bishop, this is our report.

BISHOP JOHN HOPKINS: It comes as a report. You don't have any recommendations then? Except to receive the report, correct?

Mulenga: Unless they ask us.

BISHOP HOPKINS: OK, let's go to our cards. If you don't have any problems on these reports, it's a little faster. If you approve that report, would you raise the cards? Opposed, the same sign? Thank you, appreciated very much.

*[report was approved by placard voting]*

BISHOP HOPKINS: Turn now to the Committee on the Journal, and following that will have the Committee on Agenda and Calendar. Anybody here from the Agenda and Calendar yet ready to report? Oh, she's coming over. Doctor Malone.

*(pause)*

### *Report From Committee on Agenda and Calendar*

TRACY SMITH MALONE (Northern Illinois): Thank you, Bishop. And good morning, everyone. You will find today's schedule on pp. 2372-2373 of today's *DCA*. Again, 2372-2373 of today's *DCA*. In addition to the orders of the day that are listed there, we will hear from Bishop Ough, on behalf of the Council of Bishops. We want to congratulate the plenary for the great work that we did on yesterday. We got a lot accomplished, amen? We only have five remaining items with financial implications, and we will work to finish those items today. We would like to call special attention to the second morning plenary session, during which time

we will consider multiple petitions connected with human sexuality. In addition, we plan to hear reports from the following legislative committees: Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, Conferences, General Administration, Local Church, Faith and Order, Independent Commissions, Judicial Administration, Church and Society A. We will hear as many of these reports as time allows, and we do have additional items ready, if these reports above are completed before the end of the day. But, again, I always remind us, it's how we steward our time together. I would now like to invite Susan Brumbaugh, who is the coordinator of the calendar; and as she always does so well, she will guide us in voting on the consent calendars that are printed in Tuesday's *DCA* and point out other calendar items printed in today's *DCA*. Susan?

SUSAN BRAMBAUGH (New Mexico): Good morning. Yesterday I may have created some confusion when I announced corrections to five calendar items. The items I mentioned yesterday should have been removed from the consent calendars you voted on yesterday, and they are correctly included in the consent calendars you will be voting on today. For your reference the items corrected, those five items, are listed on p. 2326 of yesterday's *DCA*. They've already been acted on. No, they have not, should not go off script ever, ever. They're correctly printed on today's consent calendar. Let's prepare to vote on the two consent calendars that were printed in yesterday's *DCA*. The first consent calendar appears on p. 2319, 2319, and in the middle of the page is Consent Calendar A05, containing disciplinary items. P. 2319, Calendar A05, all of the items including those five on Consent Calendar A05 are correct as printed.

No items were removed from that calendar.

MALONE: Bishop, I move approval of A05.

BISHOP HOPKINS: OK, it's before you now. If you're ready to vote would you take your devices. And if you would approve that, would hit number one (1); if you would not hit number (2). Vote now.

*(vote in progress)*

BISHOP JOHN HOPKINS: It is approved.

*[Yes, 758; No, 15]*

SUSAN M. BRUMBAUGH (New Mexico): On the next page, 2320, 2320 is Consent Calendar B05, containing non-disciplinary items; 2320 Calendar B05. One item has been removed because it was corrected. That is Calendar Item 482, on p. 2321. So, the next page, p. 2321, Calendar Item 482 was corrected. It now appears on p. 2425, on a consent calendar for tomorrow. So, all of the remaining items, other than 482, in Consent Calendar B05 are correct as printed.

TRACY SMITH MALONE (Northern Illinois): Bishop, I move approval of Consent Calendar B05.

BISHOP HOPKINS: OK. If you are ready to vote, would you take your devices, and if you would approve that Consent Calendar, press one (1); if you would not, press two (2). Vote now.

*(pause)*

BISHOP HOPKINS: And it is also approved.

*[Yes, 754; No, 15]*

MALONE: Bishop, this concludes our report.

BISHOP HOPKINS: Thank you very much, Dr. Malone. Let's turn to the Committee on Presiding Officers. Is the Committee on Journals ready? Is Biggerstaff ready to report?

(pause)

BISHOP HOPKINS: Take your time. We've had enough accidents up here already this week, so, and as she does, I would like to say that Bishop Wilke who fell yesterday or day before yesterday, he was feeling well enough today that he actually attended the Council of Bishops breakfast meeting this morning. So, we praise God that he is back with us and is healing well.

(applause)

BISHOP HOPKINS: What a saint of our church. Rev. Zabel.

JUDITH KREAGER ZABEL (Minnesota): Good morning. Sorry for the delay. My name is Judi Zabel, and I am representing Committee on Presiding Officers. Our presiding officers today are Bishop Hopkins, Bishop Palmer, Bishop McAlilly, and Bishop Park. Thank you.

BISHOP HOPKINS: OK. I think we accept that report. If you would, would you raise your cards. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Opposed, the same sign; and it is accepted/approved.

[Placard vote, approved]

How about the Committee on Journal now? We may have to come back on that one. Let's turn to our monitoring reports.

(pause)

(Bishop conferring on the stage)

### *Report of the Commission on Religion and Race*

ERIN M. HAWKINS (General Secretary on the General Commission on Religion and Race): Good morning. Sisters and brothers, we pause for this moment to reflect on the process of Christian conferencing and how we're living together as a diverse world-wide church. The Gen-

eral Commission on Religion and Race, in consultation with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, have the question, the delegate monitoring question of the day for your consideration. Please get your voting pads ready now to respond to our question.

### *Self-Monitoring Question of the Day*

Has the spirit of Christian conferencing been demonstrated in the deliberations that have taken place at this General Conference? I'll repeat the question. Has the spirit of Christian conferencing been demonstrated in the deliberations that have taken place at this General Conference? Please press yes—one (1) for yes—one (1) for yes and two (2) for no. [Yes, 512; No, 228]

HAWKINS: Let us continue to embrace our Wesleyan general rules: Do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God. Thank you.

BISHOP HOPKINS: Thank you so much. Don't you like the way this works, where we actually get real information about our perceptions? Thank you so much. What a wonderful, wonderful report. Anything on the Committee on Journals yet? Biggerstaff here? OK. Not hearing that, then, there has been somebody patiently waiting for a point of order or parliamentary inquiry or information. Alfred Njau at mic. 6. Mic. 6.

(pause)

(Bishop conferring on stage)

ALFRED KUNDASAI NJAU (Tanzania): Good morning, Bishop.

BISHOP HOPKINS: Good morning.

NJAU: My name is Alfred Njau, clergy from Tanzania Annual Conference. I want to thank the Calendar Committee for the good job that they are doing. I was so glad for putting a

Kiswahili standard to the yesterday and today DCA.

BISHOP HOPKINS: Can you quickly state, are you talking about information or a point of order or par—

NJAU: Order. There is a, there is a confusion of numbers, which needed to be translated, because it showed that we have to start the program at 12:30 afternoon, so the number was not translated, hours, the hours.

BISHOP HOPKINS: OK. We take that under advisement, and I'll refer it back to the committee. They've done a good job trying to have the translations, but they don't quite have it perfected yet, so thank you very much.

NJAU: Thanks.

BISHOP HOPKINS: I think we want to move to the report of Imagine No Malaria in just a few minutes, but I just received a note that David Yemba, Bishop Yemba from Kinshasa, Congo, was taken to the hospital again yesterday. And the report is he's been—this is from somebody who knows him—said that he has been diagnosed with malaria, and treatment has begun today. And so, if anybody had any doubt whether or not our effort to wipe out malaria is needed, again, again, one of our own has been inflicted by this and we pray for, for his health. Also, we'd like to just stop and have a prayer for him and anybody else that we might have in our delegations that are, are sick today and not able to, to be with us.

Let us turn to God in prayer.

Dear God, we are so grateful just to be on the sunny side of the sod this morning. Sometimes, we take this gift of life for granted; and this morning, we do not. We are glad that we can breathe the air, and that our heart's pumping, that we can sense what's going on around us and communicate with others that we might

experience your presence. We lift up David Yemba, one of our bishops, who has done so much in faith or in other areas, that medications that he is being treated with will bring him to recovery that he might continue to lead for your church. We give you thanks for the quick recovery that seems to be taking place with Bishop Wilke. We pray for all the members of our delegations and that have had people in their delegations who are getting sick from this long, grueling kind of process; and we just extend care for them that you might bring them back to health and that they know that your love and care and our love and care is with them this morning. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

So, let us now turn to the report of Imagine No Malaria, where we actually hear where the church is doing one of its best programs to make a difference in the world.

### *Imagine No Malaria Initiative*

BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON: Friends, health is the ultimate design of God for humanity. Health and wholeness have been a hope for Methodists since John Wesley got on a horse in the eighteenth century England to preach about the love of God and the meaning of faith in Jesus Christ.

In 2008, we the church, affirmed our commitment to global health through the Imagine No Malaria initiative. What began with the bite of a mosquito, has transformed into a faith-driven global health movement. Together, we have imagined no malaria. Now, let us imagine abundant health.

*(video presentation)*

BISHOP GABRIEL YEMBA UNDA: My wife, Charlotte Omba Unda, and my daughter, Blondine Yema Unda, died from malaria.

BISHOP JOAQUINA F. NHA-

NALA: I lost my father, Filipe, to malaria complications.

GARY HENDERSON: Today, one among our number in Portland, is suffering from malaria.

BISHOP JOHN K. YAMBASU: Your hand in my hand

ASHLEY GISH: let's take a stand.

LARRY HOLLON: And we'll show the world what we believe in.

*(video presentation)*

*(music)*

BISHOP HOPE MORGAN WARD: What a gift this moment is. We celebrate what God has done through The United Methodist Church as together we have imagined no malaria. This song is a gift for you to take. Continue to sing it. No royalties, no permission, it's a gift given to you. There's a thumb drive on your table. Take it home. Continue to sing this song as we, United Methodist people, together now move toward abundant health for every child in every place. Thanks be to God who is able.

*(applause)*

BISHOP JOHN HOPKINS: Want to give one more chance to see if Randy Biggerstaff's here in the auditorium to make a report for the Committee on Journal. We need to get that in some time this morning. OK, not seeing him. I'd like to call on Jeremy Troxler who has a new item of business on Mic. 4. Jeremy, I don't know if you were ready or not, but if you could move to mic. 4.

*Motion to Refer Possible Discrepancy: ¶16 and ¶33, ¶304 and ¶2702 to Judicial Council*

JEREMY TROXLER (Western North Carolina): Sure. Thank you Bishop, Jeremy Troxler, clergy,

Western North Carolina Annual Conference. I move that this General Conference petitions the Judicial Council to resolve the apparent conflict between Judicial Council Decision no. 544 and Judicial Council Decision no. 542, as well as the conflict between ¶16 and ¶33 of our constitution as they relate to the practical, legal application of ¶304 and ¶2702 of our *Book of Discipline*. Specifically, in regard to the separation of powers between General Conference and annual conferences on the setting of the minimum standards for ministry and the voting on ordination and clergy character. And if I get a second, I'll speak to this motion and try to explain what in the world I just said.

BISHOP HOPKINS: Is there a second? I hear a second. Go ahead.

TROXLER: Friends, at issue is who gets to have the final say on who is or is not ordained. Is it the church law in *The Book of Discipline*, or is it the vote of an annual conference as it decides how to apply that church law in specific cases. In 1984, General Conference added to the *Discipline* language stipulating that "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve." The Judicial Council ruled in decision 544 that this act was constitutional under the powers granted to General Conference in ¶16. And yet our constitution, in ¶33, says clearly that the annual conference, and I would emphasize not General Conference, is the basic body of the church and as such shall have reserve to it the right to vote on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members and on the ordination of clergy. The constitution states that General Conference can define and fix the powers of ordained clergy to set their roles and job description and the minimum



standards of ordination according to Judicial Council Decision 544. But the power to decide how to apply those standards is clearly vested in the reserved right of the annual conference in ¶33. And that right has been affirmed by Judicial Council Decision 542. The final vote of the annual conference determines who is and is not ordained. And who is or does not remain ordained, period.

Bishop, I submit that there is a basic separation of constitutional power issue here that Judicial Council must resolve. And that has profound implications for the current divisions in our church. Neither General Conference nor the Judicial Council nor any other body can infringe upon or overrule the constitutional right of the annual conference to vote regarding clergy character relations and ordination. The annual conference vote is the final word. I thank God that our forefathers and mothers anticipated there might come a time when General Conference and individual annual conferences might be in conflict over the application of the *Discipline* to issues of ordination. So they put language in the Constitution to guide us and they entrusted this to the local determination of the annual conferences. Therefore, I move we petition General Conference on this, Judicial Council on this decision on a 1/5 vote.

BISHOP HOPKINS: There are laws, our laws enable us to make a referral if there's twenty percent, a 1/5 vote of the house. Ready to vote? If you would take your devices. The translators need a little time to let us know what we're voting on. It's really voting on this recommendation that we refer this item to the Judicial Council for a ruling. OK, if you would take your devices. If you would favor referring this to Judicial Council, press one (1) and if you would not, press two (2)? Vote now. [Yes, 490; No, 308]

BISHOP HOPKINS: Looks like it is referred. Now I think if I'm correct, the Council of Bishops is going to make a report from the referral that we made to them and, so I'm gonna call on I think Bishop Bruce Ough to come and make that report. The agenda committee has advised me that when this report is over, I'm not sure how long it will be, that we will go into a recess at the time. We'll take our break, twenty minute break, and then we'll come back. So there may be a few little closing remarks, but I wanted you to know where we're going. So, after this remarks are made there will a chance for you to have some time to reflect on it with around your tables or in the hallway as we move to break soon after that. Bishop Ough.

*Bishops' Response for Call  
for Episcopal Leadership on  
Human Sexuality*

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: Thank you, Bishop Hopkins. Before I share the formal statement that we have prepared, I would like to just make a couple of observations. The text of the script I have in front of me will also appear on the screen, and we'll try to sync my comments with your ability to read it as well.

Just a reminder that the action you took yesterday was a nonbinding resolution, which meant, in effect, that the Council of Bishops was not bound to do anything about it, but we, we're very honored that you would ask us to consider this and so have taken it up. And also, anything that I share with you in this report goes back to you as unbound, as well, so it will be your future decisions, guided by presiding officers, in this session or subsequent sessions that would determine how you might choose to respond. And then, finally, I want to be very clear that this has grown out of many hours of discussion, discernment, prayer, and

the very capable late-night work of a small writing team. And furthermore, that this is not a unanimous endorsement. There's not unanimous endorsement of this statement, but the very solid majority of the counsel, and, as I make that statement, would also affirm that unanimity is not the same as unity.

If you could put this statement up at this point.

We begin with this word of prayer, or this word of Scripture, excuse me: "But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise."

Your bishops were honored to receive—OK, I want to try to sync my comments with his—your bishops were honored to receive the request of General Conference to help lead our United Methodist Church forward during this time of both great crisis and great opportunity. As far as we can discover, this is the first time that a General Conference has ever made such a request of the Council of Bishops, and we have accepted this request with deep humility.

We share with you a deep commitment to the unity of the church in Christ our Lord. Yesterday, I shared the deep pain we all feel. We have all prayed for months and continue to do so. We seek, in this *kairos* moment, a way forward for profound unity on human sexuality and other matters. This deep unity allows for a variety of expressions to coexist in one church. Within the church, we are called to work and pray for

more Christ-like unity with each other, rather than separation from one another. This, as you know, is the prayer of Jesus in John Chapter 17. We believe that unity is found in Jesus Christ. It is not something we achieve but something we receive as a gift from God.

We understand that part of our role as bishops is to lead the church toward new behaviors, a new way of being, and new forms and structures which allow a unity of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, while allowing for differing expressions as a global church. Developing such new forms will require a concerted effort by all of us, and we, your bishops, commit ourselves to lead this effort. We ask you, as a General Conference, to affirm your own commitment to maintaining and strengthening the unity of the church. We will coordinate this work with the various efforts already underway to develop global structures and a new general *Book of Discipline* for our church. Strengthening the unity of the church is a responsibility for all of us.

We also accept our role as spiritual leaders to lead The United Methodist Church in a pause for prayer, to step back from attempts at legislative solutions, and intentionally seek God's will for the future. As a Council of Bishops, we will lead the church in every part of the world in times of worship, study, discernment, confession, and prayer for God's guidance. We ask you, as a General Conference, to join us in this effort, beginning with the remainder of this week. We were moved by the sight of delegates praying around the tables yesterday, and we hope these efforts will continue. As your bishops, we are ready to join you and to lead you in these times of prayer.

We have discussed, in depth, the processes which might help our

church heal and move forward, up to and including the possibility of a called General Conference in 2018 or 2019. We have not finalized our plans for such processes, but we will keep working on options we have heard from many of you, and we will keep reporting to the General Conference and to the whole church.

We recommend that the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality and refer this entire subject to special commission named by the Council of Bishops to develop a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in *The Book of Discipline* regarding human sexuality. We continue to hear from many people on the debate over sexuality that our current discipline contains language which is contradictory, unnecessarily hurtful, and inadequate for a variety of local, regional, and global contexts. We will name such a commission to include persons from every region of our United Methodist Church, and we'll include representation from differing perspectives on the debate. We commit to maintain an ongoing dialogue with this commission as they do their work, including being sure there are clear objectives and outcomes. Should they complete their work in time for a called General Conference, then we will call a two-to-three-day gathering before the 2020 General Conference, and of course, we will consult with GCFA regarding cost-effective ways to hold that gathering.

We will continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another, including ways to avoid further complaints, trials, and harm, while we continue to uphold the *Discipline*. We will continue our conversations on this matter and report our progress to you and to the whole church.

Today, as a way of beginning to find our way forward, we suggest

that in place of the allotted legislative time, we spend one to two hours of plenary time in prayer, confession, and then exploration of a creative way forward. The bishops are prepared to provide questions to guide your conversations, if you so choose to hold them. Your conversations and the results of those conversations will be the first step to a way forward.

I would invite you to join me as I conclude with a word of prayer.

Come, Spirit of the Living God. Hold us, hold us close to your heart in this fragile and hopeful moment. We desperately want to have the rhythm of our life together, our behaviors, our actions, our decisions in rhythm with your heart and in rhythm with your yearning for your people. Help us, O God, to stay in love with you and to grow in our love and grace for one another. In the precious and powerful name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, we offer you our prayers and our lives. Amen.

**BISHOP JOHN HOPKINS:** Thank you, Bishop Ough. We're going to break, but before we go to the break, I would like to say a few things. One is that I opened this session by saying I feel like that we've been experiencing Pentecost this week, as we listen to how God has been revealed to other people, and we find that when two or three of us are gathered together, that Jesus walks along beside us. Certainly, I think that's what we're praying for, is that in our time together, the Holy Spirit will find new ways for us to move forward. In order for that to happen, each one of us has to go deep inside, before we start telling other people how they need to behave, and I would like to read this closing prayer of Saint Francis. He's one of my saints, ever since I visited Assisi.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred,

let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, unity; where there is doubt, faith; where there is error, truth; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy; and where there is darkness, light. O divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love, for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life. Amen.”

You’re now in recess, and we’d have you gather at 10:20, as we begin our next session. Thank you.

**BISHOP GREGORY PALMER:**—Friends, if in the next three minutes you could find your places, we’ll get underway. OK? Thank you.

*(pause)*

**BISHOP PALMER:** One minute, please. One minute. Then, we’ll be in order.

*(pause)*

**BISHOP PALMER:** So, friends, we’ve had an extended break, and I want to call us to order, and I know some of you are still making your way to your places, and that’s fine. If we could begin to center in, and I want to invite you to a time of prayer, first for a bit of silence, and then I’ll, in behalf of all of us, beseech the Majesty on High with a short spoken prayer.

*(pause)*

**BISHOP PALMER:** Breathe through the heats of our desire by coolness and by balm. Let sense be dumb. Let flesh retire. Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm. In this hour and in these days of conferencing, O God, we cry out with Jehoshaphat. We do not know what to do, but our gaze is fixed on you. So, lead us, O

God, by the inspiration and the power of your Holy Spirit to become the beloved community that you created us to be and that you continue to dream that we will be. We ask this in the name of your son Jesus Christ, whom you called beloved and with whom you were well pleased. May it be so for us. Amen.

Dear friends, you’ve been very patient and with this long break, and we’ve been trying to think carefully through how to best serve you. I’m Gregory Vaughn Palmer, and it’s my privilege to serve as the resident bishop in the West Ohio Conference, and I have two colleagues that have agreed to sit with me today as the three of us together tried to serve you in behalf of all of your bishops. Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton of the Illinois Area and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball of the West Virginia Area in West Virginia Annual Conference. So, we know that you continue to pray us up as you’re praying one another up in this good work. I’d like to suggest a way to use the next thirty to forty-five minutes. There will be some challenges, but I wanna take a little lead way and a generous reading of our Rule No. 3 and our Rubric 2, which allows the presiding officer to call for a time of prayerful discernment, and we have had a statement now, the second one, via the President of the Council of Bishops, Bishops Ough. The first one initiated on our end and the second one are really the fruit of your initiation and your generous act on yesterday. And so, during the break, we’ve been laboring to get copies of the statement available to you. We’re aware that they are not at every table yet, and they are at this moment in English only, but translation is being done, and the pages are, as fast as they are coming off of the machines, are distributing those to the tables. At the end of the session, whenever

that comes, they will be available to a wider general public at the exits, I’m told. So, we continue to ask for your patience. Three machines are running to get those done, and the pages are, literally in some cases, running to get them to you.

So, back to my taking a generous approach with our rules, but I don’t think, out of alignment with the spirit and the purpose, I’d like to invite you in table conversations, based on my reading of Rule 3, to be in conversation with one another about the statement, either as you have it in front of you, or with what you remember. The second thing is, to the extent possible and if it does not make accessibility to understanding your conversation partners, because we don’t have enough translators to get around to every table, if you would do any mixing that seems meet and right to you, but it’s not an obligation. You can remain as you are. Some of you are already mixed into a group that are people from your delegation, and as well as people from other delegations. But it’s possible for you to engage in conversation with people that you are not customarily with, that you will, that you’ll try to do that, but you’re not obligated to do what cannot be done. The, there will be some access to interpreters available. I’ve just gotten a note about that, but I don’t know how widely distributed they’ll be able to be, but as they are able, they’ll make themselves known in the several languages of the General Conference. So, I’d like you to spend time doing that thirty to forty-five minutes, and then we’ll come back from that and see what other conversation we’d like to have collectively, after you’ve had that time. So, I wanna tell you a quick story.

The Council of Bishops, a couple of years ago, was having table conversations about some of our most challenging issues in the life of

the Church and the several cultures that we represent around the globe, and one of our colleague bishops at the table where I was sitting said, “We all need to take a step back.” There was a pregnant pause, as you might imagine, not knowing what would be said next by this particular bishop, who I’ll not throw under the bus as we speak. And he said, “Why don’t we try telling our story before we take our stand?” I found those words memorable, and I’m grateful for them to this day, no matter what the subject is before us. So—

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN PALMER: I found those words memorable, and I’m grateful for them to this day, no matter what the subject is before us. So, would you see this as a time for you to tell your story, and, not, you know, you don’t have to give every detail of your life, but as it relates relevantly to this conversation that we’ve been engaged in over many decades around human sexuality. And as you begin that, the statement is coming that oughta be available at the heart, but think about telling a story, telling your story, before you take your stand. And, make sure that you share the air, which is a borrowed way of saying remember that there might be five or six other people at your table that will need time in this period of time to speak openly with others at the table.

So, I’ll give you a heads up when we’re ready to come back but thirty, no more than forty-five minutes; and as we enter into that period of time, may I offer another word of prayer. And I’ve been asked, we continue to get concerns for persons, and the Tennessee Annual Conference has asked that we keep Tiffany Dale in our prayers for her quick, full, and speedy recovery. So, we thank you for this prayer concern. We rejoice that Bishop Wilke is back among us today and was released from the hospital on yesterday, and

we have deep gratitude for all of the prayers that you offered for him and his family during that time of crisis. And, continued prayer also for Bishop Yemba. Would you join me again?

Eternal God, you know even better than we, even though we feel our hearts breaking at times and our sympathy and empathy called forth, when we see sisters and brothers who are suffering in any way. Help us to know that you feel that more deeply, even than we ourselves individually and this aggregate body called the General Conference, for you are the God who weeps when we weep, and you laugh when we laugh. And so, we rejoice, even when we are prone to think, “Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen.” You really do know, and you care.

Help us to live into your heart so deeply and so fully that we would be that way with and for one another. As we purpose to enter into conversation prayerfully with one another at tables, help us to know that your Holy Spirit is present at every table to facilitate our conversation. We offer our prayer, however inadequate it is, in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

During this time, I know that some of our colleague bishops may be moving among you to come alongside you, and I hope they’ll be received as welcome sister or brother in your conversation.

*[Inside the bar, table discussions pause debate]*

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN PALMER: Dear friends, I want to thank you for giving yourselves to this opportunity for conversation with one another, and just casual observation, many of you were able to mix in with folks you didn’t necessarily know prior to coming here, and we hope that there was good access for everybody with regard to language and understanding, and

we appreciate our interpreters for being available and for the ways in which mostly you had, you gave help to one another during this time. I want to turn now to see what other conversation you’d like to have as a whole body, and, but first, I need to turn to the secretary for an important announcement from the Judicial Council.

### *Judicial Council Will Receive Briefs for Referral*

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): The Judicial Council has received a request from the General Conference regarding the motion made by Jeremy Troxler on Wednesday morning [¶16 and ¶33, ¶304 and ¶2702]. Persons who wish to file briefs on this matter should submit them to the Secretary of the General Conference no later than 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, May 18, 2016. So, you only have until 2:00 P.M. today to submit your briefs to the Judicial Council. Gary Graves will be in front of the platform at break time to receive any briefs that you have, up to two o’clock. If you email them, we will have someone monitoring the emails to make sure that they are forwarded to the Judicial Council, but they must be in before two o’clock. Thank you.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, Brother Secretary. Let me come to mic. 2, Adam Hamilton, and then we’ll see what else we have in the queue.

### *Adam Hamilton Moves Special Commission and Called General Conference*

ADAM HAMILTON (Great Plains): Adam Hamilton, Great Plains Conference. Thank you, Bishop. I would like to move to follow the recommendations of the bishops, specifically to create a special commission named by the Council

of Bishops, to encourage the bishops to call a special General Conference and to defer all fifty-six petitions on p., *DCA* p. 1709, to defer action on the fifty-six petitions on *DCA* p. 1709 related to human sexuality. If I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP PALMER: All right. It's supported. Go right ahead, friend.

ADAM HAMILTON: First of all, I want to say to the bishops, thank you so much for giving us leadership. We know you're not all of one mind. You represent the church as a whole. But thank you.

*(applause)*

ADAM HAMILTON: At least at our table, there was just a sense of relief that the bishops were standing, and we appreciated the way you stood together, that most of you stood together to speak to this. And, as we think about where we go from here, if we're not doing something like this, and I count on the fact and believe that the bishops, you were in prayer. You were Spirit led. You are spiritual leaders here as a denomination. But, if we're not doing something like this, we're going to go ahead and continue to vote of these fifty-six pieces of legislation. We're gonna have some winners and some losers, and we're gonna tighten up some things, and that's where we're gonna be, and that not gonna fundamentally change what's going on in the life of our churches. And, across the Central Conferences there are, you know, in some of them certain ways of seeing the issues that are before us. Here in the U.S., we have a great division over these issues, and that is going to lead to some division in our denomination at some point in the future. And, it seems that this is the best possible way to move forward. We can't do that with 864 delegates on the General Conference floor. It can be done under the

leadership of the bishops with the commission that's being proposed. I think this is our best chance of finding a long-term solution that may result in a division. Hopefully, it would result in unity. I want to encourage us to support this proposal.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, Brother Hamilton. I want to turn to a speech against, but I want to come to a point of order that I see, or it may be a parliamentary inquiry or a request for information. David Livingston at mic. 2, and then we'll come to Iosmar Alvarez-Alfonso—I hope I've said that right—as a speech against at mic. 3.

DAVID SCOTT LIVINGSTON (Great Plains): That was left in the queue. So, clear the queue, Bishop.

BISHOP PALMER: OK, thank you. That's your point of order is to clear the queue? No. All right. So, let me, I promised to come to, where was that speech against? And, I hope I haven't done damage to your name, at mic. 4. Mic. 4.

IOSMAR ALVAREZ-ALFONSO (Kentucky): Iosmar Alvarez, Kentucky Conference. I speak against, and this is why. Number one, I think that the whole world is watching us. Before we make another decision of another meeting, I really would like to know the decision of this body, to know where the United Methodist Church globally stand, and then we can proceed with more questions and conversations and knowing what would be the end or the new way for whatever path we decide. I know that we don't, we will not have winners or losers. This is not about who wins and who lose. It's about where we stand, what we believe as a majority, and then make another decision. I think that if we really base our decision in love, they say that the concept of love is defined, number one, in giving people their freedom to exercise their freewill; number two, to respect

personalities. Your thoughts, your passions, your emotions, your ideas, need to be respected in order for love to manifest; and number three,

I have to make my own decisions, and my decision needs to be respected. So, I am open to listen to everybody, and I'm open to work and work with everybody. But, I really believe that right now, we need to know what is going to happen. Another two years in discuss uncertainty, we have faith, but history on putting commissions together, people are excluded, not diversity. People are out. There is no way we will feel like, yes, this is their best commission. I think that we will be inquiring, "Who will be the persons in the committee? What size?" And then, we will not be pleased because the sides are not well represented, and we can go on and on and on. So I, for me, as a Hispanic clergy serving in United States, I love the Methodist Church. I love my brothers and sisters from both sides of the spectrum and in the whole world. So I respect everybody, and I would like to know where our church as General Conference 2016 stands. Thank you.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, Brother Alvarez. Let me, I've got a point of order, and then we'll turn to, there are some attempts to offer amendments. I'm at mic. 3, and this may be point of order, inquiry, or request for information. And it's Robin Scott at mic. 3.

ROBIN BRADLEY SCOTT (North Alabama): Thank you, Bishop. Robin Scott, North Alabama Conference. I have a question. First of all, I want to thank the Council of Bishops for what I'm sure was a difficult evening and a long conversation. My question is this, as I try to wrap my mind around what's been proposed: How is this differ in principle to Rule 44, which this body overwhelmingly voted down?

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN

PALMER: Don't, don't, don't move away from the mic. yet. Just clarify your question, how does the Hamilton motion differ from Rule 44?

SCOTT: How does the, as we try to decide how to vote on this motion, how does the proposal to create this commission differ in principle from Rule 44, which we voted down?

BISHOP PALMER: I want to be as helpful to you as I can. I can either turn to the maker of the motion or ask Bishop Ough, who, who presented it to all of this house on behalf of the council . . .

SCOTT: I would really like Bishop Ough to answer that question.

BISHOP PALMER: Alright. Will the house grant this? Alright, thank you very much. Bishop Ough, are you available?

*Bishop Ough Speaks to Difference of Rule 44*

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: Thank you very much. My understanding about Rule 44 is it was a rule intended to govern the process while in session at the General Conference that would allow, in theory, every voice to be registered, that there would be information then gathered from each of the conversations that ultimately would come back in legislative form to the General Conference. The commission that is proposed and envisioned in our document would be a group that would have the opportunity from representing the broad spectrum of thoughts and voices within the denomination to help formulate possible revisions and directions related to human sexuality and perhaps other matters as they consult with other groups that are working on some structural reform. And, then, those items would come to a special session directly from that commission. I think those are the fundamental differences.

BISHOP PALMER: Alright. Thank you Bishop Ough. Wanna turn to mic. 2. I promised to come to an attempt to amend. Charles Temple, mic. 2.

*Substitute Motion for Special Study Group*

CHARLES CHAPPELL TEMPLE (TEXAS): Thank you, Bishop. Chappell Temple, Texas Conference. I'd wish to amend this motion by substitution of the following: I move that the General Conference approve the creation of a special study group to look at our current positions on human sexuality as per our bishops' offering. I further move that the 2016 General Conference continue to engage in its sacred task of responsibly handling all pertinent petitions on sexuality as identified by the Committee on Agenda. If I have a second, I will speak to it.

BISHOP PALMER: Go right ahead, sir.

TEMPLE: We did this four years ago in Tampa, although not quite so openly. In an attempt to minimize hurt feelings, we cut a deal not to deal with any sexuality ideas. We lost a lot in that. There were things such as the RCRC, which had passed overwhelming in committee, which were then thrown into the mix of those items which could not be brought up. Four years after that, we're at the same place, only there's more chaos and more confusion. We have a chance to maybe move the needle just a little bit at this General Conference. I do not want us to walk away from it.

BISHOP PALMER: Alright, friends you've, we're on the substitute, and my understanding of our manner, the rules that we adopted in dealing with a substitute is we've got to express ourselves, meaning you as the delegates, as to whether you want to tend to the substitute or

whether you want to attend to the original motion. Whichever one of those prevails with a majority vote, then that'll be what we spend time perfecting. Now I want to turn to our secretary if I've misspoken the rules in any way.

*(Bishop conferring on the stage)*

BISHOP PALMER: Alright, thank you very much. And the best way to do that would be in terms of the screens to do what, Brother Secretary?

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): My suggestion would be that you offer: If you want the first plan, press one (1). If you want the substitute, press two (2).

*(Bishop conferring on the stage)*

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you Brother Reist. So, if you'll get your keypads ready, and then I'm gonna walk you, walk you through this. Get your hand-held keypads ready. And we're only, got some, let's try, got a point of order at number two. And I'm not, Brother Chikomb, number two.

RUKANG CHIKOMB (North-West Katanga): Bishop, Rukang Chikomb, the North-West Katanga. Thank you so much for getting me in before the vote. Is a question to the Council of the Bishop for clarification.

BISHOP PALMER: OK. Good.

CHIKOMB: Did the Council of the Bishop ever, ever think on getting all the paragraph of *The Book of Discipline* regarding the human sexuality problem, one, and today petition on human sexuality to be sent to the annual conference, annual conferences, to see what the mood or what the idea or what the discussions can be within those annual conference that gather the cultural, the people, the church, and all. We vow to monitor. We vow to represent



the team of the Council of Bishops. But, the Bishops themselves leading the annual conference lead the small groups and bring back the finding and the feedback to the Council of the Bishop. Did the Council of the Bishop ever, ever think of them stuff like that?

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, Brother Chikomb, for your question. I'm not sure that it's really a spot on relative to making a choice between whether or not we want to deal with the Hamilton motion or with the Temple substitute. So, I want to encourage the house to let us move to making that choice, and then, whatever you choose will be in front of you for your conversation, your amendments, your perfection, etc. Would that be alright? And if, if when we get to the keypads, if you would prefer that we deal as a house with the Hamilton motion, you would press one (1). If you, yeah.

*(pause)*

*(bishops in discussion)*

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN PALMER: Thank you, friends, for giving me a minute to get myself straightened out. I heard, I've got a request for a point of order, inquiry or information at mic. 6, but let me turn to our rules first, and then we will see if there is a desire to speak further on where we are. And you'll just understand that our rules as a general conference for dealing with substitutes are not all precisely the same as the rules in our annual conferences, and we are all getting adjusted to that, so thanks for your generosity and your patience.

My understanding is that, we can debate the substitute that has come, and then after, it cannot be amended, however, after the requisite or the number of speeches that we are allowed to have up to the maximum. We will need to then come

to a moment of decision, and if you vote the substitute up, it will be what we, if we work, what we work on. If you vote it down, we will go back to the main motion, and that'll be what we'll be working on. So, forgive me for leading you slightly astray unintentionally. So, I promised to come to mic. 6, and we are on the matter of how to deal with our substitute. Mic. 6, and it's LaTrelle Easterling. Do I have it right? Is she available?

LATRELLE ELAINE EASTERLING (New England): Bishop, thank you, and yes, you had it just right. My point of inquiry concerns truly understanding how the commission will be developed, and if this isn't the appropriate time for this question, I beg your pardon. I was in the queue before the substitute motion was lifted, but I think it would be important for us as we consider either one of these, to understand with full transparency, how the commission will be formed. I think that earlier there might have been a pejorative nature cast upon concerns of that nature, but for us to have trust in those that will be helping to shape this discussion going forward, it's important to know how that commission will be formed.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you very much. Let me turn to Bishop Ough again, if you can help us.

*Bishop Ough Clarifies Bishops' Appointment of Members to Special Commission*

BISHOP BRUCE R. OUGH: The intention as is expressed in the document is that the membership of the commission would be named by the Council of Bishops with clear attention given to all regions of the church and the various voices that express the full range of opinion theologically on this matter of human sexuality. We do not at this stage have any further specificity, but we are committed, deeply committed,

to making sure that the voices, who have been contributing to our discussion over these many years, are at the table.

BISHOP PALMER: Bishop Ough, is it fair to say that you and the Council did not want to presume that this conversation would go in any particular direction.

BISHOP OUGH: That's correct.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you.

BISHOP OUGH: Thank you.

BISHOP PALMER: Alright, can we, we are ready to have, I've got Gene Mims at mic. 6, and then let's see if we have got some speeches for and against the substitute. The question of substitution.

GENE DWIGHT MIMS (Virginia): Gene Mims, Virginia Annual Conference. I don't know exactly where this fits, but I would hope that we would take time to ask for God's will. I know this may be way out of the box, but could we not, as a plenary, rise, hold hands with each other, and ask for the will of Jesus Christ to be done in this body before we start debating? Thank you.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, friend. It is always appropriate for us to have a time of prayer and whether seated or standing, and we've all been enriched by all of the prayers that we've had thus far today. So, with that request, and even though you did use the point of order category to get the microphone, no harm and no foul, only benefit to God's glory. So, would you take just two minutes and pray with friends at your table.

*(pause for prayer at tables)*

*(music)*

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN PALMER: If that's your prayer, say amen together.

ALL: Amen.

BISHOP PALMER: Alright, I want to see if we can get some

speeches for and against the substitute, and help me out here. Let's come to, I'm trying to read this screen here and trying to get, at mic. 2, Maurice Ngongo. I may have it wrong, but forgive me. And this is on the question of substitution only.

MAURICE KIKOMBA NGONGO (Central Congo): (*simultaneous interpretation*) Maurice Ngongo from the Central Congo Annual Conference. I am speaking against this substitute motion because the motion is not very clear to us. Not only is it not clear, but we would not—and personally, I do not even understand—why do we, should we put for tomorrow something that we could do today. So, this question, Bishop, is all of our conferences are waiting for the answer, so this proposition to discuss this in a group, we do not understand why this group would be formed. Are they going to answer to the General Conference or what? How are the members going to be chosen, and who are they speaking for, and will it be binding to the conference? Today, we are ready. We are ready to treat these issues and to wait till 2018, we will have to have a budget. We will have to wait again. What is missing concretely now that we cannot treat this subject? We cannot wait 'til 2018 or 'til 2020. Why wait? I ask the General Conference to vote against this substitute motion. We are ready now.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, friend. That was, you came with a speech against. Let's try a speech for, and then let's see if we've got some other inquiries. I'm at Matthew Miofsky, mic. 6.

MATTHEW THOMAS MIOFSKY (Missouri): Thank you, Bishop. Matt Miofsky. I'm in the Missouri Conference in St. Louis. I was actually in the queue to speak for the main motion, Adam's motion, but hey, I have the spotlight, so I'm going to speak against the substitute

motion. I'm not going to give up that spot in the queue.

BISHOP PALMER: We've just had a speech against the substitute, and you were in the green, and so I believed and conveyed to the house that I was calling on a speech in favor. So, if you want to speak against the substitute, if you could try to get back in the queue, that would be fine. I want to come to someone who has a speech for.

MIOFSKY: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP PALMER: OK. Thanks, friend. And, I promise to come to Don Underwood, is at a green, has a green hash here, at mic. 5.

DONALD WALLACE UNDERWOOD (North Texas): Bishop, this is Don Underwood, North Texas Conference, clergy. I was in the queue, too, also to speak for the Hamilton motion, so this is just a confusion that happens with the queue.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you. We're on the substitute. Let me—I think I'm going to ask that we clear the queue, because the queue—either I've gotten confused or the queue is confused, but at any rate, and then let's try to make your inputs again. We've had one speech for and one against the matter of substitution, and I've got some folks speaking against the substitution, so let's—I was looking for a for, was I not, the substitution. Let's come to mic. 4, Thomas Shinkle, and then David Livingston, if you'd get ready at mic. 2, for a speech against.

THOMAS CRAIG SHINKLE (Iowa): Tom Shinkle, clergy, Iowa. I want to thank the bishops for taking the time and the prayers and energy to act on that recommendation. However, we're here. We are here, and so this substitute motion, I encourage us to vote for this. We're here. We were elected to come here and to do something right in 2016. I believe

we were elected as delegates to come and do more than just talk and after hearing Bruce, Bishop Bruce, give us—or, excuse me, Bishop Coyner—give us the dollar amount of what it costs per minute, I would say that's expensive talk. So, I say let's act on these things now. The other reason I would give for this is that, I just don't even want to think about two to four more years of divisiveness, of distrust, of confusion, of living in tension, of frustration, demonstrations, acts of disobedience. I think that people in our churches are already stressed out by life, and when the church adds to their stress, so many of those folks just walk away, and so I encourage us to vote to act now. Please vote for this motion.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, Brother Shinkle. I promised to come to no. 2, which is a speech for the substitution, and then I'll come to mic. 2, as well, Cheryl Jefferson Bell with a question.

DAVID SCOTT LIVINGSTON (Great Plains): Bishop, David Livingston. I thought I had queued in for a speech against. Would that be in order?

BISHOP PALMER: Yeah, I'm sorry. It is a speech against. Forgive me.

LIVINGSTON: Thank you. Thank you, Bishop. I speak against the motion, actually, for some of the same reasons that the previous speaker spoke in favor of the motion. We have been sent here to get something done, and I'm actually the primary author of one of the petitions approved by the Great Plains Conference that is on that page that we would be deferring action to, and I will gladly defer action for two years on that petition that would move us in a more inclusive direction as a church. I will gladly defer that conversation for two years, so that we can get to so many other items that are on our plate, because

with either the original motion or the substitute motion, but they both call for a commission being formed. They both call for a new General Conference in two or three years, as is the bishops' prerogative to call. So, the only question is are we gonna spend our time dealing with the issues of human sexuality, or are we going to spend our time dealing with other issues that all of us know will never see the floor if we spend all of our time on the issues that are, that were listed by Rev. Hamilton in his original motion?

Further, I would suggest that folks take some time to look at what those petitions are that would be deferred. The maker of the substitute motion mentioned the RCRC. That is not one of the petitions that is on that, that list in the *DCA* that would be deferred. The General Secretary and the General Commission did, in my opinion, a fine job of reducing the original number of petitions on Rule 44, to a much smaller, more concise, and targeted list, and that is the list that we would be deferring. So, I appreciate the work that the General Secretary and the General Commission did on that. I appreciate the specificity that Rev. Hamilton gave us for which petitions we would not be acting on, and we'll still have, we'll still have, more than enough to take up the rest of our time between now and end of the day on Friday, and we'll be able actually move forward on the places where we agree and be able to set aside for more conversation the places where we disagree, with a smaller group that can have more productive and helpful conversations than the 864 of us on this floor can have. Thank you.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, Brother Livingston. I promised Cheryl Jefferson Bell had a question or a point of order; mic. 2.

CHERYL JEFFERSON BELL (Great Plains): Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Great Plains Conference. I wanted, I want like to make sure that the substitute motion is read again, so that there is some clarity between that and our original petition.

BISHOP PALMER: That's a great, great opportunity for us. Brother Secretary.

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): Would you like both of them read for clarity or just—

BISHOP PALMER: Yeah, but start with the substitute, since it's the least familiar.

### *Main Motion and Substitute Read by Secretary*

REIST: The substitute: I move that the General Conference approve the creation of a special committee to study our current position on human sexuality, as per our bishops' offering. I further move that the 2016 General Conference continue to engage in its sacred task of—I'm sorry, sometimes it's hard to read people's writings. I think it says, "respectfully handling all pertinent petitions in sexuality as identified by the Committee on Agenda."

BISHOP PALMER: That's the substitute.

REIST: The main motion: To follow the recommendation of the Council of Bishops; to form a special commission named by the Council of Bishops; to conduct a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our *Discipline* regarding human sexuality. Two, to call a special two-or-three-day General Conference session the 2020 General Conference—before the 2020 General Conference—specifically focused on the question of human sexuality. Three, we recommend that the General Conference to defer all votes on human sexuality legislation found on *DCA*, p. 1709.

BISHOP PALMER: Alright, thank you, friend. And, we are still on the substitute, which cannot be amended. There are couple of yellow lights, which are requesting the opportunity to amend, and, if you could pull yourselves out of the queue, that would help us.

Let me, we've had a number of speeches. We need a speech in favor. If there is anyone that wishes to make it. And, I see Harold Lewis, mic. 3. Speech in favor, this is on the substitute, matter of substitution. Mic. 1 is better. OK.

HAROLD DESANTIS LEWIS (Florida): Thank you, Bishop. Harold Lewis, Florida Conference. Bishop, I was in the queue for a point of inquiry. I wanted to ask a question, regarding both the main motion and the substitute, if I may.

BISHOP PALMER: Alri—OK. I had you in—

LEWIS: I had it on for inquiry. It may be in for both.

BISHOP PALMER: OK. Well, give it a try, and let's see if it will help the house.

LEWIS: But, the question is, in the interim, we asking the body to either favor the substitute or/and the main motion, but the question is, in the interim, whichever way we go, how do we deal with those who continue to be disobedient to *The Book of Discipline*, if we are going to ask ourselves to give the Council an opportunity to with the commission to deal with this matter?

BISHOP PALMER: Alright. Thank you. I don't know that we can get at a direct answer to that as a way of helping this choice that the house needs to make about the substitute or the original, the original motion. I trust there will be another way for you to come back with that question at the right time, depending upon how this house chooses, chooses to act.

We need a speech, for, and I think I saw a green request, request

to speak in favor. Curnell Graham at mic. 4. Did I mis-see that or was that on another matter? This is for, around the substitute. Was it on the original motion? OK. I apologize.

Let's try, Simon Matunda, mic. 2. This, did I say it wrong?

SIMON MAFUNDA (East Zimbabwe): Mafunda.

BISHOP PALMER: Mafunda. I'm sorry, and this is on the matter of substitution, a speech in favor.

MAFUNDA: Thank you, Bishop. My name is Simon Mafunda, Zimbabwe East Annual Conference, and I rise to speak for the substitution.

BISHOP PALMER: Sure.

MAFUNDA: Bishop, in conference we, we came hurting, and it is our wish that we leave less hurting, and I am supporting the substitute motion that we act on all the pertinent petitions as proposed, like we've already done with all the other petitions. That will give us fairness, because everyone will have spoken.

BISHOP PALMER: Brother Mafunda, hold on. Is there a translation matter? OK. Can you just hold and, until we can get some help to these delegates, so they can hear fully what you're saying? Alright.

*(Bishop conferring on stage)*

BISHOP PALMER: OK. Alright. Let's, let's start again where you were and see if our colleagues are hearing you.

MAFUNDA: Thank you, Bishop. I'll proceed to say that I wish to convince the house that we go ahead and to vote for, on all those pertinent petitions, like we've already done on all the other petitions. For me, this will give us fairness on all the petitions because all the voices in the house will have spoken, and it will help the commission to have a foundation, something to, where they can start working on, when we have all spoken. So, I believe it'll only be fair that we speak now on those

petitions, and the commission will have something to work on, and, as we leave this place, we'll have something to work on as we go back to our respective places, waiting for the next steps as we go ahead. So, I say to my friends, "Let's vote yes to this amendment." Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, Brother Mafunda. Let me come to mic. 1, John Lomperis, with a parliamentary question, point of order, or a request for information. And then, we could, we could have one more speech for and against the matter of substitution, if you wish. Mic. 1.

JOHN SCOTT ANDERS LOMPERIS (Indiana): Thank you, Bishop Palmer. John Lomperis, Indiana Conference, lay. I just want to be very clear on what we are voting on. There were some statements about, if you want to vote for the amendment, vote two, but my understanding is that the amendment is before us. So, if we favor the amendment from Chap Temple, we vote one; and if we oppose that and we favor Adam Hamilton's motion, we vote two. Is that correct?

BISHOP PALMER: You're absolutely correct. With a substitute is before us, and you will have a chance to express your mind about the substitute, simply with an up or down on that. And, I misled the house earlier, in my reading of our rules on substitution, for which I am sorry.

LOMPERIS: Thank you, Bishop. So, one for substitute.

BISHOP PALMER: Alright. No troubles. We can have an additional speech for and against the matter of substitution, and we just had one in favor of it. Let's try one against it. Lonnie Chafin, at mic. 3. Brother Lonnie.

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN PALMER: Brother Lonnie.

LONNIE ARTHUR CHAFIN (Northern Illinois): Lonnie Cha-

fin, Northern Illinois Conference. My brothers and sisters, I point to this remark in the statement from the Council of Bishops, "Now is a time for a pause and prayer. To step back from attempts at a legislative solution and to intentionally seek God's will for the future." Friends, the Council of Bishops discussed separation of the church. We are at a precipice. There is urgency before us. The church might divide if we drive forward with this press to vote now on every homosexuality petition before us. Let us follow the guide of the bishops. Take a breath. Be thoughtful. This commission will engage each of us over several years. It won't come up with a different decision than what you might want. There is nothing to be gained by driving through today on all of these petitions.

The bishops have seen more of the church than you see. Each of us, in our context, have a realization and a perspective, but they are able among all of them to see beyond your own experience of the church, and they are saying to us, pull back. Take a breath. Reflect. Engage each other. The whole church is at risk. Listen to that word. We have the space and benefit of time to be faithful and intentional with each other. Let us take the time to find a unity for the church, because I say to you what I hear them say to me, if we press forward as this substitute would have us do, it's all at risk. Do you understand the urgency before us? Nothing to be gained by deciding today. Let us reflect. Choose the Hamilton motion and resist the substitute. Everything is on the table.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you. We can take one more speech for and I see Kim, Khen Kim, at mic. 2, and then, we'll turn to a question at mic. 2 from Brother Sergey Kim.

KEHN SU KIM (Northwest Russia Provisional): I am Khen

Kim, Khen Su Kim, from the Northwest Russia Provisional Conference. I would like to speak in Russian.

BISHOP PALMER: Great. Let's get our headphones on.

KIM: (*simultaneous interpretation*) I would like to support this motion with several reasons. First, this decision will have big consequences for our conference. I would like to pay your attention to each annual conference is very costly. Each General Conference is very costly. So, that is not good stewardship. This is first. Secondly, we are the General Conference which can make decisions, and I believe that all of the delegates present here, we have the DCA, and we have all the petitions in front of us, and we came here prepared. That is why our annual conferences, they send us here to decide on important issues. I support, and I respect the Council of Bishops, but as the previous speaker noted, General Conference gave the right to the delegates to vote only. That is why only we are, we have credentials to vote. I respect the bishops, but we are the chosen ones. We have the credentials to vote. That is why I support this amendment.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you, Brother Kim. Now folks, we have three speeches for and three against the matter of substitution, and so, we are gonna move pretty quickly to the opportunity to vote. I do have an inquiry, Marquice Hobbs, at mic. 3.

MARQUICE TREMAYNE HOBBS (Texas): Thanks, Bishop. Marquice Hobbs, Texas Annual Conference. My question is, after we take the vote on which amendment to go forward with, could you say that you are clearing the queue, so that we all know that it will be cleared to reenter ourselves, because sometime as we have seen, persons will be in there for matters that have passed, and we wanna make sure that we are one accord. Thanks, Bishop.

BISHOP PALMER: Sorry, we will, indeed. So, friends we've had the requisite or the maximum number of speeches. I want to invite you to get your keypads in your hands. The substitute is in front of us. I'm gonna ask our secretary to read it one more time so that you have the maximum opportunity for clarity about the matter of substitution. If it prevails, then that will be what we work on. If it does not, if it is not voted up by you, we will return to the Hamilton motion and have the opportunity to perfect it as you see fit. Brother Secretary.

L. FITZGERALD REIST: I move that the General Conference approve the creation of a special commission to study our current position on human sexuality as per our bishops' offering. I further move, that the 2016 General Conference continue to engage in its sacred task of respectfully handling all pertinent petitions in sexuality as identified by the Committee on Agenda.

BISHOP PALMER: Alright, thank you. Would you offer yourselves to God with me for just a few seconds of prayer?

Eternal God, help us to know that with every vote cast, it is an act of prayer and a witness to how we understand the gospel at work in our lives and in the church. So, let your Holy Spirit continue as the Spirit already has to be at work among us. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### *Vote on Substitute Motion*

If you favor the Temple substitute, which was just read for you again, you will press one (1). If you oppose it, you will press two (2). Please vote now.  
[Yes, 371; No, 441]

BISHOP PALMER: Alright. You have not voted the substitute in. We are back to the Hamilton motion.

Let's clear the queue. Let's clear the queue. We're about eleven minutes out from our recess, and I want to see if you want to start in on some perfecting work, and I've got some lights. So, that's an indication, and I've got a green light. I saw first, was. . . come on up here, Don Underwood, at no. 6, and then we'll see if we've got some inquiries that you need to make. So, we probably, you've got some announcements you will need to make at the lunch break, or can we go all the way to 12:30? OK. There are a few. So, we will work for as long as we can, so that we don't infringe on your opportunity for some renewal and refreshment.

DONALD WALLACE UNDERWOOD (North Texas): Don Underwood, clergy, North Texas, wanna make sure I'm in order. I intended to speak in favor of the Hamilton motion.

BISHOP PALMER: That's exactly where we are, friends.

UNDERWOOD: Thank you. I believe . . .

DONALD WALLACE UNDERWOOD (North Texas): Thank you. Don Underwood, clergy, North Texas. I want to make sure I'm in order. I intend to speak in favor of the Hamilton motion.

BISHOP PALMER: That's exactly where we are, friend.

UNDERWOOD: Thank you. I believe that we are at a *Kairos* moment. I was present at the General Conference forty years ago that was held right here in Portland, Oregon. I have attended nine General Conferences, six of them as a delegate. For almost half a century, we've been debating this issue of human sexuality, and we have simply failed to move forward on it. We have failed. It is a cliché, and I don't much like it, but it is true that if you continue to do the same thing, you will continue to get the same results. And so, there are two things that are really clear

to me at this point. One is that we cannot solve this issue legislatively. We've tried over and over again, and we have failed. The second thing that is clear to me is that we cannot solve it without the leadership of our Council of Bishops.

*(applause)*

After all of these years, our Council of Bishops has stepped up and said, "We're ready to lead on this issue." And I think it is a remarkable and important *Kairos* moment. Let us not let it pass by.

BISHOP PALMER: Thank you very much. Now friends, we're going to, we've got a count of where we are on speeches for and against the Hamilton motion. There is, it is amendable, etc. and we're gonna stick a pin, so to speak, in where we are right now and the next presiding officer, after we come back, will pick these matters up. We did have one matter that we were committed to doing, which was a report on the Global AIDS Fund. Are those colleagues ready before we break? Alright, they are on their way over, OK, and then we'll turn to the secretary for some announcements. Mic. 5.

JOSEPH FRANK DIPAOLO (Eastern Pennsylvania): Bishop, Joe DiPaolo, Eastern Penn. I put in a point of order, but I don't know if it registered for information. Would it be possible for us to have the written text of the Hamilton amendment in paper for us when we return from our lunch, so we can have it in front of us as we seek to perfect it?

BISHOP PALMER: I'm, it's being whispered to me that the secretarial staff will make every good faith effort to have that ready for us at 2:00. Great question, thanks. Let's turn to our friends from the Global AIDS Fund and, who's making the report? OK.

### *Global AIDS Fund Report*

JOAN CARTER RIMBACH (Baltimore Washington): For years there has been this great, major epidemic, got some scared and running wild in panic. Affecting the world as far as eyes can see. Together with Christ we can eliminate HIV. See it came strong with many petition, some so innocent from mother to child transmission. We walk by faith and not by sight, joined together we stand in this fight. See this disease, it don't discriminate. Every color, every age, we all can relate. We've come a long way from all the attacks, the whole world no longer turning their backs. In a worldwide fight with Christ leading the way, let's stop all the stigma and watch what we say. Let's get educated and use our resource, attack this disease with power and force. Starting with prayer and believing the vision, knowing we're on assignment for only God's mission. This disease will be defeated, we will all tell the story. And when we tell it, make sure we give God all the glory.

*(applause)*

DONALD MESSER (UM Global AIDS Fund Co-Chair, Rocky Mountain Conference): Thank you, Joan, for bringing home the importance of ridding the world of one of the world's most serious crises facing humanity. Over 30 million people have died from the disease, and without a doubt, AIDS is still here. Yet, many people, including the church, like to believe and act like the crisis is over. But, for 37.4 million people living with HIV and 15 million surviving AIDS orphans, the silence and the apathy of the church must be broken, and it brings additional pain to the stigma they already have.

Twelve years ago the General Conference established the Ad-

vanced Global Health Initiative. For about thirty years, we've passed resolution after resolution. We've failed to commit to significant financial and denominational resources, but thanks to your gifts, we have funded 289 church-oriented and Christ-centered HIV projects around the world. As co-chair of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Committee and former president of Illiff School of Theology, I invite you now to watch a video recorded by a woman in Ohio.

*(video)*

ANNE GATOBU (Great Plains): As a woman born in Kenya, now serving as a pastor in Nebraska and also on the faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary, I can affirm the words of Sharon Thomas that AIDS is still here. Almost half of the 97.4 million people living with HIV AIDS in the world are women. In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, women comprise sixty percent. No cure or vaccine exists. But the good news is that there is medicine available that could help us end AIDS. The bad news is that this medicine is not getting to people in poverty. Anti-viral drugs that are so successful in the United States are still only available to about thirty-seven percent of the people needing it. Medicine and medical care that exists can stop the transmission from mother to child during pregnancy and childbirth, but every day, at least 700 babies are born with the disease.

The moral scandal is that so many people do not seem to care. This quadrennium, the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund has made stopping mother to child transmission a priority. And it makes a difference. The two children that are on this screen were born to parents who are HIV positive, but thanks to the free center for women and children that we have established in rural



India, both these children were born free of the virus. This has to happen everywhere in the world—in the Philippines, in Cote d'Ivoire, in the Congo, and even in my native land, Kenya. Will you help?

RIMBACH: Around the world, we see hopeful signs that HIV education and prevention, along with treatment, do make a difference. People are living longer, the death rate has diminished. Rates have declined in many countries. Alarming increases, however, are evident in the Philippines. Russia is on the threshold of a major epidemic. Uganda shows signs of increased infections. A crisis is escalating in the African American community in the United States. Wherever racism, poverty and discrimination persist HIV and AIDS threaten. In Africa, AIDS is the number one cause of death among adolescents age ten to nineteen. It is the second leading cause of death among adolescents globally. Youth age thirteen to twenty-four account for an estimated twenty-six percent of all new HIV infections in the United States each year. Fifty percent of the youth do not know they are infected, and thus the disease spreads. Daily, more adolescents are being infected, yet only one in twenty of the children under the age of fifteen get anti (unintelligible) the disease.

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN PALMER: Thank you dear friends. Let's bless the Lord for this update and this opportunity we have. Let's turn to our secretary, and then we'll have an opportunity to be refreshed.

### *Announcements*

L. FITZGERALD REIST (Secretary of the General Conference): The Committee on Agenda and Calendar members will meet in room C120, thirty minutes following the end of this session. Bring your lunch. Legislative chairs are not required to

attend. Let me repeat, the Committee on Agenda and Calendar members will meet in room C120, thirty minutes following the end of this session. Bring your lunch. Legislative committee chairs are not required to attend. The other announcement is a reminder of the Judicial Council announcement. They are receiving briefs up to 2:00 P.M. today. Not after. Up to 2:00 P.M. today. Deliver them to Gary Graves. In room B117. That's in room B117. If you e-mail it, we will follow through in forwarding it, but it must be emailed by 2:00 P.M. Thank you.

BISHOP PALMER: Friends, we've had a great morning. We're into the early afternoon. We reconvene at 2:00 P.M. Would you allow me to offer a blessing over this time that you'll have together? We thank thee, O God, for this day for what our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and our hearts have felt. Thank you for your constant and steady companionship, your love, your grace, and your mercy. And now as we hit pause, and take time to eat and fellowship with one another, we pray that you will be the unseen but most welcome guest at our tables as we share these gifts with one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

*(recess)*

### **Wednesday Afternoon, May 18, 2016**

BISHOP WILLIAM T. McALILLY: Brothers and sisters, we have come to our afternoon session. I would like to call the body to order. If you could find your places, we could begin our work.

*(pause)*

BISHOP McALILLY: My name is Bill McAlilly. I am the resident bishop of the Nashville area of the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences,

and I welcome you this afternoon to the work that we have before us.

*(pause)*

BISHOP McALILLY: In 2010 I went unwillingly to a church meeting. Have you ever gone unwillingly to a church meeting? It was a Saturday during SCC football season, which for those of us in the South means "Holy Days." But we were gathering with a group of lay people to pray about whether or not God was calling us to plant some churches in the very north corner of the state of Mississippi. Leading us in worship that day were three teenagers—a young woman on the keyboard, a young man playing guitar, and another young person that was the vocalist. They sang a song with which I was not familiar. Says a lot about my contemporary Christian repertoire, but they sang a song by Chris Tomlin called "God of the City," and the words go something like this in the chorus: "Love for the loveless; hope for the hopeless; peace for the restless. Greater things are yet to come; greater things are still to be done." So I whipped out my iPhone and I googled "greater things." Do you know what comes up when you google "greater things?" A passage from John, chapter 14, verse 8, where Philip and Jesus are having a conversation about what in the world is gonna happen after Jesus departs. And Philip is doing what most of us will do—wringing his hands, questioning, fearful, afraid. Jesus says, "Peter, if you will simply place your trust in me, greater things will you do than I have done." This morning, Bishop Swanson called us in his opening sermon to that kind of faith. That kind of commitment. We are in a "greater things" moment in the life of our church, friends, and I invite you to join me in prayer now, as we ask our Lord to help us have

enough faith to be the church that God has called us to be.

Let us pray. Holy and loving God, we have worked hard. We have talked a lot. We have strategized, we have voted, and we will vote more. And in the midst of all the voting and all the conversation and all the petitioning and all the compromising —out of that we seek your will. Lord, we know that our process is imperfect, just as we are imperfect, but we know that in and through us, Lord, you help us to be more than we could be on our own. And we trust, Lord, that you have called us to such a time as this. Help us to be the Church - to offer peace to the restless, love to the loveless, and hope to the hopeless, so that we might be a part of a church, that indeed, does greater things than we ever dreamed or imagined, or considered possible. Grant us your Spirit, visit us with your presence, so this might be, indeed, a holy place and a holy time. We make this prayer in the very strong name of Jesus, who is the Christ. And the church said, "Amen."

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of where we are. We had a journal report this morning that we did not receive. Is Randy Biggerstaff close by where we could hear the journal report at this time?

*(pause)*

BISHOP McALILLY: All right, I'm not seeing now, so we'll move . . . We do have also . . . is Randy? I see a hand in the back. Microphone 6. Placard is . . . Yes, mic. 6, please.

*(pause)*

RANDY BIGGERSTAFF (Missouri Conference): Good afternoon, United Methodist Church! Let's try it again.

*(pause)*

### *Committee on the Journal Report*

RANDY BIGGERSTAFF: Just teasing. This is Randy Biggerstaff, Missouri Conference, chair of the Journal Committee. I apologize for the lateness of our committee report. If you turn to p. 2374, you will find the errata for today. The two motions that were requested to be printed in today's DCA may be found on pp. 2384 through 2399. The first motion begins on p. 2384, and the second begins on 2394. This completes the report of our journal today.

BISHOP McALILLY: Alright. We thank you for that report. We were unable to complete our vital congregations report this morning. We would like to turn to that at this time.

*(pause)*

BISHOP McALILLY: We don't know if they're all here. OK.

*(rhythmic clapping, music, video presentation)*

*(applause)*

BISHOP WILLIAM T. McALILLY: The good work of vital congregations. We give thanks to God for those who are leading in vital ways across the church.

I want to remind you where we are. We have in play the Hamilton motion, and I want to turn to our conference secretary, Gere Reist, just to remind us to read the motion again, so that we all understand what we're talking about. So, Gere, would you—

L. FITZGERALD REIST: The motion, "to follow the recommendation of the Council of Bishops to one, form a special commission named by the Council of Bishops to conduct a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our *Discipline* regarding human

sexuality. Two, to call a special two or three-day General Conference before the 2020 General Conference, specifically focused on the question of human sexuality. Three, we recommend that the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality legislation found on DCA p. 1709."

BISHOP McALILLY: Alright. I'm going to clear the queue at this time so that we can begin fresh with a fresh team, so that will take us about five seconds to do so, so we are clearing the queue at this time. We have had two speeches for and one against. Is there a speech against? I see William Junk at mic. 6, please.

### *"Failure" of General Conference Questioned*

WILLIAM ANTHONY JUNK (Oklahoma): Bishop, thank you. Bill Junk, layman from Oklahoma. To say we failed that we heard earlier in the speech for is only saying that you don't agree with how the church stands. We have received the requests for change over the decades and have consistently upheld our historic stand on human sexuality issues. To say we have failed over the years says that you want us to abandon our conviction that the Bible has clearly spoken on the issue of homosexuality. A commission will only get us right back to this spot where we stand today and at great expense. The human sexuality issues are something so entrenched in people's convictions; it's like politics. The likelihood of shifting someone's beliefs is slim at best. Deferring this and studying will not make this issue easier to deal with. We were sent here to take action, and take action now. We were sent here to strengthen and uphold the *Discipline*, which has always been and is our covenant we agree to follow as we join this United Methodist Church. We've been

here for eight days and what can any of us say we have really accomplished? I urge you to vote no on the Hamilton amendment and let's get to work.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Alright. Thank you. We have a point of order inquiry from Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, mic. 3.

GINGER ELISE

GAINES-CIRELLI (Baltimore-Washington): Thank you, Bishop. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, clergy. I would just request that you would remind us of what speeches we have had since this conversation started some time ago, and what you said just a moment ago I wasn't sure matched up with what I had been keeping track of. So, if you would simply be willing to help clarify that, it would be helpful.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Thank you. Yes. At this point, I have on my record two speeches for now and two against. Alright. Mic. 6, I see your placard.

### *2014 Global Young People's Convocation Statement*

ANN JACOB (Eastern Pennsylvania): Bishop, Ann Jacob, Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, young adult. Would it be in order for a moment of personal privilege? I rise to take this moment of personal privilege as the Young Adult Co-chair of the Division on Ministries with Young People to read this statement of unity that was adopted in the Philippines at the 2014 Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly of the United Methodist Church, which was attended by more than 300 young United Methodists representing thirty-four countries. On the last day of the convocation, conversation and debate escalated on petitions regarding human sexuality during a plenary session that lasted for over

ten hours and ended at 3:00 A.M. The young people were exhausted, angry, confused, upset, and saddened by the divisiveness of our plenary session. Subsequently, a group of young people from differing perspectives came together to craft a statement of unity and conviction, which I read now. I invite young people to stand with us as I read this statement.

"There has been increasing talk of schism of The United Methodist Church in recent months. Many say the issue of homosexuality is so contentious that it will inevitably split our church. We, as the young people of The United Methodist Church, would like to say that we do not desire a divided church. The church that we have taken our places in is called to a ministry that includes so much more than this one issue.

There are genuine, passionate perspectives on all sides of the issue, and though we disagree, we have committed ourselves to loving, faithful discussion on this subject. Part of the beauty of our church is that there has always been room at the table for a wide range of theological diversity within our connectional church family. As Wesley said, "May we not be of one heart, though we are not one opinion." We urge everyone to seek solutions that promote our global unity as The United Methodist Church rather than focus only on issues that divide us, so that we may faithfully live out our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

This statement was adopted by the Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly in Manilla, the Philippines.

Bishop, we stand here with the belief that we can be in unity even if we do not have unanimity. As we move through the discussion today, we are open to new realities of how we can proceed as a global church. Please listen to the prophetic voice

of the young people that we are calling upon you to be of one spirit as we go about our work to continue making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thank you, Bishop.

*(applause)*

BISHOP WILLIAM T. MCALILLY: Thank you so much.

*(applause)*

BISHOP MCALILLY: There are some times when it is appropriate to express our appreciation, and we thank God for our young people. You may want to know that they survived the typhoon while they were conducting their meeting in Manilla, and a roof blew off of their residence, and they were able to continue doing their work, and all were safe. So, we thank God for our young people and the work that they continue to do on behalf of the church. So, friends, here's where we are. We've had two speeches for and two against. I believe we have some amendments, maybe, that someone is rising to make. Mic. No. 1, Timothy Rogers.

TIMOTHY JULIAN ROGERS (South Carolina): Thank you, Bishop. Timothy Rogers, South Carolina. I'd like to offer a motion to amend, and if I get a second, I'd like to talk to it very briefly.

The amendment would be to delete point number two from the motion.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Alright. Is there a second? There is a second.

ROGERS: I am not entirely sure that this complies with Paragraph 14. I don't know that it doesn't, but I do know that the Council of Bishops is empowered to call a General, a special session of General Conference when they believe it's necessary, and I am a little concerned that we might be requiring the Council to do something that they may not be prepared to do before the next

General Conference. It seems to me that it would be the better wisdom to leave that in the Council's wisdom to decide if they are ready for a general conference or not.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Alright.

ROGERS: Thank you.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Thank you. Is there a, so now we're working on the amendment, so the queue would again be cleared, so that we can work on this amendment, and we have a speech against this amendment. Yes, we cleared the queue from the previous work we were doing. Now, we're working on the amendment. Is there, does anyone wish to speak? You need to reenter your—OK. We have a speech against. Forbes Matonga, mic. 3.

FORBES MATONGA (West Zimbabwe): Thank you, Bishop. We are getting concerned because we are seeing increasingly attempts not to take action. We think we have a position before us. When are just about to take a decision, some kind of (*unintelligible*) are thrown, so that we spend this whole day discussing the same issue. It is my request to the body that, indeed, we have studied these things. There is nothing new. We can make a decision and move on, but to spend precious time on technicalities meant to derail decision-making is not the best thing that we can do.

BISHOP MCALILLY: OK.

MATONGA: So, I move we drop this and focus on what is before us.

BISHOP MCALILLY: OK. It's not proper to make a motion at this time. We are having a motion, an amendment that we are dealing with, and I'm gonna say that that speech actually was not a speech against the amendment, that it is actually out of order, because it was talking about the main motion. Alright. Is there a speech against? Jay Brim, mic. 5.

JAY BRIM (Rio Texas): Bish-

op, I am Jay Brim, a lay delegate from the Rio Texas Conference, and I speak reluctantly against my good friend, the delegate from South Carolina, Tim Rogers. Rev. Rogers has accurately cited from Paragraph 14, but following the provision that allows the Council of Bishops to call a special session, the next clause is, "or in such other manner as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe," so it is perfectly in order for this conference to adopt this motion and place before the Council its agreement as to what the Council has proposed. I would say to the General Conference that the important decision before us here is the historic opportunity to follow the lead of our Council of Bishops as they are assisting us in moving the church forward through a very difficult time.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Thank you.

BRIM: Thank you.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Thank you. Thank you. Alright is there a speech for the amendment? OK. Robert Zilhaver, mic. 5, I believe it was. 6, mic. 6, I'm sorry. Nope. Yeah.

ROBERT FRANK ZILHAVER (Western Pennsylvania): Robert Zilhaver, Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. When I see that there is a special call for a two- or three-day General Conference around the issue of sexuality and unity, I have to look at it through the lens of my reading of Tillich and ontology, which means this, that when you say we're gonna meet about unity, ontologically, at the very base of that, we mean we're also meeting about schism. Now, my kids would tell me at this time, "What did you just say?" I said, "We are going to have a family meeting of whether we are going to go to the movies tonight." Part of the very essence of that very conversation is we might not go to the movies

and that we are making a very, very high-stake, high-stake meeting about whether we're gonna be in union or schism, and we are doing it without using those words, but those words are there.

In our history, schism tends to come from bishops, whether you look back at the 1846 schism, or the one that I'm more familiar with from the Evangelical Association from 1894. The first church I served, there was a cemetery, and on each side of that cemetery, there was the church I served. On the other side was a foundation that was burned out, and I said, "Why is that foundation over there," and they said, "Well, there were some folks that left this church and went over there, and they built that foundation, and now it's gone." Bishop John Escher and Bishop Thomas Bowman and Bishop Rudolph Dubs, as they argued over how they were going to lead the church, chose instead of working pastorally through the conferencing and the systems that we had, instead to use the power of one against the other, create high-stakes meetings that brought about schism. The word might mean intention in unity, but I will have to go back and explain why we are having a meeting about unity that could risk the schism of the church, and there is money that needs to be spent about expanding the gospel, and we can talk about unity in our current covenant.

BISHOP WILLIAM T. MCALILLY: Alright, your time is up. Thank you. Alright, we've had two speeches for and we need, we have a point of order, point of information. Elisa Gatz, mic. 3. Mic. 3, Elisa. Might you state your point, please?

ELISA JEAN MCGEE GATZ (Northern Illinois): Elisa Gatz, Northern Illinois Conference. Aren't point of orders supposed to rise above the speeches for and the speeches against? I had some col-

leagues who put in a point of order before this amendment, and I've had this in since before the speeches. Aren't they supposed to rise above those in order?

BISHOP MCALILLY: You might be right.

*(laughter)*

GATZ: Thank you.

BISHOP MCALILLY: I think it's the privilege of the chair, actually, to move the body along as we are able. Alright? Alright, do we have a speech against? Now we've had two for, and we need one against at this time. I'm gonna call on Thomas Lank, mic. 4. No, I'm sorry, hold that. I was on the wrong thing here. Beth Jones, mic. 5, for a speech against.

BETH JONES (Susquehanna): Thank you Bishop. Beth Jones, Susquehanna Conference, United States. I've been amazed over the last eight days of what God can do when we place our self in the presence of the Holy Spirit. I've had conversations with brothers and sisters from around the world that have helped informed my understanding of issues that I thought I was very clear about. I want the opportunity to not do the same thing that I have witnessed for all of my life. I cannot imagine that we today are trying to pre-determine the outcome of a future gathering based on what we think we know because of our past history. This is an opportunity to try a new way, to put our trust in one another, and in the possibility of this great United Methodist Church that has nurtured me and through which I've seen miracles happen.

I would urge you to think about what this motion could be for us moving forward. It's a chance to witness to one another. It's a chance to understand one another around this particular issue which we know is . . .

BISHOP MCALILLY: Beth, Beth, may I interrupt you for a . . .

JONES: Yes sir.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Are you speaking to the amendment or to the main

JONES: I'm speaking against the amendment.

BISHOP MCALILLY: OK. I just wanted to be clear that you were clear on your speech, because it was a little confusing to me personally.

JONES: OK.

BISHOP MCALILLY: So just stay with the amendment, please.

JONES: I'm speaking against.

BISHOP MCALILLY: Against the amendment.

JONES: Yes, sir.

BISHOP MCALILLY: OK, thank you.

JONES: So I would urge you to keep this in mind as we move forward. Thank you.

BISHOP MCALILLY: OK. Thank you. Alright, we've had two speeches for and two against. Friends, as we look on the screen here we have points of order, parliamentary inquiry and information all grouped together, and we don't know which you're making, and so there is some discretion that the chair has on how we move forward on those points. So, I want to call on Charles Parker to see if he has a point of order or a point of information or inquiry. Mic. 2. Mic, well you can go

here, you're at three. Go ahead, I'm sorry. Mic. 3.

CHARLES PARKER (Baltimore Washington): Charles Parker, Baltimore Washington Conference, clergy. I call the question and all that is before us.

BISHOP MCALILLY: That's not a point of order, sir.

PARKER: It's one of the options on the . . .

BISHOP MCALILLY: Yes, but you entered the queue asking for a point of order or inquiry, according to my information here.

PARKER: Is this, OK, I apologize. I hit the wrong button. Is it appropriate, is it in order to call for the question?

BISHOP MCALILLY: We've had two for and two against. I think it is in order to call for the question.

PARKER: I call for the question.

BISHOP MCALILLY: And the question has been called. Is there a second? Alright. Let's test the body, see if you're ready to vote. Bring out your, let's just try the placards here to see if that might work. If you're ready to vote on this, would you raise your card? Alright, if you oppose the question, would you raise your card? I believe it prevails. The question has been called. We're ready to vote on the amendment, which is to delete number two of calling a special session of the General Conference. Pull out your keypad, and if you are in favor of the amendment, vote one (1) yes. If you're opposed to the amendment, vote two (2) no. You may vote now. *[Yes, 143; No, 669]*

*(to be continued in next issue)*

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